



GIVE CHILD SOLDIERS THEIR FUTURE BACK.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

00

EDITORIAL

2022 CHANGE, HOLD, RAISE AWARENESS, AND CONTINUE

Beneficiary of the program for livelihood in Sri Lanka posing with her son. Mission 3 Sri Lanka - September 2022.



WOW ! IN BELGIUM AND AROUND THE WORLD, CRISES, UNREST AND CHANGES ARE FOLLOWING ONE AFTER THE OTHER. BUT OUR DEAR LITTLE WAPA KEEPS GOING ON, SHE IS STILL ON COURSE AND CONTINUES HER ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD IN UGANDA, SRI LANKA, AND ESPECIALLY IN COLOMBIA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, ALSO HER FUNDRAISING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS CONTINUE.

CHANGE – A lot has changed, it already started in 2021 with a reorganization of the workforce. In 2022, we will have our dear Solveig travel through Africa with her family and welcome Madeleine to replace her in communications and fundraising. The new team has to master the projects, adapt them and put their own stamp on them.

HOLD – At WAPA we have always had a habit of trying lots of new things. Over the past 9 years: we let you play sports, took you to the cinema, to the theater, introduced you to new artists, celebrated together, ... If every proposition was an opportunity to see you again and share incredible moments with you, some activities were more profitable for WAPA than others. To achieve our fundraising goal, we have therefore decided in 2022 to take advantage of «winning» activities, so that the new team can orient themselves and settle in, without falling apart...

RAISE AWARENESS – In 2022, WAPA devoted a huge amount of time and resources to an important mission here in Belgium: raising awareness in schools. To do this, we made our educational tools suitable for primary and secondary schools, developed self-supporting paper and online versions, visited school directors and organized numerous activities in Brussels and Wallonia.

CONTINUE – WAPA continues to fight against the use of children in armed conflicts and to actively contribute to their reintegration. In particular with the launch of the new five-year program STOP CHILD SOLDIERS in the DRC with the support of the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Wallonie-Bruxelles International.

THANK YOU for participating in all these events with us! The WAPA's.

The **WAPA's**



Simply, **THANK YOU !**



Selveig



Véronique



Madeleine



Amandine



Florence

The WAPA's

01

WAPA'S MISSION



WAPA – War-Affected People’s Association – **fights against the use of children in armed conflict and for their reintegration into stronger communities.**

How?

In the **South**, WAPA works with local partners in areas affected by or areas that have been affected by armed conflicts and finances their reintegration programs.

In the **North**, WAPA carries out awareness and advocacy campaigns on the problem of child soldiers to end their recruitment (prevention, demobilization, reintegration).

THE WAPA PROGRAMS HAVE THREE SPEARHEADS:

WAPA wants to finance (in whole or in part) holistic programs that take care of demobilized children from armed forces and armed groups in a concrete and sustainable way, with priority given to 3 specific spearheads :

- **Healthcare and wellbeing** through supporting medical, gynecological, psychological follow-up, art therapy and sport therapy.

- **Education and professional training** through literacy, remedial education, schooling and professional training.

- **Micro-entrepreneurship** by supporting young people and/or their families in creating income-generating activities.



02

RESULTS 2022

IN THE RDC

Véronique and Madeleine, surrounded by the children of ex-child soldiers admitted to the CTO for girls in Bukavu. Mission 3 DRC - October 2022.



Contexte

Eastern Congo has been plagued by violence for decades. In recent months, the battle has flared up again, with the resurgence of the M23 wreaking havoc in the region. The rebel movement continues to gain ground, causing massive humanitarian disasters, including the massive recruitment of children not only into armed groups, but also into the national army, the FARDC.

WAPA, in collaboration with BVES - Bureau pour le Volontariat au service de l'Enfance et de la Santé - has developed a holistic program for the prevention, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers in eastern DRC (North Kivu, South Kivu and Maniema). This five-year program from 2022 to 2026 is supported by the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and co-financed by Wallonie-Bruxelles International.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2022 :

Raise awareness among communities, armed groups, armed forces, prison officials, political leaders and education teams of the ban on recruiting children by:

- The purchase of awareness materials.
- Rental of meeting rooms and purchase of snacks.
- Reimbursement of transport and bonuses for the persons in charge of raising awareness.

Improving the living conditions of young people in the 2 CTO's* (1 CTO for girls and 1 CTO for boys) through:

- The purchase of furniture (75 new beds and mattresses, kitchen equipment, blackboards, care equipment, teaching materials, 1 radio and 1 TV per CTO, etc.).
- The electrical connection of the centers.
- The distribution of welcome kits.
- Dietary supplement twice a week with protein intake.
- Reimbursement of the child support team (psychologists, CTO managers, guards, nurses, social workers, early childhood educators, literacy social workers).

Supporting the children in their life project by:

- Enrollment of 81 children in primary and secondary education.
- The distribution of 70 school kits. 11 school kits have not yet been distributed for security reasons. The school team was unable to visit the concerned villages.
- The selection of MAF (master craftsmen trainers) for the 75 selected young people who want to follow a professional training. The start of the vocational training will take place at the beginning of 2023.

Strengthening the administrative, financial and supervisory capacities of the local partner through:

- Training in project management, monitoring and evaluation and accounting management.
- The purchase of IT equipment from our partner (computers, telephones, printers, etc.)
- The salaries of the administrative employees (project manager, follow-up and evaluation, accountant, logistician, communications manager)

The «Stop child soldiers» program is carried out in collaboration with EPA (les enfants de Panzi et d'Ailleurs), Doctors from the world, French Institute of Bukavu and the Panzi Hospital (Service of Sexual Violence).

The financial partners are: DGD (Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid), WBI (Wallonie-Bruxelles International), the CNCD Campaign 11.11.11, the Walloon Region and CBTW.

*A "Centre de Transit et d'Orientation" is a center that welcomes children leaving armed groups to provide them with a safe place where they can be housed, cared for and psychosocially guided before returning to their communities and families.

Weaving a dreamcatcher during an art therapy session in Medellín. Mission 4 in Colombia - November 2022.



IN COLOMBIA

Context

Although the current situation in Colombia is still marked by the armed conflict that has been going on since the 1960s, the Colombian people still hope that a change will come as a result of the new left-wing government led by Gustavo Petro. Meanwhile, armed groups, paramilitaries and cartels continue the brutal recruitment of young girls and boys, particularly in deprived urban areas and vulnerable rural areas.

In this context, WAPA has decided since 2018, together with its local partner Proyectarte, to take action within the training centers of Don Bosco with art and sports therapy programs.

In August 2022, Proyectarte started a sports therapy pilot program in Cali, with demobilized youth in the protection center (CAPRE) and young externals at risk of being recruited from the DON BOSCO center. This has had consequences for WAPA: our support for Proyectarte has increased, and we are pleased to be able to count on the support of the Air France Foundation and EurHope. With the addition of several sports coaches to their team, Proyectarte also had to deal with major changes in 2022.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2022 :

CALI – ARTEUMA :

- **Creative courses** : 25 children from the armed groups who were hosted in the CAPRE (Specialized center for child protection) were guided in processing their memories through theater. This led to a performance, the writing of 2 stories and the production of a pod-cast. Autobiographical cushion weaving workshops were also given, which ended with a public exhibition. In addition, a group consisting of young people from CAPRE and social workers took care of the restoration of the vegetable garden.

Also, 15 early school leavers from the day program of the Don Bosco training center who were at risk of being recruited in armed groups or criminal gangs, worked on self-knowledge and social contacts by making self-portraits, a public exhibition was also held here.

- **Sports courses** : the 25 children of CAPRE started a sports course in September, by learning about two different sports: football and Hapkido (Korean martial art based on self-defense and sharing values). And the 15 children from the external programs participated in «water exploration» and football. Through the training, they work on their self-confidence, become aware of their skills, develop team spirit and work on restoring the connection between their body and their emotions.

Watch the video of the presentation of the sports therapy project launched by our local partner Proyectarte in Cali by scanning the QR code.



MEDELLÍN – KUAKUMUN :

- **Creative workshops** : 45 children demobilized from armed groups and hosted in the CAPRE (specialized center for child protection) of the CIUDAD DON BOSCO in Medellín took part in the Parcharte (mixed artistic workshops on Saturday), and in the non-mixed workshops (girls and boys). This year, the young people worked on controlling their emotions and developing their communication skills, creating artistic works that were exhibited during the «Festival of Difficult Emotions». They also worked on their life stories, weaved dream catchers and explored their capacities for physical and oral expression.

We would like to thank our financial partners EurHope and Fondation d'entreprise Air France who made this ambitious, high-quality and relevant project possible and even helped it to grow.

Session of art therapy
in Medellín. Mission 4
Colombia - November
2022.



Beneficiary of the livelihood program in Sri Lanka who lost her leg by stepping on an anti-personnel mine when she was a child soldier. Mission 3 Sri Lanka - September 2022.



IN SRI LANKA

Context

Sri Lanka is going through one of the most important economic, political and social crises in its history. The president, accused of embezzling millions of dollars, resigned and the Prime Minister has taken over the leadership of the country. Prices for basic necessities are skyrocketing (examples: x5 for gasoline, x3 for bread and rice). Demonstrations rage all over the country, citizens demand the resignation of the entire government. The latter sets a curfew, schools are closed. The population is literally starving.

Another consequence: drug use is on the rise, also in schools. Although WAPA initiated a program shutdown process in 2021, the situation in Sri Lanka disrupted the plans and WAPA now continues to support food security activities in addition to its initial commitments.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2022 :

Distribution of :

- Grants for 10 women, former child soldiers and ex-combatants to support them in setting up income-generating activities.
- 5 microloans for female entrepreneurs to expand their projects and generate more income.
- 150 scholarships including transportation and school supplies.
- Food aid (through packs) for 150 families hit by the economic and social crisis.
- Vegetable garden project for 150 vulnerable families to guarantee their food security.

WAPA has supported this project through its events and fundraising campaigns, thank you to our community!

To increase her family's income, this young beneficiary, a former child soldier, sews gloves for a multinational corporation using materials obtained thanks to the program. Mission 4 Sri Lanka - September 2022.



IN UGANDA

Context

The war in Uganda officially ended in 2006 and unofficially in 2008. Although it was a huge breeding ground for the recruitment of child soldiers, it is now difficult for WAPA to position itself as a reintegration actor in the armed conflict. We have therefore made the choice to start an exit procedure for the program since 2020. 2022 was the last year we supported the program.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2022 :

- Scholarships awarded to 50 children: 47 children in primary school, 3 in secondary school. The grant includes one meal a day and all necessary school materials.
- Dairy industry program: support for the costs of the training program through the payment of the salary of the «Farm Coordinator».
- Health care program: support the program by paying the salaries of two midwives and the floor technician.

WAPA has supported this project through events and fundraising campaigns. Thank you WAPA supporters!

During the inauguration of the second maternity in Agonga, the last project realized by WAPA in Uganda, Solveig and Véronique planted an avocado tree.



IN BELGIUM

Context

Thanks to good cooperation with the Belgian Red Cross, we were able to develop “Enfants en l’Armes”, a tool to raise awareness about child soldiers to the secondary school students (5th and 6th grade). With the support of Woomera for the digital development of the tool, the City of Brussels and the Lush Charity Pot for financial support, we were able to offer schools two independent versions of the tool: a paper version and an online version. Teachers can now invite us to carry out the activities at their school or give themselves the activities with all the necessary materials.

With Second Floor, the communication agency that has been supporting us for several years, we have given visibility to our other tool «La Dictée la plus Dure», which this time is aimed at primary school students (5th and 6th grade).

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2022 :

Thanks to the advertising campaigns for these two tools carried out in September and October 2022, we were able to provide animations in several schools in Brussels and Wallonia:

- 4 workshops in primary education.
- 2 workshops in secondary education.
- 176 expressions of interest on the platform.
- 9 workshops planned for 2023

Awareness workshop held with the educational tool «Enfants en l’Armes» in the 6th grade of the secondary school of Lycée Maria Assumpta in Laeken.



03

WAPA EVENTS

12/02 Projection in the Kinograph (See U) of "Water Get No Enemy", a documentary by Damien Castera about the conversion to surfing of former child soldiers from Sierra Leone. (1)

24/04 Danses en fête, event organized by the municipality of La Louvière with more than 1000 dancers. (2) Clickable link to the video [« Danses en fête »](#)

24/04 WAPA CORPORATE FOOTBALL LEAGUE: mixed and solidarity football tournament for companies which took place at the Royal Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve Sports club for one evening.

11/05 Start of the 5-week afterwork WAPA FOOTBALL LEAGUE, a mixed and solidarity football tournament in 9 clubs* in Brussels and Walloon Brabant. (3)

13/05 Hockey Afterwork League for the benefit of WAPA organized by the Royal Racing Club of Brussels.

29/05 The 20 km of Brussels.

30/05 Lunch for companies to present the Charidy 2022 campaign. (4)

04/09 The 6H PADDLE of WAPA. (5)

12/10 WAPA CORPORATE FOOTBALL LEAGUE: mixed and intercompany football tournament, organized as an afterwork event in the R.U. Auderghem.

19/10 Screening of KAP JUSTICE INTERNATIONALE in UCL Leuven "First they killed my father" by Angelina Jolie.



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)

*Royal Ixelles Football Club, Kraainem Football Club, FC Kosova, Crossing de Schaerbeek, RRC Etterbeek, Royal Sports Club La Hulpe, Jeunesse Sportive Ittoise, R.U. Auderghem, ROS Louvain-la-Neuve.

04

WAPA CAMPAIGNS

08/09 Thanks to the clothing donation for babies and children for the 2 transit and orientation centers, we were able to receive 350 kg of clothes, games, school materials and childcare materials to send to Bukavu.

19/09 Launch of the awareness campaign “La Dictée La plus Dure” with the support of the Second Floor communication agency - second edition - and with the support of influencers and ambassadors to spread the word. 315,000 people were reached on social networks. Fifteen schools were visited, partly with the help of the City of Brussels. In 2023, the activities will take place in several schools.



13/12 & 14/12 Charity campaign which raised €122,853 in 36 hours thanks to the help of 14 solidarity companies who matched donations, 55 ambassadors who were involved by recruiting people from their surroundings, 20 volunteers who helped our team calling the donor database on D-days and finally thanks to the 680 generous donors!



SUMMER : Sale of WAPA's t-shirts, still available through our [e-shop](#).

WINTER : Sale of delicious champagne (available in the [e-shop](#)) and the incredible necklace «Cali», made in collaboration with a Belgian ethical jewelry store.



05



OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS

10/03 Follow-up mission in the DRC. (1)

24/03 Team building with support from Libra Human Work or how you function as a team and strengthen ties while cooking.

31/03 Official validation by the DGD of the five-year program “Stop child soldiers” in the DRC. The Belgian development cooperation finances this program up to 80% of the direct costs from 2022 to 2026.

02/05 Crisis in Sri Lanka: emergency aid with the distribution of food parcels to our beneficiaries.

16/05 Newcomer to the team: Madeleine Van den Bogaert, responsible for communication and fundraising. (2)

24/05 Visit from our Colombian partner in Belgium – Christine Meert.

23/06 Departure of Solveig for her overlanding journey in Africa.

11/09 Follow-up mission in Sri Lanka. (3)

09/10 Follow-up mission in the DRC.

26/10 Follow-up mission in Colombia. (4)

22/11 Official launch of “Enfants en l’Armes”, the educational tool developed in collaboration with the Belgian Red Cross. (5)



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)

06

THEY TALKED ABOUT WAPA

20/01 Article in the newsletter of the Azickia Foundation.

12/02 On the occasion of the International Day against the use of child soldiers : WAPA puts the spotlight on the documentary «Water Get No Enemy».

16/03 Interview for Radio Okapi in the DRC.

17/06 Article in Dernière Heure and la Capitale about the WAPA Football League.

19/08 Article in Sud Info and Vlan about 6H PADDLE of WAPA.

21/09 Article in l'Eventail and Flair about "La Dictée la plus Dure".

12/12 Article about our program in Sri Lanka on the CNCD website.

Awareness workshop on the problem of child soldiers held in Saint-Pierre in Uccle in the 6th grade of primary education.



07

FINANCIAL REPORT AND TRANSPARENCY

2022 was a key year for raising public (federal) funds, as it marks the start of the «Stop child soldiers» program in the DRC (5-year program 2022-2026, supported up to 80% of direct costs* by DGD**) which has therefore become WAPA's largest project.

WAPA also continued to expand its main events and private fundraising campaigns (the WAPA Football League, the 6H PADDLE of WAPA, the Charidy campaign, etc.). Once again this year we could count on the great generosity of the WAPA community, which continues to grow.

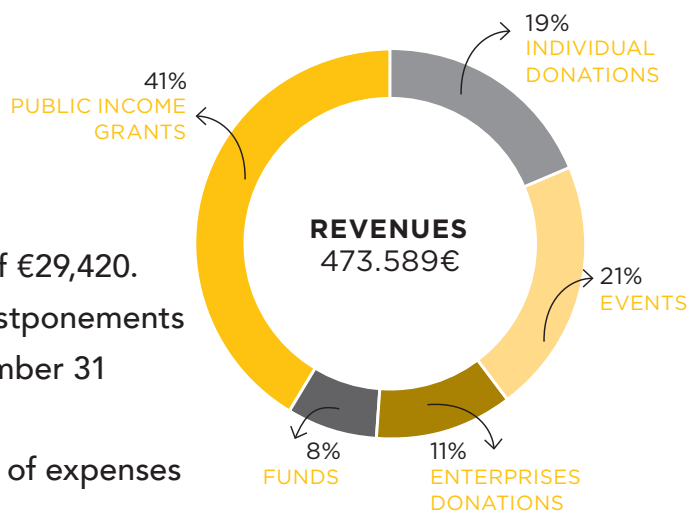
This new strategy, targeting both private and public funding sources, raised €473,589 in 2022, an increase of almost 31% compared to 2021!

WAPA'S 2022 FUNDING SOURCES ARE MULTIPLE :

- Raising private funds remains essential for WAPA, representing nearly 60% of its revenues in 2022. It serves as a lever for obtaining government grants*** for grant-aided programs (DRC projects) and finances other projects, as well as a part of the cost of the WAPA structure.
- Government grants increased significantly in 2022. WAPA received €194,286 in grants, or 41% of its revenues (federal grant, APE employment grant, municipal, regional and provincial grants)

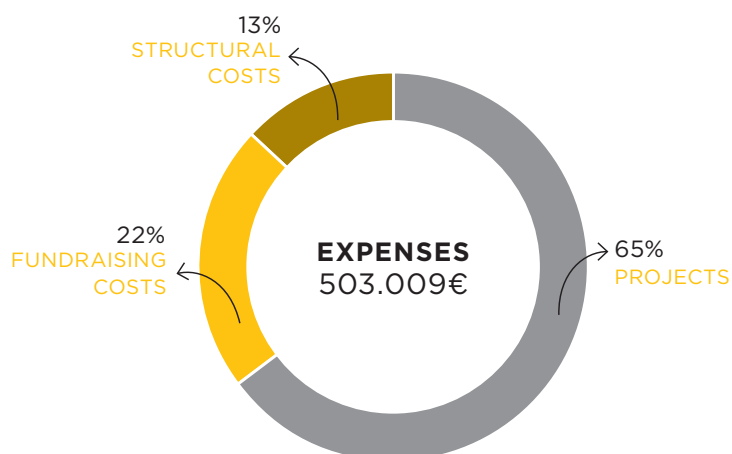
* direct program costs include: operational costs and program management costs. ** The DGD also contributes to support part of the structural costs of the association. (The amount of the annual subsidy for structural costs = 7% of the direct costs spent on the STOP CHILD SOLDIERS program). *** Please note that WAPA for example for the STOP CHILD SOLDATS program must now ensure that it finds co-funding of up to 20% of the DGD funded program (out of a total of 5 years).

WAPA's total spending in 2022 was amounted to €503,009 generating a loss of €29,420. This loss had been anticipated with the postponements of profits from previous years. As of December 31 2022, WAPA's working capital rises further to €54,516 in order to ensure the financing of expenses from the beginning of 2023.



WAPA'S EXPENSES IN 2022 ARE SPECIFIED AS FOLLOWS :

- 65%* enabled funding for our reintegration, awareness and advocacy projects.
- Fundraising costs (marketing, events, etc.) amount to 22%** of the total costs.
- The operating costs of the non-profit organization amount to approximately 13%*** of the expenditure.



TRANSPARENCY :

WAPA International pays a lot of attention to the proper management of the collected funds. Our accounts are audited by the board of directors and audited annually by our accredited auditor C² Réviseurs & associés SCRL, after which they are approved by the general assembly. Expenditure on our projects is regularly audited and can only be incurred after following strict internal procedures. The annual accounts have been filed with the registry of the Enterprise Chamber of the court and can be consulted there. In 2022, our accounts were again approved without any reservations. WAPA is also a member of the Association for Ethics in Fundraising (AERF) and publishes its reports on Donorinfo. Based on the controls of the SPF Finance, our NGO is recognized by the state and authorized to issue tax certificates, in accordance with article 104.4 of the Income Tax Code 1992.

* Financing of North and South projects, salary costs for project management (= 36% of WAPA's total salary costs). ** Marketing costs, communication, events, salary costs for raising public and private funds (= 51% of WAPA's total salary costs).

*** Rent, publication costs, subscriptions, reception/office supplies, auditor costs, financial management costs, wage costs dedicated to the administrative management of the non-profit organization (= 13% of the total wage cost of WAPA).

08

THANK YOU

**THIS IS ALL MADE POSSIBLE
THANKS TO YOU :
OUR DONORS,
OUR FUNDERS,
OUR PARTNERS,
OUR VOLUNTEERS,
OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
AND OUR COLLEAGUES.**

You were more than 2000 donors this year! Thank you for your support. Let's all continue to fight against the use of children in armed conflict and implement reintegration programs to help former child soldiers.

See you in 2023!

The WAPA's

Visit of a finca with the «Egresados», former child soldiers who leave the program after turning 18 years old. Mission 4 Colombia - November 2022.



09

NOT TO BE MISSED IN 2023!

FEBRUARY

10 /02: "Chorale d'un soir" for WAPA as part of 12/2 – International Day for the fight against the use of children in armed conflict

APRIL

20/04: WAPA Corporate Football League

MAY

15/05: Start of the WAPA FOOTBALL LEAGUE in 11 clubs in Brussels, Walloon Brabant and Charleroi

16/05: Follow-up mission in the DRC

05/28: 20km of Brussels

JUNE

16/06: End of the WAPA FOOTBALL LEAGUE and big closing party

SEPTEMBER

10/09: The 6H PADDLE of WAPA

OCTOBER

Follow-up mission in Colombia

Follow-up mission in the DRC

DECEMBER

12/12 & 13/12: Charidy campaign in 36 hours