



GIVE CHILD SOLDIERS THEIR FUTURE BACK

ANNUAL REPORT

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SOLDIERS THEIR
FUTURE BACK

2024

INTRODUCTION



2024 was a year of advocacy. Never have we felt an urgency to act as strong as this year, with conflicts intensifying and multiplying through the world. In this unsure atmosphere, WAPA International doubled efforts to defend the rights of children victims of wars. We have also worked tirelessly to remind people that the reintegration of these children is a collective responsibility that falls on us all.

This year was also one of uncertainties. The arrival of new local, regional and national governments created a question; what will be the future of our finances and investments? How can we continue our mission with the necessary means? At a crossroad with these challenges, we decided action was our only answer. We intensified our advocacy and awareness work and continued to build projects that create real change in the world.

We have also enlarged our horizon by conducting research and undergoing an explorative mission to develop a project at the border of Myanmar and Thailand, a region where children are still massively enrolled in armed groups.

WAPA is also a team that is growing.

In 2024, we welcomed Laetitia, who is reinforcing our communication & marketing department to better carry our message. We also welcomed Alexandre, who is helping Lara in the development of the WAPA Football League, a unifying project that consistently brings a growing number of participants.

Even with the global challenges we are facing, generosity was still a driving light. More than 2,000 players played in the WAPA Football League, a proof that sport can be a wonderful driver for solidarity. During our Charidy campaign, you were many to answer the call, promising almost 140,000 euros to pursue our mission.

Fighting the obstacles, we are still making progress, carried by our convictions and supported by you. Thank you for being by our side. Together, we prove that resilience is stronger than war, and that every child deserves a future.

Enjoy this report, but most importantly, stay mobilized!

Solveig & Véronique - Founders

ABOUT WAPA INTERNATIONAL

WAPA International aspires for a world where every child is protected from the impacts of armed conflicts.

Placing the rights and dignity of children at the heart of our actions, and supporting the prevention work done by our partners, WAPA is fighting to stop the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts. This is done with the hope of reintegrating victims into their communities to ensure a peaceful and bright future.

By raising awareness in the general public and in schools, while doing advocacy with politicians, WAPA ensures the protection the children affected by armed conflicts and promotes their rights.

MISSION AND VISION

WAPA – War-Affected People’s Association – fights against the recruiting and use of children in armed conflicts, and for their reintegration in strong communities.

How ?

In the global South, WAPA collaborates with local partners in countries affected by armed conflicts and finances their program of rehabilitation.

In the global North, WAPA undergoes campaigns to raise awareness and increase advocacy work on the issue of the use of child soldiers. This is done with the hope of ending the recruitment and use (prevention, demobilization and reintegration) of these children.

OUR FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

WAPA works on the principle of subsidiarity, meaning our local partners are the ones implementing and managing our programs. The goal is not to substitute local expert agencies. They are the ones who know the situation best, as well as the needs of the community. Our partners are the ones living in that environment daily, developing expertise. If they are able of finding solutions, we must let them lead the initiative.

Furthermore, the principle of subsidiarity goes hand in hand with the principle of substitution. In our case, providing funds, communications, and reinforcement of technical and logistical abilities. For example, IT, financial gestion, evaluation and follow-ups for projects, ...

Adding on to subsidiarity, the three main values of WAPA International are:

- Dynamism
- Authenticity
- Proximity

THE TEAM



Solvig
Co-founder
Advocacy & Myanmar



Véro
Co-founder
Public subsidies
& DRC



Laetitia
Marketing &
Communication



Amanda
Finance,
HR & DRC



Nadeline
Private fundraising &
Colombia



Alex
Sponsoring
WFL



Lara
Events &
awareness

OUR PARTNERS

Local partners in DRC

BVES
EPA (Enfants de Panzi et d'Ailleurs)
MDM
Swiss Contact
IFB
MONUSCO (Child Protection)
PPDRCS

Competency partners in Columbia :

Corporacion Proyectarte
Ciudad Don Bosco
ICBF (Institut Colombien pour le Bien-être Familial)
ARN (Agence de réintégration et normalisation)
Université del Valle

Belgian Partners & Platforms :

Université de sport de Cali
Croix-Rouge de Belgique
Commission Justice et Paix
PKIO
Educaid
Acodev

Financial partners

Authorities :
DGD
WBI
Le CNCD
Acodev (Fonds
Qualité) Fonds4S
National Lottery

Supporting

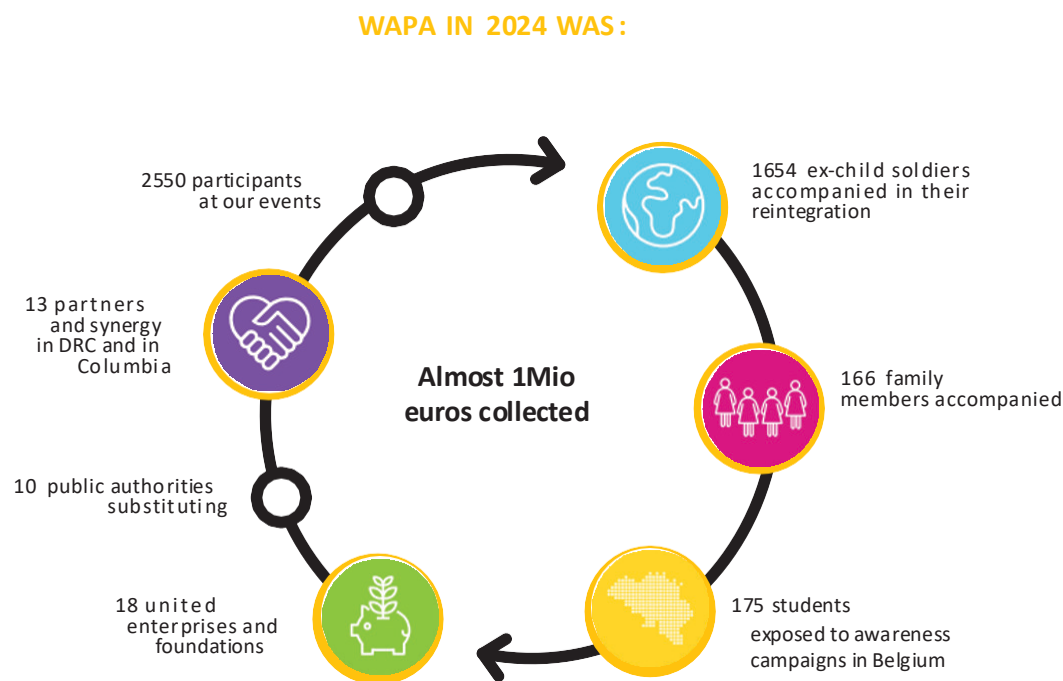
towns :

Rixensart
Schaerbeek
Ittre
La Province du Brabant Wallon La
Région Wallonne

Foundations:

EurHope
Beckers Foundation
Union Saint-Gilloise

OUR IMPACT IN 2024



DURABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

WAPA responds to multiple Sustainable Development Goals – SDG- (8 out of 17).

Some notables are:

SDG 8.7: Aims to take immediate and efficient measures to end forced labor, modern slavery, human trafficking, to eliminate the worse cases of child labor, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers. By 2025, the goal is to end child labor... > **WAPA contributes by fighting the recruitment and use of children in armed forces.**

SDG3: Aims to ensure health and wellness for all while reducing infant and maternal mortality as well as premature deaths and sickness associated with pollution
> WAPA contributes by using art and sport therapy, as well as medical and psychological support.

SDG 4: Aims to increase access to education for all. As well as increased access, an equitable, free and good education is a priority. There is a focus on gender, and economic equality. > **WAPA contributes with education programs, including schooling and socio-professional formations.**

OUR PROJETS



In 2024, WAPA continued its mission in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (North-Kivu, South-Kivu and in South-Maniema) by accompanying the reintegration of almost 1302 children exiting armed forces (752 boys and 550 girls) with the 5-year program, "Stop Enfants Soldats", supported by the DGD, the WBI and the NIF foundation.

Thanks to our local partners, these children benefited from psychological support, schooling (100 children, 45 girls and 55 boys), or a professional formation (34 girls and 36 boys), as well as support for family reunification.

WAPA

Additionally, the BVES psychology members have completed a formation on trauma management for children in war situations.

Parallely to that program, activities for French learning (at two different levels) have been organized by the French Institute of Bukavu to favor the kid's employability.

Finally, a special attention has been paid to the evolution of the security situation in the East because of the advance of the M23/AFL, and to the full risks of implementing our program. Plans of contingency have been established for 2025.

"I followed French classes for 3 months, at level 2. I learned to read and write in French, to fix my mistakes, to fill the gaps in my learning. I hope that others will also have the opportunity to benefit from this program" - Olivier (16 years old), welcomed at the CTO of BVES.



04

2024 was an intense year in the development of our partner's activities. In Medellin, they started the first gender studios to respond to the specific needs of little girls and boys. They have also developed programs to facilitate the reunion between kids and their families inside of the protection center.

Meanwhile, in Cali, hapkido and football practices have started in two different neighborhoods in the suburbs of the city where the presence of armed forces is strong. One of the zone, the one with football practices, had to be shut down due to security reasons. The other center has very good results and contributes to the prevention of recruitment.

In the Cali protection center, family meetings and reunion have also been accompanied by Proyectarte.

"Those days, I was been feeling very overwhelmed, everything was stressing me out, everything was making sweat, and it was because of my anxiety. I started to weave, and my body relaxed, and I finally found inner peace" Eva, young girl at a protection center in Columbia.



Since the 2021 military coup, Myanmar is the victim of an armed conflict between the military junta and armed resistance groups, including the EAO - Ethnic Armed Groups and the PDF – People Defense Force. The country is immersed in a political, social and economic crisis, with humanitarian consequences such as massive a population displacement, food insecurities, increasingly limited access to medicine and education, but most importantly the recruitment and use of kids in this extremely violent armed conflict. To answer these growing challenges, we are on a search for a partner, , a « A Lin Eain (Lighthouse) » in Mae Sot, a border town between Thailand and Myanmar, to create a

center, a safe house, for the child soldiers escaping the conflict.

This center's mission would be to house around 15 kids, and provide:

- A safe and peaceful home where the kids feel sheltered and taken care of.
- An emotional and psychological support to help them overcome their traumas and find a path to healing through therapies such as art.
- A formal education or professional formation to provide them with the chances they lost and help them to (re)build a future.
- Full health coverage to rebuilt their physical and mental wellness
- Administrative support and Thai classes to better incorporate into the community

"At 16 years old, T. was supposed to get home, but he found himself forcefully enrolled, tortured, armed, then sent to the front lines of combat. In his regiment, other kids, sometimes barely 14 years old, were suffering from the same fate. It is not youth; it is a theft of childhood".

EVENTS :

WAPA events are much more than moments of fundraising; they are strong times of mobilization and sensibilization.

In 2024, events brought together sports communities, families, and ever so engaged friends and supporters.

WAPA Corporate Football League

THUR 18/04 ET
THUR 25/04

CROSSING DE
SCHAERBEEK
ET ROS OTTIGNIES-
LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE

28 ENTREPRISES
434 PARTICIPANTS

23.400€

WAPA Football League

FROM MON 13 MAI
TO THUR 13 JUIN

R.R.C. ETTERBEEK, RU
AUDERGHEM, R. IXELLES SC,
FC KOSOVA, RACING
WHITE – WOLUWE, JS
ITTRE, CROSSING DE
SCHAERBEEK, ROS OLLN,
KRAAINEM FOOTBALL,
R. CHARLEROI SC.

174 TEAMS
2.017 PARTICIPANTS

112.426€

20 km of Bruxelles

26 MAI

BRUXELLES

73 RUNNERS

4.280€

WAPA 6H Paddle 8

SEPTEMBER

GENVAL YACHT CLUB

8 TEAMS
80 DONORS

11.693€



FUNDRAISING

Like every year, the WAPA team, its ambassadors, its volunteers mobilized for the annual Charidy campaign. The formula; thanks to the support of united enterprises (CBTW, Circles Group, Fair Estate, Foundation Azickia, Gilbert Assurances, Innovad, Swift, Telemis and Wood Window), the donations sent between December 11th and December 12th on our Charidy platform doubled.

Great success for this edition, since this year, we have collected 135,040 euros, with 538 donations, which is more than 104% of our initial goal. Thank you to our supporting enterprises, to each ambassador who actively supported the campaign, and to each volunteer, as well as the donors.

AZICKIA "We have been supporting WAPA since 2019 and it was the first project supported by the Azickia donation funds. We have chosen to support WAPA for the endless commitment of the project leaders, as well as because of our own engagements, it seems essential to us to help kids and the youth to create a better future for themselves, and that is exactly what WAPA offers. WAPA's ambition helps ex-child soldiers in a world where conflicts are very still present. They should be heard and defended!"



Many non-profit organizations do work, but we must focus on those that have the best organization and the biggest impact on communities despite limited resources. WAPA represents this exactly, every euro invested is used to best realize the goals of the association, we are sure of that."



AWARENESS

In Belgium, WAPA is continuing their effort to raise awareness around the problematic of child soldiers in schools. In 2024, the focus was on students in 5th and 6th grade, with the animation of the workshop "La Dictée La Plus Dure De La Classe" in 7 classes, reaching a total of 175 students ages 9-12. This educational tool allows to talk about children's rights and the realities of lives of children soldiers through an engaging activity. Moreover, WAPA still proposes "Enfants en Armes", a tool developed with the Belgian Red Cross to reach students in 5th and 6th grade.

"I listened to the story of a child soldier. It got me very emotional. War, it's not for kids. Either way, we think about them a lot". 6th grade student at the Institut Notre-Dame des Hayeffes Mont-Saint-Guibert.

ADVOCACY

For the 10 years of the association, we wanted to send a message, and we started an awareness and advocacy campaign with the creation of the Album "Chut" (10 artists, 10 minutes of silence to make the voices of child soldiers heard). We got our WAPA community together to celebrate this milestone in the company of our Colombian partner, as well as an ex-child soldier. We were able to put light on the issue of child soldiers in the world in the eyes of multiple national, European, and international authorities.



FINANCIAL REPORT AND TRANSPARENCY

FINANCE ORIGIN

WAPA can count on the generosity of an ever-so growing community. Our association has continued to expand its activities of private fundraising (+10%), through its events and campaigns (WAPA Football League, 6H Paddle, and Charidy campaign), and has been able to count on the support of foundations; the Foundation Claude Beckers, EurHope Foundation, Foundation Azickia, and enterprises; CBTW, Innovad, Circles Group, Fair Estate, Gilbert Assurances, Innovad, Swift, Telemis, Wood Window et Talitakum.

The raising of private funds is still essential for WAPA, on one hand as leverage to obtain public subsidies** for the programs

that get subsidies (cofinancing of the DRC projects), and on the other hand to finance other projects as well as guaranteeing quality and durability.

Public subsidies represented 60% of WAPA's income in 2024: thanks to the federal subsidies for the program STOP ENFANTS SOLDATS, but also thanks to the APE employment subsidies, and communal + regional funding (General Cooperative Direction for Development & Humanitarian Aid, Wallonie Bruxelles International, Wallonne Region, Brabant Wallon Region, town of Rixensart and Schaerbeek region).

SPENDING 925.200€

INCOME 959.602€

MAXIMUM SPENDING FOR WAPA

PROJECTS

In 2024, WAPA's total expense came out to 925,201€, creating a profit of 34,402€. This profit transfers over to the 2025 year, helping the spending in the beginning of the year, and the launching of the pilot project at the Myanmar border.

WAPA's spending is divided as follows:

71% for the execution of reintegration, awareness, and advocacy projects. (1)

20% for the cost of fundraising. (2)

10% for cost of the company itself. (3)

(1) Financing of projects North and South, salary cost dedicated to project management (= 25% operating costs).

(2) Events, communications and marketing costs. Salary costs dedicated to private and public fundraising (=52% operating costs).

(3) Loyer, publication fees, subscriptions, office supplies, administrative management fees, auditor fees, salary cost dedicated to the administrative management of the association (=23% operating costs).

WAPA INTERNATIONAL ASBL 2024 BALANCE SHEET

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
Intangible and tangible fixed assets 8.915€	Reserve -
Cash Receivables and guarantees	Profit (loss) carried forward 131.589€
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS 8.915€	TOTAL EQUITY 131.589€
Stock -	Debts due within a year 37.643€
Other receivables 90.964€	
Available values 148.446€	
Regularization accounts 1.284€	Regularization accounts 80.378€
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS 240.695€	TOTAL DEBTS 118.021€
TOTAL 249.609€	TOTAL 249.609€

TRANSPARENCY

WAPA International prioritizes the good use of funds. This money is tightly reviewed by a company auditor and SPF Finances. We ensure our annual financial reports are easily and freely accessible. Our accounts are also annually controlled by our certified auditor from Réviseurs & Associés SCRL. Our projects' spending is regularly controlled, and they cannot be used without following a strict internal procedures. WAPA is a member of Ethics Associations of the Recolte de Fonds (AERF) and publishes its accounts on 'Donorinfo'. Finally, on base of controlled done by the SPF Finance, our NGO is recognized by the State and authorized to deliver tax certificates, in accordance with Article 104.4 of the 1992 Income Tax Code.



THE FUTURE: 2025

Février
2025

Team-building in the Ardennes + february 12th - International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers : double action of awareness and advocacy at the child soldier day at d'Oxfamnesty and diffusion of the Manneken Peace campaign (operation designed by Secondfloor). A statue of a child soldier created for WAPA called « Manneken PEACE » placed in front of the Manneken Pis in Brussels to shed light on the issue of child soldiers.

Avril
2025

WAPA Corporate
Football League

Mai
2025

TV/Video Games

Mai
2025

10th édition of
the WAPA
Football League

Mai
2025

Mission at the
Thai/Myanmar
border

Septembre
2025

New Wapa Festi'Race at the farm-castle Bertinchamps at Gembloux (event raised by the Family Day funds) + Columbia Mission

Novembre
2025

Mission in DRC
(to be confirmed
depending on
security
concerns)

Décembre
2025

Annual Charidy fundraising
campaign
« Sans Nicolas »

07

THANKS, AND CALL FOR ACTION



Thanks to you, 2024 was an impactful year, full of resilience and hope. Because of your loyal support, whether it is financial, mental, through volunteering or professional, we were able to keep fighting for children affected by armed conflicts. Together, we changed trajectories, supported reintegration pathways, and declared loud and proud that every child deserves a free life, worthy and peaceful.

But the work is not done. Your engagement is more precious than ever. Every donation, every mobilization, every voice counts in the pursuit of our mission.

In 2025, we will continue to make noise and to carry stories of dignity and justice.

Join us. Talk about us. Take an extra step with WAPA International.

Thank you for believing, for taking actions, and to continue with us.