No child should grow up alone
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Dear Friends,

StreetInvest is very proud of all that our partners have achieved since we were founded in 2008. In the last year alone, we have worked with 32 partners in 13 countries on four continents. These partners are in regular contact with approximately 58,000 street-connected children and are accessible to as many as 350,000. There are estimated to be more than 1 million street-connected children and youth in 12 of the countries where we work. In the 13th, India, there are said to be 18 million.

Realising our vision of a trustworthy adult for all street-connected children will therefore require a combination of bottom-up street-based work and top-down research and advocacy. This is why we support both in our Model of Effective Street work.

This report gives you an outline of what we do, why we do it and what we have achieved.

With our very best wishes and sincerest thanks for all your support.
Wordcloud based on feedback gathered from our participants when asked to describe StreetInvest and our methods. January 2016.
StreetInvest believes that no child should grow up alone.

We work through local partners to support street-connected children, one of the most excluded and marginalised groups in our society. We are the only global charity that is solely focussed on providing trustworthy adult support to street children – on the street. Street Workers (Detached Youth Workers in UK) act as these trustworthy adults with three principle objectives: to increase the children’s safety, enhance their capabilities and rebuild their connections to family, school and community.

With sufficient funding, we can provide all these children with the opportunity to become something beyond a victim or criminal and realise our vision of a trustworthy adult in the life of every street child.
WHERE WE WORK

CENTRAL/EAST AFRICA
Burundi
New Generation
DRC
PEDER
Kenya
Glad’s House
Tanzania
Watotowetu
Uganda
SALVE
URHB
Street Child Project
ChildHope UK
Zambia
Friends of Street Children
Zimbabwe
ACT

WEST AFRICA
Ghana
Muslim Family Counselling Services
Catholic Action for Street Children
Street Girls Aid
Centre for Youth Literacy Development
Morocco
BAYTI
Sierra Leone
Street Child of Sierra Leone
CoDWeIA
Future for Children
CVC
Togo
OPDPN

EUROPE
UK
CSC
Street Child United
Chiltern Youth Projects
Royal Holloway University
University of Dundee
Street Child
Portugal
Street Work Training Institute
Belgium
Dynamo International

CENTRAL AMERICA
Guatemala
Mi Arca
Street Kids Direct

ASIA
India
Child in Need Institute
LittleBigHelp

32 Local partners
13 Countries
4 Continents

Global Advocacy
United Nations

Pan-African Research
Growing Up on the Streets
StreetInvest’s objectives are to REACH as many street-connected children as possible and EFFECT maximum positive change

REACH: StreetInvest defines the reach of Street Workers at different levels:

• **Support** includes children who are offered specific support such as healthcare, food, education, skills training, family reunification, etc.

• **Contact** includes children with whom the Street Workers have regular contact and which may or may not include specific interventions

• **Access** includes the children who are aware that there is a safe and trustworthy adult for them to turn to if they so wish

• **Influence** includes children whose lives may be improved by the influence of others – through research and advocacy at an international, national and local level

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350,000
Street children with **access** to a trustworthy adult

58,000
Street children **contacted** on a regular basis

28,000
Street children **supported**

32
*Local Partners*

13
*Countries*

“Children should have a voice to express what they think...at the same time adults should have an ear to listen to them.”

Street Boy, 16, Kolkata, India

Global Influence
United Nations Child Rights Committee

Pan-African Influence
Growing Up on the Streets Research

**EFFECT:** StreetInvest delivers measurable indicators of improvements in the quality of life for these children as a result of the relationships of trust.

Street Workers focus on three core outcomes:

• Strengthened protection
• Enhanced capabilities
• Rebuilt connections

StreetInvest monitors and evaluates the impact of its own activities and supports our partners in monitoring the progress of each child.
WHAT WE DO

INVESTING IN CHILDREN ON THE STREET

A trustworthy adult for every street child

StreetInvest believes that no child should grow up alone.

We work through local partners to support street-connected children, one of the most excluded and marginalised groups in our society. We are the only global charity that is solely focussed on providing trustworthy adult support to street children – on the street. Street Workers (Detached Youth Workers in UK) act as these trustworthy adults with three principle objectives: to increase the children’s safety, enhance their capabilities and rebuild their connections to family, school and community.

With sufficient funding, we can provide all these children with the opportunity to become something beyond a victim or criminal and realise our vision of a trustworthy adult in the life of every street child.

"Many people think it is material resources which will bring children off the streets but the most important resource you can bring as a street worker is yourself. Without you, a child on the street will still find food, somewhere to lie down, money and the like. What they lack is someone to relate to and trust: someone with listening ears who hears what they want to say."

George Quaker, Global Trainer, Sierra Leone

“I would like to say the street workers are very important to us. First they give you good bits of advice, take out of your head all the bad things, then they teach you, they help you think about your future life, these things I think are special about what they do for us”

“Some children like to stay on the streets, others don’t. You find that what one likes, another one doesn’t. One can wish to be taken back to his family but another one totally refuses to go back home” (Street Child – DRC).
Growing up on the Streets (GUOTS)
An international longitudinal participatory research project working with 198 children and young people (aged 14 – 20) in Accra, Bukavu & Harare building an extensive and authoritative evidence base to inform and influence street child policy and practice based on street children and youth’s own experiences, opinions and priorities.

StreetInvest has developed a number of tools and methodologies to support its partners to gather evidence-based information about the street children with whom they work, the issues they face and the context in which they live. This information helps us improve services as well as challenges many of the misconceptions that hinders policy and practice towards street-connected young people.

These activities include the GUOTS Research project, head counting and our long-standing research collaboration with Royal Holloway, University of London.

“StreetInvest’s methodology is most favoured by members to inform programme design, national advocacy and reports to donors.” Headcount Methodology Report, Consortium for Street Children

“StreetInvest has developed a methodology of counting street-connected children which we feel is sensitive to the dignity of the children involved and can provide a realistic picture of the real situation on the streets. It is also great to work with another organisation that has spent time to understand the context of street-connected children’s lives, to listen to the children and to learn from different perspectives and new ideas.”
ChildHope, UK

27,000
Data sets
798
Interviews
198
Street children
18
Research Assistants
3
Project Managers, Countries & Research Directors
Street Workers, and other trustworthy adults who support street-connected children, require:

- Appropriate Values & Attitudes: rights-based and child-centred
- Knowledge
- Practical skills
- Support
- Sustainability

Through training, other investments and support, StreetInvest equips its partners with the knowledge, skills and values & attitudes they need to build empowering relationships of trust with the young people they work for.

StreetInvest’s training has in the last 15 years been delivered to over 2000 participants, including 94 local trainers, from more than 250 local organisations in 21 countries around the world.

StreetInvest now has 3 Global Trainers, 5 Global Trainers-in-Training and many more Local Trainers based in our core regions of Africa, Asia, Central America and Europe. In the last year, we have trained participants from 67 organisations, including 38 local trainers, 194 street workers and 1,454 community members.

"The training and techniques offered by StreetInvest have helped our workers and volunteers to deliver great street interventions that focus on the most vulnerable children. This work impacts their lives and offers hope within a caring and supportive relationship. StreetInvest are there when you need them most."

Mi Arca, Guatemala

"The training gave me confidence to talk to the authority and public... [Because of the training and workshops] they respect me, and treat me differently; because they see me at a different level than if they just assumed that I had no money" (Goodwill, Harare).

"The people were like crazy – very shocked when told my life story; that I have lived on the streets all my life. I was born on the streets and have grown up on the streets to this age, I have survived.... People came up to me and said that they have changed the way they thought about street children in a positive way, so I think they will do something" (Jonathan, Accra).
INFLUENTIAL

**StreetInvest** continues to work with the Consortium for Street Children to inform the United Nations Human Rights Committee in the development of a General Comment to support resolution 12.09 relating to street children.

**INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL ADVOCACY**

Influence so that street children’s rights are recognised and understood by all members of their community.

StreetInvest, our partners and all street workers need to influence all duty-bearers to bring improvements to the lives of street children and reduce the stigma they suffer. Street work must be recognised at both the highest policy and grass root practice levels as an integral part of supporting street children and street children seen as part of the reality not the problem and their rights are respected accordingly. This is supported by:

- Community engagement to reduce stigma and improve attitudes and values towards street children
- National level advocacy to influence policy making
- Advocacy for international policy frameworks

“It is not acceptable that international organisations, policy makers, social institutions and individuals, who feel entitled to intervene in the lives of street children, do so on the basis of obviously unclear and arbitrary knowledge about the reality of these children’s lives. We have actually started to listen to street children.”

Father Patrick Shanahan, presentation to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2014

- March 2015: Top issue reported by street children is abuse and beatings by the Indian Railway Police
- April 2015: Children report in a focus group that the Police are the people they fear most
- May 2015: CINI organises workshops on the rights of street children with the Railway Police
- May 2015: CINI organises a meeting directly between the Police and the children
- June 2015: Some children in a focus group discussion begin to identify the Police as people who help them
Street workers need the support of strong organisations who are committed to their work and have robust and sustainable systems. Operational capacity, training capacity and staff development are amongst the activities StreetInvest offers. StreetInvest and its Street Work Partners have a clear understanding of and commitment to street work, supported by access to sustainable funding and robust operational systems. This is demonstrated through:

- A rights-based/child-centred approach
- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Training capacity and staff development
- M&E capacity
- Operations capacity

“Bringing people together from 5 countries and allowing them to freely share their experiences is amazing. More countries and partners should have access to StreetInvest’s training.” Street Worker, Zambia

“We should have more meetings like this to increase our exposure to street work. We should have many more meetings to discuss policies to help protect children on our streets. I think we should have an organisational exchange programme between organisations.” Street Worker, Mombasa, Kenya

“The training was great – it was wonderful to have received some very practical tips on fundraising from you. Thank you so much for the valuable inputs.” CINI Project Manager

“We now have seven trainers who are able to deliver workshops and seminars to a wide range of stakeholders, not only the police who we were aiming at. This enables us to move away from relying on the UK-based CEO to deliver training, reducing costs significantly as well as, and much more importantly, empowering the team in Kenya to take ownership over training, awareness raising and advocacy.” Glad’s House, Mombasa, Kenya
“All children have dreams: some can fulfil them and others cannot. Everybody needs someone to help guide them. Here there are few people who support us. If we didn’t get support from you, street workers, nothing would happen.”

Street Child, Sealdah Station, Kolkata, Focus Group Discussion

StreetInvest has developed a monitoring and evaluation framework that systematically collects, stores, analyses and shares both quantitative and qualitative information to ensure that all our projects and partners have the desired impact, are aligned with StreetInvest’s vision, mission and values and all street workers and street-connected children are aware of their real value. StreetInvest works with UK data management specialist Mazepoint for our quantitative data and has developed a unique well-being measurement tool to supplement our qualitative data.

The Wellbeing Tool is a unique tool developed by StreetInvest which enables street workers to structure their conversations with street children in a solution focussed manner, helping them develop their capabilities and take their own positive steps towards enhancing their lives.

Improvements in wellbeing, PEDER, Bukavu, DR Congo 2013/14

50% of the children using the wellbeing tool reported improved wellbeing over an 18 month period.
In the poorest countries of the world, just £1 puts a trustworthy adult in the life of one more street child for one more month.
Belvie is a young girl who lives on the streets of Bukavu, Eastern Congo. Abuse from her stepfather pushed her to the streets when she was 14, she fell pregnant soon after and now has 2 children. She is still only 17. Without a trustworthy adult, Belvie was extremely vulnerable to violence from her clients and other street boys.

Today, although Belvie remains on the street, she now knows that she can start to think about a future beyond the next 24 hours.

Through the support of StreetInvest and our partner organisation, PEDER, Belvie is known to a group of trained street workers, with whom she is in daily contact, either on the streets, at the ‘Listening Centres’ dotted around the city, or at one of three drop-in centres.

StreetInvest’s training is part of a wider process of transforming gender relations so that Belvie’s rights as a girl are recognised as equal to men. The messages inherent in the training start to raise awareness of women’s subordination as well as rights’ abuses and to build the capacity, in every man and woman, to challenge it.

Belvie is a capable, bright young woman and mother. Through the collaboration of StreetInvest and our local partner, she can now be supported to make the right decisions for her own future and that of her children which she was unable to do alone.
JOIN OUR JOURNEY

www.streetinvest.org

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