

STREET CHILDREN



GOAL currently employs 175 GOALies, who work alongside over 2,500 local staff in the implementation of a variety of humanitarian programmes in 14 countries.

GOAL programmes are aimed at the poorest of the poor and people suffering the effects of war and/or natural disaster. Since its inception 29 years ago, GOAL has spent approx USD\$510 million on its humanitarian programmes, employing over 1,300 GOALies. We have achieved this on an administrative cost base of less than 5% per annum. Besides implementing its own programmes, GOAL works with partner organisations and missionary groups who have similar objectives.

GOAL has always had a special place in its heart for street children. In many of the countries where we operate, we have established programmes to help vulnerable children by providing shelter, healthcare, food, clothes, education and, in many cases, reuniting children with their families. Above all, these children are given love and understanding.

Thanks to the ongoing support of our generous donors, we have been able to expand our work with street children. GOAL is working with street children in India, Honduras, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Sierra Leone.

INDIA

GOAL has been working in Calcutta for 27 years and currently supports 29 projects, providing a range of services, including education, healthcare and vocational training to underprivileged children and their families.

GOAL has rescued more than 70,000 children from lives of misery and abuse on the streets of Calcutta.

Model Andrea Roche's recent visit to GOAL's programmes in Calcutta was a life-changing experience.

"Calcutta's red light district was the toughest part of the trip. The streets are filled with prostitutes and their children, who often have nowhere else to go," she explained.

"GOAL has set up schools in the city's slums and red light districts so the children have somewhere safe

to go and will hopefully be able to break the cycle of poverty by staying in education.

"It was very emotional but also inspiring to see the hope these people have and how money donated by the Irish can make a difference."

Andrea Roche visits GOAL's street children's programmes in Calcutta



A street children's education programme in Africa

SIERRA LEONE

In Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, GOAL's community-based street children's programme cares for almost 1,000 children, providing drop-in facilities, healthcare and protection for commercial sex workers.

GOAL first started working

with vulnerable and disadvantaged children in Freetown in 2003 and now focuses on teaching children and youth about their basic rights and on promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and education.

We also work with local groups who are supporting activities for street children.

UGANDA

In Uganda's capital Kampala, GOAL works with a number of local street children's organisations to provide HIV/AIDS education and to help vulnerable children develop the skills and knowledge they need to help them get off the streets.

The programmes use drama, sport and puppetry to help the children increase



Children enjoy a game of soccer in Uganda

their confidence and also works with the local authorities to increase their awareness on the plight of vulnerable children and their rights.

children to access food, healthcare, HIV/AIDS education and counselling, family reunification, basic education and vocational skills training and employment opportunities

The programme includes a HIV/AIDS education project that reaches between 5,000-10,000 each month, a community children's education centre catering for 257 children and over 150 others through a mobile education unit and a rescue centre that caters for up to 60 children per night.

In addition, a mobile health clinic provides a service for almost 2,000 children and local community members each month and a vocational skills training centre caters for 100 youth.

GOAL also works in partnership with a local NGO to assist children due before court on criminal charges.

HONDURAS

In Tegucigalpa, the capital city we are working with four local organisations, providing support to child labourers in communities surrounding the city dumps and markets.

These programmes support over 930 street children and promote education and HIV/AIDS awareness.

The programme also supports a rehabilitation and community centre, providing alternative activities for children living in difficult circumstances.

THE FACTS

Every day is a struggle for survival for millions of children across the developing world, as children continue to die from hunger and treatable diseases.

- 140 million children have never been to school
- 400 million children do not have access to safe water
- 90 million children go to bed hungry every night.
- Ongoing conflicts have had a major effect on children, who are often forced to become child soldiers or are the victims of landmines. (UNICEF)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Participate in any of the GOAL fundraising events taking place throughout the year.
- Attend or donate prizes to the GOAL Ball in New York.
- Buy a St. Patrick's Day badge.
- Contact GOAL about birthday stickers for children's parties.
- Suggest new and interesting fundraising ideas to us.

Our Development Education Officers are available to visit schools and youth groups.

Contact GOAL for details:

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Pictured in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city, former street children return to full-time education with GOAL's help.

ETHIOPIA

Around 20,000 children go to sleep each night on the streets of Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa. Others are forced to wander the streets all night, too afraid to sleep for fear of rape or attack.

Genet Abay, who heads up GOAL's street children's programme in Addis Ababa, spends much of her time driving around the filthy, streets looking for children who are at risk.

"I hear the most terrible stories. Some of these children have been abducted and sold into child labour, others have run away and some come from very poor families so they were sent to the city in search of a better life, which they never find," said Genet.

Working with local partner NGOs, GOAL provides emergency night shelter for 260 children in Addis Ababa and Nazareth. In both places, drop-in centres enable over 300

for older children.

A similar programme is being established in Shashemene town and in all three locations GOAL works closely with local NGOs to provide these services.

KENYA

GOAL's programme caters for vulnerable children living on the streets and in remand homes in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.



GOAL's Caroline Hurley enjoys the street children's sports day in Nairobi, Kenya.