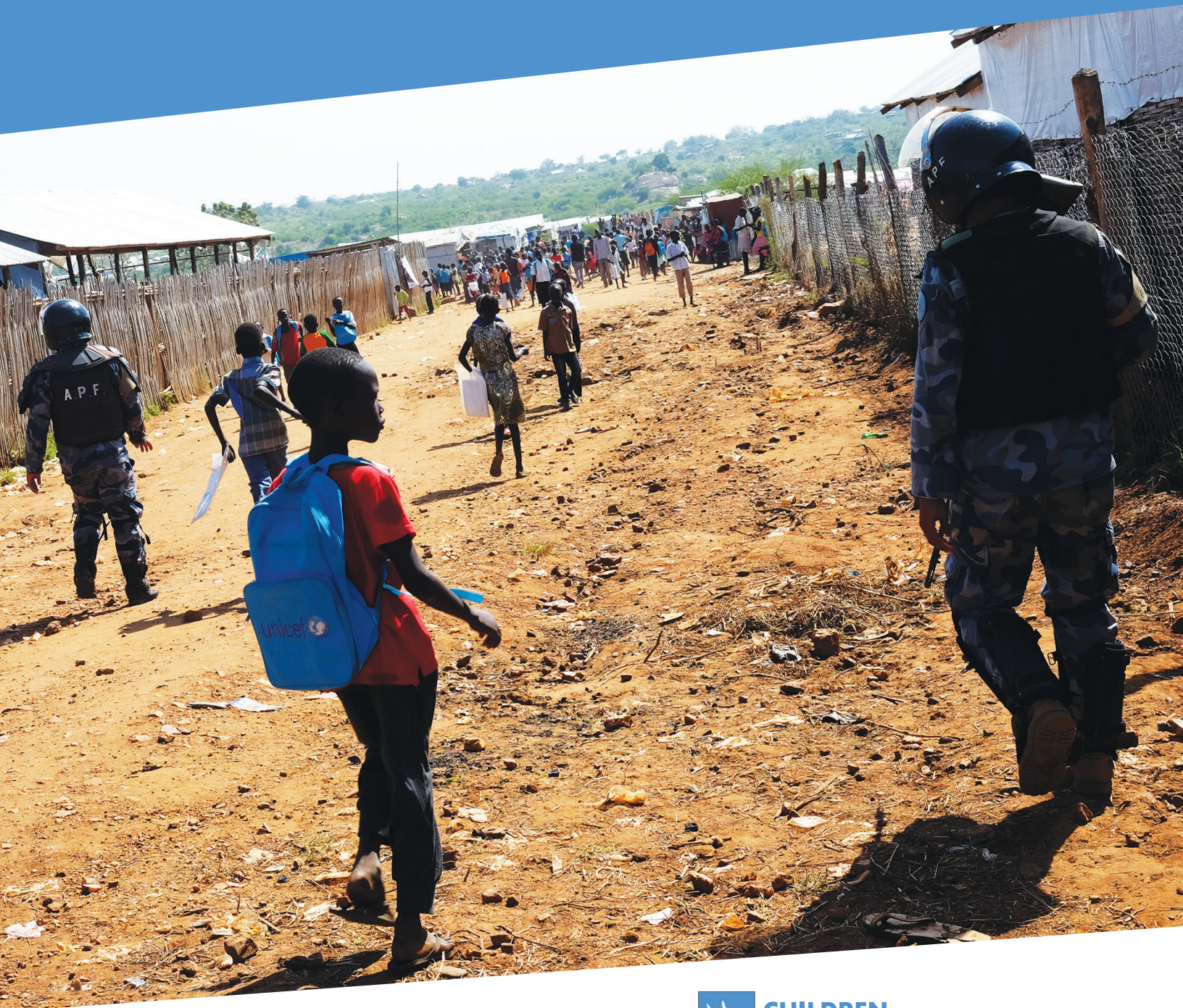


THE DALLAIRE INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, PEACE AND SECURITY

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025



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*Front cover photograph:
A protection of civilians site, Juba, South Sudan
in a 2015 visit by the Dallaire Institute.*

*Dallaire Institute Basic Training at Rwandan
Military Academy, Gako, Rwanda in 2018.*

A GLOBAL CRISIS: THE RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN IN ARMED VIOLENCE

STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHELLY WHITMAN, PHD

Approximately 420 million children live in conflict affected areas around the world. As the number of children affected by conflict increases, so does their risk of being recruited and used in armed violence, as soldiers, sexual slaves, cooks, porters, messengers, and spies. Over the past 30 years, the risk of children being recruited and used in armed violence has doubled, from 5% in 1990 to over 10% today. Despite the significance of the impact of armed conflict and violence on children, very few policy makers understand that conflicts in which children are recruited and used last longer and increase the likelihood of conflict reoccurrence. This signals the need for critical research to address policy gaps, in terms of understanding the current and evolving risk factors that precede recruitment and the impacts of the use of children in violence.

The recruitment and use of children in armed conflict is heinous and violates the 'rules of war' that protect civilians and set limits on the tactics that can be used. Due to its significant impact, the recruitment and use of children is considered one of six grave violations of international law for which perpetrators, their military commanders, and political leaders, are meant to be held accountable by the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, national laws, and military codes of justice.

The Dallaire Institute recognizes that there is a need to expand the efforts to prevent the recruitment and use of children from not only an armed conflict perspective but to a wider perspective of armed violence. In 2009, the OECD report on "Conflict and Fragility: Armed Violence Reduction, Enabling Development" defined armed violence to include the use or threatened use of weapons to inflict injury, death, or psychosocial harm, which undermines development. Armed violence in non-conflict settings can have as significant an effect on security and development as it does in societies affected by war.

As the boundaries across criminal networks, intercommunal violence, and armed conflict become increasingly blurred, children's risks of recruitment and use are becoming endemic in the context of drug trafficking, gang violence, criminal networks, and violent extremism. These trends are alarming, given the significant and long-standing impacts of recruitment and use on children, their families, communities, and the security sector actors responsible for their protection. As a result, the Dallaire Institute seeks to increase understanding about the factors that connect different forms of recruitment and use of children and the prevention of conflict. Preventing the recruitment and use of children is central to transforming and ending multi-generational cycles of violence.

In 2020, the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative formally became an Institute as part of our Institutional home at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada. The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security has been built progressively over the past 14 years. Our unique ability to be heard and respected by the security sector, policy makers, multilateral organizations, and non-governmental

Dr. Shelly Whitman at the Halifax Public Library in Nova Scotia, Canada during a VTECs Speaker Series event, July 2019.



bodies and to build dialogue with communities and children that are impacted by armed violence, creates the potential for innovative solutions that are grounded in lived reality and informed by research and learning.

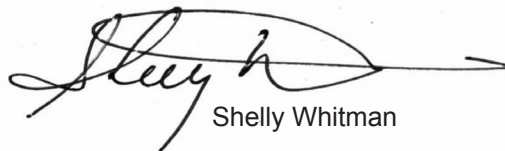
The Dallaire Institute was created with the unique premise that preventing violence against children requires a dual lens that is focused on prioritizing the protection of children, as well as understanding the significant operational impacts upon the security sector actors. Although peace support operations take place in countries where children are exploited by armed forces and groups, peacekeepers are often not systematically trained for their encounters with children, to prevent their recruitment and use, or to prevent other grave violations that are often interlinked, including sexual violence, abduction, killing and maiming, attacks on schools or hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian access. This impacts both the children and the security sector across multiple borders and generations. Our Founder, Lt. General Roméo Dallaire's lived experience, and our capable team of researchers, child protection experts and security sector personnel have built a unique approach that is being sought around the globe to positively impact the fate of humanity.

Over the next 3 years we will continue to build on this unique approach to focus on three major areas of action:

1. Accelerating action on the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Children as Soldiers;
2. Increasing the operational effectiveness of the security sector;
3. Integrating children's and community perspectives into security sector responses to prevent the recruitment and use of children.

Putting research into action to prevent the recruitment and use of children in a timely and effective manner is critical. Until now, the existence of conflict early warning systems that consider child centred indicators has been lacking. The Dallaire Institute is exceptionally proud that over the past 3 years we have created ground-breaking work towards a comprehensive early warning system that will engage multi-lateral organizations, security institutions, human rights groups, and child protection agencies to sound the alarm on the risk of recruitment of children as a critical warning of impending and large-scale conflicts.

This new strategic plan for 2022-2025 aims to be the catalyst in a reformulation of our approaches to building more sustainable and effective approaches to global peace and security. Peace is possible, violence is preventable, and children must be at the heart of the solutions.



Shelly Whitman



Lt. General R. Dallaire during a visit to Goma, DRC speaking with MONUSCO Peacekeepers in 2012.

OUR STORY

Founder Roméo Dallaire is a humanitarian, author, retired senator, former Canadian Forces lieutenant general, and former Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda between 1993 and 1994. Lt. General (retired) Dallaire confronted the unthinkable during the genocide in Rwanda: children recruited and used to commit atrocities. From this experience, General Dallaire suffered moral and operational stress injuries. He used his personal mental health struggles to help catalyze a broader movement to destigmatize post-traumatic stress disorders among veterans. This also motivated his life-long commitment to end the recruitment and use of children worldwide.

General Dallaire founded the Child Soldiers Initiative in 2007 and Dalhousie University, located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, provided a home to the Initiative in 2010. Since those early days, the organization has evolved extensively from a training development initiative to one that has applied research and learning that guides operational concepts and at its core contributes to a key gap in the peace and security architecture. In 2020, the Initiative became the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security, an international repository of expertise, research, and advocacy to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence. The work of the Dallaire Institute complements and supports existing strategic priorities of Dalhousie University. In the current strategic plan, 3rd Century Promise – 2021-2026, Dalhousie highlights core values related to impactful community engagement, social responsibility, and future-ready leaders. Priority 4 of the Plan is a civic university with global impact, and this includes being stewards of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly, SDG 8.7 which focuses on an end to child labour, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and SDGs 16.2 which focuses on an end to abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

The Dallaire Institute is the co-developer of the 2017 Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers and hosts a prestigious Tier 1 Canada Research Chair on International Peace, Security and Children. The Dallaire Institute offers undergraduate and graduate courses that will lead to the creation of a certificate program on children, peace and security. Through academic and practitioner training, and community engagement, the Dallaire Institute's interdisciplinary and applied research advances innovative strategies for preventing the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts and violence. The Dallaire Institute is supported through private, public, and international contributions.

A DECADE OF IMPACT

The Dallaire Institute is a global leader in promoting a children, peace, and security agenda. In 2020, we celebrated ten years of achievements. Some highlights include:

100+
NATIONS ENDORSING THE
VANCOUVER PRINCIPLES

TRAINING DELIVERED TO
15,000
SECURITY FORCES FROM

100
COUNTRIES

We train military forces, police, and other security sector actors around the world so that they can teach their own forces techniques to protect children and prevent the recruitment and use of children in violence.

12 MEMORANDA OF
UNDERSTANDING
WITH NATIONAL SECURITY
INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENTS
AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

- African Peace Support Training Association and Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peacekeeping Training Centre
- African Union Mission to Somalia and UNICEF
- Democratic Republic of Congo Armed Forces (FARDC)
- Jordanian Public Security Directorate
- The Mozambican Ministry of Defence and UNICEF
- Rwanda Ministry of Defence
- Rwanda National Police
- Sierra Leone Armed Forces
- Sierra Leone Corrections Services
- Sierra Leone Police Services
- South Sudan Peoples Defence Forces
- Uruguyu Ministry of National Defence

1 COUNTRY HOST
AGREEMENT WITH RWANDA

DEVELOPED THE
FIRST

PREDICTIVE MODEL TO MONITOR
EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF
THE RECRUITMENT AND USE OF
CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICTS
AND VIOLENCE AND APPLIED IT TO
A PROGRAMMATIC INTERVENTION
IN MOZAMBIQUE.

KNOWLEDGE FOR PREVENTION (K4P)

Early warning
system of
child soldier
recruitment
and use

Child centred
indicators
included in
conflict
prevention
systems

New
knowledge
used to improve
child protection
mechanisms

CONTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN
50 POLICY RESOURCES
ON CHILDREN AND ARMED
CONFLICT, INCLUDING:

- The Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers
- The International Criminal Court Policy on Children
- The UN SRSG CAAC Study on the Study of the Evolution of the Children and Armed Conflict Mandate from 1996-2021
- NATO standard operating procedures on children in armed conflict
- The Safe Schools Toolkit
- UN Security Council resolutions 2143 and 2151 on Peacekeeping, Child Protection and Security sector reform

RESEARCH AND LEARNING



24 peer-reviewed
research
publications





OUR VISION

A world where children are at the heart of peace and security.

OUR MISSION

To prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence and transform cycles of violence.

OUR VALUES

Children's Rights Upfront

Children's well-being is essential to international peace and security. By prioritizing the needs of children, we can begin to address the underlying factors that contribute to the vulnerability of children being recruited and used in violence. The Dallaire Institute recognizes children's potential as agents for sustainable peace and is committed to learning from children's experiences. As children are central to our work, we are committed to centering their perspectives as advisers, partners, and members of the communities where we live and work.

Anti-Racism & Inclusion

We stand with our staff and communities affected by systemic racism and hate-driven violence around the world. As a member of Canada's Anti-Racism Cooperation, the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security will use its platform to speak out against racism and bias in our sector and in the world. We pledge our commitment to creating an anti-colonial, inclusive, anti-racist organization; and to addressing the legacy of racism and injustice that permeates the international cooperation sector.

Gender Equity

We reject all forms of oppression and recognize gender as a critical aspect of identity that shapes our experiences, risks, and agency. All systems of power in armed conflict are gendered, from state institutions to non-state organizations including armed groups, and these institutions shape how men, women, girls and boys experience and are impacted by the conflict. The Dallaire Institute is committed to transforming gender norms and power relations that hold women and girls and diverse genders back and to prioritize effective women/girls' empowerment in peace and security agendas.

Cooperation & Collaboration

Our work is guided by a threefold commitment to (1) promoting holistic and gender transformative approaches; (2) strengthening localized and regional solutions; and (3) strategic complementarity, by amplifying and working collaboratively with humanitarian, development, human rights organizations, and the security sector to center the rights of children.



OUR APPROACH

The Dallaire Institute champions a Children's Rights Upfront (CRU) Approach that places children, and their protection, at the heart of commitments to international peace and security.

OUR VISION

A world where children are at the heart of peace and security.

We work at the invitation of governments, security institutions, and regional and international organizations seeking to advance the Vancouver Principles. We give priority to countries that contribute troops to regional and international peace operations, and to countries where children are recruited and used in armed conflicts and violence.

As co-developers and custodians of The Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers, the Dallaire Institute advises governments and multilateral partners on integrating the Vancouver Principles into security governance.

By strengthening the normative frameworks, such as United Nations Security Council Resolutions and National Laws, to protect children in armed conflict as well as the capacity of the security sector to enforce these norms that allows for more effective protection of conflict affected communities, we can prevent children's recruitment and use, and foster an enabling environment to advance peace and sustainable development.

In addition, our work has incorporated the perspectives of communities and children into our programming, research, and advocacy efforts.

Dallaire Institute staff include senior researchers, military experts and trainers, adult learning specialists, and child protection and gender experts.

Uniquely, the Dallaire Institute works directly with the security sector to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts and violence. The Dallaire Institute has fifteen years of experience working directly with security actors, including the military, police, intelligence, and corrections, to strengthen operational, strategic, and tactical capacities to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts and violence.

BUILDING A GLOBAL CHILDREN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA

The Dallaire Institute advances understanding about the fragile contexts that threaten children, increase their vulnerability to extreme violence and insecurity, and diminish their agency to positively impact change. These challenges perpetuate cycles of inequality and violence that continue over generations.

The Dallaire Institute's Research and Learning agenda seeks primarily to inform the content, design, and implementation of our capacity building programs, policy advocacy, and community engagement. Our approach is collaborative and multi-disciplinary, with a commitment to co-production with our partners, informed by priorities that are shaped at the point of implementation, as reflected in our strategic priorities.

Additionally, we support a global community of research, practice and learning network to identify, consolidate, and share best practices and lessons learned in the fields of conflict prevention, peacebuilding, security sector reform, and gender and child protection. We do this through symposia, cross regional and interdisciplinary research and learning networks, and *ALLONS-Y: Journal of Children, Peace and Security*, a peer reviewed, international journal dedicated to applied learning and research on issues related to children and armed conflict.

Creating a Global Children, Peace and Security (CPS) agenda requires an understanding of several existing frameworks, including: the Women, Peace and Security Agenda; the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda; the Early Warning and Genocide Prevention Networks; Security Sector Reform efforts; and Economic Security Frameworks as the synthesis of these frameworks will provide new approaches and platforms to put a priority on the protection of children from their recruitment and use in violence as central to the attainment of peace and security.

The identification of key partners and stakeholders to develop the Children, Peace and Security Agenda will be critical to our success over the next three years. The Dallaire Institute will continue to demonstrate its unique ability to impact the improvement of the prevention of the recruitment and use of children as soldiers through security sector reform that is guided by the implementation of the Vancouver Principles. This capability will be a critical piece to the larger mandate of the protection of children and the creation of peace and stability.

CHILDREN, PEACE AND SECURITY: Connecting agendas



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Our Mission: to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict and violence and to end cycles of violence.

RESULTS



ACCELERATING ACTION ON THE VANCOUVER PRINCIPLES



INCREASING THE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SECURITY SECTOR



INTEGRATING CHILDREN'S AND COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES INTO SECURITY SECTOR RESPONSES TO PREVENT THE RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN

ACTIONS



POLICY GUIDANCE

To prevent recruitment and use of children in armed violence through integration in domestic law and security sector doctrine.



ADVOCACY

To increase awareness and political will to make children the heart of international peace and security.



CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMING

To strengthen security institutions operational effectiveness to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence.



ENGAGE CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES

On early warning, strategies to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence, and to improve dialogue with the security sector.

RESEARCH

To innovate holistic, localized, gender transformative, and prevention-oriented solutions for protecting children in armed conflict and preventing their use in violence.

3 PRIORITIES OF RESEARCH INTO ACTION



Connections between morally injurious events faced by the security sector and the recruitment and use of children in armed violence.



Early warning to early action to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence.



The gendered understandings of preventing the recruitment and use of children in armed violence.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (2022-2025)

1. ACCELERATING ACTION ON THE VANCOUVER PRINCIPLES

As co-developers of the 2017 Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers, the Dallaire Institute is a global leader and subject matter expert on recruitment prevention. More than 100 countries have endorsed the Vancouver Principles, which strengthen normative frameworks for protecting children in armed conflict and operationalize child protection within UN peacekeeping. By recognizing the unique challenges posed by the recruitment and use of children in conflict, endorsing governments commit to ensuring that all peacekeepers – military or police, and civilian staff – receive the necessary preparation to take appropriate and preventive action.

The Dallaire Institute advocates universal endorsement and supports policy and doctrine implementation nationally, regionally, and in the context of peace processes. Central to this priority is the analysis and understanding applied from the research and learning strategy of the Dallaire Institute. The Dallaire Institute advances this agenda in close cooperation with Ministries of Defence and Interior among troop contributing countries, strategic allies, the UN, and in countries where children are recruited and used.

Specific outcomes include:

1

Increase understanding about the Vancouver Principles to accelerate endorsement and implementation among priority national, regional, and international partners.

2

Integrate the Vancouver Principles into domestic law and security sector doctrine, operational planning processes, standard operating procedures, and regional commitments.

3

Integrate the Vancouver Principles into peace processes, peace agreements, action plans, road maps, and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction policies.



High-level dignitaries from Canada, Rwanda, Germany and the European Union at the Knowledge for Prevention Symposium held in Kigali, Rwanda in November 2021 – Ambassador Guillaume Kavaruganda, Brigadier General Didas Ndahiro, Dr. Shelly Whitman, Ambassador Dr. Thomas Kurz, Ambassador Nicola Bellomo, and François Quenneville-Dumont.

2. INCREASING THE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SECURITY SECTOR

More than 100,000 military and police personnel are deployed globally on peace support operations each year, most of which are in conflict zones where children are recruited and used by armed forces and armed groups. Therefore, any meaningful steps to prevent this grave violation must also focus on the security sector, its operations, and its accountability to affected populations. For this reason, the Dallaire Institute, with its security sector approach, is uniquely positioned to strengthen the security sector's capacity to conduct security operations in a manner that is complementary to communities' needs and humanitarian actions in the conflict zone.

In partnership with national, regional, and international security sector training institutions, the Dallaire Institute develops and delivers scenario-based, prevention-oriented training to prepare military, police, and civilian personnel to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence. Central to this priority is the analysis and understanding applied from the research and learning strategy of the Dallaire Institute. Using standardized training content based on core competencies for security sector actors, partner nations can integrate the content into their existing training and operational doctrine to ensure a sustainable delivery of child protection training by the partner nation to their forces at every stage of their career. In addition to creating interoperability with multinational forces on deployment, this approach also reduces the risk of psychological impacts such as moral injury or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) associated with encountering children recruited and used in armed violence.

Specific outcomes include:

1

Strengthen the capacity of security sector institutions to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers by supporting the implementation of the Vancouver Principles at all levels of government.

2

Integrate curricula on preventing the recruitment and use of children into security sector training doctrine at national, regional and international levels.

3

Build the capacity of the security sector to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict to effectively prepare for operations in zones where children are used in armed conflict and to prevent their recruitment in places where it is more likely to occur.



First fundamentals course delivered to the Mozambican Armed Forces in November 2021 with Regional Training Manager, Musa Gbow in Mozambique. Credit: UNICEF Mozambique.

3. INTEGRATING CHILDREN'S AND COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES INTO SECURITY SECTOR RESPONSES TO PREVENT THE RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN

In armed conflict affected areas, we facilitate collaboration between communities and security actors to co-develop strategies to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence. We work with local partners to develop gender responsive, community-based capacity building programmes that reflect context-specific drivers of recruitment and use.

Early warning mechanisms seek to collectively identify early warning indicators and intervention strategies linked to early response. Community-based engagement mechanisms seek to increase the accountability and responsiveness of security actors to community security needs and perspectives. We engage children and youth perspectives on prevention strategies.

We do this by creating platforms that build trust between communities and the security sector actors charged with their protection. This improves interoperability where security sector actors understand the vulnerabilities facing children and the communities from which they are recruited and used by armed forces or armed groups. Central to this priority is the analysis and understanding applied from the research and learning strategy of the Dallaire Institute.

Specific outcomes include:

1

Identify child centred indicators of recruitment as early warning indicators that catalyze action.

2

Train and raise awareness of security actors and communities to prevent recruitment and use by strengthening linkages between communities and security actors that promote community informed security sector responses.

3

Support opportunities and avenues for dialogue during peace processes with stakeholders and the affected populations to whom they are accountable.

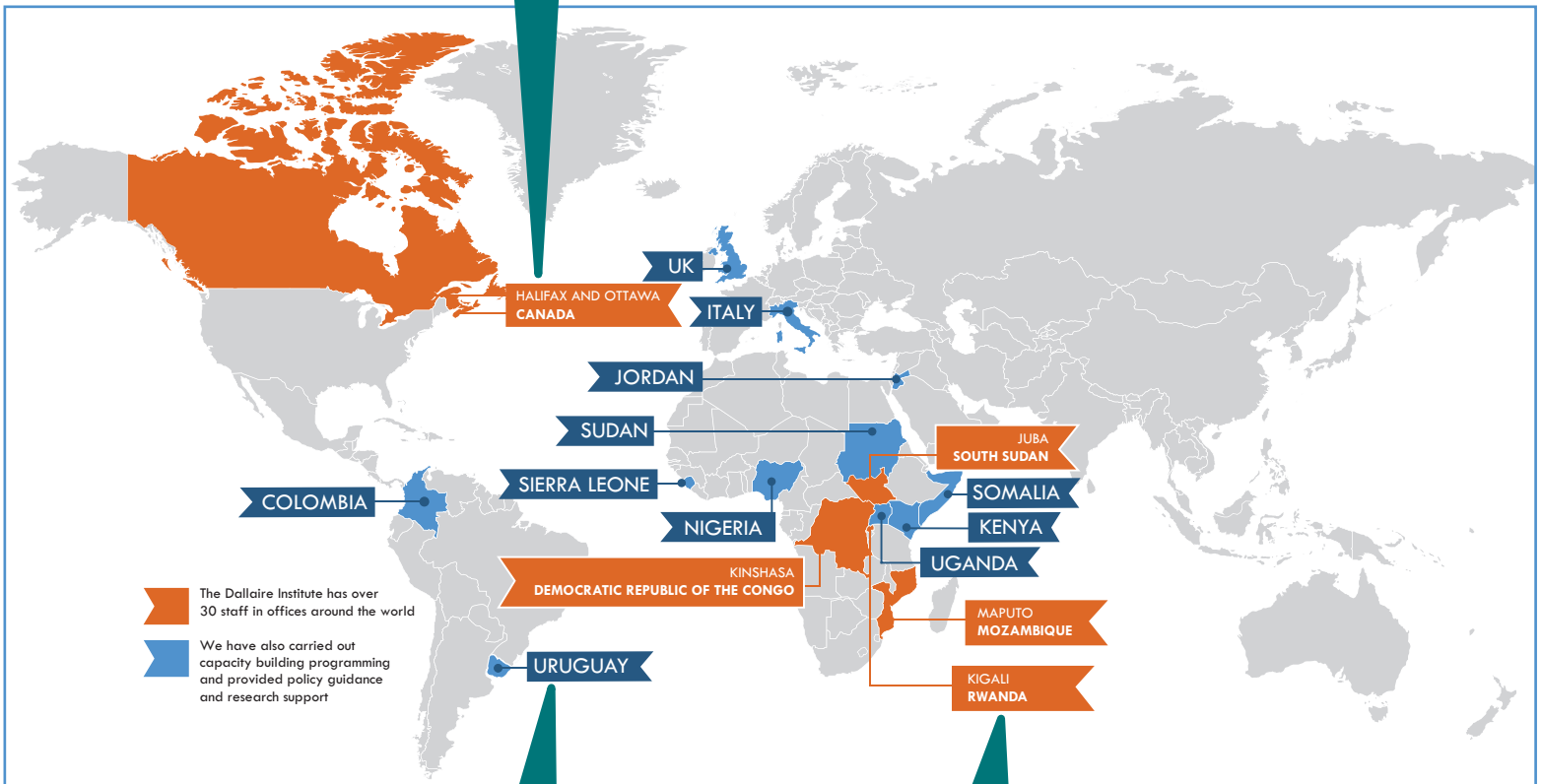


Dustin Johnson, Research Advisor of the Dallaire Institute, hosting focus group discussions with children and teachers who participated in the Dallaire Institute Peace Clubs in Sierra Leone in 2018.

WHERE WE WORK

The Dallaire Institute's global headquarters in Halifax, Canada implements country-based programming through its Regional Centres of Excellence (COEs). The COEs combine high level advocacy with field-focused and country-facing capabilities to ensure that Dallaire Institute programs are contextually relevant, culturally sensitive, and gender responsive. The COEs are hubs for training, research, curricula development, learning, advocacy, and policy guidance and have oversight of country programmes.

To complement the work of the Dallaire Institute's Regional Centres of Excellence, the **Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Dallaire Centre of Excellence on Peace and Security in Ottawa, Canada** supports CAF implementation of the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers. The Dallaire Institute collaborates with the Dallaire Centre of Excellence on global implementation of the Vancouver Principles through a contribution agreement created with the Canadian Department of National Defence and as a result provides input into CAF training and education with relevant research and lessons learned.

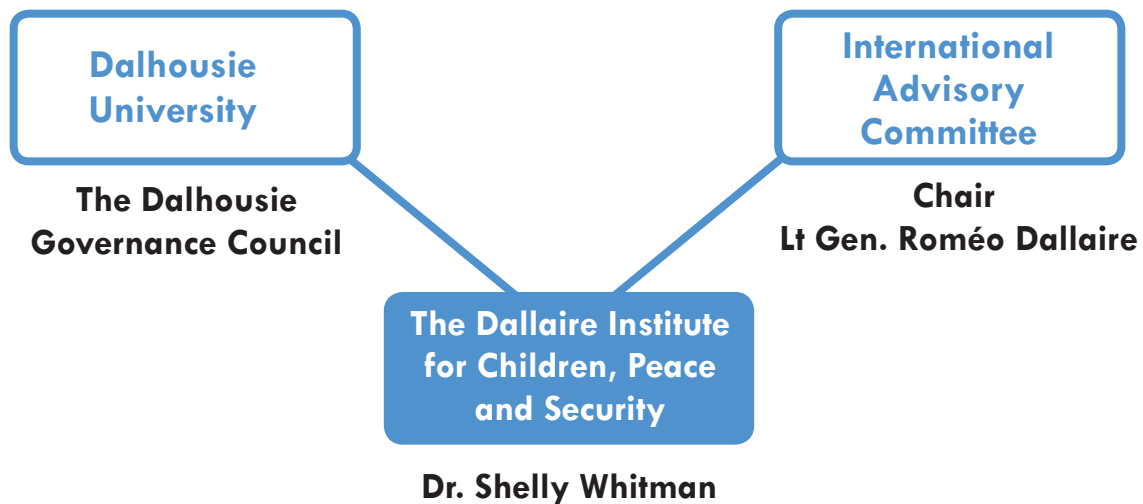


The Latin American Centre of Excellence in Montevideo, Uruguay is the Dallaire Institute's hub for Latin America and the Caribbean. In partnership with the Government of Uruguay and the Association of Latin American Peacekeeping Training Centres (ALCOPAZ), the Latin American COE provides training for the growing number of troop contributors from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

The African Centre of Excellence (ACOE) in Kigali, Rwanda was created in cooperation with the Government of Rwanda under the leadership of the Office of the President, the Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Rwanda Defence Force, and the Rwandan National Police. Rwanda was the first African country to endorse the Vancouver Principles in the top five nations that contributes troops to UN peacekeeping. The ACOE is the Dallaire Institute's representative to the AU, a member of the AU's Children and Armed Conflict Working Group, and the African Peace Support Training Association. The ACOE's strategic location facilitates effective coordination and oversight of the Dallaire Institute's work across the continent including in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda.

GOVERNANCE

The Dallaire Institute's Executive Director reports to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dalhousie University. The Dalhousie Governance Council, comprised of the Deans of Health, Law, Arts and Social Sciences, and the Vice President Research and Innovation, has oversight of the Dallaire Institute's operations. In addition, the Executive Director consults regularly with the Dallaire Institute's Founder, who convenes an external and independent International Advisory Council (IAC). IAC members are an internationally diverse group of eminent persons that provide advice regarding partnerships, resource mobilization, and other opportunities to advance the Dallaire Institute's vision and mission.



Dallaire Institute International Advisory Council

Roméo Dallaire (chair), former UN Force Commander and Canadian Senator

Marc-Andre Blanchard, former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations

Charles Brindamour, CEO of Intact Insurance

Michaëlle Jean, former Governor General of Canada

Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary General of La Francophonie

Robert Muggah, Founder of Brazil's Instituto Igarapé

Myrah Oloo, Youth Advocate and Giants of Africa alum

James Orbinski, Director of the Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research

Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, former United Nations Force Commander

Fredrik Schiller, former Swedish Ambassador to South Sudan

Masai Ujiri, President of the Toronto Raptors and founder of Giants of Africa

ANNEX: KEY INTERVENTIONS BY PRIORITY

PRIORITY 1: ACCELERATING ACTION ON THE VANCOUVER PRINCIPLES

Key Interventions:

Research and Learning

- Leading applied research and learning to inform strategies that encourage effective implementation and reporting on the Vancouver Principles;
- Hosting conferences and workshops to share lessons learned and best practices on the implementation of the Vancouver Principles;
- Disseminating research on the Vancouver Principles through journals, including our internal academic journal, *Allons y: Journal for Children, Peace and Security*, and engaging academics, practitioners and security experts;
- Mainstreaming a gender strategy throughout our advocacy, communications, research and learning and capacity building interventions.

Advocacy and Communications

- Conducting high-level national, regional, and international advocacy to advance understanding of the Vancouver Principles while adopting normative national frameworks to prevent the recruitment and use of children and improve child protection; Accelerating endorsement and implementation through high level engagement with nations;
- Building awareness and support for a Children's Rights Upfront Approach by effectively communicating the successes of Vancouver Principles endorsement and implementation;
- Promoting policy coherence and complementarity between the Vancouver Principles, and other key international policy documents that relate to children affected by armed conflict agenda.

Capacity Building

- Embedding the Vancouver Principles in all capacity building activities;
- Working with security sector partners to develop and integrate an implementation framework for the Vancouver Principles.
- Collating good practices for implementing the Vancouver Principles.

PRIORITY 2: INCREASING THE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SECURITY SECTOR

Key Interventions:

Research and Learning

- Conducting comprehensive policy alignment assessments in relation to security doctrine and security sector reforms;
- Conducting research on early warning, early action, security sector approaches to prevention, including moral injury, and regional contexts;
- Monitoring and evaluating the impact of capacity building initiatives;

Advocacy and Communications

- High level advocacy that facilitates VP endorsement and partnership building to facilitate MoUs and capacity building efforts that implement the VPs;
- Effectively communicating programmatic results and impacts that inspires security sector actors and governments to place children at the heart of peace and security efforts;
- Securing annual representation in International and regional fora;
- Maintaining and create new partnerships with key countries, training institutions, multi-lateral organizations and civil society organizations to advocate and influence the international policy regime to place children at the heart of peace and security efforts.

Capacity Building

- Conducting comprehensive assessments to inform capacity building program development;
- Developing and tailoring training curricula for different operational contexts to address all dimensions of preventing recruitment and use, including understanding the issue, recognizing its direct impacts on security sector actors and operations and working with civil society partners;
- Partnering with national, regional, and international training institutions to deliver basic training, pre-deployment, in-service, and training in the context of joint operations and security sector reform;
- Providing specialty training for senior security sector leaders, trainers, and child protection and gender experts;
- Deploying capacity building experts in training and doctrine development to pre, active, and post-conflict situations to advise and assist security forces and to support community engagement.

PRIORITY 3: INTEGRATING CHILDREN'S AND COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES INTO SECURITY SECTOR RESPONSES TO PREVENT RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN

Key Interventions:

Research and Learning

- Building predictive models for early warning of recruitment and use of children;
- Incorporating child-centered indicators within the early warning systems of conflict prevention;
- Increasing research on gender perspectives of preventing recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups;
- Growing and maintaining a community of practice to share learning and enhance understanding on the issues faced by children in armed conflict.

Advocacy and Communications

- Influencing the creation of a children, peace and security agenda that will incorporate feedback received from our capacity building approaches with communities and research knowledge generated from our early warning networks;
- Advocating for a children, peace and security agenda that aims to prioritize early action within early warning systems to recognize the links to preventing the recruitment and use of children;
- Promoting collaboration between regional scholars, civil society actors, security sector actors and policy makers to enhance the local and international approaches to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers as central to achieving a Children, Peace and Security agenda.

Capacity Building

- Raising awareness of communities on early warning signs of recruitment and use of children and the links to peace and security;
- Engaging civil society groups to create dialogue with the security sector on the vulnerabilities of civilians in armed conflict with particular emphasis on children and women;
- Including community and youth perspectives into security sector training curricula.

Women's Network for Children, Peace and Security in South Sudan at the end of a workshop with Dallaire Institute Staff in Juba in 2021.



“If we fail to innovate, to find new partnerships, or to be frank about our failures we will not create effective solutions. Failure is okay – but the lack of courage to reassess and make changes to the practices is not acceptable. Let us be courageous for our children and those generations who will inherit this earth we leave behind.”

Dr. Shelly Whitman

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DallaireInst



The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security



dallaireinstitute