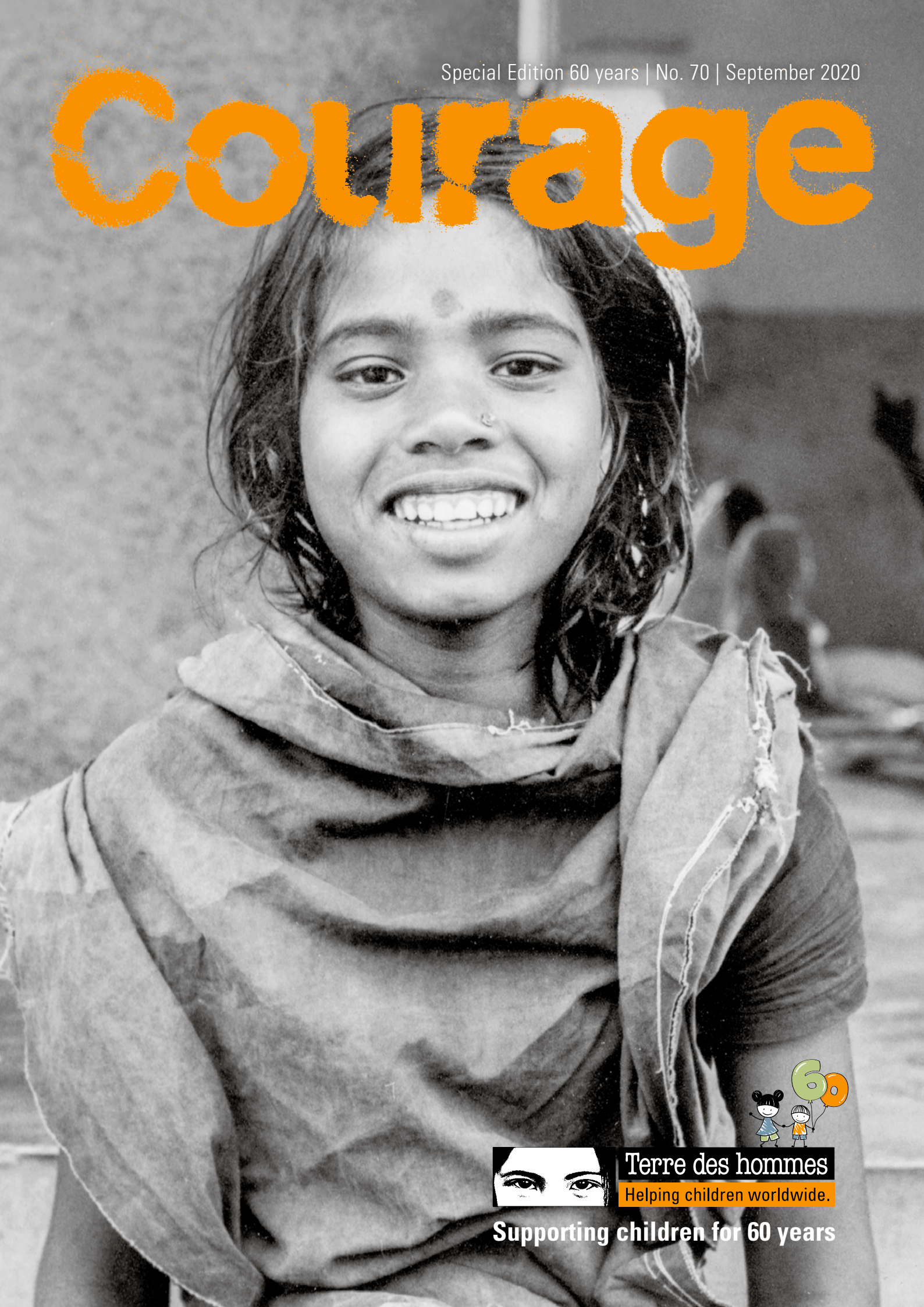


Special Edition 60 years | No. 70 | September 2020

Courage



Terre des hommes
Helping children worldwide.

Supporting children for 60 years



©Tdh

A 60-year commitment to children

From emergency aid during the Algerian war to digital health to care for children, discover the moments that have shaped Terre des hommes.



©Tdh/E. Kaiser

Feature article: Protecting children, our mission for 60 years

In 1960, Edmond Kaiser founded Terre des hommes to save children in need. Sixty years later, we remain committed to protecting children and defending their rights. A look back at the origins of child protection and its evolution within Tdh.



©Tdh/O. Grand

Pioneering work

For more than thirty years, our teams in Burkina Faso have developed projects that have revolutionised child health and protection. Interview with two local specialists.



©Tdh/C. Rappo

«An army of goodwill»

Volunteers have played a key role in the organisation since its creation and are part of its DNA. A glimpse of 60 years of commitment to solidarity.



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Join the challenge!

For our 60th anniversary, we have a goal to raise CHF 60,000 on our online fundraising platform MyTdh. Help us achieve this!

Every child in the world has the right to a childhood, it's that simple.

Thanks to your support, Terre des hommes significantly and sustainably improves the lives of the most vulnerable children. Every year, our health, protection and emergency relief programmes help more than four million children and members of their communities in almost 40 countries.

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©Tdh/Edmond Kaiser – India 1973



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Margarita
14 years old, Ukraine

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Thank you for believing in us!

The young people are seen as the promising future of the world. Sometimes, our views of solving a problem can be more creative, brighter and simpler. Young people not only have fun, but we can also think, empathise, delve into problems and make serious decisions. For our future to be bright, stable and happy, the opinion of each member of society must be taken into account regardless of age and gender.

For me, participation means taking part in school, village and community life, being interested in current issues, problems of society, meeting up with my peers and identifying areas where we can help. In the activities Tdh organised, we learnt to work in a group, compromise, listen to everyone and respect the opinions of others. When we were involved in the YouCreate project, we were independent in making decisions. The adults did not act as leaders but as advisors. Within our initiative, we painted a mural on a school wall using bright colours. It contains messages and recommendations on how to prevent bullying (*page 11*).

«For our future to be bright, stable and happy, the opinion of each member of society must be taken into account, regardless of age and gender.»

A lot has changed in my life since the project. I have become more confident, more open to others. I view the outside world and people in a different way. The project probably helped me to grow up. I am grateful to the organisers and teachers for their support. Now I know that I'll be heard, if I want to be.

The coronavirus pandemic is a very difficult time for all of us and I would like to wish everyone good health and patience. You believed in us, and we're grateful for that!

Margarita



Ways in which you can help children...

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A 60-year commitment to children



1960 Terre des hommes is founded

Outraged by the tragedy of child victims of the Algerian war, Edmond Kaiser founds Terre des hommes in 1960. In its charter written a few years later, he makes a promise: *«As long as one child remains hungry, sick, abandoned, in misery or in pain, whoever and wherever they may be, the Terre des hommes movement, created for this purpose, will pledge itself to the child's immediate and complete rescue.»* From the very outset, Tdh has been hosting children in need from different countries and providing them with care and protection in Switzerland.



1963 The beginning of heart surgery

An eleven-year-old Algerian girl is the first child to undergo heart surgery in Geneva. Since 1963, thanks to a huge network of solidarity, underprivileged children suffering from heart defects are transferred to Europe for operations that cannot be performed in their own countries.



1962 The first sale of oranges

That year, volunteer Claudine Planque sows the seed of what was to become the largest street humanitarian action in Switzerland: the Tdh sale of oranges. *«I organised this first sale in Lausanne,»* Claudine Planque said. *«We were a group of friends and we raised CHF 10,000.»* This success exceeded all expectations. The money was used to fund the hospitalisation of children in Switzerland. Every year, 1500 volunteers continue to sell more than 80,000 oranges to support our projects.



1965 First emergency action in the field

During the Vietnam war, Tdh teams with emergency equipment are mobilised for the first time in the field. They support the local health staff who are overwhelmed by the mass influx of wounded people to hospitals which are often poorly equipped.



1975 Collaboration with local stakeholders

Tdh develops partnerships with local authorities and forges links with communities to save children affected by the famine in Bangladesh. This method of working was innovative at the time and is vital today. In 1975, our teams begin to set up medical nutrition centres and children's villages to care for and protect destitute and orphaned children.



2009 First World Congress on Justice for Children

Tdh organises the first world congress on juvenile justice in Lima, Peru. One hundred state, religious and community justice professionals meet to debate and share best practices in protecting children in conflict with the law. Two conferences later, in Paris in 2018, young people themselves take part in the debate: *«We came here to listen, but also to speak. We don't want you to feel sorry for us, but we want our experiences and points of view to provide a basis for your words and actions.»*



1995 Creation of the Child Rights Unit

With Switzerland not yet having ratified the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at that time, Terre des hommes takes a strong stance as a child rights defender by creating a Child Rights Unit. In the 1990s, Tdh fights against child trafficking in eastern Europe, calling on countries to apply national and international law as a way of ensuring children are protected.



2014 Innovation through digital health

Tdh develops leDA in Burkina Faso, a tablet-based tool that helps medical staff to make more accurate diagnoses in children under the age of five. Thanks to a long-standing collaboration with the government and based on local health structures, our project has supported more than three million children to receive quality care. This innovative tool is now being used in more than 60% of health centres in Burkina Faso.



Discover the testimonies of the people who have left their mark on Terre des hommes, in the past and nowadays:

www.tdh.ch/people-behind-Tdh

Protecting children: our mission for 60 years

When Edmond Kaiser learnt of the appalling situation facing child victims of the Algerian war in 1960, he founded Terre des hommes (Tdh) to help them. Sixty years later, we remain as committed as our founder to protecting children and defending their rights throughout the world. We look back at the origins of child protection and its evolution within Tdh.

«We urgently need country houses, thousands of francs (5 Swiss francs per day, per child for one month), instructors and cooks so we can provide holidays to one hundred destitute children. From 3 July to 3 August and continuing thereafter.» This was Edmond Kaiser's appeal to the Swiss people in 1960. He wanted to run a summer camp for one hundred Algerian children who were victims of the war. He founded Terre des hommes on 22 July of that year as a movement to provide immediate and direct aid to children in need.

Where did this concern about protecting children come from?

For a very long time, many religions and cultures have viewed children as innocent beings who needed to be fed and protected. However, the idea of a child protection strategy only emerged in the last century. In fact, it came about following the tragedy of the First World War, and thanks to the empathy of one woman – Eglantyne Jebb – faced with millions of children who were hungry and had been orphaned. Just as Kaiser would experience later, this young British woman felt overwhelmed when she witnessed the suffering caused by the war. She helped the most vulnerable, on both sides of the conflict, and denounced the socio-economic consequences of war.

Alongside this charitable work, scientific research in the mid-20th century gave rise to a new discipline: the psychology of child development. New insight into the brain function of children revealed that they have specific needs, beyond mere survival and physical protection.

The work of Jean Piaget – a Swiss biologist, psychologist and epistemologist – showed how extremely fragile children are in their first two years of life. We began to understand that any psychological and emotional abuse has a devastating impact on a child's development.

Children's mental health

Child protection organisations therefore started considering the state of children's mental health. At Terre des

hommes, the question of psychosocial support arose as early as the 1990s when we were working with children in street situations in Latin America. Mental health became central to our work when we began to implement emergency projects, particularly with the child victims of the war in Colombia and after the 2003 earthquake in Iran. We created protection spaces where our teams provided children with psychosocial support through play, raised



Vietnam, April 1971. During the war, Tdh dispatches bags containing medical material for the children of an orphanage in Saigon.

<

Tunisia, February 1971. Edmond Kaiser takes this photo during his trip to Tunisia, where Tdh is present offering a programme of care.



Iraq, July 2016. Our local staff organises psychosocial activities for children in a camp for displaced people.

parents' awareness and supported them to overcome the crisis situation they found themselves in.

International commitments

A true heroine of her day, Eglantyne Jebb wrote the draft of what in 1924 would become the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child. This was the first time child protection was to be addressed in international law. In 1959, the United Nations adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which 30 years later would lead to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Convention is the most ratified treaty in the world and marks a crucial milestone in the history of children's rights. It universally recognises the right of the child to be protected against all violence, ill-treatment, abuse and exploitation, and thus reinforces Tdh's mission to protect children. *«The next step is even more important. The third Protocol added to the Convention in 2011 grants a child the possibility to lodge a*

complaint if they believe that one of their fundamental rights has been violated,» says Philip Jaffé, psychologist and member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, who has collaborated with Tdh on several occasions. *«However, we haven't won the battle, far from it,»* he hastens to add.

«We must reform the fundamental aspects of our society.»

Philip Jaffé, psychologist and member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Indeed, one in every two children in the world suffers some form of violence every year. Twenty-eight million children have been driven from their homes due to conflict and are deprived of the care and protection they need. Nearly 1.5 million children are deprived of their freedom by order of a judicial or administrative authority. These shocking figures reveal a protection system that

remains inadequate. *«We must reform the fundamental aspects of our society;»* concludes Philip Jaffé.

Understand, support, not take over

Terre des hommes has contributed to this necessary change described by Philip Jaffé through its development aid projects. The basis of our work? We do not assume what children need, but we try to understand their problems. How do children and young people perceive their situation, how do they view their difficulties? While it has been talked about for a long time, this approach has only recently been implemented. *«It takes time,»* says Maria Bray, child protection specialist at Tdh. *«We've developed approaches that allow us to involve the children in identifying the challenges, needs and responses to be implemented by building on their strengths and resources.»*

In 2001, at the very start of her career, Maria Bray was sent as a psychologist to a day-care centre in Afghanistan to

support very young children who were making rugs. She remembers: *«I was talking to a young boy who'd heard that his father, who had gone to war, had died. The child was listless and depressed. Drawing on what I knew about the stages of grief, I told him that he had a right to feel angry. At the end of the consultation, the local teacher who was with me explained to me that in their religion, death was God's will and that you couldn't allow yourself to be angry with God. It took time in the humanitarian sector to understand that we had to decentralise in order to support these psychological processes, as they are very rarely universal but, rather, are rooted in cultural beliefs and customs.»*

It is crucial to treat the child, their family and community as stakeholders to bring about lasting change. By working

directly with them and building on what is already there, their resilience and capacity to adapt are naturally developed, and thus their ability to overcome a crisis and manage the next one on their own.

A new perspective on migrant children

With this in mind, Tdh adopted a new approach in the 2000s, which shook up existing beliefs and working methods, particularly in our migration projects. In West Africa, for example, our teams realised that migrant children are not systematically trafficked or forced to migrate but that they choose to leave, whether to find work or to continue their education. Baladji*, a 13-year-old Togolese boy who was about to migrate, said: *«I want to go to Ghana and stay with my uncle so I can carry on with my*

studies as the schools here are closed because of a strike.»

Terre des hommes works with local groups, but also with employers and the children themselves. *«You can't stop a child from migrating if it presents an opportunity for them,»* explained Etse Innocent Yawo, then head of the Togo office. *«We make children aware of the risks of migration so that, before they leave, they can try and find the best possible solution.»* By developing local protection networks and linking them up, we are better able to protect children throughout their migration journey.

Children have their say

The last few years have marked the start of a new era, one that is full of hope. From Malala Yousafzai, a young Pakistani activist who fights for girls' education,





Albania, April 2018. At an event organised by Tdh for International Roma Day, a girl speaks to her peers about children's rights.

to Greta Thunberg, a 17-year-old Swedish environmental activist, through to thousands of others who are less visible, children are taking a stand on societal, environmental and human rights issues. Recognising children as agents of change and listening to their opinions opens the door to new perspectives.

Terre des hommes works on building self-esteem and confidence to enable children and young people to participate. *«We encourage and support the creation of child-friendly spaces in which children can express themselves and develop their internal resources and*

resilience through art, sport and play,» says Maria Bray.

As part of the YouCreate methodology, which was developed by Tdh, children and young people can create their own artistic or digital projects, while enhancing their independence, sense of responsibility and self-confidence. They are also offered leadership training.

Yara*, a young Syrian refugee, took part in the project in Egypt. She spent nearly one year shut away in her bedroom. During the first days of training, if she wanted to ask a question, she would

write it down on a piece of paper and give it to the facilitator.

«This project helped me to break out of my isolation and find a different way of dealing with the war.»

Yara*, a young Syrian refugee in Egypt

Gradually, she began to talk. She and the other young people then discussed the challenges facing their communities and explored possible solutions. *«This project helped me to break out of my isolation and find a different way of dealing with the war and its consequences,»* she says. Yara is now involved in various initiatives as a volunteer for Tdh.



Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty: giving children a voice

Tdh fights to ensure that the voices of children who have been left behind are heard and that they can participate in the decisions that affect them. In 2019, the United Nations published the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. We contributed to it by integrating more than 270 children's views from 20 countries. *«Just because we're deprived of our freedom doesn't mean we have no future,»* explains a young girl. *«Don't judge me for what I've done. Get to know me and you'll see that I have dreams,»* adds another adolescent girl in detention. The children reported that their rights were not being respected, particularly with regard to the conditions in which they were being detained and their access to information, healthcare, education and leisure. These findings were incorporated in the UN report, voices which would otherwise have remained silent.

Leave no one behind

The Sustainable Development Goals made a clear promise that by 2030, no one should be left behind. By endorsing these goals, UN member states have committed to eradicating poverty in all its forms, ending discrimination and exclusion, and reducing inequality and vulnerabilities.

Among the most vulnerable are migrant children, children deprived of their liberty and all children who are victims of

violence. Tdh plans to continue to defend their rights and protect them at all costs, as Edmond Kaiser pledged to do six decades ago.

Our protection projects today go beyond safeguarding children. We support them in their journey through life so that they can fully develop their potential. We also give them the means to make decisions and choices about themselves based on their personal aspirations. More than ever, children remain at the heart of our work; but today they have the final word.

Cécile Kirwan

An initiative for and by children



Whether they are in lockdown, out of school, in refugee camps or remote villages, detained or living in street situations, all children and young people have the right to be heard. The #CovidUnder19 initiative, launched by Tdh and co-managed by young people, brings together civil society organisations, UN agencies and academics. It gives a voice to children around the world so that they can be part of the discussions about responses to the pandemic and help shape the post-Covid-19 world. «#CovidUnder19 is an opportunity for adults to listen to children so they can understand us better and help us find solutions,» explains 12-year-old Mélodie.

For more information: www.tdh.ch/covidunder19

*For the children's protection, the names have been changed.

YouCreate in Ukraine

«I think all the students in our school have paid attention to our mural and to the meaning of its messages. Each of us sometimes experiences aggressive behaviour. Through this project, we wanted to draw young people's attention to the issue of bullying and to warn students about the consequences of this behaviour to prevent it.»

Margarita, 14 years old, painted a mural during the YouCreate project.



In Burkina Faso, «Tdh has shown great courage»

Terre des hommes has been working in Burkina Faso since 1986; in other words, for more than half of the foundation's lifetime. A veritable source of innovative projects, our teams have developed in these 34 years ideas that have revolutionised health and child protection. An interview with Luc Noundia Kaboré and Moussa Ouedraogo, two Tdh specialists in Burkina Faso.



«We chose to be bold and to innovate when there were many sceptics.»

Luc Noundia Kaboré
Health programme coordinator

©Tdh/O. Girard



«The authorities have adopted several of our projects and implemented them nationwide.»

Moussa Ouedraogo
Field protection coordinator

©Tdh

What have been Tdh's main achievements in Burkina Faso?

Luc Noundia Kaboré: I'd mention two in particular in the field of health: free healthcare and the developments in digital health. In Burkina Faso today, all children under the age of five and pregnant women have free access to the healthcare and medicines they need. The state covers the costs. This helps to reduce the mortality rate among children. Tdh developed the idea and tested it about ten years ago in the districts of Tougan and Séguénéga. Thanks to huge advocacy work with other partners, the system was rolled out across the country in 2016.

In Burkina Faso, Tdh is recognised as a pioneer organisation in digital health. We developed leDA, a piece of software used on tablets that helps medical staff to improve their diagnoses

and the quality of care they provide. It's now used in more than 60% of the country's health centres and we aim to achieve full coverage by 2022.

Moussa Ouedraogo: Tdh's greatest child protection achievement is to have changed all the development organisations' perspectives on migration, which had previously been negative. We proved that it could represent an opportunity for children and young people. Instead of systematically taking every migrant child back to their home, Tdh suggested adopting a new strategy: accompanying, protecting and informing the child at every stage of their journey, at their place of origin, along the route if they decided to migrate and at the destination. This approach – called protective accompaniment of children – is now being used in several other West African countries.

How does Terre des hommes make a difference?

LK: Tdh is known for being innovative. In digital health, for example, we chose to be bold and to innovate in a challenging environment where there were many sceptics. Now, leDA is one of Africa's biggest health projects.

MO: Tdh has shown courage both in the areas of health and child protection by convincing the authorities and professionals to adopt new strategies that ensure children are better protected.

What is your assessment of Tdh's 34 years of work in Burkina Faso?

LK: All these years of experience have given us the hindsight and perspective we've needed to develop quality, appropriate and sustainable projects. To have the best possible impact, we've

focused on what we know best, without spreading ourselves too thinly. In 2019, Tdh supported more than 1.4 million children and their families in Burkina Faso. But there is still much more to be done in the country.

MO: Terre des hommes has become one of the main child relief agencies in Burkina Faso. Why? Because we've been able to gain the communities' and the government's trust and we've worked closely with them. The authorities have adopted several of our child protection and health projects and implemented them nationwide.

What is the outlook for the coming years?

LK: In the field of health, we will continue with our digitisation project; for example, improving the monitoring of pregnant women. We're also starting to use artificial intelligence to predict epidemics and help the health authorities in their decision-making.



MO: We're currently working with the Ministry of Justice to develop a pilot project in criminal mediation. The idea is that petty crimes should be settled by a community mediator, in collaboration with the prosecutor, to save young offenders from going to

trial. This should help to reduce the number of children and young people in detention. We started the project in 2017 and it is beginning to bear fruit.

Interview by Isabel Zbinden



«Mediation made me understand a lot of things, that what I was doing was wrong. I also realised that it was important to go back to school and help my mother.»

Issa, 16-year-old boy in conflict with the law*

Volunteering: the genesis of Tdh

Volunteers have been the backbone of Terre des hommes since its creation and are part of its DNA. Today, we can count on one of the largest networks of volunteers in Switzerland, made up of people of all ages and backgrounds linked by their desire to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged children. A glimpse of the last 60 years of an extraordinary commitment.



It all began with the voluntary commitment of one man, Edmond Kaiser, who in 1960 spent all his free time and his evenings launching the Terre des hommes children's aid movement. He appealed to the generosity of his acquaintances, whom he called «an army of goodwill», to cover the expenses.



Little by little, the network of volunteers grew and focused on securing donations to fund projects in the field. Our sale of oranges reported here in the press in the winter of 1964-65, was the idea of a volunteer and has become the largest street humanitarian action in Switzerland.

«My contribution is a drop in an ocean of misery, but I know that this drop changes the lives of many children in need.»

Dominique Delley, Tdh volunteer since 1976



Over the years, our volunteers doubled in creativity and energy to develop new events to raise funds and awareness of children's rights in Switzerland. There is something for everyone: races, tournaments, concerts, markets and many other actions.



For 60 years, celebrities have also been volunteering their time to support children such as actress Audrey Hepburn or Géraldine Chaplin in the 1980s. Nowadays, we count on the support of well-known figures from the world of sport, music and culture, including footballer Roman Bürki.

The future is assured

What about volunteering today? «*The volunteer's main role hasn't changed. It's the ways and means that are changing,*» says Valentin Richoz, a student and co-president of the University of Lausanne's group of volunteers. «*Today, volunteering needs to be done on a selective, ad hoc basis; for example, with a focus on one action. The challenge is to find a way of attracting new volunteers. But people are still very willing to get involved.*» He ends with a message of gratitude to his elders: «*Thank you for passing down to us the tradition of humanitarian and volunteer action.*»

Isabel Zbinden

Become a volunteer!

You too can be part of this great network of solidarity and become involved for children in need!

More information:

www.tdh.ch/volunteering

volunteer@tdh.ch – +41 (0)58 611 06 76

How can I help? _____

Be part of Terre des hommes' history

To celebrate our 60th anniversary, we have the goal of raising CHF 60,000 on our online MyTdh fundraising platform. Join the Terre des hommes movement by helping us take up this challenge for children! Future generations are counting on our support.

→ Go to www.mytdh.ch/60years

→ Donate any amount of your choice

→ Get your friends and family involved and encourage them to do the same

With your donation, we can for example

Cover the school fees of a child in Nepal for one year



CHF
60

CHF
160



Provide treatment for five malnourished children in Bangladesh

Provide medical and social follow-up care for a child in Senegal who has had heart surgery



CHF
600

**Our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing commitment to the cause.
With your help, we can continue to support children worldwide!**





«I want to be a doctor
when I grow up.»





The future is in the hands of children.

Support the next generation and remember children in need when writing your will.

Make your last gift the greatest. www.tdh.ch/legacies



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