



**INVISIBLE**

**CHILDREN**

**2018 ANNUAL REPORT**



## LETTER FROM THE CEO

### DEAR FRIENDS,

The past two years have been monumental for Invisible Children. In 2016, we chose to revisit our mission because it was clear to us that the programs, relationships, and expertise we built over 14 years had potential for even greater positive impact. Under our more expansive mission, we would work to end violent conflict and exploitation facing our world's most isolated and unprotected communities; including, but not limited to, those affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) conflict. With that broader mission, and with a new senior management team -- 50% of whom are central African or of African descent -- we have expanded our work to reach thousands more families across the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, and South Sudan.

We have formed new partnerships with community-based organizations, U.S. government agencies like USAID and the State Department, international NGOs, and foundations, all with the shared goal to protect families and children from violence and strengthen the resilience of communities in central Africa.

Through all of the growth and change, a defining characteristic of Invisible Children has been the grit we bring to our work. We always remain ready to adapt, innovate, and collaborate to make people safer and help them to thrive. Grit isn't just a value, it is a necessity.

We've committed ourselves to the the most isolated and unprotected corners of our world. The areas where we work come with unprecedented challenges -- from ongoing armed group violence to completely impassable roads -- which is why these communities need more attention and why very few international organizations operate where we do. In many communities where Invisible Children works today, we are the only international organization present. But by no means are we in it alone.

We partner with dedicated community-based organizations, local peace committees, and community leaders who were adapting, innovating, and collaborating before we arrived and who will be the ones to lead central Africa toward a peaceful and thriving future. Our aim is to reinforce and expand what they have already started, and make sure their stories and ideas are more visible in the halls of power.

In this Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report, we will give you specific examples of how our projects, partnerships, and achievements from the last year embody some of our most closely-held values.

It has been my pleasure to lead Invisible Children since I was appointed CEO in 2015, and I couldn't be more proud of who we are and what we're doing today. As our team grows and our work expands, we are more committed than ever to chart the path ahead guided by the wisdom, ingenuity, and vision of the communities with which we partner.

Your support makes it all possible. Thank you for standing with us.

With Gratitude,

**LISA DOUGAN**

*President and Chief Executive Officer*



Members of the Invisible Children DRC Team



# GRIT

WE DO NOT SEE CHALLENGES AND SETBACKS AS BARRIERS TO SUCCESS, BUT AS INVITATIONS TO THINK CREATIVELY AND TO PUSH FORWARD.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 9+ years of consistent programming and community partnerships in the most remote region of central Africa
- At least 5,000 miles traveled by Invisible Children field staff to reach isolated communities
- 3 new field offices established in highly remote and underserved areas of CAR and DRC



## GRIT IN PRACTICE

In April 2016, a Ugandan man named Opio Samuel Murefu defected from the LRA in CAR after spending more than half his life in the bush. While it's normal procedure for Ugandan LRA defectors to be repatriated to Uganda, Opio was detained and sent to a Central African prison. He should have been reunited with his family; instead his story ended in tragedy. Opio survived LRA captivity for more than 20 years and successfully escaped, only to die in prison while his family hoped for his return.

About two years later, another Ugandan man defected from the LRA in CAR, and he was at risk of suffering the same fate as Opio Sam. Patrick Kidega had been abducted by the LRA when he was 15 years old. After spending his next 15 years with the LRA, he bravely defected in December of 2017. He was immediately taken into custody by Central African police in Obo, CAR, with no indication of what might happen to him. Aware that Patrick could easily fall through the cracks of the system the way Opio had, our global team worked tirelessly with our partners for the next four months, advocating for Patrick's release from prison and repatriation. Finally, in April 2018, Patrick was flown back to Uganda and reunited with his family.

It takes determination, grit, and a fierce belief in the value of an individual human life for Invisible Children, multiple UN agencies, and our Ugandan partner Pathways to Peace, to go to such lengths to save one man from falling through the cracks of the system.

## LOCAL EXPERTISE IN PRACTICE

The town of Obo lies in the far southeast corner of CAR. Since 2012, Invisible Children has worked with local leaders to build peace and prevent violence. Obo was recently put to the test. Throughout May and June 2017, eruptions of intercommunal tensions and armed group violence were spreading eastward across CAR. The community in Obo watched nervously as violence and conflict, often sparked by tension and mistrust between ethnic and religious groups, reached Bangassou, then Zemio and Mboki -- getting closer and closer to them every day and threatening to reach Obo.

Finally, it seemed that the dam was going to break in Obo when five members of a local Muslim minority group were killed by an unidentified armed group on the outskirts of town. Recognizing that such a tragedy could spark fear and retaliation in the community, Obo residents set out to unite the community through a peace rally and other sensitization campaigns. They brought together leaders from across Obo, including religious and ethnic leaders, representatives of youth organizations and displaced populations, local authorities, and security actors, to reinforce the common goal of peace and safety.

Thanks to locally-led peace groups, including some of Invisible Children's long-standing partners, people across central Africa are better equipped than ever before to overcome fear and violence.



# LOCAL EXPERTISE

*THE MOST EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO VIOLENCE WILL BE CREATED BY A DIVERSE AND COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY, WITH THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY INJUSTICE AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE*

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 83% of Invisible Children's global staff are central African
- 186 incidents of armed group activity reported by Peace Committees through our Early Warning Network
- 54 communities across CAR and DRC created their own, localized violence prevention plans with support from Invisible Children



# INTERCONNECTION

NO PERSON, COMMUNITY, OR ECOSYSTEM EXISTS IN ISOLATION. THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF PEOPLE ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF OUR NATURAL WORLD.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 123 FM radio messages about peace and conservation produced and broadcast in DRC
- 51 Peace Committees trained on the link between security and conservation
- 4 FM radio partnerships established to spread messages about the importance of conservation for human safety

## INTERCONNECTION IN PRACTICE

In April 2018 our DRC team visited a small Congolese town called Masombo, located near the border with South Sudan. Masombo is situated along a route often used by armed groups, including poachers en route to DRC's Garamba National Park, making the town especially vulnerable to attacks. We engaged with community leaders there about the importance of reporting sightings of poachers in an effort to prevent violence. When Garamba park rangers have early warning of poachers heading toward the park, they are better equipped to apprehend them, protecting endangered wildlife and improving the safety of communities like Masombo.

Using a training module developed in partnership with the team from Garamba, we also discussed how sustainable practices, like avoiding over-hunting animals and rotating crops, can help their environment thrive so that there will be enough for everyone long into the future. Following that dialogue, the people of Masombo committed to stop the practice of killing pangolins, an endangered and protected species. After years of depletion of pangolins, warthogs, and baboons in the area, the community now hopes to play a role in helping these species thrive.

In the words of our Congolese colleague, Ferdinand Zangapayda:  
*"The best way to ensure the protection of Nature is to protect both the human and the animal, because their coexistence in nature is not the result of chance; They form an indissoluble whole, inseparably united."*





**LETTER  
FROM  
OUR  
CFO &  
COO**

**DEAR FRIENDS,**

In Fiscal Year 2018, 80% of Invisible Children’s funding came from new sources. Many people told us that transitioning from a funding model centered around small, unrestricted donations to one with substantial funding from federal awards within a year was just not possible. They warned us that public institutions wouldn’t take a chance on an organization like ours, with no prior history managing federal funds.

But with the dedication and grit of our team, and with guidance and mentorship from operations experts who saw something special in Invisible Children and believed in us, we decided that we wouldn’t be deterred by “just not possible.”

And because of the unique character of what we do, where we do it, and how we do it, our proposals caught the attention of USAID and the U.S. State Department. The rest is history.

Thanks to these new sources of funding, Invisible Children’s revenue more than tripled between 2017 and 2018. Accordingly, we opened three new field offices in some of the most remote parts of eastern CAR and northeastern DRC, and tripled the size of our global staff -- 83% of whom are from central Africa. This growth has enabled us to dramatically increase the number of families and communities we can serve.

For example, in the latter half of 2018 we were finally able to incorporate the remote town of Ouanda Djalle in CAR into our Early Warning Network. For more than three years, community leaders there had requested to join the Network, but Ouanda Djalle was too far from our nearest field office and there was too much armed group activity in the area for us to be able to travel there safely. But because in FY2018 we opened a new field office much closer to Ouanda Djalle, it was finally possible to install a High Frequency (HF) radio and train the local peace committee. Now, members of the Ouanda Djalle community have access to life-saving security information through the Early Warning Network.

Even though it took immense work from our team to reframe our operations as a result of the new funding, we know that it was worth it when we think about Ouanda Djalle--a town that can now connect with the outside world, in an area where isolation means vulnerability to violence and exploitation--and we’re so proud (and relieved) to have come out stronger on the other side.

Thank you for joining us on the journey.

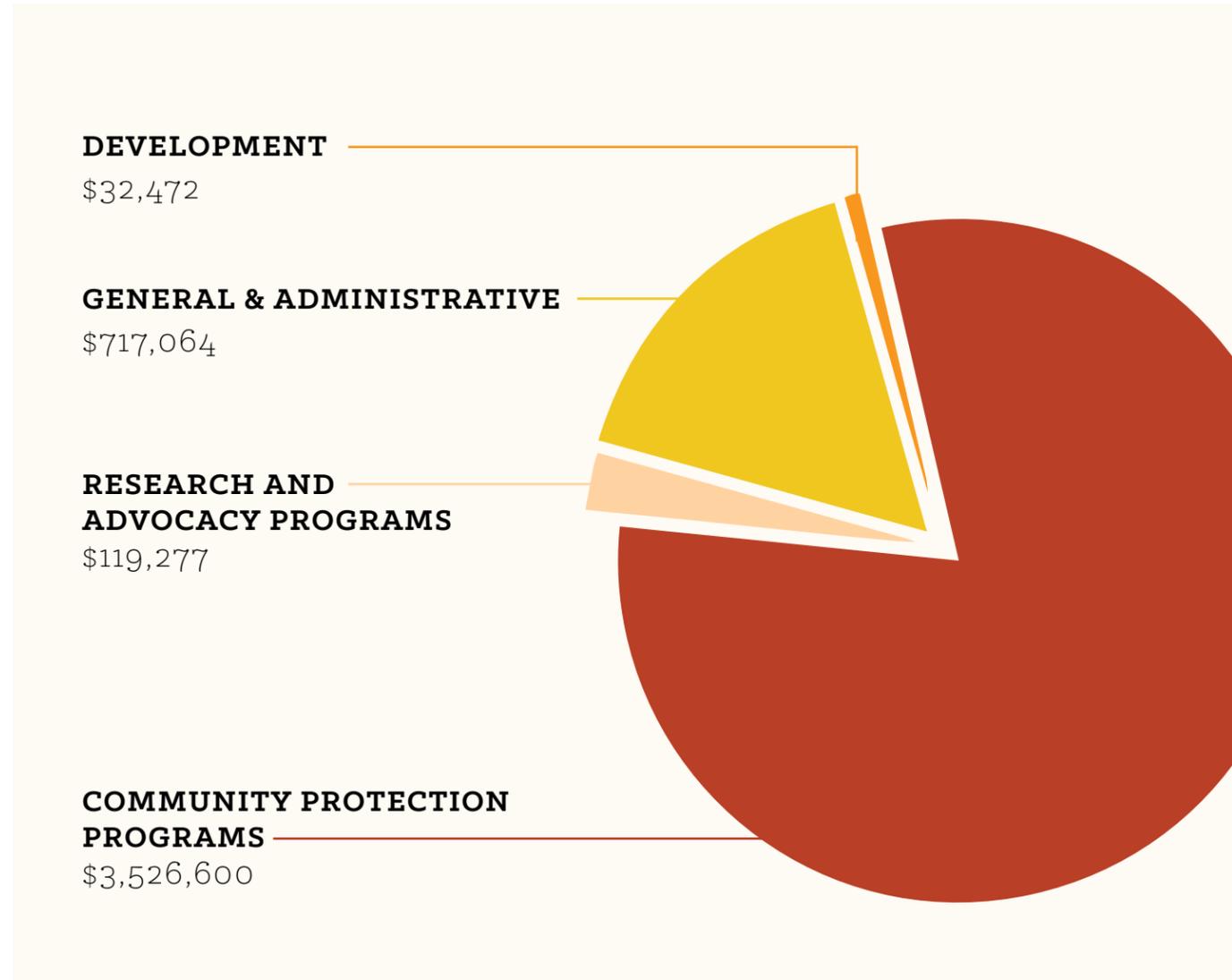
**ANDREA RAMSAY**  
*Chief Financial and Operations Officer*



Left to right: Ernest Kalala (Invisible Children), Mboligihe Ndalu (Radio RTK), and Dieubeni Mboliangba (SAIPED)

# FINANCIALS

**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$4,395,413**



## CATEGORY BREAKDOWN

The following figures reflect Invisible Children's global expenses, inclusive of program implementation and support costs

Salaries & Related Costs	\$1,174,161
Contractors	\$432,827
Professional Services	\$757,763
Supplies & Equipment	\$783,286
Subawards	\$191,614
Travel	\$543,049
Communications	\$80,007
Rent	\$134,628
Office Expenses	\$182,414
Insurance, Fees & Licenses	\$103,558
(Depreciation)	(\$12,095)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,395,413</b>

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Foundation grants and partnerships	\$432,448
Government grants	\$4,067,353
General donations	\$271,186
Program revenue	\$29,500
Other income	\$4,368
Contributed goods and services	\$71,196
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>\$4,876,051</b>

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Camille Marie-Regnault, Protection and Conflict Analysis Officer (Invisible Children),  
and Angelique Mbolitini, Protection Officer (SAIPED).

## FY18 SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Andrea Ramsay  
Gang Karume  
Hervé de Baillenx  
John Kangolo  
Lisa Dougan  
Paul Ronan  
Sean Poole  
Xavier Bardou

## PARTNERS

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)  
Bria Londo  
Caritas Bondo  
Chinko Nature Reserve, African Parks  
Commission Diocésaine Justice et Paix (CDJP)  
Communities in Transition  
Garamba National Park, African Parks  
Harvard Humanitarian Initiative  
Institute of International Education  
InterChurch Committee of South Sudan (ICCS)  
New Venture Fund  
NOVO  
Solidarité et Assistance Intégrale aux Personnes Démunies (SAIPED)  
The Rainshine Foundation  
Union d'Assistance aux Orphelins et Enfants Vulnérables (UAOEV)  
US Agency of International Development (USAID)  
US Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Affairs (DRL)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## SPECIAL THANKS

Africa Inland Mission (AIM)  
Africa Nonprofit Chore (ANCHOR)  
Ananda Robie  
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iPromo  
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Shelby Mathis  
Steve Kroll  
The Plenty Team

**OUR PARTICULAR THANKS TO THE PEACE COMMITTEES OF CENTRAL AFRICA.**

INVISIBLECHILDREN.COM



“If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

*-Lilla Watson*

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