



International fashion label Funkulo partners with War Child

Sydney-based fashion label Funkulo is partnering with War Child to release a 'peace t-shirt', with profits from sales, around \$2 per garment, to be donated to War Child Australia.

Funkulo is a vintage inspired t-shirt label based in Sydney. Designer Sam Elsom is inspired by remote locations including Essouira in Morocco.

Funkulo makes use of organic fair trade cottons grown in Zimbabwe and made into cloth in the US, and is dedicated to fair working conditions.

Sam chose to donate to War Child because of its work with children, and because more than 99% of donated funds directly supports field work.

"In partnering with War Child, I really felt that we could make a difference in the world. By promoting peace, and helping children affected by war, Funkulo becomes far more than just a fashion label," says Sam.

Funkulo will release a peace t-shirt, made from organic fair trade cotton and in a variety of colours, as part of every collection, with profits from sales donated to War Child Australia.

The first peace t-shirts will be in stores from 25 February 2007. You can identify the peace t-shirts by their labels, which introduce War Child and our work.

Funkulo garments are available in Australia, UK, US, Indonesia and Japan. See www.funkulo.com for stockist information.



War Child works in countries affected by conflict to protect the most marginalized children: **street children, child soldiers and children in prison.**

Funkulo donates AUD \$2 from the purchase of this garment to War Child Australia.



www.warchild.org.au
www.warchild.org.uk
www.warchildusa.org

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Don't tell us where we belong... an update on work in the DRC

War Child works extensively with children and young adults formerly associated with the fighting forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), helping them to reintegrate into society following their demobilisation.

Although many are children when they join or are conscripted to the fighting forces, many are young adults on demobilisation, and some demobilise with a partner and child. Community attitudes towards these young people are extremely negative, resulting in failed attempts by many to reintegrate into their communities.

War Child is conducting a pilot project in which 48 of these demobilised young adults received cash grants of \$200 to invest in income-generating activities. The pilot project has involved the community at every stage, with meetings to explain the project's focus and rationale, and to ensure community members understand how and why the participants have been selected. The community fully supports the approach.

The participants, in agreeing to join the project, agreed to meet various conditions, including attending meetings to share experiences and discuss possible activities; talking to community members with experience in activities of interest, to obtain guidance and advice; as well as planning and preparation. Participants were monitored closely and assisted with purchases where necessary to establish their activities.

In the first five months since the start of the pilot project, 44 participants have successfully invested their grants in activities such as purchasing bikes (to either enable them to work as tolekista (taxi-bikes) around town or to provide them with transport to buy and sell products in the markets) to animal rearing, fishing and farming.

The self-esteem and confidence of participants has improved now that they are busy, and community members have remarked that they are surprised that the participants have shown themselves to be so resourceful and conscientious, and are pleased that the participants are no longer "hanging around causing trouble", but are instead fully capable of working and taking responsibility for themselves and their families.

In the media

The current Australian edition of *Dazed and Confused* magazine (Vol 01 #02) has a human rights focus. Our work with children formerly associated with the fighting forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo is mentioned as part of an extensive article entitled "Crisis in Congo". Not for the faint-hearted, the article explores the issues faced by these children and adolescents, and provides some horrific facts about violence against women in war-torn areas. *Dazed and Confused* is available from newsagents.

War Child UK update

War Child UK has recently completed interviews with some Northern Ugandan adolescents formerly associated with fighting forces. This research has provided the basis for the scoping of an initial project in Northern Uganda, which will commence later this month. Initially the program will open communications between War Child and former child soldiers, and develop into a program to understand and address the causes of gender-based violence. This program will primarily work with adolescent boys.

Also, take a look at this video on You Tube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0Z3KVwKhsE>

New War Child Australia Management Committee

Congratulations to the new War Child Australia Management Committee, elected at the AGM on 25 November 2006.

- Chair: Clare Mirabello
- Jane Burren
- Sarah Garvey
- Rebecca Sparrow
- Emma Talbot

Rebecca Sparrow, author of *The Girl Most Likely*, also joins Nick Earls as a War Child Ambassador.

Do you want to volunteer with War Child?

We are seeking a Treasurer to join our all volunteer team. This is a great volunteer opportunity for a person with strong financial skills and a commitment to social justice. The time commitment for this position is approximately 3–5 hours per month, with additional time required after year end (June 30) to finalise and arrange auditing of financial statements.

To find out more, or to apply, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Natalie James at nataliejames@warchild.org.au.

Did you know?

War Child Australia is entirely funded by volunteers. Over 99% of funds raised are spent directly on field projects: in 2005-06 we provided almost \$106,000 in overseas aid and spent only \$74.38 on administration expenses.

In 2004-05, we provided more than \$43,000 in overseas aid and spent \$224.65 on administration expenses.

Help us buy stickers for our schools program

War Child receives a lot of support from school students.

To help schools with their fundraising efforts in 2007, we would like to supply War Child stickers to schools who adopt us as their charity for the year.

A donation of \$250 will buy us 5000 stickers.

If you are interested in helping us to fund this initiative, please contact Jane Burren at janeburren@warchild.org.au.

War Child a charity of choice for law firm

Thank you to [TressCox Lawyers](#), who have made War Child Australia one of their charities of choice through their Workplace Giving Program. For information on how to become a corporate donor contact Ebony Kenny at ebonykenny@warchild.org.au.

More information and contact details

Visit our website for more information about our work and to keep current between newsletters.

www.warchild.org.au

Also see War Child UK's site at:

www.warchild.org.uk

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