Annual Report 2022 LAND

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Anja Ringgren Lovén Founder & Director Land of Hope



Foreword

This year, Land of Hope is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

When I founded the organization in 2012, it had a different name (i.e., DINNødhjælp in Danish). Over the years, the name changed, but the mission has always remained the same: to raise awareness for the thousands of innocent children who are tortured and killed every year due to superstitious witchcraft accusations.

Land of Hope grew into an international movement. I was awarded the title of "World's Most Inspiring Person" in the year 2016. I made several TV documentaries from 2014 to 2018, and I had the honor of visiting one of the world's greatest political leaders, the Dalai Lama, who referred to me as his hero.

I am incredibly proud of all my employees in Denmark and Nigeria. Together, we have saved the lives of hundreds of innocent children. - However, I'm not a hero.

What I do, anyone can do. It is a simple act of kindness - helping others, being good to people, showing love. These are things we can all do.

Today, 91 children live at Land of Hope's children's center in Nigeria. We will continue our mission until no child suffers from the superstitions of adults.

With love, Anja.

In 2022, we saved 6 children who were accused of being witches

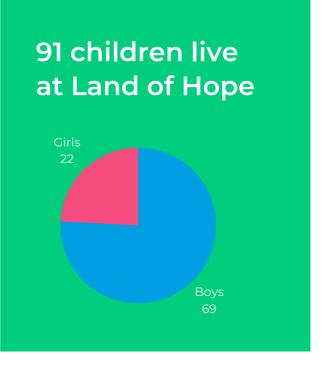
5 children
graduated from
high school

5 children started
university

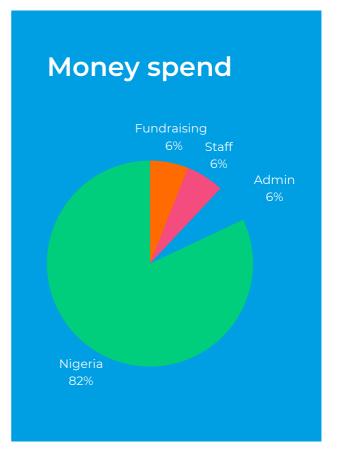


We strengthened our brand

We have a strong foundation of supporters and sponsors



We collected € 1 million in donations



We saved 6 children



Possible
10 January 2022

He was lying naked on a roadside, and had a very serious broken leg and obvious signs of violence and torture.

Joseph 27 June 2022

His family accused him of being a witch when his grandmother fell ill. They kept him locked up and he was subjected to physical and mental torture.



Mighty
11 July 2022

In the corner of a collapsed building we found Mighty. He had slept here for almost a year. At night, local boys came and beat him with iron pipes.



Samuel 13 July 2022

He hid in the bushes. Because his father had tried to kill him by cutting his head with a cuff.

Otuekong
31 October 2022

His father had been arrested for trying to kill him. But he was released again. Otuekong was sleeping outside and was very sick when we found him. His body filled with wounds from physical violence.





Philomena 31 October 2022

The village wanted to beat her because they were convinced she was a witch. She was abandoned, alone and had clear signs of physical abuse.

Why are the children accused of being witches?

Because of poverty and ignorance. Accusing children of witchcraft has become a way of explaining misfortune, death, break-ups and sickness in families and in the local community.

Lack of education provides limited knowledge and when combined with strong cultural beliefs, it causes people to search for superstitious answers.

Children who become ill from malaria, typhus, or other common tropical diseases are especially at risk. The same applies for children who appear aggressive, introverted, stubborn, are born with physical deformities, or are raised by a stepmother or stepfather. The stigma affects not just one child, but all the children in the family, as they eat, play, and sleep together in the same room.

Legislation to protect children is not being enforced, and the number of children accused of being witches is increasing. Unfortunately, practicing exorcism and black magic has become a profitable business in Nigeria.



Our values

Education

Education is a fundamental right for all children

Children's rights

We educate children about their rights and what to do if someone violates them

Involvement

We encourage children to express their views, take initiative and influence decisions that have an impact on their daily life

Progress

All people should know about and have an influence on the decisions that affect their lives and living conditions

Perseverance

Change will only happen when the world's poorest societies learn that children are innocent and no one is born a witch. It takes time, develops over generations, requires dialogue, patience and an unfailing belief in the good in everyone

Credibility

It is essential that we are transparent about what we do, and how, so our members and contributors can trust us to spend their money wisely

Independence

We work independently of political, religious and economic interests



Education



Education is a fundamental right for all children. When we save children accused of witchcraft, we ensure they go to school in their local community. This way, they are still part of the community, and we can demonstrate to them that the children are not witches. Our staff work on the children's professional development and support them in realizing their individual potential, which gives them hope and ambitions for the future.



Victor, Ernest, Miriam, Israel and Solomon with Land of Hope Director of Child Development, Nsidibe Orok (in the yellow Liverpool jersey).



5 children started at the university in 2022

Victor Israel

Architecture Electronic Engineering

Ernest Miriam Solomon

Marine Engineering History and Policy Mass Communication

Involvement



In the world's poorest communities, people rarely have access to, or any influence on, local and national politics. Although the Nigerian government is responsible for educating its people, they do nothing to develop poor communities. This creates fertile ground for jungle law, ignorance, and superstition, including witchcraft accusations against children. Land of Hope's information campaigns help strengthen their position vis-à-vis the government.



The Danish ambassador to Nigeria, Sune Krogstrup, visited Land of Hope.



Sustainable projects in 2022

Nigeria's food shortage is serious and directly detrimental to human growth and development. Together with the Danish Embassy in Nigeria, Land of Hope established the "School Farm for School Meal" project in 2022, which through a sustainability principle taught school children basic agricultural skills that can enable them to grow their own food.

Children's rights



To accuse children of witchcraft is a criminal act. This is stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. But the world's poorest and most vulnerable children do not know about UN conventions or national legislation on children's rights at all. Land of Hope educates the local children and adults as well as the authorities in preventing and intervening if children's rights are violated.



Several of our children were dying when we found them.

The political failure continues



Nigeria's law and the Child Rights Act of 2003 prohibit witchcraft accusations against children. Yet UNICEF's report shows that 85% of Akwa Ibom's street children are ostracized precisely because of witchcraft accusations. The Nigerian government is failing to prosecute those responsible for crimes committed against children. Pastors and religious leaders in Nigeria are richer than ever before.

Why were we taught to fear the witches.
And not those that burned them.
Or those who stood by watching.

Gladys, Land of Hope



150 hospital beds



Land of Hope takes an active part in rebuilding Nigeria's collapsed health system, which is vital for a well-functioning society.

When the Danish hospital in the city of Herning closed, Land of Hope received 150 hospital beds and medical equipment from The Central Denmark Region. Our loyal sponsor, DSV, donated the transportation, and all 150 hospital beds were shipped in two containers to the hospital in Akwa Ibom. They were first shipped by sea to Nigeria and then transported all the way from Lagos to Eket, where Land of Hope's children's center is located.

The Danish companies, Bop Scan Office and Mesterflyt provided a strong crew to optimally pack the containers for their journey.



In cooperation with The Central Denmark Region and DSV Land of Hope donated and shipped 150 hospital beds to Nigeria.





150 bags of rice



With the help of members and supporters, Land of Hope was able to distribute more than 150 bags of rice to poor women and their children in the local areas. Each bag contains 50 kg of rice.

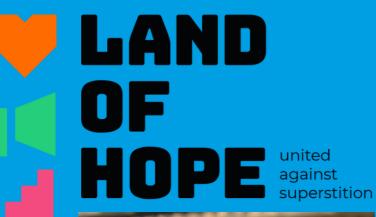
Although most accusations of witchcraft are directed at children, women are also victims, especially widows and elderly women without family to take care of them. They are vulnerable victims. In Nigeria, women are still at the bottom of the social hierarchy and have to live with discrimination and deprivation of very basic human rights. When widows are left to care for their children alone, the children rarely survive.

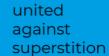






Poor women and children in the local area received a bag of rice from Land of Hope as Christmas aid.















Art with purpose



Land of Hope is 100% dependent on donations. A significant part of our fundraising efforts revolves around art. We also use art as a therapeutic tool in working with the children's trauma.

The Danish photographer and artist, Jakob Gils, who has followed Land of Hope for many years, created the series "Portraits of Danish Women" to support our cause. An exhibition was held at the Hotel D'Angleterre in May 2022. The hotel sponsored all costs, and all artwork sales were donated to Land of Hope.

In addition to Land of Hope's founder, Anja Ringgren Lovén, prominent women in acting, music, and politics were portrayed.



Land of Hope's founder, Anja Ringgren Lovén, was portrayed by photographer and artist, Jakob Gils. The profits from the sale of the portraits went to Land of Hope.







The special exhibition at HEX!
"Witch Hunt - Today" included
20 paintings created by the
children at Land of Hope.

It is difficult for the children at Land of Hope to talk about their trauma. Art gives them another way to express their feelings, anger and frustrations.

The Danish museum HEX! Museum of Witch Hunt created the special exhibition "Witch Hunt - Today", which included 20 of the children's paintings. With the exhibition, they gave the children a platform to express themselves and be heard.









For the world to see



It is Land of Hope's mission to make world leaders aware of and address what is happening in Nigeria. Every year, 10,000 innocent children are abandoned, tortured, and killed due to witchcraft accusations, and yet no one talks about it.

We document reality as it truly is.

The German state-owned and international TV station Deutsche Welle recorded a documentary about Land of Hope. It published on digital media in the autumn of 2022 and showcases, among other things, the rescues of Otuekong, Philomena, and Samuel, who were all accused of witchcraft.

Sweden's biggest talk show, hosted by Carina Bergfeldt, invited Anja Ringgren Lovén as a guest. Anja spoke about Land of Hope's mission to save children who would otherwise be killed. The broadcast aired on the nationwide channel SVT.

Anja Ringgren Lovén guested on Sweden's biggest talk show, Carina Bergfeldt, to spread awareness of Land of Hope's work in Nigeria.



Recognitions



In September, Land of Hope participated in the Estoril Conferences. It is Europe's largest humanitarian conference, which is held in Portugal. At the conference, influential people from all over the world gather to enter into effective collaborations and find solutions to major, global challenges.

Land of Hope's founder and director, Anja Ringgren Lovén, was elected a member of the conference's board.

Land of Hope's work is about much more than saving Nigeria's "witch children". It is also about lifting some of the poorest communities in the world out of poverty through education.



Online auction



To celebrate Land of Hope's 10th anniversary, we held a large online auction and collected DKK 56,975. All auctions were sponsored by Danish companies.

Adax

All About Kids

ARoS Aarhus Art Museum

AYTM

Badeanstalten

Becksöndergaard

Birgitte Herskind Copenhagen

Bisgaard

Brandtex

BoConcept

By Malene Birger

DEKADENT

Elizabeth Arden

FRANDSEN

Gestuz

GoodFlow

Guðrun&Guðrun

Guldsmeden Hotels

Hein Studio

helsebixen.dk

H2O Sportswear

Julie Sandlau

Junama

Kodanska

Le Cruset Danmark

Maileg

Matinique

Meraki

Mikk-Line

Munderingskompagniet

Noell Crystals

Nordlux

Nuuroo

OleHenriksen

Raunsborg

roccamore

Skallerup Seaside Resort

SKANDINAVISK

Spring Copenhagen

STINE A

Strandhotellet Blokhus

The Organic Company

UTZON

Verpan

Wecycle Furniture

ØnskeBørn Haderslev

Our sponsors

These amazing companies provide financial support for Land of Hope's work in Nigeria.

BUTLER LOFTET







Modström

















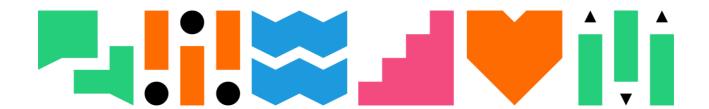






Helping a child have a good childhood is more than a healthy investment. It is an inalienable right.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



Sponsor project



Rain season in Nigeria is known as "West Africa's Deadly Rain." Massive floods in villages and 2.9 million lightning strikes cause the deaths of many people every year. Last year, one of our children was struck by lightning. He was very lucky and escaped unharmed.

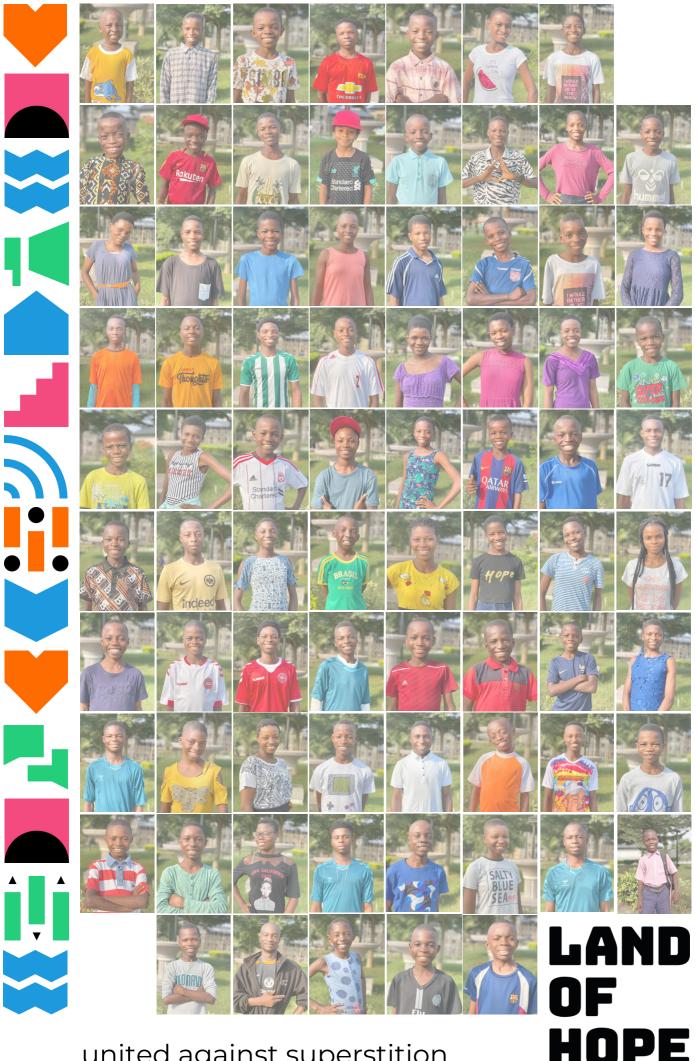
We have applied to several foundations for funds to install lightning rods at Land of Hope. We could use a helping hand in this regard.

At Land of Hope, our highest priority is to protect the children. When rain season starts, we drive them to school every day, but the poor infrastructure makes it almost impossible to move from Point A to Point B. It is dangerous to be outside in the rain. Instead, we spend our time indoors playing, reading books, and being creative together.





Our Danish sponsor, Danefæ, donated new raincoats to the entire Land of Hope agricultural team, which ensures the operation of our sustainable agriculture in all kinds of weather.



united against superstition