

## History

As Patrick McDonald traveled in Latin America in the early 1990s he saw the same scenes over and over again: children without hope and Christian care workers overwhelmed by the enormity of the task.

Many people had sacrificed so much to live and work on the streets in order to improve the lives of children living in extreme poverty – Children at Risk from exploitation, abuse and disease. However, they were held back in their work by isolation, lack of training and sheer exhaustion due to the size and complexity of the task.

Patrick was on the streets because he too loved these children and wanted them to be able to live life as God intended. The more he traveled, the more he saw the situation repeat itself and the more he realized that the best way to impact the lives of these children was to help those working with them.

What was needed was vision and coordination so that like-minded groups could work together to make a greater difference to the lives of the children they serve.

Out of that scenario, Viva Network – a global movement of Christians caring for 'Children at Risk' – was born in 1996.



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We aim to benefit every  
child at risk irrespective  
of religion, culture or  
creed.



# Together for Children





# Viva Network Together for Children



## Viva Network Is Unique

Rather than starting more children's charities, Viva Network creates and sustains networks amongst people already helping 'Children at Risk' so that more children get better help.

## Working Together:

Viva Network is a global movement of Christians working together in 45 countries helping more than 1.2 million Children at Risk to be all that God intends.



Networks are key to supporting childcare workers and enhancing the Christian response to 'Children at Risk'.

- By bringing people involved with 'Children at Risk' in the same locality together, ideas are shared, resources pooled and joint strategy developed.
- People learn from the experience of others and shape a future where their combined output is greater than the sum of individual groups.
- Working together, individuals are able to more fully realize their potential and as a group they can achieve more than they could have done working alone.
- As projects work together in networks, knowledge, skills and experience are freely shared.
- By bringing international organizations together, Viva Network is able to facilitate global strategies to address the problems that lead to children living in situations of risk.

We urgently seek to mobilize, unite and connect all Christians to the challenge of helping hurting children

## The Need:



Each day 30,000 children die in the developing world from preventable and treatable diseases such as diarrhea, measles and malaria.

Each month 250,000 children and young people worldwide are infected with HIV/AIDS.

It is estimated that 120,000 children under the age of 18 are participating in armed conflict across Africa—some aged no more than seven or eight.

Every year, 1 million children are forced into the commercial sex trade, to join the 10 million already involved around the world.

## Testimonies:



"We at Compassion International feel that Viva Network is among the most significant organizations involved in facilitating ministry to children."

Dr. Dan Brewster,  
Compassion International

"As an individual, I've been helped so much. I now know how to take care of my staff better. I've been developed so that I am better able to run the school and to respond to the needs of my staff and the children."

Edmond  
Nairobi, Kenya

"If it weren't for all Viva Network is doing to help those of us working on the front line, many children perhaps would not have a chance in life, and would not know Jesus. We can testify to the difference Viva Network is making in the lives of children."

Emmanuel Orphanage Project  
Honduras

