

Issue 21

STREET LIFE

**“THIS YEAR I SECURED
THIRD PLACE IN THE
ANNUAL EXAMS”**

Nona from Delhi

*Discover how you're helping
break down barriers to education*

Stories in this issue:

- Nona's journey: From street to school in Delhi
- Karla's flexible learning path in Guatemala City



WELCOME

Today, an estimated one in five children and young people worldwide are out of school. At Toybox, we see how education transforms a child's health, wellbeing, and future, while witnessing the barriers street children face in accessing it.

Many street children lack legal identification, or a permanent address. They live in extreme poverty, working low-paid, informal jobs just to survive. This daily struggle to meet basic needs makes enrolling and attending school regularly nearly impossible.

Although education is often free, families in street situations can't afford essentials like uniforms, textbooks, or stationery. The hidden costs of transport and exam fees add further strain. For those fleeing an abusive home life, the lack of a supportive adult makes accessing education even harder as they navigate life alone on the streets.

Through our projects and partnerships, we work to break down barriers so more street children can reach their potential.

In this issue, we're excited to share updates from our education initiatives, including an exciting new pilot project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This project, Toybox's first in Ethiopia, supports street children who have never attended school, have dropped out, or need extra support with their numeracy and literacy skills. Alongside education, it offers regular therapeutic support and counselling to nurture each child's well-being.

Thank you so much for your continued support. It is through your generosity and kindness that children at our projects are accessing the education they desperately need and deserve.



Lynne Morris OBE
CEO of Toybox



Through your generosity last year:

763

children supported to access formal education

2,964

children and young people supported to access non-formal or alternative education

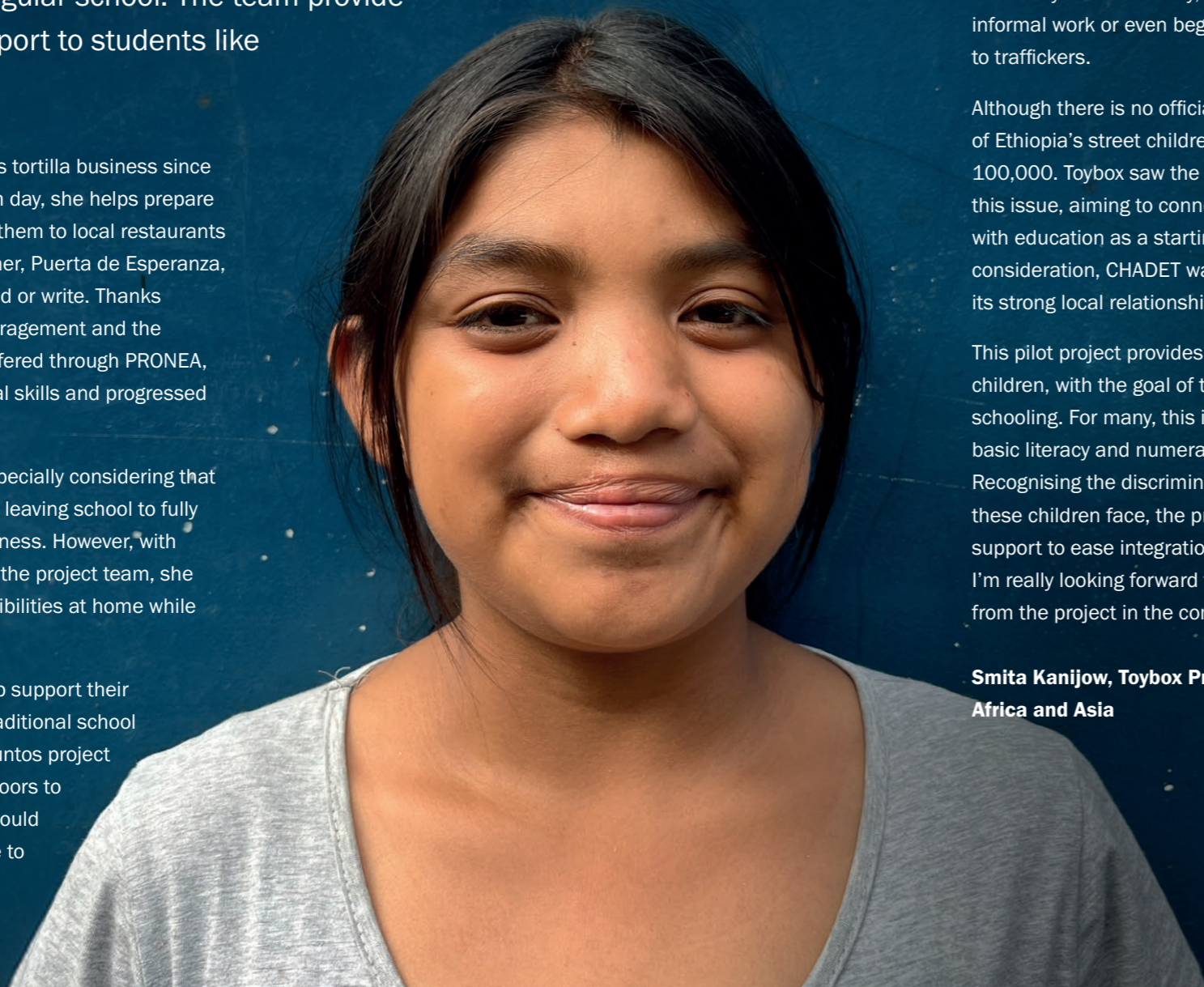
FLEXIBLE EDUCATION IN GUATEMALA CITY

In Guatemala City, the Caminar Juntos (“Walking Together”) project supports children to resume their education. Project staff are certified to teach the PRONEA curriculum, a national programme offering flexible and accessible learning for young people who face challenges in attending regular school. The team provide regular guidance and support to students like 16-year-old Karla.

Karla has been working in her family’s tortilla business since the age of eight. Rising at 4 a.m. each day, she helps prepare the dough, cook tortillas, and deliver them to local restaurants and businesses. When Toybox’s partner, Puerta de Esperanza, first met Karla, she was unable to read or write. Thanks to their continued support and encouragement and the alternative education programmes offered through PRONEA, Karla has now learned these essential skills and progressed to Grade 5.

This is an incredible achievement, especially considering that at one point, Karla had contemplated leaving school to fully support her mother in the family business. However, with encouragement and assistance from the project team, she has managed to balance her responsibilities at home while continuing with her studies.

For many children like Karla, who help support their household’s income and for whom traditional school isn’t a feasible option, the Caminar Juntos project offers a crucial alternative. It opens doors to essential skills and knowledge they would otherwise miss, giving them a chance to dream of a brighter future.



NEW BEGINNINGS IN ADDIS

“Expanding our reach into a new country brings both excitement and challenges. Recently, a call for new project proposals revealed the urgent needs of street children in Ethiopia. This was particularly the case in urban areas like Addis Ababa, which sees many young people migrating from rural areas due to urbanisation and regional conflicts. Often, families send their children to the city to earn money, leading many into unstable, informal work or even begging, with some falling victim to traffickers.

Although there is no official data on the number of Ethiopia’s street children, estimates reach up to 100,000. Toybox saw the urgent need to address this issue, aiming to connect some of these children with education as a starting point. After careful consideration, CHADET was chosen as a partner due to its strong local relationships and experience in Ethiopia.

This pilot project provides informal education to 250 children, with the goal of transitioning some to formal schooling. For many, this is their first encounter with basic literacy and numeracy, crucial skills for daily life. Recognising the discrimination and academic challenges these children face, the project offers educational support to ease integration and keep them engaged. I’m really looking forward to sharing stories and updates from the project in the coming months.”

**Smita Kanijow, Toybox Programme Manager
Africa and Asia**



EDUCATION CLUBS IN DELHI & JAIPUR

In India, we focus on helping street children in Delhi and Jaipur access and stay in education. We encourage parents and caregivers to prioritise schooling, and guide them through the often-complex admission processes. We also run Education Clubs within slum communities, providing a safe and nurturing space where children can receive support with their studies and school work.

Nona, 9, lives with her parents and siblings in Delhi. As both of her parents are illiterate, they were unfamiliar with how the school admission process worked, making it difficult for them to navigate the necessary steps to get Nona enrolled in school.

During summer months, she would often help her mother make shoe straps to earn an income. She shares, “Mostly, I just wandered around with my friends, and I couldn’t study because I didn’t even know how to write my name. I felt like I should be in school, and it made me sad to see other children going. I didn’t have an Aadhaar card (identity document), so I couldn’t even enrol.”

Things changed when Nona began attending one of our Education Clubs. “There, I learned the English and Hindi alphabets. After a while, I could read and write simple three-letter words and even started learning to count. Staff from the project helped me get my Aadhaar card and showed us which papers we needed.”

The project, delivered in partnership with CHETNA also supported Nona’s family with navigating the school admission process and she is already thriving at school. She shares, “I feel extremely happy because this year I secured third place in the annual exams. I worked really hard to achieve this. Now one of the most important things in my life is to secure good marks in all my exams.”

MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT

with regular giving

A regular monthly donation can ensure street children can access their most basic rights at their most vulnerable moments by providing lifelines such as birth certificates, emergency food, access to education and healthcare, hygiene products, and therapy and counselling sessions.



Bring hope to the streets
Visit www.toybox.org.uk/lifeline



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