



Kids Alive International

Stay

Why 1 in 8 Children Need More Than a Moment

Globally, 1 in 8 children experience sexual abuse. Often from within their own home. We provide safety, trauma therapy, and justice advocacy so these children can truly heal.

1 in 8

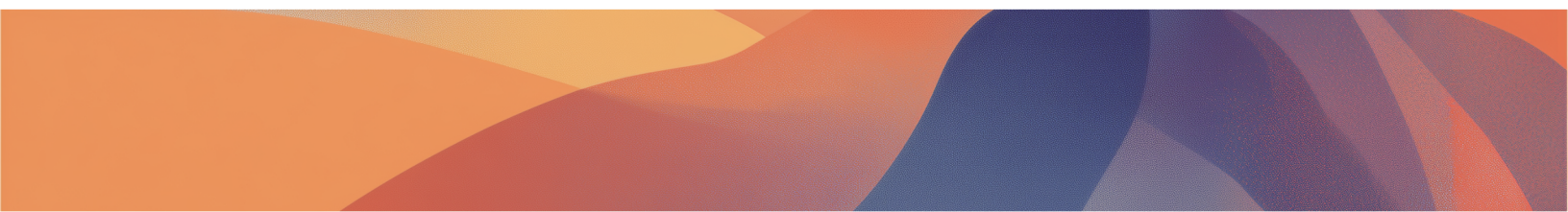
**There is a number we
can no longer keep
quiet about: 1 in 8.**

According to the most comprehensive global study ever conducted on the subject, roughly 1 in 8 children will experience sexual abuse before they reach adulthood. Not in some distant place. In every kind of community, in every country where children are found – including the six where Kids Alive International serves.

And in most cases, the person who causes the harm is not a stranger. It is someone the child was taught to trust – a relative, a neighbor, an authority figure. That betrayal is part of the wound. It teaches a child that safety is fragile, and that the people closest to them can cause the deepest pain.

That truth is too important to leave in the dark. It is why we are raising our voice, and asking you to raise yours, through the 1 in 8 campaign.

Guatemala · Haiti · Kenya · Lebanon · Peru · Zambia



Why we're speaking up

For generations, abuse has survived on silence. Shame keeps children quiet. Stigma keeps families quiet. And in far too many places, the justice system stays quiet too.

Fewer than 3% of abusers are ever convicted – and in the six countries we serve – Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Lebanon, Peru, and Zambia – accountability is rarer still. In Peru, of more than 25,000 reported cases of sexual violence against minors between 2017 and 2022, courts issued only 155 sentences. In Guatemala, investigators have documented an impunity rate of 99% in cases of violence against women. Across Africa, researchers describe a culture of impunity in which very few cases reach court and even fewer end in conviction.

12x

more likely to attempt suicide

8x

more likely to fall into addiction

3%

of abusers are ever convicted,
worldwide

When accountability is this rare, awareness is not a nice-to-have. It is a form of protection. Advocacy is how we refuse to let these children remain unseen.

What the numbers mean for a child

The harm of abuse does not end when the abuse does.

Decades of research known as the Adverse Childhood Experiences study have shown that children who carry this kind of trauma are far more likely to struggle for the rest of their lives. They are 12 times more likely to attempt suicide and 8 times more likely to fall into addiction.

These numbers describe children who face compounding hardship – and the children we serve rarely face only one. Alongside abuse, many carry poverty, loss, displacement, and instability. That does not make their future hopeless. It makes the care they receive matter even more.



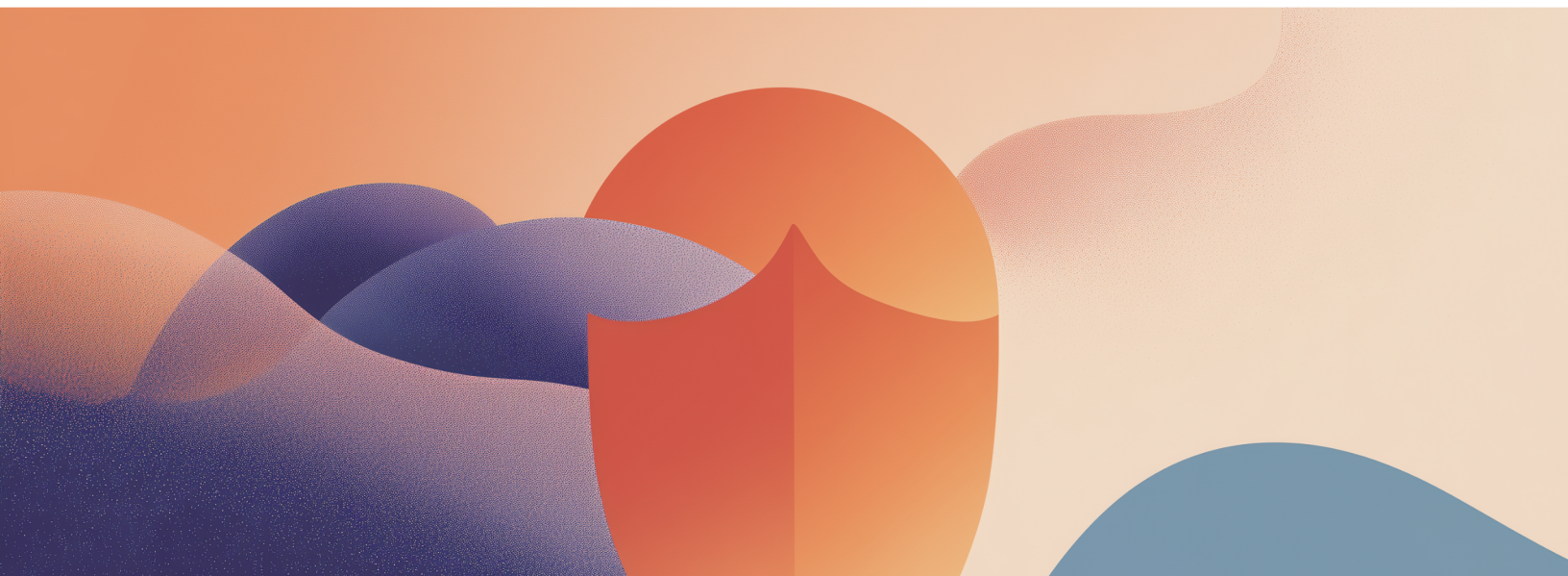
But this is not where their story ends

Here is what the same body of research makes clear: healing is real.

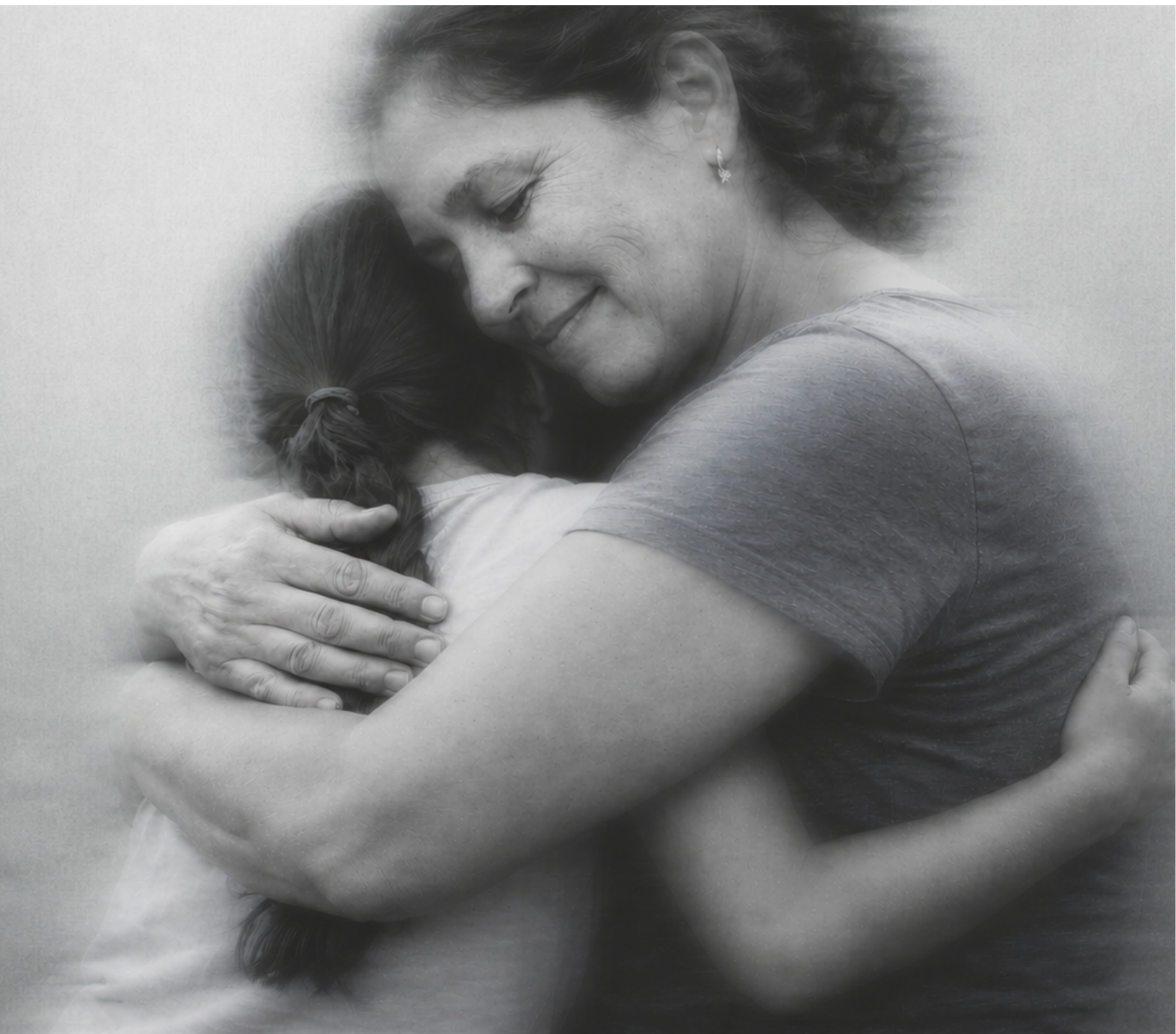
When a child is surrounded by safety, given room to process their pain through therapy, and supported by someone willing to pursue justice on their behalf, the trajectory changes.

Fear gives way to security.
Silence gives way to voice.
Trauma gives way to triumph.

But that transformation does not happen in a single moment.



**It is not a rescue.
It is a relationship.**



The only way through is to stay

This is why Kids Alive does not offer only one kind of help. Healing a wound this deep takes a whole continuum of consistent, loving care – and it takes time.

For some children, that means keeping their family together so they never lose the home they know. For others, it means a safe family-style home with caregivers where they can finally feel secure. It means trauma-informed counseling, education, spiritual care, and advocates who walk beside them through a long fight for justice. Every one of these programs says the same thing to a child who was taught that people leave: we are not going anywhere.

Keeping Families Together So a child never loses the home they know	Safety A safe family-style home with caregivers who stay
Therapy Trauma-informed counseling, education, and spiritual care	Justice advocacy Advocates who walk beside a child through a long fight for justice

That is what Stay means. A child who has been betrayed does not heal because someone showed up once. They heal because someone kept showing up.

Show up at \$8, and stay



a month. One of the
people who stays.

There is a quiet symmetry in this campaign: 1 in 8 children experience abuse, and for \$8 a month, you can be one of the people who stays.

Eight dollars is not a dramatic, one-time rescue. It is something better – a steady, faithful presence that funds the slow, real work of healing, month after month, for as long as it takes. It is the difference between a child who is helped once and a child who is never alone again.

We are not asking for a moment. We are asking you to stay.

Give \$8 a month, and stay with a child for the whole journey from trauma to triumph.



Because 1 in 8 children need many things. But more than anything, they need someone who will stay.

A note on the numbers:

Estimates of child sexual abuse vary – you'll see 1 in 5, 1 in 8, 1 in 11, and others – because definitions differ and, tragically, so many children are too afraid to ever report. We use a conservative global estimate, knowing the true scope is almost certainly worse. But the exact ratio isn't the point. Whether it's 1 in 4 or 1 in 11, it is too many. Join us in bringing that number down.

The data behind this

1 in 8 children experience sexual abuse

Stoltenborgh et al., A Global Perspective on Child Sexual Abuse: Meta-Analysis of Prevalence Around the World, Child Maltreatment (2011)

journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1077559511403920

Most often someone they trust

RAINN, Children and Teens: Statistics. Corroborated by Peru's MIMP data (perpetrator known to the child in 93% of cases), via Infobae Perú

rainn.org/statistics/children-and-teens

12 times more likely to attempt suicide, 8 times more likely to face addiction

Felitti et al., The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, American Journal of Preventive Medicine (1998)

pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/9635069

Less than 3% of abusers face conviction

Peru – Infobae Perú (25,000+ reported cases, 155 sentences, 2017–2022)

infobae.com/peru/2023/08/15/mas-de-45-mil-menores-de-edad-fueron-victimas-de-violencia-sexual-en-los-ultimos-tres-anos-en-peru

Guatemala – Human Rights Watch, Failed Response to Sexual Violence Against Girls (2025)

hrw.org/news/2025/02/18/guatemala-failed-response-sexual-violence-against-girls

Regional (Africa) – Equality Now, Barriers to Justice: Rape in Africa (2024)

equalitynow.org/resource/barriers-to-justice-rape-in-africa-law-practice-and-access-to-justice

To protect the children in our care, we use stock and AI-generated imagery except when illustrating a specific story.