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## Ewan & Charley in Ethiopia, Uganda and Malawi

**Ewan & Charley: A road less travelled** is a 3-part series which follows **Ewan McGregor** and **Charley Boorman** as they visit development projects in Ethiopia, Uganda and Malawi. The half hour programmes show previously unseen footage from the **BBC TV** series **Long Way Down**.

Ewan and Charley always wanted to discover the real Africa and meet local people to get behind the headlines on the continent. To do this they had the help of UNICEF and visited some of the organisation's key projects and learned of the very tough issues that confront rural populations in parts of Africa.

### Episode 1: Ethiopia

In Episode 1, Ewan and Charley's trip begins in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia where a two year war (1998-2000) between Ethiopia and Eritrea resulted in an estimated one million landmines being laid along the border.

This caused devastation and tragedy to families returning to their villages at the end of the war.

In the film, Indrias Getachew, UNICEF's communications officer in Ethiopia, hosts their visit to a school where landmine risks are conveyed to children through school plays. Ewan and Charley also meet Tesfu and Luam and hear their stories of how they were received their injuries.

Since 2000, UNICEF has actively reduced landmine incidents in Tigray through their successful Mine Risk Education programme. Curious children in this area are particularly vulnerable to landmine accidents when they go out to search for wood, play or pick cactus fruits.

The Mine Risk Education programme in Tigray has reached over 200,000 youths through school clubs, educational performances and counselling. Children learn what mines look like, what to do if they find themselves in a mine field and how to react if someone else is hurt.

UNICEF is also supporting a programme for disabled children who have lost limbs to mines and hopes to provide mobility tricycles for 3,000 children in order to enable them to reintegrate into society.

Although 80 per cent of the landmines have now been cleared in Tigray, Mine Risk Education remains a life-saving intervention in case children wander into unsafe areas.

Ewan and Charley also visit the border with Eritrea and are clearly angered by the danger of landmines to ordinary families.

## **Episode 2: Uganda**

In Episode 2, Ewan and Charley travel by plane to northern Uganda to find out more about the issue of child soldiers and what's being done to curb the practice, and how former child soldiers can be re-integrated into their communities after their release, or in some cases when they escape from their abductors.

Ewan and Charley meet Mariko Kagoshima who's the head of UNICEF in Gulu Zone, northern Uganda. They meet two former child soldiers and hear their horrific stories of how they were abducted, their treatment and how they got out of the Lords Resistance Army (LRA), the rebel group behind this practice in Uganda.

The involvement of children under the age of 18 in armed conflict is unlawful in international law. The conscription, enlistment or use of children under 15 in hostilities by national armed forces or armed groups is a war crime. However it is currently estimated that 250,000 children are serving as child soldiers worldwide.

Children are more likely to be recruited as child soldiers if they have become separated from their families, have been uprooted from their homes, live in combat zones or have limited access to education. Girls are at particular risk.

UNICEF works to secure the release of children from armed forces. They also provide care, guidance and financial support to programmes aimed at the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of child soldiers back into their communities where the stigma of being a child soldier can leave them isolated.

In this programme, Ewan and Charley also deliver 'school-in-a-box' kits to St. Martin's School in northern Uganda and join in at the Catch Up health care centre where children's health is being monitored and immunisation is taking place.

## **Episode 3: Malawi**

In Episode 3, Ewan and Charley are in Malawi where they are taken to the Chimteka care centre which looks after children orphaned by HIV AIDS. More than half a million children in Malawi have lost one or both parents because of AIDS, and 15 per cent of the population is now living with HIV.

Centres like this new one at Chimteka are run by the community and supported by UNICEF. They provide young children with nourishing meals, basic health care and education. Most importantly, they are encouraged to learn and play, and have the chance to make friends and behave like children

The centre provides care for under-fives on weekdays, then becomes the nerve centre of the community for young people at the weekends.

## ***Organisations***

### **UNICEF**

UNICEF UK is one of 36 UNICEF National Committees based in industrialised countries. UNICEF National Committees raise funds for UNICEF's worldwide emergency and development work. UNICEF helps children receive the support, health care and education they need to survive the threats of childhood poverty - such as preventable disease or malnutrition - and grow up to become healthy adults.

"For all the world's children  
health, education, equality and protection"



UNICEF UK Helpdesk for general enquiries and information:

**Tel:** 0870 606 3377

**Website:** <http://www.unicef.org.uk/longwaydown/>

### **Long Way Down**

Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman's biking adventure through Africa, from John O'Groats in Scotland to Cape Town in South Africa. Along the way they visited UNICEF projects in Ethiopia, Uganda and Malawi which are featured in Ewan & Charley: A road less travelled on Community Channel.

**Website:** <http://www.longwaydown.com/>



### **Community Channel**

Community Channel is a not-for-profit, free to air television channel in the UK launched in September 2000. Owned by the Media Trust, a registered charity, its remit is to give a voice to community groups, charities of all sizes and not-for-profit organizations through using news, current affairs, documentaries and lifestyle programming.

**Tel:** 08708 505500

Community Channel is not responsible for the content of other sites listed.

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