In many conflicts across the world children as young as 7 or 8 years old carry guns and combat side by side with adult troops. These children are often given no other real option but to kill. Their innocence and youth are stolen from them, and often their future as well. If dying in a battle field or being tortured to death in the hands of their own armies is a cruel destiny for a child, surviving such events and carrying these memories of their acts can be just as brutal. These children become traumatized and often dysfunctional, entering into a spiral of violence that they can hardly exit without the community support.

This paper examines the case of Mozambique where many child soldiers have been successfully reintegrated in the society. The work of a local Mozambican organization goes towards the recent rehabilitation theories that underline the importance of integrating the traditional ways of a given society to deal with distress with the occidental methods of addressing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and community development programs. The occidental methods can be the best way to help the children express their fears and to unlock the trauma from within themselves. However, it is not enough to treat the individual in an isolated form. Often the community fears these individuals and has to follow its own process to allow him back. Purifying rituals that exist in many local communities can reestablish the equilibrium between the individual and the society. Traditional rituals are instrumental in building family cohesion and solidarity, and in dealing with the psychological and emotional side of these children's problems. The reintegration however cannot end there. Once the emotional balance has been recovered the child needs to replace its past with a new vision of its future. He needs to grant his regained right to be part of the
community by becoming a productive member. Many children join the frontlines due to poverty, hunger and lack of prospects. To make sure that they will not fall again into a similar path options must be given through the form of education, vocational training and job opportunities.

An overall approach that respects and integrates the specificities of its society and their traditions can address not only the effects of participating in the conflict but as well undermine the causes that led the child to become a child soldier. Either the war continues or not, the child must learn to fight for what they wish in life by other means than the arms and the violence that temporarily ruled their lives. The objective of this paper is that the experience of Mozambique serves to enlighten organizations and specialists to deal with the drama of child soldiers elsewhere in the world.