

# WCY FACE THE CHALLENGE

Working Children and Youth

N°8 - 2008

Annual News Bulletin  
of the African Movement of  
Working Children and Youth  
(AMWCY)

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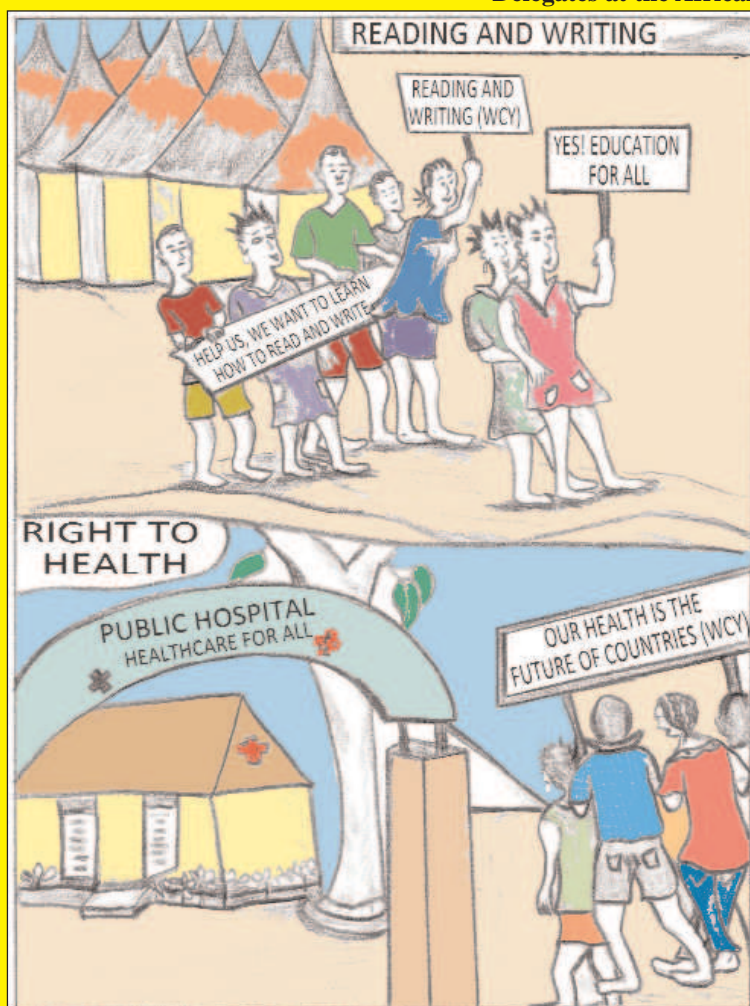
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Delegates at the African Commission, the Communication Group and their partners



**POSTER** : Early exodus and  
child trafficking: what progress have  
working children and youth made?

## Editorial

### Again more children in our Movement!

*Our Movement, comprising of more than 1,000 grass-roots groups in 126 towns in 21 countries of West, East, Southern and Central Africa, has a clear mission and vision that form the basis of our Movement: the promotion and the materialization of our twelve rights. And as unity is strength, we have a general methodology in the elaboration of our activity plans, their implementation, follow-up and assessment.*

*Our National Coordinations in our respective countries are very much appreciated by our partners each time we meet them.*

*After the African Commission and the Communication Group of the AMWCY meeting held in March 2008, our wish was to have as many as 70 % children and 30% youths in all our associations.*

*We therefore want to reach a bigger number of children living in difficult conditions. Together, we will thus be able to materialize our rights, improve our living conditions now that we know how to read and write in our respective associations, work less hard and are more respected and better listened to by our parents, people, our masters. To get out of our poverty, we undertake Income Generating Activities (IGAs).*

The AMWCY Communication Group

## The African Commission and Communication Group Thiès (Senegal), from 5 to 20 March 2008

### The AMWCY strengthens its governance

*Meeting together in Thiès, delegates at the African Commission and the Communication Group of the AMWCY made the annual assessment of the activities on the 12 rights of WCY and the internal and external communication network of the Movement. After the meeting, a communiqué was drafted to make a report of the discussions and decisions made.*



Plenary session facilitated by the elders



Animation at the conference center



Workshops with the support of partners

**Dear WCY friends, animators, partners and stakeholders of the AMWCY**

We, delegates at the African Commission of the African Movement of Working Children and Youth (AMWCY) and the AMWCY Communication Group, held our annual meeting from the 5 to 19 March 2008 in Thiès, Senegal. Unlike previous years, this year our meeting was held at the same time as that of the AMWCY Communication Group. We made the annual report of activities of the Movement on our 12 rights, as well as on our internal and external communication network.

We based our discussions on the following areas: examining the 2007 activity and financial reports of members and requests for membership. We also analyzed the statistics of the Movement, the results of more than 2000 questionnaires on the evolution of the rights and progress made thanks to our activities, as well as the support of our parents and bosses. We also examined the progress of our national coordinations, action plans and made propositions so as to get new results at the end of 2008. The conception of the new AMWCY 2009-2011 program and its budget was also discussed.

At present our Movement has 148.194 members and stakeholders organized into 1020 grassroots groups, and federated into 126 associations including 16 new ones admitted in 2008 and 29 to join later. We are in 21 African countries: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, DR Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Chad, Togo and Zimbabwe.

We worked together with the Communication Group (COMG) who elaborated an initial AMWCY communication project to be implemented and financed. Together we welcomed our partners of Plan Finland and Plan WARO for training in the search for partnership on fundraising. Communication experts from Plan and Save the Children Sweden facilitated the group brainstorming sessions on how to develop communication basic, systems at the national and international levels, and trained members of the COMG on communication strategies. We were visited by Elkane Mooh (Save the Children) and the Assistant Director of Plan. UNICEF and ONUDC joined our partners to listen to our restitution.

Senegal TV interviewed us, as well as the Coordinator of Enda Third World, Youth in Action. Today, new members are joining our Movement, and as a result, we have made the following decisions:

- to increase the number of children who are members of the WCYA (from 15 to 25 000) and to develop their

capacity of self-organization through training and integration in the decision-making bodies (7 to 8 children out of 10 WCYs).

- to accept only children as new members. To inform them, train and encourage them to express themselves; and develop activities that attract children, and themes they find interesting.

- to ask all those who have not answered the questionnaire to do so and to repeat this experience at the end of 2008.

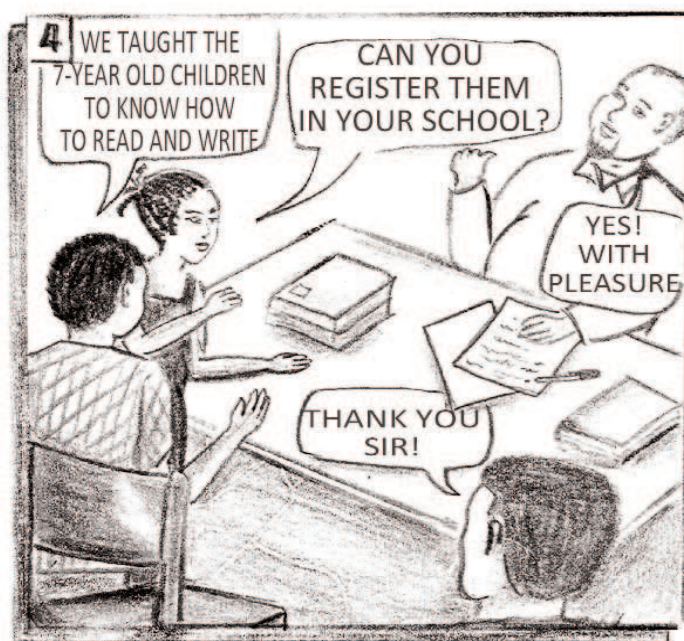
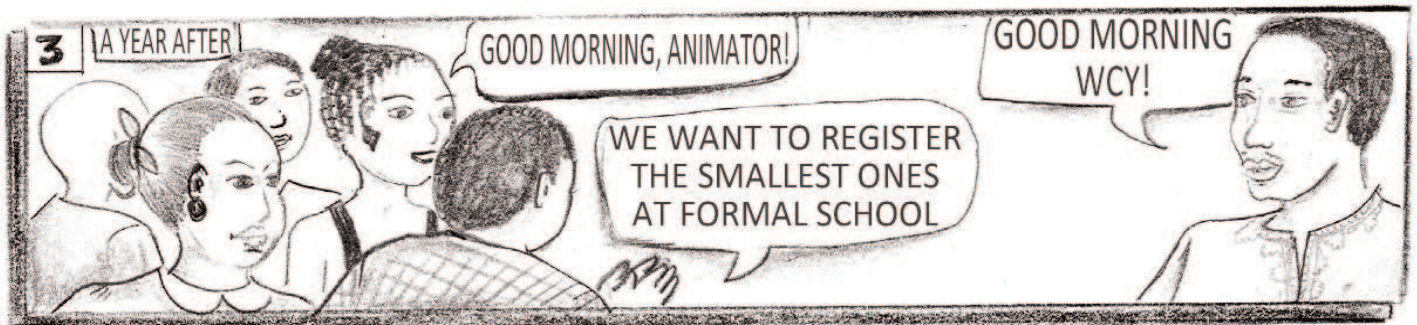
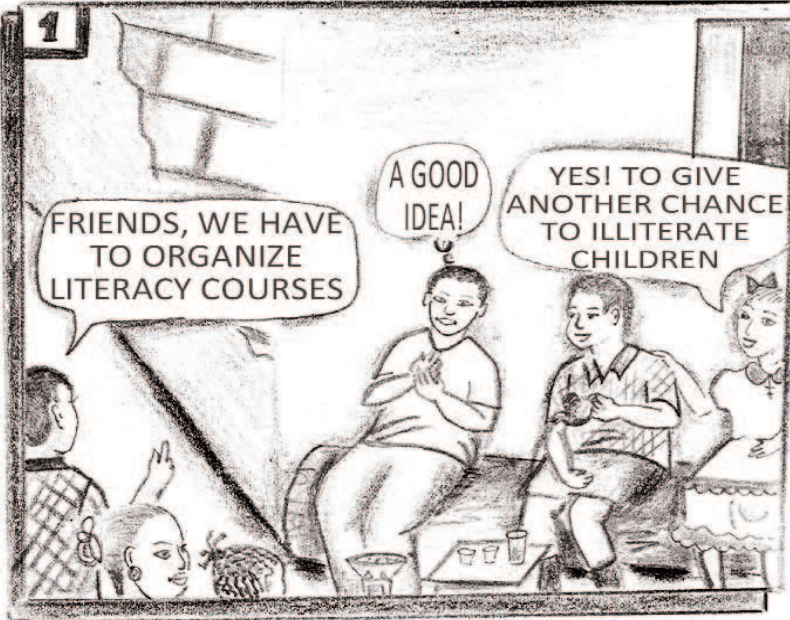
- we formulated an initial project for our 8th Meeting in 2009. The host countries are Benin and Ethiopia.

To strengthen governance more effectively, the AMWCY has increased the number of members of its Executive Managerial Group (EMG) and the Follow-Up Group. From 4 countries (Benin, Guinea, Senegal and Togo), the EMG comprises of delegates from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo, as well as 2 ex-delegates who are now facilitators.

*Published in Dakar, 26 March 2008*



# THE RIGHT TO LEARN HOW TO READ AND WRITE



SMBORO SEYDOU, WCY BURKINA/TOUGAN



## Introduction of our Movement

### Our hope for our Africa

*In 2007, with our parents, we answered the questionnaire prepared and tested by the Executive Managerial Group to know if the rights are being known and if the life of the WCYs is improving, to ensure a good follow-up of the AWCYs at the national and international levels, and make adults understand the importance of our Movement. We also obtained the statistics to know how many we are, who we are, our achievements and failures, and reflect on all these in our respective countries, as well as in our Movement. We now introduce our Movement.*

#### Who are we?



In the villages and popular neighborhoods, we are the children "without rights", the 50% who have not gone to school, those who cannot receive the appropriate medical care, those who do not have running water, electricity supply, gutters, etc ...

- To redress our situation, we are working to help our family and ourselves:

- We undertake "petty trades"
- We do household duties under a mistress, or in

our own family

- We learn a trade
- We work and learn at school or in an illiteracy course

#### How many are we?

- 148.194 members and stakeholders (1 member for 2 stakeholders)

children and youths, girls and boys

- Gathered in 1020 grassroots groups
- In 126 towns or village communities
- In 21 countries in West, Central, East and Southern Africa

#### What do we do together?

- In 1994 we founded our Movement in Bouaké, to establish together our fundamental 12 rights.

Is it only a dream?

#### Our achievements: education

- 83, 7 % have been able to learn how to read and write

"I am fortunate to study and go to school thanks to the AWCY".

9-year old hawker, Guinea Bissau

"I have studied and now I am no longer ignorant and I know how read and write": a 11-year old Koranic school pupil, Mali

"Thanks to the literacy courses, I have learnt once again all that I had forgotten at school": A 14-year old housemaid, Niger

#### Our achievements: healthcare

- 83.5% have improved their health

"When we are injured or sick, we are treated quickly and freely":  
14-year old carpenter, Senegal

"I no longer do forced labor"

16-year old porter, Guinea Conakry

"Thanks to the sensitization campaigns of the AWCY, I am able to prevent myself against sicknesses":

A 13-year old hawker, Rwanda

#### Our achievements: to play

- 92.5% play more than formerly

"Formerly I didn't have the opportunity to play, but now thanks to the AWCY I feel great":

15-year old farmer, Togo

"Because I have made many friends, and I play more than formerly":

11-year old carpenter Senegal

"With my parents' permission and that of my master, I play from time to time":

13-year old carpenter, Mali

#### Our achievements: protection

- 89% experience less violence and exploitation

"My master gives me less tiresome work because I am the smallest among the group and he respects me".

10-year old boy (a gardener) Mauritania

"With less work now, I have a lot of time to play"

A 12-year old house girl, Burkina Faso

"After work, I participate in games organized in my neighborhood"

A 14-year old mechanic, Guinea Bissau

#### Our achievements: light work

- 90.6% work less and not so hard

"Formerly I was a houseboy and worked too much, but since then, I do less hard work because I work for just a few hours"

12-year old baker, Mauritania

"Thanks to the discussions on the 12 rights, I work less and not so hard"

8-year old house girl, Saint-Louis, Senegal

"Formerly I was a houseboy, and worked too much but since becoming a member of the AWCY, I work less":

10-year old mason, Niger

(Continued on page 6)



**SENSITIZATION WEEK - FROM DOOR TO DOOR**

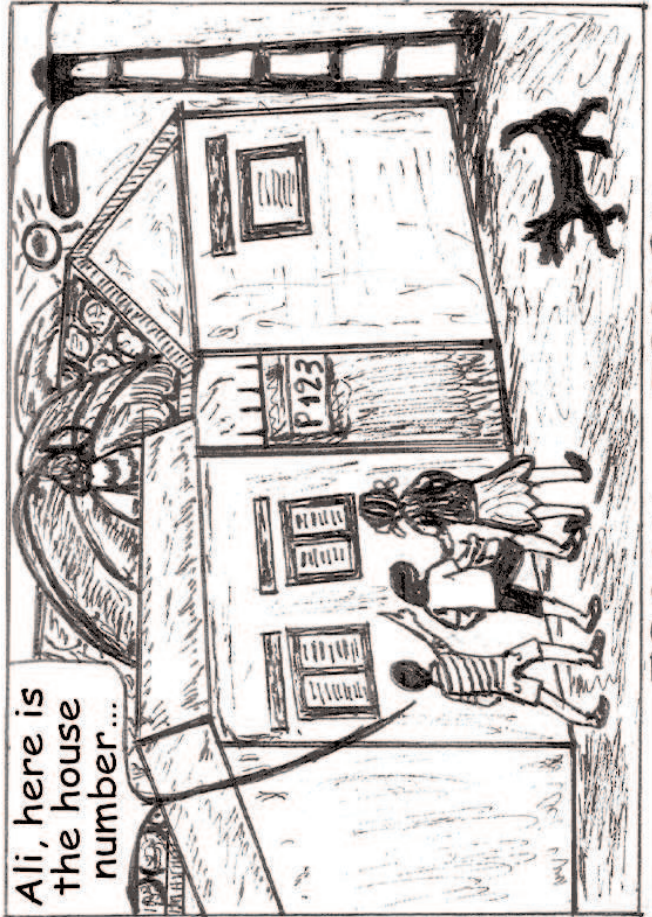
Here are forms to be filled out during our one-week sensitization campaign in Community 4



This is the first neighborhood of this community, and we have 9 neighborhoods and more than 1097 families to sensitize during this week



Ali, here is the house number...



Good afternoon madam! We are members of the AWCY, and are fighting for the respect of our 12 rights, without forgetting our duties .... we are

shoe shine boys, apprentices, cart pushers, domestic workers...

Aha!

Thanks to you AWCY, your 12 rights need support. We'll be with you.



ISAAC TRAORE

WCY MALI



**Listening and respect in our family**

- *For 92.2 % of us, things have got better!*

"Sensitization has been well understood by the population, the authorities and parents": WCYs from many countries

"Because now, I am a protected child and I also have something to say in the society": 13-year old mason, Senegal

"I feel respected and listened to because the AWCY teaches us on our rights on these things by organizing IGAs":

11-year old pastor, Togo

**Respect by our masters**

- *84.8% are better respected at their place of work*

"At present I feel more respected and listened to because I am acquiring a skill": WCYs from several countries

"Through sensitization campaigns at workshops and animations, I am respected": 12-year old fisherman, Benin

"Our masters respect our rights": A 12-year old hairdresser, Guinea Conakry

**And what about the authorities?**

- *for 81.3% things are better*

"Through advocacies and sensitization campaigns it is going to be achieved": A 16-year old hairdresser, Senegal

"Many people have promised to respect our rights"

18-year old hawker, Guinea Bissau

**And what about the population?**

- *87.7% answered YES*

"I have a trade; I am better listened to and respected"

Answer often given

"Formerly I walked about aimlessly, everybody was mocking at me but now I am respected because they have noticed that I work hard"

21-year old pump attendant, Burkina Faso

**Achievements, expression**

- *95.4 % express themselves in a better way*

"Before making any decision, each of us gives his point of view, they listen to me attentively":

13-year old dressmaker, Burkina Faso

"At meetings and at General Assemblies, we speak in turns"

14-year old gardener, Togo

"With mutual respect we are able to exchange ideas with other groups, we express ourselves freely"

14-year old hawker, Guinea Bissau

**Achievements, satisfying our needs**

- *for 81.8 % things are improving gradually*

"My training in dyeing has enabled me to satisfy my needs"

15-year old dyer, Mauritania

"Through training programs, meetings and IGAs"

19-year old welder, Benin

"Thanks to my farm, I am able to satisfy my needs"

17-year old market gardener, Mauritania

**Concentration  
on the  
statistics of  
our  
Movement  
during  
the 2008  
African  
Commission**

**Has life changed?**

- *96.4 % answered YES*

"Thanks to AWCY, I know what life within an association is, I know sewing and crocheting, and many other things"

9-year old dressmaker, Senegal

"I am able to fit into society":

16-year old hairdressing apprentice, Togo

"It has enabled me to go to school":

12-year old school pupil, Benin

**Building the future?**

- *94.6 % answered YES*

"Formerly I did not know how to undertake an activity to earn my living, but now I know, thanks to the AWCY"

11-year old dressmaker, Guinea Conakry

"Because before we did not go to school, but now thanks to the AWCY, the future is bright":

11-year old hairdresser, Senegal

"Because when I master my skill, my life will be guaranteed":

16-year old pupil undergoing training, Togo

**And what about our parents and instructors?**

- *98 % think that the AWCY is beneficial*

- *95.9 % say that we have become more respectful, and we behave in a better way*

- *98.7 % think that the AWCY is helping us to build our future*

**And what about our friends?**

- Our authorities, other children and youth organizations, mothers, farmers and artists. Journalists (if really they want it).

- Plan, Save the Children, UNICEF and Enda who support our program as well as...

- ILO, OIM, ONUDC, World Vision, Terre des Hommes with whom we reflect and act against early exodus and child trafficking.

- Pan African Organizations, ECOWAS, African Union, African Social Forum.

**Our African children's Dream**

*All African children must be born and grow in good conditions, and enjoy their full rights to thrive, while at the same time they help their communities to develop harmoniously in peace and in a favorable environment.*



## Report on the National coordinations

*During the African Commission meeting, delegates assessed the activities of the coordinations by examining the factors and stages defined in 2007, not only to appreciate the factors of a good coordination, but also to follow its evolution.*

*Remark of the delegates is: it is ok, but there is still much to do!*

### I- Reminder

#### What is a national coordination?

It is the group formed by all the Associations of Working Children and Youth of the same country (AWCY) to make the rights known, the Income Generating Activities, collaboration with the authorities, partners and the population, and to develop information sharing everywhere.

#### Which are the AMWCY countries in coordination ?

- **Benin:** 17 AWCY members + 3 on waiting list
- **Burkina Faso:** 15 AWCY members + 6 on waiting list
- **Côte d'Ivoire:** 6 AWCY members + 2 on waiting list
- **Guinea Bissau:** 3 AWCY members + 2 on waiting list
- **Guinea Conakry:** 9 AWCY members + 2 on waiting list
- **Mali:** 8 AWCY members + 2 on waiting list
- **Mauritania:** 5 AWCY members
- **Niger:** 4 AWCY members
- **Rwanda:** 3 AWCY members
- **Senegal: The Gambia:** 9 AWCY members + Barra + 1 on waiting list
- **Togo:** 4 AWCY members
- **Zimbabwe:** 4 AWCY members



### II- Assessment

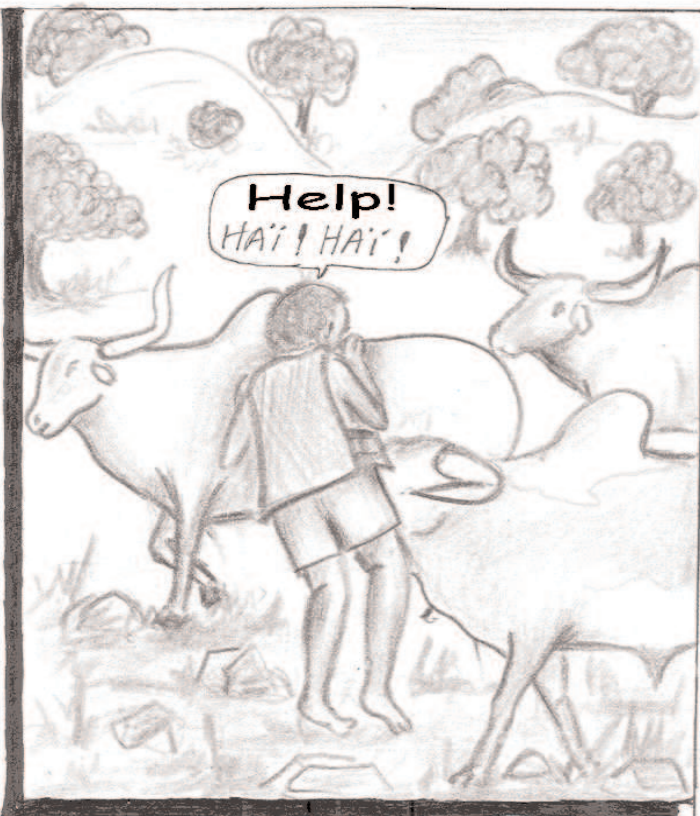
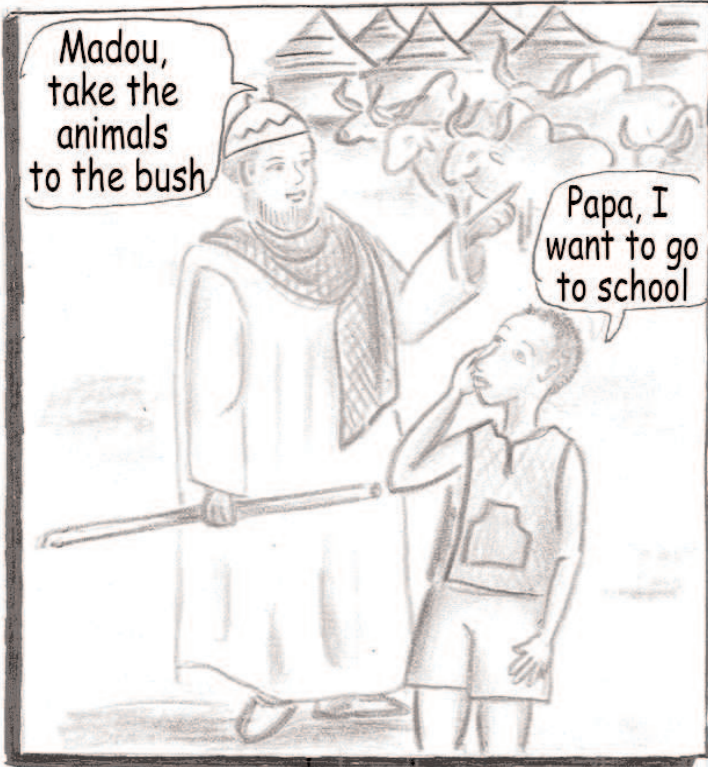
#### Where are we as regards the different criteria?

*At the 2008 African Commission meeting we found out for all the present 12 coordinations of the AMWCY, the following percentages for each criterion:*

- To have at least 3 associations with dynamic members: 100%
- Regular meetings (at least 2 per year): 100%
- Action Plan and Implementation: 88%
- Follow-up and assessment system: 88%
- System of information sharing: 67%
- Transparent management with a well organized group: 67%
- To discuss and collaborate with partners and the State: 88%
- National Program: 46%
- Bank account: 75%
- Child participation development: 71%
- Legal recognition of the AWCYs and that of the coordination: 67%
- Making the rights known, IGAs: 75%
- Mobilization of resources: 71%
- headquarter: 42%
- Offices: 48%
- Efficient and audited management: 8%



# I'M A CHILD, PEOPLE MUST LISTEN TO ME AND MY TRADE MUST FIT TO MY STRENGTH





## Early exodus and child trafficking in West Africa

### What does the study of Working Children and Youth show?

*In Bamako final declaration of 19 October 2007, quoted below, The African Movement of Working Children and Youth has shown the results of a 5- month study (from June to October 2007) carried out for documentation, assessment, capitalization of its experiences in the struggle against early exodus and child trafficking in five West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger, now extended to Guinea, Senegal and Togo during the "restitution-validation" of the report.*

*From these results and information, we produced a publication, "Jeuda 119" (draft available on the website "children and youth in action" at the following link: [http://eja.enda.sn/doc%20pdf/EXO-CAP\\_JEUDE.pdf](http://eja.enda.sn/doc%20pdf/EXO-CAP_JEUDE.pdf)).*

Since 1994 we have been working to materialize our right to "remain in the village and not to go on exodus" and to fight against all forms of exploitation.

In 2004 we set up a plan to fight against "early exodus and child trafficking" in eight West African countries. 3 years later, we undertook a study to have a better understanding of our present situation. For five months, we collected hundreds of stories and interviews from children, parents, authorities, drivers, etc.... Together we analyzed all this information in five countries, then here in Bamako, we reflected on the lessons to be drawn from all this information and analysis.

Exploitation is making a child work for a long time, hard and in an exaggerated way. It means refusing to pay all or a part of the wages agreed upon. It also means not respecting the agreement or contract. In sum, taking maximum advantage of a child's labor with the intention of making profits, and not allowing him to thrive through the 12 rights of the WCYs.

Abuse and violence are frequent and well known. We refuse that children are made to suffer physically and psychologically; these very sufferings no other person would like.

Child trafficking is like trading in an item. It is moved about, exploited, mishandled, and even if a child wanted to go away, he would never be able to do so.

His dignity is ignored. Even if it is not easy to understand when there is "trafficking", it must be condemned and prevented from continuing. And children must be listened to and helped: if they want to go back home, they must be helped to do so, if they want to stay to be trained, they must be helped to stay.

Early exodus is bad and we are doing everything possible to prevent it.

Exodus that is profitable only for adults who organize it is bad, we condemn it. Sometimes it turns into "child trafficking", and that, we condemn.

But we cannot stop those who want to go to the city and discover it. Our fight is gradual and meant to help children in the villages to have a better life, and to delay as much as possible the age at which they leave.

*We inform them, especially concerning the risk of exploitation and abuse and we advise them for their own security:*

- There are many dangers and risks awaiting you!

- Get the right information. Obtain the appropriate information before leaving. Once you arrive, do not let people take advantage of you, analyze the promises well before accepting any type of work.

- Do not remain isolated, organize yourselves in the village and in town, remain in touch with us.

*Parents are not always capable of preventing their children from leaving, even*

*sometimes encouraging them to do so, and we tell them:*

- Educate through dialogue to have their opinion, not through violence, brutality nor insults. Improve the method of education of your children so they can feel well at home.

- Do not allow your children to leave very early for the city to work.

- If they leave for the city, keep contact with your children; take care of them, and if possible, pay them a visit.

*Our authorities must do everything possible to help develop the villages.*

- To reinforce education (and equip schools with materials), healthcare, professional training, socio-economic structures and playing grounds in the villages so that children would like to stay there.

- Encourage birth registration and child identification.

- Reinforce child security, make sure they are not exploited by punishing those who exploit and abuse us

- Support child lead organizations (AWCY, parliaments) by providing the material, human and financial resources to intensify their actions. The other actors must be brought together to act efficiently

*Institutions and NGOs*

- Be more active in the villages (departure zones) in order to encourage children to remain.

- Help the children in the villages to develop activities (IGAs, training programs).

- Support initiatives of child lead organizations.

*Transport Unions*

- Be vigilant and do not be accomplices.

As for us AMWCY, we must concentrate on prevention: sensitization, organization, listening, orientation, schooling, training. Inform children on the risks and consequences of exodus, share information on the existence of AWCYs everywhere.

We must strengthen communication among our AWCYs, listen and support the children - our friends- who come to our localities.

If life at the village improves, children will no longer feel like leaving for the city.

Where children are organized, they enjoy better protection, and their rights become better known....

*Made in Bamako on 19 October 2007*



## Technical Support Group

### Workshop of the group from Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger and Togo

(Parakou from 6 to 18 August 2007)

The Parakou (Benin) Workshop made a report of the 2005 - 2007 technical support programs.

It made it possible to strengthen the base of facilitators of supporting visits, organize visits to Benin and Niger, and plan supporting visits for the future.

As regards supporting and exchange visits, they have especially influenced the expansion of associations even to the most remote neighborhoods of town centers and in areas in the villages where the WCYs live. It is the same case in towns of neighboring countries such as Nigeria.

These visits are opportunities for the WCYs to contact the authorities and institutions who are potential partners.

The dynamics of national coordinations have especially facilitated discussion among the AWCYs around their activities and objectives.

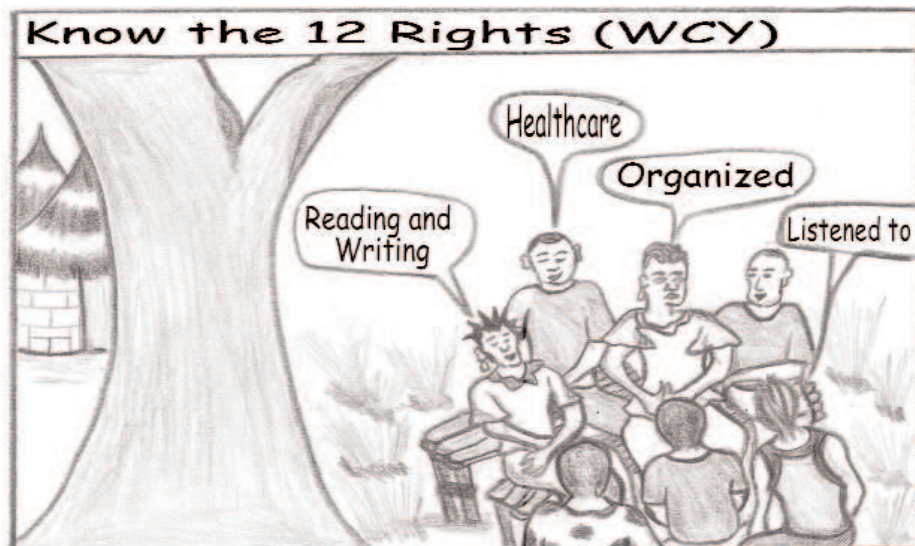
They led to the elaboration of action plans agreed upon at the national level. These action plans are the basis for discussions with local partners.

Thematic sessions on Participatory Action Research, listening, communication and advocacy as well as the Income Generating Activities (IGAs) were made through sketches, debates, games, etc.

Technical support visits were made to 17 AWCYs of Benin and Niger by teams made up of 2 to 3 WCYs accompanied by an animator, and this concerned grassroots groups and the supporting structures.

Other visits have been planned for towns in Benin, Cameroon (Akonolinga), Nigeria (Owode and Badagry), Niger and Togo in order to extend the AMWCY.

*Aide Xavier Sylvain, WCY from Benin*



## World Congress on the Rights of Children and Adolescents

(Barcelona (Spain), 14 to 19 November 2007)

*After Venezuela in 2003 and Peru in 2005, Barcelona organized the 3rd World Congress on the rights of children and adolescent. Its main objective was to reflect on the right to social participation. The AMWCY delegates who were present expressed the point of view of the WCYs on the themes of the Congress.*

The discussions centered on themes such as healthcare, education, poverty, non-discrimination, identity, and children living in risky situations and subject to abuse. Reflexion on these themes was stressed by a photo workshop illustrated by drawings on children's rights: the right to life, to a name, to a diversity of information, to freedom of expression, opinion and religion, the right to association, intimacy, healthcare, education, personal culture, to rest and to leisure.

Parallel to our meeting on children and adolescents, that of adults was being held on different subjects to which children like Ndey Cham, AMWCY were invited to talk on their situations, to share their experience. She opened this session by explaining the AMWCY, its composition, training programs we receive as WCYs, and the activities we undertake to fight against poverty, improve our living and working conditions and to prepare our future. On this issue, he cited the example of the IGAs. She explained how this activity enables us to take care of ourselves, to help our families and to pay our school fees.

Toukara Tambaké spoke at the forum for adults during the conference on the theme on street children. Adama Diop, a member of our delegation also participated in drafting the final declaration. At the closing ceremony, we presented the final declaration and recommendations of this congress. The next Congress will take place in 2009 in Romania.



**Ndey Cham (in the middle) speaking at the Congress**

*Cham Ndey (AWCY The Gambia)  
Diop Adama Alioune (AWCY Mauritania), Sow Binta (AWCY Senegal)  
Toukara Tambaké (AWCY Guinea Conakry)  
Romaine Dieng (Enda, Jeunesse Action-Senegal)*



## 5 years later: commemorative session on the special session of children (UNGASS)

(New York, 9 to 12 / 12 / 2007)

*In 2002, for the first time, children participated in a special session of the United Nations (See "WCY Face Challenge n°2, 2002"). The declaration, "A World Fit for Children", was adopted.*

*Member countries of the UN promised to defend children's rights, fight against poverty, allow each child to go to school, to enjoy good health, etc.*

*From 9 to 12 December 2007, a children's forum was organized by UNICEF in New York. Its aim: to make a report on children's situation five years later.*

*Children from all over the world debated on their rights: education, health, participation in decision-making, etc.*

*During this session, 20 children including 2 AMWCYs, Ablavi and Ferdinand, were in New York to speak to leaders of the whole world.*

*Among the ambassadors of children's rights at the UN, there was also Ferdinand, a WCY delegate from Benin. For him:*

*"In Benin, problems affecting children are due to poverty. Parents do not have the means to take care of the children. The latter have to work to earn money to buy school supplies. They work hard as masons, carpenters, etc..."*

### *His fight*

*"I was a houseboy for three years, but an association helped me. I have learnt how to read and write, and I have learnt a trade. I am a photographer apprentice, and I hope to set up my own studio later. Now I am the national delegate of the Association. I hope the authorities and the NGOs will listen to us. You must continue to associate children in decision-making".*

*(Extract from the publication "actu n°2460 of 15 December 2007).*



*"I have a simple question and am waiting for*

*a simple answer from each of you.*

*What are governments doing to eliminate discrimination and promote quality education for all children, particularly for those from poor families; I mean children affected by HIV AIDS; orphans, minority groups, working children ....)?*

*We are the one who are asking this question because during the three-day preparatory meeting among children from the whole world, we understood that in poor areas and remote villages in our countries, it is we who, through our organizations, are encouraging children to register in schools where possible, in order to have good education and training. For example, our Movement registers thousands of children each year.*

*We are creating alternative centers for children who could not go to school or who had to abandon it at an early stage. This has resulted in children now having the opportunity to learn how to read and write, calculate, make profits from their economic activities, use the computer to communicate, know y illnesses and get initiated to the trade of their choice.*

*Our preoccupation is to eliminate the disparities between girls and boys at school in both urban and rural areas, between the rich and the poor, and to have education that meets our needs.*

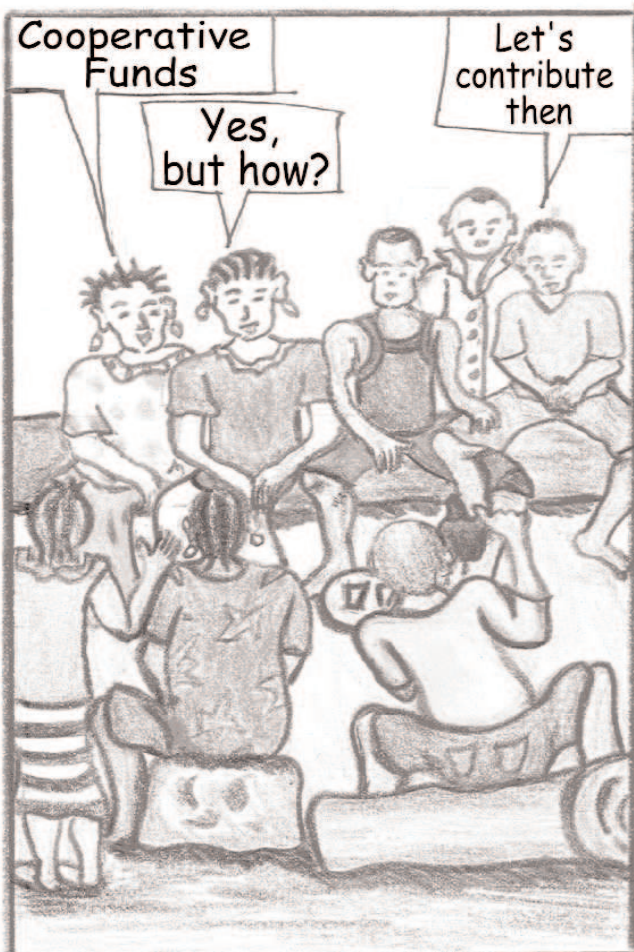
*What can you do as adults, authorities to support our organizations so as to make education for all a reality???"*

*Ablavi Benjamin, Togo*





# THE RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE



# LISAAK TRAORE MALI



## Speak Africa Forum

Addis Ababa, 9 to 12 / 1 / 2008

### Debates on African youth

From 9 to 12 January 2008, the Speak Africa consultative meeting on African youth, co-organized by UNICEF and the African Union (AU), was held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). AMWCY delegates were present at this meeting.



Delegates to the Forum

The forum gathering children and youths from 13 countries, debuted by hearing a talk on the African Youth Charter by Dr Raymonde A. AGOSSOU, PhD, Head of the Human Resources Division, Youth, Sciences and Technologies at the African Union. The result was that out of the 53 African member countries of the AU, only (3) countries have signed and ratified this Charter (Rwanda, Mali et Gabon), eight (8) countries have signed and not ratified. And for this document to be effective and applicable at the continental level, there must be at least 15 signatory countries.

In the group where members are under 18 years old, we reflected on how to proceed in order to make Speak Africa known in our countries throughout Africa. This Reflection enabled us to make the following recommendations: restitutions, exchange of ideas, advocacy, synergy and communication among youths.

We were with two youths who are members of AMWCY (Yves Houeto Roland from Côte d'Ivoire and Tounkara Tambaké from Guinea). Later on in February, Tambaké participated in the ministerial meeting.

After this interview, at his request, we wrote an article in French concerning the meeting at the web site of Speak Africa at that time.

*Benjamine Agbodjan (AMWCY- Togo),  
Ferdinand Totin (AMWCY- Benin)  
Romaine Dieng (Enda Jeunesse Action)*

## West African Social Forum

Lomé, 24 to 27 January 2008

### Governance and food sufficiency

From 24 to 27 January 2008, the AMWCY participated in the 4th edition of the West African Social Forum, and was represented by 18 Children and Youths from 4 countries: Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo.

On 25 January a preparatory meeting presented the program and defined the role each had to play. WCY delegates were then transported to the "FOIRE TOGO 2000" center where the opening ceremony and the launching of the activities of the Forum took place. After the opening ceremony, discussions were made in the form of workshops, followed by a debate on leadership, a film, etc.



WCYs present for the march past

On 26 January, the activities continued at a plenary session, followed in the afternoon by a march past that ended with a message from the King of Lomé before the resumption of workshop activities. After the first assessment of two days of activities of the Forum and before the Forum, our participation was adjudged positive. On the whole, all the participants were happy to see the AMWCY gain strength in Togo through its massive participation and especially by its presence through many children.

We AMWCY participants worked on questions concerning youths. Announcements and debates were made on the following themes: Youth and leadership, Youth and development, Youth and the EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement), What is the condition for durable peace? Governance and Public Management: role of youth, who owes what debt and to whom?, Environment, genetically modified organisms and privatization of the alive person: what is the best policy in favor of the planet? Citizen control of public action. After these debates and those of adults, we met again to discuss the EPA.

On 27 January, all the participants took part in a big march past entitled "Marching for peace in Africa" to say "No to the EPA". This march past from the Colombe de la Paix up to the headquarters of the ECOWAS lasted for one and a half hours. At the headquarters of the West African Organization, the final declaration was read before participants were transported to the place of the Forum. During this march past, we distributed documents of the AMWCY to partners, authorities, police, the media, etc.

Then under a tent raised in the big yard of the Centre Togo 2000, a play was animated by children with coaching provided by Plan-Togo. The WCYs also presented folklore show with a bamboo orchestra that amazed participants. A program on the rights and duties on children was also presented in the form of a radio program on children entitled "Dévotion bé radio".

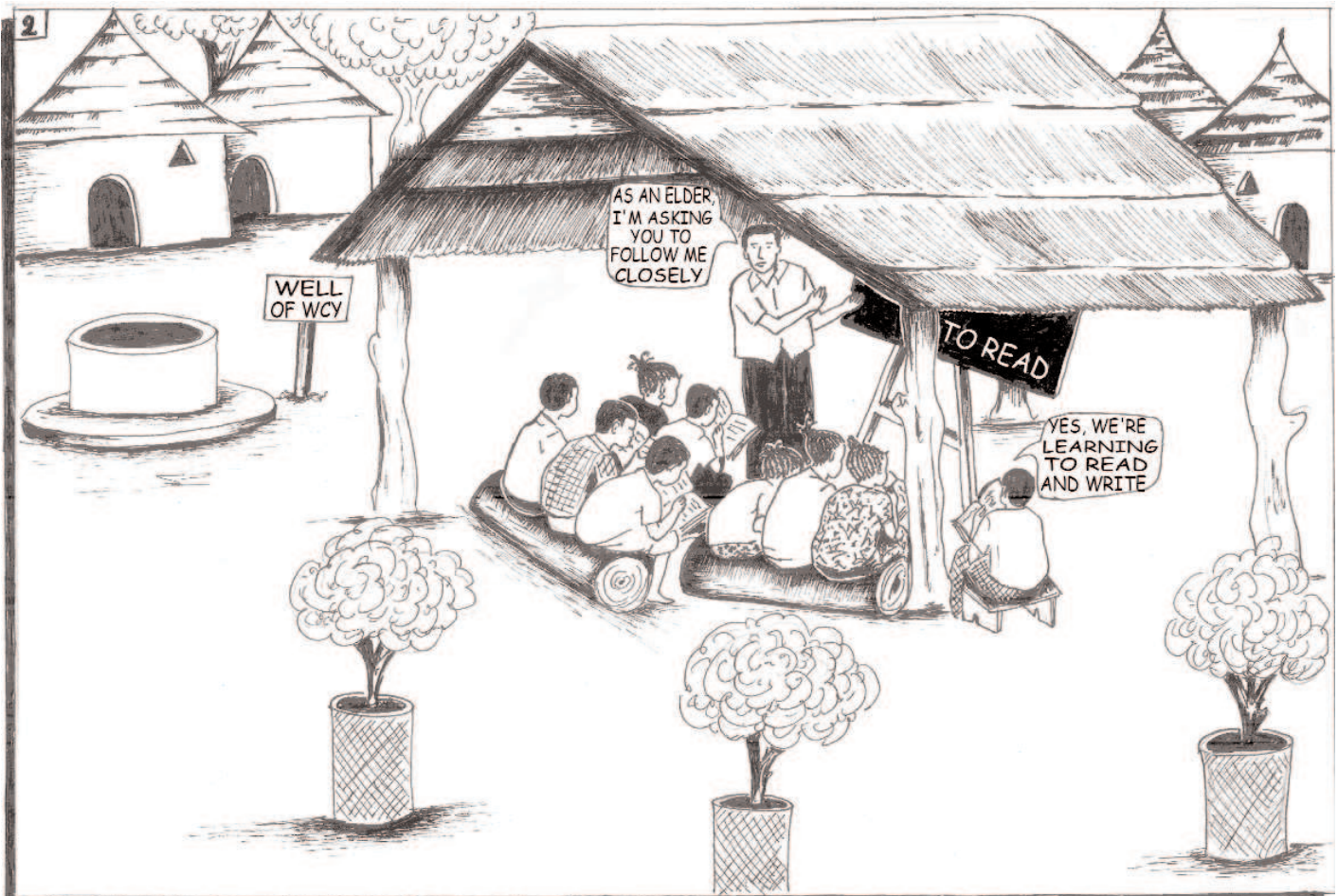
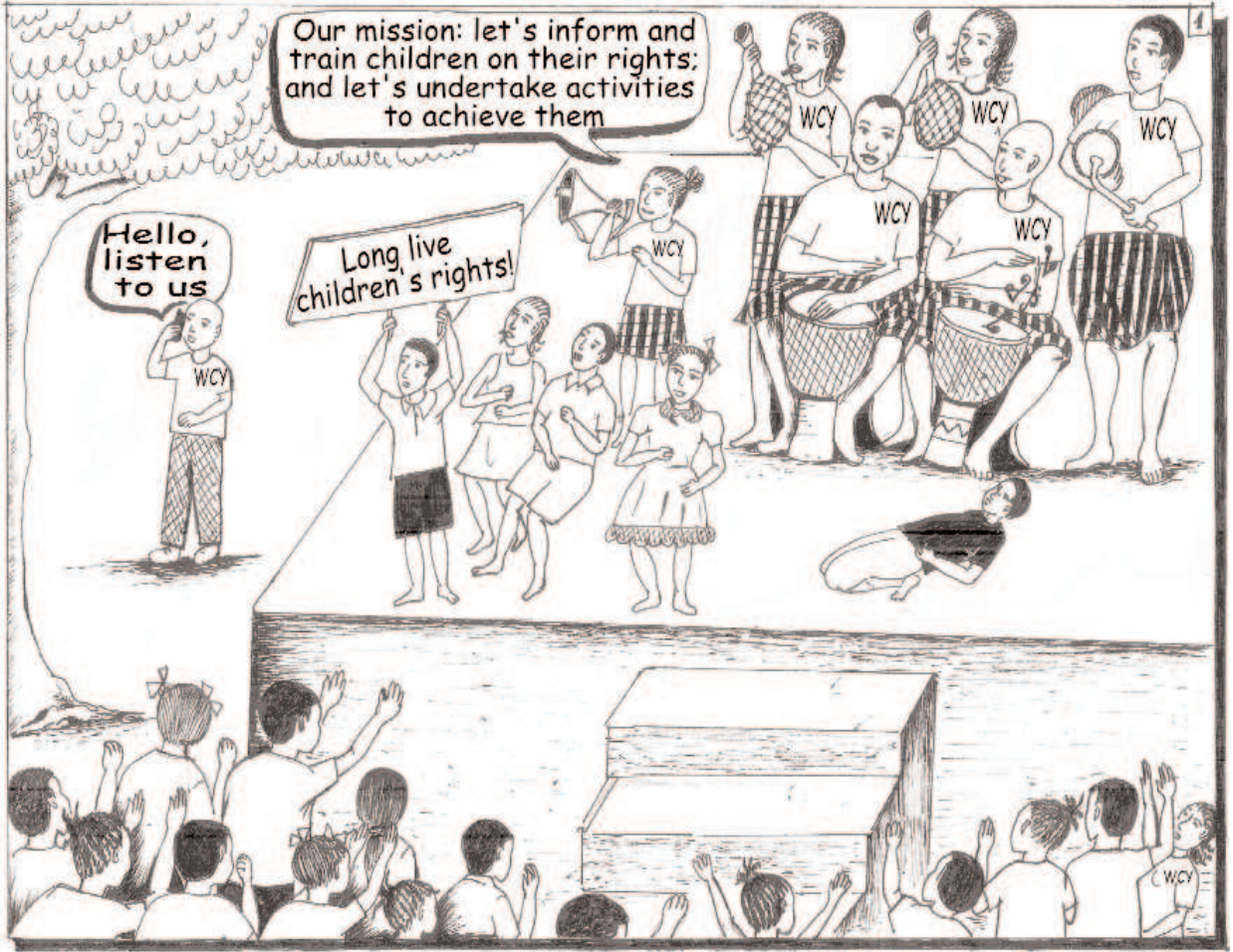
During the Forum, we reminded the participants that two of our AMWCY delegates participated in the Speak Africa Forum on African youths in Ethiopia where the African Union decreed 2008 year of the youth.

*Marius Koukoudou, WCY elder from Benin*



**Mission of the AMWC**

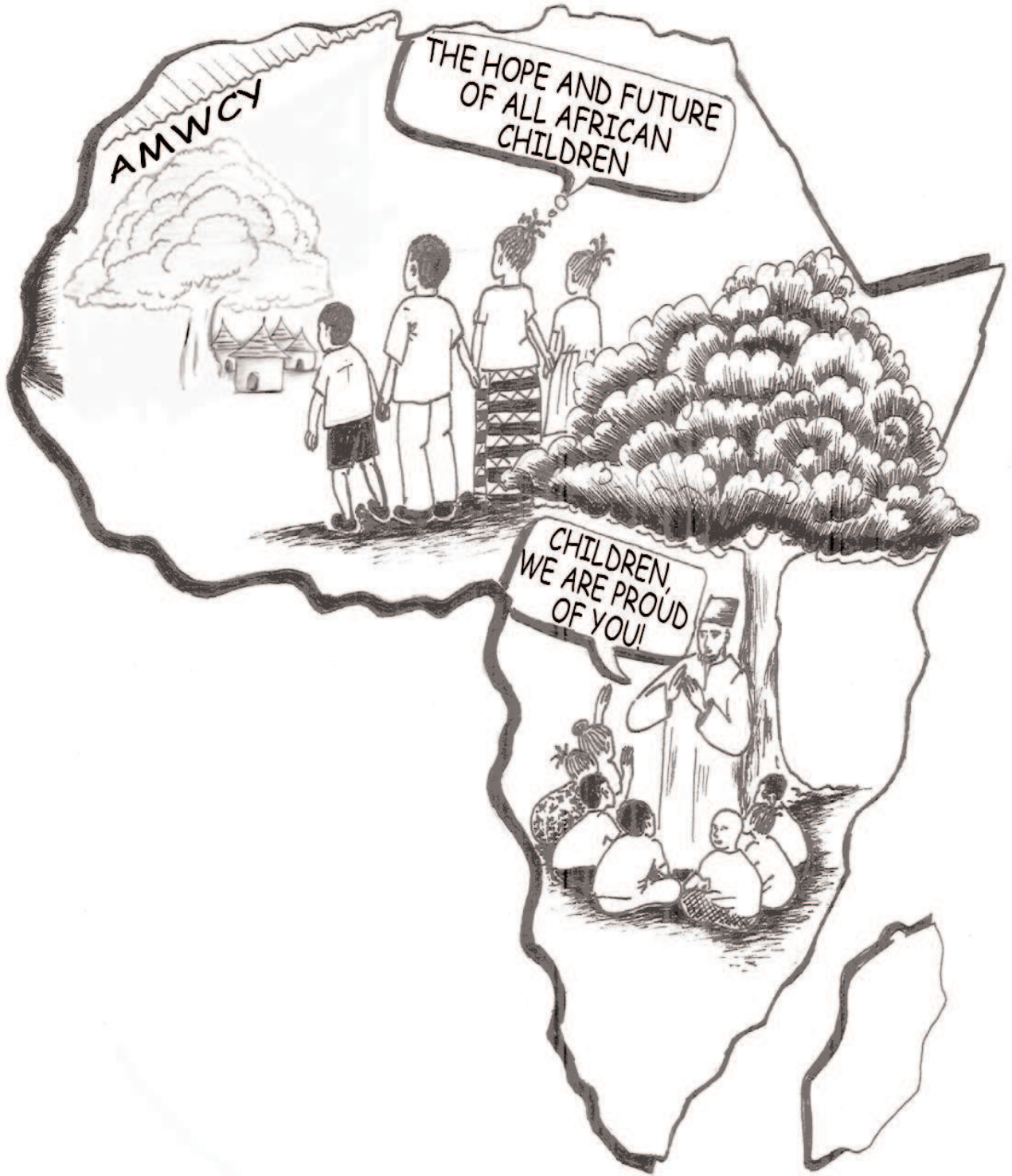
*Through some drawings, the WCY express their mission here; in fact, it is the mission of all African children towards their friends, children and youths and their communities*







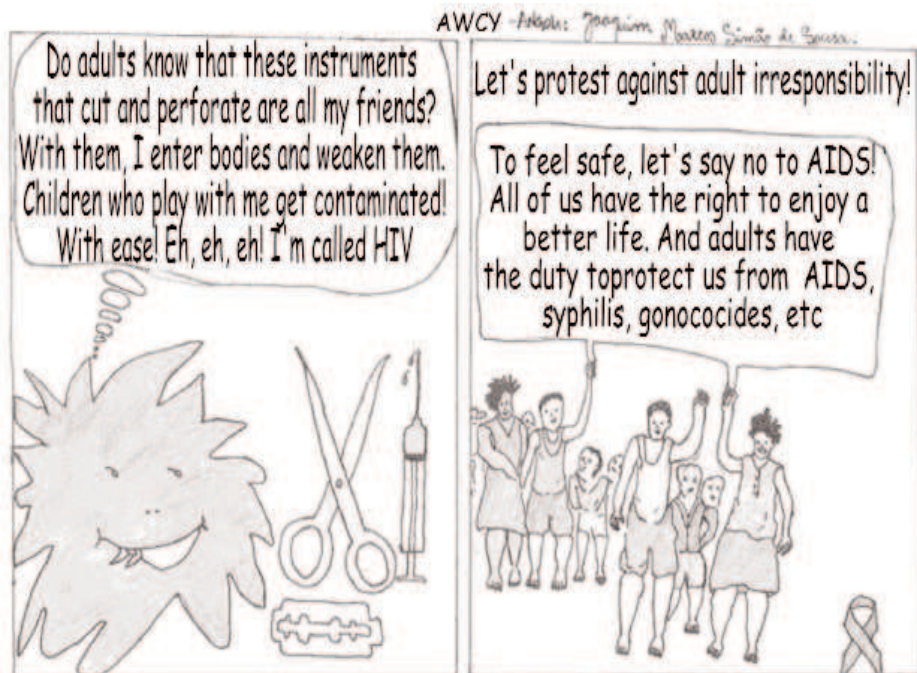






## Angola

### Many children join the association



Since January 2008, we have undertaken remarkable activities, and that is why 30 other children have joined our Association, even though our Association has already 400 children.

The AWCY is already working and increasing thanks to the results of our activities in the different markets of Angola. We hope that Working Children and Youth will know their rights, and we are there to show them the way. That is why we are working in the different neighborhoods to be able to identify and mobilize the children more effectively and thus enable them to join the AWCY.

#### Activities undertaken are:

- sensitization and information campaign on children's rights (the 12 rights) in the markets and town of Luanda.
- impressive and talented march past of working children and youth at 1 May Square in Luanda
- sensitization of the WCYs who develop activities in the markets and on the streets on the worst forms of child labor.
- holding a general assembly to present the 2007 final report.
- elaboration of a new activity plan for the 2008 year.
- campaign in the markets on HIV/AIDS and prevention method.
- training and strengthening of the capacities of 20 members on comics on children's rights.
- meeting on planning and assessment of activities.

Activities were especially undertaken in the markets for this simple reason: because the Working Children and Youth spend most part of the time in the markets, and that is where they can be met.

#### Communication

Our main difficulty is communication even with our own members, and that is why we delay so much in answering questions of the Movement.

At our next general assembly we will discuss with Bengala AWCY: how to establish a perfect communication link between Luanda and Bengala.

*Communication Group, Angola Ponto fuaval  
Joaquim Marcos, AWCY Luanda/Angola*

## Benin

### Training in communication

From 26 March to 4 April 2008, our national training workshop in the written press, web page and video was held in Abomey. Since August 2007, we have had exchanges on the communication project and the WCYs have decided to meet every three months to review their activities with their partners, to edit a review and program this national training workshop in communication.

This was held with the support of UNICEF in the presence of delegates from all the AWCYs of Benin.

### Football Tournament

In February 2008, AWCY Bohicon participated in a football tournament organized by Colonel Gnimas Christophe of the Customs Department. The WCYs behaved well and were able to go to the finals before being beaten by 3 goals to 1. For their first participation, all the WCYs were happy.

### Tilling the land for IGAs

To develop their Income Generating Activities on donuts made from peanuts more effectively, the WCYs have started sowing this seed.

After the harvest, part of the peanuts was sold and the other part reserved for making donuts. At that time our headquarter was very much animated because we sold many of our products.

## Burkina Faso

### Training workshop on financial management

From 3 to 9 March 2008, delegates from Working Children and Youth Associations of all the member towns of Burkina Faso met at the 4 August Stadium to participate in a training program on material and financial management. The National Coordination of the WCYs of Burkina organized this workshop to strengthen the AWCYs in management and thus satisfy important criteria for the evolution of coordinations.

*David Simporé, WCY from Burkina*



## Burundi

### AWCY Bujumbura in action

- **Training workshop on the IGAs in Bujumbura:** this workshop gathered WCY participants from Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the presence of the Minister of Sports of Burundi and the Sub-regional coordinator of the OPDE associations (Oeuvre humanitaire pour la Protection et le Développement de l'Enfant en difficulté) and APECOS (Association pour la Prise en Charge des Orphelins du Sida).

The following themes were discussed: "practical method for setting up a micro-project", "management of an IGA, notions on book-keeping" and "strategic points to consider in order to limit the risks of an IGA".

After the workshops, we learnt how to keep a cashbook, a bank note, present a general exploitation and quarterly investment accounts and make an effective reflection on everything necessary to operate a successful IGA as defined in the AMWCY Poster (WCY Face the Challenge n°2 -2002).

After the discussions, the different groups appealed to the respective states (Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo) to support these WCY Associations, materially and morally, especially in this region border the Great Lakes where we have just gone through a terrible socio-political crisis for about ten years.

- **Insurance Cards for WCYs:** AWCY Burundi bought insurance cards for each WCY. This is very advantageous for us because in case of illness, we pay 20% at the hospital while the State pays 80%.

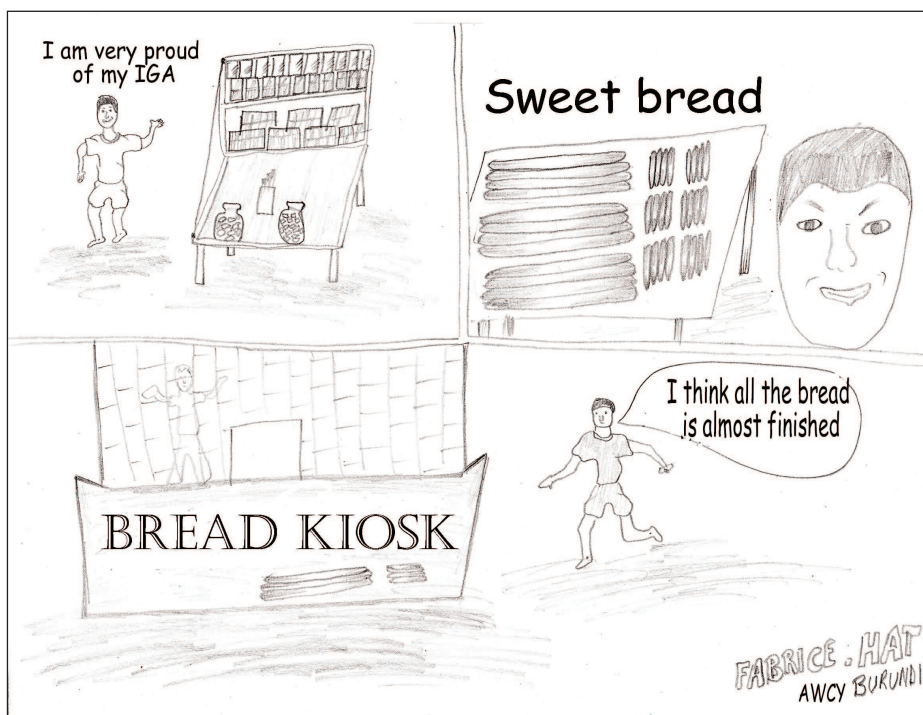
- **Literacy courses:** the WCYs benefit from training in how to read and write.

The result is that for 6 months every year, literacy courses are organized for the WCYs by OPDE, the supporting structure of the AWCY within the framework of collaboration between the WCYs and this structure.

- **Leisure and organization:** football matches are regularly organized between the teams formed by the AWCY Bujumbura and other teams. To organize ourselves in a better way, we train new members in the grassroots groups.

- As regards **the right to carry out our activities in safety**, we discussed with the Home Ministry so that the WCYs who do petty trading along the markets would be allowed to sell their goods.

*Fabrice, AWCY delegate, Burundi*



## Cameroon

### Communication and training

In January 2008, in Enombo, a program in computer training was organized to initiate the WCYs (1 per grassroots group) and to have a permanent secretariat. This training also allows the WCYs to communicate on their activities.

Moreover, on 11 February, the WCYs participated in the march past of 11 February during youth celebrations in Akonolinga to make themselves known and listened to. The parents and local authorities accord us much more recognition and consideration now. More than 100 WCYs have thus benefited from literacy sessions in Mfou, Akonolinga and Okola in order to improve on learning to write, read and count.

*Joël, AEJT du Cameroun*

## Côte d'Ivoire

### Life within the coordination

The National Coordination of the WCYs of Côte d'Ivoire is developing many activities for the WCYs.

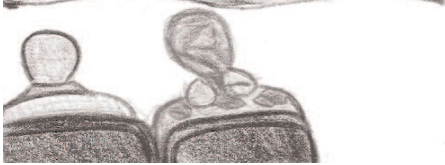
Our lobbying before partners has been much appreciated by UNICEF with whom we obtained a project for the promotion of the 12 rights over 6 months, from June to December 2007, implemented in the neighborhoods and villages of 6 member towns (Abidjan, Aboisso, Bonoua, Bouaké, Grand Bassam and Korhogo). The project enabled us to sensitize the populations on children's rights through mass campaigns, radio programs, etc.

Still in collaboration with UNICEF, the coordination facilitated the 16 June 2007 ceremony in Korhogo in the presence of delegates of other towns and more than 800 children. That enabled AWCY Korhogo to be better known. At present it is involved in all the activities for children in the town.

The Coordination still meets some journalists who are present in all the activities we organize. The WCYs express themselves on national television channels, and on UN radio through a debate organized in the framework of the International Radio and Television Day for Children.

*Houéto Yves Roland  
WCY Côte d'Ivoire*





## Ethiopia

### Sensitization Program on "the difference between exploited labor and light labor"

On the occasion of the Ethiopian Christmas day adopted according to the old Julius calendar at the beginning of January, a quiz and an educative entertainment program in the form of a community dance, a play and traditional music were organized for Working Children who attend evening classes within the framework of Basic Alternative Education.

During the competition, questions on the "worst forms", "exploited labor" and "light work" for children were the priority subjects.

Moreover, there were performances on questions related to child trafficking, HIV/AIDS. Questions on gender issue were also performed.

The "Children's Rights Club", formed by members of different grassroots groups of the AWCY for lobbying, presented a show to transmit the opinions and debate on questions of child trafficking, and HIV/AIDS in particular.

Community dance as well as the theatre forum were presented on "child exploited labor" and child trafficking. The latter transmitted their opinions and they debated on the question.

*AWCY Ethiopia*

## Gambia

### Fellowship with the people

On 10 January 2008, we organized a "talk show". On this occasion, all the WCY members were present and we invited the village chiefs, the Mayor, police officers and the fire brigade. We assembled at the public square to make a sensitization campaign on the activities of our AWCY and the AMWCY.

After an animation through songs and dances related to our organization and the materialization of our rights, we allowed the guests to express themselves on our activities and ask us questions. In the night, we raised funds from people who understand our activities; this enables us to have some means to undertake sporting activities and sensitization from door to door.

*Ndey Cham, WCY delegate*

## Guinea Bissau

### National Coordination Meeting

The national coordination meeting in Guinea Bissau was held in January 2008 for a week in Canchungo. 18 members were present representing 5 different towns, a representative from Enda TM, journalists from different radios and the print media, as well as a regional health delegate from Cacheu and the Canchungo D. H representative.

We analyzed the results obtained, the questionnaires, objectives and difficulties met. We also spoke about the present situation of children from 5 towns and made a report on our Coordination. Reports of all the activities undertaken by each association were presented.

The National Coordination sent a person on a restitution visit to all the grassroots groups and the AWCY. I thus visited Bafata and Gabú. I spent 2 days in each town on my mission. It must be stressed that the visit was positive because Bafata and Gabú are now well structured in conformity with the criteria of the Movement.

*Nicasio Rui Atà (DN), Guinea Bissau*

Bairo Grassroots Group

Gildo fernandes (Bissau)





## Guinea Conakry

### Stop violence against children!

On 22 January 2008, WCYs of Guinea organized sensitization sessions on violence against children on the theme "Never again to violence!" That motivated all the associations of the country because the days were unforgettable for Guineans. Participants included the authorities and journalists came from different networks.

We presented sketches on maltreatment and violence; the public were pleased with it and this made it possible to dissuade "those who maltreat".

The celebrations ended with prayers said for the AMWCY, as well as children and youths who died during the series of strikes in Guinea in 2007.

*Kadiatou Diallo, WCY spokesman*

## Mauritania

### WCY Activities

- **Sensitization on AIDS:** AWCY Rosso, the pair of educators, AMPF and students of the town's secondary school organized a sensitization day on AIDS at the Youth Center on 7 February 2008 through sketches on the pandemic in the presence of representatives of the Mayor, Inspector of Youth, animators, teachers...

- **The Kaédi Festival:** For 5 days, AWCY Kaédi, in collaboration with the supporting structure (Association for the Promotion of Mother and Child), organized a regional festival for the promotion and materialization of the 12 rights. 37 associations from Kaédi attended this festival presided over by the Wali of the Gorgol Region, the Prefect, local representatives, national and international NGOs based in Kaédi.

- **Training in primary health care:** AWCY Nouakchott organized a 2-day training in primary health care and first aid for 6 fish cleaners with the support of the Director of the Center for Child Protection.

- **Excursions:** The WCYs of the grassroots group of Marbatt 1 and 2 made excursions to factories in Nouakchott, notably, the Mauritanian drinks factory, Société des Boissons (SOBOMA) and discussed with the officials of the factory.

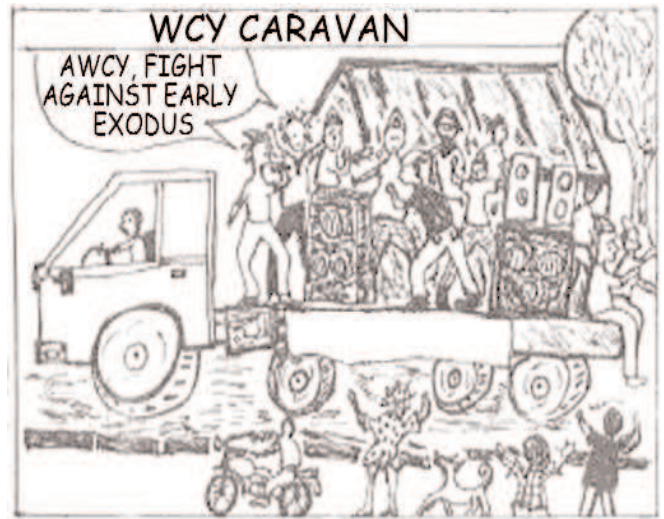
*Maloun Dieng, spokesman*

## Mali

### Fight against early exodus and child trafficking

AWCY Bamako organized an advocacy day on trafficking and early exodus of children in Moribabougou.

Situated at about 15 km away from Bamako on the road to Koulikoro, Moribabougou is a village made up of 4 neighborhoods with a chief at the head of each of these neighborhoods, all of them administered by a Mayor. The village is mostly inhabited by farmers and drivers. Children move a lot to big towns with the intention of looking for economic well-being.



That was the reason why the inhabitants of Oribabougou were invited together with the authorities to an advocacy day in the conference hall of the Mayor. For your reminder, the AWCY Bamako created a grassroots group in the village 2 years ago.

On that day, 4 neighborhood chiefs, the Mayor and his 2 counselors, drivers trade unions, parents, artisans, children themselves, representatives of Enda, Children's Parliament, the Regional Administration for the Promotion of Women, Children and Family and other youth associations of the village.

The area chiefs spoke and there were sketches of WCYs on children as well as on early exodus of children. Participants then reacted by asking many questions, by making contributions and especially narrating experiences that many found so touching. A participant said "I did not watch this sketch, but rather experienced it ...". There was total satisfaction and the WCYs were exhorted to persevere and increase such activities.

*Adama Sidibé, WCY from Mali*

## Niger

### Cleaning Campaign Day

On Sunday, 13 January 2008, AWCY Makalondi organized a cleaning exercise in the streets, mosques, markets and other public places with assistance provided by our supporting structure, Supporting Project for the Reinsertion of Children in Difficulty (SPRCD).

The WCYs undertook this cleaning exercise to make their 12 rights better known, strengthen their ties with people and also participate in the environmental development of our country.

The cleaning day enabled us to make ourselves better known to the people and technical partners. New members joined the AWCY.



WCYs on the cleaning day

*Salamatou Amani, spokesman, WCY Niger*



## Nigeria

### Technical support visits to Nigerian WCYs

*From 28 February to 3 March 2008, a technical support visit was paid to the AWCY in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The visit was made by two groups: Victor from Porto-Novo and Salomon from Togo went to Owode and Judicaël from Porto-Novo and Roland from Cotonou visited the WCYs of Lagos.*

- **Owode:** AWCY gathered 4 grassroots groups of WCY: Owode Town, Farassime, Yekeme and Gamme. They all form the Association of WCYs of Badagry that comprises of 88 WCYs: 35 youths, 53 children. They include: hairdressers, tailors, dressmakers, battery chargers, vulcanizers, mechanics, photographers, traders and school pupils.

- **Lagos:** the team went to Makoko where there are 3 groups of 40 children and youths: mechanic apprentices, hairdressers, vulcanizers, photographers and school pupils. These groups are Orioke Ebute META, Okebaba and 15 Abiodun Street. They undertake cultural activities together ; for example music, theatre shows and sports activities.

- **Planning IGAs:** in Nigeria, groups do not undertake IGAs together in the Association, and they live on their local resources (contributions) and some assistance received outside the association. They were sensitized on the necessity to undertake IGAs, and to mobilize all resources before starting an IGA. They learnt how to undertake market and environment survey in order to make better choice of an IGA in the zone.

- **Strengthening of organization:** the groups were strengthened through a more effective organization methods by teaching them some useful elements for the best functioning of an association: the personnel, criteria and procedures of establishment and their roles, an address of the association, objectives and work plan, rules and regulations, a book for activity report and an accounting system.

- **Activities on early exodus and child trafficking:** we went to the site for children who have been trafficked in Owode where they are welcome before being transported to Lagos or other countries. We contacted an immigration officer at Owode at the Nigeria-Benin border to discuss the measures to be taken in order to preserve children's rights. We have also had the opportunity to meet the Chief (Balley) in the Yekeme area.

#### - Recommendations

- To extend the Association to other places and to genuine WCYs (girls and children in particular)
- To undertake activities to strengthen or materialize the 12 rights
- To fight against child abuse and trafficking, early exodus
- To do our best to be recognized officially by the local authorities
- To set up or appoint a dynamic administrative body for both the associations and the groups
- To have a sensitization committee or a supporting structure
- To make a report of all the activities undertaken by the members
- To meet on regular and periodic basis
- To hold a general assembly to elaborate a work plan as soon as possible
- To collaborate with other associations
- To put into practice the different notions acquired during training on how to undertake an IGA, and give a feed back or to reconstitute

#### - Conclusion

Even though it is just beginning, the Association of WCYs of Nigeria is promising and must be supported by the AMWCY.

*Members of the visiting supporting teams in Nigeria*

## Democratic Republic of The Congo

### WCY Activities

- **Martyrs' Day:** on 4 January 2008, Martyrs' Day, the WCYs were invited by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security to explain the objectives and the WCY 12 rights in a better way. It must be noted that 2 WCYs are members of the ministerial committee for the fight against the worst forms of labor.

- **Training and sensitization on AIDS:** In February, in collaboration with Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) and the City Council, 36 WCY from 10 grassroots groups benefited from a training program on how to sensitize on HIV/AIDS and all the Sexually Transmitted Infections.

*Donatien Tshidibi, WCY delegate*

## Rwanda

### WCYs and authorities united

- **Reforestation:** The Nyarugenge District has given a piece of land to AWCY-Kigali to plant trees in town. Since 10 February 2008, 57 WCYs have planted more than 150 trees on that land. For us, the voluntary participation in national activities of the State makes it possible to sensitize the authorities on the activities and needs of the WCYs.

- **National meeting of the WCYs:** the three AWCYs of Rwanda met at the Rafiki Club in February 2008 for 2 weeks to evaluate the activities in each town and establish the new committee of the National Coordination in the presence of the representative of Plan-Rwanda, Amity Weiss who is very much interested in all the activities of WCY. She is our friend! Her visits are periodical and she does not miss any moment to come and discuss with us on our rights and how to materialize them.

- **Woodwork materials for WCYs:** Umulaire Luc, a WCY elder, offered all his woodwork material to AWCY-Kigali to start training WCYs and help them to realize some IGAs. As they learn this trade, it will help them to thrive. This is the fruit of our efforts to sensitize people on our rights and encourage as many children as possible to join our associations.

*Sibomana Marcel, national WCY delegate*



## Senegal

### Meeting with the Minister of Sports and Leisure

The meeting of the National Coordination of AWCYs of Senegal, was held at CNEPS in Thiès, from 6 to 11 January 2008 to assess our activities. It brought together 40 participants including 13 boys and 27 girls. At this meeting, the Coordination was visited by the Minister of Sports and Leisure who promised to develop partnership with the WCYs of Senegal.

Moreover, on 22 January, members of the National Coordination met the composer Abdou Guité Seck, the king of folk music, a friend of children. He accepts to be their ambassador and support them to promote and protect their rights.



*Bassirou Diallo, spokesman*

**WCYs and the Minister for Sports and Leisure**

## Togo

### Collaboration strengthened with Plan Togo

The Plan-AWCY collaboration was strengthened with the materialization of a training project on the techniques of radio production desired by the WCYs. The workshop was organized with the support of Plan and facilitated by animators of the program, Déviwo Bé Radio (children's radio) of Plan Sotouboua. It enabled 22 WCY participants including 15 children, 7 youths and 10 girls to be more familiarized with tools of radio communication and advocacy. During this training session, the WCYs of Togo prepared and presented a program on Radio Cosmos of Sotouboua. Presented under the title "Hello children and youths", the program was an occasion offered to listeners of Radio Cosmos to know the AWCY, its 12 rights and the activities to materialize them. The WCYs took advantage of this to speak about the origin of their Movement, its objectives, activities and strategies to set up grassroots groups as well as the AWCYs. The place of economic activities and the support they constitute for children and their families were largely emphasized by the young radio animators. They also shared information on the process of establishing a new AWCY with children and youths of Sotouboua. The future activities of the Association were also mentioned.

As regards Advocacy and the techniques of negotiation, a strengthening campaign was made through a game made in turns prepared by children on their preoccupations such as the construction of a school, HIV/AIDS and reproduction health, to materialize the right to read and write. A negotiation trial was experimented with the community Radio, "La Paix" from Attakpamé.

This workshop was a big opportunity for the WCYs to make themselves known as an organization for the defense of children's rights, especially for those who are working. Plan's personnel have a better understanding of the necessity for the WCYs to organize themselves, to be courageous, very active and conversant with the everyday life of children and their rights.

During the meeting with the coordination, it was envisaged to develop WCYs everywhere in Togo and the strategy of patronage through good neighborhood. Lomé was therefore designated to help Kévé town, while Kplalimé Womé would take care of Agou. Dagni will be supported by Adomi and Attakpamé by the WCYs. As regards Sotouboua, it will be supported by the national coordination.

*National Coordination of WCYs of Togo*

## Chad

### Supporting visit to WCY

Haoua Kangai, accompanied by animators and WCY elders, paid a technical support visit and discussed with the different grassroots groups on the AMWCY, its activities, organization, etc. We visited and discussed with the UNICEF counselor for child protection in Chad. He plans to give more support to the WCYs to materialize their 12 rights. On 8 March, with his support, we organized a cleaning campaign in 2 social



centres. It must be noted that in our AWCY, each grassroots group is able to hold a contribution account that enables it to organize literacy courses (evening classes), contribute to the medical care of its members, undertake recreational activities (football) and celebrate days such as 16 June and Independence day, 11 August.

*Ndilmbaye Djimasngar Eloi, WCY delegate*

## Zimbabwe

### Sensitization on the rights

In January 2008, the Association in Harare organized sensitization campaigns on the rights of Working Children and Youth. The program was especially aimed at farmers and farm laborers, house girls and the general public.

Meetings were held with the authorities of Victims Friends Unit to accelerate the process of cases of rape and violence against children.

In view of the high cost of education in our country, lobbying and advocacy are done in the associations and before the authorities in order to make the right to read and write more accessible to Working Children and Youth. To this effect, it was decided to meet the Minister of Finance so that the authorities can support the WCYs by providing equipment.

*Sibonile Masuka, WCY delegate*



# VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST CHILDREN



Maloum goes to Xavier and his wife at home to entrust two WCYs

Good morning, Marie Louise. I am bringing you these two children who want to work. The girl is called Balkissa, and the boy, Maïga Moussa

Thank you, Maloum!  
I'm very happy



So! And, moreover, these children are even cheaper. Balkissa costs 5 000F, and Moussa 7 500F. Is it okay?

Right. Take this amount of 25 000F for two months advance payments. Well, children, get down to work.

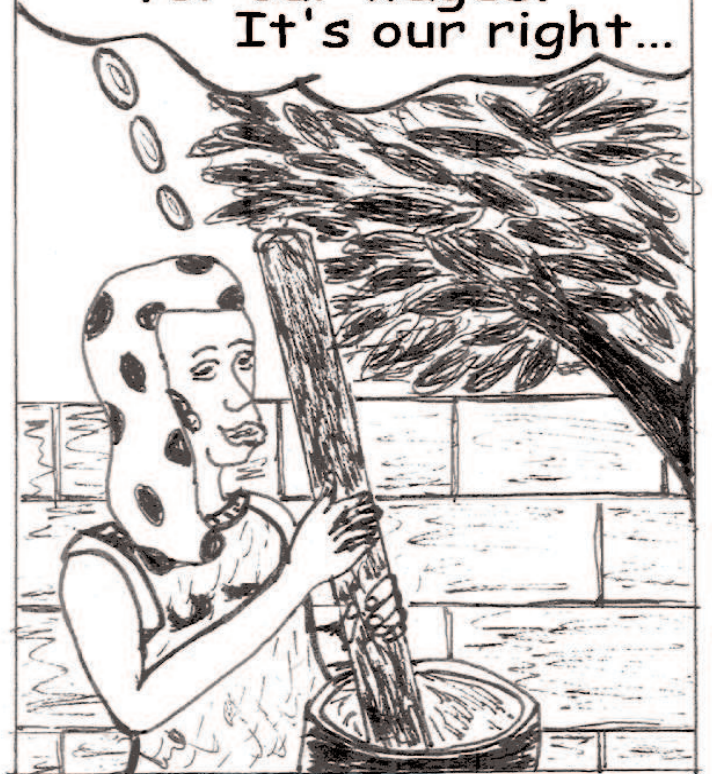




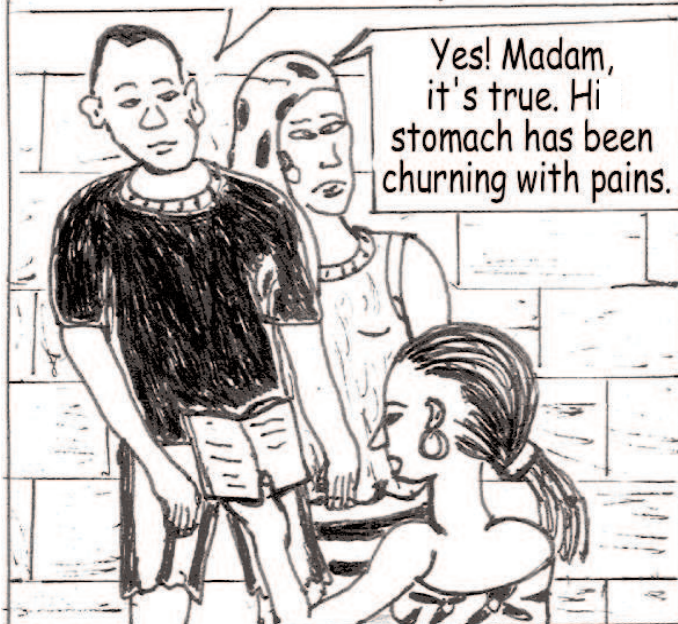
Soon it'll be 5 months,  
and we've been working  
here without wages,  
nor medical care



Moussa is right.  
We must ask Madam  
for our wages.  
It's our right...



Madam, as you know very well,  
we've been working here for  
more than 4 months without  
wages. And at the moment  
as I speak, I'm sick.  
I've stomach pains.



Yes! Madam,  
it's true. Hi  
stomach has been  
churning with pains.

What? What wages? There are  
no wages here! You must  
continue working. I gave the rest  
of the money to Maloum.  
You're pretending to be sick,  
you must continue working,  
you hear? Look, you lazy boy!





Joaquim Marcos and Isaak Traore are selling newspapers of the Movement of Associations of Working Children and Youth

Oh! The newspaper! Come and see. It's the 12 rights of the WCYs

Madam, you want to look at it?

What! The WCYs have rights?



Xavier Sylvain and his wife Marie Louise

What's the problem tonight? I find you very shy tonight. Tell me...

Yes, my husband! I have just realized that children have rights. These are: the right to healthcare, rest when sick, light and limited work.



ISAAC TRAORE

WCY MALI



**Song****Oh! AMWCY!**

Oh ! African Movement of Working  
Children and Youth

You have opened to me the way to a  
change

You have enabled me to know how live  
within an Association

You have enabled me to have many  
friends from different associations by  
materializing together our twelve rights

You have helped me to do less hard  
work

You have enabled me to undertake acti-  
vities appropriate for my age

My parents, the authorities and my  
master respect me and listen to me  
more because they recognize my rights

Oh! AMWCY, materializing our 12  
rights, enables me to drastically impro-  
ve my living and working conditions; I  
take care of myself thanks to IGAS by  
selling fruits

Oh! AMWCY, Oh! AMWCY, Oh!  
AMWCY

You will exist for ever, and everyday  
you will go on expanding more and  
more

*Sehounon Adéline, WCY Bohicon*

**Song****Let's enjoy our rights**

I'll make it  
I'll make it  
I'll make sure the AMWCY  
sensitize the whole world to make us  
enjoy  
our rights

I'll make it, I'll make it  
(You, he, we, you, they)  
They'll make it  
They'll make the AMWCY,  
sensitize the whole world to make us  
enjoy our rights  
They'll make it  
They'll make it

You'll make it (twice)  
You'll make it (twice)  
We will make it

*Agbodjan A. Benjamine, WCY Togo*

**Poems****Stand up,  
you black child**

Stand up, you black child  
Have hope. You see  
A new day on the horizon  
And together we will harvest  
The fruits of our ancestral land

Stand up, you black child  
You know  
You know our hope  
The cares of our dreams  
Will be fulfilled

Stand up, you black child  
Stand up for your rights  
Stand up you miserable child  
Stand up and get educated  
Stand up, you working child  
Together let us choose  
Our dignity.

*Ayenu Edoh Jephther, WCY Togo*

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of AWCY of Mali and at Enda TM Mali  
Email : [cnajejtm@yahoo.fr](mailto:cnajejtm@yahoo.fr)  
[enda-mali@cefib.com](mailto:enda-mali@cefib.com)

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**Written by**

Joaquim Marcos Simao de Sousa from Angola  
Xavier Sylvain Aide from Benin  
Simboro Seydou from Burkina Faso  
Kadiatou Diallo from Guinea

Isaak Traoré from Mali  
Maaloum Dieng from Mauritania  
Salamatou Amani from Niger  
Bassirou Diallo from Senegal

**Illustrations (cover & intérieur)**  
Gildo Fernandes, Simboro Seydou  
Joaquim Marcos Simao de Sousa  
Hatungimana Fabrice

Nsengumuremyi Omar Tony, Isaak Traoré

**Photo credit (cover & intérieur)**  
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proof reading: Romaine Dieng

**Editorial Assistance**

Elhadj M. S. Sarr, Fabrizio Terenzio  
**Distribution:** Enda tm Adressothèque

**AMWCY Communication Group**

**ENDA Tiers Monde Jeunesse Action**  
BP 3370 Dakar, Sénégal - Tel. : (221) 33 821 21 13 / 33 889 34 20  
Fax : (221) 33 823 51 57 - E-mail : [jeuda@enda.sn](mailto:jeuda@enda.sn)  
Site Internet : <http://www.enda.sn/eja>

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# Africa and Indian Ocean

## Associations of Working Children and Youth, members and their Supporting Structures

### ■ ANGOLA

**AEJT Luanda**  
BAIRO MARIQUES DE KIFANGONDO  
RUA 14, CASA 47, Luanda - Angola  
Tél : (244) 92 34 09 421 / 91 24 79 412  
E-mail : blanchemanche@snet.co.ao  
Joaquimmarcos03@yahoo.com.br  
inafeliciano@yahoo.com.br

### ■ BENIN

**AEJT Abomey**  
S/c GRADH-ONG, BP 2088 Abomey  
Tél : (229) 95 49 26 33 / 95 35 46 09 / 95 28 95 89  
E-mail : aejtabome2008@yahoo.fr  
tovalcy2001@yahoo.fr, gradh1998@yahoo.fr  
**AEJT Agbangnizoum / AEJT Aguégué / AEJT Kpomasse**, BP 2088 GoHo Abomey  
Tél : (229) 95 81 35 68 / 97 47 32 30  
E-mail : aejtbenin@yahoo.fr  
gcombenin@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Bohicon

S/c VINANGNI-NOUDE ONG  
BP 2088 GoHo Abomey  
Tél : (229) 95 81 35 68 / 93 05 36 62  
E-mail : aejtbohicons@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Comé

S/c APRETECTRA  
BP 04 Comé / BP 18 Comé Mono  
Tél : (229) 95 95 07 38 / 95 45 06 98  
E-mail : aejtcome@yahoo.fr, amèteperoul@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Cotonou

S/c Vi NANVO, 01BP 3622 Cotonou  
Tél : (229) 95 42 24 44 / 90 93 10 84  
E-mails : aejtcotonou@yahoo.fr  
V-ssos2005@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Cové

S/c UPAGE - ONG, BP 77 Cové  
Tél : (229) 90 92 04 10 / 93 99 73 43  
E-mail : upage2001@yahoo.fr  
aejtcove2008@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Kandi

S/c Secours Social, Siège non loin de l'Eglise Catholique, Quartier Kéféri, BP 61 Kandi  
Tél : (229) 95 28 05 58 / 93 20 99 21  
E-mail : secoursocial@yahoo.fr  
aejtkandi@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Lokossa

S/c GRAGH ONG, 07 BP 690 Cotonou  
Tél : (229) 90 90 28 87 / 93 43 34 95  
E-mail : quenpacasi@yahoo.fr  
aejt\_lokossa@yahoo.fr  
amouzou0072000@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Misserete

Association des Femmes Amies (AFA)  
BP 190 Womey  
Tél : (229) 97 58 82 66 / 90 14 67 23  
E-mail : aejtmis@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Ouidah

S/c GRADEP, 01 BP 2167 Cotonou  
Tél : (229) 97 47 32 30 / 95 57 59 93 / 21 32 57 42 / 95 28 95 43  
E-mail : aejtouidah@yahoo.fr  
Gradepong2000@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Parakou

BP 427 Parakou, Tél : (229) 95 28 95 43  
E-mail : ajforce2006@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Porto-Novo

S/c CAEB, 01 BP 1484 Porto-Novo  
Tél : (229) 21 21 38 60 / 97 89 65 50  
E-mail : ajdohopin@yahoo.fr, caeb@leland.bj

### AEJT Lac

S/c Association Sonagnon,  
BP 794 Abomey-Calavi  
Tél : (229) 97 63 15 38 / 95 45 37 47 / 97 23 55 80 / 95 96 03 57  
E-mail : Nokoue06@yahoo.fr  
bonoubernadin@yahoo.fr, aejtlac@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Zinvié

S/c SED-ADO ONG,  
BP 1925 Abomey-Calavi  
Tél : (229) 97 68 91 34 / 95 45 65 08  
E-mail : aejtzinv2003@yahoo.fr  
ahedwi@yahoo.fr, sedado2000@yahoo.fr

### ■ BURKINA FASO

**AEJT Banfora**  
S/c de Service social communal, BP 113  
Tél : (226) 70 01 24 07  
E-mail : aejtbanfora@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Bobo Dioulasso

S/c M Hema François, BP 268 Bobo Dioulasso  
Tél : (226) 70 38 43 54  
E-mail : aejtbobodioulasso@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Boussé

BP 10 Boussé  
Tél : (226) 70 16 59 47 / 76 18 05 66  
E-mail : ejtbsse@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Dori

S/c DP Action Sociale, BP 31  
Tél : (226) 70 38 43 55 / 40 46 02 03  
E-mail : aejtdori@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Fada Ngourma

S/c DP Action Sociale, BP 156 Fada  
Tél : (226) 70 38 43 56 / 40 77 00 64  
E-mail : aejtfada2004@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Gaoua

S/c DP Action sociale, BP 02 , BP 31 EPE  
Tél : (226) 70 38 43 57 / 20 90 01 15  
E-mail : aejtgaoua@yahoo.fr  
sinareprospere@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Kaya

S/c DPASSN Kaya  
Tél : (226) 70 38 43 58 / 40 45 08 13  
E-mail : aejtkaya@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Koloko

S/C de l'Action Sociale de Orodara, BP 21  
Tél : (226) 70 05 83 71 / 76 13 52 77  
E-mail : aejtkoloko@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Koudougou

S/c DPASSN de Boulkemdé - BP 288  
Tél : (226) 70 38 43 59  
E-mail : aejtkdgou@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Koupela

S/c Association Lagm-zoodo - BP 47  
Tél : (226) 70 38 43 60 / 40 70 03 01  
E-mail : aejtkoupela@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Orodara

S/c de l'Action Sociale d'Orodara - BP 21  
Tél : (221) 70 38 43 61 / 20 99 51 68  
E-mail : Alidou120@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Ouagadougou

07 BP 5383 Ouaga 07  
Tél : (226) 50 30 51 12 / 70 06 07 64  
AEMO Ouagadougou - BP 515  
E-mails : aejtououaga2007@gmail.com

### AEJT Tougan

S/c Pharmacie lafiasso - BP 122 Tougan  
Tél : (226) 70 38 43 63  
E-mail : aejttouga@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Yaba (Toma)

S/c d'AJDY, BP 125  
Tél : (226) 70 06 07 63  
E-mail : Ajdy2@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Ziniaré

S/c de l'Action Sociale - BP 489  
Tél : (226) 70 06 07 65 / 50 30 88 43  
E-mail : aejtziniare@yahoo.fr

### ■ BURUNDI

**AEJT Bujumbura**  
S/c Kamenge Kigobe OPDE,  
BP 5777 Bujumbura, Tél : (257) 79 99 09 92  
E-mail : aejtburubu@yahoo.fr  
athanase1980@yahoo.fr

### ■ CAMEROON

**AEJT Yaoundé**  
Entraide Maternelle Infantile du Cameroun (EMICAM), BP 20 312 Yaoundé  
Tél : (237) 550 23 30 / 7961 99 54  
E-mails : ong\_emicam@yahoo.fr  
cevap02@yahoo.fr

### ■ Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

**AEJT Kinshasa**  
S/c GRAMID, Bakali N° 13, Lemba Super  
Tél : (243) 99 99 24 905 / 85 44 80 345  
Email : gramid2002@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Bukavu

S/c PEDER - BP 02 Cyanguu / Bukavu  
Tél : (243) 99 80 90 113  
E-mail : tdaquinrubambura@yahoo.fr  
aejtbkvrde@yahoo.fr, pderbkv@yahoo.fr

### ■ CÔTE D'IVOIRE

**AEJT Abidjan**  
BICE Abidjan, BP 1721 Abidjan 01  
Tél : (225) 2037 41 42  
E-mails : coordinationaejtci@yahoo.fr  
aejtbidjan@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Aboisso

BP 174 Aboisso, Tél : (225) 04 19 88 15 / 01 84 15 75 / 21 30 40 43  
E-mail : aejtaboisso@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Bonoua

BP 89 Grand Bassam  
Tél : (225) 66 44 97 93 / 21 30 11 91  
E-mail : aejtbonou112@yahoo.fr  
frankelvis2006@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Bouaké

S/c JEKAWILI - 01 BP 89 Grand Bassam  
E-mails : jekawili15@yahoo.fr  
natdena2005@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Grand Bassam

BP 89 Grand Bassam  
Tél : (225) 21 30 11 91 / 07 41 40 31 / 08 18 34 87  
E-mails : aejt\_grand-bassam@yahoo.fr  
conemory@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Korhogo

ANAED , BP 719 Korhogo  
Tél : (225) 36 86 27 45  
E-mails : aejtkgo\_ci@yahoo.fr  
natha\_coul@yahoo.fr

### ■ ETHIOPIA

**AEJT Ethiopie, addis ababa**  
S/c Multi-Purpose Community Development Project (MCDP)  
P O Box 26456, Addis Ababa Ethiopia  
Tél : (251) - 11- 276 59 95 / 11 - 278 35 03  
E-mails : mcdp@telecom.net.et  
misikir123@yahoo.com

### ■ THE GAMBIA

#### AEJT Barra

S/c Sajuka Working Children and Youth,  
Barra village, North Bank Division  
P.o Box 1304  
Tél : (220) 57 10 303 / 74 47 684 / 79 18 404  
E-mail : swcyg2000@yahoo.co.uk  
ndeycham@yahoo.co.uk

### ■ GUINEA BISSAU

#### AEJT Bissau

Chao de Papel-varela (Campo Fonçado)  
comene tamente no REJE Bissau  
Tél : (245) 72 11 212 / 66 44 931 / 66 72 782 / 67 58 977

E-mail : ejtbissau@hotmail.com  
redejoved@hotmail.com  
ruatianica@yahoo.com.br

#### AEJT Canchungo (AMIC Canchungo)

AMIC Alternag  
CP 882 Bissau

#### AEJT Mansoa (AMIC Mansoa)

AMIC Alternag  
CP 882 Bissau

### ■ GUINEA CONAKRY

**Coordination Nationale des AEJT de Guinée**

#### AEJT Conakry

s/c Djigui Guinée Conakry, 050  
Commandaya  
050 BP 238 Conakry  
Tél : (224) 64 07 62 07  
E-mails : cn\_aejtguinée@hotmail.com  
t.toukara@yahoo.fr  
hamadabakaye@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Coyah

s/c C.E.T.A. Coyah , BP 20 Coyah  
E-mail : aejtcoya@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Dubréka

s/c Djigui Guinée, 050 BP 238 Conakry  
E-mail : cn\_aejtguinée@hotmail.com

#### AEJT Faranah

050 BP 238  
Tél : (224) 60 40 11 18  
E-mail : toukntambake@gmail.com  
cn\_aejtguinée@hotmail.com

#### AEJT Forekiah

s/c Djigui Guinée, 050 BP 238 Conakry  
Tél : (224) 60 40 11 18  
E-mail : toukntambake@gmail.com  
cn\_aejtguinée@hotmail.com

#### AEJT de Kindia

s/c Direction Préfectorale de l'Education  
BP 4975 Conakry  
E-mail : aejtkind@yahoo.fr  
cn\_aejtguinée@hotmail.com

#### AEJT Kissidougou

s/c Toukara Tambaké  
E-mail : toukntambake@hotmail.com

#### AEJT Mamou

s/c Club des Amis du Monde  
BP 110 Mamou  
E-mail : csaran1987@yahoo.fr  
clubamisdumonde@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Nzérékoré

s/c Djigui Guinée  
050 BP 238 Conakry  
E-mail : cn\_aejtguinée@hotmail.com

### ■ MADAGASCAR

**AEJT Antananarivo**  
Intermédiaire ENDAOI  
44 rue Rainandriamampandry Ambodrona  
Antananarivo  
MADAGASIKARA  
E-mail : endaoui@simiro.mg

### ■ MALI

#### AEJT Bamako

s/c Enda Mali, BP 3123 Bamako  
Tél : (223) 222 55 64  
E-mails : cnaejtml@yahoo.fr  
maigala1988@yahoo.fr  
isaaktraore@yahoo.fr  
enda-mali@ceffib.com

#### AEJT Gao (JEKAWILI)

S/C Amade-Pelcode,  
Tél : (223) 617 71 58  
E-mail : aejtgaoo@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Kayes

s/c Enda Kayes, BP 3123  
Tél : (223) 252 35 54, Cel : (223) 635 52 57  
E-mail : aejtk@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Koulikoro

s/c Association d'Appui à la Jeunesse  
Déshéritée AAJD/DRAS  
BP 07 Koulikoro  
Tél : (223) 226 23 80  
E-mail : aejtkoulikoro@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Mopti

s/c Enda Mopti, BP 217 Mopti  
Tél : (223) 430 899  
Cel : 672 64 43  
E-mail : aejtmopti@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Ségou

s/c Mali Enjeu, BP 373 Ségou  
Tél : (223) 320 676  
Cel : (2203) 676 13 96  
E-mail : aejtsego@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Sikasso

Direction Régionale de l'Action Sociale  
BP 359 Sikasso  
Tél : (223) 262 00 08  
E-mails : aejtsika@yahoo.fr  
yayaberthe@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Tombouctou

S/c AEDT, BP 3123  
Tél : (223) 603 93 47 / 915 93 95

### ■ MAURITANIA

#### AEJT Nouakchott

La Coordination des Projets Urbains de  
Caritas Mauritanie  
BP 115 Nouakchott  
Tél : (222) 64 19 088 / 64 37 538  
E-mails : cpu@caritas.mr  
aejtnou@yahoo.fr  
caritas@mauritel.mr

#### AEJT Rosso

Médina II Rosso  
Contacts : Maaloum Dieng, Abib Gaye  
Tél : (222) 77 58 243 / 64 64 107  
E-mail : badou2100@yahoo.fr  
benbib2010@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Kaédi

Contacts : Mariam Diagne, Souleymane Lô,  
Moussa Coulibaly  
Tél : (222) 67 40 377  
E-mail : aekt-doubé@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Boghé

Médina II Rosso  
Contacts : Maaloum Dieng, Abib Gaye  
Tél : (222) 77 58 243 / 64 64 107  
E-mail : badou2100@yahoo.fr  
benbib2010@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Nouadhibou

Médina II Rosso  
Contacts : Maaloum Dieng, Abib Gaye  
Tél : (222) 77 58 243 / 64 64 107  
E-mail : badou2100@yahoo.fr  
benbib2010@yahoo.fr

### ■ NIGER

#### AEJT Niamey

S/c Caritas Développement Niger, Bureau  
Diocésain de Niamey, BP : 2381 Niamey  
Tél : (227) 20 73 82 02 / 96 89 00 23  
E-mails : ammani\_2006@yahoo.fr  
Balkissam2006@yahoo.fr  
a\_polio@intnet.ne  
anabissoufou@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Dosso

S/c Caritas Développement Niger, Bureau  
Diocésain de Niamey, BP : 2381 Niamey  
Contacts : Rabi Bouréma, Idé Adamou  
Tél : (227) 96 52 60 46 / 96 51 13 84

#### AEJT Gaya

S/c Caritas Développement Niger, Bureau  
Diocésain de Niamey, BP : 2381 Niamey  
Contacts : Adamou Yarima, Mohamadou  
Abdoulay, Zaminou Canni  
Tél : (227) 96 52 60 46 / 96 51 13 84



## Associations of Working Children and Youth, members and their Supporting Structures

### AEJT Makalondi

S/c Caritas Développement Niger, Bureau Diocésain de Niamey, BP : 2381 Niamey  
 Contacts : Yalima Terigaba, Soirée Godiba, Jean Luc Zempo, Madina Hama  
 Tél : (227) 96 17 89 97 / 96 76 68 06 / 96 96 65 77 / 96 25 29 57

### ■ NIGERIA

#### AEJT Badagry Owode

Nigeria Network of NGOs  
 25, Ogunlana Drive, Surulere, Lagos,  
 Tel: Kunle: 0803 348 3421, Seyi: 0802 836 7748, Oyin: 0802 896 9460  
 E-mail: nngo@nngo.org  
 Internet : www.nngo.org

### ■ RWANDA

#### AEJT Butaré

S/c projet Abadacogora et Intwari, Bureau Social Urbain - Caritas Diocésaine - BP 1277 Kigali Rwanda  
 Tél : (250) 08 49 16 27 / 08 53 39 44 / 08 47 78 34 - Fax : (250) 82 323  
 E-mail : aejtbutare@yahoo.fr  
 opdrwanda@hotmail.com

#### AEJT Kigali

s/c Projet Abadacogora et Intwari, Bureau Social Urbain-Caritas Diocésaine  
 BP : 1277 Kigali Rwanda  
 Tél. : (250) 08 43 19 66 / 08 85 36 15  
 Fax : (250) 82 323  
 E-mails : aejtrda@yahoo.com  
 nyirambonigaba@yahoo.com  
 omaritony@yahoo.com

#### AEJT Rusizi Cyangugu

s/c Projet Abadacogora et Intwari, Bureau Social Urbain-Caritas Diocésaine

### ■ SENEGAL

**Coordination Nationale des AEJT du Sénégal** - Tél : (221) 77 513 98 32  
 E-mail : cnaejtsn@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Dakar

S/c Enda TM Jeunesse Action Guédiawaye - BP 3370 Dakar  
 Tél. : (221) 33 837 42 88 / 77 424 81 82 / 77 317 99 94 - Fax : (221) 33 823 51 57  
 E-mails : aejtdaka@yahoo.fr  
 jeuda-gw@enda.sn

#### AEJT Fatick

s/c FEE Fatick, BP 102 Logandeme Fatick  
 Tél. : (221) 33 949 17 65  
 E-mails : aejtfati@yahoo.fr, fkfee@sentoosn

#### AEJT Kaolack

s/c Réseau des Jeunes Filles Leaders de Kaolack, CDEPS Kaolack  
 Tél. : (221) 33 941 28 89  
 E-mail : aejtk@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Kolda

BP 169 Kolda  
 Tél : (221) 33 996 14 85 / 77 41 40 431  
 Fax : (221) 33 996 17 55  
 E-mail : aejtkolda@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Louga

CEDEPS Louga / AEMO Louga  
 Tél. : (221) 77 656 27 09  
 E-mail : aejtlouga@yahoo.fr  
 palydia@caramail.com

#### AEJT Saint Louis

Clairenfance Saint Louis  
 BP 5360 Saint Louis  
 Tél. : (221) 33 961 28 49  
 Fax : (221) 33 961 24 08  
 E-mails : aejtsain@yahoo.fr  
 clairenfance@orange.sn

### AEJT Tambacounda

Benka Wuli, BP 434 Tambacounda  
 Tél. : (221) 33 981 52 82  
 Fax : (221) 33 937 80 28  
 E-mails : aejttamb@yahoo.fr  
 oumoubane@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Thiès

Doomi Nepp, BP 198A Thiès  
 Tél. : (221) 33 951 35 64 / 76 633 03 18  
 E-mails : aejthies@yahoo.fr  
 wbintasow@yahoo.fr,  
 emaciss@hotmail.com

#### AEJT Ziguinchor

Enda ACAS, BP 224 Ziguinchor  
 Tél. : (221) 33 991 14 07  
 Fax : (221) 33 991 24 94  
 E-mails : aejtzigu@yahoo.fr, jaz@enda.sn

### ■ CHAD

#### AEJT Njamena

S/C Edouard, BP 1041 Njamena  
 Tél (235) 66 11 270 / 63 28 540 / 64 02 936  
 E-mail : djekya@yahoo.fr  
 ndileloizi@yahoo.fr

### ■ TOGO

#### AEJT Agadji

S/C Wao Afrique - BP 80 242 Lomé  
 Tél. : (228) 930 76 24 / 225 89 90 / 914 09 60  
 E-mail : aejttagadji@yahoo.fr  
 maejtbenjaminisse@yahoo.fr  
 eli\_doute@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Adomi-Abra (Badou)

S/C Wao Afrique - BP 80 242 Lomé  
 Tél : (228) 930 76 24 / 648 71 24 / 984 54 91 / 914 09 60  
 E-mail : bossiade200@yahoo.fr

benrubien07b73@gmail.com  
 wao.afrique@bibway.com  
 eli\_doute@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Lomé

s/c WAO Afrique - BP 80242 Lomé  
 Tél. : (228) 930 76 24 / 914 09 60 / 994 31 56 / 984 54 91 / 225 89 90  
 Fax : (228) 21 73 45  
 E-mails : benrubien07b73@gmail.com  
 maejt\_aejtlome@yahoo.fr  
 wao.afrique@bibway.com  
 eli\_doute@yahoo.fr

### AEJT Kpalimé Wome

S/c WAO Afrique - BP 80242 Lomé  
 Contacts : N'nakpo Akpéné, Douté A. Delali  
 Tél : (228) 984 54 91 / 914 09 60 / 225 89 90  
 E-mails : aejt01togo@yahoo.fr  
 eli\_doute@yahoo.fr  
 maejtbenjaminisse@yahoo.fr

### ■ ZIMBABWE

#### AEJT Harare

s/c Save the Children Norway  
 P.O Box 4581 Harare Zimbabwe  
 184 Five Avenue Harare  
 Tel: (263) 47 21 541 / 47 32 517 / 47 21 626  
 Telefax: (263) 47 96 535  
 E-mail : regional.projects@reddbarna.org.zw  
 jeremiah.chinodya@reddbarna.org.zw

#### AEJT Manicaland /

#### AEJT Midmatma /

#### AEJT Midilands

s/c Save the Children Norway  
 P.O Box 4581 Harare Zimbabwe

## Associations of Working Children and Youths (AWCY) not yet members and their Supporting Structures

### ■ BURUNDI

#### AEJT Bubanza

S/c Musaga OPDE, BP 4260 Bubanza  
 Tél : (257) 79 90 93 53  
 E-mail : athanase1980@yahoo.fr

### ■ BURKINA FASO

#### AEJT Batié

S/c Action Sociale Batié, BP 72, M Mandine  
 E-mail : (226) 76 04 15 98 / 20 90 40 18

#### AEJT Boromo S/c Action Sociale

#### AEJT Ouahigouya

S/c REPROSO, Ouahigouya BP11

#### AEJT Ouargaye

S/c M Simporté DPASSN  
 Tél : 70 65 35 37

#### AEJT Tenkodogo S/c Action Sociale

### ■ CAMEROON

**AEJT Akonolinga / AEJT Okola / AEJT Saa**  
 S/c Entraide Maternelle Infantile du Cameroun (EMICAM), BP 20 312 Yaoundé

### ■ CÔTE D'IVOIRE

**AEJT Adiaké / AEJT Ferkesedougou / AEJT Toumodi**  
 S/c BICE Abidjan, BP 1721 Abidjan 01

### ■ GUINEA CONAKRY

**AEJT Labé / AEJT Fria**  
 S/c Djigui Guinée  
 050 BP 238 Conakry

### ■ GUINEA BISSAU

#### AEJT Bafata

Chao de Papel-varela (Campo Fonçado) comene tamente no REJE Bissau

### ■ MALI

**AEJT Bougoumi / AEJT Kita**  
 s/c Enda Mali, BP 3123 Bamako,  
 Tél : (223) 222 55 64

### ■ SENEGAL

#### AEJT Nioro

s/c Réseau des Jeunes Filles Leaders de Kaolack, CDEPS Kaolack

### ■ TOGO

#### AEJT Kouma

Contacts : Fagbedzi K. Benjamin, Douté A. Delali  
 Tél : (228) 984 54 91 / 930 76 24  
 E-mails : aejt01togo@yahoo.fr  
 Benson\_or@yahoo.fr

#### AEJT Danyi / AEJT Agou / AEJT Kévé

s/c WAO Afrique - BP 80242 Lomé

### ■ ZIMBABWE

**AEJT Chinhoyi / AEJT Zvishavane**  
 s/c Save the Children Norway  
 P.O Box 4581 Harare Zimbabwe

Associations of Working Children Youths in contact with the AMWCY and their Supporting Structures

### ■ GHANA

#### Ville d'Accra

Street Academy  
 P. O. Box 175 sport stadium Accra  
 Tél : (223) 0 21 67 40 40  
 Cel Ataa Lartey (223) 02 77 85 61 31  
 E-mail : staccra@yahoo.com

### ■ KENYA

#### Ville de Nairobi

UNDUGU Society of Kenya  
 P. O. Box 40417 Nairobi -  
 Tél. : (2542) 535992/85/86/44 Fax : (2542) 545888  
 E-mail : undugu@insightkenya.com

### ■ SIERRA LEONE

S/c Plan Sierra Leone, 6 Cantonment Road Off King Harman Road Freetown  
 Tel: +(232)-(22)-242067/241405  
 Mobile: +(232)-(76)971426  
 Fax: +(232)-(22)240942  
 E-mail : Sierra-Leone.CO@plan-international.org

## Latin America

### Organization of Working Children and Youths and their Supporting Structures

### ■ PARAGUAY

#### Callescuela

Dr. Sosa 436 Zona sur Fernando dela Mora  
 Cc: 2355 Asuncion, Paraguay  
 Tél : 59521 - 507 477 - Fax : 59521 - 525 069  
 E-mail : callescuela@sce.cnc.una.py  
 Contact : Jara Antonio

### ■ PERU

**Movimiento Nacional de Niños y Adolescentes Trabajadores Organizados del Perú - MNNATSOP**  
 Enrique del Villar 967 San Juan De Miraflores - Lima  
 Tél : 2765206  
 Fax : 51 12 - 76 52 06  
 E-mail : mnnatsop.peru@terra.com.pe  
 Internet : http://www.mnnatsop.org

### ■ VENEZUELA

**Movimiento Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes Trabajadores - MOLACNATS-SECRETARIADO LATINOAMERICANO**  
 El Cercado, carrera 8 entre 1y2 Sector Lomas Verdes, Quinta Betania, Barquisimeto, Lara Venezuela.  
 Tél : 0058#4162556145  
 E-mail : molacnatsecretariado@hotmail.com

## Asia (India)

Organization of Working Children and Youths and their Supporting structures

### Bal Mazdoor

Butterflies U4, 1st Floor, Green Park Extension  
 New Delhi-110016- India  
 Tél : 91-11-26163935 /26191063  
 Fax : 26196117  
 E-mail : butterflies@vsnl.com  
 Web : butterflieschildrights.org

### Bhima Sangha

Concerned for Working Children (CWC)  
 303/2, L.B. Shastri Nagar  
 Vimanapura Post Bangalore 560017  
 Tél : 9180 - 25234258, 25234270, 25234611  
 Fax : 9180 - 523 4258  
 E-mail : cwcbblr@vsnl.com  
 Website: www.workingchild.org