

CIRCLE in Africa

May 17, 2006

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Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to share and exchange information on the CIRCLE projects with the community-based NGO partners in each region. NGOs are encouraged to send feedback, lessons learned, and special events or any positive changes in their countries that involve reduction of child labor through education. The newsletter is also a resource for regional child labor and trafficking prevention information. The Newsletters for each region are posted on the CIRCLE website.

US DOL Africa Regional Grantee Workshop Held in Accra

Under the overarching theme of Sustainability, the Department of Labor (DOL) International Child Labor Program (ICLP) held a regional workshop in Accra, Ghana, April 2-6, that brought together their international grantee partners on DOL Child Labor and Education projects from all over sub-Saharan Africa. Over 50 participants, many from ILO/IPEC, attended and presented project approaches that focused on sustainability, mainstreaming child labor into education policies and national action plans, child labor monitoring systems, advocacy, mobilization of resources, lessons learned and good practices.

Project Director, Vicki Walker and Africa Regional Manager Kadiatou Cissé attended the workshop and gave presentations on how local actors can influence policy. The presentations were part of the sessions

on "Promoting Local Government and Community Action against Child Labor" and a Round Robin discussion on "Trafficking Prevention" as applied to the West Africa region (in partnership with CARE USA).

Considerable interest was expressed to follow up on this discussion with a forum to map and exchange information about trafficking and anti-child labor projects in the West Africa region. This forum

could include various donors, international and community based NGOs. The CIRCLE newsletter will reserve a West Africa Trafficking Prevention Corner to disseminate relevant information to other organizations in this area.

The workshop was a good opportunity to exchange the experiences of regional projects and direct implementation projects across the continent.

Participants at the DOL workshop in Accra



FROM THE FIELD

CIRCLE staff visits Sierra Leone

Deputy Regional Manager Saskia Brand visited CIRCLE country Sierra Leone at the end of March. The main purpose of the visit was to facilitate the selection process of the Round 2 Sierra Leone project proposals, focusing on the elimination of child trafficking. The CIRCLE team received twenty-two proposals in all, of which four were to be selected for funding.

The selection committee had a

hard time choosing between the many innovative, well developed proposals, but at the end of the three days came up with their ranking. We are currently waiting for the final decision of our donor, US-DOL, before we can announce the new awardees.

Saskia took advantage of the visit to meet with the staff of two Round 1 partner NGOs: the Agricultural Production Extension and Services

(APEGS), who is implementing a project in Hastings village near Freetown, and the Congregation of Christian Brothers (CCB), who works with child beggars in Freetown and Bo. Both are doing an impressive job, while each facing their own challenges.

Begging being one of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, CCB faces the difficulty of hav-

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CIRCLE Projects & Local Policy

How local NGOs and Local Actors Affect Local Policies in Kenya and Mali

One of the objectives of the CIRCLE project is community ownership. Sustainability of child labor programs can only be achieved when local actors— children, men and women, school authorities, local leaders— come together and set up systems that will serve the community in the long term. Combating child labor and child trafficking through education needs to be a community-led process.

CIRCLE NGO partners have been successful in engaging local actors in education and child labor issues through advocacy, awareness raising, and dialogue with local leaders and school authorities. The *African Network for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect* (ANPPCAN) in Kenya has set up Child Help Desks. In rural Malindi ANPPCAN has undertaken local advocacy training; members of the District Level Child Labor Committee have been real agents of change. In Goshi one of the DLCL members was able to identify nine girls who had dropped out of school due to unwanted pregnancies, and three trafficked boys, and helped them to enroll in school. Improved capacity building and local advocacy for affirmative action are the result. This very community raised about 1.3 million Kenyan shilling through a community fundraising effort to support 100 students who will

now be able to attend secondary school.

The *Association Malienne d'Initiative et d'actions pour le Développement* (AID-Mali) brought together 26 villages around a community training center project. The training center was originally built through the CLASSE * pilot project for the village of Fachoribougou. After several meetings facilitated by AID Mali, and following the set up of the Consultation Framework, the 26 villages of the Commune of Kaboila decided to turn the center into a Community Training Center. With the joint support of the Mayor's office and the Commune, funds will be leveraged in order to set up a training program for these rural children. A budget and program have been drafted and community members are now preparing to look for sponsors outside the community.

The Malian NGO *Environnement et Developpement au Tiers Monde* (ENDA) is implementing a year's education support project involving 5 community schools and 10 functional literacy centers. ENDA has supported these learning centers with equipment, teacher salaries, the provision of school supplies and awareness raising activities.



Local authorities, men & women from the commune of Kaboila (Mali) attending a meeting



Child Help Desk in Kenya Supported by ANPPCAN

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FROM THE FIELD

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The RSC meeting

ing to withdraw the children completely in a sustainable way. This means that the children's incomes somehow need to be replaced. Through strong community support they have managed to initiate some income generating activities with the –usually blind- parents.

APEGs, among other things, is rebuilding a vocational school that was destroyed during the war. To increase sustainability and ownership, the construction work is being carried out by local craftsmen. The major challenge for this NGO has been to ensure maximum community participation, while maintaining quality and respecting the time schedule. The project is nearing completion and the Hastings community can look forward to start using the new three classroom multi-purpose school building!

Child Labor News

EU: Strategies to prevent trafficking in women and children

Trafficking in women and children is a growing worldwide problem which needs to be tackled on a global, EU and national level. The European Parliament adopted a report with 622 votes in favour, 12 against and 19 abstentions, proposing strategies to tackle this dreadful problem, including measures to deal with the supply and demand sides as well as the traffickers. The report calls on the Member States, especially Germany,

to take appropriate measures in the course of the World Cup football tournament in 2006 to prevent trafficking of women and forced prostitution. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to this modern form of slavery. Of the estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children trafficked across international borders each year, approximately 80 percent are women and girls and up to 50 percent are minors*. Over 100,000 women are the victims of trafficking in the EU.

The European Parliament calls on the Member States to enforce the law and strengthen the prosecution and punishment of traffickers, accomplices, persons seeking sexual services from minors and to prosecute the laundering of the proceeds of trafficking.

* According to the 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report by the US Department of State office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.
<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/>

CIRCLE:
*Community-based
Innovations to
Reduce
Child
Labor through
Education*

CIRCLE NGOS AT WORK

Enrolling girls in a remote Senegalese village

Women's Health Education and Prevention Alliance (WHEPSA) is a Senegalese NGO based in Kaolack. Under the CIRCLE project subcontract, the organization is implementing the 1,000 Girls Program, aiming at recruiting girls that had dropped out of school or had never been to school.

The WHEPSA project director reports: "A call came late one evening. 'Auntie, could you come to my village. We want you to recruit girls for your program'. This appeal was coming from one of the WHEPSA's initial Entrepreneurial Support Program participants, who had stayed with us two years. The village of Kayemor was located on the other side of the Bao Balong - a particular vehement river that overflows its banks in the rainy season - close to the Gambian border. I had just repaired the van, and the mechanic had warned me to stay on paved roads until after the rainy season. I replied hesitantly, 'What do you want me to do Honey?' 'Auntie', she said, 'most girls in our area do not succeed in school. We need some success stories to get the parents to believe that education for girls is important.' "



Primary school children enrolled by WHEPSA

In spite of the difficult access, the WHEPSA staff went to visit the village. This visit has had its impact. 45 new girls were recruited and enrolled in the program. They also started an after school program for 27 of the older girls presently enrolled. One of the primary school teachers volunteered to teach the girls after school, thus ensuring their success, and convincing their parents to allow them to attend these classes.

The village is now very supportive of the school. But, there are 5 students to a bench built for two. The black boards are presently non existent. What if more girls want to attend?

*Partners are invited
to share their
experiences in this
newsletter. Please
send your
contribution to
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An estimated 220 million children around the world are caught up in work situations that put their lives at risk, violate international core labor standards, and negatively impact their futures. Providing viable economic and social alternatives as well as unbiased information for informed decision-making will lead to behavioral change that reduces the numbers of children working in harmful conditions and increases educational alternatives and school retention. CIRCLE aims to identify and promote replicable, community-based educational innovations that successfully address the prevention or reduction of child labor and to document their Best Practices.



Putting Ideas to Work

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ENDA's efforts have lead a community to shift from enrolment every two years to an annual enrolment schedule. Children of 6 and 7 years do not have to wait any more to turn 8 or 9 to have access to school. Annual enrolment is now the policy.

Child from WHEPSA's 1000 Girls program
(Senegal)



Child Labor Links

The CIRCLE web site: <http://circle.winrock.org> US DOL'S 2004 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (published November 2005). You can search for individual country reports. <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/iclp/tda2004/overview.htm>

ILO-IPEC's Child Labour Monitoring Kit and Other CLMS Materials <http://www.ilo.org/iloroot/public/english/standards/ipecc/doc-list.cfm?requesttimeout=500>

New!! ILO-IPEC's 2006 Global Report on Child Labour "[The End of Child Labour: Within Reach](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/about/globalreport/2006/index.htm)" Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/about/globalreport/2006/index.htm>