

CIRCLE in Africa

October 20th 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.

CIRCLE supports eight new projects in Africa

THE CIRCLE PROJECT LAUNCHED its 3rd Request For Proposals last period. For this third round of solicitations 8 organizations were selected among more than 100 proposals received: (1) Réseau d'Appui et de Conseils aux Artisans, (2) Association Jeunesse Action Mali, both in Mali; (3) Students for Rural Youth in Development in Malawi; (4) Association of Media Women in Kenya; and (5) African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect in Ghana. In Sierra Leone three organizations were selected focusing specifically on child trafficking issues: (1) Agricultural Production Extension and General Services; (2) Community Action for Rural Development; and (3) Rehabilitation and Development Agency in Sierra Leone.

In May and June the CIRCLE project organized an orientation meeting for these organizations in order to provide them with management and monitoring tools for their projects. For four days, the NGOs had the opportunity to share

their project with one another, and also to discuss essential matters relevant to the effective management of the projects. Topics included: Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical reporting, Financial reporting, Sustainability and Best practices.

One theme of the projects is the prevention of child trafficking through educating and informing communities and law enforcement agents, while simultaneously encouraging

children to enroll in education programs. Other projects will focus on working children in the gold mining and handicrafts sectors to attempt to remove these children from labor, while enhancing their capacities and skills through formal or non formal education. Communication, awareness raising and community mobilization will be the focus of organizations in the fishing industries and tobacco estates.



Participants to the Regional Launch meeting in Bamako, June 2006

FROM THE FIELD

CIRCLE Staff visits projects in Ghana, Malawi, Kenya and Ethiopia



ANPPCAN Ghana intervenes in communities where children are highly involved in blacksmith activities and weaving.

The NGO conducts awareness raising and supports local child labor committees for the enrollment of children in school.



SRDY Club in Malawi seeks to increase school enrollment and retention in Mchinji District, where children engage in tobacco farming. They organize tutorial classes and extra curricular activities, but also introduce innovative agricultural techniques as an alternative to child labor. This picture shows a goat shed for breeding.

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CIRCLE NGOs AT WORK

Functional literacy, an alternative to child labor in the crafts sector - An article by RAC, Mali

Under the subcontract agreement between Réseau d'Appui et de Conseils aux Artisans (RAC) and Winrock for the project entitled: "Education of crafts sector children", about fifty apprentice children from Kayes were identified and enrolled in a formal and informal education training program. The program began on October 1, 2005 in the training center the Crafts Home located in Kayes Plateau, and ended April 30, 2006. Two tests were organized during the training and the results were acceptable in general.

During the period, RAC closely collaborated on the one hand with the parents association, the employers, the "Centre d'Animation Pédagogique (CAP)", and the local authorities (Regional Assembly, Mayor, districts councilors), and on the other hand with NGOs with solid experience in functional literacy such as FANDEEMA.

Concomitantly, the parents monitoring committee was

put into place and trained on the Child Rights Convention, the legislation on child labor and children's right to education. Awareness Campaigns on the worst forms of child labor were organized with posters produced by RAC, targeting crafts associations, schools, local authorities, and partners in non-formal education; videos on the WFCL were also projected.

Besides the 33 children retained at the beginning, the training registered the

effective participation of 46 working children. For this population, RAC sensitized the parents and negotiated with three primary school directors of "Plateau II", "Liberté" and "Lafiabougou South" the transfer of 9 apprentices of school going age between 6 and 9 years old. The parents accepted to send their children to formal school thus sparing them from work and other abuses.

RAC's education project, was characterized by a re-

search action method: a participative approach involving the strong implication of beneficiaries in all steps of the project. During the entire implementation period, the apprentices were freed from all work in the workshop. The classes were scheduled such that the students attended classes three days of the week. Parents and employers were both very supportive of the project.

The story of Mr. Bourama Traoré, an illiterate mechanic, is an interesting example in this respect. Prior to the RAC project, he considered school to be a waste of time. According to him, children ought to receive professional training at

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

FROM THE FIELD

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The Association of Media Women in Kenya has started an awareness raising project on child labor and the importance of education through radio listening sessions. Children and community groups are trained as facilitators of the listening & discussion sessions. In this picture the facilitators receive instructions on how to listen to the tapes.



ADAA in Ethiopia has built five basic education centers in remote villages, where children failed to enroll because of the lack of schools. The centers are now handed over to the community and the government: the former will continue to see to their daily management, and the latter will ensure the teachers' salaries and turn the centers into public schools.

YONECO in Malawi has proposed non formal education to (ex-) child domestic workers and prostitutes. School attendance is monitored daily by five community task forces. This picture shows one of the task forces in front of an income generating initiative funded by the members: the group decided to raise pigs, to make the project more sustainable.



Child Labor News

The good news in ILO/IPEC's latest global report on child labor ("The End of Child Labour: Within Reach"), is that on the global level the incidence of child labor is decreasing. World wide the proportion of child laborers dropped by 11%. Two trends stand out: the percentage of children younger than 15 in hazardous child labor fell by a third, whereas the number of economically active children in Latin America and the Caribbean decreased by two thirds. These figures suggest that the end of child labor could indeed be within reach in the next decade.

The bad news for Africa though, is that it is the only continent on which child labor has actually increased: in 2004 49.3 million children were economically active as opposed to 48 million in 2002. The small proportional decline, from 28.8 to 26.4%, is due only to the extremely high rate of population growth (Africa's population doubles in 25 years). 47 million African children are still out of school and only a third of those who do enroll actually complete primary school. The interrelated causes are poverty, which is still growing -in spite of the economic

progress of some countries-, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the rapid population growth.

To more effectively combat child labor IPEC pleads for comprehensive policies, "that will act as a tipping point towards self-sustaining growth". The organization proposes investment in education and agriculture, global trade discussions, and recognition of the inter-connection between HIV/AIDS and child labor. Fortunately, IPEC also notes that the policy environment is now more conducive to effective action against child labor.



INSIDE CIRCLE INSIGHT CIRCLE INSIDE CIRCLE

Child Labor Monitoring

Child labor monitoring means: verifying and registering the working status of the direct beneficiaries both during and after school hours. Its main purpose is to make sure that children are no longer involved in the WFCL. Many CIRCLE NGOs are practicing Child Labor Monitoring already.

Children involved in WFCL after school or during weekends may not be counted as enrolled. Children involved in light work that does not harm their health and school work may be counted as enrolled. This means that school monitoring is necessary, but not enough! Think of additional strategies to monitor the children out of school. Consider, for instance the following options:

- ◆ Form and train Child Labor Committees (CLCs) at the community level to serve as "watchdogs". If possible and relevant in the context of your project link these to the district and national levels. Build on the civil society focus groups found in almost all villages and communities. Develop a means to watch the children and be aware of their behaviors and activities out of school.
- ◆ Extra-curricular activities are a strategy to provide educational opportunities for the children but also a way to keep track of them before and after school and even on the weekends and keep them busy with positive educational activities.
- ◆ When you conduct awareness raising activities with the community, teachers, employers, local officials, and parents, think of how they can become instrumental in reporting child labor. Once people recognize acceptable and non-acceptable conditions that children are exposed to they can report cases to CLCs or another monitoring structure.

Invest in men and women: men's as well as women's support is essential in monitoring child labor. Make sure that they are both represented in your CLC's and other structures. Encourage them to share the responsibility.

TOOLS you can use to monitor child labor in your project are the Child Labor Survey and the Child Profile provided by Winrock. If you'd like another copy please contact us.

Partners are invited to share their experiences in this newsletter. Please send your contribution to kcisse@winrock-mali.org

CIRCLE Partner AID-Mali Involved in Anti-Trafficking

AID-Mali further builds on experience gained through the CIRCLE project in a new partnership with Save the Children Canada. The project focuses on the Mali-Guinea border zone near Yanfolila. Children are trafficked both ways, and many engage in the dangerous traditional gold mining. The local authorities have, as a result of awareness raising by AID, withdrawn more than 200 children from the mines and now provide them with literacy training.

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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

FUNDING FOR THE CIRCLE PROJECT IS PROVIDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR THROUGH COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS E-9-K-2-0048 AND E-9-K-2-0005

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Functional literacy, an alternative to child labor in the handicrafts (cont'd from page 2)

a very young age, to allow them to care for themselves and their parents. But through RAC's sensitization on the worst forms of child labor, Mr. Traoré, (who recently got selected to teach practical classes in mechanics at the Profession Training Institute in Kayes), was able to understand the importance of education for any person, and especially children. This made him decide to enroll his own child in the functional literacy class. Historically the Traoré family is a very dexterous family of artisans, in which skills were transferred from father to son. The project, however, brought an end to old habits, as Mr. Traoré started to enjoy school, particularly for his children.



The training of artisans on the Child Rights Convention: a way to sensitize on child labor.

Two training sessions were organized by RAC for the members of the parents' and class monitoring committees to sensitize and inform them:

the first on child labor legislation and the second on the Child Rights Convention. The sessions were performed by the Regional Direction for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family. These actions influenced the behaviour and attitudes of parents regarding child labor, and led to the enrolment of 9 children in formal school. After performing a census, RAC/Bamako led a sensitization campaign to bring the parents to take their children to informal school then enrol them in formal school. At first the parents were reluctant and opposed to the idea of sending their children to school or an educational program, but following the initial trainings and the registered success of the children, the parents finally accepted their transfer to formal school. These children benefited from financial support for enrolment. The children have been successful and will all continue to the next grade during the 2006-2007 school year.

Child Labor Links

The CIRCLE web site: <http://circle.winrock.org>

ILO/IPEC report The End of Child Labour Within Reach: www.ilo.org/declaration

ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes): www.ecpat.net