

# CIRCLE in Africa

March 30th 2007

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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 works on Best Practices Volume

Early November the entire global CIRCLE team met in Washington DC to discuss the concept for a volume on the Best Practices of the CIRCLE project. The volume is to appear towards the end of 2007 and will be distributed among our partners and interested parties.

In June CIRCLE staff started a review process, whereby each completed project is evaluated for its best practices. A selection of technical reports, spotlight stories and trip reports is presented to five reviewers (two external, and three from within Winrock) who rate practices on the basis of six predefined criteria; effectiveness, innovation, educational relevance, stakeholder involvement, replicability, and sustainability. The review reports and the technical reports form the basis of the Best Practices volume. The process is still ongoing; by the end of June the evaluation of all 93 CIRCLE projects will have been completed.

At the workshop the participants first decided what the concept of Best Practice meant in the context of CIRCLE. The following definition was found:

*In the context of the CIRCLE project, a best practice is an aspect of a project that has been effective in preventing or reducing child labour and is an inspiration to others.*

In the three days of the workshop, facilitated by consultant

Nick Grisewood, the participants sketched the outlines for the BP volume, decided on the purpose of the volume and the target audience. Other publications on good practices in the fight against child labour were reviewed, enabling the participants to assess in what ways the CIRCLE volume could fill a gap.

Most of all, it will be a practical guide for NGOs and

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The global CIRCLE team and consultant Nick Grisewood (left)

## FROM THE FIELD

### CIRCLE Staff visits projects in Sierra Leone

From December 2 -15 2006 CIRCLE Deputy Regional Manager Saskia Brand visited the three ongoing projects in Sierra Leone. All three projects focus on child trafficking, a prolific phenomenon in this country considering the political instability in the region, the permeability of its borders and the need for cheap labor at the many mining sites. The many war orphans form a particularly



Cross border trade on the bridge

vulnerable category for trafficking. The projects are carried out by three CIRCLE partners, of

whom CARD and RADA-SL operate in the eastern part of the country along the border with Liberia. The third project, carried out by APEGS is in the central region, in a remote gold mining area.

Important elements of all three projects are awareness raising and advocacy. Very few people were aware of the dangers of

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CIRCLE NGOs AT WORK

Community Radio Listening as a Means to Fight Child Labor by AMWIK, Kenya

The Association of Media Women in Kenya is implementing an awareness raising and community mobilization project in Kisumu and Kiambu Districts. The project is innovative because of the guided radio listening sessions with community members and child rights clubs.

The NGO has recorded twenty minute radio programs on the hazards and incidence of child labor, and the importance of education.

The programs are all recorded by professional journalists with the active participation of the children and adult members of the target communities. Children tell about their own experience with child labor, how it affects them, their aspirations in life and what school means to them. Parents tell about the challenges of raising children, taking care of HIV/AIDS orphans, their views on child labor and the importance of education.

Experts inform the audience about the existing national legislation, and the international conventions 138 (on the minimum age) and 182 (on the worst forms of child labor), that have both been ratified by Kenya. Finally, AMWIK has carried out a KAP survey on the incidence of child labor, the data of which have also been used in the programs.

In each district AMWIK works with ten community groups and ten school based child rights clubs. Two representatives of each group were trained on the use of the tapes and guiding focus group discussions. The child rights clubs are supervised and supported by the schools.

So far, the tapes have been very well received by the community members and

AMWIK coordinator Pamela Mburia explains the use of the tapes to community members.

schools. One school has even decided to expand the listening sessions to all classes. One of the community groups decided to organize a Christmas event for the most vulnerable children, who easily fall victim to child labor.

By the end of the project AMWIK hopes to have built the capacities of the community groups such that they know how to act when confronted with child abuse, continue to sensitize parents about the importance of education, and know to which structures and projects parents and caretakers can be referred if they do not have the means to provide for the children's education.



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

FROM THE FIELD

child trafficking and would not even be able to recognize it before the start of the projects. A lot of trafficking is hidden under the guise of assistance by kin or acquaintances, who volunteer to take care of a child. Instead of enrolling the child in school, they exploit him or her in the market, in stone crushing or prostitu-



Young miner in Central Region, Sierra Leone

tion. In the border regions children are often trafficked to Monrovia, or in the opposite direction: from Liberia to Sierra Leone. In the APEGS operational area children are trafficked to work in the gold mines, where they are paid only a fraction of what their master makes on them.

In 2005 Sierra Leone ratified an Anti-Human Trafficking Act, through which child trafficking has become a criminal offense. All three organizations have successfully informed children, parents, community elders, chiefs, and law enforcement agents of the contents of the Act and created mechanisms to intercept traffickers. RADA taught people to keep track of who crosses the border, and to interrogate strangers who carry

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Peer educators carrying the "black book"



children. CARD created a network of peer educators who carry "black books", in which they write down all instances of child abuse and the action taken upon it. The integration of the issue of child trafficking into school and village meetings by APEGS has led to the interception and enrollment of eleven trafficked children.

## Child Labor News

### Mali launches Time Bound Program

On January 18 the US funded Time Bound Program for the Elimination of Child Labor in Mali was launched by the Prime Minister O.I. Maiga. The program was conceived by the government, its social partners and civil society under technical guidance of ILO/IPEC. In a workshop following the official opening, the same stakeholders worked on the operational planning of the program, which seeks to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in five sectors

and five regions of Mali. The five sectors include: mining, agriculture and rural artisan industry, commercial sexual exploitation, the urban informal economy, and child domestic labor. The regions concerned are Kayes, Sikasso, Segou, Mopti and the District of Bamako.

The other regions will be targeted through national awareness raising and efforts to create an enabling environment (harmonization and application of the legislation, an improved database, technical and institutional capacity building,

improved education and skills training, empowerment of vulnerable children and families). A total of 9000 children will be withdrawn from the worst forms of child labor; 1800 families will benefit from activities to help build their income generating capacities.

The program will last for 10 years and benefits from the continued technical support of ILO/IPEC. The existing national structure under responsibility of the Ministry of Labor will be further reinforced and ready to take over from IPEC after that.



## INSIDE CIRCLE INSIGHT CIRCLE INSIDE CIRCLE

### Tips for Scanning & Sending Images

You never know how to get your scanned images across without having to wait forever while the document is being sent? Or without jamming the receiver's mailbox? Read here how you can easily compress them.

In most Microsoft Office applications you can double click the image or photo and a format box will appear. In the lower left-hand corner, there is a **compress** button. By selecting the button, you will have options to compress all the images/objects in the document, only the object you have selected, and removing all parts of the image that have been cropped out. It makes a huge difference. The compressed file can be up to 8 times smaller than the original file.

Thus compressed one can easily send scanned receipts to accompany the financial report, instead of mailing the hard copies by DHL. This saves a lot of money!

### Thinking about Best Practices

The article on the front page indicates that the collection and evaluation of best practices is an important element of the CIRCLE project. Reflecting upon possible best practices is of immediate use to CIRCLE partners, as it helps them to define their own successes and encourages improvement. The ultimate goal, however, is to share the practices with any operator active in the field of child labor elimination and education, in order to intensify the effective struggle against the worst forms of child labor. Naturally the exposure is a concomitant advantage for the NGO who's BP is published.

The fact that the evaluations are based on desk reviews shows the importance of rich and detailed reports, that already contain elements of possible best practices. While some of the reviewers are likely to be familiar with the environment of the project, some will have experience mainly in Asia or Latin America. The foreign view adds richness to the evaluation, but makes it more difficult to "read between the lines", to fill in information that the reports do not provide. Be as complete as you can! Give details and share your views regarding possible best practices! To guide your reflection, the criteria according to which the possible best practices are rated by the reviewers are listed in the box to the right.

*Partners are invited to share their experiences in this newsletter. Please send your contribution to [kcisse@winrock-mali.org](mailto:kcisse@winrock-mali.org)*

### Best Practices Evaluation Criteria:

1. Effectiveness
2. Innovation
3. Educational/vocational relevance
4. Stakeholder involvement
5. Replicability
6. Sustainability

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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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## CIRCLE works on Best Practices Volume (cont'd from page 1)

policy makers, a tool for effective project design. As many practices have similar components, a thematic approach was chosen. One chapter, for instance, will be dedicated to peer-to-peer approaches, another one to non formal education or awareness raising through the media. Each chapter will discuss project elements ("how to's"), the enabling environment (what are necessary conditions?), sustainability, replicability and challenges.

In the experience of the CIRCLE team many good practices work best in combination with others. E.g. a kids club is more likely to be successful if the teachers are trained on child labor prevention and actively involved in the monitoring of the club.

Or the enrolment of child domestic workers into non formal education will be more effective if the community is trained in child rights and the monitoring of the children in school. To make sure that this kind of information is preserved, the guide will contain cross references and details on the necessary conditions for project implementation.

The same goes for information on the replication of Best Practices: although the purpose of the guide is to share practices with as many organisations as possible to become increasingly effective in the fight against child labor, Winrock does not believe in a "one size fits all" approach. In the context of a global project, such as CIRCLE, it is impor-

tant to take note of the specific circumstances of a project. Culture and religion may play a role, but also the degree of poverty, the type of child labor at hand, the available infrastructure and the degree of community organization. For this reason, the guide will contain many descriptive details.

Another purpose of the guide is to acknowledge all the great work that has been done by so many community based organizations around the world. Their best results deserve to be exposed and serve as an inspiration to others.

Consultant Nick Grisewood has recently written a first draft. In the course of 2007 the Best Practices volume will be completed, to include also the experiences of the projects that are still running. CIRCLE staff will be proud to present the final product in December!

### Child Labor Links

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

ILO/IPEC report on consolidated Good Practices in reducing the worst forms of child labor: <http://www.ilo.org/ilroot/public/english/standards/ipec/doc-view.cfm?id=2040>