

A good start for the improvement of child migrant protection along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor (CORAL)

Around forty representatives of Terre des hommes Lausanne, from the Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria, took part in the ENDA Jeunesse Action and the African Movement of Working Children and Youth (AMWCY) operational planning of the sub-regional project for protecting child migrants along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor, called 'CORAL'. This took place from 10th to 14th April at the Sun Beach Hotel in Cotonou.



Child migration in Africa has been going on for a very long time. Its existence is linked to the culture and history of the people living along the corridor, and also to the development of towns that have become centres of attraction for children and young people in search of economic opportunities.

This aspect of mobility has long been misunderstood by the actors in child protection and the media as well as by policy makers. Indeed, the attention of the actors was solely focussed on the negative aspects such as trafficking, child labour and all types of violence. The aspects of child development that could be offered by migration, like better access to education, healthcare or personal development, made little impact. The CORAL project emerged to continue and strengthen the achievements of previous projects run by Terre des hommes, AMWCY and ENDA in this field, to show the five countries on the Abidjan-Lagos corridor the way ahead for child migrant protection, as well as all the other countries in West Africa.

With the sum of **€2.211.469**, the CORAL project is financed by the European Union and will be implemented in five countries on the Gulf of Guinea, i.e. Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. It is supported by Terre des hommes Lausanne, ENDA Jeunesse Action and the African Movement of Working Children and Youth (AMWCY)

The CORAL project aims at improving the protection of migrant children by i) strengthening the community protective mechanisms to support young people so as to avoid the risks of migration, and to help them seize opportunities for development within their communities of origin, transit or destination, and to undertake safer and more secure migration; ii) strengthening at an institutional, local, national and trans-



national level to ensure that the specific needs and vulnerability of migrant children should be taken into account in the responses for prevention and protection with a view of guaranteeing better protection for young migrants; and iii) improvement of the coordination and articulation between the community systems (formal and informal) and institutional (formal) of child protection so as to guarantee protective accompaniment of the children involved in mobility throughout their migration process.

In order to ensure good implementation of the project, the CORAL project initiators deemed it necessary to organise an operational planning workshop.

This workshop in Cotonou, Benin, gathered together representatives of the above-mentioned project initiators from the five countries directly involved in the implementation, i.e. Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria, as well as the technical supervision from Senegal and Switzerland.

During this meeting the participants



worked in committees and in plenary so as to keep clear operational strategies as well as periods for activity implementation for year one of the project, that is to say from 1st April 2017 up to 31st March 2018.

In order to be able to measure more effectively and efficiently the results achieved and the impact of the project, a plan for monitoring and evaluation was defined in a participatory process.



At the end of the work, and in response to the activities of the workshop, the participants strongly recommended that the following is carried out: i) launching the CORAL project in the five countries listed above; ii) finalisation of the operational planning at a country level; iii) production of communication support for successful

advocacy, and iv) finalisation of the plan for monitoring and evaluation.

On the final day of the workshop, the official project launch took place, left to right, in the presence of Regional coordinator of ENDA Youth action, Cheffe of the Delegation of the Gulf of Guinea Terre des hommes, the representative of the Ministry of Employment of the Public Service and Social affairs, the Head of Cooperation to the Delegation of the European Union, and the Representative of the African Movement of working children And Young (AMWCY)

Answered presents in the row of the guests, the Technical and financial Partners (TFP), NGO international and national active in the field of the child welfare, the agencies of United Nations, frames(executives) of the partner ministries, national and local press, frames(executives) of Tdh, ENDA youth action and AMWCY come from five countries of intervention of the project



Photo of the members of the official project launch