

# CALAO EXPRESS 158 (February 2017)

Monthly Internet Edition of the African Movement of Working Children and Youth  
(AMWCY)

Published by Enda TM

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- \* **Burundi: sensitization on gender-based violence**
- \* **Cameroon: workshop on the elaboration of the Strategic Plan in collaboration with NGOs**
- \* **Guinea: outreach visits to street children in their campsites**
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- \* **Senegal: Solidarity with Gambian refugees**
- \* **Zimbabwe: 2016 national conference of children and youth led organizations**

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## \* **Burundi: Raising awareness about gender-based violence**

As part of the state's project to raise awareness on gender-based violence, SEST Burundi is raising awareness among children, youth and parents in the Northern district of the capital of Bujumbura on the theme of the year "Peace at home, peace in the world ".In collaboration with the African Union SEST has organized a two-day public activity on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Centre Jeunes Kamenge. WCY presented sketches on violence against women in communities and the consequences of not exposing the perpetrators of these crimes. During this activity, questions were asked to participants and correct answers were prized. Songs related to the theme were learned by all participants who danced to the songs. The activities ended well and people have a toast.

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## \* **Cameroon: Workshop on the preparation of the Strategic Plan in collaboration with NGOs**

CAMAWCY was invited to attend the workshop of elaboration of the Strategic Plan in collaboration with the State and the Organizations of the Civil Society with the aim of achieving the Sustainable Development Objectives (SDOs). During this workshop, the Plan was elaborated with the overall objective: "Helping vulnerable and excluded children in Cameroon, especially young girls, develop and thrive free from violence, discrimination and fear". A series of activities were selected including the protection of children in working conditions, health, children in conflict with the law, taking care of children in case of emergencies and others. This Plan, which will be finalized, will be implemented next year.

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## \* **Guinea: outreach visits to children living on the streets in their campsites**

In order to contribute to the fight against the vulnerability of street children, the office of the AWCY of the Prefecture of Mali (Yembering) carried out awareness visits to the children campsites, such as markets, bus stations, building sites etc. This work was done with the technical support of the head of the prefecture communities. The visits were carried out on January 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and were aimed at making a diagnosis of the children campsites so as to approach them and discuss their problems. 17 children and 07 families have been visited. Among these 17 children, 02 joined the AWCY grassroots groups to learn a trade of their choice. After listening, the WCY collected some information concerning the children living on the street. Some citizens also asked to reflect on how to reduce the vulnerability of these children exposed to all kinds of exploitation.

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## \* **Kenya: Training on Entrepreneurship and Development of Business Plans**

During holidays from December 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, Kenya WCY organized a training workshop on entrepreneurship and business development for children and youth, in the WCY training room, in Jericho Makadara Nairobi, Kenya. Participants include musicians, actors, DJs, graphic designers, cake bakers, small traders. The training focused on how to save, borrow and develop business plans. Indeed, unemployment is a great risk for most young people, they end up in dropping out of school, moving from town to town to seek means of survival.

Thanks to this training they have acquired skills and knowledge for self-employment and understanding the importance of creating job opportunities for oneself and others.

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#### **\* Madagascar: children celebrate Christmas together**

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, the WCY gathered at the AWCY Antanetisoa Ankarabato center to celebrate Christmas. The show started at 10 am followed by a great feast. There were 230 participants. In a festive atmosphere, they shared a meal to end the day. The ceremony was mainly marked by a dance-folklore performance, ballet, tectonic dance, a child's dream "the world upside down" (which is a song accompanied by Malagasy special dance) and a performance on flexibility and agility. The WCY received sweets and gifts in the late afternoon. Some parents attended the party.

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#### **\* Mali: Sanitation day at the Africa France summit**

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the AWCY of Bamako, Samaya and Samanko participated in the sanitation day of the six municipalities of Bamako. This activity was organized by Malian First Lady, Her Excellency Mrs. Keita Aminata Maiga for the Africa- France summit held in Bamako from January 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2017. Some 25 WCY participated. They were invited to this activity thanks to their partnership with the municipality of Commune III of the district of Bamako. They highlighted the AMWCY and its 12 rights through messages written on placards, animation, songs and drum dance.

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#### **\*DRC: IGA and solidarity for the education of children**

In order to mobilize resources and ensure self-management in its actions, the AWCY / BENI carried out IGAs through agriculture and livestock breeding. After harvesting corn and beans grown during this season, the AWCY was able to pay all school fees for 05 children members of its grassroot groups for this school year. These children come from poor families. The incomes of the IGA also allowed the AWCY to renew the rent of its office for 6 months and such efforts will continue. This initiative of taking care of poor children did not remain unnoticed. In fact, one of the decision makers, the mayor of the city, gave them a plot of land of 89 meters by 63 meters for exploitation for 4 seasons, that is to say until the beginning of 2019 and a provisional exploitation document was drawn up.

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#### **\* Senegal: Solidarity with Gambian refugees**

Facing the political crisis in the Gambia, the AWCY of Nioro and Symbiose, its supporting structure have taken initiatives aimed at helping Gambian refugees. In fact, both WCY and facilitators welcomed close relatives from the Gambia in their families. Some people were referred to close relatives inside Nioro or in the surrounding villages. It should be noted that the family meal has always been shared with the refugees. On January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017, the AWCY of Nioro carried out a census of people from the Gambia, in the commune of Nioro and the surrounding villages. They recorded a total of 123 refugees, including 47 adults and 76 children. These refugees are from different nationalities: Senegalese, Gambians, and Guineans. They are now returning to The Gambia.

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#### **\* Zimbabwe: 2016 Conference of Children and youth led organizations**

From November 27<sup>th</sup> to December 03<sup>rd</sup> 2016, this conference was organized by the coordination of AWCY (RNCYPT) in partnership with the Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC) in Marondera. The theme was "Child and Youth Participation, key to Governance". The conference gathered more than 100 participants, including children and youth, patrons and members of civil society organizations. Delegates came from various grassroots groups, AWCY's youth networks and other delegates from Zambia. Thus, it turned into an international conference of child and youth led organizations. It was organized to promote the participation of children and youth, strengthen their capacities on child rights and related issues, and develop leadership skills for community development. Various activities were conducted including a "Leadership and Community Development Course" which covered five key modules: leadership and community development, child rights and responsibilities, child protection, child participation and Sexual reproductive health rights and HIV.

Emphasis was also put on child and youth-centered strategies to end violence against them and the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights for young people, child protection and amplifying the voices of Girls' and young women in governance.

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**Looking forward to seeing you through Calao Express n°159!**

# HAPPY NEW 2017

TO EVERYONE!!!!

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- \* AMWCY: ECOWAS includes children and youth participation in its policy.
- \* AMWCY: Capitalization workshop
- \* AMWCY: Participation of two WCY at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC)
- \* AMWCY: Participation in the COPII / WAN2016
- \* *Burkina Faso: "Contest of drawings and poems on child protection and disaster risk reduction for the celebration of November 20<sup>th</sup> 2016" (CDE)*
- \* Senegal: Participation in civil society consultation on the European future joint programming

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### \* AMWCY: ECOWAS includes children and youth participation in its policy.

On December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2016, the RGCP (Regional Group on Child Protection) meeting with ECOWAS was held at UNICEF Regional Office in Dakar / Senegal. This meeting was attended by organizations working in the area of child protection, including the AMWCY. As an active member of RGCP, the AMWCY was represented by two delegated children accompanied by the Mobility Program Officer of the Movement. In their presentations, they introduced the AMWCY, its activities and expectations which consist in listening, acknowledging and empowering children's organizations. During this meeting, participants have assessed the collaboration between RGCP and ECOWAS before planning a road map for the elaboration of a strategic document based on 5 priorities: (child marriages, Child labor, mobility, violence and FGM), the ECOWAS monitoring framework, and a joint declaration document to be submitted to the ECOWAS Ministers' Meeting to be validated in June 2017. These texts include proposals for children's and youth organizations participation in activities and decision-making at ECOWAS.

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### \* AMWCY: Capitalization workshop

On December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2016, the AMWCY held a workshop to capitalize the results of the project entitled "Working children : Actors of their own protection" implemented by AMWCY / Enda in 06 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger and Togo. This workshop was held in Dakar-Senegal and facilitated by Save the Children. There were representatives of the co-ordinations of the six countries where the project intervenes, a WCY from Cameroon and one from Senegal who are at the same time members of the EMG and the staff of Enda. The objective of this workshop was to share the changes brought about by the project, to assess the best practices, lessons learned and areas for improvement in the theme of protection for children, on the move. The workshop was a space for experience sharing enhanced by group work followed by plenary presentations on the results of the activities carried out in the field: what worked, the best practices noticed, approach and strategies innovations, what did not work, and how to improve. In sum, the participants reviewed the project, identified the major challenges of the intervention, analyzed the state of the partnership, made proposals, etc. Participants attended a session on the functioning of Save the Children International (SCI), the life of grants, and the presentation of member countries that fund country offices. [abada@endatiersmonde.org](mailto:abada@endatiersmonde.org), [marikofatoumata@gmail.com](mailto:marikofatoumata@gmail.com), [claudouaga@gmail.com](mailto:claudouaga@gmail.com)

**\* AMWCY: Participation of two WCY at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC)**

Two WCY from Rwanda and Cameroon participated in the Seventh International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC) on the topic "Our Hidden Shame: Crimes and Extreme Violence against Children in Africa". The conference was held on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the United Nations Conference Center in Addis Ababa.

Organized by ACPF (African Child Policy Forum), this conference was a platform for dialogue and interaction on the challenges faced by children in Africa and the policies that should be implemented to ensure their well-being. Presentations mainly focused on the types of violence perpetrated against various specific groups of children on the African continent, including children living with a disability, albinos, children accused of witchcraft, child victims of murder and ritual sacrifice, etc. Countries have also shared the mechanisms they have carried out to put an end to these harmful practices and violence against children. Participants laid also the emphasis on the crucial role that the media must play in promoting the rights of the child.

The two AMWCY's representatives made a presentation on the experience of child protection through the role of the grassroots group as one of the protection mechanisms. They also highlighted the forms of violence faced by children working in the street and street children, the organizations' lack of trust in children's organizations so as to involve them on issues affecting them, and the countries failure in child protection, etc.

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**\* AMWCY: Participation in the COPIL / RAO 2016**

The AMWCY, as an active member of the West African Network (WAN) for the Protection of Children, has participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee (COPIL) held from November 03rd to 05th 2016 in Abidjan. There were 10 focal points from different countries member of the network and a representative for the whole movement. This year, under the leadership of ECOWAS, the COPIL has taken a new direction. Indeed, it was the opportunity to launch the "ECOWAS Manual of Procedures and Standards for the Protection and Reintegration of Vulnerable Children and Youth in Mobility" by the ECOWAS Commissioner. Directors and Ministers in charge of Child Protection also attended the meeting under the presidency of the Minister of Child Protection of Burkina Faso. In front of such a group of leaders, the AMWCY made a plea on what children and youth want. He focused his speech on the movement's key role in addressing the vulnerability of children and also on empowering and engaging African children and youth in decision-making. At the end of the meeting, thank you notes were sent to the AMWCY which, according to the assistance, has become an unavoidable link of this chain of protection. The Movement is now seen as the key element that makes operational the work of identification and cases follow-up.

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**\* Burkina Faso: "Drawings and poems Contest on the protection of children and disaster risk reduction for the celebration of November 20th 2016" (CDE)**

The National Coordination of AWCY of Burkina Faso (NCAWCY/ B) has organized series of activities such as drawings and poems competition in Ouagadougou for the benefit of children. The aim is to contribute to raising awareness among children in public and private primary schools, training centers, WCY's grassroots groups, for School drop-outs, as well as non-schooled ones on child protection against violence, the negative consequences of school drop-outs or the importance of keeping children in school and disasters risk reduction. This competition was justified by the necessity to create a space for children in order to allow them to feel involved, to express themselves, to propose actions through drawings, words to reduce the risks of disasters and to protect Children against violence before, during and after disaster situations. To achieve this objective, 92 children from 8 public and private primary schools, a training center and 5 grassroots groups from the Ouagadougou AWCY took part in this competition. Two themes: child protection and disaster risk reduction. The results of this contest were deliberated by a jury composed of two teachers representing public and private primary schools, a member of the of Burkina Faso NCAWCY and a member of the National Consultative Council of Children and Youth of Burkina (NCCYB). 08 children (03 girls and 05 boys) aged 11-14 were awarded school supplies including (school bags, notebooks, pens and child protection manual of AMWCY...)

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**\* Senegal: participation in civil society consultation on future joint European programming**

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the National Coordination (NCAWCY) of AWCY of Senegal participated in the consultation meeting of civil society on the European future joint programming. The platform of the European NGOs in Senegal (PFONGUE) was commissioned to facilitate the consultation within the civil society so that it contributes to this programming. More than thirty NGOs and organizations have been called upon to ponder over three objectives: sustainable development-generating employment integrating climate change issues; a healthy and educated population that enjoys adequate social protection, enhanced governance, security and management of migration.

Represented by its mobility officer, the NCAWCY intervened on the cause and effect relationship between unemployment among youth and illegal migration. This analysis, considered as relevant, was taken into account in the final document preparation.

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**Looking forward to seeing you soon through Calao Express n°158!**