

## THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF CORAL PROJECT IN GHANA

Like Benin, Togo and Cote D'Ivoire the Protection of Migrant Children along the Abidjan – Lagos Corridor (CORAL) was officially launched in Accra on October 31, 2017 at Coconut Grove Hotel.

The purpose of this launch is to ensure the visibility of the CORAL project in Ghana and mobilize child protection actors to support the project.



On the high table are, the Regional Coordinator Of the CORAL Project (second to right) and the Representative of EU (3<sup>rd</sup> to right)



Tdh Team from Togo and other Participants

There were 64 participants from State and Non state organizations who are into Child Protection including the European Union, Representative of Department of Social Welfare of Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, International Organization of Migration (IOM), Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of Ghana Police Service, Ghana Immigration Service, the Coordinator of West Africa Network (WAN) for children on the move, Officials of Civil and Local non-Governmental Organizations, traditional leaders, Management Committee members of the CORAL Project as well as representatives of each locality of the project in Ghana took part in this important ceremony.

The highlights of the event was marked by various speeches by authorities present at the high table, a presentation on the CORAL project, and a short sketch by the children and youth of WCYA illustrating the causes of child mobility as well as media interviews.



In an interview, Mr. Alfred SANTOS, Regional Coordinator of the CORAL project, representing the head of Delegation, Terre des hommes Lausanne, Gulf of Guinea office, gave a brief history of Terre des hommes Lausanne before dwelling on Tdh's child protection interventions in Ghana since 2008. He mentioned interventions on the protection of migrant children from Togo found in Ghana who were rehabilitated and reintegrated back in Togo.

The Regional Coordinator for the CORAL Project

In the specific context of the CORAL project, Mr. SANTOS explained that Terre des hommes, is far from encouraging child migration, and that Tdh is committed through this project, to support the Ghanaian Government in the development of actions in response to the risks and vulnerabilities associated with early, dangerous or irregular migration.

Finally, he thanked the partners for their cooperation and reiterated the appreciation by Tdh and its partners on European Union's (EU) financial support to the project.



The Deputy Director of Social Welfare Representing the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Mr. Joseph Kojo ATTIGAH, in his speech congratulated and thanked Terre des hommes, Lausanne and its partners AMWCY and ENDA Youth Action for initiating the CORAL Project that will help secure children in Ghana and in the sub region.

Representative of Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection - Mr. Joseph Kojo Attigah

He also appealed to all institutional and community Actors in Ghana, involved in the project, to make concerted efforts to support Terre des hommes, Lausanne and the Welfare of Children and Youth Association (WCYA) to achieve the objectives of the project.

He went on to reassure Terre des hommes and WCYA of the Ministry's readiness to provide technical support for the implementation of the CORAL Project.

In his interview with the media, he added that, 'child migration is evident in Ghana, in most markets in the country, several children and young people are seen working as head porters or selling petty items and doing menial jobs. Worst to this is, these children have no place of dwelling for them. The CORAL Project therefore, comes at a point when we have to welcome the initiative of Terre des hommes and WCYA. Ghana government certainly support the CORAL Project for the protection of migrant children.'



The Representative of the EU Delegation in Ghana. Ms. Maria Luisa Troncosco, reaffirmed the support and assistance of the EU at all stages of the project, and has in turn invited partners to lend strong hands to the project to impact the results.

EU Representative addressing the Participant

This meeting also served as a means of communication in explaining the content of the project to partners.



A session of Participants and CDO to Ghana



WCYA National Coordinator Ghana in an interview

The Focal Person of the CORAL Project and Coordinator of WCYA, Mr. TORNYESINU Martin, in his presentation and interview, has focused on the key elements of the project, stating the general objective as; to improve the protection of migrant children along the Abidjan - Lagos corridor in order to reduce their vulnerability and improve their access to development opportunities. He stressed on the three focus areas of the project, which should help to consolidate the institutional strengthening, coordination and articulation between community systems and child protection institutions.

He, finally, explained the action model of the project as well as the main activities including advocacy.

The launching which was jointly organized by the Togo-Ghana team with technical support from the Regional Coordinator of Gulf of Guinea office, officially marks the start of the CORAL project in Ghana.

One of the priorities of the next step would be the development of communication and advocacy plan involving the advocacy group and Ghanaian journalists who were present at the launch.



*Accra, le 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017*