

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016**  
**TO YOU ALL!!!! (almost 1,000,000)**  
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**\*AMWCY: EMG and GCOM meeting, almost a million!**

From December 4 to 14, 2015, the Executive Managerial Group (EMG) and the Communication Group (GCOM) of the AMWCY held their meetings in Thies, Senegal. EMG members assessed their activities and finances for the year 2015, reviewed statistics and questionnaires, AMWCY's new applications for membership, discussed the mid-term review, made a planning for 2016 activities, and exchanged on some concerns expressed by Save the Children International. GCOM's delegates went over communication activities listed in the 2014-2016 Action Plan and produced AMWCY annual newsletter, «WCY Challenge N° 16». These two bodies of the AMWCY held joint work sessions on AMWCY 2015 statistics, the planning of Save the Children Finland's 2016 budget, as well as the progress made in terms of AMWCY communication. According to **AMWCY 2015 statistics**, there is a net increase of 17% of members and supporters in the Movement, despite the fact that AMWCY, in 20 countries out of 27, do not receive funding anymore. AMWCY has reached **975,054** members and well-wishers, including **308,072** members (**224,857** children, **83,210** youths, **175,259** girls and **132,823** boys) from **4,331** grassroots groups in **380** towns in **27** African countries. A wide dissemination of these figures is expected to show AMWCY's achievements and impacts.

The results related to the processing of the questionnaire on rights impacts show that the AMWCY helped **509,127** WCY access literacy courses, protected **717,072** among them; enabled **459,844** WCY to have access to health, and **642,155** children to enjoy themselves. **524,974** children work less hard and less hours.

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**\*Burkina Faso: WCY take part in race for children's survival**

On November 12, 2015, members of the National Coordination of the AMWCY's of Burkina (CNAEJTB) participated in advocacy activities of Save the Children International, which theme was: «*Reducing infant mortality and promoting children's right to survival, by devoting 15/100 of the national budget to children's health* ». In total, 55 WCY took part in the advocacy activity: «*A race for the survival of all children of Burkina*» which took place on Mooro Naaba Square, in the presence of the Chairman of the National Transitional Council (NTC), the Health Minister and his Majesty, the Mooro Naaba. On this occasion, working children and youth, through their participation in the race, were awarded a trophy, t-shirts and bags.

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**\*Burundi: light campaign and peaceful marching**

On September 24, 2015, the «*SEST I WACU I BURUNDI*», in partnership with member associations of the Action /2015, celebrated the light campaign locally on the occasion of the 2015 World Action Day. A concert started the demonstration at the Buyenzi Urban Commune's stadium with a band and some members of the Grassroots Group alongside modern singers and dancers of the AMWCY Bujumbura Mairie. Then, members of the «*Burundi Children's rights coalition*» (BCRC) to whom belongs «*SEST I Wacu I BURUNDI*», staged a

peaceful parade to Lake Tanganyika's beach where they informed the populations about the end of the Millennium Development Goals and the beginning of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty and climate change around the world. Candles in hand, participants sang the national anthem and introduced the day's subject, titled *«No to the use of children in political activities, for they represent the future of the country»*.

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#### **\*Guinea: support and sympathy for Ebola-affected families**

From November 15 to 17, 2015, in order to strengthen the social fabric among the populations of Mamou, WCY participated in a day dedicated to support and sympathy for Ebola-affected families. The event was organized and funded by the NGO «Search for Common Ground». The aim was to provide foodstuffs (rice, oil and sugar) for families who have been affected by the disease, and to sensitize others not to stigmatize those families. Authorities and beneficiaries welcomed this initiative and asked for it to be extended to other cities in the country to end the stigmatization of survivors and, hopefully, to eradicate the disease in Guinea.

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#### **\*DRC: capacity building for WCY in entrepreneurship and leadership**

The National Coordination of Working Children and Youth Associations of the Democratic Republic of Congo (NCWCYA/DRC) attended a capacity building workshop on «Entrepreneurship and Leadership» organized, from December 3 to 5, 2015, in Bukavu, by the Conference of Congo's Entrepreneurs (ECC). It was attended by 58 youth from South Kivu, including 2 WCY. Several themes were discussed: How to make the most of financial and material resources? How to draw up a business plan to succeed in small trade? How to conduct market research and an analysis of opportunities concerning small trade? How to keep up a pioneering spirit in small trade and in a youths' group? Participation certificates were handed out and F CFA 75,000 was given to each one of them. This participation is a step forward for NCWCYA/DRC, since the conference of DRC's entrepreneurs is willing to support its self-financing activities and concerning any request for intervention.

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#### **\*Rwanda: children's drawings as communication tools on children's rights**

On November 7, 2015, in close collaboration with Save the Children and Plan International in Rwanda, 23 children including 9 girls and 14 boys from different Rwanda AWCY grassroots groups known as «Children's Voice Today» were taught how to communicate by using children's drawings, in Kigali. Thanks to the «child to child approach», children enjoyed teaching their peers about the Rights of the Child through drawings. Some illustrations made during the training are used to decorate the headquarters of «Children's Voice Today» while others are used as communication materials for the association. 42 educational drawings on children's rights were produced during this training.

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#### **\*Senegal: GCOM and EMG participation in an event organized by WCY of Thies**

Upon an invitation, CGOM and EMG delegates took part in a sensitization event organized by Thies' WCY on violence against women and girls. Before the event, delegates visited the headquarters of the AWCY (the computer room, management office, children's leisure area, sewing workshop, kitchen, etc.) GCOM/EMG delegation availed itself of this opportunity to express its solidarity with children following its introduction to the public. Thies' WCY staged a sketch related to the «exploitation and violence against women and girls» and performed plays about female genital mutilation, early marriage and WCY's 12 rights.

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#### **\*Zimbabwe: awareness campaign on child marriage**

The Associations of Mashonaland West, Chinhoyi, Mvurwi and Raffingora successfully conducted two awareness campaigns to end child marriages. WCY were able to reach more than 6,832 community members through sensitization campaigns using songs, drama and discussions. There is need for the government to enact laws that protect and safeguard children and youth, in particular girls and young women against forced early marriage. Communities were also challenged to ensure that they protect their children through community-based education and community watchdog groups to end girl exploitation. The commitment of leaders greatly contributed to WCYs' successful work.

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**Looking forward to seeing you through Calao Express n°147!**