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(AMWCY)

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* **Benin: training of protection actors**

This year, to start the implementation of the activities included in the Project for the Protection of Migrant Children, the cities of Grand Popo and Seme Krake have each received training on awareness-raising techniques on child mobility issues in Benin. Co-organized by the AWCY-Benin and "Terre des Hommes", this training took place in two steps: the first was held in Grand Popo, on January 16th and 17th and the second on January 18th and 19th in Krake. Children, parents as well as local authorities participated. During these trainings, the AWCY did the assessment of activities conducted last year. They analyzed their strengths and weaknesses and reflected on how to turn weaknesses into strengths.

At Grand Popo a topographic map of the geographical location of the environment is made to better find out the routes of children on the move. The purpose was to show the geographical situation of the city, dangerous places for children who, sometimes, are victims of abuse, or the distances of the itinerary, the stopovers, etc. At Seme krake, a border town with Nigeria, the same activities have been conducted. These formations were marked at times by sketches, and cultural activities.

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* **Côte d'Ivoire: identification of migrant children**

On January 14th, AWCY Aboisso held an awareness-raising day in the neighborhood of Sokoura. This activity aimed at grouping children around sports and board games (Dame, Ludo and Awalé) in order to identify and register migrant children living in the neighborhood. More than 200 children attended, including 100 migrant children, the social center, 'Paix Senwi radio', foreign communities and the town hall as well. These actions enabled the WCY to collect testimonies on the difficulties that migrant children face on a daily basis in terms of health, nutrition and family assistance. The WCY explained to these children that they brought them together to understand their situation and provide them with protective accompaniment.

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* **Gambia: 6th annual Katchaa Show**

On December 25th and 26th, the sixth annual Katchaa Show (cultural event) of the National Coordination of working children and youth Associations of the Gambia was held in Soma on the theme of "Accelerating, Protection, Empowerment and Equal opportunities for children in Africa by 2030".

This event brought together the members of the 07 associations of the coordination. The activities carried out on this occasion can be summed up in three parts: - interactive program on Soma community radio station to talk about the day; many listeners called to encourage youth and children to take lead in issues affecting them. - A march pass with the Scouts and finally sports activities to raise the awareness of the members. The night was marked by entertainment games and cultural dance, theater, beauty and poetry competitions between the Associations.

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*** Ghana: materialization of the right to play**

On December 14th, a football match opposed the Madina estate team from one of the grassroots group of the Accra Working Children and Youth Association to Madina New Road, the community youth team. Through this sporting activity, children and youth have materialized the right to play. The opportunity has been taken to raise awareness in the community about the right of children to play. Most members of the community attended the activities. The match took place under a festive atmosphere. Besides, there was music, dancing and drinks. About 100 children and young spectators participated in the celebrations.

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*** Kenya: Training on Child Protection**

From December 7th to 11th, the national coordination of the AWCY of Kenya organized a training session on the theme: "Child Protection training as working children and youth ". Held at YMCA Shauri Moyo-Nairobi, this training gathered 26 participants from the AWCY of Homabay, Kajiado, Machakos, Thika and Nairobi. Through this training, participants have a better understanding of child protection issues, strengthened their capacity to prevent abuse and violence against children, acquired skills to advocate and promote children's rights and more experiences on how to create a protective environment, use a holistic framework to respond to child protection with responsive action, remedial action and protective environmental action.

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*** Nigeria: registration of 7 children in public primary school by the AWCY of Lagos Island**

The AWCY of Lagos Island has identified 7 vulnerable children aged 4 to 11 year old. These children, some of whom lived with their guardian, others with their boss or grandmother, did not attend school. Informed of their situation, the AWCY met their guardians and advised them to register these children to school so that they receive a basic education. After several exchange visits, the tutors accepted. The AWCY has enrolled all 07 children in public primary school to receive basic education in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The members of the AWCY have been supported in this by an organization called Women Protection Organization (WOPO) with which they have been in partnership for a while. 02 of the children enrolled received school materials as support.

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*** DRC: visit to detained children**

On January 2nd, the DRC NC/AWCY, with the financial support of the organization Food for all, made a charity exit at Kabare Central Prison, specifically for the young detainees. These children are detained for various reasons: theft, witchcraft, etc. During this visit, the WCY provided advice on to behave well in society to avoid legal troubles and sent messages of hope to the young detainees. A document on violence against children was given to the prison director for him to ensure the health and hygiene of children although they are in prison.

WCY provide young detainees with food and clothes. Part of the donations was made by the organization Food for all and the other part is the result of collections from the WCY, chapels and the community.

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*** Rwanda: Follow-up visit of children removed from domestic work**

AWCY Rwanda, also known as Children's Voice Today (CVT), in collaboration with Save the Children, is implementing a project entitled "Preventing and responding to unsafe Migration of Children in Rwanda". One of the activities of the project is to identify child domestic workers, withdraw them and reintegrate them into their families. CVT has managed to reintegrate all identified children into their families. CVT is monitoring 20 cases of reintegrated children. From January 10th to 11th, CVT staff with youth mentors conducted monitoring visits aiming to find out the current situation, including the living conditions of children after their reintegration into their families. All 20 children were visited, 17 of them are already enrolled in school and started the school year on January 22nd while the remaining 3 will be referred to vocational training centers. During this visit, CVT provided school materials to these children. The lesson learned is that the relationship between CVT and local authorities has been strengthened and reintegrated children have already introduced the children grassroots groups' activities into their communities. CVT is expecting to have new associations and grassroots groups of children in the districts where children have been reintegrated.

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Looking forward to seeing you soon through Calao Express n°170!