



## PROJECT FOR THE PROTECTION MIGRANT CHILDREN ALONG ABIDJAN-LAGOS CORRIDOR (CORAL PROJECT)

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### First Annual Review of the Project.

### PRESS RELEASE

After 11 months of implementation of the project for the protection of migrant children along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor, called the CORAL project, the major actors (Terre des hommes, AMWCY and ENDA Youth Action) are organising from 26 to 28 February 2018 at SUN BEACH Hotel Cotonou Benin Republic, their first annual regional review meeting and the planning of the project's second year activities.

Planned over a period of 3 years, CORAL project was officially launched in April 2017 in Cotonou by all stakeholders and had in attendance the European Union (the financial partner) and each country of intervention respectively.

*It aims at improving the protection of migrant children along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor in West Africa, in order to reduce their vulnerability and improve their access to development opportunities.*

This regional meeting aims at doing a review of the activities planned for the first year of the project, to provide solutions to certain questions raised during the first year and to plan the activities of the second year.

These 3 days of exchanges, sharing and reflections mainly focused on the report of the first year of the project from each country and the coordination of the project, the results obtained, the effects or changes realised, lessons learned, good practices, and perspectives

It is made up of 65 participants from 5 countries involved in the project (Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria), Tdh Lausanne, AMWCY and ENDA Youth Action.

In order to share the experiences and achievements of the project, a cocktail-debate is organized. Those invited include the Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs), that is the European Union, the Family and Children's Directorate of Benin Republic, national and international NGOs involved in the field of child protection, United Nations Agencies, the media, the National Agencies for the Management of Trans-Border Spaces as well as Migrant and Diaspora Agencies.

In terms of results, 6686 people have been informed and sensitized thereby improving their knowledge and understanding of the risks associated with early and dangerous migration and the conditions for safe and secure migration.

44 working meetings and advocacy sessions with key actors have helped to integrate child migration concerns into 4 child protection policies / plans at the country level, thus

strengthening the legal, policy and operational framework for child protection. In addition to that is putting in place mechanisms that will lead to the signing of inter-state agreements that take into account the protection of children affected by mobility.

The training of 177 social services actors along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor on the mobility approach and the protective accompaniment of children led to the establishment of a network at the borders between border guards and community actors to change perceptions of children affected by mobility along the corridor.

For this first phase, the CORAL project recorded in the 5 countries, 5893 children affected by mobility, 3018 girls and 2875 boys out of the 25 000 expected over the 3 years. These children and young people have benefited from listening, counseling and mediation and have been referred to competent structures for socio-professional reintegration. These initial results call for networking and strengthening the identification system for children affected by mobility.

In terms of immediate effects recorded during this first year, we note the strengthening of the collaboration between institutional and community actors, the acquisition of new skills, the appropriation of the project and the concepts of mobility as well as the Protective Accompaniment of Children (PAC), access of migrant children to information, increased mobilization of communities and partners around child protection related issues.

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