WCY FACE THE CHALLENGE

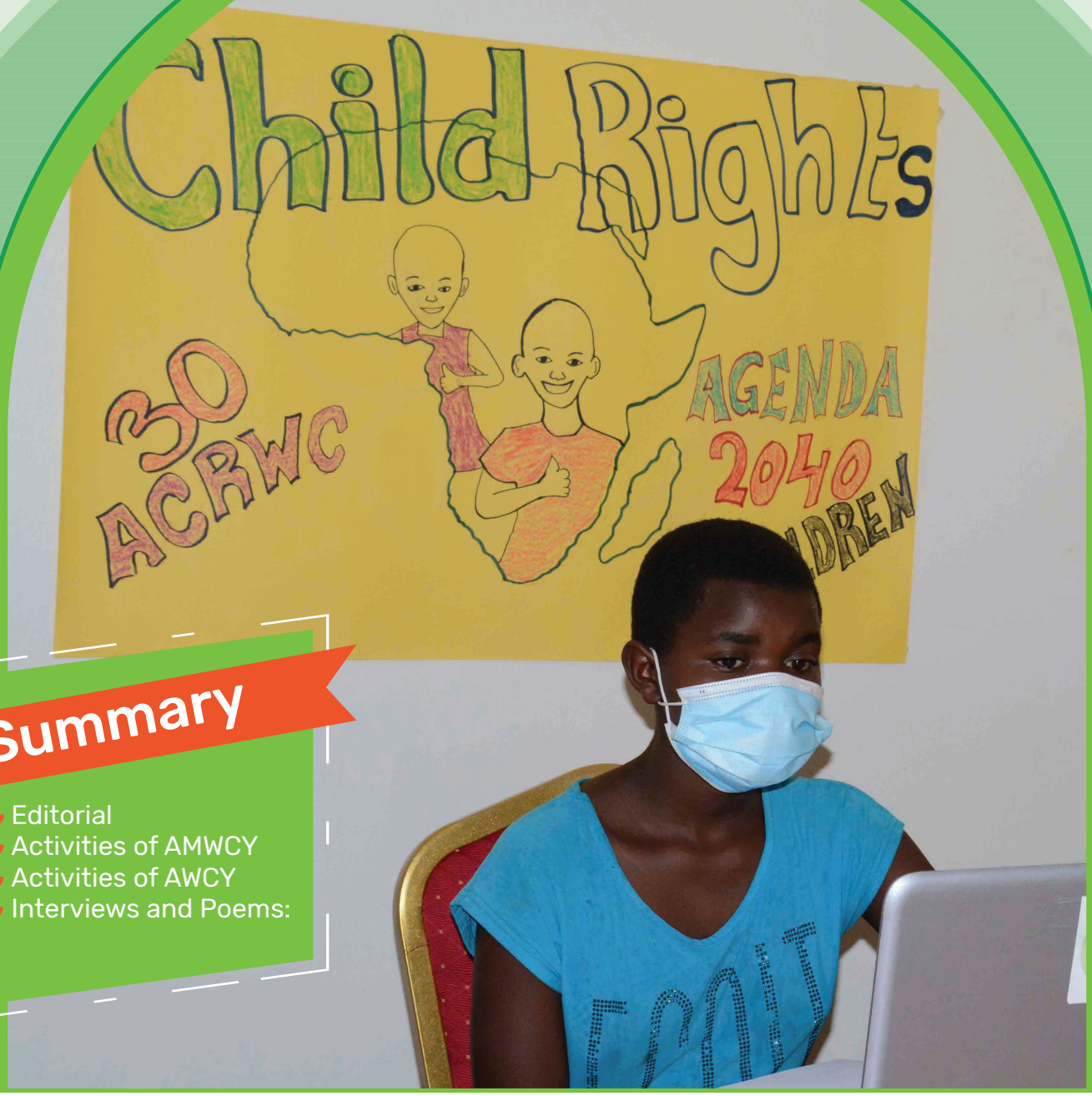
Working Children a nd Youth

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Summary

- Editorial
- Activities of AMWCY
- Activities of AWCY
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Editorial : CHILD PARTICIPATION

For me, a member who joined very young the African Movement of Working Children and Youth, child participation is a key aspect of sustainable development and good governance.

From a rights perspective, there is a strong case for children's participation in the governance of their towns, villages and neighbourhoods. While child participation is a right in itself, it also leads to the realisation of other rights. Most decisions are made about children when they are not even involved.

Implementing child rights during adolescence, for example, calls on States parties to ensure that adolescents participate in the development, implementation and monitoring of all relevant laws, policies, services and programmes that affect their lives, including at the local level. It also explicitly mentions the importance of participation as a means by which adolescents can negotiate and advocate for the realization of their rights, and also hold States parties accountable.

Children's participation, especially at local level, can thus lead to better services, more responsive local policies and plans, and more effective use of budgets to support children's priorities. There are also practical reasons for promoting children's participation in governance. While it is important that children interact with adults, their participation is seen as essential to ensure the sustainability of the outcomes of actions.

Globally, child participation mechanisms are increasingly being successfully integrated into state structures, particularly at local government level.
It remains to be seen to what extent any national policy framework for children (e.g. a National Plan of Action for Children or a National Child Rights Policy) supports both child participation and is operational. Knowing that a policy framework for children helps to strengthen the protection of children's rights and to take steps to implement child-friendly services.

For me, national child rights policies must support the basis and legitimacy of children's participation in governance. For the realisation of children's rights depends crucially on their involvement in policy design, implementation and evaluation.

Isaac Kotey, AWCY Ghana and former member of the Executive Management Group of the AMWCY



AMWCY:

REVIEW OF THE FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2017-2021)

The AMWCY has taken stok of its strategic plan (2017-2021). Click on the following link to access the full report.



Click on the following link to read the global report.

https://www.maejt.org/reports-en/strategic-plan-impacts-report-2017-2021/

AMWCY:

IMPLEMENTATION OF A CHILDREN'S GROUP SUPPORT PROGRAMME

In 2021, the AMWCY started the implementation of a Programme for the Accompaniment of Children's Groups (PAGE). The PAGE consists of participatory mapping and providing the most appropriate response according to the main targets and the different actors for an effective support.

Click on the following link to read the Year 1 report of the PAGE.



Click on the following link to read the report

https://www.maejt.org/reports-en/maejt-2022-report-support-program-for-working-groups-of-children/

AMWCY:

PRODUCTION OF THE CARTOON FILM : « TOUNGA : IT MUST CHANGE !»



The AMWCY has produced a cartoon film entitled "Tounga: it must change!" which translates the ECOWAS strategic framework on child protection into a child-friendly version. The film is the 4th of its kind in the ***"Tounga"*** series that exposes the issues facing children: child marriage, child labor, birth registration, child mobility, abuse and violence, exploitation, etc. It is also a call to action appealing to state authorities and protection actors to build a better world for children.

Produced by the AMWCY with the support of Enda Jeunesse Action and the financial assistance of Save the Children, the film is one of the fruits of the joint Regional Protection Group (GRPE)-ECOWAS plan.

It was launched on 24 November 2021 at the ECOWAS Center for Gender Development. The event brought together some GRPE member organizations including SOS Children's Villages, Plan International, Enda TM, and the online participation of the 28 AMWCY member countries, mainly represented by children. The participants praised the film which is intended to serve as a tool to raise awareness and advocate for the respect of children's rights.

Here is the link to the film on YouTube:
Français : ***https://youtu.be/HkrULE4iCEg***
Anglais : ***https://youtu.be/d4AyZ7mS5hs***

AMWCY:

MAPPING OF WORKING CHILDREN'S GROUP

COVID-19 has worsened the situation of children around the world and especially those in Africa and as such, many of them are undertaking small jobs in various fields or sectors in order to survive. Hence, the AMWCY through its member associations is mapping groups of working children in their immediate environments. The exercise is helping to identify **1409** groups of children and youth working in difficult situations in **23 countries**:

- 385 groups of child hawkers (itinerant and in fixed selling spots);
- 110: groups of luggage carriers, shoeshine boys, and waste pickers
- 118 groups of craftsmen and toolmakers
- 170 farmers' groups
- 626 groups of apprentices in small trades (mechanics, carpentry, sewing)

The supported activities for children's groups being undertaken by the AWCYs have helped **28071 (girls and boys),** working in difficult situations to carry out their activities in safe conditions, benefit from fair justice, live in a less violent environment and benefit from reasonable health care services.

In line with its action plan and that of the AMWCY's strategic plan, the National Coordination of the AWCY of Benin undertook several activities in 2021 to protect and promote the rights of working children and youth.

Thus, about **500 children and youth from 3 children's organizations** benefited from various activities undertaken within the framework of a partnership agreement between the AWCY-Benin and an NGO called EDUCO. The children's organizations are the National Consultative Association for Children of Benin (ANACEB), the National Consultative Council for Children (CCNE), and the Association of Working Children and Youth of Benin (AEJTB). The agreement is helping to implement activities such as the support for accountability initiatives for children's rights, capacity building for groups of working children and youth, and a campaign to promote the rights of working children. These activities have strengthened children's participation and capacities.

Similarly, **518 groups of working children** were listed from January to June 2021 by AWCY Benin during activities undertaken to identify, listen and assist children in working situations...



Beading training

Burkina Faso : ADVOCACY AND TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR AUTHORITIES, PROJECT STAFF, AND COMMUNITIES.

A total of 43 participants attended the advocacy and training workshop that was organized for authorities, field staff, and communities. It was held in December 2021 in Bobo-Dioulasso as part of the implementation process of the "integrated action program for community multi-stakeholder monitoring and redress mechanisms to combat child and forced labor in the Upper Bassins region". It was funded by the ILO through the “Clear Cotton” project and co-financed by the development cooperation instrument of the European Union.

The workshop took place in two phases: the first brought together all of the participants for 2 days and the second phase, brought together only the field staff for 2 days also. The workshop was conducted by the Regional Director of Labor and Social Protection and assisted by the head of the said project. Three declarations were issued during the workshop:

- the declaration contained in the decree on the list of hazardous work prohibited for children under 18;
- the declaration on the project to combat forced child labor, and
- the declaration on the project against child labor in the cotton production chain.

In turn, the workshops which have helped to strengthen the participants to take ownership of the project also strengthened their notion of child protection. They are now equipped to be deployed in the field and to attain the expected results.



Burundi : ACCOMPANIMENT OF GROUPS OF WORKING CHILDREN

In order to assist working children in the province of Cibitoke who sell doughnuts, eggs, peanuts, and also pig farmers and those loading fish, the National Coordination of the Synergy of Children Working in Difficult Situations (SEST I WACU i Burundi) strengthened the capacities of the WCY identified during the mapping exercise. Following their identification and listening sessions, **49 children and 9 youth** benefited from empowerment projects designed to help them to implement their projects and to enjoy their rights. Thanks to the capacity-building sessions in which they participated, these children are better organized and they respect each other. They have set up a Credit Fund which helps them to access to health care facilities. They no longer face threats nor receive negligible salaries from their bosses.



Cameroun: CHILDREN AT THE FOREFRONT FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILD RIGHTS CODE.

The AWCY Cameroon actively contributes toward the advancement of civil society advocacy for the adoption of the child protection code in Cameroon, as a member of the Executive Board of the "Cameroon Child Rights Civil Society Organization Network (CAMCRIN)" which is responsible for child participation. In that capacity, the AWCY Cameroon has helped children to participate by often collecting their opinion on various issues affecting them.

It took upon the responsibility to make presentations during plenary sessions on the position of children on strengthening their rights in different forums such as the workshop to share experiences between SCOs (Civil Society Organizations) to strengthening advocacy efforts; during a working session with parliamentarians in collaboration with the network of parliamentarians called ***"youth network";*** during a working session with the National Assembly's law commission; during a series of workshops with several ministers in charge of children's issues; with the governor of the central region, and with the decentralized local authorities. Another particular touch of the advocacy process was revealed through debates in certain media such as the national channel CRTV, the youth TV, and many others with a view to popularizing the initiative and explaining its merits to all.



Central African Republic:

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT VULNERABLE GROUPS: THE AWCY IS ACTIVE

The AWCY/CAR pleaded with the Central African government, international NGOs, and partners to help obtain job training opportunities for marginalized sectors of children and youth, namely: children who have dropped out of school; those who have been conscripted into armed groups; children and youth with disabilities; child mothers, and street children. The AWCY made the appeal during the forum on the theme: ***"Youth action for peace in the Central African Republic".*** The event which was attended by the Minister of Youth and Sports was organized in partnership with an NGO called URU.

Indeed, these sectors are often neglected. These children and youth need support. These child mothers need to be trained so that they can continue to live responsibly in society. Street children need psychological support and training. Many disabled people, even those with adequate intellectual capacity, are unable to continue their studies or find jobs because the new administrative and school buildings do not always have passages reserved for the disabled, and hence, the heartfelt cry launched by the AWCY for better assistance to these vulnerable sectors.



Côte d'Ivoire : RIGHT TO EDUCATION INCLUDING VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Thirty-five (35) school kits including school bags were offered to school children (from grade one to six) from poor families to enable them to go through the 2021-2022 school year. The generous act was made in October 2021 by the Association of Working Children and Youth of Côte d'Ivoire (AWCY-CI) Korhogo section. Its president, Paré Issouf, said « This gesture of high social impact is part of the project called: ***'Together, let's support the education of our children. The gesture is in support of the noble ambition of the government to promote compulsory schooling for children aged 6 to 16. »***

The gesture stems from the observation that in spite of the efforts by the Ivorian government to help children of schooling age and in vulnerable situations, the lack of birth certificates or financial assistance forces them into difficult situations such as idling in motorcycle garages, in markets and other business spots, etc. This situation can partly be blamed on the negligence of the parents. Hence, the school kits offered by the AWCY-CI Korhogo section were highly appreciated by the representatives of the local supervision and defense structures for the Rights of the Child. Among them, Yapi Christian Kenneth, the Director of the socio-educational complex present at the ceremony. Visibly delighted, Emmanuel Yéo, the spokesperson for the 35 beneficiaries who included 14 girls, was grateful to the donors when he said: ***"We are very happy to receive all these supplies; we will make good use of them and we will work hard in school to always be among the best," he promised.***



Ethiopia : MATERIALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO BE TAUGHT A TRADE

Some extremely vulnerable working children were identified in different localities during the visits conducted through the initiative of the AWCY Coordination. Discussions between the visitors and the vulnerable children culminated in the proposal for the latter to change their income-generating activities, and undertake vocational training in order to resolve the financial problems they were facing.

Besides the IGAs, the children and youth were engaged in different activities including working as volunteers during the summer and at which time, they provided different skills training to community members, participate in experience-sharing internships, and in finding job opportunities for their peers. Free vocational training was negotiated with an NGO called Industrialization Center-Ethiopia which helped to train **110 children and youth aged between 14 and 30 years** in the areas of catering, electricity, repairing of mobile phones, sewing, and hairdressing. In a way to support the recipients, the AWCY offered them tools and equipment such as electrical and mobile maintenance kits, electric fryers, and mini sewing machines.







Gambia: Discussions about children's working conditions

In 2021, **more than 60 children** working in different fields were listened to during a technical support mission organized by the national coordination of associations of working children and youth in The Gambia. The mission visited 4 cities, namely: **Brikama, Soma, Farafenni, and Basse.** The purpose of the mission was to follow up the mapping of groups of working children in order to discuss and understand their situation so that together, they could find solutions to the difficulties they face. Among the challenges highlighted by the children were: the lack of storage facilities for their goods, sexual harassment from customers, maltreatment and corporal punishment by their bosses, the lack of first aid equipment in their workshops, and long working hours. Discussions between visitors and the employers and children culminated in solutions ranging from the provision of first aid equipment to mechanical and metallurgical workshops for children, and training in first aid. The visitors also exchanged contact with the children and their bosses in all the workshops visited in order to enable the AWCY of the city to continue to accompany these children. At the end of the visits, each AWCY drew up an action plan to help them to continue the activity and to assist the other groups of working children who were not reached during the visit. One of Save the Children's representatives in The Gambia visited the participants on the first day of the presentation of the field reports.



Ghana: ACCOMPANIMENT OF WORKING CHILDREN GROUPS

The year 2021 was a year marked by a new experience that helps us reorganize our activities focusing on working children and youth who are in need and as well need to be strengthened to achieve their life goals. The experience was the social mapping and accompaniment of solutions for a group of working children who are facing some challenges in their work and some who don't have access to some basic social services.

During this exercise, we have seen situations where children have problems accessing health insurance and difficulties paying hospital bills.
Through this initiative, we supported **660 children (408 girls, 252 boys)** who didn't have access to health insurance cards to secure their health insurance cards. In some communities, the working children and youth are accompanied to engage in Beads Bag making, Mushroom production, liquid soap production, and Bee farming start-up kits to start their businesses. 08 grassroots group benefitted from this initiative reaching **128 children (86 boys, 42 girls) and 226 youth (165 boys and 61 girls).**

We also discovered that children who work with fishermen are being sent to the sea without life vests to protect them in case of emergencies. We accompanied them in Axim to organize a dialogue with their masters and advocated for these children to go back to school and also engage in vocational training.
We had about 35 people (patrons included) attending this dialogue.





Guinea : TRAINING ON PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AND DECENTRALIZATION POLICY

A series of data collection on the concerns of citizens and those of children, in particular, was carried out in **16 communities including 3 rural and 13 urban communes** by the children and youth organizations of the AWCY-Guinea. The information collected was used as a basis during the training of children on the participatory budget and the decentralization policy organized with the financial support of Save the Children within the framework of the SCO SIDA project through Enda/MAEJT. **100 children** actively participated in the process of elaboration, execution, and evaluation of the community budgets. These children have strengthened their capacity to advocate for the allocation of adequate budgets for child protection in order to better address the concerns and problems in their communities. These advocacy initiatives made it possible to obtain 20 free birth certificates in the communities during the Guinean Child Month (June), to set up a consortium of 20 children and youth structures around the town hall, and to have the communities subscribed to the 10 aspirations of the children of Guinea, which are included in the local development document.





Guinea Bissau: SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO CHILDREN'S PROBLEMS

As part of the restructuring of the grassroots groups and its member AWCY, the National Coordination of Associations of Working Children and Youth carried out technical support missions to the AWCY in order to know the strengths and weaknesses of the grassroots groups at the associative level but most importantly also, to strengthen and help them to find solutions to the problems they encounter. The latest mission is the one carried out in 7 different AWCY in the country on 6, 7, and 13 November 2021. The concerned **AWCY include those in Bafatá, Bissau, Canchungo, Farm, Gabú, Mansoa, and São Domingo.** In a bid to find solutions to the problems encountered by working children, the National Coordination of the AWCY has undertaken mapping sessions during their visits to groups of children employed in these cities. The mission helped to understand the real situation of these children and youth, made concerted recommendations to resolve the problems, and ensure the growth of the groups and associations. The visitors used the STAR (Situation, Task, Action, Result) approach which consists in establishing links between the problems and the results obtained.



Kenya : THE VOICE OF CHILDREN

"Let our voices be heard!". This is the theme on which the WCY of Kenya held advocacy meetings from April to July 2021 in Homabay and at the Nairobi association. In doing so, the children developed an advocacy paper containing the messages below which they presented to various stakeholders:

- Protect us from labour exploitation, harsh conditions, and risks, and allow children to do suitable dignified work
- Prevent and protect working children from violence and discrimination
- Address poverty, provide decent jobs for our parents, and ensure that our basic needs are met
- Take our education seriously and provide quality education and skill training

- Listen to us, understand us, and implement laws that respect our rights
- During pandemics, the Government should ensure fair distribution of aid, including the provision of basic food and/or cash to families to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable groups.
- Governments should ensure access to quality and inclusive education for all children by providing free education, free internet access, and devices for children to continue their education.
- Governments should create sources of employment, decent work, and livelihood support for parents, adolescents, and family members to enable families to meet basic needs and school-related costs.
- Ensure free and inclusive access to health care services with decent health equipment, medicines, and vaccination for all.
- Governments and NGOs should help prevent violence and should provide psychosocial support to children and families



Above, a 15-member Children's Advisory Committee delivering advocacy messages to give children a voice on issues affecting them

Together with other sister institutions, the grassroots groups in Cape Mount county, Bomi county, and those in the rural parts of Montserrado county, made a call to action that led these youth and community organizations to develop a report on the situation of children. Preliminary activities included consultation with children, storytelling, experience sharing, and interviews. The process enabled them to realize that thousands of children and youth still suffer from abuse, early pregnancy, and marriage, female genital mutilation, sexual and reproductive health and rights problems, as well as poor access to social and economic opportunities.
The findings were shared with national and international stakeholders who are decision-makers. The children of Liberia remain hopeful that those conditions will be dealt with thoroughly.

Indeed, until recently, very little was known about the situation of children and youth in Liberia. They did not have access to important information about their transition to adulthood, the environment they live in, the development and opportunities they experience, and the human rights and freedoms they enjoyed.





Madagascar : SEXUAL EDUCATION FOR ADOLESCENTS

In 2021, the AWCY of Madagascar mainly concentrated its activities on the sexual education of adolescents. This is because of the barriers or obstacles resulting from social norms that hinder the access of adolescents to sexual and reproductive health information, products, and services.

Since this question is taboo, the education that has been provided in the form of training has mainly focused on the following points:

The right to be informed, puberty, and changes.
Held between May and July 2021 at the AWCY centre, the training brought together 40 teenagers. The latter focused their discussions on various subjects including learning about puberty, the changes experienced in boys and girls during puberty, etc.
Previously, the trainers spoke with the mothers of these adolescents to find out whether they discussed these issues with their children. Through this training/education, the participants (both girls and boys) realized that they need accurate information on sexual and reproductive health in order to make informed decisions and avoid teenage pregnancies among girls.



Mali : Prioritisation and materialisation of children's rights

Attaining children's rights and awareness campaigns were the main objectives of the Associations of Working Children and Youth of Mali in 2021. Various activities were carried out to promote children's rights. They all placed emphasis on the need for discussions, accessing information, and carrying out awareness campaigns.



Rights to be listened to: 90 children were trained in community animation techniques in **Timbuktu, Gao, and Koulikoro.** After their training, these children animated **120 talk shows** on the worst forms of child labour to community leaders, identified children, youth, and parents.



Right to read and write: We facilitated access to evening classes **for 110 children** in the cities of Bamako, Timbuktu, and Sikasso thanks to the support of local partners. Support for the enrolment of 60 children returning from mobility, including repatriated children of school age.



Right to stay in the village: 70 children and youth are made aware of the risks associated with mobility. In addition, 45 talk shows were organised in the town of Sikasso with the population; these children claim to have more knowledge concerning mobility. Some have joined the AWCY, and others have become peer educators and informers within their communities. These talks have turned parents into actors committed to sensitizing their entourage on the risks linked to unaccompanied mobility.



On the right to training to learn a trade: 85 children have benefited from additional training in dyeing, wood, and metal carpentry in the cities of Bamako, Timbuktu, Sikasso, and Koulikoro. Some of the children have begun their integration into the labour market, impacting their lives, those of their families, and the community.



Mauritanie : AID FOR WORKING CHILDREN

In order to overcome the difficulties encountered by working children, direct actions have been taken including **awareness campaigns on the rights/protection of children, training on first aid, literacy, the setting up of IGAs for female housemaids and vendors, the donation of work materials to some categories of children: carpenters, welders, mechanics, farmers, dressmakers, and shoe shiners.** It is in a bid to provide better assistance that children especially those in a working situation in the cities of Bababé, Boghé, Mbagne, Nouakchott, and Rosso were identified in their various workplaces. The WCY carried out field visits during which they identified, listened and collected information from working children on their situation. Indeed, these children are victims of violence of all kinds in their workplaces; they encounter difficulties in accessing health care, fair justice in the event of a problem, and obtaining birth certificates. Moreover, these children suffer from the mismatch between their aspirations and the educational system; they are uncertain about their development or future because of unstable work with low pay. These activities have reached a total of 672 people including 392 children, 188 youth, and 92 adults, and have now brought about changes in the lives of children; a marked improvement in the organization of their work with protective measures that enables them to enjoy the rights they have come to know.





Niger : iMPLEMENTiNG LiFE PROJECTS FOR CHiLDREN AND YOUTH

The funding that was received to assist children who were mapped in workplaces made it possible to implement life projects in Niger, particularly for the AWCY of Niamey, Dosso, Zinder, Agadez, and Tchibiri. The results obtained so far are promising:

In Niamey, **more than 347 girls** (including housemaids) can now sew clothes and make soap which they can resell and use the money to cater for themselves.
In Zinder, a sewing training center was set up for young girls and women. The center caters to **more than 200 apprentices.**

In Dosso and Tchibiri, gardening, as well as the peanut oil and paste production, enables the AWCY there to assist the WCY to go to school and run literacy classes.
Agadez has a leisure space that enables WCYs to listen to children, especially children on the move or those deported from Algeria and Libya.





Nigeria: SANITATION ACTIVITIES AND AWARENESS RAISING

In Makoko, Lagos Island, and Oshodi, children working in the plank market are not immune to diseases, and working there makes them vulnerable due to the hazardous environment and conditions. In the metropolitan area of Lagos, hygiene and environmental issues are not sufficiently addressed.

The WCY members of these associations used community cleaning while relying on advocacy with community actors, to sensitize the inhabitants of the Oko Baba factory market on the need for physical exercise in order to prevent diseases such as COVID-19 and Lassa fever. The WCY reached about **913 people.** Now, with the help of some community members, the WCY is carrying out cleaning activities. It was agreed among the actors to reconduct the same cleaning exercise every last Saturday of the month. As a result, most community members have now changed their views on sanitation and personal hygiene.



Uganda : DOOR TO DOOR SENSITIZATION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The AWCY in Uganda in collaboration with local leaders conducted awareness campaigns on domestic violence in areas where they are present in the country. This is due to the increase in the incidents of domestic violence reported by WCY. The phenomenon has been exacerbated by the restrictive nature of the COVID-19 measures. Many people have lost their jobs, especially unskilled labour. During this sensitization process, the house-to-house approach was prioritized. Emphasis was placed on the definition of violence, the different forms of domestic violence, and the need to speak out when one is victimized. Households were visited during the awareness campaign in which children, youth, and parents participated. The immediate impact of the training was an increase in knowledge about domestic violence.







Rwanda: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE: BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION!

Thanks to AWCY Rwanda which is commonly known as CVT (Children's Voice Today), the children have understood the importance of protecting the environment. Some of them have taken the initiative to plant seedlings which will be distributed to others and planted trees in their homes. Moreover, the CVT organization has made environmental protection one of its priorities and has made it one of the pillars of its new five-year strategic plan.

The children received tree seedlings from their fellow children in order to plant them in their respective homes and protect the environment, obtain fruits for their diet and motivate the children to commit to protecting the environment from their childhood days. The children understood the importance of protecting the environment. One of them (Elisabeth, 15 years old) took the initiative to plant seedlings which she distributes to the other children in order to plant them in their homes.



Fred, a member of the children's « Amizero » grassroots group working in the Nyamirambo area, is seen here planting mango trees.

Senegal : WCY EQUIPPED TO BETTER PROTECT THEIR PEERS

In a bid to strengthen child protection, the National Coordination of Associations of Working Children and Youth or CNAEJT in Senegal organized a boot camp that lasted 10 days. It hosted 15 AWCY that were represented by protective elders as well as technical and financial partners of the CNAEJT.

The project has made it possible to revisit three issues that have a direct impact on the lives of children and youth, specifically on working children and youth, namely: child marriage, schooling, and birth registration. Its implementation reinforces the local management of child protection among peers through capacity building to empower AWCY. It will not only improve the sexual and reproductive health knowledge of working children and youth but also strengthens their ability to raise awareness of the issues that affect them (violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, etc.).



Sierra Leone : WCY ACTIVENESS IN REFORESTATION

Climate change effects and other environmental disasters such as floods, mudslides, and deforestation affecting the whole world do not spare anyone. They increase the vulnerability of children in urban neighborhoods, city centers, and remote villages. Thanks to the effective collaboration between community actors and other youth groups, the participation of WCY from Sierra Leone in the district climate change committee has been helpful.

The WCY have been mandated to involve more communities in the western rural district. This is the result of the reforestation exercise which the WCY embarked upon to sensitize the population on the importance of trees in the community. They planted **320 trees** because they were determined to play their part in the fight against climate change effects. The WCY encouraged the populations to adopt and follow a reforestation system in their communities and in their individual gardens. The reforestation exercise was successful and received a positive response from children in the community, who pledged their continued support for environmental protection.



Tanzania : LIFE SKILLS TRAINING CAMP FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND PARENTS

In June and December every year, the AWCY of Tanzania commonly called 'Children and Youth Voice Coalition' or CYVC, organizes various training sessions for children, youth, and their parents on life skills in rural areas.

In June 2021, approximately **200 children and their parents** benefited from the training sessions in the centers that are run by the CYVC in the rural communities of Mwanga and Marangu in the Kilimanjaro region.

These training took the form of a camp and they enable participants to immerse themselves in a rural environment lifestyle and to exchange ideas, among other things. The CYVC undertook activities such as agriculture, fetching firewood, sensitization of community members on the rights of the child, drama performances, reforestation, etc. For example, **90 trees** were planted by the participants who are now prioritizing environmental preservation. The training also enabled participants to help other needy people in several aspects ranging from environmental conservation (including reforestation) to experimenting with education for autonomy and mastery of the city and countryside environment.





Chad: AWCY KOUNDOUL WINS MUNICIPAL'S CUP, UNDERTAKES MAPPING OF WORKING CHILDREN GROUPS

Integrated into the 2021 tournament of the municipality of Koundoul, the AWCY football team ***"AS WCY"*** took part while seizing the opportunity to disseminate messages to ***"Popularize the right to leisure for working children and youth."*** AS WCY finally won the tournament. The AWCY membership has grown to include a new grassroots group called ***"GB Namchu Guidam"*** which means ***"let's move forward"*** in Arabic. The WCY used the words: ***« Dynamic and enduring »*** to describe the strength of their team. After winning 7 of the 8 matches, it qualified for the final which took place on the evening of 5 December 2021 at the 'Stade de la Commune' in Koundoul. The Youth and Sports Delegate and many other guests and resource persons, including the Social Action Delegate watched the final match.

Moreover, in 2021, **814 children, including 365 girls and 449 boys), 722 youth (327 girls and 395 boys), and 442 adults (175 women and 267 men)** benefited from the support of the national coordination of the associations of working children and youth (CNAEJT) of Chad in its project to map children in working situation. Among the beneficiaries was a group of "Young female traders" who have been identified, listened to, and supported. Regarding the risks encountered by these street vendors, the CNAEJT negotiated with the town hall of the 9th Arrondissement and obtained a space in the market where they built a hangar for them.



Togo : THE AWCY-DE TAKES THE LEAD IN RENEWING ADVISORY COUNCILS

In order to guarantee the effective participation of children in forestalling violence against them, the government of Togo, in keeping with the recommendations made that were submitted to it by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, created the Children's Advisory Council. The recommendations are contained in the report on the situation of children's rights. As part of the implementation process of the project: ***"Strengthening of Civil Society for the Governance of Children's Rights in Togo (CRG) »,*** the issue of the participation and involvement of children and youth are taken into account in order to enable them to effectively influence the decision-making processes that affect them.

Thanks to its experience in associative work and child participation, the Association of Children and Youth of Togo for the Rights of the Child (AEJT-DE) is leading the way in undertaking activities to renew prefectural advisory councils with the technical assistance of the Ministry of Action, Promotion of Women and Literacy and other partners: FODDET, FONGTO, and RELUTET. As part of the activity to renew the prefectural advisory councils for children in the **39 prefectures. A total of 880 children, both girls, and boys, were elected members of the prefectural offices,** representing their peers at the prefectural level. It should be noted that in all of the prefectures where the AEJT – DE is established, the directors have worked together with the WCY.



Prefectural group



Opening session
of the prefectural council meeting

Zambia : SUPPORT TO WORKING CHILDREN GROUPS

In 2021, in alignment with the vision of AMWCY, the national coordination of Zambia and its grassroots group engaged in the identification of working children and youth groups who face some challenges in their working places and space. Some of the problems highlighted are the insufficient capacity to manage their IGAs, and their profits while in some groups, the major challenge is education.

The WCY who conducted the social mapping exercises after discovering the needs hence engaged with stakeholders and resource persons in their communities such as key government stakeholders and the bus station association where working children sell their products to take serious problem-solving actions. Some pointed to education as a solution to their problem, while others suggested that empowering their parents economically and securing commercial spaces for older children, would be another way forward.

As a result:

- The children after engaging with the local council in the market places given permission to post posters on all types of abuse they face in the market spaces
- Some of the children were empowered on how to manage the profits from their IGAs, and some were supported with seeds to continue their cropping business.
- The local council develop child protection regulations to protect working children between 17 – and 18years in the marketplace places



Zimbabwe : EMPOWERMENT OF GIRLS AND YOUNG MOTHERS

In order to help prevent girls from being absent from educational and economic activities, the WCY of Zimbabwe participated in various activities including training in making sanitary pads for girls and young mothers as well as training on how to be creative by using hands to make a living. This has helped many girls and young women who previously could not afford to buy sanitary pads which prevented them from going to work or to school during menstruation. The training helped girls to improve their menstrual hygiene.

Moreover, the WCY also trained teenage girls in making bedsheets, bedspreads, pillowcases, and curtains. This is a major achievement because it has created a ripple effect since those who have been trained are also teaching other members of society. This is helping many girls and young mothers who previously had no source of income to now support their households. Both training successfully reached out to girls and young women who are now empowered to make a difference by solving socio-economic problems in Zimbabwe.



INTERVIEWS AND POEMS:

Interview with the AWCY President of Bababé:



My name is Housseynou Sall, President of the Association of Working Children and Youth in Bababé.

I have been a member since 2020 and since then, I have seen a big change in my life. The experience I have gained is helping me to be a leader, assist children, and to impact our communities. For me and many others, the AWCY is a school, and the association is doing a lot for us by positively changing our lives (…….). The AMWCY is like a tree whose fruits are feeding the children, so it is our duty to watch over this tree in order to keep the children happy..

"All together, we stand for a better future for children!"

POEM:

I am a child

- Don't leave me!
- Don't punish me!
- Do not involve me in your marital or political disputes!

For the better future of my nation I claim:

- quality education adapted to current realities;
- training for a career for children who have dropped out of school;
- to be consulted whenever a decision is taken in our family
- that we find a solution for street children because the street has never produced children;
- that the rules to protect me should be carried out, and

I say no to those practices that prevent me from flourishing:

- No to child marriages;
- No to sexual harassment in schools;
- No to the enrollment of children in armed groups.

Cherish me!

I am a child, a child like other children of the world.

By NDOMALET Gad Fidèle, WCY of Central Africa Republic

Testimony of Micah Mubanga

Micah Mubanga ***(photos 1. In a studio of a radio station & image 2 Holding a doormat)***





AWCY-Zambia, changing lives, building better communities: the testimony of Micah Mubanga

Being a member of the AWCY has really helped me in many ways.

My life

I was a child without a clear understanding of children's rights and responsibilities. I grew up with a silent voice due to domestic abuse and mistreatment; it instilled fear in me, a loss of self-esteem, and a life in which I do not express myself freely.

Membership in the Tulipamo grassroots group

By joining the Tulipamo grassroots group in 2019 and then the National Coordination, I got a space where I could speak out and be heard. To cite a few examples: in 2019, I was chosen to speak on the radio about the movement and the 12 priority rights. In 2021, a golden opportunity arose where I attended a virtual meeting, the 76th Annual General Assembly of the United Nations held on 22 September 2021 on violence against children in times of crisis. These opportunities helped me to develop self-confidence which is helping me in my job as the Coordinator of Children and Youth Activities.

Africa and Indian Ocean

Associations of Working Children and Youth, members and their supporting structures

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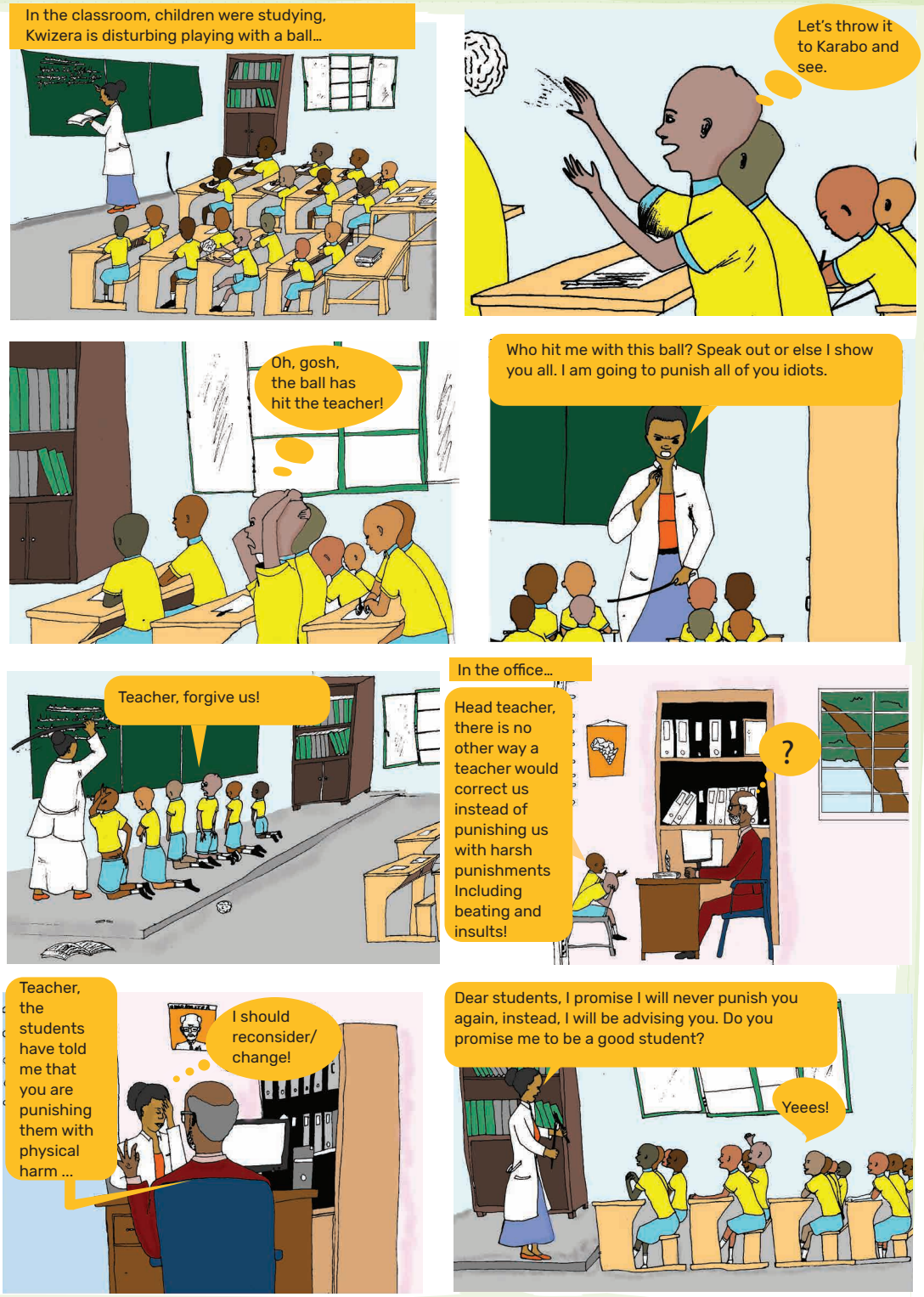
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Cartoon

iT BREAKS THE BONE...



Artist: Mutiganda Ramdhan, 17, Nyarugenge district


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STATISTICS OF THE AFRICAN MOVEMENT OF WORKING CHILDREN AND YOUTH (AMWCY)

