

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

TO EVERYONE!!!!

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* AMWCY: intergenerational dialogue with the ACERWC

The 30th anniversary celebration of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on the theme: "*The role of children in implementing the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child after 30 years of existence*", was marked by an intergenerational dialogue between the AMWCY and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). It was time to advocate with the ACERWC to encourage it to transmit the children's message to the Heads of State, urging them to act quickly in order to overcome the challenges facing children on the continent: violence, child marriage, FGM, discrimination, exploitation, abuse, the worst forms of child labor, registration of children at birth, etc. This dialogue was covered by a few online media outlets. You can click on the links below to listen to the cry from the children's hearts:

<https://youtu.be/oer1vjARLXs>

https://youtu.be/s_MsVmyPE5o

<https://youtu.be/Mqo87-QE76U>

<https://youtu.be/u69NYaOugYY>

<https://youtu.be/trPyG4Mq4rs>

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* Mauritania: training workshop on social cohesion and intercultural dialogue

On 14 and 15 November 2020, 25 youths from associations based in the Arafat neighborhood and several local authorities were trained on the theme: "Social cohesion and living together". Organized by the Association for the Integration of Working Children and Youth of Mauritania (AIEJTM) with the financial support of CORIM, the workshop forms part of the project called: "**Improving the resilience of vulnerable youths to different forms of radicalization**", by strengthening social cohesion in the peripheral districts of Nouakchott-Sud. The choice of the project's topic stemmed from the observation made on social crises, marginalization and exclusion of some sectors of the population in conducting the affairs of the city. In order to attain this objective, the AIEJTM anchored on its fundamental values of non-violence and social justice which are the elements of peace studies. In order to also attain the objective, different modules were taught: "*general aspects of social cohesion; general aspects of conflict prevention; communication strategy and tools*". The participants seized the opportunity to express their satisfaction over the modules of the workshop. According to **Avia Salem Matalla**: "The session was very beneficial; we conducted fruitful exchanges between youths and we also clearly understood the problems we face within our respective communities as well as how to integrate the values of living together while conducting mediations and awareness campaigns to prevent conflicts".

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* DRC: children appeal for an increase in the budget allocated to them

Children contribute a lot to the promotion of their rights through grassroots groups. Hence, on 18 December 2020, the child members of the AWCY/Goma invited Messrs. BAHATI Ngumbi and NGWAJI Célestin, respectively Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of the Budget of the province of North Kivu. The children invited the two ministers to the premises of their supporting structure called Muungano Solidarity. The two ministers were accompanied by a delegation. For two hours, the children discussed with them the issues affecting children in the province, especially in the city of Goma, and appealed for an increase in the budget allocated to children. The authorities appreciated the discussion with the children, saying: "Children are the leaders of tomorrow; investing in children is a sign of sustainable development". The ministerial delegation also exchanged with the children on their experiences and about the budget intended to promote children's rights. The head of the children's association thanked their guests for the visit and exchanges, noting that it was a great opportunity that they will capitalize on, adding: "we thank you for having visited our AWCY; our views can contribute to the emergence and respect for children's rights in general".

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***Chad: training of WCY in bag making**

In order to strengthen its members and contribute to their economic empowerment, the National Coordination of Associations of Working Children and Youth of Chad (AWCY/Chad) in collaboration with the AWCY of the town of Moundou in the South, organized a training workshop on bead-based handbag making techniques on the theme: "I can take care of myself". Held from 22 to 23 November 2020, the workshop was held in two phases: a theoretical phase and a practical phase. As a result of this training, a total of 73 WCY including 44 youths and 29 children were equipped. With the new knowledge and skills acquired, these children and youths can now undertake IGAs to provide for their needs and, in turn, reduce their vulnerability.

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*** Togo: Children and young people strengthened in the process of monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**

On 18 December 2020, still as part of the civil society strengthening project for the governance of children's rights in Togo, AWCY-DE organized a capacity building workshop for children and youth associations on organizing and preparing for the National Volunteers Examination (NVE).

Funded by Plan International Togo, the workshop was held at ODEF in Lomé. It brought together 25 participants from different children's and youth organizations such as AWCY-DE, Alafia Jeunes, A nous la planète, Afriyan, CCNE, CCPE Lomé Golfe, Girls'Motion, Youth Panel and ROJET. The objective of the workshop is *to strengthen the participation of children and youth in the process of monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the National Volunteers Review*. This, in order to prepare children and youth organizations to participate in the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) scheduled for **July 2021 in New York**.

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