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(AMWCY)

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***AMWCY: second edition of the African Children's Forum**

The second edition of the Africa Children's Forum was held from 22 to 26 March 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya on the theme: "**Resilience of children and Youth in COVID-19 context**". It was organized by the AMWCY with the financial support of Plan International and Save the Children and was attended by participants from 6 countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), and virtually by 22 other member countries of the Movement. The Forum comprised of experience sharing sessions on promising, innovative and alternative initiatives developed by children and youth and the targeted communication developed by them in the context of Covid-19. The participants held a round table with protection agents as well as representatives of the Governor of Nairobi on the theme of the forum. During the occasion, they planned new directions on how to ensure the effective participation of children in making decisions that affect them as well as the management of the health crisis. The children also disseminated messages to States and stakeholders encouraging them to effectively care for children affected by Covid-19 in terms of protection, education, abuse, domestic violence, recreation, economic impacts of the pandemic on children and their families, etc.

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***Benin: signature of a partnership agreement**

On 12 February 2021, the management committee and the National Coordination of Associations of Working Children and Youth (NCAWCY) of Benin signed a partnership agreement with EDUCO, an NGO in Benin for a period of 10 months (from March to December 2021). The agreement forms is part of the "**Program to strengthen national child protection and education systems**" and formalizes the collaboration between NCAWCY/Benin and EDUCO, which have been working in synergy for several years. The AWCY of Benin will have to undertake the following tasks in order to implement the nationwide program: build the capacities of children and youth on child protection techniques; support accountability in children's activities and promote the rights of working children and youth.

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***Ethiopia: training session for grassroots group leaders**

In a bid to ensure an effective generational transition, 23 grassroots leaders of the Working Children and Youth Support Association were trained in the concepts of AMWCY and its activities. The training was conducted in the mini room of the Woreda 6 youth center. The participants seized the opportunity to discuss the issues facing children including those related to child labor, abuse, child trafficking, rape, etc. For the children, the training was very useful and enabled them to understand the aforementioned problems, and find solutions to them, know the 12 rights as well as the strategies needed to attain them. The training also enabled them to increase confidence in themselves, improve their ability to express themselves, to communicate and also improve their leadership skills, to remain the voice of the voiceless children, and leaders of change at the local level. As a result of the training, the leaders' capacities and commitment to promoting children's rights have been strengthened, especially as they previously hosted radio broadcasts. They are now better equipped to continue raising awareness and to discuss directly with their communities on issues relating to children's rights.

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***Mauritania: the WCYs in Boghé are active in social cohesion**

The AWCY of Boghé is becoming very active in social cohesion thanks to the project: "*promotion of the values of social cohesion and youth empowerment and resilience to gender-based violence*" that is being implemented by the WCYs in collaboration with technical and financial partners. The choice of this theme on social cohesion is informed on the need to develop the spirit of living together among the different components of the Mauritanian population. It is in this context that 72 hours of exchanges and cultural integration were organized from 19 to 21 March 2021 at the AWCY headquarters. The 3 days were marked by rich exhibition of different Mauritanian cultures, traditional parades, conferences - debates and a football match. The WCYs and organizations of the municipality were the key players in the activities which brought together administrative and municipal authorities, parents, partners, the WCY support team and the population in general.

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***Rwanda: children give their views on the SDGs**

From 23 to 24 January 2021, 60 children including 30 girls and 15 children with disabilities participated in a virtual consultation session with the aim of gathering children's views on sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and others opportunities linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All of these children came from grassroots groups of children from 5 districts namely: **Nyarugenge, Burera, Ruhango, Rutsiro and Kirehe**. Their participation was made possible through the collaboration of Children's Voice Today-CVT, with the UN Human Rights Council, Child Rights Connect and Save the Children. This consultation focused on 9 SDGs including: SDG - 1: No poverty; SDG - 2: Zero hunger; SDG - 3: Good health and well-being; SDG - 4: Quality education; SDG - 8: Decent work and economic growth; SDG - 10: Reduction of inequalities; SDG - 12: Sustainable consumption and production; SDG - 13: Measures to combat climate change; SDG - 16: Peace, justice and effective institutions, and SDG - 17: Partnerships to achieve goals.

After collecting the opinions of the children, 3 children (2 girls and 1 boy) joined their peers from different corners of the world in a virtual meeting chaired by Gina Bergh of the UN-OHCHR. Discussions focused on the challenges and actions of government on issues of poverty, hunger, health and well-being and what children should do as well as the support they need as children to take part in the sustainable development of their country in order to attain the well-being of the community.

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***Chad: cultural evening to raise awareness on the rights of the child to light and limited work.**

On 28 February 2021, the Association of Working Children and Youth (AWCY) of Moundou organized a cultural evening at the Philosophy Cultural Center in Moundou on the theme: "*the child has the right to light and limited work*". The theme was inspired from the situation that children are currently going through. Based on the observation that children are increasingly being employed to undertake heavy work and for long hours, the AWCY selected the theme to sensitize parents, employers and the community in general on the rights of the child to a light, limited work and rest. On the evening's agenda, there were drama performances, dance, animation games and calls for the respect of the rights of the child within his community. The event was part of the implementation of the AWCY action plan. It brought together 68 WCY and about 200 non-WCY children. The audience particularly enjoyed the scenes that portrayed work that was undertaken by children that was far beyond their age and over long periods of time.

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***Zimbabwe: a series of activities for children to express themselves**

Under the aegis of the Kwekwe childled group, the WCY of Zimbabwe successfully implemented different programs during the month of February 2021. The programs which included information dissemination, online sessions, radio programs, jingles and data collection, were designed to raise awareness and promote the rights of the child in the country. The children conducted 12 radio programs on Midlands FM and they mainly focused on topical issues such as gender-based violence, sexual abuse, forced child labor and COVID-19. In so doing, they also communicated effectively with the entire population of Zimbabwe. The audience statistics provided by Midlands FM indicate that radio programs reached 1,000 listeners per bracket and 700 views per session for 4 slots. A total of 64,800 people were reached across the country in one month. The children also produced 11 online sessions with Zimpapers TV Network on child participation and inclusion of people with disabilities through zoom meetings reaching over 87,300 people.

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