

WEST AFRICA

PROGRAMME PROFILE



Save the Children
Sweden

Save the Children fights for children's rights. We deliver immediate and lasting improvements to children's lives worldwide.

Save the Children Sweden works for:

- A world which respects and values each child.
- A world where all children participate and have influence.
- A world where all children have hope and opportunity.

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Regional Office for West Africa

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Jenny Gatien

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Anna Kåri

Save the Children Sweden
Regional Office for West Africa
Point E, rue 6xC
BP 25934, Dakar-Fann
Senegal
Tel. + 221 869 18 00
Fax. + 221 864 44 63
Email. savedakar@orange.sn
www.rb.se

Save the Children	p.4
Vision	p.4
Context	p.5
Our programmes	p.6
Promoting the child rights based approach	p.6
Putting an end to violence against and exploitation of children	p.7
Fighting violence against children	p.7
Working to end female genital mutilation	p.8
Fighting trafficking and exploitation	p.10
Putting a stop to child begging	p.12
Supporting working children to organize	p.14
HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health	p.16
HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual and reproductive health rights	p.16
Creating safety nets for children affected by HIV/AIDS	p.17
Children affected by armed conflict	p.18
Mobilizing communities to protect their children	p.18
Training of military on child rights and child protection	p.20
Building the capacity of organisations to support children affected by conflict	p.21
Stopping the use of child soldiers	p.22
Education	p.24
Education in armed conflict- Rewrite the Future	p.24
Ensuring schools are inclusive	p.26
Strengthening civil society for the rights of the child	p.27
Strengthening national organisations	p.27
Supporting coalitions for improved child rights monitoring and advocacy	p.28
Making the media aware of children's rights	p.30
Good governance in the best interest of the child	p.31
Focus Africa	p.32
Our partners in 2007	p.33
Our donors in 2007	p.38

Save the Children Sweden is a politically and religiously unaffiliated non-governmental organisation.

Through 18 offices around the world, Save the Children Sweden contributes technical and financial

support to 278 projects in more than 60 countries.

Save the Children Sweden is a member of the International Save the Children Alliance, which is

present in 110 countries and whose 27 member organisations comprise a powerful movement for children and children's rights all around the world.

Vision

Our vision is a world in which all children's rights are fulfilled. Save the Children Sweden works for:

- A world which respects and values each child.
- A world where all children participate and have influence.
- A world where all children have hope and opportunity.

Our working principles are based on the United Nation's (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Union's (AU) African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Our values are based on the conviction that all people are of equal worth, that children have special rights and that all human beings have a responsibility to make these rights a reality. We also hold states accountable for the special responsibilities they have to ensure that children's rights are respected.

Save the Children was founded in 1919 and Save the Children Sweden started working in West Africa in 1977. We have offices in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire and support projects in 16 West African countries.

Save the Children Sweden uses a regional approach in its work. Not only do we support programmes in countries throughout the region, but we encourage organisations and child rights activists from different countries to come together to discuss issues and harmonize their approaches.



Save the Children Sweden works mainly with and through non-governmental organisations, coalitions and networks. We are technically and financially supporting more than 50 organisations throughout West Africa to carry out projects aimed at promoting, protecting and fulfilling children's rights. In Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal we are implementing programmes ourselves as well as supporting national organisations to carry out projects.

We build the capacity of all our partners by providing them opportunities for training, networking, exchange and coaching. We commission and conduct research on cutting-edge issues facing children in the region. We collaborate with local organisations to lobby governments, donors and other duty bearers for policy change, new legislation and increased budget allocation for the benefit of more children in the long-term.

Save the Children Sweden promotes the child rights based approach to work. As such, we build the capacity of our partners so that they hold governments accountable to the commitments they have made to uphold children's rights, we ensure our programmes fight against discrimination, consult children, tackle the root causes of the problems, and work towards long-term change.

Context

There are almost 240 million people living in the 16 countries where Save the Children works. The region's traditions, cultures, historical experiences and social structures bind the countries together. Several large population groups inhabit more than one country. There is also a tradition of migration between countries. The northern parts of the region have a predominantly Muslim population while a large part of the population in the southern parts is Christian. Animism is also widespread.

The economy is characterised by subsistence farming as the main source of income for the majority of the population. Export incomes largely come from agricultural production, such as cotton, groundnuts and cocoa (Côte d'Ivoire is the world's biggest exporter of cocoa beans). The northwest African coast is also one of the richest fishing grounds in the world.

Poverty is widespread and human development indicators are low. All West African countries are found on the lower half of the UNDP Human Development Index. Niger,

Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea-Bissau have the lowest human development index value in the world (Human Development Report, UNDP, 2006). Life expectancy in most of the countries is under 50 years. Of ten countries in the world with an under-five mortality rate above 200 per thousand, six are located in West Africa.

In recent years a number of armed conflicts have affected several West African countries. Sierra Leone and Liberia experienced devastating wars that ended only a few years ago. Conflict also broke out in Côte d'Ivoire in 2002 which has resulted in the country being divided in two. As of April 2007, the conflict had not been resolved. In Casamance, a region in the southern part of Senegal, a low intensity conflict has been going on for two decades.

All countries are progressively adopting democratic systems although authoritarian behaviour still exists in some countries. With the ongoing democratisation, more space is opening for civil society and the media. Despite setbacks in some countries, there is also an in-

creasing understanding and interest for human rights, particularly from civil society.



All the countries of West Africa have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Twelve countries have signed or ratified the optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and 13 countries have signed or ratified the optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (as of April 2007). All 16 states have signed or ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

Promoting the child rights based approach

The problem:

Quite often development organisations plan and implement small, short-term projects addressing the needs of a few children. The result is unsustainable projects which only target small pockets of the population. Many of those projects fail to hold governments accountable. What is more, the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the AU African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child are often ignored by citizens, NGOs and even the State itself, although the State is the primary duty-bearer.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden assists its partners to plan and implement projects using a rights based approach. Programmes are based on situation analyses which identify the root causes of the rights violations and identify the duty bearers responsible. Partner organisations are trained and coached to broaden their work. For example, all child rights principles should be taken into account in projects supporting children, and advocacy for change in policies, legislation and/or budgets should be included. Save the Children Sweden also trains and develops tools for the wider international development community on the child rights approach.



What is the child rights based approach?

The child rights based approach transforms the vision of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) into a concrete strategy for child focused development. The overall goal is to improve the situation of children and to build societies that acknowledge and respect children's rights. Based on the four general principles of the CRC, the child rights approach ensures that projects work for the best interest of the child, fight discrimination, ensure children's right to survival and development, involve children and listen to their opinions and ideas. In addition, the responsibilities of all actors are identified. While parents, communities, civil society and international donor organisations all have their roles to play, the States have the primary responsibility to respect, protect and fulfill children's rights. The States are held accountable for the commitments they have made when ratifying the CRC and other human rights instruments. The child rights based approach addresses the root causes of rights violations and demands policy, legislative and practical change to make a difference in children's lives now and in the future.

Putting an end to violence against and exploitation of children

Fighting violence against children

The problem:

Incidences of violence against children go on every day throughout the world. In West Africa, the most reported types of violence against children include corporal and humiliating punishment in schools and at home; sexual violence; exploitation of working children; and harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage.

“Before, I did not know anything about children’s rights. I knew that if I did something wrong, I would get beaten. But I finally realized that it was human torture. Giving advice is better than violence. You cannot beat a child and try to get a message across.”
Muluseka, 14 years old

Muluseka was one of hundreds of children collecting information about different forms of violence children are subjected to in West Africa. With his friends, he now campaigns in The Gambia to stop the use of violence as a means of discipline.

What we are doing about it:

The UN Study on Violence against Children was published in 2006 and documented the scale and impact of violence children experience throughout the world. Save the Children Sweden worked with children in 10 West African countries to identify the kinds of violence they are exposed to and the consequences of that violence to contribute to the global study. Based on the information found, we are supporting organisations to launch information and advocacy campaigns to put a stop to violence against children. This includes advocating for the creation of legislation which forbids the use of corporal punishment in schools, homes and in the

work place. Once the legislation is in place, we try to make sure it is enforced. The partners also discuss with parents and teachers as to why corporal punishment is not a positive discipline tactic. We have encouraged children themselves to fight for their right to be protected from violence. They are campaigning in their schools, to their parliamentarians, in their neighbourhoods and homes. The children have realized that the violence they experienced in the name of “good upbringing” is neither necessary nor helpful for positive child development. Save the Children has also trained concerned adults on how to identify and assist children who are subject to violence.



Putting an end to violence against and exploitation of children *Working to end female genital mutilation*

The problem:

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is practised in about 28 African countries. Every year more than 3 million girls are circumcised in Africa. Although it is a cultural practice, it is often linked to religion. It is commonly practiced in most West African countries with the highest prevalence rates in Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali and The Gambia. In Mali and Guinea, over 90% of all girls and women have undergone the procedure. The practice consists of cutting or removing the clitoris and at times removing the inner and or outer vaginal lips of the girl. In certain cases, the girl's vaginal opening is sewn together, leaving a very small opening for menstrual flow and urination. The cutting is often done by traditional practitioners in unsanitary conditions. It has major health risks and can lead to death. It is also extremely painful and reduces women's sexual stimulation.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden supports local organisations in Mali, The Gambia, and Senegal to inform communities and mobilise governments and leaders for the eradication of the practice. Save the Children has worked hard to convince our partners to fight FGM using a rights-based approach rather than a health-based approach which only discourages the practice because of its health risks. An evaluation revealed that tackling FGM only as a health issue does not stop the practice. Rather, it simply leads to FGM being carried out in more sanitary conditions or in health centres. With the rights based approach, organisations instead challenge the very concept of the practice and get people to abandon it rather than just do it in more hygienic conditions as well as insist that governments take legal action to stop it. It focuses on the consequences of the practice on the girl child's rights to survival and development.

Save the Children Sweden supports organisations to raise awareness in communities, discuss with chiefs and local authorities and set up village monitoring committees to ensure the practice is stopped. The organisations convince religious leaders that there is not a connection between the practice and Islam or Christianity and persuades them to explain to their followers the negative consequences of FGM. They lobby governments to draft and enforce legislation banning FGM. They train health workers about the harms of FGM so they can share the information with their clients. They work closely with female circumcisers, convince them to give up the practice, get their colleagues to do the same and assist them to get involved in other income generating activities.



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Putting an end to female genital mutilation - one village at a time

“In the past, both boys and girls were circumcised. This year the village started talking about it and we realized that it is bad to circumcise girls so we are stopping it. We used to think it helped the women to give birth more easily but now we understand that it can complicate the birthing process, not help it” says Fatimata Komati.

Fatimata continued: “My husband, the chief of the village, had a meeting with the village and insisted we stop circumcising our girls. He also called the men together and trained them about why circumcision was bad. He spoke to those working in the small clinic in the village and trained them as well. He also went with the mayor to the other two villages in the commune and talked to them about the dangers of circumcision.

In this village we used to hold circumcision campaigns. A traditional practitioner would come and we would give all the uncircumcised girls to her to do the procedure. Everyone circumcised their girls until 2003. Since then, fewer and fewer people have done it. Last year, when the circumciser came, she had no clients in this village.”

Fatimata’s husband was trained and supported to do local awareness raising by Centre Djoliba, a Malian organisation supported by Save the Children Sweden. During the training, Centre Djoliba provided convincing facts as to the harm of the practice but also explained why it was a violation of girls’ rights. As one of Centre Djoliba’s field workers said: “During our discussions in the field, we ask people the following questions: Do you have the right to cut the leg of your child? The people answer no. Do you have the right to cut the arm of your child? They answer no. So why do you cut off a part of your girl child? Then they start reflecting about the right to body integrity of every human being including children and do not have any other choice except to stop the practice.”

Fatimata’s husband is one of many chiefs who have been convinced by Centre Djoliba that FGM is wrong and is campaigning to put an end to it in his country.



Putting an end to violence against and exploitation of children *Fighting trafficking and exploitation*

The problem:

Boys and girls are trafficked for their labour throughout West Africa and into other parts of the world. The porous borders in West Africa make the move from one country to another easy for networks of traffickers and for children who are in search of work to provide income for their families. Most often girls are taken to work as domestic workers and boys are taken to work in the agricultural fields and mines. In both scenarios, the children are separated from their families, most often denied the right to go to school, do not have time for rest and recreation and are sometimes physically, psychologically or sexually abused.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden is supporting organisations in Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo and Senegal to combat trafficking. The organisations launch information campaigns and dialogue with local communities to raise awareness about trafficking and, at the same time, lobby governments to develop and implement national legislation, policies and allocate budget to combat the phenomena. Save the Children also supports organisations to reintegrate children who have been subjects of trafficking back into their families and communities and provides the children opportunities to attend school and receive psychosocial support.

Save the Children collaborates with international and national agencies working to prevent trafficking so that everyone working to end child trafficking has a holistic perspective that respects child rights. For example, we developed a set of minimum standards and produced a guideline for the protection of children who have been trafficked. Based on these guidelines, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo have adopted minimum standards for the protection of children who have been trafficked and police, magistrates and social workers have been trained on these, ensuring people are aware of how to tackle trafficking from a rights-based approach. That way, a child who has been a victim of trafficking receives similar care and support regardless of where s/he lives.



Fighting child abuse and exploitation in Togo

When Esther was four years old she was sent to Nigeria to work. She worked in a variety of different houses but never got to go to school, was often abused and worked long hours. She missed her family and wanted to go to Togo, her home, to see them. It had been more than 10 years since she had contact with her family. She ran away from her employer to go home and made the long journey from Nigeria to Togo alone. When she got home, her father was angry she had left her job and chased her out of the house.

She did not have anywhere to go and was wandering the streets when a woman took her in to her house. Though she thought this woman was kind, she was mistaken. She brought her to the house of a man where Esther was drugged, raped and photographed nude.

Fifteen-year old Esther was strong and went to the police who brought her to WAO Afrique, an organisation supported by Save the Children Sweden. There, they cared for her in their transit centre but also helped her launch a legal case against the man. They lobbied the media to cover the story, mobilized lawyers to defend her case for free, and put pressure on the judiciary to make sure the case was taken to court. Esther won the case. It was the first time in Togolese history that someone has been prosecuted and imprisoned for rape of a minor and pornography.

WAO Afrique is now negotiating with Esther's relatives to find someone to care for her. They are also looking for a vocational training programme for her and will make sure Esther is getting an education, is safe, and can recover from her past abuse and move on.



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Putting an end to violence against and exploitation of children *Putting a stop to child begging*

The problem:

In some West African countries, the majority of people begging on the streets are children. Some are children living on the street but many are going to Koranic schools some of which require children to beg for their meals and often bring in money to support the “school” directors. These children are almost exclusively from very poor families. They are sent to Koranic schools to learn about Islam, to be taught about the ‘hardship’ in life and be cared for because their families cannot afford to send them to formal school and

house them. Unfortunately, these children are often malnourished, exploited and neglected.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden conducted research to analyse the situation of children who beg and propose possible solutions to the rights violations in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal. As a result of the research, we support national organisations to collaborate with Koranic schools so that they meet minimum standards so that children learn to read and write and

are given a chance to have proper rest and recreation. Along with our partner NGOs, we are also mobilizing community leaders to call on the government and local authorities to regulate the Koranic school system. In this way, those that are abusive or below standard can be transformed into healthy environments where children learn to read and write and basic mathematics as well as live in a hygienic environment and have time for rest and play and, of course, where children no longer have to beg.



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Child begging: an ever increasing phenomenon

“I have spent four years in St. Louis, Senegal. Since coming to St. Louis, I have not seen my parents. I come from a village. I have never been to school and there are no literacy classes in my Koranic school. I get up and pray and then go out to beg for food and money. If I get some food, I eat. I bring everything I collect to the teacher. I have a bit of time to play before I go to the market to work. I carry containers for between 25 and 50CFA (10 cents) per day. I give all that to the teacher. I then go back to learn the Koran, I beg again for my dinner and then I go to sleep. I am often beaten when I am in the streets- either by street children or older children. I have to collect between 100 and 200CFA (0.40 USD) per day and give it to my teacher. If I do not bring money back, he hits me. There are about 50 children in the school. We all sleep in one room. If I need clothes, I beg for them. If I had a choice, I would prefer to stay at home in the village” says Abdoulaye Tall, a 10 year old child attending a Koranic school.

Save the Children Sweden supports a local NGO, Claire Enfance, to provide a safe, clean space for children like Abdoulaye. He comes to the centre to wash his clothes, receive basic medical care and have time to play in a safe space. At the same time, the organisation is negotiating with the people who run the Koranic school to make it more humane for the children and is speaking with local authorities to develop a monitoring system for the Koranic schools in the area so that abuse and exploitation is stopped.



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Putting an end to violence against and exploitation of children *Supporting working children to organize*

The problem:

Poverty and tradition force many West African children to work. Many of these children have to work very long hours, are denied their right to go to school, and are exploited and abused in the work place. Unfortunately, there are also many children who are forced into the worst forms of child labour such as working in mines, prostitution or soldiering.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden lobbies governments to draft and implement legislation to protect children from the worst forms of child labour. We also support the African Movement of Working Children and Youth throughout Africa. This is a movement of 36,000 working children who organize themselves to fight for their rights and demand fair pay, an appropriate work load, and access to rest, play, school and

medical assistance. These associations also engage in income generating activities and loans so children can get out of their difficult circumstances. The working children's movement is now a well-respected group of active young people who dialogue with governments, local authorities and international agencies to make their plight known, request support and influence national policy.



© Sophie Joy Mosko

Child workers claiming their rights

Nogoye Sène, 16 years old, is a member of the African Movement of Working Children and Youth. This Movement started in 1994 and now has more than 36,000 members in 19 countries in Africa. The Movement is supported by an international NGO to organise working children to fight for their rights and ensure they are not exploited in their work environments. The Movement works to abolish the worst forms of child labour but believes that those children who wish to or must work should do so in acceptable conditions.

Nogoye's parents could not afford to pay for her schooling so they sent her to Dakar, Senegal to work as a domestic worker. She has been paid poorly, worked long hours and not been allowed to go to school. "If I had a choice, I would have stayed in the village. But I am the one who sustains my family. I send all the money I make to my family" says Nogoye.

Because of her situation, Nogoye joined the African Movement of Working Children and Youth. She, along with other domestic workers, provides 600 CFA (1 USD) per month to a communal collection. The money is used to finance the sewing classes, French, and life skills classes provided to her and fellow domestic workers. She also gives a bit for the 'medicine account' so if she or one of the other members gets sick, she has money for medical bills. She has been taught about her rights and now knows how to negotiate with her employer to ensure she is not exploited, paid a proper salary and is given adequate time to pursue further training. Nogoye wants to be independently employed and the skills she is learning with the African Movement of Working Children and Youth will help her on her way.



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HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health

HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual and reproductive health rights

The problem:

25 million people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. Although the HIV/AIDS pandemic in West Africa has not reached nearly the same dimensions as in certain countries in southern Africa, it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of children have been orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. Since the rate is still lower than in other areas, it is an opportune moment to invest resources in prevention. In sub-Saharan Africa, young women aged 15 to 24 are more than three times as likely to be infected by HIV as young men. The low status of women makes it difficult for them to negotiate their

sexuality and it is still taboo to discuss sexual or reproductive rights. This silence is a major cause for the spread of HIV/AIDS.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden is supporting organisations in Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Senegal to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst young people. The programmes include components on non-judgmental teaching and dialogue with adolescents about sexuality in information centres, youth programmes, in schools and in non-formal street settings. With Save the Children Sweden's support, the organisations have

established children's clubs, phone hot-lines and established information centres for youth to access information on sexuality, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health. The partners also train teachers so they are confident to provide that kind of teaching and assist parents to communicate with their children on issues relating to sexuality and break the taboos in order to help adolescents make informed choices. Save the Children Sweden also supports partners to advocate with Ministries of Education for the integration of sexual and reproductive rights issues into primary and secondary school curriculum.



HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health

Creating safety nets for children affected by HIV/AIDS

The problem:

Children living in communities affected by HIV/AIDS suffer from stigma and discrimination, they often lose their homes, they are stricken by absolute poverty when the adult income earner falls sick and they struggle with the emotional and psychological impact of losing loved ones.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden is working with organisations in Togo, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire to tackle the multiple issues faced by children living in communities affected by AIDS. Save the Children Sweden supports projects in Togo aimed at strengthening the economic capacities of families to provide basic services to children affected by HIV/AIDS. Together with partners, we also work to reduce stigma and dis-

crimination against people affected by HIV/AIDS. In Togo and Senegal, we work with Parliamentarians to ensure that new laws are drafted and implemented to properly address children living in communities affected by HIV/AIDS. In Côte d'Ivoire we are supporting the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs to incorporate child rights and psycho-social support into the National Programme for Assistance to Orphans and Vulnerable Children.



An orphan's experience of discrimination

Bella was born in Togo. When she was 5 years old, she visited her aunt in Nigeria. When she got there Bella's aunt asked if she could stay to help her, so she stayed. While in Nigeria both Bella's parents died.

Bella's aunt had a business. She also had four children. They all went to school but Bella was not given that opportunity. Instead she was made to work. She woke up at 5am, prepared food and then went to the side of the road to sell it until 10 o'clock at night.

"My aunt would hit me a lot with a stick all over my body" says Bella

Bella's aunt believed she was doing her a favour by housing and feeding her. As an orphan, Bella was considered a burden to her family.

Bella got sick of the abuse and ran away. She was fortunate enough to be helped by kind citizens and taken to a shelter supported by Save the Children Sweden. Through family negotiations, Bella is now living with an uncle who is paying for her to go to school for the first time. Bella is 14 years old. She is happy where she is now. She is able to go to school and no one hits her. She is welcomed as family in her uncle's house.

Children affected by armed conflict

Mobilizing communities to protect their children

The problem:

When crisis hits, social services for children disintegrate. In Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Casamance (in southern Senegal) thousands of children live without the chance to receive proper health care or nutrition or to go to school. Many live in fear of the violence and war that surrounds them. Countries currently in crisis or just emerging from it struggle to meet the basic needs of their

citizens and unfortunately, children's rights are often not seen as a priority.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden is working with community-based structures in areas hit by crisis. In Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire we support children and adults in communities to form child protection committees and children's clubs. These groups discuss together and find solutions

to common child rights violations in their areas. Some of the ways they help include registering children at birth, teaching non-formal education classes where schools are closed, organising recreational activities for children, following up on cases of child abuse and neglect, and ensuring children are not recruited into the armed forces. The committees are also a link between the communities and the often-weak government social services.



Communities protecting their own

In Côte d'Ivoire, the political crisis has affected almost all social services for children. In many areas, schools do not function, health centres have shut down and families are struggling to feed and properly care for their children. Save the Children Sweden encourages communities to take the issues into their own hands and provide solutions for the children in their midst. In many communities, Child Protection Committees are formed. The Committees are comprised of concerned adults who volunteer to protect and promote children's rights in their communities. As Mamo, the president of the Child Protection Committee said: "We, as a community, got together and discussed on how to solve the problems faced by children."

As the school in their area had shut down, the Child Protection Committee members started a non-formal education programme in which they volunteered to teach. "The space where the non-formal education programme was built used to be a firing range for the military. Before children were not attending school but watching the soldiers practice their shooting at the firing range. They started to mimic what they saw the military doing. They played violent games and made make-shift bombs out of match sticks.

The Committee was able to convince some of the soldiers that this wasn't a good place to put the firing range and they willingly moved it away. The community volunteered to construct the shelter that covers the classrooms. "When we started this work, it was quite difficult. People were reluctant to send their children to the non-formal school programme. We then went door-to-door and asked people to send their children to this school, at least, instead of having them stay home idle. Now, the children who finish this literacy programme are being integrated into formal school because they have a good foundation. Slowly, the community is beginning to see that we are doing good work, that we are helping. The littlest children now sing the alphabet song at home. Many in this area never considered education very important, especially education for girls. Before parents did not send their children to school with the excuse that they could not afford it but now they are beginning to send them to school" said Mamo.



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Children affected by armed conflict

Training of military on child rights and child protection

The problem:

Militaries and peace keepers are often the first people on the ground in conflict situations and those poised to protect children from abuse. They are also in positions of power and can be the cause of much abuse. Throughout the world there are examples of military using their power for negative purposes and exploiting the people they are supposed to help. One of the reasons

is that in most military structures there is little or no training on human rights, child rights or protection issues.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden is working with NGO partners and militaries throughout West Africa to train peace keepers, military personnel and armed groups on child rights and protection. We are

currently supporting training in 15 West African countries. In 11 countries, the military has set up child protection units and in 12 countries the training has been fully incorporated into the regular national army curriculum. In 2006, 5,000 peace-keepers from West Africa were trained in children's rights prior to their deployment, thousands more conventional military personnel were also trained.



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Children affected by armed conflict

Building the capacity of organisations to support children affected by conflict

The problem:

Often in emergency situations, the work is primarily focused on service delivery. Because of the need for programmes to be set up and implemented quickly, there is also often a lack of information and awareness about the context in which the organisations are working and local agencies are sometimes not consulted or involved. This lack of

coordination and a harmonized approach can cause complications for the beneficiaries and can result in an ineffective use of money.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden is networking with other child protection agencies so, collectively, we can come up with similar guidelines, working methods and policy

documents. We support research, dissemination and advocacy about issues affecting children in armed conflict and emergency contexts. As a result, we are strengthening cross-border collaboration between agencies and national networks so that we harmonize our approach, share lessons learned and do joint advocacy.



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Children affected by armed conflict

Stopping the use of child soldiers

The problem:

Several thousand children are associated with armed forces and groups in West Africa, primarily in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. They are not only those acting as soldiers on the front lines but those serving as cooks, porters, messengers, and children used for sexual purposes and forced marriages. Another 20,000 former child soldiers are involved in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes. These children are separated from home and family, subjected to harsh, dangerous conditions, risk injury, death, sexual abuse and forced labour. They are virtually always de-

prived of proper food, education, health care and the affection offered by family and community.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children is working with the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers to advocate towards European and African governments to allocate more resources and support long-term programmes for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers. In Côte d'Ivoire, Save the Children discussed with a non-governmental armed group about the use of child soldiers. They have since demobilized more than 300 children in their ranks.

The armed group also took measures to prohibit the illegal detention of children in prisons and they are supporting the national DDR programme.

Save the Children Sweden is also supporting partner organisations in Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone to identify and assist children who have been demobilized from the armed forces reintegrate into their families and communities. The organisations provide psychosocial support to the children, family reunification services, mediation, literacy and vocational training, life skills and recreation.



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From soldiering to schooling

Soon after the war started in Côte d'Ivoire, Paul's school became non-functional. Many of the people around him were somehow involved in the military. Like many of his classmates, Paul decided to enrol in a military unit. He was 13 years old.

Three years later, the social centre in his neighbourhood established a Child Protection Committee and a Children's Group. Soon there were new educational and recreational activities taking place. Paul, like many of the children in his neighbourhood, started participating frequently in these activities. Using these activities as an opening, the social team started giving advice to Paul and he eventually abandoned his military activities.

In addition, the team recognized a special spark of leadership in Paul and noticed that he was looked upon as a leader by other children. He began to lead awareness-raising sessions on children's rights and convince his former military colleagues to self-demobilise.

In reflecting on his experience, Paul shares, "I see my importance today in my community: I know a lot about my rights and the rights of others. Being involved in these activities gave me back my thirst for life and I was able to go back to school. Today, I've got my accounting certificate."



Education

Education in armed conflict- Rewrite the Future

The problem:

When armed conflict breaks out, social services are severely affected. Schools close leaving children vulnerable now and in the future. For example, approximately 2 million children were enrolled in primary school in 2002-03 in Côte d'Ivoire but after the outbreak of conflict, more than 700,000 children were unable to continue their education. Schools are not only necessary to educate children but they can also provide protection and a sense of normality for children in their lives during a conflict.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden is providing opportunities for children to go to school despite the conflicts around them in Côte d'Ivoire and Casamance, Senegal. These programmes are part of a larger global movement of the Save the Children Alliance, called "Rewrite the Future" aiming to assure access to quality education for millions of children in countries affected by conflict. By 2010, the Save the Children Alliance initiative hopes to enable 3 million children in conflict-affected countries to gain access to education and provide 5 million more with better quality education

in safe, protective learning environments. In Côte d'Ivoire, Save the Children intends to ensure that more than 250,000 children enjoy quality primary education in child-friendly environments by 2009. In order to do this, Save the Children is rehabilitating schools, building the capacity of teachers and community educators from non-formal education centres, advocating for more transparent government support to education, training teachers, parents and children on child rights, ensuring genuine child participation in the school environment, and working to make schools safe for children.



Schools as centres of empowerment

In early 2007, Save the Children facilitated sessions on the rights of the child, particularly participation and protection for School Management Committees of all of the schools involved in Rewrite the Future in Côte d'Ivoire. These committees play an important role in maintaining the school buildings that Save the Children has just rehabilitated, and also help to make sure the school environment is safe and stimulating for children. Each School Management Committee has 12 members, including 2 students. For many of the student members this training was the first time that they had heard about their rights.

Jean-Marc, one student member, is 14 years old and in 6th grade in a rural school. When asked what he learned from the training, he said: "The best interest of the child is when a decision made by an adult will always work out for the child. For the survival and development of a child you have to let him play and go to the beach with his friends. Now if he is sick you don't abandon him but you have to take him to the hospital."



© Helen Sandberg Waters

Education

Ensuring schools are inclusive

The problem:

In no less than 5 countries in West Africa the net primary school enrolment is below 50 percent and in 8 more countries it is below 75 percent. The number of children attending secondary school is considerably lower. The children who do not get to go to school are those who are already marginalized: the poor, girls, children with disabilities, orphans, children who are displaced and refugees and rural children. In the schools, the education is not always of high quality, chil-

dren are not able to participate in the decision-making processes, and violence such as corporal punishment and sexual abuse take place.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden is supporting organisations in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and The Gambia to ensure their schools are more inclusive. We want to see that classrooms are representative of the population: around half of the students should be girls and children with disa-

bilities should be attending. The organisations are training teachers on inclusive education techniques and also lobbying governments to include this training in their core curriculum for teachers. They go into communities and conduct information campaigns using theatre, discussion, and the media to share their message. They have managed to convince communities to sponsor children who cannot afford to go to school and lobbied local authorities to waive school fees for children with disabilities.



Strengthening civil society for the rights of the child

Strengthening national organisations

The problem:

Ensuring children's rights are realized relies on the strength of all duty bearers, including national and community-based organisations. Throughout West Africa there is a lively civil society but one which is in need of strengthening so its members become the leaders in child rights work. Civil society organisations often struggle to become financially secure. They sometimes have weak management, leadership, administrative and financial systems which threaten their sustainability. Many organisations work in isolation and few have skills in advocacy, child participation and non-discrimination.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden trains, coaches, and discusses with all our partners in order to continually improve the programmatic work they do but also to make them more financially and administratively solid. We are continually building the capacity of all our partners on pillars within our own organisation: child rights programming, children's rights, non-discrimination, child participation and advocacy. We are also embarking on a more general organisational development project which will ensure our partners have transparent and solid financial, administrative and management systems in place.



Strengthening civil society for the rights of the child

Supporting coalitions for improved child rights monitoring and advocacy

The problem:

Although the State bears the primary responsibility to assure that children's rights are implemented, civil society has an important role to play. Some of the tasks are difficult to carry out for individual organisations, such as high level advocacy for change of policies, legislation and budget allocations, or the continuous monitoring of the governments' work to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the AU African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). Many West African civil society organisations are dynamic and committed, but they have limited human and financial resources and are often too small to get their messages through alone.

What we are doing about it:

We support national child rights coalitions to better monitor and advocate for children's rights in Senegal, Ghana, The Gambia, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire. The coalitions bring together a variety of organisations working for children into organized networks, thus joining competence and experience and gaining in credibility. Save the Children Sweden strengthens the coalitions so they become powerful voices for children's rights within their countries. We build their capacity on child rights issues and networking, we support their advocacy and child rights monitoring projects, we encourage children's active participation in coalition work and we facilitate experience exchange between the coalitions. The national child rights coalitions carry out advocacy and awareness

raising campaigns on issues such as corporal punishment, child begging and the adoption of Children's Act for improved legislation. They also take on the important task of writing complementary reports to the periodic State reports on the implementation of the CRC, submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The child rights coalitions also cooperate with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in raising awareness on the ACRWC and lobbying for its implementation. Within the coalitions, member organisations exchange information and lessons learned in order to improve the work for children's rights. Many coalitions have become important actors and have managed to influence legislation and policies.



Holding the Ghanaian government accountable

Until recently, there were no effective governmental structures in Ghana to protect children at the local level. Consequently, incidents of abuse and neglect have gone unreported and children who come in contact with the law have often received much heavier sentences than befit the crime as the police has been the only alternative, and subsequently, the juvenile detention centres.

In 1998, Ghana passed the Children's Act 560 as a means of harmonizing the national legislation with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Children's Act explicitly mandates the establishment of 'Child Panels', quasi-judicial bodies which mediate within local communities and handle petty crime and civil disputes involving children. It is expected they will primarily deal with issues such as parental neglect, domestic abuse, school non-attendance, child labour, and petty theft.

The law mandates that at least one panel is to be established in each of the 138 districts of Ghana. Each panel is composed of seven professionals who work with children. They are to be financed and managed by the district assemblies. Although the Children's Act was written in 1998, many of the government's commitments have remained on paper only. As such, until 2006, the government had not established any functional Child Panels.

Save the Children Sweden's partner, The Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GN-CRC) launched a systematic advocacy campaign to insist the government establish, manage and provide a budget for child panels as is stipulated in the law. The GNCRC is a network of more than 100 child-focused non-governmental organisations throughout the country.

The GNCRC looked to the law and chose an issue for which the government itself had provisioned. Making the law a reality would have a direct impact on children. They built alliances with all the key decision-makers. They contacted influential members of parliament, the media, NGOs, judiciary, government ministries, institutions, and international agencies. They built a strong constituency of government and non-governmental allies.

The GNCRC also educated the general public about child protection issues and the concept of the Child Panels in order to create demand for their establishment and encourage their use.

The collective pressure and negotiations resulted in the government taking on its responsibility to establish child panels. The campaigning only started in 2005, yet more than 60 Child Panels have already been established by the government (as of April 2007). The Chief Justice has called upon district assemblies to establish Child Panels as required by the law and has set up a National Judicial Committee on Child Panels.

Strengthening civil society for the rights of the child

Making the media aware of children's rights

The problem:

The media is a powerful tool which can create, perpetuate and challenge stereotypes. Throughout West Africa, the media rarely reports on children's issues. When they are reported on, children are portrayed as either victims or delinquents. Children are rarely consulted nor are their opinions reflected in the media. The media often report on

children's issues in a way that violates their rights. Children's privacy is rarely respected and the unethical reporting has, in the past, led to discrimination.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden is working with journalists in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. We are training them on children's rights and how

to ethically capture children's views and represent them in their work. We have supported a network of journalists in Côte d'Ivoire to develop a Code of Conduct when it comes to working with children and presenting their issues in the media. In Senegal, we are working with the journalists training institute to get a module on children's rights incorporated into its curriculum.



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Good governance in the best interest of the child

The problem:

Throughout the region much could be done to improve the commitment of governments towards the rights of children. More government spending needs to be allocated for services targeting children, national laws need to be better harmonized with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), and existing laws and policies need to be implemented.

What we are doing about it:

Save the Children Sweden works with partners to lobby and discuss with government bodies at local and national level, the African Union and donors to influence them to increase budgets and improve legislation, policies and programmes that benefit children. As an initial step, Save the Children Sweden trains its partners on the content of the CRC and the ACRWC and how to use these two instruments to lobby respective governments. We also forge relationships with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, parliamenta-

rians and government bodies in order to keep children's rights on their agendas. In Senegal, Mali, Togo, Mauritania and The Gambia, Save the Children Sweden and its partner organisations train parliamentarians on children's rights and discuss what their role is in monitoring the government to fulfil its obligation according to the CRC and ACRWC. Our partner organisations are also pushing for laws to be drafted or modified so that they are in accordance with the CRC and ACRWC. Once the legislation exists, the organisations keep pressuring governments to properly implement the laws.



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Focus Africa *For lasting change*

Focus Africa is a collaborative initiative among Save the Children Sweden's three regional offices in Africa and the Head Office in Stockholm. The aims of the initiative are to enhance awareness among people in Sweden regarding the situation of children living in Africa, increase advocacy on children's rights in Africa and Sweden and to build Save the Children Sweden's own capacity through experience and knowledge sharing among the three African regional offices.

Focus Africa has four thematic areas of focus: HIV/AIDS, children in armed conflict and disaster, poverty and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The initiative cooperates with local partners and organisations in order to strengthen civil society and achieve lasting improvements in children's lives.

The initiative has produced several quality reports that are used for advocacy throughout Africa on issues we feel strongly about. Focus Africa has been key to harmonizing and strengthening our child-rights based approach in Africa.

Lasting change must come from within, not from outside.



Action Contre l'Exploitation des Enfants et des Femmes (ACEEF)

BP 2640 Ratoma Conakry

GUINEA

Tel : +224 11 54 95 48

ongaceef@yahoo.fr

An NGO working for the promotion of rights and protection of children and women victims of exploitation and abuse in Guinea. They provide training on the rights and protection of child victims of trafficking.

Action pour la Promotion des Droits de l'Enfant au Burkina Faso (APRODEB)

01 BP 615 - Ouagadougou I

BURKINA FASO

Tel: +226 50 36 87 12

Tel: +226 76 64 31 56

aprodeb.sahel@fasonet.bf

kabgoam@yahoo.fr

An NGO working for the promotion and protection of children's rights. They conduct training on the protection and rights of child victims of trafficking and train the military on child protection.

African Movement of Working Children and Youth

s/c BP 3370 Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 821 74 03

<http://www.enda.sn/eja>

ejt-com@enda.sn

A child-led network of working children covering 19 countries in Africa. They work on child participation, child labour, child rights and violence against children.

African Women Lawyers Association (AWLA)

H/ n° C 663 / 3 Crescent Ave. Asylum Down – P.O. Box CT 4198 Cantonments - Accra

GHANA

Tel: +233 21 251 694

Fax +233 21 236 686

ednakuma@hotmail.com

An association based in Ghana working to promote and protect women's and children's rights. They also train the military on child protection and children's rights.

Associação de Amigos da Criança (AMIC)

Rua Victorino Costa nº46 C.P. 43 Bissau

GUINEA BISSAU

Tel: (245) 212193

Fax: (245) 202744

laudolino@hotmail.com

An organisation combating child labour and exploitation of children through advocacy, awareness raising and direct support to child victims in Guinea Bissau.

Associação Guineense de Estudos e Alternativas / Alternag

Avenue Osvaldo Vieira, N° 48 B, BP 343 Bissau

GUINEA BISSAU

Tel: +245 20 41 98

Fax: +245 20 43 16

alternag@hotmail.com

An organisation that supports community organisations in Guinea Bissau focusing on decentralization, HIV/AIDS, child rights and training of military on child rights and child protection. They are also involved in the control and collection of small arms.

Association des Parents d'Enfants Encéphalopathes (APEE)

01 BP 3272 Ouagadougou

BURKINA FASO

Tel: +226 50 35 61 26

Tel: +226 70 21 12 16

inclusion-afriq-oi@liptinfor.bf

An association working for the rights of children with mental disabilities and promoting inclusive education in Burkina Faso.

Avenir Enfance Sahel (AVES)

BP 2145 Bamako

MALI

Tel: +223 229 42 55

avenir0307@yahoo.fr

A child rights organisation working for the promotion of children's rights and protection from exploitation and abuse. They train on the protection and rights of child victims of trafficking. They train the military on child rights and child protection. They are also involved in the fight to end Female Genital Mutilation.

Association Nationale d'Aide à l'Enfance en Danger (ANAED)

BP 719 Korhogo

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Tel: +225 36 86 27 46 36/

Tel: +225 36 86 23 08

anaedkgo@aviso.ci

National Association of Assistance to Children in Danger is a local NGO in Côte d'Ivoire working with self-demobilised child soldiers to facilitate their reintegration in their families and communities. They also provide vocational training and literacy class to children who are out of the formal education system and children living on the street.

Avenir pour l'Enfance et la Santé au Burkina Faso (AES/BF)

BP 06 9292 Ouagadougou 06

BURKINA FASO

Tel: +226 50 36 41 25

scpb@fasonet.bf

A national NGO working for children's rights to be respected in Burkina Faso and to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS among adolescents.

Centre de Guidance Infantile et familial de Dakar (CEGID)

15, rue du front de la terre Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel: + 221 634 18 04

Tel: + 221 561 41 85

cgid@enda.sn

A NGO combating child begging and sexual exploitation in Senegal.

Centre Djoliba

Rue R. Pointcaré, P 8 Ave. Modibo

Keita BP 298 – Bamako

MALI

Tel: +223 222 83 32

centredjoliba@afribone.net.ml

A national NGO that works with capacity building of local actors fighting to put an end to Female Genital Mutilation in Mali.

Child Protection Alliance (CPA)

P.O. Box 4611 Bakau

THE GAMBIA

Tel: +220 992 94 21

Tel: +220 449 81 54

cpagambia@yahoo.com

A national coalition of over 60 organisations in The Gambia, working with advocacy and awareness raising for children's rights with a special focus on sexual abuse and exploitation. It has a strong children's component (The Voice).

Christian Children's Fund Liberia

18th St. and Warner Ave. Sinkor, Monrovia

LIBERIA

Tel: + 231 06 536 283

Tel: + 231 06 525 791

wilesjames2002@yahoo.fr

rmthwaites@yahoo.co.uk

An international NGO working on child protection, education and basic social services. They also train the military on child rights and protection.

Christian Children's Fund The Gambia

Radio Gambia Road, Kanifing North, Banjul

THE GAMBIA

Tel: +220 43 78 079

Fax: +220 43 70 624

ccfpm@ganet.gm

ccfnd@ganet.gm

An international NGO working on child protection, education and basic social services. They train the military on children's rights and protection. They also train the military on child rights and child protection.

Coalition Nationale des Associations et ONG en Faveur de l'Enfant (CONAFE-Sénégal)

BP 3432, Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 553 57 80

conafesenegal@yahoo.fr

A national coalition of more than 200 associations and NGOs in Senegal, working for children's rights through advocacy and child rights monitoring. Children are active members of the Board.

Coalition Nationale pour l'Education pour Tous (CNEPT)

Cité Sotiba Pikine Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 85323 76

Tel: +221 643 13 54

Fax: +221 827.32.15

graf3d@sentoo.sn

coalept@yahoo.fr

A network of more than 100 organisations that advocate for the realisation of Education for All in Senegal.

Comité National des Enseignantes pour la Promotion de la Scolarisation des Filles (CNESPSCOFI)

BP 38 Fatick

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 949 19 72

Tel: +221 643 42 30

cnepscofi@yahoo.fr

An association of female teachers promoting girls' access, maintenance and performance in school in Senegal.

Communauté Abel

BP 89 Grand-Bassam

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Tel: +225 07 70 96 18

cabelvia@africaonline.co.ci

An NGO established in 2002 in Côte d'Ivoire combating child trafficking through advocacy, awareness raising and direct support to child victims of trafficking.

Conseil pour la Réadaptation et l'Intégration des Personnes Handicapées (CORIPH)

Ave. Seydina I. Laye x impasse phcie Yoff BP 17573 Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 820 49 21

Tel: +221 571 77 66

Tel: +221 680 81 81

coriph2002@yahoo.fr

A network of NGOs that works to identify children with disabilities and ensure they are granted their right to go to school.

Cruz Vermelha

Rua Andrade Corvo 36, CP 119-Praia

CAPE VERDE

Tel : +238 261 44 17

Tel: +238 993 92 43

lopezsmedo@hotmail.com

cruzvermelha.ep@mail.cvtelcom.cv

This is the Red Cross in Cape Verde working with education, emergencies and protection, HIV/AIDS and assistance to prisoners. They also train the military on child rights and child protection.

Ecole Instrument de Paix (EIP)

BP 11867 Niamey

NIGER

Tel: +227 97 74 19

eipniger@internet.ne

An NGO working for the promotion and protection of children's rights in Niger. They train on the rights and protection of child victims of trafficking. They also train the military on child protection and child rights.

Ecole Nationale des Travailleurs Sociaux Spécialisés (ENTSS)

BP 5057 Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 824 99 60

Tel: +221 643 91 85

entss@sentoo.sn

A national school in Senegal which trains social workers from different countries in West and Central Africa.

Education et Développement de l'Enfant (EDEN)

BP 19444, Guédiawaye, Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 877 66 76

edenorg@hotmail.com

An organisation in Senegal working for children's rights and promoting children's participation in all settings. Eden is supporting child clubs in Senegal.

Education For All (EFA, in partnership with CPA, Fawegam and Special Needs Unit)

PMB 94, 49 Garba Jahumpa Road
Bakau Newtown

THE GAMBIA

Tel: +220 9924688

efanet2004@yahoo.co.uk

A network of organisations specialized in advocating for Education for All based in The Gambia.

ENDA Jeunesse Action

BP 3370 Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel : +221 821 74 03

jeuda@enda.sn

A regional organisation based in Senegal working for the promotion and protection of children's rights. They coordinate working children's actions to increase children's participation in Africa.

Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde (ESAM)

08 BP 0049 TRI POSTAL

BENIN

Tel: +229 2130 52 37

esam@firstnet.bj

An NGO working for the promotion and protection of children's rights in Benin. They provide training of trainers on the rights and protection of child victims of trafficking.

Equipe d'Action Socio-Educative en Milieu Ouvert (EASEMO)

16 BP 123 Bouaké

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Tel: +225 07 97 66 59

knantegue@yahoo.fr

A network of social workers for the promotion and protection of children's rights in Côte d'Ivoire. They work with children living under difficult circumstances, living on the street and child trafficking issues.

Forum des Educatrices Africaines (FAWE Senegal)

BP 6646 Dakar Etoile

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 822 41 77

Fawesenegall@yahoo.fr

An association working for girls' enrolment and performance in school in Senegal.

Fondation SPERO

BP 60133 Lomé

TOGO

Tel: +228 220 42 64

Tel: +228 902 31 23

fondation_spero@hotmail.com

A local association working for the prevention of HIV/AIDS among youth and providing care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS in Togo.

Forum des ONG et Associations d'Aide à l'Enfance en Difficulté

10 BP 1183 Abidjan 10

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Tel: +225 21 56 18 33

forum_ong@yahoo.fr

A coalition of about 50 NGOs and associations in Côte d'Ivoire, working for children's rights through advocacy and child rights monitoring.

Forum des Organisations de Défense Des droits de l'Enfant au Togo (FODDET)

BP 80242 Lomé

TOGO

Tel: +228 338 21 21

forumtg2000@yahoo.fr

A coalition of several thematic NGO networks working for children's rights in Togo. There are member networks on e.g. trafficking, child labour, education, health, and children in conflict with the law.

Gambian Coalition against Traditional Practices (GAMCOTRAP)

P.O. Box 2990 Serrekunda

THE GAMBIA

Tel: +220 449 74 16

gamco@quanet.gm

An NGO working countrywide to promote social justice and the empowerment of children and women. They create awareness on the effects of harmful traditional practices through education and dissemination of information.

Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC)

P.O. Box C 976 Cantonments, Accra

GHANA

Tel: +233 21 76 85 51

gncrc@4u.com.gh

A coalition of more than 100 civil society organisations in Ghana, working with child rights monitoring, awareness raising, and advocacy. It is the oldest national child rights coalition still active in the region.

Groupe AGORA de Recherche pour l'Education aux Droits de l'Enfant et de la Paix (GRA - REDEP)

Liberté 6 extension Immeuble Vert 3ième Etage Aile Gauche
BP 26 440 Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 827 12 13

Tel: +221 553 08 57

gasapano@yahoo.fr

An organisation that works to incorporate children's rights in schools. They work to include children with disabilities into the classrooms and raise awareness about their rights.

Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour les Droits de l'Enfant (GRADE-BF)

c/o BP 06 9292 Ouagadougou 06
BURKINA FASO

Tel: + 226 22 43 51 33

gradebf@yahoo.fr

An NGO working for the promotion and protection of children's rights in Burkina Faso and a member of the West African network against child trafficking.

Hope for African Children Initiative (HACI – Senegal)

Villa 9007 Sacré Coeur III Dakar
SENEGAL

Tel: +221 867 47 05

Tel: +221 867 47 02

Fax: +221 867 47 05

aliyunefall@hacisenegal.org

A pan-African effort created to address the challenges faced by millions of African children who have either been orphaned by AIDS or live with parents who are sick or dying from AIDS-related illnesses.

Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA)

P.O. Box 1896, Banjul

THE GAMBIA

Tel: +220 775 12 00

info@africaninstitute.org

A non-governmental pan-African organisation, headquartered in The Gambia, working to increase the effectiveness and accessibility of the human rights protection mechanisms of the African Union.

Jade pour la Vie

08 BP 12440 Lomé

TOGO

Tel: +2214914 9075458

lejadepourlavie@yahoo.fr

An NGO that fights for the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and children living in communities affected by HIV/AIDS in Togo.

Ministère de la Famille et des Affaires Sociales, Côte d'Ivoire

BPV 200 Abidjan

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Tel: +225 20 32 42 33

Tel: +225 20 32 77 02

Ministry of the Family and Social Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire applies social policy for human development in Côte d'Ivoire. The Ministry seeks to protect the population and children in particular, by identifying and addressing the obstacles to their full development.

Organisation de Formation et d'Appui au Développement (OFAD) Naforee

BP 165 Kolda

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 996 63 00

ccmaopca@sentoo.sn

An NGO which works to strengthen the capacity of local communities in order to bring to an end to harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and early marriage in the region of Casamance, Senegal.

Organisation for Development and Human Rights

37 Azzolini Highway Makeni

SIERRA LEONE

Tel: +232 76 62 67 33

odhrsl@yahoo.com

A national NGO working for human rights, including children's rights in Sierra Leone. They train the military on child protection and child rights.

Regional Working Group on Trafficking

UNICEF

Rte des Almadies Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 869 58 58

jclegrand@unicef.org

A network of 30 NGOs from 8 countries in West Africa working to stop trafficking and exploitation of children.

Renaissance Santé Bouaké (RSB)

BP 123 Yamoussoukro

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Health Renaissance of Bouaké is a NGO in Côte d'Ivoire that identifies and refers children who have been sexually violated for medical, psychosocial and legal assistance. They also assist communities and children in developing sexual violence prevention mechanisms.

Réseau des Parlementaires pour la Population et le Développement - Senegal

Assemblée Nationale Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 823 52 90

Tel: +221 644 79 81

sarrfamarasn@yahoo.fr

A network of elected parliamentarians fighting for the implementation of the CRC and the ACRWC in the national parliament and in their various constituencies in Senegal.

Réseau Inter-Africain des Habitants (RIAH – Bénin)

02 BP 744 Cotonou

BENIN

Tel : +229 90 93 80 42

Tel: +229 21 38 81 26

riahbenin@yahoo.fr

mouscoth@yahoo.fr

A network dealing with urban population issues with a special focus on HIV/AIDS and trafficking of children. They also conduct training for the military on child rights and child protection.

Réseau Ivoirien des Communicateurs Amis des Enfants (RICAE)

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Tel: +225 05 21 78 59

The Ivorian Network of Child-Friendly Communicators works to promote child protection and participation in the media.

**Réseau des Journalistes
Amis de l'Enfant et de
l'Environnement (REJACA)**

Guinée-Bissau, Ave. do Brasil
GUINEA BISSAU

Tel : +245 720 70 92

metacamara@hotmail.com

A network of journalists and press agencies advocating for children's rights in Guinea Bissau.

**Réseau pour le Bien-Etre
de l'Enfant (REBIEEF)**

c/o CCF, BP 1188 Ziguinchor
SENEGAL

Tel: + 221 991 46 74

Tel: + 221 640 61 29

ccfzig@sentoo.sn

A network of 30 local, national and international NGOs working to promote children's rights and better co-ordination of child protection activities in Casamance, Senegal.

Sabou Guinée

BP 66216 Conakry

GUINEA

Tel: + 224 011 21 51 78

malfad@yahoo.it

A national NGO working for children in conflict with the law, associated with armed forces and groups and in other difficult situations in Guinea. They train the military on child rights and protection.

Sajuka Development

P.O Box 1304 Banjul

THE GAMBIA

Tel: + 220 91 83 29

kebbamlfye@hotmail.com

A national NGO combating child labour and exploitation of children through advocacy, awareness raising and direct support to child victims.

Sinim Mira Nasseque

CP 1134 Bissau

GUINEA BISSAU

Tel: +245 2046 66

sinimmiranasseque2001@yahoo.com
A national NGO fighting for the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation in Guinea Bissau.

**Save the Children UK
Côte d'Ivoire**

Cocody II Plateaux Rue des
Jardins 06 BP 2484 Abidjan 06
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Tel: +225 22409090

Save the Children UK has been working in Côte d'Ivoire since 1996. Save the Children Sweden jointly implements the Rewrite the Future programme with Save the Children UK.

**Save the Children UK,
Kailahun district,
Sierra Leone**

SC- UK, 22 g King Harman Road,
Brookfields, Freetown

SIERRA LEONE

Tel: + 232 22 240 732

vperez@savethechildren.org.uk

A Save the Children Alliance member working for the reintegration of children affected by the war and capacity building of community-based child protection structures, such as child welfare committees, children's clubs and local district social services.

Synergie Banlieue

BP 18846 Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel : +221 834 75 91

Tel: +221 526 87 91

synergiebanlieue@hotmail.com

A youth based association whose objectives are to promote the rights to sexual and reproductive health of young people and the right of education for girls in the suburbs of Dakar, Senegal.

**The Coalition to Stop
the Use of Child Soldiers
(West Africa research
and advocacy project)**

c/ SCS bureau régional Dakar

SENEGAL

Tel: +221 869 1962

Tel: +221569 95 26

coalition@scswa.org

An independent NGO coalition (based in London) that works to end the recruitment and use of children as soldiers, to secure their demobilization and to promote their reintegration into society.

**The Sub-regional
Inter-agency Child
Protection Network for
Children Affected by
Armed Conflict**

c/o UNICEF WCARO Dakar
SENEGAL

Tel: +221 869 58 66

dmahonde@unicef.org

A project promoting a cross-border approach to child protection, improved coordination and harmonisation of child protection programmes in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. Members of the Steering Committee are UNICEF (coordinating), UNHCR, Save the Children Sweden and UK, Christian Children's Fund (CCF), International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

**WAO-Afrique (Action to
Stop Child Exploitation)**

BP 80242 Lomé

TOGO

Tel: +228 225 89 90

waoafrique@hotmail.com

A regional NGO combating exploitation and abuse and promoting and protecting children's rights. They coordinate the West African NGO Network on Trafficking.

**West African NGO
Network on Child
Trafficking**

BP 80242 Lomé

TOGO

Tel: +228 225 89 90

waoafrique@hotmail.com

A network of 30 child rights NGOs and children's own organisations working for the promotion and protection of children's rights.

Our donors in 2007

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WEST AFRICA

PROGRAMME PROFILE

For further information contact:

Save the Children Sweden
Regional Office for West Africa
BP 25934, Dakar-Fann
Senegal
Tel. + 221 869 18 00
Email. savedakar@orange.sn
www.rb.se

Save the Children Sweden
Côte d'Ivoire Sub-regional Office
16 BP 123 Abidjan 16
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel. +225 22 52 58 00 / 01
Email. cdi@waf.savethechildren.se
www.rb.se



Save the Children
Sweden