

Facts –CAMEROON

- Child labor: 43. 3% (MICS 2004)
- Street children: 435 children identified by the government (2008) in the two main cities of Yaounde & Douala. However, lack of an official database could mean the number is higher.
- Child Trafficking: 531 591 children (trafficked to??) (ILO 2002)
- Children in conflict with the law: 800 - 1.000 in preventive detention (more than 80 % have not been convicted or participated in a court proceeding)
- Birth registration: 59. 3 % (MICS3-2004). But there are disparities in the 3 northern regions and the rest of the country.
- Refugee Children: Nearly 38000 registered from Central African Republic living in 80 sites in the east of Cameroon within local population. Twenty one percent of these children are in formal schools, Seventeen percent are separated, and only 9% are registered by local authorities. Over 2400 refugee children from Chad are registered in a camp in northern Cameroon.

Main achievements for 2008:

Institutional strengthening:

- Support (technical and financial) to harmonize Cameroon's Child Protection Code, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Support (technical and financial input) to the Ministry of Justice for the revision process of the Family and Person Code.
- Support (technical and financial input) to the revision of the front bill of the Civil State Law (Birth registration).
- Support (technical and financial input) to the finalization of the front project of decree which is about "Fosterling and Observation pilot Center for children in conflict with the Law.

Juvenal Justice and children in conflict with law:

- Financial support given to an assessment of strategies (In partnership with MINJUSTICE and MINAS to separate children from adults in the penitentiary system.
- Training of 50 actors (government focal persons: Magistrates, Police Judiciary Officers, Penitentiary Staffs, Social Workers) in Juvenile Justice for a better implantation of Justice for children.

Birth registration:

- Evaluation of special civil registration centers in the Far North Region .
- 135 Birth registration actors (Government – national and local officials) trained on birth registration issues and 3 networks on the issue have been set up.
- 6.750 birth certificate acts provided to the Ministry of the Territorial Administration and Decentralization to facilitate registration.

Data collection:

- 5 investigator manuals and 1 methodological document for data collection on vulnerable children validated with the support of the National Institute of Statistics.
- 7 data collection tools including child protection indicators incorporated into the National Statistic System, in particular the Social Dashboard (what is the social dashboard?)³.
- A statistical index on private care structures for children victims of violence has been edited. (edited by MINAS)

Response to abuse and violence:

- 55 actors (government focal persons: Magistrates, Police Judiciary Officers, Penitentiary Staffs, Social Workers) trained for the prevention of sexual exploitation in Ebolowa
- Two national NGO networks protecting children's rights strengthened as well as one parents and children association network created in Maltam Camp with Chadian refugees.
- 5 social workers in Maltam camp trained on care and assistance for child victims of violence and 100 refugee families received psychosocial support.
- 1 psychosocial care guide available and 70 actors (Gov: social workers, regional delegates, and INGO: Action Aid, IFRC, an UN Agencies UNHCR) have used it for the psychosocial support for abused children.

Street children:

- 435 street children aged 14 to 18 identified in 2008 in the main cities of Yaounde and Douala and a record with relevant information on these children has been produced
- 119 street children reunified with their families, of which 62 have returned to school in September 2008

Indigenous populations:

- Support to the first International Indigenous Populations Day in Cameroon.
- Awareness messages on human rights and specific rights communicated to some 300 representatives of autochthonous populations.

Protection emergency response to CHAD and CAR crisis:

- 8.000 chadian refugees sensitized on child rights and child vulnerabilities. 4 youth clubs established in the north. Skills training, psychosocial support provided to 200 vulnerable children (In Maltam Camp by Action Aid, INGO).
- 37 early pregnancies, 254 early marriages, 107 women victims of domestic violence and 13 sexually traumatized girls reported and assisted (In Maltam Camp).
- 31 separated children and 21 unaccompanied children, 6 child headed households and 84 mistreated children have identified and reunified before closure of their camp (in the north with Chadian refugees).
- Early warning system for sexual abuse has been established (in Maltam/Lingui Camp) and is operational. A psychosocial support manual has been elaborated with Ministry of Social Affairs.
- An inter agency MOU concerning separated children (Chadian refugees) established in the northern emergency (region) between UNHCR/UNICEF/ICRC

Priority actions for 2009:

- Support and adoption of child rights legislations
- Implementation of Juvenal Justice system - establishing Juvenal courts.
- Increase birth registration through capacity building of actors responsible for birth registration system
- Support for creation of a national Commission for implementation and monitoring of CRC.
- Support for data collection on child protection issues and integration of protection indicators in the national statistics system.
- Support to set up legal and social services for children victims of violence, exploitation, discrimination (including autochthonous children) and trafficking.
- Emergency preparedness activities for child protection for CAR and Chadian refugee children