

July 2016

SANGO NINI

West & Central Africa
Newsletter



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EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure for me to share the latest edition of the regional newsletter "Sango Nini". I had the privilege to see previous editions and was impressed by the many contributions which reflect very active participation from the Country Offices. This sharing of our work is critical, not just to help other colleagues, members and all of Save the Children to see what we do, but also to promote active engagement amongst colleagues who work on similar activities. Sharing and informal exchanges amongst staff is a very agile and excellent way to promote organizational learning.

I hope this edition again provides you with insights into our work in the different corners of West and Central Africa. I want to take the opportunity to thank Claudia who puts this newsletter together, and all of the staff who contribute for their engagement. We will make sure that this excellent practice in the Region will continue. Please keep sending your stories and ideas!

Our Region continues to be plagued by many challenges in different operating environments and I want to share with you an article (click [here](#)) on the situation in Northern Nigeria, an area with a significant presence of Save the Children, where hundreds of thousands of people face a major food crisis. The team in Nigeria is actively preparing to step up work due the humanitarian crisis, which adds to the pressure to this territory and surrounding countries.

Salutations!

Beat Rohr
Regional Director



MEET BEAT ROHR, THE NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Interview by Lilliam Armijo Martinez, Communication Intern, Regional Office

Beat Rohr has joined Save the Children West and Central Africa as Interim Regional Director while the recruitment of a new regional leader is ongoing. Beat is the former Regional Director in Latin America and knows Africa very well. Here he talks about his first impressions of the region.

What are your first impressions of West and Central Africa?

I haven't visited the Country Offices yet, so it is difficult to have first direct impressions. What I have read in documents and from the different issues I have come to know, it is a complex region, and it is very large, which means the scale of what we do is significant. I will be visiting the countries depending on the time I will be here.

What are in your views the key strengths of this region?

West and Central Africa has a large portfolio that has grown a lot in the past years, which is the result of doing something correct. The strength is the commitment that everybody has to make so that things work in a complicated environment. We have more than 2,500 staff, who are doing their very best every day in a difficult working situation. The willingness to find solutions for many challenges we face in this organisation is a major asset and it is very valued.

What are the key areas that we need to focus on?

We need to focus on our internal management practices, as well as our program content. Awards must be managed well and at the same time we have to continue to design quality programs rooted in the needs of the people, including giving children a greater voice in what makes a difference for them. We should try to have as few operational problems as possible because that allows us to increasingly focus on the quality of our programs.

What are the similarities or differences compared to your previous job, coming from Latin America?

There are few similarities. Latin America is a relatively stable operating environment; we have few humanitarian programs in place at the moment. The region is not as challenging as West and Central Africa. Regarding security, we do not have the concerns we have in the northern Sahel. It is different for both programs and operating environment. In WCA, we deliver health and education services directly, in Latin America we work mainly with partners and Save the Children has a great focus on child rights, basic education, advocacy and campaigns.

RENCONTRE AVEC BEAT ROHR, NOUVEAU DIRECTEUR REGIONAL

Beat Rohr a rejoint Save the Children en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre comme Directeur Régional par Intérim pour quelques mois, pendant le recrutement d'un nouveau leader régional. Beat était l'ancien directeur régional en Amérique Latine et il connaît très bien l'Afrique. Ici, il parle de ses premières impressions de la région.

Quelles sont vos premières impressions sur la région?

Je n'ai pas encore visité les Bureaux Pays, donc il est difficile d'avoir des premières impressions directes. Pour ce que j'ai lu dans les documents et en tenant compte de ce que j'ai appris, la région est complexe et très large, ce qui fait que notre travail est très important. Je visiterai les pays en fonction du temps que je resterai ici.

Quels sont les principaux atouts de la région?

L'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre a un grand portefeuille qui a beaucoup agrandi les dernières années, ce qui est le résultat d'avoir fait certaines choses correctement. La force ici c'est l'engagement de tout le monde pour faire fonctionner les choses dans un



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environnement complexe. Nous avons plus de 2.500 membres du personnel, qui font le mieux possible chaque jour dans des situations difficiles. La volonté de trouver des solutions pour les nombreux défis auxquels nous sommes confrontés dans cette organisation est un atout majeur et très apprécié.

Quels sont les domaines clés sur lesquels nous devons nous concentrer?

Nous devons nous concentrer sur nos pratiques de gestion interne ainsi que le contenu de notre programme. Les 'awards' doivent être bien gérées et en même temps, nous devons continuer de concevoir des programmes de qualité ancrés dans les besoins des gens, y compris en donnant une plus grande voix aux enfants concernant ce qui fait la différence pour eux. Nous devrions avoir le moins de problèmes opérationnels possibles car cela nous permet de nous concentrer sur la qualité de nos programmes.

Quelles sont les similitudes ou les différences de votre emploi précédent, venant de l'Amérique Latine?

Il y a très peu de similitudes. L'Amérique Latine est un environnement relativement stable; nous avons moins de programmes humanitaires en ce moment. La région n'est pas aussi difficile que l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre. En ce qui concerne les questions de sécurité, nous n'avons pas les préoccupations que nous avons dans le nord du Sahel. C'est un environnement différent au niveau d'opérations et de programmes. En WCA, nous faisons beaucoup plus de prestations de service directes, comme dans la santé et l'éducation. En Amérique Latine nous travaillons principalement avec des partenaires et Save the Children met un grand accent sur les droits de l'enfant, l'éducation de base, le plaidoyer et les campagnes.

“FAREWELL TO OUR LEADER”

Ramata Fall, Executive Assistant to the Regional Director

Last 4th July, the West and Central Africa Regional Office and the Senegal Country Office staff gathered at the special occasion of the farewell party for Natasha Quist. She has been part of our daily office life over years, but that day she walked out the big door! We expressed our feelings and our genuine gratitude. It was a very sad moment to tell her goodbye as Natasha has the capability to distinguish herself very wisely in the crowd with her humour drive!

The “Livre d’Or” full of inspirational quotes, touching notes on a greeting card, testimony videos from the WCA Country Directors or the Regional and Senegal Country office staff, speeches, a band playing music, friendly cocktail on the roof top... we could feel that Natasha has been a beloved person for every one of us, and that her great achievements have inspired us and will be continued in the future with us. We all used the opportunity to say “Thank You” for all the support, motivation and mentorship she gave. It was also a chance to break out of the professional boundaries.



Most speeches highlighted number of topics from funny stories to heartfelt remembrances and best wishes. As fun and happy as a farewell party can be, it was also very emotional and we all use boxes of tissues to dry our tears (some more than others!). We hope that Natasha knows we might not all be together every day, but our affection will always last. Finally... there is one very important question we never asked you Natasha....Who is your favorite singer???

“I am heartbroken to receive this news. I have never received the support from a Regional Office as I have from you over the past year and a half, and it has indeed been a real pleasure to work with you.” - Ben Foot

“We will miss your ‘loud’ voice buzzing around the platform. However there is no way the echo can go away.” - Ousseydou Samb

“I have always been impressed by your energy, ambition and commitment on what we do and how we work. It is sad for now to see you leaving.” - Jiyeon Kim

“You always forced us to think twice about the impact of what we are doing.” - Eric Hazard

“Your quizzes, smile, out-of-office-hours (including weekends) emails and leadership style (including knowing everyone by name) will be missed.” - Eta Mbong Ngole

“Thank you for being our Jose Mourinho. I hope you now find your Manchester United.” - Heather Kerr



SIERRA LEONE, A DAY ON PROTECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS DURING CRISIS

Abdulai Bunduka, Information and Communications Officer



Save the Children Sierra Leone, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, other ministries, the communities, NGOs and UNICEF commemorated the Day of the African Child in grand style. In line with this year's theme, the topic of the events was "Protecting children's rights during violence and crisis."

"My ministry has put the theme into our local context to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence in times of crisis", said Dr. Sylvia Blyden, Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs. Save the Children organised the commemorations across the country at the national, district and community level.

Held in Freetown, the **national** event was attended by a representative of the President of the Republic, ministers and heads of several children agencies, children-led organisations, NGOs, as well as children from schools. "We often say that our children are our future. But if we want to take this claim seriously, we must put our money, our expertise, our people and our political will where our mouth is," said Country Director Isaac Ooko. A position paper, which was developed at a conference involving children, was presented by the President of Children's Forum Network to the representative of the President, Dr. Sam Sesay. The paper highlighted child rights issues to be addressed by the government and its partners. The young advocates and campaigners also used the event to promote Save the Children's Every Last Child campaign, urging stakeholders to support children left behind.

The **Freetown** team also organised a consultation session with community stakeholders and duty bearers, parents and caregivers. The rationale was to identify factors leading to violence and roles and

responsibilities to address violence at home and in communities. A similar event took place in **Pujehun**, where different stakeholders of the district made commitments to end violence and abuse against children. The team provided t-shirts and banners, mattresses, blankets and mosquito nets for the Bo Remand (Juvenile Detention) home. In **Kailahun**, activities were organised with schools, including a spelling competition and talent shows. In **Tombo** community members discussed child protection, coming out with strong recommendations that everyone committed to put in practice.

AFRICAN MOVEMENT OF WORKING CHILDREN AND YOUTH: A HEARTFELT CELEBRATION

Amanda Azzali, Child Protection Coordinator

The 16th of June is no ordinary day in Africa. In the populated slums in the outskirts of Johannesburg, in 1976 more than 20.000 students demonstrated against apartheid in education. That day several hundreds students died. Ever since, the 16th of June is an emblematic moment for African children and those who stand for their rights. For the African Movement of Working Children and Youth, the day is an occasion of celebration and reflection, and a moment to step forward as a Movement. This year's theme launched by the African Union was "Conflict and Crisis in Africa: Protecting all Children's Rights".

In **Niger** the Movement, which is supported by Save the Children, organised celebrations in the conflict-torn cities of Maradi, Diffa and Ouallam. A number of games and cultural activities were organised in partnership with the National Theatre's Company. In Maradi women suffering from fistula were celebrated as well. In **Senegal** a march was organised in Ziguinchor, involving more than 1600 children; in Casamance they were received by Governor Sall. In **Mali** and in **Burkina**, celebrations involved awareness raising activities, advocacy towards local authorities, as well as tournaments and a tree planting campaign. In **Benin** the Movement held its events with UNICEF and the Ministry of Family in Cotonou, while other parts of the country hosted events to raise awareness about child marriage and meaningful child participation.





SENEGAL, LANCEMENT DE LA CAMPAGNE “METTRE FIN AU MARIAGE DES ENFANTS”

Aïssatou Sy, *Communication Consultant*



Des activités de sensibilisation contre le mariage des enfants ont été organisées les 22 et 23 juin à Sédhiou, Kolda et Ziguinchor dans le cadre du projet sur la protection de l'enfance financé par l'Agence Espagnole de Coopération Internationale pour le Développement (AECID).

La célébration de la 27ème Edition de la Semaine Nationale de l'Enfant (SNE), dont le thème était la nécessité d'accélérer les efforts pour éradiquer le mariage d'enfants en Afrique, a été une opportunité pour Save the Children et ses partenaires de réaffirmer l'engagement à mobiliser toutes les énergies nécessaires pour combattre cette pratique. Cette thématique est un grand volet du projet qui a pour objectif d'éradiquer toutes les formes de violences aux enfants dans les zones d'intervention en Casamance.

L'ONG Enfance et Paix, partenaire de mise en œuvre du projet à Sédhiou, a organisé un panel le 22 juin pour marquer

sa participation à la campagne. La thématique de cette rencontre était les "pratiques néfastes" et plus particulièrement le mariage des enfants, les grossesses précoces et la mendicité des enfants. Le partenaire ENDA Jeunesse Action a, quant à lui, organisé une rencontre de partage d'informations à Ziguinchor. Toujours dans le cadre des activités de la SNE dont le démarrage a été marqué par la célébration officielle de la Journée de l'Enfant Africain (JEA), le 16 juin à Ziguinchor, le partenaire à Kolda, OFAD Nafaoore, a organisé une conférence religieuse le 23 juin.

GIRLS' RIGHTS AT THE AFRICAN UNION, THANKS TO THE FIRST LADY OF SIERRA LEONE

Abdulai Bunduka, *Information and Communications Officer*

In July the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) took place. One of the priorities for the AU are the rights of African women and girls, with a focus on ending child marriage. Even though civil society participation in the event was heavily restricted, colleagues from Sierra Leone, the Country Director Isaac Ooko and the Director of Advocacy and Communications Kadi Jumu, were able to join as part of the delegation of the First Lady. They were supporting her to present her vision to organise a West Africa led, multi-country high level meeting on ending child marriage later this year. This will bring together key stakeholders.

The First Lady of Sierra Leone is a champion for ending child marriage. The government is committed to ending this practice and teenage pregnancy and launched a National Secretariat for these topics in 2013. The country is now preparing to launch their national AU campaign on ending child marriage. Her presentation during the OAFLA (Organisation of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS) meeting was an important step towards building champions in the region.

EU IMPRESSED BY PROJECT IN PUJEHUN!

On July 1st the EU Ambassador and Head of Delegation in Sierra Leone, Peter Versteeg, visited the EU-funded project in Pujehun "Together for Children's Rights: Strengthening civil society and children to protect and promote children's rights." The Country Director, Isaac Ooko, and the Child Protection Advisor, Deanne Evans, also travelled to Pujehun to support the visit. Everyone expressed their satisfaction over the significant impacts the project has made in the lives of children and child rights-focused organisations as well as the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and Pujehun District Council. Among the key successes achieved through the project is child participation, which was lacking in the district.

"I'm very much impressed about the way this project has impacted the lives of children in the Pujehun District," said Josephus Ellie, Project Manager from the EU Delegation. The Ambassador added: "We are happy to hear from you and we have seen many channels for addressing the issues you highlighted".





HARMONISATION DES OUTILS POUR UNE MEILLEURE PRISE EN CHARGE DES ENFANTS

Valérie Sorgho, Communication Manager



La mobilité des enfants et des jeunes en Afrique de l'Ouest reste une question préoccupante pour les acteurs de la protection des enfants. Afin de prendre en charge de façon optimale ces cas, Save the Children avec l'appui financier de l'Union européenne met en l'œuvre le projet Régional d'Appui aux Jeunes et Enfants Migrants – PRAJEM – Au Burkina Faso, en Côte d'Ivoire et au Mali. Une bonne coordination, un renforcement du système de protection des enfants et une meilleure prise en charge des enfants en mobilité entre ces pays d'une part et à l'intérieur de chaque pays d'autre part, nécessite une façon commune de travailler, d'où la nécessité de concevoir des outils harmonisés de procédures de gestion de cas.

Du 22 au 24 juin 2016 s'est tenu à Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, un atelier régional d'élaboration et d'adoption du document "harmonisé" de procédures de gestion de cas. La cérémonie d'ouverture a été présidée par la représentante de la direction régionale de l'action sociale et de la protection familiale du Burkina Faso, Solange Somé, qui a n'a pas hésité à préciser que "s'il existe bien de solutions pour éradiquer ou réduire le phénomène de mobilité des enfants, il serait encore plus important de comprendre les raisons qui poussent ces jeunes et enfants à la mobilité." Une interpellation forte à tous ces participants composés des enfants, des acteurs clés de la protection, des enfants eux-même, des acteurs de la société civile et des représentants de l'Etat des trois pays membres de PRAJEM. Cet atelier était axé sur l'élaboration d'un document qui tracera les sillons du processus de gestion de cas des enfants en mobilité.

PRAJEM: UN PROJET QUI RENFORCE LES CAPACITES EN PLAIDOYER

Ousmane Sanogo, Coordinateur PRAJEM Mali

Save the Children dans le cadre du Projet Régional d'Appui aux Enfants et Jeunes travailleurs Migrants (PRAJEM) financé par l'Union européenne a organisé, du 18 au 22 juillet 2016, un atelier à l'endroit des OSC du Mali, du Burkina Faso et de la Côte d'Ivoire. L'atelier, tenu à Sikasso, visait le renforcement des capacités des participants en plaidoyer afin d'assurer une mise en œuvre effective des accords bilatéraux signés au sein de l'espace CEDEAO.



CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY, STARTING THE PREPARATION IN MALI

Vanessa Shaka, Food Security and livelihoods Advocacy Manager

In July Save the Children International began its series of workshops aimed to strategise on child poverty. West and Central Africa is the region with the highest rate of children living in extreme poverty and associated deprivations. Six Country Offices are keen to develop a strategy targeting child poverty, hence the efforts to coordinate workshops.

The design of this strategy will be based on the re-examination of Save the Children past work in the areas of social protection, food security and livelihoods and youth empowerment. The final Save the Children's Regional Child Poverty Strategy will be drawn from a synthesis of the national reports.

The first workshop was organised in Bamako. More than 26 participants from the Ministry responsible for child and women's wellbeing, statisticians from the Ministry of Finance, UNICEF and FAO resilience advisers, as well as staff members came together. The final three-day Regional Child Poverty Strategy workshop will be organised in the second week of September in Dakar.



MALI: MISE A JOUR DES DIRECTIVES NATIONALES CONTRE LE PALUDISME

Aïssata Cheick Sylla Doucoure, Gestionnaire Documentation & Communication



Du 13 au 18 juin 2016, un atelier de révision des directives, algorithmes et aides mémoires de prise en charge des cas de paludisme a eu lieu à Katibougou, Mali. Organisée par le Programme National de Lutte contre le Paludisme (PNLP) la rencontre avait l'appui technique et financier du Projet USAID Services de Santé à Grand Impact (SSGI).

En 2012 le PNLP, avec le soutien des partenaires, a mis à jour la politique nationale de lutte contre le paludisme pour prendre en compte les nouvelles recommandations de l'OMS. Un nouveau plan stratégique et un plan de suivi évaluation ont été élaborés pour la période 2013-2017. Cette mise à jour a été suivie de l'élaboration d'un nouveau manuel de formation des prestataires en 2013 et un plan de communication 2014-2018. Cependant la mise à jour de la politique n'a pas été suivie de celle des différentes directives

et des algorithmes. L'atelier a abouti à la révision des directives sur la distribution des moustiquaires; de la Sulfadoxine-pyriméthamine pour la prévention du paludisme pendant la grossesse; de la prise en charge des cas et des algorithmes sur la prise en charge des cas de paludisme chez la femme enceinte et chez les enfants de moins de 5 ans.

Au Mali en 2015 les institutions sanitaires ont enregistré 2.369.245 cas de paludisme, dont 797.322 chez les enfants de moins de 5 ans et 117.002 chez les femmes enceintes. Le taux de létalité est de 0,89%.

COTE D'IVOIRE: JOURNEE DU DONNEUR DE SANG

Valerie Marcelle N'dri, Department Communication

Le bureau de Save the Children de Man, en collaboration avec le Centre de Transfusion Sanguine (CTS), a célébré le 16 juin la journée mondiale du donneur de sang. Placée sous le thème "le sang, un lien universel", cette célébration a vu la présence du Secrétaire Général de préfecture, des ONG, associations et de la population. Une occasion pour Thao Désiré, Chef de Bureau de Save the Children Man, de rendre hommage aux donneurs bénévoles et de sensibiliser les pouvoirs publics et les populations sur l'importance du don de sang.

Le Secrétaire Général de la Préfecture s'est réjoui du travail réalisé par Save. Il a exhorté à un plus grand engagement autour de la problématique du don de sang afin de parvenir à une autosuffisance dans les régions du grand Ouest. Un diplôme d'honneur a été décerné à Save the Children en gage de son engagement pour le développement des droits des enfants.



SIGNATURE PROGRAMME: AGUERRIS ET PRETS

Aimé Kamuha, Health Nutrition Advocacy Officer



Du 5 au 8 juillet 2016, l'atelier de Planification stratégique du Signature Programme tenu à Kinshasa a réuni l'équipe venue de Mbuji Mayi et Kinshasa, deux provinces où sont actuellement mis en œuvre le Programme Signature, initié par Save the Children en appui au gouvernement de la RDC comme contribution à la réduction de la mortalité infantile.

Dr Ezekiel Mulowayi, Chef du Programme Signature, et Dr Tahlil Ahmed, Conseiller Senior en Santé de l'Enfant et Immunisation à Save the Children UK, sont venus pour faciliter ce processus. La semaine a

été une épisode complète de renforcement de capacité en vaccination, nutrition, sites de soins communautaires, autant pour l'équipe de mise en œuvre du Signature Programme que pour le comité de Pilotage du Programme Signature chapeauté par le Ministère de la Santé Publique. Il y a eu aussi la participation des autres partenaires du Système des Nations Unies, comme l'Unicef et l'OMS.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

COTE D'IVOIRE: BOUNA N'EST PAS OUBLIE



Valerie Marcelle N'dri, Department Communication



Gervais Pegabila Ouattara, chef de Bureau de Save the Children Abengourou, représentant du Directeur Pays a procédé en mai à une importante remise de don aux populations déplacées et victimes de sinistres lors des violents affrontements intercommunautaires qui se sont déroulés dans le Nord de la Côte-d'Ivoire, à Bouna. C'est en présence des autorités de la région, des ONG et des communautés que la cérémonie de remise des dons a été entamée: 20 tonnes de riz, 1 tonne de haricot, 1 tonne de soja, 1 tonne de sel, 2000 bouteilles d'huile, 5000 sachets de tomate, 500 bidons de gel hydro alcoolique, 1000 bouteilles de savon liquide, 300 sceaux équipés de robinet entre autres ont été délivrés.

Le Secrétaire Général de Préfecture a accueilli à cœur ouvert ce geste, dont il n'a manqué d'exprimer sa gratitude. La direction des ressources humaines du Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme, de la Famille et de l'Enfant et le représentant des personnes déplacées ont remercié Save pour cet appui. D'autres actions continuent de se poursuivre.

A WORKSHOP FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN FREETOWN

Abdulai Bunduka, Information and Communications Officer

Save the Children, the Department of Disaster Management of the Office of National Security (ONS) and the Freetown City Council hosted on June 22nd a one-day consultative workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response. The workshop was meant to bring stakeholders together to review and align Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Preparedness and Response and to strengthen efficiency in the event of an emergency. "The objective of the workshop was to examine the Emergency Response effort by reviewing the coordination mechanisms, identifying priority challenges and propose capacity improvement", explained Borry Jatta, Emergency Response Coordinator.

The workshop was facilitated by Save the Children and ONS staff and was attended by 43 participants from a range of organisations. A steering group was formed to put in place the next steps.



ETUDE INEDITE SUR LE COUT DE L'ALIMENTATION

Mame Ngone Mbodj, Coordonnatrice de projet Santé Nutrition, Senegal

Une étude inédite au Sénégal a été menée dans la région de Kolda par Save the Children International afin de proposer une réponse à l'impact de la pauvreté sur l'état nutritionnel. La méthode innovante a été développée sous forme de logiciel par Save the Children UK. La production agricole dans la région fait face à de nombreuses contraintes qui ont pour conséquences l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition aiguë parmi les plus élevés du Sénégal. Ainsi, l'Union européenne s'est engagée à soutenir Save the Children, Oxfam et 7 A Maa Rewee dans la mise en oeuvre d'une stratégie de riposte pluridimensionnelle. Ceci demandait une étude pour estimer la quantité, la diversification, le coût des aliments nécessaires pour couvrir les besoins énergétiques moyens des personnes et des ménages, ainsi que leurs apports en protéines.



OPERATIONS & PEOPLE

STRONG FOCUS ON GENDER EQUALITY AT THE REGIONAL OFFICE



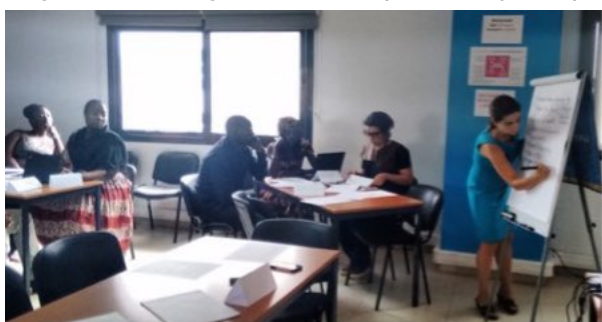
Nicoleta Ursescu, EA Intern, and Miriam Frost, Security Analysis Officer

During the past two months, the Regional Office has accelerated progress in addressing gaps between girls and boys and men and women in its programming, while advancing its understanding on gender equality in the office. The idea is to look at gender through a programming as well as an organisational culture perspective. The initiative was launched by the HR department and the TA team in recognition of the needs of women in the workforce, in addition to programmatic issues identified by program staff. Save the Children protects women and girls' rights and provides role models for partners, communities and families, so it is logical to walk the talk about the values promoted by the organisation.

Since April, the Regional Office has been organising activities like gender breakfasts to share good practices and introduce the policy on gender to staff. At regional level the first Gender Equality Committee has also been established. The Committee has ten members, including one from the Senior Management Team. The objective is to facilitate the implementation of the gender equality policy and activities related to the incorporation of gender equality concerns into the employment practices and culture. The Committee is drafting an action plan which will be applicable over the next six months.



In order to better understand how gender and cultural norms impact girls and boys as they grow up in West and Central Africa, the Regional Office organised a one-day workshop led by Sarah Press, the WCA Education TA. Staff had the opportunity to share their



ideas of gender roles and norms and how they have affected their personal development. At the end of the workshop, the 20+ participants concluded that gender equality concerns changing norms and expectations about female and male roles and shifting balances of power, and that men are key actors for cultivating a more balanced distribution of power in both personal and professional spheres. The integration of a gender-equality perspective into Save the Children activities is key to realise the conclusions of the workshop.

Next steps: the Committee will organise a second gender workshop and a meeting with gender specialists from the region, with the aim of sharing good practice and peer-learning between organisations.

GENDER IN NIGER

Jean Paul S. Coulibaly, HR & Administration Director

In April Save the Children Niger hosted a gender and equity workshop with Catherine Kennedy to analyse the situation of women representation in the Country Office. The workshop enabled staff to better understand the role and consideration of women in Niger, how they are integrated in the community and how this impacts the gender rate in the office. Following the analysis, it was decided to design a plan of action for gender equity. The management agreed to have an MoU with the university of Niamey to recruit women as trainees at Save the Children Niger at the end of their academic courses. It was also decided to involve a woman in recruitment panels when the candidate is a lady, to create an environment of trust; to have a place of prayer for women in the office and a specific toilet. The women group was created to discuss gender issues and share with the management how to increase participation in the office activities. The next step will be to roll out the plan of action. There will be training on gender for ladies and one hour regarding gender once a week. The gender approach will also be integrated in the staff job description.



OPERATIONS & PEOPLE

NEW INITIATIVE ENHANCES CAPACITY, SYSTEMS AND INFORMATION



Ibrat Djabbarov

Would you accept treatment from a doctor who is poorly informed about your health status? My guess is no. But what if you are a doctor or service provider, should you be providing treatment services to people if you are poorly informed about their health status? Of course not. Fundamentally, we all want and expect good quality health care.

The way we respond to the health needs of the people we serve and the quality of care we provide is at the heart of the Save the Children's global public health information (PHI) initiative. We consider generating good quality information to be important in facilitating well informed decision-making by technical advisers and managers.

Our conversations with technical advisers, managers, and MEAL specialists across various country and member offices suggest that the quality of our public health data is often undermined and is of limited value. This is in large part due to the sub-optimal processes, systems, tools, and capacity involved in generating data.

The PHI initiative seeks to support country programmes – free of charge – in improving processes, tools and capacity and to encourage the production of good quality information. We try to do this without incurring additional expenses for the country offices. We take what already exists and redesign how it works; it is all about smarter working. The initiative increases the capacity of staff, improves the value delivered by MEAL and enhances quality of services delivered to beneficiaries.

The pilot in Sierra Leone already shows that PHI can simplify the processes around data collection and management, and reduce the amount of time spent on data administration, whilst significantly improving access to information for stakeholders. All this is powered by DHIS2 software which enables easier data administration, analysis and access. Anyone with an account in Save the Children can access data anytime and anywhere using an internet browser. It's great for accountability too. A team member in Sierra Leone recently remarked the new system "makes my job easier".

To learn about DHIS2 please visit www.dhis2.org/overview and for information about how PHI initiative can support your country programme please contact Ibrat Djabbarov, i.djabbarov@savethechildren.org.uk, or Catherine McGowan, c.mcgowan@savethechildren.org.uk.

ATELIER ANNUEL MEAL EN RDC

Alex Fikiri, Country MEAL Manager

L'atelier annuel MEAL RDC 2016 s'est tenu à Bukavu du 16 au 18 juin grâce au financement 'Breakthrough Fund' 2016. Il a connu la participation de 32 staffs dont le DPQ, les staffs MEAL et certains managers des différentes bases du Bureau Pays. Le DCD a placé un mot d'encouragement à l'équipe pour le travail abattu et sur l'importance que le bureau pays accorde au département MEAL.

L'atelier a couvert l'analyse de l'approche MEAL, étant donné que le Country Office fait partie des pays pilotes qui doivent institutionnaliser l'approche MEAL de Save d'ici fin 2016; la mise en place des Quality Benchmark afin de suivre les références de qualité pour assurer la bonne mise en œuvre des programmes; le renforcement du système d'apprentissage dans les projets afin d'améliorer la capture, le partage des leçons apprises et leur intégration dans l'élaboration et la budgétisation des activités; la participation des staffs MEAL dans l'analyse situationnelle et l'élaboration du cadre logique afin d'améliorer la formulation des objectifs et des indicateurs SMART dans les nouvelles propositions; l'amélioration de la collecte des données à l'aide de la technologie mobile afin de réduire les coûts, le temps et les erreurs; le renforcement du circuit de rapportage afin d'améliorer le partage d'informations MEAL l'intérieur ou à l'extérieur du département.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH: WHAT DOES “SANGO NINI” MEAN?

Many of you asked, and here is the answer:

Sango Nini is Lingala (Congoese) for “What’s new”!

YOUR FEEDBACK TO THE NEWSLETTER...

“Votre parcours incroyable m’a permis de savoir combien il faut nourrir des ambitions. C’est qui est sur Sango Nini nous a permis de savoir ce qui se passe ailleurs et connaître d’avantage les différents défis. Merci!”

— Oumarou Neino Maman Sani, Admin Officer, Zinder, Niger

“Je trouve le journal Sango Nini très intéressant car il nous donne la possibilité d’avoir une vision sur le programme SCI de la région surtout sur les réalisations.”

— Aboubacar Paraiso Abdoul Kader, Tessaoua, Niger

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CALENDAR

- 8-11 August: Humanitarian Training
- 15-19 August: WCA Regional MEAL workshop, Lagos
- 5-7 October: Regional Leadership team meeting, Madrid
- 2-4 November: Executive & Admin Assistants Workshop in Dakar
- 7-11 November: Regional Security meeting, Dakar
- 10-11 November: WCA HR Leaders meeting, Dakar.



Ayo*, 4, child minor from Nigeria, plays with Save the Children's cultural mediator, Naooufel Soussi, in a first reception centre for migrants, in Italy. Save the Children works in countries of origin where oppression, violence, poverty and conflict are fuelling a wave of migration to Italian shores and is working to address the causes of unsafe migration.

- VACANCIES -

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Closing date: 2 August

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Closing date: 2 August

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Closing date: 2 August

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