



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILDHOOD
JOURNEE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENFANCE AFRICAINE
INTERNATIONALER TAG DER AFRIKANISCHEN KINDHEIT
INTERNATIONALE DAG VAN DE AFRIKAANSE JEUGD
DIA INTERNACIONAL DE LA CRIANCIA AFRICANA
...and its YOUTH - IDAY International aisbl

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Development cooperation: how?

It has been implemented for almost 50 years, but many independent experts agree that the results are disappointing. All this generosity, all these commitments have undoubtedly brought about humanitarian relief, yet little if any sustainable and equitable economic development. The gap between rich and poor countries' incomes has kept on growing despite (or because of?) large volumes of aid amounting to an average 15% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Africa.

These results urge us to revise our strategy. Successful development is endogenous: the countries of the South will fail to develop unless they develop themselves. The North must encourage and assist them in this process, but remain discreet. Let us not try to solve their poverty issues by imposing our solutions on them, but rather let us try to value the incredible vitality of their civil society.

IDAY, a priority and a method:

One priority: education. More than 80 million young African are still deprived of education, and Africa is the only continent where the number of illiterate youngsters continues to grow. Without a radical change in the trend, an important part (currently 40%) of the African youth will not share in the benefits of economic globalisation and will be trapped in misery. This is what IDAY is all about: commemorate together, in Africa and Europe, the International Day of the African Child on June 16 – in memory of the youngsters from Soweto massacred in 1976 while marching to demand a better education – to call for quality basic education for all in Africa. Education facilitates economic progress, better health conditions, civic control of government budgets, participatory democracy. Most importantly, education raises awareness on one's basic rights, the ignorance of which is recognised today as the primary cause of poverty.

One method: empowerment of the African civil society. Governments are responsible for the respect of human rights. Progress is possible when the local population collaborates with their leaders to have their rights respected. IDAY gathers over 200 associations to strengthen their capacity to exercise civic control over the implementation of education governmental budgets and to engage in a constructive dialogue with public authorities to enhance the efficiency of their actions. Currently one estimates at 20 to 40% the part of the foreign aid to education that actually reaches its target.

What role for European associations and NGOs?

They can support the African associations by rallying IDAY and celebrating with them the International Day of the African Child and the Global Action Week of the Global Campaign for Education (end of April). While pursuing their own projects, they should also integrate this new approach of development cooperation in their actions.

IDAY facilitates and encourages relations between organisations that are committed to and with Africa.

Some of IDAY's achievements:

- In 2010, IDAY comprises over 200 organisations from 19 African countries together with development organisations from 8 European countries. Together, they contribute to providing education to over 130 000 youngsters.
- In Burundi, IDAY member associations are advocating for a bill that would officially recognise domesticity as a profession, forbid employment before the age of 14, and render functional literacy mandatory for all 300.00 child domestic workers in the country. This bill received support from 5 ministers.
- IDAY-RDC called on the government to allocate 10% of the national budget to education (against the current 1,5%).
- In Burkina Faso, IDAY members highlighted the government's responsibility to train a sufficient number of teachers so as to reach remote areas.
- In Togo, an old lady advised IDAY in 2006 to help families adopting orphan children to school them by providing them with small cattle to start breeding activities. Today, this system helps schooling more than 300 children in 3 villages at a cost of 450€ for 5 years – the last years of primary school are financed by self-generated income. Discussions are ongoing with the government to extend this method to thousand children in 11 villages.
- The First Lady of Nigeria requested IDAY to promote systematic education of girls in the rural areas of Northwest Nigeria.
- In Uganda, IDAY played a significant role in the 10% salary raise of teachers and the implementation of a sanitation project in the Kampala slums. A member of IDAY located in the West remote areas of Uganda launched a sanitary pads production and awareness project aimed at enabling girls to go to school during their menstruation period. Thanks to this project, 20.000 destitute girls will be able to produce their own pads at a cost representing 1/8th of the price of imported pads.
- IFVB, an NGO from Luxembourg, requested IDAY to help distribute seeds of Artemisia Annu, a plant of Chinese origin with tested curative properties against malaria. Making this plant directly available to schools and the African people in general will contribute to improving education by abating malaria-caused absenteeism among teachers and children.
- American billionaire Warren Buffet considers that most donors are wasting their money. The Institute for Philanthropy advocates 10 rules for a better use of donations, to which IDAY's method of action proves compliant.

More information at:

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BANK DETAILS

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Account at the Kind Baudouin Foundation for fiscal deduction for donations > 30€:

IBAN: BE10 0000 0000 04 04 SWIFT CODE: BPOTBEB1 Belgium: 000-0000004-04

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