



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



NEWSLETTER APRIL - MAY 2010

EDITO

As we celebrate this year the 10th anniversary of the Millennium Development Goals and the 6 Objectives of the Dakar Framework, time has come to assess the progress made towards the 2015 aims, in particular access to quality basic education for all.

Despite the undisputable progress and efforts of many countries, over 80 million African children and youngsters are still deprived of education. With uneven improvements across the continent, Africa moves away from offering to all its children and its youth quality basic education by 2015, although it is a fundamental pillar of development!

A travers leur plaidoyer en Afrique et en Europe, les membres d'IDAY œuvrent pour que ces oubliés de l'éducation soient enfin pris en compte dans des systèmes éducatifs inclusifs et adaptés aux besoins de chacun.

2010, c'est aussi une année de renouveau pour IDAY : un nouveau logo et un site Internet dynamiques, à l'image du réseau !

Agenda!

Mobilisation is under way in Africa and in Europe for the **International Day of the African Child**:

mid-May	<i>IDAY-Benin</i> Poems and drawings contest (Klouékanmé)
10 May – 4 June	<i>IDAY-Uganda</i> Week of the African Child : media campaign
5 – 20 June	<i>IDAY-France</i> Fortnight of the African Child (inauguration at the General Assembly, Paris)
10-19 June	<i>IDAY-Guinea</i> Petition for Education for all ; Press conference on the place of education in the programmes of political parties (Conakry) ; Mobilisation in Bonfi Stadium (Conakry)
12-13 June	<i>IDAY-Belgium</i> IDAY stand at the Lasne fair
12 juin	<i>Belgium</i> Conference-debate : « African Diaspora and development » (14:00-18:00, Antwerpen)
12 June	<i>IDAY-Uganda</i> Cleaning of the slum; Screening of a documentary ; Radio show and photo exhibition
16 juin	International Day of the African Child <i>Italia</i> : Conference (Roma) ; Meeting-exhibition (Alliance Française, Genes) ; Solidarity Day (Milano) <i>Benin</i> : Conference-debate on violence at school (Klouékanmé) <i>Burkina Faso</i> : Training on the challenges of literacy and advocacy <i>Uganda</i> : Mobilisation for education (Panafrican Square, Kampala) <i>Zambia</i> : campaign for education (Zampost HQ, Arcades, Lusaka) <i>Rwanda</i> : conferences in schools (province and Kigali) <i>Burundi</i> : Evaluation of the National Education Policy
17 June	<i>IDAY-Burkina Faso</i> Conference : "Education of street children in Burkina Faso"
19 June	<i>IDAY-Belgium</i> Operation " I give you my book" (square Flagey, Ixelles) <i>IDAY-Italia</i> Concert "Choir for Africa" (Milano)
24 June	<i>IDAY-Belgium</i> Conference « Filling the Basic Education Gap in Africa » (European Parliament, Brussels)
25 June	<i>Belgium</i> : IDAY to the Night of the African Music (Bois des Rêves, Ottignies)
1-4 July	<i>IDAY East and Central Africa</i> WANGO Africa Conference (Nairobi)

IDAY-International

19 rue des Jambes
 1420 Braine-l'Alleud, Belgium
 Tel: +32 (0) 2 385 44 13
 Fax: +32 (0) 2 385 44 12
 Email: idaycoordination@gmail.com
www.iday.org

FLASH ON...

BELGIUM

1GOAL: A LESSON FOR ALL: SCHOOLS ARE MOBILISED!

For the Global Action Week 2010 (19-25 April), **12 schools*** participated in operation **1GOAL: A Lesson For All**, i.e. **859 pupils** and **112 adultes** including Mrs Marie-Dominique Simonet, Minister for Education of the French Community, Mr Alain Courtois, delegate of Prime Minister Yves Leterme, Mr Dominique Cattray, from the Direction Generalf for Youth, Mr Alain Trussart, Member of the Brabant-Wallon chamber, many local authorities, etc...



In Hannut, all education networks (free, communal and community) gathered for this campaign thanks to the mobilisation of CSC-Education. 398 pupils participated in the lesson in their school, then delegated 31 among them to meet with the Minister together with the schools' principals.

The pupils of Ste Lutgarde school in Lasne and St Joseph in Ixelles discovered Braille with Mr Coco Bertin Mowa, director of an inclusive school for blind and well-seeing children in Cameroon. They also discussed the difficulties many handicapped children in Africa face in going to school.

As the Global Action Week comes to an end, the Global Campaign for Education and IDAY continue their campaign for the cause of education in Africa. The **1GOAL: Education For All** will go on until at least the end of the football World Cup on 11 July, 2010... and maybe even further.

Those of you who wish so can continue with us, while pursuing of course their association's goals. There is still a lot to do for the GCE-Belgium team. We therefore suggest holding a follow-up meeting on Tuesday 18 May, 17:30, at CSC-Education office.

<http://gce-belgium.skynetblogs.be>

My name is Soufiane and I live in Brussels.

I attend a school close to where I live.

I realise that in poor countries, children must work to help their parents and they cannot go to school.

I am lucky because:

- *I learn many things*
- *I see my friends and I meet many other children*
- *Learning is fun (science, discovery)*
- *We go on field trips*
- *If you can't read, you can't understand books*
- *You learn how to count*

Life is not as hard for children who go to school.

School enables you to find out your own talents, you can become a doctor, earn more money, become famous, make your dreams come true.

Education is useful for your whole life, even when you become old.

Soufiane, 11-year old (association CARIA)



AFRICA

CHILD DOMESTIC WORKERS

In **Burundi**, IDAY member associations undertook to advocate for a bill for domestic workers protection. In addition to securing a legal status to this profession, the aim is to make sure that measures are taken to enable domestic workers to have access to - at least - basic education. A survey conducted in 2004 reveals that there are about 400,000 domestic workers in Burundi, many of whom are under 18. In the absence of a clear legal framework, these children and youngsters are vulnerable to the working conditions and harsh living conditions imposed by their employers who often deprive them of any opportunity to attend school.

Convergence pour l'Autodéveloppement des Domestiques (CAD) – the association which initiated the legislative bill supported by IDAY-Burundi and IDAY-International – has developed and carried out a literacy and vocational training adapted to the needs and

availabilities of young domestic workers. As of today, more than 400 youngsters learn writing and reading while also benefiting from vocational training and language courses. With this curriculum, they gain competences that value their profession and offer them new employment opportunities. A similar programme is under way in Rwanda, attended by 200 youngsters.

IDAY-Burundi's ambition is to engage the government into developing similar non formal education schemes so that all domestic workers in Burundi can have access to education.

Some members of **IDAY-Kenya** showed interest in this initiative. They are now developing a study project on this theme in their country, where domesticity is a social reality still that is still insufficiently of inadequately addressed when it comes to access to education.

Obituaries: Jean-Pierre Neuenschwander



It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of Jean-Pierre Neuenschwander, member of the Board of Directors and executive administrator to the Management Committee of IDAY, following a surgery attempt that succeeded the rapid progression of the illness he had been combating with great courage for many years.

A former Director of IBM in DR Congo concerned with Africa, Jean-Pierre contributed with enthusiasm and conviction to the launching of IDAY. One of IDAY's co-founder and an active director from the early stages, he was a mainstay of IDAY-Belgium and committed great efforts to it as long as he could.

Jean-Pierre's determination, diplomatic qualities and his friendly, continuous and unfailing support proved essential to many IDAY members for the pursuit of our action in favour of African children. With his death, they lose a precious friend who upheld with all his heart their aspiration for a better future.

On behalf of IDAY and its members, we express our deep gratitude and sympathy to his wife, children and friends.

May he rest in peace.

A living network!

❖ A survey conducted with the IDAY coalitions since the end of 2009 reveals that over **130,000 vulnerable African children and youngsters** have access to education thanks to the intervention and actions of IDAY member associations.

❖ From 16 to 29 February, IDAY-International visited DRC and Cameroon to meet with IDAY members. During this mission, they meet with coalition members in Kinshasa, Douala and Yaoundé, and also with national authorities and representatives of international and bilateral agencies. They visited a number of member associations involved with vulnerable groups, among which: the **Bokolisi Center** (vocational literacy training for young female domestic servant and young mothers), the MHEED Center (shelter and education of so-called witch children) in Kinshasa, and the **Centre pour Jeunes Aveugles Réhabilités du Cameroun – CJARC** (inclusive school for for blind and well-seeing children) in Douala.

❖ On a visiting trip to Belgium, Mr Coco Bertin Mowa, Director of CJARC, toured a number of schools in Wallonia.

❖ **Project Bank.** This year, 10 new projects were submitted, 7 of which met the criteria and were published on www.iday.org. The vocational literacy training for domestic workers project will be extended. By the end of April, IDAY found funding for 2 projects amounting to €4,010. There are funding prospects for 4 projects totaling €110,000.

Forgone and upcoming meetings

25 March	<i>IDAY-International & IDAY-Burundi</i> Meeting with Mrs Mélanie Bindariyé and mr Léonidas Ndayezeye (EDUAF) in Brussels ; preparation of the IDAY East and Central Africa meeting.
30 March	<i>IDAY-International, IDAY-UK and NIDOE</i> Meeting with Mr Alistair Soyode (chairman of NIDOE), Mrs Olutosin Karunwi (IDAY-UK) and Ms Noëlle Garcin (IDAY-Int.)
3 May	<i>IDAY-International</i> • Meeting with Mrs Schüttringer, office of Mr Alain Trussart, Member of the Brabant Wallon chamber. • Preparation meeting for the seminar on education of children in conflict with the law in Africa.
4 May	<i>IDAY-Belgium</i> IDAY attends the 3 rd Conference on Development Cooperation (Brussels)
4 May	<i>IDAY-Burundi</i> Meeting : CAD Action plan for domestic workers
7 May	<i>IDAY-France & IDAY-International</i> <i>Meeting with Oxfam France and Agence Française de Développement to explore collaboration opportunities.</i>
11 May	<i>IDAY-International</i> Management Committee meeting
12 May	<i>IDAY-International</i> Meeting with American Field Service (AFS) to examine collaboration on youth exchange.
18 May	<i>GCE-Belgium</i> Meeting 1GOAL (CSC-Education, Brussels)



Preschool initiation at CJARC

❖ **National and regional offices.** IDAY-Togo opened an office with support from the Anton Jurgens Fond (NL). Mr Koffi YAKPE was hired as coordinator by the coalition.

Two other offices will be open in the near future in Kampala and Kinshasa thanks to private funding. Negotiation is underway to fund offices in Bujumbura and Ouagadougou.

National offices can be opened in countries where the coalition organised June 16 activities for at least one year, where they registered as a non profit organisation and where one or more project(s) published on the Project Bank proved successful. In the long term, the running costs of these offices will be covered by the 5% commissions indexed on the investment costs of the projects funded. When coalitions manage to obtain from their government that measures are taken for the schooling and literacy training of most or all children from a specific vulnerable group, they should be able to self-finance their national office.

William Easterly's findings

With *The White Man's Burden*¹, Easterly complements usefully the series of authors who have reviewed the performance of foreign aid. His negative conclusion reinforces the unanimous condemnation of aid as failing to contribute to the economic development of the recipient countries.

The specific interest of this book written by another² former World Bank staff comes first from his thorough review of recent research, some of which, in particular were produced by World Bank services and claiming positive results. However, reviewing the calculations, he concludes that the researchers have used inappropriate hypotheses which, when rectified, lead him to the opposite conclusion and wondering about the World Bank's intentions. Thus, Easterly comes to the same overall negative conclusions as did Riddell³ 20 years earlier after a similar exercise.

He attributes the origin of this failure mainly to donor agencies' top-down planning which hereby fails to meet actual needs of the people in poor countries. He denounces the donors' regularly announced changes in aid procedures, which in fact boil down to a repackaging of former approaches. Aid works like large oil revenues known (Dutch disease) to isolate the authorities from the population and hence, fail to contribute to development because they do not take into account the requirements of the people.

Easterly examines the arguments of those who use the contrast between the spectacular development in Asia to explain the failure of aid in Africa on the basis of local features specific to that continent. Asian countries, he shows, received insignificant amounts of aid compared to their GDP in a way that could not have contributed to their development. Japan was according to him the only country that went through a take-off stage as defined by W. Rostow – the only development stage when an influx of foreign capital can contribute to development.

In Africa on the contrary, foreign aid averages 15% of GDP while one study he refers to found additional aid above 8 % to give negative results. Easterly estimates that above 5% of GDP, aid is useless at best⁴. Hence, comparing the Asian and African experience, one comes to the conclusion that aid could be effective if reduced to insignificant amounts, or it becomes rapidly excessive and has a negative impact.

Easterly is highly critical of the AIDS campaigns and shows that by focussing on corrective rather than preventive action, they not only fail to stem the pandemic, but they may well in fact encourage the spreading of the disease. He attributes the donors' preference for treating the sick rather than preventing the disease from spreading to the lower visibility of preventive action to the rich countries' general public. This suggests that the performance of foreign aid in general can be related to a misconception of aid by the media and the general public in the donor countries. Hence the need – as called for by Paul Collier – of reinforced advocacy in the donor countries to change the way aid is conceived.

Easterly is short on specific recommendations to donors to overcome aid failure. His proposal to start making proper evaluations suggests that he ignores the abundant ex-post evaluations carried out by the World Bank and other IFIs, like for instance the 1992 Wapenhans report and its follow-up reports. Admittedly, they led to limited changes in the aid-delivery procedures of the IFIs.

Easterly's suggestion to favour more "Homegrown Development", to which he dedicates a whole chapter, is welcome but he fails to explain why this common-sense recommendation that has been repeated over 40 years within and outside donor agencies is still not applied properly. Could it be that aid agencies are simply not capable of responding to the actual needs of local populations as suggested by Tendler⁵ because they respond to an internal logic that is incompatible with their declared objectives?

Easterly's book forms with Paul Collier's and Dambisa Moyo's more recent works a trilogy that can leave no one to believe that foreign aid does not need to be thoroughly reformed if it is to contribute to reduce income disparities in the world. Donor agencies would do well recognising this for the sake of the survival of the sector itself.

Jean-Jacques Schul
IDAY-International

¹ Sub-title: "Why the West's Efforts to aid the Rest have done so much Ill and so little Good", Oxford University Press 2006.

² Mrs. Dambisa Moyo was also with the World Bank at an early stage in her career.

³ "Foreign Aid Reconsidered" Roger Riddell (1987) The John Hopkins University Press.

⁴ Paul Collier in his « The Bottom Billion » (Oxford University Press – 2007), raises this threshold to 26% , noting that several pet-aid countries like Tanzania receive up to 30% GDP in foreign aid.

⁵ Judith Tendler, *Inside Foreign Aid*, 1982.