

COVID-19 : voice of working Children and Youth

Introduction

In this period of health crisis due to the Coronavirus pandemic - COVID 19, the AMWCY, in order to listen to children and better understand the challenges they face and the actions they develop, organised a zoom call with the support of Enda Youth in Action, its support structure. Nineteen (19) countries out of 28 took part with about 50 children and youth. Below are the key points that emerged from the exchanges.

Our observations

We observed that the preventive measures taken by the authorities easily push working children in conflict with the law. These measures are in conflict with them.

We believe that if nothing is done for children, with limitation of movements and lockdown measures, hunger is likely to kill more than the coronavirus.

We children who live in the rural areas are even more affected because away from the media that broadcast news about the pandemic and preventive measures

We had activities that allowed us to survive or to get trained. But with the coronavirus, all children are impacted by COVID-19. Working children who live from daily activities (barmen, pick-up and traders of scrap metal, etc) are even more so!!!!

Our observations

“ We working children and youth are observing an increase in violence against children, especially with parents who above choice are obliged to see them at home all the time and stressed by the needs of children. ”

“ No going out, no recreation or game for children, or it is done illegally without COVID-19 prevention measures. ”

“ We have observed that food donations to families have not positively discriminated in favor of working children and their families, while many of them have lost their livelihood activities. ”

We appreciate the online courses, they are a good alternative to the school closures, but they leave too many children and youth behind, those of families without a television set, or multimedia phones don't take advantage of them..

In our families without a fixed income, we children have fallen further into another precarious situation and are even more vulnerable, with activities that are not very recommended, sometimes in the streets.

Our Strengths

We have actively contributed to the dissemination of messages on the existence of the coronavirus and on the barrier gestures.

We, child-led organizations have remained protection actors of our peers in this COVID-19 and lockdown context.

We, child-led organizations have developed a resilience that allows us to reflect on alternatives in this COVID-19 context and to prepare for the future!

Our recommendations and suggestions

Our child and youth led groups must be seen as part of the solution in these emergencies for which state and other services are not prepared.

We suggest that adult organizations and institutions learn how to support our initiatives to search for alternatives during and after the pandemic, because there is another life after COVID-19.

Our authorities must take the situation very seriously in order to make the right decisions.

Our authorities at all levels must make an effort to adapt messages to children and translate them into national languages.

We children should be encouraged to speak up, to express ourselves on what we are going through; we need to be listened to.



We recommend reviewing online learning to include all children and youth.



• We observe that in the context of COVID-19, abuses and violence against children, especially girls, have increased, with pregnancies already occurring.



TECHNICAL TEAM

Session Chairman: Isaac KOTEY

Technical Assistance: James Suru BOYON

Rapporteur: Aime BADA, Romaine DIENG

Translator: Roland BADA

Drawing credit: Omar Tony

Illustrations: Rosalie RIZINJIRABAKE



ADDRESS

Tel: +221 33 889 34 20

+221 33 821 21 13

Email: maejt94@gmail.com

BP 33 70 Dakar - Sénégal

Facebook: @Mouvement.Africain