



FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED GROUPS

The slogan of the project "I'm not a hero when I carry bomb", "I'm not a hero when I'm a child soldier"

Narrative & Financial Report

Yaoundé 25-26 July

Project funded by Kids Right

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**WHEN THE POWER OF LOVE WILL BE GREATER
THAN THE LOVE OF POWER MAN SHALL HAVE
ANOTHER NAME, WHO IS GOD**

DIVINA MALOUM

I-Information about the project

My project took place in Yaoundé precisely in mosques, my project comprising of two parts which are the fight against violent extremism and the involvement of children in armed groups. Violent extremism has destroyed the life of many children especially in the North of Cameroon because of lack of security; they are use as child soldier. Terrorist groups have destroyed farmlands which caused famine in the society, they have also destroyed schools which interrupt the education of children and have profit of the vulnerability of children to involve them in armed groups. That is why I and my mates' children for peace sensitized those children on the fight against violent extremism and the involvement of children in armed groups by cartoons and t-shirts illustrating the situation of children.

II-Summary of Project Status

Children are the main victims of the intimidation and terror campaign which has been imposed by Boko Haram on the civilian population. Countless numbers of children, women and men have been abducted, abused and forcibly recruited, women and girls have been targeted for particularly horrific abuse, including sexual enslavement. Villages and towns have been looted and destroyed. Schools have been attacked. The conflict is exacting a heavy toll on children, affecting not just their wellbeing and their safety but also their access to basic health, education and social services.

III-Objects and targets.

Overall objectives.

The better engagement of children in the fight against violent extremism that is why we organize this educational discussion. Through cartoons both on papers and t-shirts in order to stimulate the engagement of children in the fight against violent extremism.

Specific objectives.

- Children should love their patriot.
- Children should denounce any case of violent act, attitudes, behavior and images around them.
- Also, that those children can spray the civic engagement in their community.
- Children should understand the consequences of being a child soldier and terrorist group.
- Also, that if between them there are children soldiers or terrorist group they should abandon it.
- Equally, if in their community or their culture it says that being a child soldier has an advantage they should deny it.

IV-Target group

Muslim children

V- Activities Implemented.

Key activities that were planned for and successfully executed during the project reporting period are as tabulated below:

Activities	Target Location/Beneficiaries	Number of interventions
Workshop 1; “The right of a child to education as a factor to reinforce the capacity of children in the fight against violent extremism” .	In Yaoundé precisely in the Mosques at the briqueterie. The beneficial are Muslim children.	1
Workshop 2; “The right of a child to security as a factor to prevent children to joint armed groups and terrorist groups” .	In Yaoundé precisely in the Mosques at the briqueterie. The beneficial are the Muslim children.	1

VI-Challenges

The challenges are faced were finances problem because the amount allocated by Kids Right were insufficient, the prices of T shirts and printing in the market increased and I was obliged to use my pocket money. The other challenges I faced was difficulties in language because some of those children could not understand French and we were obliged to take an interpreter.

VII- Information on implementing organization.

Children for Peace is an association platform which consist of 150 children. We also have five peace clubs which aim is to increase the awareness of children by sensitization.

VIII. Progress made towards and all activities.

- **Activities.**

During the period covered by the project, C4P engaged target beneficiaries in series of peace interaction activities.

DAY 1: the fight against violent extremism.



Divina, during the workshop 1 “The right of a child to education as a factor to reinforce the capacity of children in the fight against violent extremism”

During that day I and my team children for peace when to a Muslim community to sensitize them about the fight against violent extremism by given them t-shirts on which they were messages and cartoons illustrating a terrorist given an arm to a child and telling the child that if he goes and explode he will be a hero but the child answers that no being a hero is not carrying bombs to kill innocent people. Secondly, I defined what was violent extremism which is the belief or action of people who supports ideologically motivated violent to achieve ideological, religious and political views I told them the causes and how we can avoid it. After that my colleague Emmanuel ask those Muslim children some questions about the topic and which they answer very well.

Questions/Answers

After sensitized children on the issue of fight against violent extremism, my mate Emmanuella have asked some questions concerning the danger of Violent extremism , How can we render children resilient to that issue



Emmanuella during the Questions/Answers of the workshop 1



DAY 2: the fight against the involvement of children in arms groups.



Samuel , during the workshop ii “The right of a child to security as a factor to prevent children to joint armed groups and terrorist groups”

During that day I and my team went to a mosque to sensitize on the involvement of children in armed groups by distributing them t-shirts on which they were messages and cartoons illustrating a terrorist given an arm to a child and telling the child that if he goes and explode he will be a hero but the child answers by saying that being a hero is not carrying bombs to kill innocent people. That day it was my mate Samuel who explained gave more information he also explains the drawing on the cartoons, after that my other mate ask them some question in which they also answer very well. After I summarized the topic, then we took a family picture and distributed some jus to those children.

Questions/Answers

After sensitizing children on the danger of involvement of children in armed groups, Raphie has asked some questions concerning the danger of vigilance committee, the negative impacts of armed groups in the life of children



Raphie during the Questions/ Answers session



IX- Results

The accomplishment of the above peace activities with Children yielded several tangible results.

- Children love their patriot
- Children denounce any case of violent act, attitudes, behavior and images around them.
- Children spray the civic engagement in their community

- Children understand the consequences of being a child soldier and terrorist group.
- All of them have abandon the vigilance committee

X -Impact on target groups

The project had an impact on cultural and social level and in the local governance. On social and cultural level, the project has enable children to understand what violent extremism, conflicts and Boko Haram causes in our society and how to be enrolled as children peacebuilders. It has enabled families and authorities to change their perception on Children. They can be activists of conflicts prevention and management. On local governance, Children have been introduced in the management systems of some mosques. Peace clubs in mosques organize their education peace modules that enable Children to continue interacting and keep awareness on their crucial role as agent of peace in their community. Children have more and more confidence in themselves and are engaging their community and family against terrorism and to live in harmony.

Xi- Resources involved

Imams, authorities

XII - Monitoring

- I am regularly going to my target point to distribute survey to measure their civic engagement in the fight against violent extremism.
- I have also nominated focal point discretely to inform me concerning the behavior of children.

XIII- The children participation

The project principally targets children from peace clubs. Children (boys and girls) between 09 and 20 years old participated in the project. These activities were carry by Children for peace Team constituted principally by one boy and four girls. Targeted children participated fully in the different steps of the project.

XIV- Conclusion

In conclusion, the issue of fight against violent extremism and involvement of children in armed groups is a real issue the big challenges especially in the regions affected by these problems. Many children are suffering, most of them have already lost hope. It is important for all children to be mobilize against such atrocities towards them. Because as we said during the sensitization campaign **“I’m not a hero when I carry bomb”, “I’m not a hero when I’m a child soldier”**

We must stand up to say no to all kind of actions aims to use children as bomb and/or soldiers.

XV- Recommendations

- For United Nations (UN).

- Create an international platform of children engaged in peace building from developing countries.

- Grant an international recognition of children's efforts in peace building.

- Hold annular international peace summit for children.

- Fight against enrolment of children in vigilance committee.

- For Donors.

- Support financier and technically children's peace project.

- Finance the capacity building of leaders of peace children.

Budget

Libel	Numbers	Price in FCFA	Total cost in Euro
T-Shirts	75	250 000 FCFA	€ 381.26
Printing of T-shirts	75	250 000 FCFA	€ 381.26
Posters	75	75 000 FCFA	€ 114.38
Refreshments	75		€ 75
Total			€ 951.9

Some pictures (No comments)



