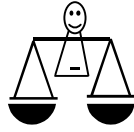
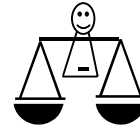


CAMEROON YOUNG JURISTS LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER

CYJULERC



"Securing livelihood for women and children within a legal framework"
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MID-TERM REPORT

Promoting, ensuring and securing the protection of Children
in Conflict with the Law "Juvenile Justice" in Cameroon



Penitentiary, Judicial Police and Gendarme Officers; Magistrates and other participants
at the Capacity Building Workshop in Douala, Cameroon, January 2010

Supported

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CYJULERC, Cameroon: Giving children hope for the future!

A. REPORTING LAY-OUT

0 Basic data

0.1 Project Title: Promoting, ensuring and securing the protection of Children in Conflict with the Law “Juvenile Justice” in Cameroon

Project Number: 113/10093

0.2 Name organisation: Cameroon Young Jurists Legal Resource Centre (CYJULERC)

0.3 Name contract holder: Esther Ayuk Nchung

0.4 Project starting date: 01-06-2009

0.5 Reporting period: 01-06-2009 to 31-05-2010

0.6 Final Report (if applicable): include a paragraph on lessons learnt, evaluation carried out, while looking at achievements upon completion of the project-program:

Not applicable; however, some photographs will inserted in here and some sent in a CD.

1. Context

A short up-to-date report should be given here on changes in the context during project implementation.

1.1 Position/policy of the government, presence in intervention area, relationship with other stakeholders:

- The project motivated the Minister of Justice to change the usual government position of not working or getting involved in projects initiated by civil society organizations, as the Ministry of Justice got very involved in the implementation of the project to ensure success.
- The Minister of Justice signed orders for all Magistrates and Prison Officers who were invited to participate in the project to attend, participate and make their contributions in their various offices and capacities to ensure the project is well implemented.
- Minister of Justice provided technical assistance; gave permission to experts from the Ministry to act as resource persons in the project.
- The project also changed the attitude of Judicial Police Officers (Law enforcement Officers) who normally have reservations to human rights issues and as a result adopt a hostile behaviour towards human rights organizations. They now have a very

cordial working relationship with a strong collaborative atmosphere with civil society organizations, social workers. Their offices and services are more accessible to all the actors of juvenile justice.

- This project also marks the beginning of possible strong partnership building between State and non-State actors in the domain of human rights in Cameroon, an area which has often created animosity and antagonism between the two parties.

1.2 Area and sector: relevant developments in this respect which fall outside the project intervention:

- A new building far from the adults has been constructed for minors in Kondengui prison, Yaoundé by government to separate minors as much as possible from adults in prison.
- Minors in the New Bell prison in Douala have been separated from adults and a special entrance for minors only created as part of measures taken by prison officers to separate them from adults.
- In January 2010, Cameroon presented its 2nd periodic report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to the United Nations Commission on the Rights of the Child, 10 years after the 1st report in 2001. The 2nd report was due five (5) years after the first, that is, in 2006. Juvenile Justice is among the recommendations for improvement in Cameroon.
- About two (2) children of foreign nationality are under the care of Foyer d'Esperance and Foyer St Nicodeme pending repatriation for which we are following up with the Regional Office for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

1.3 How did your organisation deal with risks encountered? How were risks managed or alleviated?

- The major risk was the change of government on the eve of the capacity building workshop during the 1st phase of the project in Yaoundé. The President of the Republic appointed a new government and the Judicial Police Officers (OPJs), who also act as Law enforcement officers were involved in ensuring security in Yaoundé for two days to enable the new Prime Minister and the other Ministers take over their new functions. Unfortunately, the two days coincided with the days scheduled for the workshop, July 2nd and 3rd, 2010, so the workshop held without them.

Considering that OPJs are a very vital actor in the juvenile justice process, and cognisance of the fact that they are the most abusers of human rights, we proposed to Cordaid that we organize an additional one (1) day workshop to build their

capacity and integrate them into the Juvenile Justice Chain. Cordaid approved our proposal and the workshop was organized and they were accordingly integrated. This enabled the project to attain its goals and achieve maximum impact.

1.4 Make an analysis of the power relations in the region where you operate, how they evolved since the beginning of the project, and how this change is related to your interventions

The power relations in the target communities evolved towards a cordial and collaborative working relationship. The main powers in this domain are the judicial, administrative, public security and social sector. In Cameroon, the relationship between these powers is not always cordial, but this project brought these various powers together as actors of a main course, the juvenile justice course; which necessitates a synergy of their work to give Cameroonian children who are in conflict with the law, hope for a future.

The project team worked with all the above powers during the data collection phase and their services were all invited as actors of juvenile justice to the capacity building workshops. Their various roles were described to them during the workshop and the inter-connection of their services was clearly described. They all realised none of them could succeed in their roles alone, without collaborating with the other, so they were bound to agree to work together to safe delinquent children, children in conflict with the law to be rehabilitated and given the opportunities to recover and grow like all children; without which, they will grow up to criminals and increase insecurity for everyone in our cities.



Esther Ayuk Epie presenting the Context of the Workshop and an overview of the Cameroon Juvenile Justice in Cameroon, Yaoundé, July 2009

2. Objectives (for period covered by report)

- Write a Handbook which contains all the National and International Laws in force on Juvenile Justice in Cameroon;
- Building the capacity of all the actors in the Juvenile Justice process in Yaoundé and Douala;
- Creation of a Juvenile Justice Chain, a permanent network that links all the services and actors involved the process of Juvenile Justice, to ensure the special protection of children is respected by all services/actors of Juvenile Justice Process;
- To promote alternative measures to detention for Children in Conflict with the Law;
- To give Judicial and Social assistance and Legal Aid to children in conflict with the law;

2.1 Report on level of achievement of objectives in the period covered by the report

Below are the achievements of the various objectives:

- **Write a Handbook which contains all the National and International Laws in force on Juvenile Justice in Cameroon:**

A bilingual Juvenile Justice Manual (French and English) containing all national and international laws on juvenile justice in force in Cameroon, to be applied by all State and non-State actors involved in the juvenile justice process was produced. The manual also contains contact information of all the State and Non-State juvenile justice services covered by the project in 3 sectors in Yaoundé – 1, 2 & 4; and 3 sectors in Douala – 1, 2 & 3.

7.500.000 copies of the manual were produced, 3000 for Yaoundé and 4.500 for Douala. 5.500 have been distributed so far to participants of the workshop in Yaoundé and Douala, and to the various services in the communities covered by the project and to organizations to distribute to schools, parents and communities. Some were also distributed in Buea, Tiko, Limbe, Monatele and Bitamba. The distribution is ongoing depending on need.

- **Building the capacity of all the actors of the Juvenile Justice process in Yaoundé and Douala:**

Two training seminars were organized in Yaounde and one in Douala. 23 Magistrates, 31 Judicial Police Officers, 12 Prison Officers, 45 Social workers and 116 members of Civil Society Organizations were trained on various laws and topics on Juvenile

Justice, and Procedures applicable in Cameroon. Each presenter laid emphasis on the provisions related to the various actors and the link between their roles.

Participants were trained in the following topics:

- An over view of the Cameroonian Juvenile Justice System.
- The provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), African Charter on the Rights of the Child and other International Conventions. They were also trained on the specific provisions on children in the 2007 Criminal Procedure Code and the Penal Code.
- The Administration of Justice to Minors.
- The Role of Social Affairs in the Administration of Juvenile Justice in Cameroon.
- The Judicial Protection of Children Deprived of their Liberty.
- The Role of the Civil Society Organizations in the Juvenile Justice process in Cameroon.



Mr. Nsoa presenting his paper on the Convention of the Rights of the Child at the Capacity Building Workshop, Yaoundé, July 2009

- **Creation of a Juvenile Justice Chain, that links all the services and actors involved the Juvenile Justice process, a synergy of actors to enhance and ensure the special protection of children is respected by all services/actors of Juvenile Justice Process:**
 - Two (2) Juvenile Justice Chains made up of all the various actors were created, one in Yaoundé and the other in Douala to link all the services and actors who play a role in the juvenile justice process. The chains were created at the end of the workshops in each city. The participants had very exciting training workshops and have since been working as a chain for an effective juvenile justice system which secures the rights of children. The results can be seen in the fact that the number of children detained has dropped considerably especially in Douala where the parents and families of most children can be traced.
 - The chain started functioning during the workshop as practical cases were brought up by members of the civil society organizations, difficulties they were facing in pending cases and some cases which were discovered during data collection were discussed. Solutions were proposed during the workshops and participants took appointments to resolve them.
 - All the magistrates who participated gave their official and personal contacts so that they can be reached by all the various actors of the chain and the contacts of all the State and non-State services were distributed and focal persons were appointed. The two juvenile justice chains started collaborating during the workshops and the collaboration continued thereafter as will be seen in the successful results discussed under the next objective - Judicial and Legal aid objective.
 - Because of the Juvenile Justice Chain in both Yaoundé and Douala, most of the children who are in conflict with the law are neither detained by Judicial Police Officers nor Magistrates because Civil Society members take them on bail or Social Workers trace their families, and this accounts for the fact that, there are only 4 children in the Douala minors unit at the moment. However, because most of the children in the Yaoundé minors' unit are from the three Northern Regions of Cameroon, their families are not easily traced and that is why there are 182 children in the unit today; 5 old cases and 177 new cases.
 - Finally, there is more collaboration between State and non-State actors, more involvement of Social workers and Civil Society in the juvenile justice process and State services are more accessible.

- **To give Judicial and Social assistance and Legal Aid to children in conflict with the law:**
 - The baseline data collected revealed that there were 304 children in two prisons in the Center Region; 300 children in Kondengui minors' unit in Yaoundé; and 4 in Monatele minors' unit.
 - Below is a recap of the assistance provided to children in Yaoundé:
 - 296 in were released within one year of the project; 295 in Kondengui, Yaoundé and 1(one) in Monatele prison.
 - Seven (7) children were released immediately after the capacity building workshop by the Examining Magistrate (Juge d'Instruction) in Yaoundé; 4 ordered to be transferred from Kondengui to Foyer d'Esperance, a private children's center for rehabilitation and 3 children ordered to return to their families.
 - Of the four (4) children in Foyer d'Esperance, one is on vocational training, two in primary school and one in secondary school
 - 18 children who were released by the Judge but could not pay court fines had their fines paid by a *CSO, Relais Enfant Parents du Cameroun* in the total sum of 512,562 Fcfa immediately after the workshop and they were also released.
 - 1 (one) 7 years old child called Abena Theophile who was jailed contrary to the provisions of the law, in 2007 for 10 years in Monatele and discovered during data collection in Yaoundé, was transferred to a government Children's Re-education Center at Betamba, Center Region. An application has been submitted to the Minister of Justice for a special order to enable us file an appeal in his matter since the period for appeal has elapsed. He was not supposed to be sentenced to a term of imprisonment since he was below 10 and thus criminally irresponsible under the law.
 - Three (3) children were also ordered to be transferred from Kondengui to Betamba Children's Center.
 - As regards social assistance, 273 children have been reinserted into their families and placed under the supervision of Social Workers of nearby Social Centers. Most of them have gone back to school and some on vocational training programs by their parents.
 - A total of five (5) children including seven (7) years old Abena were sent back to school and vocational training centers.
 - Children have been completely separated from adults in the Kondengui prison in Yaoundé by a new building far from the adults.

- After one year, five (5) out of 300 old children in Yaoundé were left but 177 new children were detained in the minors' unit which makes a total of 182 children after one year of the project.
- Payment of fines by minors for criminal offences stopped after the training of Penitentiary Officers at the capacity building workshop for that was in violation of the law. Children were made to work – task force in compensation of fines in the case where they had no money to pay, the task force has also stopped.
- In Douala, there were 280 children in the minors unit during the data collection but 231 were released following a plea from the head of Foyer St. Nicodeme, Sr. Marie in honor of her birthday, so there were only 49 children in the minors unit in need of judicial and social assistance at the time we held the capacity building workshop.
- 45 children out of 49 were released by May 2010, that is, five (5) months after the capacity building workshop;
- 21 children were immediately released following the capacity building workshop in January 2010.
- 41 children were reinserted into their families by May 2010.
- 2 children are undergoing rehabilitation Foyer St. Nicodeme.
- About two (2) children of foreign nationality are under the care of Foyer St Nicodeme pending repatriation for which we are following up with the Regional office for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.
- Children have been completely separated from adults in the New Bell prison in Douala and a special entrance created for children as part of measures taken by the prison officials to separate children from adults.
- The number of children detained in the Douala Central prison has dropped considerably and only four (4) children are in the minors unit today.

- **To promote alternative measures to detention for Children in Conflict with the Law:**
 - 353 children were identified in Yaoundé and Douala during the baseline survey.
 - Considering that there are very few special children's centers for detention, rehabilitation and re-education, most of the children released were ordered to be re-inserted into their families directly under the supervision of social workers for any necessary social assistance during rehabilitation and integration within the families.
 - 327 children were released from minors' units in Yaoundé and Douala within one (1) year of the project.

- 316 families of the children were identified and 316 children integrated their families within one (1) year of the project.
- Four (4) children who were involved in serious offences and obliged to stay in special children's detention centers, were released from minors' unit in Kondengui prison, Yaoundé – 3 transferred to the government Children's Re-education Center at Betamba, Center Region and 1 to Foyer d'Esperance, a private children's rehabilitation center and a partner organization (CSO) to CYJULERC in this project.
- Two (2) children who were involved in serious offences and obliged to stay in special children's detention centers, were released from minors' unit of New Bell prison, Douala and transferred to Foyer St. Nicodeme, a private children's rehabilitation center and a partner organization (CSO) to CYJULERC in this project.
- Two (2) children of foreign nationalities were also transferred to the Foyer St. Nicodeme in Douala and a procedure to repatriate them has commenced with the Regional Office for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.
- After the capacity building seminars, the Penitentiary Officers became aware of the provisions of the laws and importance of separating minors from adults, and as such children were transferred to a building far from the adults, so they are now completely separated from adults in Yaoundé. In Douala, children have been completely separated from adults and a special entrance created for children only.
- Following the training of the Penitentiary Officers, they ensure minors are kept away from adults as much as possible. They ensure children do not mixed up with the adults at any given time even during transportation to the court, and while in court; children are transported in a different vehicle and they no longer attend or wait for departure in adults' court sessions or court rooms.
- Children have been reserved a special area or room in the court premises to wait for departure to prison after court sessions and therein, parents, guidance and family are allowed to chat with them pending departure to prison.

2.2 Any changes agreed with Cordaid in the intervening period.

- In agreement with Cordaid, a meeting was organized in Yaoundé and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the four (4) organizations to implement this project, intervening at various levels as per their capacities. The MOU was not included in the project write-up or activities.

- The baseline data collection was moved from 2nd phase to 1st phase in agreement with Cordaid. The baseline survey was carried out before capacity building in order for us to know the exact situation so it can be discussed during workshops. It was also necessary to have practical situations discovered during the survey to use as examples and cases were also raised by CSOs and some solutions were arrived at during workshop by Magistrates, Police & Gendarmes and Penitentiary Officers.
- In agreement with Cordaid, an additional one (1) day capacity building workshop was organized in Yaoundé to enable the Judicial Police Officers to be integrated in the project and into the Juvenile Justice Chain. They were unable to participate in the capacity building training workshop of July 2 – 3, 2009 because the Head of State appointed a new government on July 1st, and the State was under high security alert and the Police & Gendarmes were involved in ensuring security during handing over ceremonies of all the ministries including the Prime Minister, during the two days that followed the appointment, that is, July 2nd & 3rd, which coincided with the workshop in Yaoundé.
- In an effort to ensure maximum success of the project, and in agreement with Cordaid, Phase 2 (Douala) was implemented earlier than scheduled in the time plan. This was to enable the project have as much time as possible for the follow-up of children during the life cycle of the project, and also to enable us have enough evidence before beginning the 3rd phase, so we can use for advocacy. It was also possible and advantageous for the Douala phase to start earlier because it is not a follow-up to the Yaoundé phase; it is the same project which is implemented in two cities as such should be given equal timeframe as much as possible for more impact.



Inquiry Magistrate (left) and Trial Judge (right) explain the provisions of the law in the Criminal Procedure Code to participants at the Capacity Building Workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroon; July 2009

3. Activities:

3.1 Report on the activities carried out as compared to the activities planned at the outset for the total project period and for the reporting period in question

The following activities fall within the 1st year of the project:

PHASE 1: Capacity Building and creation of Juvenile Justice Chain:

- **Handbook on Juvenile Justice:**

- A bilingual Juvenile Justice Manual (French and English) containing all national and international laws on juvenile justice in force in Cameroon which ought to be observed by all State and non-State actors involved in the juvenile justice process was produced. The manual also contains contact information of all the State and non-State juvenile justice services covered by the project in 3 sectors in Yaoundé – 1, 2 & 4; and 3 sectors in Douala – 1, 2 & 3. The manual does not have the various simplified procedures as planned in the proposal because, the laws were more extensive than envisaged and we gave priority to them since they constitute the basis of the procedures. Most of the resource persons laid emphasis on the different procedures to be observed during the workshop.

- 7.500.000 copies of the manual were produced, 3000 for Yaoundé and 4.500 for Douala. 5.500 have been distributed so far to participants of the workshop in Yaoundé and Douala, and to the various services in the communities covered by the project and to schools, parents and communities. Some were also distributed in Buea, Tiko, Limbe, Monatele and Bitamba. The distribution is ongoing depending on need. We agreed at the workshop that instead of distributing many copies of the manual to actors for onward distribution as in the proposal, actors were encouraged to plan activities and request the necessary number of copies for distribution during the event. This is to ensure the proper use of the manual, so that it should be distributed to targeted groups and persons.

- **A Memorandum of Understanding meeting between CYJULERC and Partners:**

- A meeting was organized in Yaoundé before implementation of project activities, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between four (4) organizations, CYJULERC, Foyer d'Esperance, AWA and Foyer St. Nicodeme to implement this project. Each partner agreed to intervene at various levels of the project as per their

capacities. The MOU was not included in the project proposal, but it was deemed necessary so Cordaid gave her consent.

- **Building capacity of all actors of Juvenile Justice Chain: Prosecutors, Judges, Gendarmes, Police, Social Services, and local organizations:**

- Two (2) training seminars were organized in Yaounde and one (1) in Douala. 23 Magistrates, 31 Judicial Police Officers, 12 Prison Officers, 45 Social workers and 116 members of Civil Society Organizations were trained on various laws & topics on Juvenile Justice, and Procedures applicable in Cameroon. Presenters were experts from CYJULERC, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Welfare and Civil Society. Each presenter laid emphasis on the provisions of various actors role, and the link between their roles.

Participants were trained in the following topics;

- An over view of the Cameroonian Juvenile Justice System.
- The provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), African Charter on the Rights of the Child and other International Conventions. They were trained on domestic law; specific provisions of the 2007 Criminal Procedure Code and the Penal Code on children.
- The Administration of Justice to Minors.
- The Role of Social Affairs in the Administration of Juvenile Justice in Cameroon.
- The Judicial Protection of Children Deprived of their Liberty.
- The Role of the Civil Society Organizations in the Juvenile Justice process in Cameroon.

- **Creation of Chain of all the services along the Juvenile Justice process:**

- Two (2) Juvenile Justice Chains made up of all the various actors were created, one in Yaoundé and the other in Douala to link all the services and actors who play a role in the juvenile justice process. The chains were created at the end of the workshops in each city. The participants had very exciting training workshops and have since been working as a chain for an effective juvenile justice system which secures the rights of children. The results can be seen in the fact that the number of children detained has dropped considerably especially in Douala where the parents and families of most children can be traced.

- All the magistrates who participated gave their official and personal contacts so that they can be reached by all the various actors of the chain and the contacts of State and non-State services were distributed and focal persons were designated. The two juvenile justice chains started collaborating during the workshops and the collaboration continued thereafter as would be seen in the successful results discussed under the next objective - Judicial and Legal aid objective.
- Because of the Juvenile Justice Chain most of the children who are in conflict with the law are neither detained by Magistrates nor Judicial Police Officers because Civil Society members take them on bail or Social Workers trace their families and this accounts for the fact that, there are only 4 children in the Douala minors unit at the moment and 353 children were released by the end of first year.
- Finally, a strong synergy has been established between State and non-State actors, with more involvement of Social workers and Civil Society in juvenile justice process, and more access to State services.

PHASE 2: Promote alternative measures to detention for children in conflict with the law

- **Collection of Baseline Data on Children in conflict with law:**
 - Baseline survey was conducted in three (3) out of seven (7) city councils in Yaoundé and three (3) out of six (8) in Douala. These city councils were targeted for the project.
 - All the State and non-State juvenile justice services in the target areas were covered.
 - CYJULERC joined Foyer d'Esperance and AWA to conduct the survey in Yaoundé, while Foyer St. Nicodeme was joined by CYJULERC to carry out the Douala survey.
- **Identification, reference, assistance, rehabilitation and reinsertion of Children in Conflict with the law:**
 - 304 children were identified in Yaoundé and 280 in Douala during the baseline survey.
 - 295 were released in Yaoundé during the 1st year of the project.
 - Out of 280 children identified in the minors unit during the data collection, 231 were released following a plea from the head of Foyer St. Nicodeme, Sr. Marie, in honor of her birthday, so there were only 49 children left to be assisted during the project.

- 296 minors were released within one year of the project in Yaoundé; 295 in Kondengui, Yaoundé and 1(one) in Monatele prison
- Among the 296 were 18 children who were released by the Judge but could not pay court fines which fines were paid by a *CSO Relais Enfant Parents du Cameroun* in the total sum of 512,562 Fcfa immediately after the workshop and they were also released.
- Among them was also 7 years old Abena Theophile who was transferred from Monatele prison to the government Children's Re-education Center at Betamba.
- 291 children were reinserted and integrated into their families within one (1) year of the project.
- Four (4) children who were involved in serious offences and obliged to stay in special children's detention center and one (1) is undergoing rehabilitation with Foyer d'Esperance in Yaoundé, and three in a government special Center for Re-education and Rehabilitation of Children's, at Betamba.
- In Douala, 45 children out of 49 were released by May 2010, that is, five (5) months after the capacity building workshop;
- 41 children were reinserted into their families by May 2010.
- 2 children are undergoing rehabilitation Foyer St. Nicodeme.
- About two (2) children are of foreign nationality are under foster care with some families supervised by Foyer St Nicodeme pending repatriation for which we are following up with the Regional office for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.
- There are still four (4) children in prison.
- **Promotion of Foster Parenthood:**
There are two cases of children who have been placed under foster parent care. However, the project is sharing the care of some of the children with some parents.

3.2 Mention outreach, with an emphasis on men/women ratios:

- Three (3) communities covering a population of about 900.000 people were targeted for the project in Yaoundé and three (3) communities with a total population of 1.200.000 people were also targeted in Douala.
- 16 State services (2 Prisons, 2 Courts, 2 Prosecutors' Chambers, 3 Social Services, 3 Police Stations, 3 Gendarmes' Brigades) and 65 Non-State services - civil society organizations were covered in Yaoundé.

- 15 States services (1 Prison, 2 Courts, 2 Prosecutors' Chambers, 3 Social Services, 3 Police Stations, 3 Gendarmes Brigades) and 43 Non-State services.
- 353 children benefited direct assistance from this project within the first year. 348 boys and 5 girls.
- 227 juvenile justice actors directly benefited from capacity building training; 11 State actors and 116 non-State actors. 23 Magistrates, 31 Judicial Police Officers, 12 Prison Officers, 45 Social workers and 116 members of Civil Society Organizations were trained.

3.3 Any changes agreed with Cordaid in the intervening period.

- In agreement with Cordaid, a meeting was organized in Yaoundé and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the four (4) organizations to implement this project, intervening at various levels as per their capacities. The MOU was not included in the project write-up or activities.
- The baseline data collection was moved from 2nd phase to 1st phase in agreement with Cordaid. The baseline survey was carried out before capacity building – to know the exact situation – discussed during workshops, other cases raised by CSOs – practical situations used as examples – some solutions arrived at during workshop by Magistrates, Police & Gendarmes and Penitentiary Officers.
- In agreement with Cordaid, an additional one (1) day capacity building workshop was organized in Yaoundé to enable the Judicial Police Officers to be integrated in the project and the Juvenile Justice Chain. They were unable to participate in the capacity building training workshop of July 2 – 3, 2010 because the Head of State appointed a new government on July 1st, and the State was under high security alert and the Police & Gendarmes were involved in ensuring security during handing over ceremonies of all the ministries including the Prime Minister, during the two days that followed the appointment, that is, July 2nd & 3rd, which coincided with the workshop in Yaoundé.
- In an effort to ensure maximum success of the project, and in agreement with Cordaid, Phase 2 (Douala) was implemented earlier than scheduled in the time plan. This was to enable the project have as much time as possible for the follow-up of children during the life cycle of the project, and also to enable us have enough

evidence before beginning the 3rd phase, so we can use for advocacy. It was also possible and advantageous for the Douala phase to start earlier because it is not a follow-up to the Yaoundé phase; it is the same project which is implemented in two cities as such should be given equal timeframe as much as possible for more impact.



Magistrates, Police, Gendarmes, Civil Society Organizations & Social Workers
at the Capacity Building Workshop in Douala

4. Output

4.1 Report on delivered output. Provide quantifiable information:

- The number of children in the Kondengui prison-Yaounde minors' unit dropped from 300 to 182 within one (1) year; and from 49 to 14 in New Bell Douala within five (1) months.
- A new building has been constructed far from the adults' residence, for minors in the Kondengui prison –Yaounde thus separating them; and in the New Bell prison – Douala, minors have been separated from adults and a new entrance reserved for minors only has been constructed to prevent them from having any contact with the adults.
- Two (2) Juvenile Justice Chains have been created, one (1) in Yaoundé and one (1) in Douala. There is a strong collaboration between all the actors of the juvenile justice process in the target communities and this has led to a very strong State and Non-State actor's partnership within the services.

- 7.500 copies of a bilingual Juvenile Justice Manual (French and English) containing all national and international laws on juvenile justice in force in Cameroon were produced and 5.500 have been distributed to the target groups and population.
- One hundred and eleven (111) State actors' capacity built in the applicable national and international legislation on Juvenile Justice, and children are benefiting from the special protection provided by the law in their services, e.g. children are no longer detained in the cells and they spend a very short period in the judicial police services or they prosecutors' offices;
- The magistrates systematically released children to parents, children's special centres or to CSOs and only remanded in prison custody exceptionally and as a last resort.
- 349 children have been reinserted and integrated into their families. The social workers played a leading role in identifying the families of the children and they are more involved in the juvenile justice process.
- Prison officers now ensure children are permanently separated from adults – minors are transported in a different vehicle to and from court, and they are no longer allowed access to adults' court sessions.
- 116 Non-State actors – members of civil society organizations' capacity built in the applicable national and international legislation on Juvenile Justice. They have understood their role in the juvenile justice process and children are benefiting from their services; e.g. 18 children court fines were paid by a *CSO, Relais Enfant Parents du Cameroun* in the total sum of 512,562 Fcfa immediately after the workshop and they were also released. The 112 CSOs now have full access to the Police & Gendarmes offices, the Prosecutors' offices, the courts and prisons to assist children.
- Six (6) children are detained in government and private special children reeducation centers.
- 26 CSOs acted as sureties for 26 children have been released on bail pending trial.
- The contacts of all the State services and Non-State services in the target communities in Yaoundé and Douala are in the manual and all the actors of Juvenile Justice Process in those communities know each other. They also know each others' role and have since been working together as a chain with a strong network built.

- 6 children who have no relatives were referred to Centers such as Foyers;
- Detention periods have reduced drastically in the four courts in Yaoundé and Douala. The Judge charged with the trial of minors in Yaoundé, Madame Akoa encourages the parents to show up in court for their children because she would not release them to go into the streets again. She would only release the children when their parents are present so that they can take them home.
- An information desk has been created at the Foyer d'Esperance and Foyer St. Nicodeme to enable parents get information on their children and for children to communicate with their parents (by phone).

4.2 Mention if adjustments are necessary:

We foresee no further adjustments.

4.3 Mention outreach, with an emphasis on men/women ratios:

The ratio between girls and boys for children in conflict with the law is very large; out of the 353 minors who benefited from the project, there were 5 girls and 348 boys.



Law enforcement Officers and a cross section of participants at the Capacity Building Workshop in Yaoundé, September 2009

5. Outcome

5.1 Report on the achieved outcome, or the extent to which outcome will be achieved during the remaining of the project. Use indicators already identified in project proposal:

- The juvenile justice chain created in Douala and Yaoundé has instilled a collaborative method of work which has improved the juvenile justice system and a strong synergy has been created between the services.
- All international and national juvenile justice laws enforceable in Cameroon are now available in the Juvenile Justice handbook. Actors and services can always request more copies of the manual if need be from CYJULERC. They can also access the soft copy online at CYJULERC website.
- Civil Society Organizations which have been integrated into the juvenile justice system will remain a permanent actor in the system. They now take children on bail – a major breakthrough in the high handedness of law enforcement officers' authority.
- No more payment of fines by minors in the Yaoundé and Douala prisons because the judges, penitentiary officers and the CSOs are aware of the provision of the laws which exonerates minors from fines.
- CSOs act as link between minors and parents. The minors in prison custody can send information about their case through the CSOs to parents and vice versa.
- No more task force by minors to compensate for fines. Minors who could not pay fines were given task to perform as payment for their fines.
- Accessibility of State services to CSOs – Courts, Prosecutors' office, Police and Gendarmes services were inaccessible to CSOs, in fact, a hostile relationship existed between the CSOs and Police & Gendarmes, but after the capacity building workshops, the State actors are now open to CSOs and the State workers have since been calling members of the CSO to their offices to assist children.
- There is permanent awareness by penitentiary officers of the fact that minors must be separated from adults at all times and places, whatever the situation; it is mandatory to separate them as provided by the law.
- The strong State – Non-State partnership between the Ministry of Justice and the CYJULERC in this project is a major breakthrough in the field of human rights in Cameroon. Human rights are a very sensitive area that often generates much conflict between the State and the Civil Society, but in this project, the State understood that

the Civil Society's role is to complement the government action. We are sure this project will change the perception of civil society organizations by the government.

5.2. Mention if adjustments are necessary:

We do not foresee any necessary adjustments in this project. We however propose that more workshops be organized and more days be scheduled for the workshop to enable participants to better train.

5.3 Mention outreach, with an emphasis on men/women ratios:

The ratio between girls and boys for children in conflict with the law is very large; out of the 353 minors who benefited from the project, there were 5 girls and 348 boys.



Judicial Police, Gendarme and Penitentiary Officers present their group work at the Workshop in Yaoundé



Judicial Police Officer at workshop in Douala, January 2010

5.4 If relevant, describe as much as possible the outcome of the capacity building activities at the level of a) beneficiaries b) communities c) civil society in general. Show examples:

A) Beneficiaries:

- Expedient judicial procedures for minors, the main beneficiaries of this project.
- 3 children were ordered to be transferred from Kondengui prison to Foyer d'Esperance by a Judge at the end of the capacity building workshop.
- Payment of 18 minors' fines by a CSO, Relais Enfant, which led to their immediate release.
- 23 children whose files could not be traced in the Kondengui prison were immediately released to their parents.
- There is a significant drop in the number of children detained in prisons.
- There is a mark improvement in the respect of the children's rights in the prison for they are now given the special protection accorded to them by the law. e.g the children now are in constant contact with their parents.
- Children no longer pay fines or given forced task in payment of fines.
- Many parents can now get involved and attend their children's court sessions for the courts give the information to Foyers who communicate to them.
- Children now have access to judges, prosecutors and are able to listen to them.
- Magistrates' attention was drawn to cases of abandoned children in prison during the workshops and the children were all released.
- Children are no more detained without files in prison.
- Maximum efforts has been made to separate minors in both Yaoundé and Douala prisons form adults.
- A special room assign to minors as waiting room in the court premises, away from adults; they are also authorized to receive their parents and families there.
- As a result of the capacity building, the street children now have access to other organizations which are ready to rehabilitate them.
- Less decongestion in minors' units.
- Availability of more assistance – judicial, medical, social, education to minors.

b) Communities:

- Two Juvenile Justice Chains now exists in the target communities.
- Collaboration between juvenile justice actors
- There is a general awareness and communities are more involved in the juvenile justice process, for example, the local community heads in Yaoundé and Douala

invite the Foyers to participate in the amicable settlement of disputes which concern children in their communities. This helps prevent the children from getting into the streets and getting into conflict with the law which can lead them to prison.

- The communities (parents) now find it easier to get information about their children in prison.
- The communities know civil society organizations in the target areas and now rely on them for assistance in issues regarding children in conflict with the law.
- Parents now have easier access to courts, prosecutors' office, social services, and police and gendarmes services.

c) Civil Society in general:

- The Juvenile Justice handbook provides the civil society with the necessary weapon to assert themselves as watch-dogs to State Actors for they know the special rights provided to the children by the law and the roles each actor is required to play.
- The capacity building workshops clearly spelled out the civil society's role, and demonstrated the necessity for the State Actors to collaborate with the civil society in order to succeed in providing the special protection needed by children, considering that, the State of Cameroon does not have the means and adequate structures to provide the role that the civil society plays in the juvenile justice process.
- The capacity building workshop formally integrated the civil society into the juvenile justice process as in-alienable actors and the State Actors, especially the Judicial Police and Law enforcement Officers, recognized the legitimacy of their roles provided by the law, as such they no more hostile towards them, hostility was due to ignorance of the law and procedures.
- In creating the Juvenile Justice Chain during the workshop, all the actors interacted with each other, made proposal and finally agreed on the modalities and manner in which the chain should function. This interaction was a major break-through of the high-handedness and hostile nature of the Officers towards the Civil Society, and they all resolved to respect each other and work in synergy as a team to improve on the juvenile justice system in Cameroon.
- Some private civil society children's centres are now recognized by State services as competent centres for rehabilitation and reinsertion so the State actors refer children to them and collaborate with them in providing the necessary special protection to children in conflict with the law.
- The courts and judicial services have recognized the private centres and now refer children directly to centres like the Foyers.

- The civil society is now regarded as a main actor in the juvenile justice process by all the other actors and the community.



Sr. Salome of Foyer d'Esperance Yaoundé, presents the role of Civil Society in the Juvenile Justice Process



Magistrates assisting the Civil Society participants working group, brainstorming at the Capacity Building Workshop



Mix group work of participants in Douala workshop

6. Organisation

6.1 General

Report on new and relevant organisational aspects in so far as this does not involve an activity mentioned separately under 3.

The following might for example be mentioned:

- **development of and changes in the organisation:**

CYJULERC developed an important partnership with the Ministry of Justice, thus raising the organization and creating a strong State – Non-State partnership at a very high level with the government. This partnership is very important to CYJULERC, because it guarantees the success of most of its projects, considering that, the Ministry of Justice is charged with the ensuring adoption of legislation and application and enforcement of these laws.

- **management aspects: the internal and external operation of (sections) of the organisation:**

Implementing the project in Yaoundé and Douala was a challenge to CYJULERC management team, and it warranted the involvement of more skilled staff from the regional offices. It was no doubt more challenging transporting an office to Yaoundé and Douala for a few days, and coordinating in different cities was also challenging, but we were happy to have a successful experience.

The project necessitated the involvement of CYJULERC's regional coordinators in Manyu and Kousserie in implementing, monitoring and evaluation. It was a good experience in our internal operations and it helped developed the skills of the coordinators.

Implementation of the project in Yaoundé and Douala alongside partners who are part of the management team was a good experience in collaboration and networking for the organization.

- **staff changes:**

We did not change or recruit any new staff, considering that most of our members and staffs are jurists who are quite familiar with such projects.

Due to the partnership created with the Ministry of Justice, CYJULERC now has a source of specialized resource persons in the area of human rights and legislation.

- **co-operation, networking:**

CYJULERC implemented this project in partnership with three organizations, AWA, Foyer d'Esperance and Foyer St. Nicodeme. This co-operation has led to the success of the project which motivated the four organizations to apply for a bigger grant and to extend the project to Maroua, where two other CSOs have joined the network.

- **formal aspects such as statutes, legal status and the like:**

CYJULERC is a registered organization so its status has not changed but its influence and recognition in the country has no doubt increased.

6.2 Capacity building at organisation level

Describe the realised capacity building activities related to your organisation. Describe the what (which capacity building efforts, at what level of the organisation, who benefited) as well as the how (which strategies have been used, i.e. training, workshop, exchange programs, etc.). Describe the results of the capacity building efforts undertaken and relate those to where you stand now as an organisation. Refer to the indicators you mentioned in the application.

Describe how the organisation has been better able to execute its programs.

Ensure the information is quantitative (number of staff, number of trainings, and number of workshops), descriptive (what was tackled, content of training) as well as qualitative (what change occurred, what was the impact). Please refer to the follow up document where the agreements regarding the capacity building efforts are mentioned.

Most CYJULERC members and staffs are professional jurists; judges, prosecutors, lawyers, social workers, educationist, gender specialist, and financial experts so they are vest in the area of human rights, legal practice in criminal justice, gender, social justice, women and children's rights. Most of the organization's staff have at least a first degree and a diploma or certificate in project management or project related field. They therefore have the capacity to implement their programs. It is for this reason that no specific reference was made to capacity building of members or staffs.

However, CYJULERC President, who is a judge and inquiry magistrate for children in Buea; increased her capacity during the last year as she obtained a

Masters Degree in International Legal Studies; An International Human Rights Certificate, and a Certificate in Leadership and Advocacy from the Georgetown University Law Centre in Washington DC.

Nonetheless, the capacity of the organisational staff has been enhanced on juvenile justice issues, International and national laws, collection of data from the field and analysing, power point presentation and workshop facilitation. 5 members of Staff participated in the project and they build their capacity in juvenile justice. Adequate study materials are now available for staff to further build their capacity. Juvenile justice materials have been distributed to all staff both electronic and hard copies.

New ideas and knowledge on the roles of other services involved in child protection have been acquired on the police, ministry of justice, civil society organisations, social welfare services, which can now be use in the follow up of other projects.

The members of CYJULERC also improve on their French language for almost all of them are English speaking, but the project was implemented in the French speaking part of the country. This will improve on communication and interaction in subsequent project in the French speaking zone.

CYJULERC has material resources like two (2) projects vehicles, computers, printers and all the necessary office equipments to implement their programs and projects. However, this project also enabled CYJULERC to purchase a laptop computer and movable printer and this enhanced the implementation of this project out of the office, for the computer is reserved for this project alone.

CYJULERC also improved its collaborating and partnership skills as she successfully implemented this project with four CSOs, the largest partnership she has had so far. And the success of this project has motivated the partners to apply for a bigger project with more target communities.

The experience the organization and staff acquired in the organization of such big workshops too cannot be minimized for its capacity has no doubt been improved.

7. Forecast:

- 7.1 Forecast, planning for the next (reporting) period. Compared with the original proposal, do adjustments need to be made, and if yes, what are the implications for**

the activity plan and budget. Attach financial projection (including cash flow forecast and request for transfer of funds). Motivate any deviation.

- We do not forecast any adjustments necessary for the next period, phase 3; which is reserved for advocacy and lobbying government and other stake holders for the adoption of the pending draft Child Protection Code and the creation of a Child Protection Commission.

- **What are the difficulties/challenges you encountered in the project and how did you solve them?**

- The head of State appointed a new government on July 1st 2009, and the workshop was schedule for the next day, July 2nd & 3rd. The Police and Gendarmes did not attend the workshop. They were unable to participate in the capacity building training workshop of July 2 – 3, 2010 because the Head of State appointed a new government on July 1st, and the State was under high security alert and the Police & Gendarmes were involved in ensuring security during handing over ceremonies of all the ministries including the Prime Minister, during the two days that followed the appointment, and this coincided with the workshop in Yaoundé. In agreement with Cordaid, an additional one (1) day capacity building workshop was organized in Yaoundé in September to enable the Judicial Police Officers to be integrated in the project and the Juvenile Justice Chain.

- Access of project team to Kondengui prison in Yaoundé was difficult at the beginning of the project. An application containing the names of all the team members was submitted to the Superintendent of the Prison for authorization of access. Permanent access was granted but on condition that, there is a member of Foyer d'Esperance in the team. So the team cannot have access to the minors' unit if there is no member of Foyer d'Esperance, but since Foyer d'Esperance manages this part of the project, access is therefore not a problem.

- At the beginning of the project, the minor's in prison custody were not welcoming. They refused to give information on their cases to the team. Very few voluntarily gave information to the team and the team worked on their files and they were released. When the minor's realised that those who gave information were released, they all developed confidence in the team and released all information they had on their cases. The team has since build a confidence relationship with the minor's unit

and even new cases now know the team and rely on the team for all necessary judicial, social, medical assistance.

- Most of the children were rejected by their parents during reinsertion. It took several visits and counselling of the parents for them to accept the children. When the Foyers promised to continue giving counselling assistance if necessary, the parents admitted the children into the families. The children also make efforts to maintain good behaviour when threatened by parents that a complaint will be lodged at the Foyers against them.
- However, the project team has developed a communication channel between parents and children, and they also encourage parents to visit the children who are in custody and also to attend trial sessions, for the judge is encouraged by their presence to release the children. This makes the parents rekindle the relation with their children and as such, reinsertion is no more difficult.
- Two (2) days was not enough to train actors in this very important area of human rights of children, considering that, there were about six (6) different types of actors and most of the actors had little or no notion of the laws and procedures on children in conflict with the law. Resource persons however summarized most of the presentations and prepared more detailed papers which were distributed to participants. They recommended that other workshops be organized and more days be scheduled.

- Are there any unforeseen results from the project, either positive or negative?

- The development of communication desk in the Foyers for the children and their parents.
- Putting an end to task force and work minors were subjected to in prison custody in payment of fines.
- The involvement of Foyers in amicable settlement of disputes regarding children in the communities.
- The number of civil society organizations members that participated and were trained (about 112) was incredibly more than the targeted number. We were amazed at the interest shown by the civil society members in the project and the interest demonstrated during the workshop. They were very keen on all the topics, brought out cases and issues on each topic, and contributed enormously from the first to the last minutes of the workshop.

- Follow up of repatriation of two (2) children of foreign nationality with the Regional Office for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.
- Participants at the workshop, magistrates, OPJs, Social workers, CSOs, were more than the number invited, and all were very alert, very curious to learn and contributed enormously. They all regretted the workshop was only for two days. In fact, it was the first time organizers witness participants reluctance to leave after the close of the workshop. They spent time in groups discussed issues and put questions to resource persons.

8. Cordaid guidelines for financial reports

(NB. these guidelines apply mainly to funding in the form of grants. For loans and guarantees, additional guidelines apply).

Please, see attached report containing financial report and audit report.

Some workshop photographs can be seen below.



Above - Social Expert, Esther (CYJULERC) & Fenneke (Cordaid)



Fr. Alfonso (Foyer Esperence) and participants at workshop



(Right) Experts from the Ministries of Justice and Social Affairs - Resource Persons at the Workshop
 (Left) Esther (CYJULERC President) presenting an over view of the Cameroon Juvenile Justice system.



Participants brainstorm in mix-group work during Capacity building Workshop



Registration of participants on arrival (left) and Group photograph at the end of workshop in Yaoundé

CYJULERC, Cameroon: Giving children hope for the future!