



BUREAU
INTERNATIONAL
DES DROITS DES ENFANTS

INTERNATIONAL
BUREAU
FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

OFICINA
INTERNACIONAL DE
LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO

Newsletter on children's rights in Sub-Saharan Africa

September 2012

Submitted by: the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR)

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1. Global Developments on Children's Rights

Committee on the rights of the child (CRC): Election of the members of the CRC to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 28 February 2013

The committee on the rights of the child is composed of 18 members of high moral standing and competence in the field covered by the convention on the rights of the child. Nominations for membership on the committee may be made by states parties to the convention, in accordance with article 43 of the convention. The article states that: "The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, as well as to the principal legal systems." The fourteenth meeting of states parties to the convention will take place in New York on 18 December 2012. States parties will elect nine members of the committee to fill the vacancies that will expire on 28 February 2013. Nominations are due by 6 September 2012.

[For more information](#) (Office of the United Nations high commissioner for human rights)

Human rights council – 21 session

The 21th Session of the human rights council is due to take place from 12 - 30 September 2012. You may find on the office of the United Nations high commissioner for human rights web page the program of work, the list of non governmental organizations (NGO) statements, discussions scheduled to take place, and how NGOs can participate

[For more information](#) (Office of the United Nations high commissioner for human rights)

UNICEF - Le monde en classe UNICEF Canada : Écoles respectueuses des droits

Les établissements qui souhaitent devenir une école respectueuse des droits (ÉRD) auront accès à une nouvelle version simplifiée du document écoles respectueuses des droits : trousse à l'intention des écoles canadiennes. Ces ressources vous procurent tout le matériel et les renseignements nécessaires pour commencer le processus de transformation.

[Pour plus d'information](#) (UNICEF)

UNICEF - Nouveau rapport: S'engager pour la survie de l'enfant : une promesse renouvelée.

Partout dans le monde, des pays très divers font de rapides progrès pour réduire le nombre de décès d'enfants, prouvant ainsi qu'il est possible de faire baisser radicalement le taux de mortalité infantile en deux décennies, selon un rapport de l'UNICEF publié aujourd'hui. Ce rapport publié en Septembre 2012 examine les tendances des estimations en matière de mortalité de l'enfant depuis 1990 et montre une chute importante des taux de mortalité des enfants de moins de cinq ans dans toutes les régions et dans des pays très divers. La mortalité infantile se concentre de plus en plus en Afrique subsaharienne et en Asie du Sud.

[Pour plus d'information](#) (UNICEF)

Conseil des droits de l'homme - La Représentante spéciale Zerrougui plaide pour une protection renforcée des enfants dans les conflits armés.

La nouvelle Représentante spéciale du Secrétaire général pour les enfants et les conflits armés a déclaré mardi qu'il fallait se mobiliser davantage pour empêcher les violations contre les enfants dans ce contexte, et la nécessité de poursuivre en justice les auteurs de tels actes. Leila Zerrougui a lancé cet appel lors de son intervention devant le Conseil des droits de l'homme, à Genève, qui a ouvert hier les travaux de sa 21ème session. Mme Zerrougui a pris ses nouvelles fonctions le 4 septembre dernier, après avoir servi pendant quatre ans comme Représentante spéciale adjointe de la Mission des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République démocratique du Congo (MONUSCO).

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Nations Unies)

Commission européenne et UNICEF - La Commission Européenne et l'UNICEF donnent la priorité aux enfants en cas d'urgences

La Commission Européenne (CE) continuera de mettre la priorité sur les financements en faveur des enfants lors des urgences humanitaires, en dépit des défis économiques, a assuré aujourd'hui devant le Conseil d'administration de l'UNICEF Mme Kristalina Georgieva, Commissaire européenne chargée de la coopération internationale, de l'aide humanitaire et de la réaction aux crises. C'était la première fois qu'un Commissaire européen s'adressait au Conseil d'administration de l'UNICEF. La Commission européenne est l'un des partenaires clés de l'UNICEF.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF centre de presse)

Commission européenne et UNICEF - Lancement d'un nouveau portail union-européenne et UNICEF

Le nouveau portail Internet du partenariat Union Européenne (UE) -UNICEF sera un site multimédia présentant de nouvelles informations portant sur le développement et le travail humanitaire ainsi que sur les objectifs communs des deux organisations. Pour l'instant, le portail ne contient pas encore beaucoup d'information en ce qui concerne les actualités.

[Nouveau portail](#) (UNICEF-UE)

UNICEF – Rapport: La mortalité infantile en baisse

En 20 ans, la mortalité infantile a diminué de moitié dans le monde, révèle un rapport de l'UNICEF. L'Afrique subsaharienne et l'Asie du sud font toutefois piètre figure.

En 1990, 12 millions d'enfants sont morts avant l'âge de cinq ans. En 2011, ils étaient 6,9 millions.

Selon le Dr Mickey Chopra, patron du département santé de l'UNICEF, cette baisse pourrait être expliquée par le fait que les pays du Sud ont plus facilement accès aux vaccins qu'avant.

En Afrique subsaharienne, le problème subsiste, puisqu'un enfant sur neuf continue d'y mourir en bas âge. Mais même dans cette région, l'espoir est de mise, puisqu'une baisse de 39 % a été enregistrée depuis 1990.

[Article complet](#) (Radio Canada)

International centre for transitional justice (ICTJ) - to brief United Nations Security Council on accountability for crimes against children

Accountability for violations against children in armed conflict is best achieved through a comprehensive approach to justice that addresses the responsibility of perpetrators and the rights of victims within a broader process of social change. This is the key message to be delivered by the ICTJ on September 19, 2012, during the United Nations security council's open debate on children and armed conflict. "Prosecutions are essential for accountability, as they send a clear message that certain violations will not be tolerated by the society or the international community. However, ICTJ's work over the past decade in over 40 countries has shown that in isolation, prosecutions are not enough," said David Tolbert, president of ICTJ.

[Full article](#) (ICTJ)

[Live stream of Open Debate](#)

Women's refugee commission - New report: Displaced urban youth in Nairobi

We are pleased to share our latest report on urban refugee youth, *Young and Restless: Harnessing the Economic Resilience of Displaced Youth in Nairobi*. This is the second in a series assessing access to education and employment among displaced young people in urban areas. The project will culminate with the publication of global guidance on how to create educational and employment opportunities for urban refugee youth (also due in October). In spite of the high number of non governmental organizations in Nairobi, only a few hundred refugee youth are currently reached by any programs. As such, refugee young women and young men are unable to further develop their skills, they languish in the informal market with few opportunities to advance, and face myriad daily protection risks. The Nairobi urban refugee context calls for a more comprehensive and longer-term approach to livelihoods support for young women and men that focuses on access to education, training and startup capital, as well as protection from violence and police abuse.

[Full report](#) (Reliefweb)

UNICEF - Global leaders demand immediate attention to children's education in crisis zones

Global leaders from governments, international organizations and civil society today endorsed an urgent "Call to Action" to ensure the world's most vulnerable children and youth receive a good quality education by protecting schools from attacks, significantly increasing humanitarian aid for education and planning and budgeting for emergencies before they occur. The leaders urged immediate action for the 28 million children – nearly half of all children not in primary school – who live in countries scarred by war and conflict, as well as millions more struck by humanitarian emergencies such as flooding, food shortages, earthquakes and other disasters. The event, chaired by Norwegian minister for international development Heikki Holmås, was convened in support of the United Nations secretary-general's education first initiative, which will be launched on Wednesday and includes measures to ensure the right to an education for all children, including those living in crisis situations.

[Full article](#) (Reliefweb)

UNICEF - Podcast: “Inspiring children to dream, through play”

06 September 2012 – For children growing up in crisis and post-conflict areas, opportunities for education and play are limited, and funding is scarce. In the most recent edition to the ‘Beyond School Books’ series, UNICEF podcast moderator Femi Oke spoke with Ms. Cassie Landers, Columbia University, and Ms. Evelyn Margron, Tipa Tipa Program Country Director, on the importance of learning through play.

UNICEF is testing playground projects in Bangladesh and Haiti to inspire children’s dreams, to help them rebuild their confidence and rebuild communities. Children are developing many skills in the playgrounds, such as learning geometry, verbalizing better and following rhythm.

They are developing important social skills by learning how to play together and how to help younger children understand their capacities.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

Child soldiers international – Press release: Louder than words: States still using child soldiers

Ten years after the entry into force of the optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, states are failing to fulfill their obligation to protect children from the risk of involvement in armed conflict. 20 states have used children in hostilities since 2010.

Children are at risk of use by armed forces and allied armed groups in many more. In a major new report “Louder than words: An agenda for action to end state use of child soldiers”, Child soldiers international calls for a new effort to prevent recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. ‘We see a disturbing pattern in which a number of states involved in long-running conflicts have made little or no progress in ending child soldier use.

[Full article](#) (Child soldiers international)

[Full report](#) (Child soldiers international)

Nations Unies - La mortalité maternelle et infantile concentrée dans 75 pays

Bien que globalement elle soit en baisse, 98 % de la mortalité maternelle et infantile se concentre dans 75 pays, révèle un premier rapport du groupe d'examen indépendant d'experts de la santé de la femme et de l'enfant de l'ONU.

Dans certains pays, notamment en Afrique subsaharienne, la situation se détériore, tout comme l'avait déjà indiqué un rapport de l'UNICEF le 13 septembre dernier. Aux pays africains aux prises avec ce problème s'ajoutent l'Azerbaïdjan, Haïti et le Turkménistan. Parmi les quelque trois millions de décès de nourrissons qui surviennent chaque année peu après la naissance, le tiers est dû aux complications de la prématurité et près du quart est dû aux complications de l'accouchement. Après cette période, les décès d'enfants de moins de 5 ans sont principalement causés par la pneumonie, la diarrhée et le paludisme.

[Article complet](#) (Radio Canada)

2. Africa Regional Children's Rights Related News Updates

Press release: African ministers to agree on steps to strengthen civil registration throughout the continent

6 September 2012 - Recognizing the crucial role of effective civil registration for social and economic development, ministers from 46 african countries have gathered in Durban, South Africa, to discuss how to strengthen their national civil registration and vital statistics systems.

The two-day ministerial conference, organized by the african union commission, the african development bank, the United Nations economic commission for Africa and other United Nations organizations, including UNICEF, as well as other partners will deliberate on innovation, integration in health services and partnerships.

Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest birth registration rates in the world. On average, only 38 per cent of children below the age of 5 have a birth certificate.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF press center)

Communiqué de Presse: Les agences de l'ONU préviennent que l'épidémie de choléra se propage en Afrique de l'Ouest

5 Septembre 2012 - L'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) et l'UNICEF mettent en garde que l'urgence contre le choléra en Afrique de l'ouest devrait s'aggraver alors que les pluies et les inondations créent les conditions d'une propagation de la maladie plus vite et plus loin. Déjà cette année, dans 15 pays, un total de 55 289 cas de cholera ont été enregistrés et un peu plus de 1109 personnes sont décédées. La maladie s'étend rapidement dans les pays du bassin du fleuve Mano (Guinée, Libéria et Sierra Leone ainsi que le long du fleuve Congo, (affectant les populations à la fois dans la République du Congo et la République démocratique du Congo), et dans l'ouest du Niger. Le nombre des nouveaux cas de choléra s'est aggravé cette année dans certains des pays les plus affectés par de fortes pluies exceptionnelles qui ont inondé les bidonvilles de certains centres urbains.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF centre de presse)

Communiqué de Presse: La double crise de l'éducation en Afrique affecte les économies et alimente l'instabilité

25 septembre 2012 – La double crise de l'éducation en Afrique renforce les inégalités et alimente l'instabilité politique, selon un nouveau rapport publié aujourd'hui par l'Africa progress panel, qui porte à la fois sur les aspects qualitatifs et quantitatifs de l'éducation africaine.

Entre 2000 et 2009 le nombre d'enfants en dehors du système scolaire est tombé de 42 à 30 millions. Malgré tout l'Afrique risque toujours de voir 17 millions d'enfants non scolarisés en 2025, une décennie après la date choisie par la communauté internationale pour atteindre l'éducation primaire universelle.

[Article complet](#) (Africa progress panel)

Assemblée générale des Nations Unies - François Hollande et Ban Ki-moon exhortent à une action urgente en Syrie et au Sahel

Le président français François Hollande a appelé solennellement mardi à une action «urgente» de la communauté internationale pour tenter de dénouer les crises au Sahel et en Syrie, lors de sa première intervention à la tribune des Nations unies. « Nous avons le devoir d’agir, d’agir ensemble et d’agir vite, car il y a urgence » sur ces deux sujets, a-t-il lancé, appelant ses pairs à soutenir une résolution du Conseil de sécurité « pour permettre au Mali de retrouver son intégrité territoriale »

[Article complet](#) (Le devoir)

Article: Graça Machel says education holds the key to Africa’s development

17 September 2012 - "Economists like to debate precisely why education makes a difference. But the real reason is simple enough, and it can be summarized in one word – and that word is ‘empowerment’." My husband, Nelson Mandela, once described education as “the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”

He was right, but I wonder if Africa’s political leaders really understand the critical importance of education for the future of our countries – and for the hopes of our children. As a region, we have much to celebrate. We are now in the world’s high-growth league.

[Full article](#) (This is Africa)

Article: African economic outlook launched in Addis Ababa - creating jobs for Africa’s expanding youth population

18 September 2012 - The 2012 edition of the African Economic Outlook (AEO) prepared on the special theme “Promoting Youth Employment” was launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on September 13 in the presence of members of the diplomatic community, government officials, and representatives of international organizations, the private sector and civil society.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Lamin Barrow, Resident Representative of the African Development Bank in Ethiopia, described the new report as a clarion call for Africa to “reset the policy agenda towards promoting inclusive, employment-creating and sustainable growth strategies aimed particularly at addressing the special needs of youth.”

He said that creating productive jobs for young people will continue to pose a major policy challenge, especially as the number of youths in Africa is set to double from the current 200 million to about 400 million by 2045.

[Full Article](#) (African development bank group)

3. Conferences and Courses

Cours: L'exploitation du travail inhérente à la traite des enfants

Le centre national de formation propose ce cours qui se focalise sur la composante d'exploitation du travail des enfants, en explorant les questions relatives aux politiques efficaces, réponses législatives et actions pratiques. Il vise notamment la formation de Fonctionnaires gouvernementaux; représentants des employeurs et des travailleurs; autres professionnels et activistes engagés dans la lutte contre la traite des personnes. Le coût d'inscription est de 1750 Euros, et celui de subsistance de 600 euros

Dates : 05 Novembre 2012 au 09 Novembre 2012.

Emplacement : Turin, Italie.

[For more information](#)

Congress: '5th World Congress for the Rights of Children and Adolescents'

World congresses for rights of children and adolescents have been organized since 2003 in different parts of the world with the participation of civil servants, civil society organizations, and international representatives of the United Nations, Organization American states (OAS) and the European Union, and universities from different parts of the world. The congresses are the responsibility of an International Organizing Scientific Committee led by citizens of the country appointed as a venue though no formal recognition has been received yet. The congresses have been carried out upon approval by the United Nations of "A World Fit for Children", a declaration issued by the United Nations general assembly on children at a special session held May 8-10, 2002 in New York, which has served as a starting point for the meetings held so far.

Dates: 15 October 2012 au 19 October 2012

Place: San Juan, Argentina

[For more information](#)

Course sessions: Recordings of technical update sessions for trainers

I am so pleased to announce that the recordings of 4 more Technical Update Sessions for Trainers and ERPs have been posted on the CPWG YouTube Channel. The efforts of Aliocha Salagnac, as IT specialist, and all 4 presenters are much appreciated:

-TUST no.6 on Assessment presented by Hani Mansourian from the CPWG RRT

-TUST no.8 on Child Protection Monitoring including MRM presented by Stephane Pichette from UNICEF

-TUST no.9 on Mainstreaming Child Protection presented by Martin Hayes from ChildFund

-TUST no.10 on Children with Disabilities in Emergencies presented by Laurent Chapuis from UNICEF

[For more information](#)

Conference: Social work: towards inclusion, social justice and human rights

2010 has come and gone and so has the fever of the World Cup Soccer that was hosted in Africa ... But it is still time for Africa! The association of schools of social work in Africa [ASSWA] invites you to its first ever International Social Work Conference to be hosted in one the most beautiful parts of Africa – the Ingwenyama Conference and Sport Resort, White River, South Africa: 14-17th October 2012. Social work remains concerned about the widespread human rights abuses and the various forms of exclusions and injustices experienced by the world's downtrodden majorities all too often to further neo-colonial and neo-liberal interests. ASSWA has over the past few years hosted a list-server through which we have raised vibrant debates and discussions around inclusion, social justice and human rights. Particular issues that were discussed included, amongst others, xenophobia, cross border migrants and refugees, gay rights and so-called natural disasters. The list-server has also been used for advocacy and lobbying around particular issues.

[For more information](#) (ASSWA)

4. Vacancies

Save the children Sweden (SCS): Thematic advisor for child's protection West and Central Africa.

The advisor for child's protection will provide thematic support, technical assistance and guidance to SCS country and regional programs in relation to child protection as well as to other members programs when negotiated. He will ensure and build capacity of save the children staff and partner organizations. Ensure the sharing of experiences and lessons learnt across the region and contribute to the knowledge management development at head office through analysis, documentation and systematization of learning's. Finally, he will coordinate with other save the children members' technical assistance staff and the regional representatives of save the children child protection initiative in the region.

Deadline for application: 23 September 2012

[For more information](#) (Save the children Sweden)

Save the children Sweden (SCS): Thematic advisor for child rights governance East Africa.

The advisor for child rights governance will provide thematic support, technical assistance and guidance to SCS Sweden's programs in relation to child rights governance as well as to other members' programs when negotiated. He will ensure and build capacity of SCS staff and partner organizations. Ensure the sharing of experiences and lessons learnt across the region and contribute to the knowledge management development at Head Office through analysis, documentation and systematization of learning. Finally, he will coordinate with other SC Members' technical assistance staff and the regional representatives of SC Child Rights Governance Initiative in the region.

Deadline for application: 23 September 2012

[For more information](#) (Save the children Sweden)

Save the children Sweden (SCS): Advisor for child rights and business in Africa.

The advisor for child rights and business will provide thematic support and coordination for CSR/CRBP strategies and activities in SCS core countries in Africa and throughout the continent. He will promote the Children's Rights and Business Principles and child rights in CSR on all levels and with a variety of actors throughout Africa. He will encourage, initiate and support the formation of save the children CSR programs and activities in Africa. He will build, develop and sustain partnerships with relevant actors, especially within the private sector. Finally, he will build capacity of save the children staff and partner organizations.

Deadline for application: 23 September 2012

[For more information](#) (Save the children Sweden)

International rescue committee - Child youth protection and development (CYPD) coordinator

IRC Liberia seeks a Child Youth Protection and Development (CYPD) Coordinator to lead the strategic direction and overall management of CYPD funded projects, including administrative supervision, budget management, grants compliance and staff development. S/he will be a member of the senior management team, with direct responsibility for managing and developing all programming related to child protection, education, youth and livelihoods. The successful candidate will have a strong technical background in the CYPD portfolio areas. S/he will have a demonstrated ability to think strategically, innovate and mentor teams. The coordinator will be expected to travel at least 30% of the time to IRC's multiple field sites, currently in Monrovia, Lofa, Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties. S/he will provide guidance and oversight to programs, supervise 5 direct reports and oversee a team of 40 Liberian staff.

Deadline for application: 06 November 2012

[More details](#)

International rescue committee - Children youth and protection (CYPD) coordinator

The IRC Burundi has worked with at-risk children and youth since it began operations in the country. At present there is a strong and dynamic CYPD program consisting of support to unaccompanied minors and separated children, best interest determination (BID) and child protection assistance for Congolese refugee children, child protection systems strengthening, deinstitutionalization of children, family-based economic strengthening. With the leadership of the CYPD Coordinator, the program is expected to maintain its place as a leader in children protection as well as continuing to develop new opportunities for education and youth and livelihoods as well as generating evidence in the three areas: child protection, education and youth & livelihoods. The Coordinator provides overall strategic direction and vision for the CYPD program. In addition, the position plays an active role in the general strategic leadership of the country program.

Deadline: 06 November 2012

[More details](#)

5. Sub-Regional and Country Updates

Burkina Faso - L'éducation, victime de la ruée vers l'or

2 Septembre 2012 - L'expansion que connaît l'exploitation minière aurifère depuis trois ans a fait du pays l'un des principaux producteurs d'Afrique, mais cela a également détourné les enfants du chemin de l'école. À l'échelle nationale, le nombre exact d'enfants qui abandonnent l'école pour la mine reste indéterminé, mais beaucoup d'écoliers travailleraient principalement dans des mines artisanales. D'autres se rendent à la mine les jours où ils n'ont pas cours a affirmé Moussa Ouedraogo, le directeur régional du nord du pays pour le ministère de l'enseignement de base et de l'alphabétisation. « Cela ne signifie pas qu'ils ont abandonné l'école, mais c'est le signe qu'ils pourraient finir par le faire complètement sous l'influence de leurs parents et de ceux qui ont gagné de l'argent là-bas ». Il a indiqué que 900 enfants n'avaient pas passé leurs examens dans la région cette année et que 3 300 autres travaillaient dans les mines les jours où ils n'avaient pas classe.

[Article complet](#) (reliefweb)

Burkina Faso - Education a first step to improving nutrition security in Burkina Faso

10 September 2012 - A thin dusting of bright green shoots covers the sandy plains around Ouahigouya, in northwest Burkina Faso. Recent rains have broken a three-year drought, and vegetation in this arid region has come to life. For some, the rains have come too late. UNICEF estimates that that 100,000 children under 5 are suffering from severe acute malnutrition in Burkina Faso while, according to World Food Programme estimates, close to 1.7 million people are at risk of going hungry. Support is being rolled out in Burkina Faso as part of a European Union (EU)–UNICEF joint action for improving nutrition security in Africa. Funded by the EU, and in partnership with UNICEF, the Government of Burkina Faso and local NGOs, the project aims to improve nutrition security among women and young children. The approach is broad based and begins with

[Full article](#) (UNICEF newslines)

Central African Republic – Lord resistance army (LRA) rebels capture dozens in raid in Central African Republic

03 September 2012 – Ugandan LRA rebels kidnapped 55 people, half of them girls, in a raid on two villages in a remote eastern corner of Central African Republic, a local gendarme and a witness said on Monday. The Sept. 1 attack highlights the challenges facing Ugandan and U.S. Special Forces who are trying to help stretched local militaries end one of Africa's longest-running insurgencies that is blamed for killing thousands of civilians in several nations. “The 55 people who were taken hostage were forced to act as porters carrying food and other basic goods they (the rebels) stole from these two villages”. U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon warned in June that the international operation against the LRA, some of whose leadership is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, lacked the resources needed to be effective.

[Full article](#) (AlertNet)

Comoros - Helping people recover from floods

10 September 2012 - In April, the archipelago nation of Comoros was lashed by its heaviest rains in decades, uprooting families and destroying the crops and incomes of its poorest people. At a donor conference last week, the country, backed by the UN and the South African government, made an appeal for just over US\$19 million to help the country get back on its feet. Even before the April rains, most people in the country did not have enough to eat. Malnutrition among mothers and children under age five are the leading underlying cause of child mortality. Eleven districts out of 17 have a malnutrition rate of at least 10 percent, which, in the presence of aggravating factors such as destruction of crops, loss of livelihoods, income, affected health and water services, is considered by the World Health Organization to be a serious situation requiring nutritional support.

[Full article](#) (IRIN)

Côte d'Ivoire: l'opération des Nations Unies en Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) maintient sa vigilance et intensifie ses patrouilles pour la protection des personnes et des biens

10 septembre 2012 – Suite à la persistance des rumeurs d'attaques sur le territoire national et en particulier dans les régions de l'Ouest et du Sud du pays, les Casques bleus du bataillon marocain (MORBATT) et la police des Nations Unies ont renforcé leur dispositif de sécurité et de patrouilles, a expliqué la porte-parole de l'ONUCI, au cours de la conférence de presse hebdomadaire de la Mission, tenue ce jeudi à Abidjan. Au titre des actions d'appui technique aux forces de l'ordre ivoiriennes, Mme van den Wildenberg a indiqué que la Police des Nations Unies (UNPOL) organisait, à Yamoussoukro, une formation à l'intention d'une trentaine de policiers issus des différents commissariats et de la Préfecture de Police. Cette session s'inscrit dans le cadre plus large de la mise en œuvre de la formation des formateurs initiée à Abidjan et destinée aux éléments de la Police et de la Gendarmerie ivoiriennes a-t-elle dit.

[Article complet](#) (ONUCI)

Côte d'Ivoire: Searching for the families of eight children

18 september 2012 - In order to find the relatives of eight very young children who were separated from their families during the armed conflict that erupted after post-election violence in 2011, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is launching a poster campaign in eastern Liberia, western Côte d'Ivoire and in Abidjan. The posters will be displayed in the offices of the ICRC and of the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire, and in health centers, markets and other public places in the hope that they will be recognized by a family member. "The ICRC is still looking for the parents of around 100 children - including the eight children at the centre of this campaign, who were so young and vulnerable when they lost their parents that they've been unable to provide us with enough information," said Monique Crettol, who coordinates tracing activities for the ICRC in Abidjan.

[Full Article](#) (allAfrica)

Chad: Prisoners' lives are threatened by appalling detention conditions

The lives of prisoners in Chad are often put at risk by harsh detention conditions including severe overcrowding in unventilated cells that can reach temperatures of up to 48 degrees Celsius, Amnesty International said today. The report Chad: 'We are all dying here' Human rights violations in prisons describes the inhuman conditions in which detainees are held in six of Chad's prisons visited by Amnesty International's research team. Women and children are particularly at risk in Chad's prisons as there are no specific facilities for them. In some prisons women were held in the same cells as men placing them at significant risk of gender-based and sexual violence. Even in prisons where women had separate accommodation it was often easy for male prisoners and guards to move to and from the women's courtyard and cells. Amnesty International found children as young as 7 months staying with their mothers in cells as well as juvenile prisoners being held with adult prisoners. The detention of children in Chad has a particular impact because of the lack of rehabilitation and resocialization programs to help reintegrate them into society.

[Full report](#) (Amnesty International)

Éthiopie – Médecins sans frontières intervient auprès de réfugiés soudanais privés d'assistance

Plus de 2 000 tentes blanches s'alignent sur les collines verdoyantes à proximité du village de Bambasi, dans l'ouest de l'Éthiopie. Depuis le mois de juillet, 12 000 réfugiés soudanais, qui ont fui le conflit dans leur pays, vivent sur ce site aménagé par les autorités éthiopiennes et le Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés (UNHCR). Du côté éthiopien, plus de 15 000 réfugiés ont tout d'abord été hébergés dans le camp de transit d'Ad-Damazin, à une vingtaine de kilomètres de la frontière soudanaise. « Lorsque les réfugiés ont finalement été transférés vers le nouveau camp de Bambasi à partir de la mi-juin, près d'un quart des enfants de moins de cinq ans souffraient de malnutrition aiguë », relate Duncan McLean. « Après avoir organisé une campagne de vaccination contre la rougeole, nos équipes ont ouvert un centre de traitement de la malnutrition et soigné plus de 400 enfants sévèrement malnutris au cours de l'été.

[Article complet](#) (Médecins sans frontières)

Gambia: Twin brothers need help

Omar and Ousman Ann, twin brothers from Latrikunda Sabiji, are seeking for sponsorship to continue their educational career. Speaking to this reporter, Omar and Ousman explained that they have just completed their upper basic school education and want to proceed to senior secondary school. According to them, at the Gambia Basic Certificate Examination, Ousman Ann got aggregate 35, while Omar Ann got aggregate 28. "We already got admission to St. Augustine's Senior Secondary School but due to financial constraints to pay our school fees and other requirements, we could not," the twin brothers lamented. Anybody willing to help can contact the following numbers: (+220) 3658204/4399802.

[Full article](#) (allAfrica)

Ghana - African voices: despite non governmental organization's help, education in Ghana still needs a lot of work

6 September 2012- Hello, my name is Abdulai Shefu and I am the head teacher at Duu Primary and Junior High School located in the West Mamprusi District in northern Ghana. I can say that here at school we have two major challenges: There are not enough teachers and not enough students. Ten teachers including myself are in charge of educating 570 students from kindergarten through junior high. The staff shortage is especially acute in the lower grades: Just two teachers manage 220 kindergarteners aged 2 to 6, and a single teacher is in charge of 78 students in Class 2 (second grade). The classes are smaller in the junior high grades—just 25 in the seventh level—but that's because so many children have left school by then.

[Full article](#) (ONE)

Ghana - United Nations agencies in Ghana receive emergency allocation to tackle cholera outbreak

6 September, 2012 - The United Nations in Ghana has received a grant of US\$312.440 (Three hundred and twelve thousand four hundred and forty dollars) to boost a joint UN system humanitarian response to the cholera outbreak in five regions of the country. Since January 2012, about 5,121 cases, including 50 fatalities, have been reported in Greater Accra, Brong Ahafo, Eastern, Western and Upper East regions. Two members of the UN Country Team – UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) – have received \$201,160 and \$111,280 respectively. UNICEF will use its allocation for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) activities, including the provision of safe drinking water, strengthening cholera detection, reporting and case and data management, as well as for national public information and social mobilization activities. UNICEF-supported interventions will target 40,000 people, with an emphasis on schools to address children's vulnerability. WHO activities will enhance early cholera detection through community-based surveillance and prompt clinical diagnosis.

[Full article](#) (Reliefweb)

Guinée - Entre le bébé et le lait maternel

4 Septembre 2012 - Un nombre incalculable de nouveau-nés guinéens doivent encore attendre des heures avant d'être nourris au sein – le temps qu'il faut pour qu'un membre de la famille apporte de l'eau utilisée pour rincer des versets du Coran gravés sur une tablette de bois. Ce liquide symbolique, le premier à être ingéré par de nombreux bébés, n'est qu'un exemple de coutume censé protéger les enfants, mais qui peut mettre plutôt leur santé en péril. En Guinée, l'allaitement est pratiqué par la grande majorité des mères. Selon les experts, le problème est qu'il est rarement commencé directement à la naissance et exclusif, contrairement aux recommandations pour un état de santé optimal.

[Article complet](#) (IRIN)

Kenya - Cash payments reduce risky behaviour

7 September 2012 - Cash transfer programmes not only improve nutrition, education and health benefits for orphans and vulnerable children, but new research now suggest that these programmes can also significantly reduce risky sexual behaviour and HIV infection. While the use of cash to improve health outcomes has long been established, not much has been known about its potential impact on HIV prevention. A study carried out in Kenya examined cash transfers, part of the government's social protection scheme, benefiting an estimated 102,000 households and 375,000 orphans and vulnerable children in 60 districts. The study revealed that children enrolled in the programme were 30 percent more likely to delay their sexual debut than those who were not enrolled. Among programme participants, the number of female adolescents who'd had two or more sexual partners in the last 12 months declined by 7.2 percent.

[Full article](#) (PlusNews)

Kenya- The "unfinished business" of lowering child mortality

13 September 2012 - In 1990, an estimated 12 million children around the world died under age five; by 2011, that figure had dropped to 6.9 million. The message, from a new report by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), is that with greater commitment to child survival from governments and their partners, these figures can go lower still. "These new data are cause to celebrate," UNICEF deputy executive director Geeta Rao Gupta said at a press conference launching the 2012 Progress Report on Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed. "But this is unfinished business, and it is not just about numbers. Behind every statistic is an unseen child, and a grieving mother and father." In Uganda, which has registered a 49 percent decline in under-five mortality since 1990, health workers say the cost of vaccines remains a major hindrance, and the country's overburdened health system is struggling to cope with the needs of one of the world's fastest growing populations.

[Full article](#) (IRIN)

Liberia: Back to school looks bleak for children in Western Liberia

1 September 2012 - The possibility of hundreds of children returning to school this year remains uncertain, unless the condition of the only government-run school in Zuah Town, Suehn Mecca District, Bomi County, West of Liberia is improved. Zuah Town is the district headquarters of Suehn Mecca District in the Western region of Liberia. The NEWS visited the area recently and observed that the Zuah Town Public School, which is the only learning institution in the town, was in an appalling condition with no sign of rehabilitation. The school is built with mud and palm thatch and looks abandoned as well as on the verge of total collapse. There is no sign of government's intervention as the academic school year resumed Monday without students in attendance. Essential materials such as black boards and chairs have been damaged due to lack of care. Children at the Suehn Mecca District headquarters of Zuah Town are roaming the community where as their colleagues in other parts of the country have resumed classes.

[Full article](#) (allAfrica)

Liberia - Investing in the nation's future through education

17 September 2012 - "It is not enough that our children are in school; we must ensure that all children have access to quality education that provides them with literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and other competences for the 21st century. In 2003 in Liberia, after 14 years of civil conflict, nearly 500,000 children were out of school. Most of our schools were damaged or destroyed and our teaching core was decimated. Given that war truncated or stalled so many children's education, some might have felt that getting our youth back in school was all that we could hope for. However, it is precisely because we had so much to achieve that Liberia committed to a higher vision. Liberia has made great strides. Starting in 2005, the government's allocation to education has grown significantly. We have constructed over 220 schools since 2006, opened five community colleges - with plans to have one in each of the 15 counties.

[Full article](#) (This is Africa)

Liberia: peace without security: Violence against women and girls in Liberia

24 September 2012 – Violence against women and girls—which was a widespread and sinister feature of atrocities committed during Liberia's 14 years of civil conflict—has long been a serious problem in the country, both prior to the hostilities and since. Peace without Security: Violence against Women and Girls in Liberia is a new Issue Brief from the Small Arms Survey's Liberia Armed Violence Assessment project, jointly produced with the Norwegian Refugee Council. The report first examines the extent to which women and girls in Liberia are victims of crimes and violence in general, and then focuses specifically on the patterns and characteristics of sexual and domestic violence. The analysis is based on the results of a nationwide household survey conducted by the Small Arms Survey, in collaboration with Action on Armed Violence and the Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services, complemented by data from other information sources, notably the Ministry of Gender and Development's GBV database, set up and managed with Norwegian Refugee Council support.

[Full article](#) (Small Arms Survey)

Madagascar - Combating child malnutrition in Madagascar

19 September 2012 - About half of Madagascar's children under the age of five are stunted - the irreversible effect of undernourishment during the first 1,000 days of life. Children who suffer from stunting are at greater risk of illness, impaired cognitive development and death.

Madagascar has the sixth highest incidence of stunting in the world, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Poverty is a key contributor to the country's malnutrition rates. According to the February 2012 Southern Africa Regional Food Security Update, 80 percent of Madagascar's 20 million people live on US\$1 a day or less, and poor households spend nearly three-quarters of their income on food.

[Full article](#) (IRIN)

Madagascar - Children with disabilities get a second chance at school

21 September 2012 - It was only when her daughter, then five years old, was playing near railway tracks in Madagascar's capital, Antananarivo, and failed to hear the whistle of an oncoming train that Marie Louise Rasoamanalina, 46, realized the child had hearing difficulties. Mbolatiana, now 8, attempted to enroll in school last year, but after the second day of classes was sent home because of her speaking difficulties and lack of registration papers. Her mother assumed no other school would accept her, and Mbolatiana became one of the estimated 200,000 children in Madagascar excluded from education because of a disability. But Mbolatiana received a second chance through a UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) mapping programme. Children at almost 3,400 schools around the country were asked to draw maps of their neighborhoods and identify which children did not attend school. Families of children not enrolled were encouraged by their communities to send their children to school.

[Full article](#) (IRIN)

Mali - New advance by islamists in Mali may cause secondary displacement of children

4 September 2012 - The international children's charity, Plan International, is warning that internally displaced children (IDPs) sheltering in Mopti may become displaced again after a nearby town fell to Islamist forces on Monday. The insurgents reported that they regained control of Douentza after they disarmed the local militia without a fight. Douentza is just over two hours drive (186km) from Mopti which has become the de facto border between the north and the south. It is also the focal point of emergency relief operations for thousands of people displaced by fighting in the north (IDPs). "This could mean that the humanitarian frontier may need to be pushed back several hundred kilometres to the south and the IDPs in Mopti may have to move again," said Plan Mali Country Director Michelet William. About 400km south-west of Mopti is the town of Segou where thousands of IDPs are sheltering with relatives and friends. Plan Mali has relief operations there and has contingency plans in place should that become the new frontier.

[Full article](#) (Plan)

Mali - Qatar charity opens shelter for displaced children in South Mali

04 September 2012 - Qatar Charity (QC) has opened a shelter for children who fled to South Mali along with their parents. QC executive director for International Operations, Mohamed Mubarak al-Adassani, said the initiative was aimed at easing the sufferings of parents and to make the 2011-2012 school year succeed, through giving the students an equal opportunity as their peers in the stable regions of Mali. According to the Malian Education Ministry (MEM), there are around 2,000 students of different grades and levels displaced and stranded with their parents in the displacement areas of Mali and other neighbouring countries. In joint efforts by QC and MEM, 200 students were absorbed into the system, with 100 of them at the QC shelter. QC undertook all the related expenses and paid special attention to their healthcare at the adjacent health centre, which has specialised medical staff.

[Full article](#) (Relief Web)

Mali - UNICEF warns of armed groups recruiting children

17 September 2012 – The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) today warned of reports that armed groups in northern Mali are increasingly recruiting and using children for military purposes, and called on all parties to keep them out of the way of conflict. Last month, the agency had reported that at least 175 boys, between the ages of 12 and 18, were directly associated with armed groups in the north, where fighting between Government forces and Tuareg rebels broke out in January. The insecurity resulting from the renewed clashes, as well as the proliferation of armed groups in the region and political instability in the wake of a military coup d’état in March, have led over 250,000 Malians to flee to neighbouring countries. Some 174,000 Malians are estimated to be internally displaced. UNICEF also warned of the deteriorating conditions in northern Mali, where the malnutrition rate is among the highest in the country. Schools have been closed for much of the year and cholera has surfaced along the Niger River.

[Full article](#) (UN News Centre)

Namibia - No end to baby dumping: infant abandoned in pit latrine

19 September 2012 - A baby boy weighing approximately 2.8kg was found abandoned in a pit latrine in the village of Omulathitu near Okatana Constituency. Police sergeant Tomas Aiyambo says it is believed the two-day old baby had been in the latrine since Monday and residents only discovered him on Tuesday morning. An unidentified woman recounted that she went to the toilet to answer the call of nature, when she heard the cry of a baby and alerted the police who found the newborn baby. Namibian women still consider baby dumping an option after giving birth to unwanted babies, a survey conducted by the ministry of gender equality and child welfare together with the ministry of youth, national service, sport and culture, and the legal assistance centre has revealed. Baby dumping has been a problematic trend in Namibia over the years, and while it remains unclear exactly how many newborns are dumped each year, a 2008 LAC report titled baby dumping and infanticide noted that “at gammams water care works in Windhoek they discover an average of 13 bodies of newborn babies each month amongst the human waste flushed down toilets.”

[Full Article](#) (NewEra)

Niger - Free healthcare initiative in Niger makes health gains but many challenges remain

6 September 2012 - In March this year, the Nigerien government organized a conference to discuss the impact and challenges of its free healthcare initiative for women and children. The conference brought to the fore the remarkable health gains that the initiative has achieved since it was introduced in 2005, but also highlighted the acute funding challenges that are threatening the sustainability of the scheme. Niger has one of the worst maternal and child mortality rates in the world. According to the world health organization (WHO), one in every 23 Nigerien women will die during pregnancy or child birth (compared to 1 in 42 for the Africa Region), only a fifth of births are attended by skilled health workers, and only 46% of pregnant women will benefit from antenatal care. What is more, one in every seven children risks dying before their 5th birthday.

[Full article](#) (Reliefweb)

Niger - Bulletin humanitaire, numéro 35 - 04 septembre 2012

6 Septembre 2012 - La situation nutritionnelle des enfants de 0-59 mois s'est dégradée sur l'ensemble du pays, d'après les résultats préliminaires de l'enquête de nutrition période des mois de juin/juillet. La situation est préoccupante dans toutes les régions du pays et dépasse le seuil d'urgence. Le bilan des inondations continue de monter; près de 500 milles personnes auraient été affectées. Les cas de paludisme repartent à la hausse à Zinder.

[Article complet](#) (Bureau de la coordination des affaires humanitaires)

Niger - Quand le paludisme s'ajoute à la crise nutritionnelle

10 Septembre 2012 - Un va-et-vient incessant d'ambulances agite l'hôpital de Guidan Roumji, situé dans la région de Maradi, au sud du Niger. Tout au long de la journée, l'équipe de Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) s'affaire autour des nombreux enfants affaiblis par la malnutrition et le paludisme. Ces derniers jours, le nombre d'admissions est passé de 117 à 430 enfants dans l'hôpital. « Les services de soins intensifs et de pédiatrie sont surchargés avec un taux d'occupation de 200 pour cent », explique Mirko Tommasi, chef de mission pour MSF au Niger. « Nous soignons déjà de nombreux enfants souffrant de malnutrition mais, avec l'arrivée de la saison des pluies, le pic lié au paludisme a été soudain. Près de 80 pour cent des enfants admis souffrent de cette maladie », constate-il.

[Article complet](#) (Médecins sans frontière)

Niger - child mortality slashed

20 September 2012 - Niger has nearly halved the death rate of children below five years old since 1998, a significant drop highlighting the benefits of free universal health care for children and pregnant women as well as increased donor funding for health, The Lancet said in a study released on 20 September. The mortality rate reduced from 226 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1998 to 128 deaths in 2009, an annual rate of decline of 5.1 percent, said the study, noting that the slump bettered the fourth Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to cut the child mortality rate by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015. Niger's achievement was also far better than its neighbors in West Africa.

[Full Article](#) (IRIN)

Nigeria - Polio on rise in Nigeria, insecurity to blame

5 September 2012 - While most of the world sees polio as a thing of the past, the disease appears to be on the rise in Nigeria. The Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S.-based think tank, says the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria's north is part of the problem and securing the area has to be part of the solution. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative says Nigeria has 77 new cases of polio this year so far - a near 25 percent increase compared to all of last year. And that's more than any other single country. There is no cure for polio, but the disease can be prevented with a vaccine and it has been wiped out in most of the world. If a person is infected with polio, it can lead to paralysis, disfigurement or death. On the streets in Nigeria, survivors can be seen begging.

[Full article](#) (Reliefweb)

République Démocratique du Congo (RDC) - la difficile rentrée des enfants déplacés par les combats au Nord-Kivu

05 septembre 2012 – Les combats entre l'armée et la rébellion du Mouvement du 23 mars ont détruit de nombreuses écoles et fait des dizaines de milliers de déplacés au Nord-Kivu, dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo, mais des initiatives sont en cours pour aider les enfants à étudier. Lundi, les enfants ont commencé leur rentrée, mais “il y a de petits problèmes au niveau de la province du Nord-Kivu, où elle n'a pas été intégrale”, notamment en raison de “l'occupation de certaines salles de classe par des déplacés de guerre”, a déclaré le Premier ministre Augustin Matata Ponyo. L'armée affronte depuis mai dans le territoire de Rutshuru, à la frontière avec le Rwanda et l'Ouganda, le Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) -un groupe né d'une mutinerie de soldats congolais, ex-rebelles intégrés dans l'armée en 2009 après un accord de paix dont ils réclament la pleine application.

[Article complet](#) (Afriquinfos)

RDC - la mission de l'organisation des Nations pour la stabilisation en République Démocratique du Congo (MONUSCO) remet des lots scolaires à des enfants défavorisés

03 septembre 2012 – Les enfants défavorisés de plusieurs centres d'accueil de Beni, l'une des principales villes de la province du Nord Kivu, ont reçu le 30 août 2012 de nombreux présents de la part du Bureau de la Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en République démocratique du Congo (MONUSCO). Les, cadeaux constitués principalement de fournitures scolaires, ont été remis à des enfants malentendants, orphelins et déplacés internes de la ville.

[Article complet](#) (MONUSCO)

RDC - Child protection alert - Eastern Congo

03 september 2012 – More than 25,000 children in makeshift camps are facing disease, starvation and risk of sexual violence as the onset of the rainy season exacerbates a new crisis in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Since April, Eastern DR Congo has seen a dramatic escalation of violence following clashes between a new rebel movement called M23 and the National Congolese Army. The rebels have attempted to seize and maintain control of North Kivu, near Goma. Although makeshift camps for those fleeing violence have been developing in the east of the country since May, and have grown dramatically in July and August, the response from the UN and international community represents a “fatal pause in care and protection”, according to our Child Protection Alert.

[Full article](#) (War Child International)

RDC - Children bear brunt of conflict in the east

25 September 2012 - Children in the Kivu provinces of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are not only getting caught in the crossfire of the area's ongoing violence, but also facing health risks, threats of forced recruitment by local and foreign militias, and interrupted education, say officials. "Children are swept up in the mass population movements that are currently ongoing in eastern DRC, with entire families fleeing multiple conflicts. Our hospitals have operated on children with bullet wounds who have been caught in the crossfire. Some children present late with life-threatening malaria, malnutrition or respiratory tract infections," Jan-Peter Stellema, operations manager at Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), told IRIN. Children are also under threat of forced recruitment by insurgent groups in North Kivu, including M23 and both foreign and Congolese militias including the Mai Mai groups and the Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda [Full article](#) (IRIN)

Somalia - United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Mercy corps build and improve schools in somaliland

16 September 2012 – Today, the Somali youth leaders initiative (SYLI) with the Somaliland ministry of education and higher studies launched a five-year program to build and rehabilitate secondary schools in Somaliland. The initiative is funded by USAID and implemented by a consortium led by Mercy Corps, Save the Children, SONYO and CARE International in partnership with the Somaliland Ministry of Education and Higher Studies. The SYLI education program works with 24 schools across all regions of Somaliland and is designed to decongest schools, add separate sanitation facilities for girls and boys, train more teachers, and improve enrollment, especially for girls. By the end of the program, over 10,000 new pupils are expected to be enrolled in these schools.

[Full article](#) (USAID)

South Africa - Mthetho Tshemese, "All you hear about are the deaths, the injuries, the botched circumcisions"

11 September 2012 - Mthetho Tshemese is a psychologist from South Africa's Eastern Cape Province, the traditional homeland of the country's Xhosa community, in which traditional circumcision marks a boy's transition to manhood. Tshemese is also a featured author in a new book about HIV and gender, *Uncovering Men*, in which he writes about this traditional, and controversial, initiation. Tshemese spoke to IRIN/PlusNews about writing about the tradition, one he underwent himself. "Being a Xhosa man from the Eastern Cape, what punctuates our masculinity is 'Abakwetha', or traditional initiation. In the media, all you hear about are the deaths, the injuries, the botched circumcisions... I knew what was happening beyond what was being reported so I wanted to do stories that were different, but also gave some aspects of what happened during initiation without breaking the traditional codes [that prohibit men from speaking about what happens during the process].

[Full article](#) (IRIN)

South Africa - Students, lobby groups march on Zille's Office

18 September 2012 - In yet another show of resentment for the proposed closure of 27 schools in black communities, students and parents along with teachers and lobby groups protested outside Premier Helen Zille's office at the weekend calling on the closure to be halted. The protesters, numbering about 500, on Saturday rallied behind the march which had been organised by Equal Education (EE), Cosatu and the African National Congress. Singing protest songs and denouncing Zille and Education MEC Donald Grant, they held out placards and banners bearing various messages of discontent. The protesters included learners from both primary and secondary schools which were being affected, parents from poor communities such as Khayelitsha and Bishop Lavis and learners from other unaffected schools who wanted to show their support to their fellow students. Some of the messages read "Education is our future," "We oppose closures," "Solidarity between students, teachers and parents," "Save our Schools, save our future," and "Close our schools, lose our vote."

[Full article](#) (allAfrica)

South Africa - Child migrants illegally imprisoned

19 September 2012 - By the age of 16, Auguy Bingi* had lost a father and a brother to the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), so he did not argue when his mother sent him to join his uncle in Malawi. "[A rebel group] killed my father and took my older brother to fight for them," he said. "I didn't want to be a soldier." Bingi spent 10 months at Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Malawi before learning that his uncle had moved to Durban, South Africa. After finally establishing contact, he received money from his uncle and instructions to find a truck heading south. By November 2011, Bingi had reached Musina, near South Africa's border with Zimbabwe, and went to the Department of Home Affairs's Refugee Reception Office to apply for asylum.

[Full article](#) (IRIN)

Sudan – Justice and equality movement (JEM) rebels ban use of child soldiers

17 September 2012 - JEM ordered its troops to demobilize child soldiers and prohibited their recruitment in the future. The rebel group recently issued a Command Order banning the use of child soldiers following talks with the hybrid peacekeeping operation in Darfur (UNAMID) hosted by the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution in Stadtschlaining, last July. JEM directed its members to "fully adhere to the international and local laws governing the protection of children in armed conflict". It further ordered its field commanders to disseminate the Command Order related to this demobilization and reintegration process.

[Full article](#) (Sudan Tribune)

Sudan – United Nations mission in Darfur (UNAMID) workshop raises awareness of children in armed conflict

23 September 2012 – United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), continuing its efforts to prevent the use of children in armed movements, conducted a workshop on 20 September in El Fasher, North Darfur, for more than 50 field commanders of the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM). UNAMID held the one-day workshop to discuss children in armed conflicts and determine concrete steps to implement the formal action plan submitted by LJM to the United Nations on 10 May 2012. The signed plan indicates the Movement's commitment not to recruit or use child soldiers. “This kind of workshop comes as an important step to educate and enlighten LJM's field commanders about the national laws and international conventions that prohibit the involvement of children in armed conflicts”, said Colonel Abdul Salam Kateer, the LJM child protection focal point, in an interview. “Our children in Darfur have already suffered a lot during this war, and they deserve a better future”.

[Full article](#) (United Nations Mission in Darfur)

Sudan - UN-African mission applauds Darfur rebel group's decision to end use of child soldiers

16 September 2012 – The joint United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) has hailed the recent decision by one of the largest armed movements in the Sudanese region to prohibit the recruitment and use of child soldiers. The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) agreed, following recent consultations with the UNAMID leadership, to establish an operational mechanism to identify children, who are associated with its forces, for demobilization and reintegration. It issued an order instructing all its members to “fully adhere to the international and local laws governing the protection of children in armed conflict,” according to a news release issued by UNAMID. JEM is one of seven armed movements in Darfur, including the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid, to have taken such significant steps, according to the Mission.

[Full article](#) (UN News Centre)

South Sudan - Struggles to meet demand for education

4 September 2012 - Five decades of war and upheaval in South Sudan has had an inevitable impact on education - almost three-quarters of adults in the world's newest country are unable to read or write. A recent report by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) holds that less than 2 percent of the population has completed a primary school education.

A report by the South Sudan office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says that 70 percent of children between six and 17 years old have never set foot inside a classroom, and that only one in 10 children complete primary school. While 16 percent of the national budget is allocated for education, opposition political parties and aid agencies claim it actually receives less than 10 percent.

[Full article](#) (IRIN)

Swaziland - Child marriages banned

20 September 2012 - The practice of men marrying underage girls - which has been an accepted social norm for centuries but has been linked in recent years to the spread of HIV - was recently declared illegal in Swaziland. Known in SiSwati as 'kwendizisa', the marriage of an adult man to an underage girl was considered a legal "grey area" prior to the promulgation of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act of 2012. According to the 2005 Swaziland constitution, some customary practices are allowed unless they conflict with constitutional clauses. "Swazi men marrying girls once the girls enter puberty is not a customary law. It is not mandatory. It is tolerated because it has always been done. But times are changing, and Swaziland has the highest HIV prevalence rate in the world. This practice has added to the spread of HIV. It is a great victory for public health and for the rights of girl children that this outmoded practice must now end," AIDS activist Sandra Kunene told Plus News.

[Full article](#) (Plus News)

Uganda - protection interviews with refugee children

07 September 2012 - Research in Kyaka II involved observation of a range of protection interviews with children, including both those attending with their families and unaccompanied and separated children. The protection interviews observed included Refugee Status Determination (RSD), Registration and Best Interests Determination (BID) interviews. Refugee children and humanitarian practitioners were also asked for their views and opinions on these protection interviews in workshops and in interviews with the researcher. The purpose of the RSD interview is to determine whether asylum seekers fall within the criteria for international refugee protection. It is therefore a core UNHCR protection function. Registration is the process of recording information on persons of concern with the aim of protecting and documenting them – it has been described as “the first step in the legal and physical protection of refugees” and “the point from which all assistance and services flow.”

[Full article](#) (Humanitarian Innovation Fund)

Uganda - Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) positive children want seat in parliament

10 September 2012 - Children affected and infected with HIV/AIDS are calling for a special representative in parliament to express their problems and also lobby for their needs. Petitioning parliament recently, the children aged between 8, 11, 15, and above, said their representative in parliament should be a youth living with HIV and above 18 years. “On behalf of all the children of Uganda, who are affected and infected with HIV/AIDS we request that this is implemented for an HIV free generation,” said Paul Namanya one of the petitioners. The children said; “Many of us have acquired HIV/AIDS through defilement, we are sexually abused by people in our communities and our own parents and relatives who go unpunished even when we report”.

[Full article](#) (New vision)

Uganda - Government adopts new prevention of mother to child Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) transmission strategy

14 September 2012 - The government of Uganda has launched the United Nations world health Organization's (WHO) "option B+" to boost the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT). Uganda currently uses a PMTCT system similar to WHO's Option A, which involves single-dose antiretroviral (ARV) drugs for the mother - if her CD4 count, a measure of immune strength, is over 350 - from the 14th week, as well as ARVs during labour, delivery and one week post-partum. Pregnant women with CD4 counts below 350 are advised to start taking ARVs for their own health. Option B - which WHO introduced alongside Option A in 2010 - involves triple therapy ARVs from the 14th week of pregnancy until one week after breastfeeding has ended, which can be up to one year.

[Full article](#) (Reliefweb)

Uganda - The African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) calls for action against increased children rights abuse

20 September 2012 - The African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) is concerned about the rising incidences of child sexual abuse in the country. In just two weeks, 17 cases of defilement have been handled by ANPPCAN Offices in our 10 districts of operation. Despite the fact that the media has also been awash with cases of child sexual abuse especially defilement and indecent assault, more new and threatening cases of defilement have of recent been reported here at ANPPCAN. One absurd case is of a 7 year old girl who was defiled and her uterus damaged, she is currently recovering in a Kampala hospital. Another case is one involving a Pastor in Mukono who was caught in a lodge with a 17 year old girl. What is very disheartening is that most often the perpetrators of these crimes are people who have responsibility over children like parents, teachers, religious leaders and guardians.

[Full article](#) (New vision)

Zimbabwe - Diarrhoea kills 3

5 September 2012 - Three people died of common diarrhea and more than 7 000 others, mostly children, were treated of the disease throughout the country last week alone. According to the latest weekly report from the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, one of the dead was a child under five years. Of the 7 285 reported cases, 4 236 were children under five years. "The provinces which reported the highest number of diarrhea cases are Manicaland and Masvingo," said the ministry. Meanwhile, 50 new cases of suspected typhoid were reported in Chitungwiza last week alone. The ministries said of the cases, five treated at Chitungwiza Central Hospital were confirmed as typhoid and 44 others, which were attended to at council clinics were treated as suspected cases.

[Full article](#) (The Herald)

Zimbabwe - Water shortages in schools

20 September 2012 - The government is concerned about water shortages in schools across the country, according to the Minister of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture David Coltart. Zimbabwe's schools opened for the third term on September 11 and the persistent water cuts are exposing children to disease. In an interview, Coltart said the issue of water provision at government schools needed to be addressed urgently in order to create a conducive learning environment. He said his ministry, through the Education Medium Term Plan and the Education Transition Fund Phase 2 is making efforts to make schools safe for students through the implementation of water and sanitation projects.

[Full article](#) (The Zimbabwean)

Zimbabwe - Anti-retroviral (ARV) risk alert for Zim Users

5 November 2012 - The lives of children on anti-retroviral therapy in Murambinda are at high risk after revelations that some of the drugs supplied by MSF-Belgium were crushed, resulting in some of them taking either an over- or under-dose. There are also indications that some surgical gloves imported by the same organization were not tested and approved by the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe, again putting users at risk. Investigations by The Herald also revealed that Zimbabwe could have received ARVs that had a mismatch, which was discovered in one of the beneficiary countries. In documents seen by The Herald, MSF Supply alerted several missions including MSF-Belgium in Harare that there was a quality problem with some of the ARVs supplied by MSF Logistique.

[Full article](#) (The Herald)