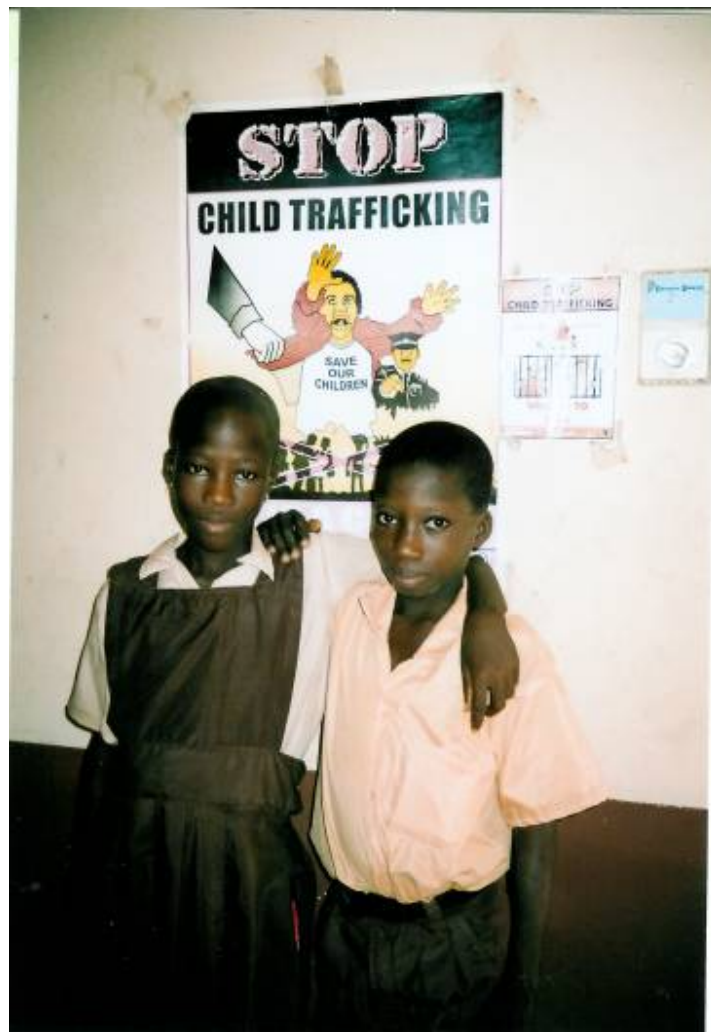


**EXTERNAL PROJECT EVALUATION**  
**OF**  
**NETWORK OF NGOS AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING IN WEST**  
**AFRICA**  
**ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL**



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June 2007

## Acronyms

ACEEF	Action Contre l'Exploitation des Enfants et des Femmes
ACHD	African Center for Human Development (Ghana)
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and People's Rights
ALTEN	Association pour la Lutte contre le Travail des Enfants
ASI	Anti-Slavery International
BMP	Police Minors Protection Brigade (Benin)
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
ECOWAS	Economic Commission of West African States
ESSAM	Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde
GRADE-FRB	Groupe de Reserche Action pour un Development Endogene (Burkina Faso)
ICFTU	International Confederation of Trade Unions
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
Le COCTE	Le Collective des ONGs Contre le Traffic des Enfants (Gabon)
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OPTEN	Organisation pour la Prevention de Travail des Enfants au Niger
RELUTET	Reseau de Lutte Contre la Traite des Enfants (Togo)
SCF	Save the Children
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
TDH	Terre des Hommes

## Executive Summary

This project entitled 'Network of NGOs Against Child Trafficking in West Africa' has made a solid contribution to raising awareness on national and inter-regional child trafficking in all the seven countries participating in this project. Project partners have undertaken a wide range of initiatives which have included: campaigns and publicity to make the public and government policy makers aware of the nature and scale of child trafficking; efforts to prevent child trafficking from occurring; protection of individual children who are at risk of being trafficked and provision of residential care and protection to children who have escaped from their traffickers or who have been rescued.

Although this evaluation highlights the above mentioned achievements, it also points out that project planning, design and internal monitoring and management systems could and should be strengthened if the project is to continue into its next phase of development. Moreover, the project's initial key aim to highlight the issue of the trafficking of children into domestic child labour and raising awareness of the exploitation of children in domestic servitude in the region has had less of an impact (except in the case of Togo and Guinea). During the last three years of the project, it is fair to say that most of the project partners have focused their attention on strengthening and supporting the anti child-trafficking campaign in their countries but have not given equal attention to the link of child trafficking to domestic child labour.

### **Achievements:**

The key achievements of the project include:

- Community mobilization, public awareness and preventative work around the issue of child trafficking has been the premier achievement of the project in all participating countries. Activities range from developing child protection monitoring systems and structures (developing child protection committees, strengthening village structures to monitor migration movements) to general awareness raising activities (training on child rights and the CRC) and capacity building (vocational skills training, life skills, provision of credit schemes and school sponsorships).
- Advocacy work around child trafficking has held a key focus in the project. Lobbying and awareness raising amongst all sectors of the community (rural areas and provincial and central government) has taken place on issues concerning prevention of child trafficking; lobbying and training government officials, the police and the judiciary; advocating for best practices in dealing with trafficked children and working directly with government to establish a legal and penal support system to regulate the movement of minors and establish penalties for acts that constitute trafficking.
- Establishing and strengthening national networks on child trafficking has been a hallmark of the project (except in the case of Ghana). The networks not only contributed to maintaining social cohesion between local NGOs but also were

able to build ‘social pacts’ between donors, governments and local partners, hence harnessing the strength of a strong civil society. Establishing and strengthening national networks through this project has been a vital strategy in the response to combating child trafficking.

- In all project countries, ASI has worked closely with partners to facilitate strategic partnerships (sharing experiences, joint project activities, technical and financial support) with key international agencies whose mandate is to work on child trafficking and who are active in the region. The project has achieved constructive and cooperative partnerships with agencies such as UNICEF, ILO, IOM, Plan and Terre des Hommes.
- The media has played a positive and supportive role in the project. Working closely with project partners and the national networks, local media campaigns (through the use of radio and television), has played a critical role in creating awareness of the child trafficking phenomenon and in promoting respect of child rights. Much of this has involved child participation, encouraging children to talk about their experiences on local radio programmes. The use of media has been particularly affective in penetrating into rural areas, reaching out to communities at risk and raising their awareness on issues such as birth registration and the importance of children attending school.
- Reintegration of children who have been victims of trafficking has been a consistent focus for most project partners. Many have worked closely with social workers from the Ministry of Social Welfare, field staff of UN agencies such as IOM and international NGOs on intensive hands-on work with individual family cases, and have followed through cases where children have not been able to reintegrate fully.
- The Code of Conduct on Domestic Child Labour was viewed as easy to adapt and translate. In some contexts, it provided project partners with common strategies on domestic child labour (promoting better conditions for child domestics and awareness raising amongst employers). In the case of Togo, the Code of Conduct was used to input into the countries’ national Labour Code.

### **Impact:**

It is hard to say if the above mentioned achievements have had a direct impact in reducing the number of children trafficked nationally and inter-regionally in West Africa. It is impossible to come by any reliable statistics or data at the regional, national or grass-roots level and therefore there is no way to compare this project’s contribution to reducing the trafficking of children.

Through detailed discussions with project stakeholders, the evaluator can conclude that except in the case of Togo and to some extent Guinea, the project has made very little impact on child domestic servitude. The focus of project partners throughout the three years (except Togo and Guinea) has been on trafficking, leaving a gap in implementing the rights and protection of very young and vulnerable children who have been trafficked specifically to work as domestic servants.

However, in terms of highlighting the real dangers and threats of child trafficking, the project has had a beneficial effect. Discussions with project stakeholders and research into the issue suggests that the project has impacted on society at various levels. Parents and communities (particularly in remote rural areas) are increasingly more aware of the risks involved in allowing their children to be trafficked or to 'migrate' in unsafe and dangerous conditions. Government officials and authorities such as police and the judiciary are more aware and better trained to deal with monitoring the migration of children and establishing penalties for traffickers. Similarly, several laws have been passed or are in the process of being enacted (Children's Bills, Labour laws etc) with regards to protecting the rights of children from being trafficked.

### **Challenges:**

The project has faced various internal and external challenges and gaps:

#### **Internal:**

- The project, as part of a second phase, seems to lack structure and clarity in its goals and objectives. Although the project's initial key objective was to focus on trafficking of children into domestic servitude, this was not clearly defined or monitored and as a result there has been lack of unity and clarity amongst project partners who have done very little on child domestic labour (except Togo).
- The internal design and planning of the project has also been weak, particularly with regards to financial planning. All project partners agreed that the budget allocated for national activities was far too small to have any major impact on their work on trafficking. Similarly, there was no budget allocation for translation, even though almost all the project partners were francophone and translation from English to French would be needed in various phases of the project. Also, only one Anglophone country was selected amongst six francophone countries. This created friction and a cultural and linguistic imbalance in the project.
- The internal ASI monitoring and evaluation systems also needs to be strengthened. There was a lack of monitoring field visits to all project partners during the second phase of the project so as to collect data and information on the progress of the project and no mid-term evaluation took place. There was also a lack of formal reporting schedules between ASI and project partners and no format or guidance was provided for the end of year reporting process.
- The project faced a gap in management at the ASI level (six months) due to staff changeover.

#### **External:**

- The project lacked regional collaboration and coordination between project partners. The regional network, formed in the first phase of the project, was barely active in the second phase as it lacked funds and had no formal constitution or regional input.
- There was a lack of regional advocacy or lobbying activity in the project. Although ASI facilitated the project partners to attend and participate at the West African Civil Society Forum of the ECOWAS Heads of State meeting in Niger in

January 2006. However effective advocacy work at the regional policy level at the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in Ethiopia was frustrated as the Committee changed the dates of its session two years in a row and then temporarily prevented NGOs from attending all together whilst considering its Rule of Procedure. Similarly the project lacked formal links to regional networks such as ENDA.

- Project activities lacked formal capacity building of project partners, particularly in areas such as monitoring and evaluation, child rights, child participation and fundraising.

### **Conclusions:**

Despite the above mentioned gaps and challenges, ASI has achieved a great deal in the area of child trafficking in West Africa. There is no doubt that ASI project partners have put in a great deal of effort to put in place concrete anti child-trafficking mechanisms in the project areas.

If the project is to develop into its next phase of delivery, the evaluator would recommend that ASI continue to work with project partners to:

- Build on the successes of this project with regards to anti child-trafficking campaigns and build on the work of the Togo partner on child domestic servitude as a best practice in the region.
- Strengthen and sustain the regional network 'Network Against Trafficking and Child Labour', ensuring that it is adequately funded, has a formal constitution, is registered and recognized by regional inter-governmental bodies such as ECOWAS and is equipped to reinforce the advocacy techniques of project partners.
- Include ASI contacts in Mali, Cote D'Ivoire and Nigeria who have been informally involved in this project to the next phase of the project.
- Management team of ASI to work closely with project partners and key international agencies such as Plan and Terre des Hommes to chalk out the future strategic development of the next phase of the project, identifying clear goals, objectives and commitments.
- ASI to work with a regional partner to jointly manage the project, establishing measurable indicators to better monitor and assess project outputs at the field and regional level.

The evaluator recommends that ASI continue to support and facilitate the next phase of this project.

## **Introduction**

This paper consists of an evaluation of the project 'A Network of NGOs Against Child Trafficking in West Africa' which was managed and implemented by Ant Slavery International (ASI). The project was funded in its second phase from 2003-2006 by Barings Foundation. This evaluation was commissioned by ASI at the end of the second phase of the project with the aim of assessing progress and impact and providing recommendations for future directions.

The evaluation took place over a 20 day period from September 2006 to May 2007 and involved consultations with key stakeholders in London as well as field visits to three of the countries covered by the project: Benin, Ghana and Togo. Due to logistic and budget restraints, the evaluator was not able to undertake a field visit to the other four countries participating in the project: Burkina Faso, Gabon, Guinea and Niger. However, the evaluator was able to consult the project partners (except Guinea) from these countries at a regional meeting held in Benin in May 2007.

The objectives of the evaluation were to identify the achievements and impact of the project in relation to project objectives and goals, report on the main project areas that achieved their objectives, document challenges and identify lessons learnt from the project over the last three years. Another key objective of the evaluation process was to draw lessons from the project to enable both ASI and project partners at the field and regional level to collaborate and provide options for the future strategic development and growth of anti child-trafficking activities in West Africa through potential further funding and/or capacity building.

The evaluation was carried out by an external consultant and took on a participatory approach, undertaking in-depth individual and group discussions with key project stakeholders including: project partners and members of the national network, government officials, UN agencies and international NGOs, the media, children who had been victims of trafficking and vulnerable parents.

## **Background**

The trafficking of children is one of the gravest violation of human rights in the world today. Although there are no precise statistics on the exact number of children trafficked annually in West Africa, UNICEF estimates that there are hundreds and thousands of children who are trafficked nationally and internationally and sold for economic gains.

Trafficking of children for economic purposes is inextricably linked to some of the worst forms of child labour. In this illicit underworld of the trade of human beings, children are exchanged as commodities for prostitution, begging, for working on construction sites, factories and domestic service. The survival and development of these children are threatened and their basic rights to education, health and protection from exploitation and abuse are denied.

The Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS), has been increasingly concerned about the protection of children and adopted the Declaration and Plan of Action against Trafficking in persons during its annual ECOWAS Summit in 2001. Other important international standards are already in place such as the CRC (1989) and its Optional protocol on the Sale of Children, Child prostitution and Child Pornography in 2000; Supplementary Protocol to the International Convention on Organised Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999). Despite these regional and international standards, the rampant trade in trafficking of children continues to seriously deny the rights of children in West Africa and throughout the world..

### **Goals and Objectives of the Project**

The key aim of the project was to establish and/or strengthen national networks in each participating country so as strengthen the work of member organizations on issues concerning child trafficking and the exploitation of children in domestic servitude. The main objectives and goals of the national networks were to:

- Reduce the levels of child trafficking within the region.
- Improve inter-governmental cooperation on issues concerning child trafficking.
- Improve implementation of local laws on child domestic work and trafficking.
- Improve the ability of local NGOs to lobby for change across the region.
- Improve the knowledge and capacity of project partners.

It was expected that at the end of the project, the work of NGOs within the national network should have had a real impact on numbers of children trafficked into domestic service and that there should be an improvement in methods used by target countries in dealing with trafficked children.

## **Summary of stakeholder discussions**

### **Benin**

ESSAM, ASI's project partner in Benin is a well established and recognized local NGO that has been a partner of ASI since the first phase of the project. It has undertaken various studies on the issue of child trafficking, including a paper on the trafficking of children from Benin into Gabon, a study on child domestics and research into trafficking in West Africa. It also runs a reception center for trafficked children.

Financial support from this project has facilitated ESSAM to run comprehensive awareness raising campaigns in remote at-risk rural areas as part of its preventative work on child trafficking. The campaigns have included issues such as birth registration of rural children, encouraging parents to keep children in school and training on child rights and the CRC. ESSAM has played a key role in setting up child protection committees in remote rural areas, working closely with local Chiefs, police and local government to help children who have been victims of trafficking to reintegrate back into their communities. This has included supporting children to get back into school, providing credit schemes to vulnerable parents, skills training, life skills and job placements for children who are not able to go to school. Another key output of this project was the setting up of a syndicate of motorcycle drivers in Cottonue. ESSAM undertook intense awareness raising amongst the motorcycle drivers on the trafficking of children and facilitated them to set up a local syndicate which would report any suspicious cases of child trafficking. The motorcycle drivers keep a look out for children who have arrived from rural areas and who may be at risk of being exploited into worst forms of child labour. Similarly, ESSAM has established a 'cultural group' which involves young people and children in cultural activities such as theatre, music and creative play around the issue of trafficking and child protection. The group has been active in using the Code of Conduct on Domestic Child Labour, approaching employers on the rights of child domestics through drama and music.

ESSAM was instrumental in establishing Benin's national network on child rights, known as CLOSE. It has some 30 local NGO members and meets once a month. Although the network's focus is on general child rights issues, through this project ESAM has facilitated the setting up of a small working group on trafficking which includes membership of UN agencies such as ILO and UNICEF, international NGOs and officials from the Ministry of Women and Children. Discussions with ESSAM and other network members, highlighted the fact that this project had strengthened the capacity of the network through training on advocacy and lobbying, sharing of documents such as the Code of Conduct on Domestic Child Labour and facilitated the network in establishing constructive links with government and UN agencies. Members of the national network for example, collaborated to jointly draft an alternative NGO report on the status of trafficking in Benin and presented it at the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva in 2006.

Network members worked closely with the media, especially local radio, in reaching remote rural areas in Benin through radio programmes and chat shows on the dangers of trafficking. Similarly, the network had been effective in involving various members of the civil society, building close ties with local Chiefs, Mayors, police and the judiciary with regards to issues concerning child trafficking.

#### Government:

The evaluator met with several officials of the Ministry of Social Welfare. It is evident that the government of Benin has made significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and has enforced various laws to combat trafficking over the last two years. A law was passed in 2006 prohibiting child trafficking and the Ministry of Justice established a new statistical unit that has begun to collect trafficking crime statistics. In 2005, 83 trafficking cases were prosecuted of which 20 have resulted in conviction and prison. The Ministry of Social Welfare has worked closely with UNICEF and various national network members of CLOSE to draft the Children's Code which aims to provide more legal protection for children. A bilateral agreement with regards to child trafficking was signed Nigeria in 2005 and a multilateral agreement was signed with 8 West African countries in early 2006.

The evaluator also met with the Director of the Police Minors Protection Brigade (BMP) which actively investigates trafficking cases and is working very closely with ESSAM and CLOSE to put together a strategy to eliminate trafficking which will include a 4 year plan of action. Although the BMP is a dynamic unit of the government, it is severely handicapped with a lack of resources, especially with regards to training police and various other government officials on child trafficking and domestic child labour. Similarly, it has a building donated by a foreign donor, which is to be used as a reception center for victims of child trafficking but the BMP lacks funds and trained staff to run the center. As a result it works closely with reception centers of NGOs (ESSAM and Terres des Hommes) and sends children it has received to these shelters for care. Both the government officials and Director of the BMP were aware of the ASI project through close contacts with ESSAM and the CLOSE network. Although they were familiar with the Code of Conduct on Domestic Child Labour and had copies of this in French, no concrete work had been undertaken on domestic child labour.

#### UNICEF:

UNICEF Benin has been actively working on the issue of child trafficking since 2000 and works closely on this issue with government and NGOs. It has worked with local NGOs in the rural areas to raise awareness on child trafficking and has just completed the commission of a national study on trafficking in Benin. The final draft was not available at the time of this evaluation process.

UNICEF has provided technical and financial support the BMP, Ministry of Social Welfare and the shelters for trafficked children run by ESSAM and Terre des Hommes. It has been involved in the ASI project as it has been invited to various project workshops conducted by ESSAM. The child protection staff at UNICEF have not, however,

undertaken any work on child domestics in Benin and were not aware of the Code of Conduct on Child Domestics.

ILO/IPEC:

ILO IPEC have been running a pilot project on child domestics, providing training to child domestics on their rights and on undertaking domestic chores, such as cooking and cleaning (15-18 year olds). The office know of the Code of Conduct, but have not worked with ESSAM or the national network in this area. IPEC's work with ESSAM and CLOSE has been around the issue of trafficking, looking at prevention and rehabilitation. IPEC funded ESSAM in 2004 for a 3 year project working with mothers of trafficked children in Northern Benin and supporting rural families at risk.

International NGOs:

The evaluator met with staff at the offices of Care International, Plan and Terre des Hommes (TDH). Care International had been running an extensive project on trafficking issues and have made a documentary on child trafficking in Benin in 2005. They no longer focus their work on child rights issues and are not involved in the network CLOSE. Plan Benin has worked closely with ESSAM and the national network on trafficking issues, focusing on joint activities with ESSAM on training of police, government officials and local mayors and chiefs. Plan also worked closely with the national network on drafting the alternative NGO report on child trafficking and the ASI project with ESSAM. Terre des Hommes run a center for trafficked children, the majority of whom are girls who have run away from domestic servitude. TDH in the recent couple of years have been conducting research to understand patterns of child migration, exploring the differences of trafficking and migration and linking child protection initiatives with traditional practices of migration.

**Burkina Faso**

GRADE-FRB has been a partner of ASI since the first phase of the project and is a well established local NGO that focuses on women and children's rights. They run a training center for women and children and have undertaken a national study on trafficking of children and domestic child labour. GRADE-FRB is the founding member and host of a national network on trafficking of children locally known as RELUCOTEB. The network has 15 local NGO members and meets once every three months. RELUCOTEB has been actively involved in the ASI project, and have been one of the few project partners who have done some work on child domestics. The Code of Conduct has been impressively translated into local languages and been incorporated into RELUCOTEB's advocacy work. Community mobilization and awareness raising on the issue of trafficking and child domestic labour has been the premier achievement of this project in Burkina Faso. RELUCOTEB launched a three year national education campaign which consisted of multi media 'caravans' of information that toured the rural and urban areas of the country. Over the last three years, the touring caravans have been going from town to

town, distributing documents, including the local translations of the Code of Conduct, tee-shirts, posters and have made use of theatre and music as part of its community mobilization campaign. RELUCOTEB has also made active use of the media, working closely with radio in order to air national programmes on the trafficking of children and domestic servitude as a worst form of child labour.

#### Government:

Although the government of Burkina Faso has made some efforts to combat child trafficking (a 2003 law exists that prohibits child trafficking) there is still a great need to train its law enforcement officials on trafficking laws and prosecuting and convicting traffickers. Out of 44 traffickers detained by police in 2005 only 6 were prosecuted and convicted. Most of traffickers are released after a short stay in custody. A committee of government and international organization officials drafted a national action plan against trafficking in 2004, but this is yet to be adopted by Cabinet.

The police intercepted some 900 trafficked children in 2006. The children are sent to one of the 23 transit centers for trafficked children run by the government in collaboration with local NGOs and UNICEF. The government attempts to return the child victims back to the families soon after placing them in the transit centers. Despite the lack of resources, the government worked closely with RELUCOTEB in the national awareness raising campaign, facilitating the participation and collaboration of the village child protection committees, local chiefs and mayors and provincial government bodies.

The government has worked closely with the ASI partner GRADE-FRB and is aware of the ASI project, particularly the Code of Conduct. It has not however, undertaken any direct activities with regards to domestic child labour.

#### ILO/IPEC:

ILO IPEC played a concrete role in the ASI project in Burkina Faso. It provided technical support and advise to the national network, RELUCOTEB and made use of the Code of Conduct on domestic child labour as part of its awareness raising work. IPEC supported the GRADE-FRB countrywide awareness raising caravans and used the occasion to distribute information on the Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour.

#### Gabon

The ASI project partner in Gabon, Vidomegon, is a relatively new NGO that began to participate in this project only in its second phase. Vidomegon began as a small committee of people from Benin living in Gabon, working to protect the rights of these minorities from abuse and exploitation. It was registered as an NGO in 2003 and has been working on issues concerning the trafficking of children from Benin into Gabon. Vidomegon was instrumental in establishing a national network against the trafficking of children, known locally as Le COCTE. Established in 2005, the network is still in its embryonic phase. It has five members and meets every two months. It is hard to assess any impact of the project in Gabon as it only started its activities in 2005 and this has been limited as there have been difficulties in sending project funds into Gabon. The

project partner informed the evaluator that allocated funds for 2006 from ASI only arrived in early 2007 which has severely handicapped this project's progress in Gabon, particularly with regards to the growth and stability of the national network. Despite these limitations, a key output of the project has been the running of a national capacity building seminar on child trafficking with technical input from ASI, UNICEF and ILO IPEC. The seminar focused on issues such as: awareness raising on trafficking of children in Gabon and in the region; a presentation on the context of the Code of Conduct on Domestic Child Labour; brainstorming session on good practices of running a national network and capacity building sessions for local NGOs. One of the key outputs of the seminar was the legal formation of the national network against trafficking of children, Le COCTE. In addition, the seminar helped forge stronger and more formal relations with government forces and UN agencies such as ILO and UNICEF.

Unfortunately, the network has had little impact on trafficking of children in Gabon. One of the reasons has been that the NGO members of the network do not work well together and there is a lack of sharing experiences and joint activities. However, the key reason why the network has not really been operational has been due to lack of resources caused by the delay of the ASI funding. Members of the network highlighted their frustration to the evaluator through the feedback process of the questionnaires, noting that the activities planned at the national seminar in 2005, especially with regards to the national network, could not be implemented due to the delay in receiving funds. Despite the delay in ASI funds, it should be noted that some funds were received by Vidomegon by Save the Children Sweden to strengthen its national network. This was used mostly on awareness raising work through media and television on child trafficking and domestic child labour. During the length of the project, Vidomegon also benefited from a capacity building visit from the project partner in Togo and attended a regional meeting in Niger to share experiences with other project partners in the region.

#### Government:

The government of Gabon has made some efforts to enforce laws to combat child trafficking over the last couple of years. A law has been in place since 2004 on prohibiting child trafficking for labour exploitation. In 2006, the police had made 22 arrests of traffickers, but 15 of these cases were dropped and hence only 5 arrested traffickers remained in police custody. Government officials had the opportunity to attend trafficking law enforcement training provided by UNICEF in 2006. The government also funds a reception center providing educational, medical and psychological services to victims of child trafficking. Victims stay in the center until their families are located and arrangements are made for their repatriation. Twenty-one trafficking victims passed through the reception center in 2006. The government also funds and staffs a 24-hour helpline it operates in collaboration with UNICEF.

#### ILO/IPEC:

ILO IPEC, like UNICEF, were active participants at the national seminar on child trafficking organized by Vidomegon in 2005. IPEC has also been involved in the setting up and running of the national network, particularly in providing technical support on awareness raising activities with regards to domestic child labour and reintegration of

trafficked children back to their families. IPEC Gabon is familiar with the Code of Conduct but has not used it in any of its project activities on the worst forms of child labour.

## **Ghana**

Ghana has been a participating country in this project since the first phase of the project. However, due to some unavoidable circumstances, ASI changed project partners, from the Social Network for Development (SONED) to the African Center for Human Development (ACHD) in 2005. Established in 1987, ACHD is a development consultancy, providing professional support to lead agencies (government and UN agencies) on social change, human resources development and poverty alleviation. ACHD has had extensive experience in working on child trafficking and child labour issues. Their work in this area has included a production of a document on the Ghanaian Child; studies on child labour for ILO and have implemented an anti child-trafficking programme funded by various donors which has included the running of three reception homes for rescued trafficked children in Ghana.

During the field mission, ACHD confirmed to the evaluator that between 2004 and 2006, ACHD conducted 6 workshops in rural areas of Ghana, working at the grass-roots level on awareness raising on child trafficking and attended one ASI workshop in Lome, Togo, to share information with other project partners. It was also highlighted that some ASI project funds were also used to help finance one ACHD reception center for children who had been victims of trafficking.

Although ACHD has received two capacity building visits from the project partner in Togo and ASI management staff have traveled to Ghana to meet with ACHD, it is evident to the evaluator that the transition of this project from SONED to ACHD has not been very smooth or productive. Due to lack of clarity and interest on the part of the project partner and lack of project monitoring on the part of ASI, the output of this project has been limited. ACHD has taken on board the Code of Conduct and conducted a small workshop with local organizations on domestic child labour. However, no further activities have been taken by ACHD on child domestic labour. At the time of the field mission undertaken by the evaluator at the end of 2006, the Code of Conduct had not been distributed to government or UN agencies and had not been translated into local languages. Moreover, no national network on trafficking had been initiated by ACHD. During the evaluator's meetings with the project partner in Ghana, ACHD confirmed that in their opinion the outputs of the ASI project were not clarified at the start of their partnership. In fact ACHD maintained the opinion that they were never shown the original project proposal and that no formal agreement of obligations was signed with ASI to help the project partner focus on stipulated outputs.

The evaluator took the opportunity during the field mission to clarify and reinforce the outputs expected from the ASI project and pave the way for some concrete activities to take place on domestic child labour before the close of the project in 2006. The results

were fruitful as ACHD organized a national workshop on child domestic workers in Ghana in December 2006. The objectives of the meeting were to bring NGOs and other stakeholders working in the field of domestic child labour and to start a process of networking of stakeholders working to combat child trafficking and domestic servitude. As a result an informal network has been formed and another meeting has been scheduled for 2007.

#### Government:

The government of Ghana was aware of the fact that children are trafficked within the country as domestic workers, cocoa plantation labourers, street vendors, porters and for work in the fishing industry in the Volta Lake. It has demonstrated strong efforts to combat child trafficking between the years 2005 and 2006. A law was enacted that prohibits all forms of trafficking in persons and over 100 police have attended police training on trafficking. The government runs two reception centers for victims of child trafficking and provides assistance to an IOM rehabilitation center. In 2006, the government held a meeting for NGOs and UN agencies to improve coordination on anti-trafficking initiatives and is in the process of forming a Human Trafficking Management Board to help create and implement a national anti-trafficking action plan.

#### IOM:

IOM has been working to combat the trafficking of children for labour exploitation in fishing communities. The project aims to expose the dangers inherent in forcing children to engage in hazardous labour under harsh conditions of bondage. The work of IOM has involved awareness raising amongst fishing communities, provision of micro credit to parents and the rescue and reintegration of children back into their communities. A national workshop was also organized by IOM in 2004, with the purpose of enhancing collaboration amongst project partners working to prevent and combat child trafficking in Ghana. During the workshop IOM forged a partnership with ACHD which culminated in an agreement to use each other's facilities to rehabilitate trafficked children. In 2005, IOM sent over 50 children to the ACHD's rehabilitation center at Sogakope in the Volta region.

Meetings with IOM highlighted the fact that there is lack of coordination between various stakeholders working on protecting children from child trafficking in Ghana. IOM is keen to facilitate the establishment of a national network on trafficking as part of its next phase of the project. Despite the above mentioned collaboration with ACHD, IOM had not been made aware of the ASI project and had not been introduced to the Code of Conduct.

#### ILO IPEC:

ILO IPEC is running a project to 'Support the implementation of time-bound measures for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in Ghana' from 2004 to 2009. This is a project that aims to create strong institutional and socio-economic bases for dealing effectively with all worst forms of child labour and has a budget of some 5 million dollars. The project has formed strong partnership with the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice to strengthen its public education activities and is working with the Ghana National Commission on Children to translate legal texts on

child labour into six Ghanaian languages. The project is also focusing on developing the capacity of the police service, providing technical input into curriculum development on child labour for its training institutions. IPEC is also working with the Attorney General's department to establish a dedicated children's desk to focus on prosecution of serious child abuse cases including child labour offences.

As part of the IPEC project, draft reports have been commissioned on domestic child labour which it is planned will feed into a Ghana Child Labour Survey and a National Campaign on Child Domestic Work. A study has already been commissioned by IPEC in 2006 on Child Domestic Workers in Four Districts in Ghana which was prepared by the Centre for Social Policy Studies in Legon. In addition to this, IPEC has a fund to support local NGOs working on child domestic labour.

During the time of the field mission to Ghana, IPEC was not aware of the ASI project and had not had any contact with ACHD with regards to the Code of Conduct. The evaluator encouraged ACHD to meet with IPEC to explore ways of collaboration in the future.

#### UNICEF:

The UNICEF office in Ghana is working very closely with the government, ILO and IOM on combating child trafficking. It was instrumental in facilitating the government to draft the Anti Trafficking Bill, has helped set up a committee to establish a national plan of action on trafficking and chairs a task force on trafficking which includes officials from the government, IOM, ILO and the US Embassy.

The UNICEF office has not been working very closely with local NGOs on issues concerning child trafficking and were not aware of the ASI project on trafficking and domestic child labour.

#### International NGOs:

The evaluator met with several NGOs in Ghana. Plan Ghana works in five regions in the country on community development work. Although the focus of this country office is not directly on advocacy and child rights, Plan Ghana works on child protection issues (facilitating birth registration) through its community development work. Plan is keen to touch base with ACHD to explore ways to collaborate in the future and learn more about the ASI project.

Through the facilitation of ACHD, the evaluator also met with a local NGO known as APPLE. APPLE have been working to combat child trafficking for several years and have worked closely with IOM and ACHD. Their key focus has been the trafficking of children into the fishing industry, which has included work around girls who have been trafficked to work as domestics for the fisherman (girls are used to clean and smoke the fish for example). Unfortunately, APPLE were not aware of the ASI project and had not seen the Code of Conduct.

Similarly, the evaluator met with a local organization known as LAWA (Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa). This NGO has undertaken a number of legislative

advocacy programmes including working on the issue of the rights of domestic assistants. Their recent research highlighted the fact that 60% of domestics in Ghana were under 15 years old. In 2005, LAWA conducted a capacity building workshop for domestic assistants and their employers in selected regions in Ghana. As part of this workshop, a capacity building manual was produced which focused on the rights of domestics, negotiating contracts and advocating for the rights of domestics. Again, LAWA were not aware of the ASI project and had not seen the Code of Conduct which they felt would have been very useful for their work.

## **Guinea**

ACEEF, the project partner in Guinea is a relatively new NGO founded in 1998 and joined the ASI project in its second phase. It runs an orphanage and reception center for children who have been victims of worst forms of child labour (runaway child domestics, victims of sexual abuse and exploitation and child miners) and was the national coordinator of the Global march Against Child Labour. Through the support of this project, ACEEF has organized several workshops with ILO IPEC on implementing the Convention 182 with special focus on child domestic labour. It has also conducted a comprehensive study in collaboration with UNICEF on child trafficking in Guinea and the region and during 2006 ran a week of assistance to victims of worst forms of child labour. During this week of assistance, ACEEF traveled to various rural areas, providing child victims and their families with food and support in placing them either in school or training programmes such as hairdressing, woodwork and mechanics for example. ACEEF was also able to organize a high profile awareness raising workshop on trafficking, involving government, INGOs and UN agencies. The workshop brought attention to issues such as the different forms of trafficking, causes, approaches and interventions on the worst forms of child labour. In addition to this ACEEF organized a conference at the University of Conakry, encouraging thematic sessions and debates among students around trafficking issues.

As part of its extensive awareness raising programmes, ACEEF ran several sports days encouraging youth to come together at football matches and taking the opportunity to talk to them and their parents on the dangers of trafficking and the worst forms of child labour. In various rural areas, ACEEF staff facilitated local communities to form village level child protection committees and kids clubs to empower grass-roots communities who are at high risk of being victims of trafficking. Similarly, ACEEF worked through local chiefs, mayors, provincial government, police and the local media to raise awareness around the issues of trafficking. It organized a rural campaign in 8 rural provinces with support from UNICEF and the local media, showing short movies on the dangers of trafficking, distributing materials and posters in local languages.

ACEEF was instrumental in establishing a national network to combat child trafficking and the exploitation of children. The network maintained close working relationship with ILO IPEC, IOM and Human Rights watch. Although relationship between NGOs and government has often been strained in Guinea, the national network was able to develop

links with the government and was invited to input into the 2005 National Plan of Action on Trafficking.

Government:

A recent publication by Human Rights Watch highlighted the fact that most of the trafficking that takes place in Guinea occurs within the country, with girls a high incidence of girls being subjected to domestic child labour. During 2005, the government increased law enforcement efforts to combat child trafficking, drafting a law against trafficking with increased penalties. The military created a unit to focus on child protection and trafficking and security forces, custom officials and judges received training on trafficking issues. Although the government lacks funds to operate its own shelters, it makes referrals of child victims to shelters run by NGOs and INGOs. The government also invited members of the national network to be part of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons and worked with various Ngos to develop a guide to trafficking laws and victim protection services. With support from UNICEF and ACEEF, the government launched a national anti-trafficking campaign in 2006.

ILO IPEC:

ILO IPEC is an active member of the national network and provides technical input on issues around the worst forms of child labour. IPEC has also been supportive in the awareness raising campaigns undertaken by the network and facilitated ACEEF on distributing the Code of Conduct. IPEC also worked with network members in establishing a national day on domestic child labour and the participating of children in the parliament meetings.

UNICEF:

UNICEF has been an active partner with ACEEF in this project. It has co-funded various awareness raising campaigns and attended national network meetings. UNICEF co-funded the study undertaken by ACEEF on trafficking in Guinea and facilitated advocacy lobbying with government with regards to implementing laws against child trafficking.

**Niger**

The ASI project in Niger was coordinated jointly by two local NGOs, ALTEN and OPTEN. Both the organizations were involved in the ASI project during the first phase of the project and have extensive experience in work to combat worst forms of child labour. They have had close working relations with ILO IPEC since 1997, working to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, particularly with regards to children working in the gold mines.

One of the key outputs of this project has been the strengthening and expansion of the national network to combat child trafficking and domestic child labour (RELTEN). From 6 members at the start of the project, the network has grown to 12 members by the end of 2006. The project partner confirmed that the project was instrumental in consolidating the national network by strengthening its local structures, developing the capacity of its

members and facilitating formal ties with government and UN agencies. As a result of this input from the ASI project, the members of the network were able to focus their energy on advocacy work on combating child trafficking and the implementation of the Code of Conduct on domestic child labour. This was particularly effective with the government as the national network was able to lobby for the incorporation of some of the text of the Code of Conduct into the recent 'Code de Travail' (employment law) and the 'Code d'Enfant' (Children's Bill). Similarly, the national network was also able to undertake mass awareness raising campaigns on child trafficking and domestic child labour through close collaboration with the local radio stations, television and the local press. Several press conferences were organized around the country in local languages and indigenous musicians and artists were recruited to bring awareness of the Code of Conduct through the use of local poetry, drumming and singing and role play.

### **Government:**

Over the project period, the government of Niger has been increasingly more willing to accept that women and children from Niger are trafficked into forced domestic labour and sexual exploitation into other countries of West Africa, North Africa and the Middle East. However, it lacks specific anti-trafficking legislation and did not report any convictions for child trafficking in 2006. The government has worked with ILO, UNICEF and IOM in assisting victims of child trafficking and the police often refer victims to international NGOs for care.

Government officials informed the evaluator (through questionnaires) that they were familiar with the ASI project and had worked with the national network and various UN agencies in the establishment of a National Commission for the Control of Trafficking in Persons. Similarly, the government also collaborated with the members of the network to launch a US Government funded radio soap opera about child trafficking. It was also supportive of the National network's ((RELTEN) campaign on domestic child labour and the Code of Conduct.

### **ILO/IPEC:**

ILO IPEC in Niger have had a strong focus on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, looking at children working in the gold mines and stone quarries and domestic child labour. They have been close working partners of ALTEN and OPTEN and more recently have participated in the national network meetings where they have provided technical input on child labour issues. They confirmed to the evaluator that they have been involved in the ASI project and have even used and integrated the Code of Conduct in other IPEC projects, such as work with child miners.

### **Togo**

The work of the ASI partner in Togo, WAO Afrique, has had a key focus on domestic child labour and their activities and outputs over the last three years have been the hallmark of the project. WAO Afrique has been a key leader in coordinating, facilitating

and managing project activities in the region and has provided capacity building inputs to smaller project partners on numerous occasions. It was also successful in securing funding from Save the Children Sweden (Dakar) for strengthening the national networks of all ASI project partners (except Ghana). Its work on establishing a national network to combat child trafficking and implementing the Code of Conduct has also resulted in outputs that can and should be viewed as best practices in the region.

## **Good Practices in Running National Networks**

### **RELUTET: A National Network to Combat Child Trafficking in Togo**

Funding a National Network: Wao Afrique was instrumental in raising funds from key stakeholders working on child trafficking issues and domestic child labour. It initiated meetings with UNICEF, Plan, USAID and Care to discuss the work of the national network and secured substantial funding from these agencies (in addition to ASI funding) to manage and sustain the activities of the network. Around 65,000 pounds has been raised from Plan and 12,000 pounds from UNICEF. RELUTET now has a full-time coordinator, which is funded by the network and a comprehensive board of governors that meet twice a year.

Regular Communication: WAO Afrique works closely with network members in producing a quarterly newsletter (entitled DZITRI) on child trafficking, sexual exploitation and worst forms of child labour. The coordinator of the national networks collates the work of all network members, INGOs, UN agencies and the government, highlighting key emerging issues on child trafficking in Togo. The newsletter is circulated widely amongst stakeholders in Togo, the region and internationally as it is printed in both French and English.

Lobbying: The network has been particularly active in lobbying the national government on issues concerning child trafficking and domestic child labour. Members of the national network were invited to input into the 2005 Anti Child Trafficking Law and Children's Code. Similarly, some network members worked with the government on the Code of Conduct on Domestic Child Labour, lobbying the input of some of its text to be incorporated into the Employment Law (Code de Travail). The network has also taken the opportunity to lobby local trade unions and employers on the Code of Conduct, advocating for fair wages, holidays and education for child domestics.

Awareness Raising at the Community Level: The national network has been active in raising the awareness of local communities at the grassroots level on the dangers of child trafficking and domestic servitude as a worst form of child labour. Network members have initiated 'Brigades' (child protection committees) at the villages level, to raise awareness on trafficking and child labour and to act as watch dogs to monitor children who migrate into urban areas.

Research and Data Collection: The network has taken some steps to build up a monitoring system to collect data and undertake research on child trafficking. The network still faces a challenge to build up a data base on the numbers of children trafficked and produce comprehensive research and analysis on the situation of children who are at risk of being trafficked, but some steps have been taken to work with UN agencies and government on collating this much needed information.

Mobilization of Media: Wao Afrique and various network members have worked closely with local media (radio and television) to facilitate national campaigns to combat child trafficking. Several radio channels have aired programmes on child trafficking, incorporating the voices and concerns of child victims themselves. Similarly, radio programmes have aired talks on the Code of Conduct and highlighted the violence faced by child domestics by their employers. Several key radio stations (Zephyr Radio and Radio Nana FM) are active members of the national network.

## **Good Practices in the Implementation of The Code of Conduct on Domestic Child Labour**

### **WAO Afrique, Togo, A Case Study**

Combating child domestic labour has been one of the main focuses of WAO Afrique in the last decade. WAO Afrique started with a detailed survey denouncing child domestic labour as one of the worst forms of child labour that exists in Togo, and has led the debate and action in the country and in the sub-region to raise awareness on the issue.

The premier achievement of the ASI project in Togo has been the launch and implementation of the Code of Conduct on child domestic labour. The Code calls for a clear agenda to eliminate child domestic work before the age of 14 years old and has been launched by WAO Afrique in the capital and 3 regional capitals. As a result of Wao Afrique's lobbying around the acceptance and implementation of the Code of Conduct, substantial debate in the country on more concrete measures to be taken on child domestic labour and the consensus that no child should be placed as a domestic before her/his basic education is complete, is gradually emerging.

Concrete achievements:

The development of a user-friendly format of the Code of Conduct: translation of 5 key principles of the Code into local languages (Ewe and Kabye) and production of posters of the Code using cartoons and drawings. A summary of the Code's compliances with national and international laws was also produced.

Extensive dissemination of the Code of Conduct to a wide range of stakeholders: copies of the translated version of the Code and relevant posters were distributed at village levels, with particular focus on mobilizing local communities through faith groups, village chiefs and volunteers. 3 village chiefs were willing to adopt the Code in their villages and to enforce it through the traditional justice system. A key example of the implementation of the Code at the micro grass-roots level.

Putting in place a concrete and official system of contracting child domestics: discussions were held with employers of child domestics and domestics themselves to come up with a concrete contract system for the employment of child domestics. The contract aims to negotiate minimum payment and holidays for example.

Mobilising private sector and unions to adopt the Code of Conduct: A number of unions were approached with the ICFTU's resolution on domestic child labour and the Code of Conduct. Similarly, private sector organizations such as banks and industries were approached so as to negotiate the adoption of the Code as a moral code for their employers. As a result, the private sector in Togo has been made aware of their role in enforcing child rights and is empowered to take concrete actions through enforcing its employers not to hire child domestics (under 14 years of age) as stipulated in their work contracts.

Lobbying government and officials on the Code of Conduct: extensive lobbying took place with government which resulted in the incorporation of the Code in the government's Employment Code and the Children's Code. Similarly, advocacy and awareness raising on the Code took place with the Femmes Fat (organization of military wives) negotiating with the wives of military officials not to recruit under age child domestics.

Establishment of a training center for child domestics: the center is one of a kind in the region. It was built and opened with co-funding from Plan, specifically to train child domestics (over 14 years old) in domestic chores, such as making beds, cleaning fridges, laying tables and cooking. The center also helps find employment and negotiates official contracts between domestics and their employers using the Code of Conduct as a basis.

## Key Strengths of the Project

1. Community mobilization, public awareness and preventative work around the issue of child trafficking has been the premier achievement of the project in all participating countries. Activities range from developing child protection monitoring systems and structures (developing child protection committees, strengthening village structures to monitor migration movements) to general awareness raising activities (training on child rights and the CRC) and capacity building (vocational skills training, life skills, provision of credit schemes and school sponsorships). Most of the project partners undertook active rural campaigns to combat child trafficking which included, lobbying for birth certificates and encouraging children to be enrolled into schools. Benin for example collaborated with motorcycle taxi syndicates, raising awareness amongst them on child trafficking and using them to identify children at risk. Similarly, project partners used traditional forms of drama, music and poetry to raise community awareness. Burkina Faso, for example used traditional poetry and songs as part of their caravans of information and Niger made use of traditional drummers.
2. Advocacy work around child trafficking has held a key focus in the project. Lobbying and awareness raising amongst all sectors of the community (rural areas and provincial and central government) has taken place on issues concerning prevention of child trafficking; lobbying and training government officials, the police and the judiciary; advocating for best practices in dealing with trafficked children and working directly with government to establish a legal and penal support system to regulate the movement of minors and establish penalties for acts that constitute trafficking. Ghana, Guinea and Togo for example were actively involved in bringing out the anti child-trafficking law and Benin submitted an alternative NGO report on trafficking to the UN Commission on Human Rights. Similarly, Togo lobbied government to incorporate the Code of Conduct into the national Labour Law and the Children's Bill. It should also be noted that ASI was able to facilitate the participation of project partners to the West African Civil Society Forum at the ECOWAS Heads of State meeting in Niger in 2006.
3. Establishing and strengthening national networks on child trafficking has been a hallmark of the project (except in the case of Ghana). Most of the national networks built constructive relationships with the government and international agencies, collaborating with governments to draft national legislation on child trafficking and in the case of Togo on domestic child labour. Almost all stakeholders met by the evaluator confirmed that prior to this project, there was a lack of awareness in the sub-region on the issue of child trafficking in their country. Through intensive awareness raising by project partners and the national networks, the general public and the national governments are more aware of the dangers of child trafficking and the governments in particular are making more efforts to tackle it. The national networks in several of the project countries have also received technical and financial inputs from international agencies such as

- UNICEF, IOM, ILO/IPEC, Care International, Plan and Terre des Hommes. The networks in Benin and Togo for example have received substantial funding from Plan.
4. The media has played a positive and supportive role in the project. Working closely with project partners and the national networks, local media campaigns (through the use of radio and television), has played a critical role in creating awareness of the child trafficking phenomenon and in promoting respect of child rights. Much of this has involved child participation, encouraging children to talk about their experiences on local radio programmes. The use of media has been particularly affective in penetrating into rural areas, reaching out to communities at risk and raising their awareness on issues such as birth registration and the importance of children attending school. All project partners have collaborated closely with the media to raise awareness on child trafficking. Several well known radio stations are members of the national network in Togo and Benin for example. Togo and Guinea have worked closely with various radio stations, airing programmes specifically in child domestic labour and the Code of Conduct.
  5. Reintegration of children who have been victims of trafficking has been a consistent focus for most project partners. Many have worked closely with social workers from the Ministry of Social Welfare, field staff of UN agencies such as IOM and international NGOs (Terre des Hommes) on intensive hands-on work with individual family cases, and have followed through cases where children have not been able to reintegrate fully. The project partners in Ghana, Benin, Guinea and Burkina Faso manage reception centers for victims of child trafficking and collaborate with government and NGOs on reintegrating these children back to their communities.
  6. The Code of Conduct on Domestic Child Labour was viewed as easy to adapt and translate. In some contexts, it provided project partners with common strategies on domestic child labour (promoting better conditions for child domestics and awareness raising amongst employers). In the case of Togo, the Code of Conduct was used to input into the countries' national Labour Code and the Children's Code. Both Togo and Burkina Faso translated the Code into local languages and distributed it widely amongst grass-roots communities.
  7. All project partners provided positive feedback to the evaluator on their relationship with ASI. They confirmed that ASI was transparent in its management processes, was clear about the project budget and consulted project partners throughout the project cycle.

## Challenges

The project has faced various internal and external challenges and gaps:

Internal:

- The project, as part of a second phase, seems to lack structure and clarity in its goals and objectives. Although the project's initial key objective was to focus on trafficking of children into domestic servitude, this was not clearly defined or monitored and as a result there has been lack of unity and clarity amongst project partners who have done very little on child domestic labour (except Togo). This was clearly evident in the regional wrap up meeting with project partners in Benin (May 2007) where project partners' key interest and focus in the reporting process was on combating child-trafficking. Except for Togo, most of the project partners did not focus their activities on domestic child labour.
- The internal design and planning of the project has also been weak, particularly with regards to financial planning. All project partners agreed that the budget allocated for national activities was far too small to have any major impact on their work on trafficking. Similarly, there was no budget allocation for translation, even though almost all the project partners were francophone and translation from English to French would be needed in various phases of the project. Also, only one Anglophone country was selected in an ad-hoc manner amongst six francophone countries. This created friction and a cultural and linguistic imbalance in the project. This was particularly reiterated by the Ghana partner during the field mission in Ghana undertaken by the evaluator and at the regional wrap meeting in Benin (May 2007).
- The internal ASI monitoring and evaluation systems also need to be strengthened. All project partners noted that there was a lack of field monitoring visits to all project countries during the second phase of the project to enable ASI to collect data and information on the progress of the project. Similarly, no mid-term evaluation was incorporated in the project planning process. There was also a lack of formal reporting schedules between ASI and project partners and no format or guidance was provided for the end of year reporting process. This was particularly true in the case of Ghana. During the field mission to Ghana, it was evident to the evaluator that the project partner (ACHD) had done very little with regards to implementing the ASI project. Although ASI maintains that a full handover took place during the change over of partners, ACHD states that no project proposal was shared with them and no formal agreement of obligations took place between ASI and ACHD, which would have helped ACHD to focus on project outputs.
- The project faced a gap in management at the ASI level (around six months) due to staff changeover.

External:

- The project lacked regional collaboration and coordination between project partners. The regional network, formed in the first phase of the project, was barely active in the second phase as it lacked funds and had no formal constitution or regional input. Due to this inactivity of the regional network, all project partners identified the fact that there was a lack of communication and sharing of information between them. During the first phase of the project, WAO Afrique was responsible for most of the management of the project at the regional level. This worked well as Wao Afrique was well placed to monitor the project on a regular basis, provide capacity building input to neighboring partners and seek additional funding from local donors to co-fund project activities. During the second phase of the project, ASI had not allocated any resources for regional management and monitoring of the project, which meant that ASI needed to fully manage and monitor the project at the UK level. This was not so practical and the evaluator believes that if regional management was in place the project could have been more affectively monitored and implemented.
- The project also demonstrated a lack of regional advocacy, particularly with regards to child domestic work. Partners were due to attend the public session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, but two sessions were rescheduled and then NGO's were prevented from attending, due to the Committee drafting its rules of procedure, with respect to NGO participation. Similarly the project lacked strategic links to regional organizations and networks such as ENDA.
- Project activities lacked formal capacity building of project partners, particularly in areas such as monitoring and evaluation, child rights and child participation. Although a comprehensive session on fundraising took place at the final regional meeting in Benin in 2007, the regional meetings that took place during the course of the project were more focused on sharing of information between project partners than direct capacity building.
- The evaluator felt that the project relied too heavily on one senior member of the project partner organizations. In most cases, the contact person was the Director of the partner organization and other staff members were not kept informed on project activities.

## **Key recommendations and future considerations**

Despite the gaps and challenges identified in this project, ASI has achieved a great deal in the area of child trafficking in West Africa. There is no doubt that ASI project partners have put in a great deal of effort to put in place concrete anti child-trafficking mechanisms in the project areas. Moreover, through the establishment of national networks on trafficking, the project has strengthened the capacity of civil society organizations to network with each other and to advocate for the elimination of child trafficking.

If the project is to develop into its next phase of delivery, the evaluator would recommend that ASI continue to work with project partners to:

- Build on the successes of this project with regards to anti child-trafficking campaigns and build on the work of the Togo partner on child domestic servitude as a best practice in the region.
- Strengthen and sustain the regional network ‘Network Against Trafficking and Child Labour’, ensuring that it is adequately funded, has a formal constitution, is registered and recognized by regional inter-governmental bodies such as ECOWAS and is equipped to reinforce the advocacy techniques of project partners. The regional network should also be encouraged to focus on all forms of trafficking and exploitation of children as identified by member countries (including child domestic labour) and should include in its mandate the collection of up to date accurate data and statistics on child-trafficking. For the long-term sustainability of the regional network, sufficient funding should be secured to recruit a full-time coordinator in each member country to coordinate and collate information and data at the national level. Funding should also be secured for the running of a comprehensive quarterly newsletter that should be printed in English and French and distributed nationally, regionally and internationally.
- The next phase of the project to consider expanding membership to include ASI contacts in Mali, Cote D’Ivoire and Nigeria who have already been informally involved in this project. Countries such as Sierra Leone could also be considered.
- Management team of ASI to work closely with project partners and key international agencies such as UNICEF, ILO/IPEC, IOM and Plan and Terre des Hommes to chalk out the future strategic development of the next phase of the project, identifying clear goals, objectives and commitments. Plan and UN agencies should be contacted at the regional headquarter level (Dakar) and Terre des Hommes in Geneva during the planning process of the next phase of the project. Plan office in Dakar is in a key position to provide technical and financial input into the national and regional networks on child-trafficking and

could facilitate the strengthening of the advocacy techniques of the networks. Similarly, Terre des Hommes, having conducted recent research on trafficking in the region, would be ideally placed to help the regional and national networks on issues concerning child migration patterns and linkages between child protection and traditional practices of migration.

- ASI to work with a regional partner to jointly manage the project, establishing measurable indicators to better monitor and assess project outputs at the field and regional level.

The evaluator recommends that ASI continue to support and facilitate the next phase of this project.

# Annexes

## Annex 1.

### **Future strategies for regional and national networking to combat child trafficking and domestic child labour.**

During the regional meeting held in Benin in May 2007, the project partners identified the following future recommendations with regards to the regional and national networks on child-trafficking.

#### **Regional Network Against Trafficking and Child Labour**

It was decided that the regional network in the next phase of the project should be entitled Regional Network Against Trafficking and Child Labour.

#### **The key activities of the regional network would be:**

- Prevention: sharing experiences and strengthening techniques on awareness raising on child-trafficking and domestic child labour within the region; lobbying with national governments and distributing national and international legal documents and texts.
- Training: in participation, lobbying, advocacy, fundraising, organizational development and management of networks. Training should also be provided in communication, child rights and human rights and best practices in work with child domestics.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: set up national monitoring and evaluation systems and produce reports, collate data and statistics on child trafficking in the region.
- Advocacy: focus on child domestics as a priority in the region, lobbying for the Code of Conduct and implementation of regional and national laws on child-trafficking. Lobby regional bodies such as ECOWAS through campaigns, reports and petitions.
- Information and Communication: strengthen regional communication through newsletter to share regional information; create a list serve to facilitate communication between network members and create a regional website on child-trafficking. Distribute information on good practices on rescuing victims of child trafficking, rehabilitation and repatriation.
- Coordination: strengthen regional coordination mechanisms; establish a permanent regional network with permanent management systems. Identify and mobilize regional funding. Facilitate better communication between members.
- Participation: promote and empower child domestics movement and promote the participation of victims of child-trafficking in the network.

#### **The key activities of the national networks would be:**

- Prevention: sharing experiences and strengthening techniques on awareness raising on child-trafficking and domestic child labour; lobbying with national government and distributing national and international legal documents and texts.
- Training: in participation, lobbying, advocacy, fundraising, organizational development and management of networks. Training should also be provided in communication, child rights and human rights and best practices in work with child domestics.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: set up national monitoring and evaluation systems and produce reports, collate data and statistics on child trafficking in the region.
- Advocacy: focus on child domestics as a priority at the national level, lobby for the Code of Conduct and implementation of regional and national laws on child-trafficking. Lobby national government and general public through campaigns, reports and petitions.
- Information and Communication: strengthen communication nationally through a newsletter to share national information; create a list serve to facilitate communication between network

members and distribute information on good practices on rescuing victims of child trafficking, rehabilitation and repatriation.

- Coordination: strengthen national coordination mechanisms; identify and mobilize funding from local donors. Facilitate better communication between national network members.
- Participation: promote and empower child domestics movement and promote the participation of victims of child-trafficking in the national network.

## Annex 2

### Questions for INGOs and UN agencies:

These questions were aimed at local INGOs that have been involved in issues concerning child trafficking and domestic child labour, such as Plan, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes etc. They were also aimed at UN agencies involved in this project, namely, UNICEF, ILO and IOM.

1. What does your organization do in connection to combating child trafficking and domestic child labour?
2. Has your organization been involved in any interventions to combat child trafficking (e.g. working with law enforcement agencies to prosecute traffickers, rehabilitation of trafficked children, repatriation etc)?
3. What direct activities have you undertaken with regards to Convention 182?
4. To what extent and in what capacity was your organization involved in this project (have you been involved in the national network)?
5. Do you feel that the project over its 3 year cycle has made steps to reduce the levels of child trafficking within the region?
6. To what extent do you feel that the National Network Against Trafficking and Child Domestic Work has helped to raise public interest and awareness nationally of the exploitation faced by children who have been victims of trafficking and domestic servitude (i.e. articles in the media, mention in radio, TV etc)?
7. To what extent do you feel that the National Network has been able to lobby national/local governments in enforcing regional standards for children working as domestics, building systems to care for rescued children such as building reception homes and repatriation/rehabilitation back into communities/families; monitoring implementation of local laws on child domestic work and trafficking and implementation of ILO Convention 182 in the local context?
8. To what extent do you feel that the National Network been able to coordinate a regional approach to tackling the problem of child trafficking/child domestic servitude (e.g. enforcing i.e. cross-border repatriation; regional input into lobbying ECOWAS etc)?
9. Do you feel that the National Network has been successful in encouraging civil society involvement?
10. Do you feel that the National Network has been able to encourage the involvement of children and enhance children's participation in decision making on child trafficking and domestic work (particularly those directly affected)?
11. Do you feel that the network has had a real impact on the number of children trafficked into domestic servitude during the lifetime of the project?
12. During the last three years of the project, do you feel that the methods of dealing with trafficked children has improved? If so how?
13. What would you identify as the key gaps and obstacles in this area of work and what in your opinion are the future directions?

**Questions for Government officials:**

These questions were aimed at Government officials from relevant Ministries.

1. What is your Government doing to combat child trafficking and child domestic servitude and in what capacity was your Ministry involved in this project?
2. What interventions has your Government made with regards to prosecuting traffickers, rehabilitation/repatriation of trafficked children etc?
3. Has your Ministry been involved with the National Network Against Trafficking and Child Domestic Work? To what extent do you feel it has been able to work with your Ministry in enforcing regional standards for children working as domestics, building systems to care for rescued children such as building reception homes and repatriation/rehabilitation back into communities/families; monitoring implementation of local laws on child domestic work and trafficking and implementation of ILO Convention 182 in the local context?
4. During the last three years of the project, do you feel that the methods of dealing with trafficked children has improved? If so how?
5. What would you identify as the key gaps and obstacles facing Government with regards to child trafficking and child domestic labour and what in your opinion are the future directions?
6. What do you envisage as the future strategy of the National Network?

**Questions for Project partners and Network members:**

These questions were aimed at ASI project partners and the various members of the national networks.

1. To what extent did the project strengthen/develop the capacity and knowledge of your organization as a project partner/network member (e.g. training on campaigning/advocacy, fundraising, building links with government and UN bodies etc)?
2. To what extent do you feel that the network helped to raise public interest and awareness nationally of the exploitation faced by children who have been victims of trafficking and domestic servitude (i.e. articles in the media, mention in radio, TV etc)?
3. To what extent was your national network able to lobby national/local governments in enforcing regional standards for children working as domestics, building systems to care for rescued children such as building reception homes and repatriation/rehabilitation back into communities/families; monitoring implementation of local laws on child domestic work and trafficking and implementation of ILO Convention 182 in the local context?
4. To what extent was the network able to coordinate a regional approach to tackling the problem of child trafficking/child domestic servitude (e.g. enforcing cross-border repatriation; information sharing, advocacy and lobbying at the regional level?).
5. How would you say that the network has helped civil society involvement?
6. Do you feel that the network was able to encourage the involvement of children and enhance children's participation in decision making on child trafficking and domestic work (particularly those directly affected)?

7. Do you feel that the network has had a real impact on the number of children trafficked into domestic servitude during the lifetime of the project?
8. During the last three years of the project, do you feel that the methods of dealing with trafficked children has improved? If so how?

## Annex 3

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