



KNH-Advocacy-Mail

Advocacy-Mail 2/2007 – December

Dear Partners and friends of Kindernothilfe,

This is the sixth issue of the KNH Advocacy Mail giving you an insight into our advocacy work. We have continued to focus on our annual theme of HIV/Aids, but there are also some new topics on the agenda. Since 1 June 2007 Kindernothilfe has been a member of the Climate Alliance, an alliance of environmental and development organisations. More information is provided on the following pages.

At the same time we would also like to use this opportunity to report about the activities of some of our partners. It is our wish to include even more of your activities in the future. Therefore you are kindly requested to send us your contributions. We are also interested in position papers, for example about the topic of child labour. You can e-mail your information at any time to Barbara.duennweller@knh.de.

10 December 2008 will be the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This anniversary, the introduction of the child rights approach into the work of Kindernothilfe and our partners plus the 50th anniversary of Kindernothilfe in 2009 have prompted us to choose 'Child rights are human rights' as an annual theme for 2008/2009. In our next Advocacy Mail we will provide you with more details.

The next issue of the Advocacy Mail is scheduled for June 2008. So by 31 May 2008 your contributions for this circular must have reached us. Thank you very much in advance!

Please receive kind greetings from Duisburg.

The editorial team of KNH Advocacy Mail

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I. Advocacy News Kindernothilfe

1. HIV/Aids Collection of signatures

Because of the G8 summit in Germany and the German EU Presidency—and with HIV/Aids being our theme of the year—Kindernothilfe has focused this year on a campaign by the network Action against AIDS Germany. The collection of signatures under the motto of 'Health does not come automatically' aimed at improving HIV prevention. Action was directed towards Germany's Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel, Russia's President Vladimir Putin and the special guest of G8+5, South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki.

All in all, more than 80,000 signatures were collected. Kindernothilfe managed to collect a third of them, that is 28,000 signatures. Unfortunately in Russia and South Africa there were no broad public awareness campaigns.

Under the Bremen Declaration of March 2007 the German Federal government has undertaken to contribute more funds for HIV/Aids prevention at national level, but also to upscale its support for the international fight against HIV/Aids. At the G8 meeting the promises were still unbinding and no schedule was established. Thanks to the Global Fund Replenishment Conference in Berlin in September 2007 at least the Federal Republic of Germany has agreed to multiply the contribution in comparison to former times. Instead of 200 million euros, 600 million euros will be made available to the Global Fund for its work in 2008-2010. In addition, through the debt conversion initiative Debt2Health, another 200 million euros will be granted to four countries (Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan and Peru) to promote investments in national health systems including a certain proportion for the fight against HIV/Aids. This increase is a major achievement of the 2007 lobbying efforts. However, the attempts to commit the German Federal government to the aims of the 2006 UN AIDS summit in New York remained futile. Among other things, this would have meant to grant high-prevalence countries a financial proportion of 10-15 per cent for Aids-affected families, Aids orphans and children at risk.

The 9.7 billion US dollars provided through the Global Fund Replenishment Conference mark a new record but, to obtain a lasting decline of infections, an estimated 15-18 billion US dollars would have been needed.

2. HIV/Aids Concept

Currently Kindernothilfe is working on an action framework for anti-HIV/Aids work. Apart from drawing up guidelines for the work in projects, this also means to agree on future priorities for the work. Of course, Kindernothilfe's partners are supposed to be involved to ensure that our HIV/Aids work is realistic and oriented in their needs. Therefore we ask especially interested partners to take part in this process and to let us know their concepts, wishes and challenges. In the near future regional partner workshops might be staged on HIV/Aids. To start with, you are kindly requested to send an e-mail to frank.mischo@knh.de to

find out who would be interested in cooperating in an exchange forum (mainly to further develop existing concepts).

3. New Kindernothilfe Study about HIV/Aids

'On our way. How communities can work for children affected by HIV/AIDS. A case study from Uganda'

Kindernothilfe's new study shows how important it is to give people the opportunity to solve their problems at local levels. In April 2007 the authors Beate Scherrer and Kerstin Schmidt visited two community development projects of the Kindernothilfe partner African Evangelistic Enterprise Uganda (AEE). On site, the two authors could convince themselves that after only two to three years the projects have brought about many positive changes in the villages. This approach successfully contributes to reducing poverty in rural areas. So the newly founded self-help groups assist HIV/Aids-affected families to satisfy their basic needs. They benefit from an easy-to-manage savings and loan systems and from income-generating activities by which they improve their living conditions. The projects support needy children ensuring that they go to school and encourage parents to advocate for their children's school education. AEE promotes a greater participation of youths and makes adults change their attitudes towards children. The study also lists the challenges that the projects still face and develops recommendations. These comprise the need for more intensive psychosocial care and the strengthening of women's positions in their families as well as AEE's endeavours to include child rights topics in the range of poverty policies.

A pdf version of the study can be downloaded under <http://en.kindernothilfe.org/en/Rubrik/Toolbox.html>
You can also order it from Frank.Mischo@knh.de or per fax +49 203 7789 118.

4. Climate Alliance

Kindernothilfe - Member of the Climate Alliance

In its lobbying efforts Kindernothilfe campaigns for sustainable climate policies. In the summer of 2007 Kindernothilfe joined the Climate Alliance. This is an alliance of more than 80 German non-governmental organisations and churches. One of their central demands: Climate and energy policies must become part and parcel of development policies. This is the only way to reduce poverty, reach the millennium development goals and stabilise our climate. The English version of the Climate Alliance's position paper 'Save the Climate Now! Call to Action by the German Climate Alliance' can be ordered from petra.stephan@knh.de as a text file.

The Climate Alliance participated in the Global Day of Climate Action on 8 December with demonstrations in Berlin and Düsseldorf.

5. 2007 Stand-up

Again Kindernothilfe participated in the Global Day of Action against Poverty on 17 October. This year's campaign was staged under the theme 'Stand up & Speak out'. 100 staff members of the Kindernothilfe office stood up against poverty and had photographs and films taken. With 43.7 million people taking action in 6.540 events in 128 countries all over the world, last year's record was broken, ensuring a new entry in the Guinness Book of Records. This year the action was organised jointly by the UN Millennium Campaign and the Global Call to Action Against Poverty. The new record number of participants shows that the movement is getting bigger and bigger and its message can no longer be ignored. Participation in some countries of the Southern hemisphere was overwhelming. In Bangladesh around 850,000 people stood up. Activists in Pakistan mobilised a total of 3.5 million people.

(<http://www.standagainstopoverty.org>).

Kindernothilfe's partner organisations have also contributed to the success of the action through events of their own. Partners from Pakistan and Guatemala have informed us about their activities. If other partner organisations participated in the 'Stand up & Speak out' and maybe even took some photos of the event, it would be interesting for us to know about it. We would be pleased to inform about your activities on the internet. (Contact: petra.stephan@knh.de)

6. German Shadow Report Child Soldiers

119 countries (as per October 2007) have ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts, entered into force on 12 February 2002. Germany has done so on 13 December 2004. In late 2006 the German Federal government submitted the first country report about the implementation to the Geneva-based UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. From Kindernothilfe's point of view this report has a number of shortcomings and gaps. Therefore, together with terre des hommes Germany, we have made up our minds to present the UN Committee a Shadow Report. Dr Hendrik Cremer, a legal scholar, has assisted us in its preparation. The treatment of former child soldiers who have fled from their home countries, is a topic that the German country report leaves completely unmentioned. The entire report (English version) is available on our website in pdf format under <http://en.kindernothilfe.org/en/Rubrik/Toolbox.html>

On 9 October 2007 Kindernothilfe and terre des hommes presented the Shadow Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The report was highly commended by the committee. Following this hearing, questions in writing have been sent to the Federal government which must be answered by 23 November 2007.

A positive result of our lobbying is a hearing of a German government delegation on 18 January 2008 in Geneva. Then the question will have to be answered why Germany did not support a 'straight-18' position upon ratifying the protocol.

Together with the German Institute for Human Rights, Kindernothilfe and terre des hommes organised a technical discussion on 30 October 2007 with several representatives of German ministries, where different viewpoints about the shortfalls and gaps of the country report were exchanged. The responsible Ministry of Justice admitted that the NGOs should have been involved in the reporting process.

Now we are interested to hear what Concluding Observations the UN Committee will formulate next year.

7. New EU Guidelines on Child Rights

Kindernothilfe participated in the development of a new EU Guideline on Child Rights which is supposed to be adopted before the end of this year.

EU Guidelines on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child are intended

- to reaffirm the EU's commitment to the full realisation of all child rights, as enshrined in relevant international instruments, most importantly the CRC and its Optional Protocols;
- to allow for an integrated approach in child rights in the EU's external human rights policy, in line with the one provided for by the 2003 EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict which will continue to guide EU action in that specific area;
- to contribute to further mainstreaming human rights into all EU's external policies as well as to facilitate coherence and consistency with the EU's internal policies on the rights of the child;
- to provide the EU with an additional tool to be used in political contacts with Third Countries and in international fora to protect and promote the rights of the child.

The EU will define Priority Areas for which action will be specified in detail in an Implementation Strategy to be determined later. The first Priority Area will be 'All Forms of Violence against Children'.

8. World Day of Prevention of Abuse and Violence against Children - 19 November

As a member organisation of ECPAT Germany, a national group for the protection of children against sexual exploitation, we have been supporting the world-wide initiative to mark 19 November the 'World Day of Prevention of Abuse and Violence against Children' and launch campaigns with regard to the subject on this day.

This year, in cooperation with ECPAT and the Aktion Weißes Friedensband [White-Ribbons-for-Peace Group] we staged an activity on Düsseldorf's international airport. Youths from several cities of North-Rhine/Westphalia made an appeal to the public not to look away, but to take action. With red cloths they designed a large stop sign as a warning to travellers to keep eyes and ears open and protect the children! They wanted to show that they were not indifferent to these children's fate.

The activity was also supported by the Ministry of Generations, Family, Women and Integration of the State of North-Rhine/Westphalia. State Secretary Dr Marion Gierden-Jülich stressed: 'On this "Day against Child Prostitution" we want to set a sign. People who travel abroad must be made aware of the

problems related with child prostitution and must be encouraged to denounce possible cases of child prostitution with the authorities abroad.'

9. Duvalier's bank assets: Kindernothilfe Switzerland against disbursement of flight capital

By sending a letter to the Swiss Federal Council, Kindernothilfe Switzerland, together with other NGOs and the Aktion Finanzplatz Schweiz [Action Finance Place Switzerland], called for legal and political action against the disbursement of flight capital to Politically Exposed People (PEP).

Concretely, the organisations requested to keep flight capital frozen to facilitate mutual judicial assistance procedures, to systemise and support mutual judicial assistance procedures and exercise pressure by leaving assets blocked, if offenders are renitent and unwilling to cooperate.

In the past Switzerland has got into trouble again and again: Based on the legal principles, repeatedly, they would have been forced to surrender flight capital to despots or their descendants. Recently, the Federal Council managed to extend the freeze on the assets of the former Haitian dictators, Francois Duvalier and Jean-Claude Duvalier, deposited in Swiss accounts, for another three months.

In the opinion of the organisations that wrote the letter, this does not solve the problem. If no further political and legislative steps are taken, the reputation of Switzerland will be damaged: because of the danger that Switzerland will again be considered as a safe haven for flight capital.

II. News from the countries

10. Asia

India

Advocacy for CSEFs

Navjeevan Centre, Kamathipura project chose 8 March to kickstart its work of creating awareness and promoting advocacy in policy change. The need to initiate this programme arose from the fact that the extent of HIV prevalence among Commercially, Sexually, Exploited Females (CSEFs) is unknown. Also, there is an absence of proper care and availability of facilities. Therefore the focus of Navjeevan in the coming months will be to develop a database of HIV+ girls and women in the red light area of Kamathipura and to develop network of like-minded NGOs to create awareness among CSE girls and women and the general public. A workshop was held on 'The right to live and die with dignity' and the 'Rights of HIV+ CSEFs'. The objective of the workshop was to understand the different approaches adopted to deal with CSEFs to discuss strategies to motivate and educate brothel owners and to form a core group of NGOs to evolve further strategies on the issue. A total of 45 participants representing 13 NGOs and 5 CSEFs attended the workshop. A core group has been formed.

(newsletter, Utkarsh, issue 3, June 07, www.holisticchild.org)

Advocacy for Peace and Democracy

People's Forum for Democracy, Peace and Development.

Visthar is in the process of expanding our work to other parts of North Karnataka with a focus on actions for peace and democracy. Visthar will focus on issues of migration and migrant labor, child labour and *the devadasi system*. Interventions will be in the areas of constructive development activities, advocacy and campaigns, and research and development. This will be carried out by a people's forum of NGOs, academics, journalists and other progressive forces committed to the issues of democracy, peace and development with Visthar playing the role of the Secretariat.

For more information: <http://www.visthar.org/advocacy.htm>

11. Latin America

Brazil

Every month the 'SECO Regional Newsletter' is published which informs briefly about the work of supported projects and the regional office of KNH Brazil SECO. New and interesting approaches and achievements from the daily work with children and adolescents are presented, in particular initiatives of children and adolescents themselves which can serve as good practice. In addition, child right topics are treated and significant seminars and training courses are presented. All in all, an excellent platform that promotes exchange. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter (in Portuguese) , please turn to:

Andrea.Fehr@knh.de

Guatemala

Participation of KNH Guatemala in the 'Network for the Prevention of Maltreatment and Sexual Abuse of Children and Adolescents'

Since April 2007 KNH-Guatemala has been a member of the 'Network for the Prevention of Maltreatment and Sexual Abuse of Children and Adolescents'. The network forms alliances and takes action to prevent and eliminate maltreatment and sexual abuse of children and adolescents; it aims at raising awareness among Guatemala's society, promotion of political awareness and empowerment of relevant protagonists with regard to cases of maltreatment and sexual abuse. Moreover, the network is engaged in monitoring the commitments made by the State of Guatemala with the aim of preventing maltreatment and sexual abuse of children and adolescents.

First Congress against Maltreatment and Sexual Abuse of Children and Adolescents

On 28-31 May the network staged the 'First Congress against the Maltreatment and Sexual Abuse of Children and Adolescents' in Guatemala. The purpose of the congress was to disseminate information about the problem, to identify progress and limits with regard to the implementation of the commitments made by the government and to present new viewpoints through several lectures and workshops where

the participants could interact and learn about new approaches to tackle the problem. The Coordinator of KNH Guatemala was a member of the Organising Committee and acted as the moderator of the workshop 'International Cooperation and Support of Activities against Maltreatment and Sexual Abuse of Children and Adolescents'. Six national partners of KNH Guatemala participated actively in the congress and will be able better to promote the topic in all areas of their work.

Bolivia

Enshrinement of Child Rights in the Bolivian Constitution

A year ago the Constitutional Assembly was convened in Bolivia for the purpose of reforming the Bolivian constitution. Political, economic and social sectors as well as the civil society were called to submit suggestions. The Fundación La Paz, organisation responsible of several projects that Kindernothilfe supports in Bolivia, and DNI, a local child right organisation, want to enshrine child rights in the Bolivian constitution. Through special campaigns, public awareness shall be raised, among other things, by publishing an advertisement in the national newspaper 'La Razón'. These efforts will be accompanied by lobbying and advocacy to endorse the call for enshrining child rights in the constitution.

12. Africa

Kenya

Conference about the Introduction of an Individual Complaints Procedure for the UNCRC

On 31 July 2007, The CRADLE together with all the other members of the ICP Working Group organised a National Conference on 'The Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Right of the Child with an Individual Complaints Procedure' at the Sarova Panafric Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya.

The National Conference helped participants to understand the necessity for an Individual Complaints/Communications Procedure for the UNCRC and its effects on the children in Kenya, to understand the process of lobbying for an International Human Rights Instrument, to discuss possible strategies for lobbying for an Optional Protocol to the UNCRC with an Individual Complaints Procedure at various levels, to develop a Plan of Action towards such a campaign and discuss the Draft Optional Protocol.

The conference was officially opened by Honourable Martha Karua, the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs. In her speech, she acknowledged the gap in the UNCRC and expressed support for this initiative. She stated the government's commitment to promote and protect the rights of children by focusing to provide affordable, speedy, relevant and effective access to justice in justice systems.

Participants underpinned the need for an Individual Complaints procedure under the UNCRC as a key mechanism for monitoring states compliance with international treaty obligations and further as a boon for victims of human rights violations. The background discussion was laid by key presentations on, 'A Case for an Optional Protocol for individual complaints' by Ms Catherine Mumma followed by Mr Wanjau Muriu

with a paper on the 'The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.' The discussions were further informed by a comparative analysis of best practices under other international human right instruments notably CAT, CEDAW, ICERD and ICCPR. Thus the need for this complaints procedure could not be overemphasised if the rights of the child, as enshrined under the UNCRC, were to be accorded equal measure.

Participants considered a Draft Optional Protocol to the UNCRC with an Individual Complaints Procedure and highlighted the following key elements for an effective instrument (1) the inclusion of the non-reservation clause, (2) both individuals and non-governmental organisations to have access to this procedure and (3) statutory representation for all individuals under the age of eighteen (18) years.

In conclusion the Conference mandated The Working Group to co-opt members at its discretion while The CRADLE was given a go ahead to continue co-ordinating the process under the overall direction of the Working Group. The Working Group was tasked to develop clear terms of reference (ToRs) that include a lobbying strategy, creating awareness of and popularising the process and co-ordinating the entire process.

For more information contact info@thecradle.or.ke and see

<http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=14351&flag=news>

Regional Newsletter CRES@RN

The Legal Aid Research and Policy Foundation (LRPF) is a non-governmental organisation focusing on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. The LRPF was founded to respond to the need to develop systematic documentation and dissemination of child rights & development information in the East and Southern Africa region, leading to the creation of a central point of information on child rights issues. This is in addition to pro bono legal aid to children in conflict with the law, advocacy and research to influence the establishment of institutions and enactment of laws that support a child friendly justice system.

Read Newsletter: <http://www.lrpf.org>

III. Call to sign a petition for a Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children – 1,076 organisations have signed up to now

AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR ACTION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN:

Establish a Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children

Call for Action in Español – Français – Arabic – Russian

Why we need an SRSG: English – Français – Español– Arabic

Violence is a daily reality for millions of children around the world, affecting girls and boys of all ages, all social contexts and all nationalities. In every part of their lives – their homes and families, schools, institutions, workplaces and communities – children may be beaten, sexually assaulted, tortured and even killed. The perpetrators of this violence are often the very individuals who are responsible for protecting

children – their parents, guardians, teachers, employers, the police and security forces. Violence is a global epidemic of scandalous proportions, violating every child's right to a safe and healthy environment.

The UN Secretary-General's 2006 Study on Violence against Children exposes the shocking scope of violence against children and documents its devastating effects on children, their families, their communities and broader society. The Study clearly establishes the urgent need for immediate action to prevent and respond to violence against children in all of its forms.

We, as local, national, regional and international non-governmental organisations from every part of the world, call on each UN member state to fully implement the Study's important recommendations.

Having carefully considered alternative ways of ensuring global leadership on this issue, we also call on member states to act at the 2007 UN General Assembly to establish a Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to work with the UN system, member states, NGOs, children and youth as a high-level and high-profile advocate to ensure concrete action to end violence against children in all parts of the world.

Organisations are invited to sign up to the statement below (www.crin.org) or by emailing on: info@crin.org or barbagliac@gmail.com

Part of the NGO-advisory body for the regions East and Southern Africa: Gilbert O. Onyango, The Cradle, Children's Foundation, Kenya, a partner of Kindernothilfe.
(<http://www.crin.org/violence/adccouncil/index.asp>)

IV. Other Information and Links

Mobilisation week and global day of action of the World Social Forum in January 2008: Another World is Possible

From 21-26 January 2008 the World Social Forum will launch a mobilisation week. The next meeting of the World Social Forum will not be before 2009 in Brazil. There are manifold ways to participate in the week and the final day of action. For information please refer to:

www.wsf2008.net/WSF2008-getinvolved_en.html

Research tool for children's rights advocates

On 11 June 2007 the United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour launched the 'Legislative History on the Convention on the Rights of the Child'. It is the first comprehensive record of the drafting of the Convention: 'The Convention has not only given greater legitimacy to our work on the rights of the child, it has also provided us with a valuable tool to ensure the practical application of these

rights. Putting the Convention into practice is ultimately a State obligation, but NGOs have a crucial role to play in persuading individual government that the rights of the child are a priority and that public funds should be allocated to them accordingly'.

The two-part publication is available online:

www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/history_crc1.pdf and

www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/history_crc2.pdf