

Article from The teachers' voice 2004

Title: Plan International and IDF hand out 520 late Birth Certificates

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Plan International and I.D.F. Hand over 520 late Birth Certificates in Mbengwi and Bamukumbit

The exercise took the IDF/Plan International team through some 15 Villages in Mbengwi Central and Bamukumbit.

According to IDF's Mme Oussematou Dameni Therese, the phenomenon of unregistered children first raised its head in their dealings with single adolescent mothers. It was discovered that only two out of ten such mothers had civil status registration papers. Plan was also facing similar problem with the children they sponsor. On the field 1400 cases were identified in primary schools around Mbengwi and Bamukumbit alone.

According to PLAN/UNICEF/UNFPA Statistics, 70% of African children are unrecorded with the Civil Status Registry. Mme Oussematou Dameni revealed that this phenomenon can and is causing untold problems to these children. Many of them have their education slowed down for want of B.Cs to register the F.S.L.C. and other exams, others may be simply deprived of their because of their inability to prove their kinship, child labour, child trafficking, early marriages etc. are other terrible consequences of non registration of births.

Parents and children were visibly happy and expressed rapturously their happiness. Asked why he had not made a birth certificate for his children, Mr. Fogi Abel Tembi of Njenkwo village said he did not know the procedure and thought his children were still too young to have a birth certificate.

Investigations on the field showed that some teachers and head masters are in part responsible for this phenomenon. Some advise parents to wait until their children reach class seven before establishing birth certificates for them. In the process they take advantage of this sad because of their inability to prove their kinship, child labour, child trafficking, early marriages etc. are other terrible consequences of non registration of births.

It may look simple and lousy but it is a very serious situation for selfish reasons, and become brokers in the establishment of these documents.

and citizen responsibility to declare their new born babies and put in place a community alert and detection system to eradicate the phenomenon of non registration of births.

There is an obvious crucial role here for teachers to play especially in remote communities in sensitizing and educating them on the vital need to register children at birth in their own interest and that of their children.

TASSANG W.F.



Fulani pupils with the precious document

Bamenda Programme Area Manager, Mr Tah Massa Shadrack, birth certificates were established in Mbengwi and Bamukumbit using action research approach aimed at empowering the concerned communities to assume their natural and citizen responsibility to declare their new born babies and put in place a community alert and detection system to eradicate the phenomenon of non registration of births.

Eradicate the phenomenon of non registration of births action research approach aimed at empowering the concerned communities to assume their natural

CATTU'S 2004/2005 PLAN OF ACTION

- Seminar on child labour and school drop-out.
- Lobby for a Higher Technical Teachers Training College for anglophones.
- Intensification of the fight against HIV AIDS in the school milieu.
- Implementation of Porto Allegre agenda.