



Bureau Régional de l'Education en Afrique



LIVING VALUES
E D U C A T I O N

STRATEGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMPLEMENTING VALUES-BASED EDUCATION IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

A MEETING OF PRINCIPAL ACTORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY EDUCATION IN AFRICA

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Geneva, 11 October 2004

Summary report

UNESCO-BREDA (Regional Office for Education in Africa) and Living Values Education (LVE) hosted a meeting of key actors in the development of quality education in Africa, at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva on 11 October 2004.

The aim of this meeting was to bring together current partners and other interested individuals and representatives of organizations to discuss how best to support the joint UNESCO/LVE strategy to implement values-based education in West and Central Africa, the target groups being street children, early childhood and primary school children.

The Living Values Education Programme aims to rekindle and keep alive the rich heritage of positive values that already exists within the individual and in every culture and to increase the awareness of educators as role models. Educators are encouraged to include values in every area of the curriculum and in extra-curricular activities, and to adapt Living Values materials and activities to ensure relevance to different situations and environments.

LVE operates in 75 countries and brings together a number of national associations under one um-

rella organisation called ALIVE (Association for Living Values Education International).

Christopher Drake, president of ALIVE, opened the meeting with a brief presentation of Living Values Education and its close collaboration with UNESCO, specifically its partnership with the Regional Office for Education in Africa, in Dakar.



Mme. Rokhaya Fall Diawara in charge of the Department of Early Childhood and Children in Difficult Situations at UNESCO-BREDA, outlined the current collaboration of UNESCO with LVE in West Africa with its focus on street children and early childhood education, and rela-

ted particular situations such as the "Talibé" children in Senegal, the "Madame Carton" children in Niger, the "Portefaix" in Nigeria and the "Parking Boys" in Kenya.

Mme. Diawara then presented the regional strategy for a values-based educational programme in sub-Saharan Africa, stipulating that the role of UNESCO would be to offer technical cooperation to the LVE programme, and to enlist the support of other partners.

LVE is a key tool for transforming many of the problems in Africa, because of its emphasis on

enhancing positive influences on children's development and on the commitment and involvement of the community.

In response to the remarks of **Magueye Thiam**, president of MIGRAF, and **Venant Wege Nzomwita**, international consultant at the African Union, concerning the role of values and traditional social practices, Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International

Association of Change, emphasized that quality education – especially for young girls – is a priority for development in Africa, along with access to food, medical care and shelter, in keeping with the aims of the Millennium

Development Goals set by the 191 member states of the United Nations.

Helen Sayers, president of the Swiss Association for Living Values, thanked the participants, and the hosts, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, for putting at our disposal this magnificent venue on the banks of Lake Geneva.

Benoît Duché LVE representative at UNESCO in Paris, spoke of the proposal for a UNESCO-University Network Chair, which would encourage thorough research into the connections between a values-based education and behaviour transformation and also improvement in academic results.

During the second part of the meeting, the participants spoke of the urgent problems in their areas and described how they envisaged a dynamic partnership between various actors in developing this



type of quality education in Africa.

In Burundi, for example, values-based education would be necessary in order to help street children, who represent a very real social problem, by the re-integration of traditional values, which used to exist in society.

In Cameroon, solidarity between all members of society is called upon to face this problem. Poverty was described as the major enemy of a country's traditional values.

In the days following this meeting, UNESCO-BREDA and LVE laid the foundations for a two-year strategic plan for West and Central Africa. A programme of

training workshops will be developed covering four main regions:

- The countries of the Great Lakes Region, which include Burundi, Rwanda and Congo DRC, will meet in Burundi.
- The French-speaking countries of West Africa, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo, as well as Chad, will meet in Burkina Faso (with Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau to be added in 2006).
- The English-speaking countries of West Africa, including Ghana, Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, will meet in Ghana.
- The French-speaking countries of Central Africa, including Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo (Brazzaville), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, will meet in Cameroon.

Living Values Education Programme is coordinated by the Association for Living Values Education International, a non-profit association of educators from around the world. It is supported by UNESCO, sponsored by a wide variety of organizations, institutions and individuals, and being implemented in all continents of the world. LVEP is part of the global movement for a culture of peace in the framework of the United Nations Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World

Through its training workshops for educators Living Values Education aims to provide educators with methods and resources to include values in all areas of the curriculum; and to enable educators to create values-based learning environments in which children feel respected, valued, understood, loved and safe. Children are encouraged to explore, experience, express and develop their inherent qualities (such as self-esteem, respect for others, responsibility and cooperation), to think critically about values, and to make positive personal and social choices that will help them to integrate themselves into the community with dignity, confidence and purpose.

PARTICIPANTS



Mme. Rokbaya Diawara, in charge of the Department of Early Childhood and Children in Difficult Situations at UNESCO-BREDA (Regional office for Education in Africa), Dakar, Senegal.

Mr. Chris Drake, President, ALIVE (Association for Living Values Education International)

Ms. Helen Sayers, President, SALV (Swiss Association for Living Values / Association Suisse Vivre ses Valeurs)

M. Luca Campana, Treasurer, SALV

Ms. Patricia Cachat, Secretary, SALV

M. Benoît Duché, LVE (Living Values Education) representative at UNESCO, Paris

M. Jean-Damascène Gasanabo, LVE Co-ordinator for Rwanda

Mr. Arnaud Martin (representing Mr. Giovanni Rossi), lawyer for ALIVE

Ambassador M. Zacharie Gabutu, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Burundi at the UN, Geneva

Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the international Association Initiatives of Change

Ms. Yosbie Ichinobe, International Labour Organisation (representing **Dr. Dominique Peccoud**, special advisor for external relations and partnerships)

Mme Sandra Coulibaly Leroy, Assistant Permanent Representative of the International Organisation of French-speaking Countries (l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie)

M. Venant Wege Nzomwita, International Consultant, African Union

Mr. Patrick Reichenmiller, World Bank (representing Mr. **Joseph Ingram**, Special Representative of the World Bank at the UN and the World Trade Organisation)

Princess Micheline Makou Djouma, President and International Co-ordinator of Ocaproce International (working for children in difficult situations in Africa) – already in partnership with LVE

Ms. Barbara Canals and Ms. Rachel Tulchin, Femmes Afrique Solidarité (representing **Mme Bineta Diop**, Director)

Mme Myrna Lachenal, World Federation of Mental Health

Mme Massan Micciarelli and Mme. Babae Wibon Afi, International Centre for l'Aide au Développement

Mme. France Manghardt (representing **Professor Ricardo Lucchini**), Collaboratrice scientifique of the University of Fribourg, Department of Social Sciences,

Sociology Seminar

M. Magueye Thiam, l'association de la migration africaine (MIGRAF)

Mme Katrien Beekman, UNESCO-BREDA, Education sector, Ph.D on right to education

M. Ousmane Gueye, student at IUED (l'Institut Universitaire d'Etudes du Développement)

Ms. Katia Halil, observer

Apologies received from:

Ambassador Mme Valentine Rugwabiza, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda at the UN, Geneva

Mme Colette Samoya, Director, BANGWE Project (women's organization working in the Great Lakes Region), already in partnership with LVE

Mme. Elisabeth Esaki, Secretary-General, International Action for Peace and Development in the Great Lakes Region

M. François Audigier, Professor, Didactiques des sciences sociales, University of Geneva, Department of Educational Sciences

