

# FDC UPDATE REPORT

On

## REGIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

Maputo, March 2004

Elaborated by: Margarida Guitunga  
Coordinator

Project Name: Southern Africa-Anti-Child Abuse Campaign  
Project code: Regional-Child Abuse Campaign  
Project holder: FDC- Community Development Foundation

*Information on Project Holder*

Name: FDC- Community Development Foundation  
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The holder organization of this project is the Community development Foundation (FDC). It is a private non-profit making grant-making foundation that aims at building partnerships for strengthening the capacities of disadvantaged communities with the view of overcoming poverty and promoting social justice in Mozambique.

FDC supports projects all over the country but gives priority to those provinces, which by historical reasons are less developed. By consequence, when focusing on such provinces it will observe the very same criteria to select districts that will benefit from development initiatives.

The Foundation for Community Development (FDC) is partner to “Terre des Homes”, Germany and serves, as coordinating organization to manage the flood relief assistance in Mozambique and it is also the host of the Regional Campaign against Child Abuse.

From June 16th to date FDC is also coordinating the NGOs initiatives and the national campaign advocacy process for changes and/or promotions of policies and programmes for child protection. Another main activity is also related to the actual Mozambican process of legal reform on child protection with government, UNICEF, in the context of the campaign.

FDC has developed the regional campaign strategy in coordination with the Regional Core Group and in coordination with Terre des Hommes ICaCT Regional Coordinator is also involved in the fund-raising process for the implementation of regional and national campaign activities.

FDC chairperson, Mrs. Garcia Machel, was selected by the regional core group comprising tdh partners as the Co-patron of the regional campaign against child abuse. Mrs. Machel is personally involved in the coordination activities of what she calls a “process” of combating the abuse of children, because in her point of view, the issue is very critical and the Campaign is not enough to make real difference.

Project Type: Co-financing

Target Groups: Stakeholders, communities, parliamentarians

Project Concerns:

Total Budget: 88,773.00 Euros                      Budget in 2004: 35,248.50  
1.0. Project progress

*1.1. General Objective*

Coordinate and guarantee the networking activities among TdH partners and the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action.

## 1.2. Primary Objectives

### Objective 1

Disseminate campaign activities at regional and national level and report to national campaigns crucial information for the campaign plan of action implementation.

#### Tangible Results

- Installed, developed an in process the update of website on the Regional Campaign against Child Trafficking and Sexual Abuse
- Designed and printed a calendar with campaign purposes,
- In process the Design of a poster in the place of a calendar for 2004-
- Strengthen relations with media (at least in Mozambique, Zambia and South Africa)
- Media campaign in process in country members (Mozambique)
- Radio and television debates
- Press release against child sexual abuse, child trafficking in Mozambique
- Press Conference by Patroness against child trafficking for organ extraction in Mozambique
- Printed t-shirts on campaign issues

#### Indicators

- Web page on Regional campaign at Regional coordination office (FDC)
- 1500 Copies of calendars with African Chart for child protection for year 2003;
- Copies of newspapers with campaign activities
- CD on TV interviews by Portuguese African Channel
- Copies of two press release
- CD on Mrs Machel press conference
- 100 t-shirts on campaign issues

### Objective 2

Coordinate the process of advocacy at regional level for adequate legislation, law enforcement and its effective implementation, national plan of action and multi-sectoral programs design, as well as the establishment of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, agreements and protocols at national and regional level.

#### Tangible Results

- Involved prominent personalities (Graça Machel and Desmond Tutu) in the campaign;
- Ratified protocol 182 of the ILO from Mozambique
- Enforced law against sexual offences in South Africa and Zimbabwe;
- Drafted reports on current legislation for children in South Africa and Mozambique;
- Discussed issues on trafficking of human beings in sectoral regional (SADC) meetings
- Realized a regional meeting on Trafficking by SADC Ministries of Migration;
- Introduced and formalized department of children and women in the Mozambican Ministry of internal affairs;
- African head of states lobbied for the inclusion of child issues on African union agendas
- Established a Commission of Experts on Rights and welfare of child during the African Union Summit
- Launched OIM report on Trafficking in Southern Africa in coordination with campaign members;
- Launched process of Legal reform in Mozambique and South Africa;
- Amendment of sexual offences act stiffening penalties for perpetrators in South Africa and Zimbabwe;
- Participation of the campaign members in the regional program of training of humanitarian workers on prevention against beneficiaries sexual abuse;
- Participation of the campaign members organizations in the birth drive registration in Mozambique;

Launched studies on trafficking in Zambia, South Africa and Zimbabwe;  
Victim social and legal assistance in the border of South Africa and Mozambique;  
Trained 200 youth from 14 Southern Africa Countries in cooperation with ECPAT  
Involved more than 30 organizations in campaign themes.  
Drafted the POA for child protection in Mozambique  
Created a Department for children and women victim of violence in the Mozambican Ministry of Internal Affairs

#### Indicators

- African Civil society Declaration
- Reports on current legislation of child protection in Mozambique and South Africa;
- Draft of National plan of action for child protection in Mozambique;
- Southern Africa Migration on cross border trafficking of human bees;
- Projects implementation on child protection in country members;
- Copies of reports on trafficking studies held in Zambia and South Africa
- IOM report
- FDC/UNICEF/WFP contracts
- FDC/tdh contracts

#### Objective 3

- Advocate for rehabilitation and social reintegration of the victims.

#### Tangible Results

- Installed 2 units for the victims attendance at police post in Namahacha and Ressano Garcia (border of Mozambique with South Africa)
- Reinforced one unit for victims of trafficking with tdh support at Malelane centre in South Africa
- Allocated a shelter house for victim of child prostitution and mobilized resources for its rehabilitation in Maputo by FDC
- Created shelter house for victims of child prostitution in Zambia by Mapode
- South African Law Reform Commission considering questions about the type of services and care should be provided to the victims of trafficking who are minors

#### Indicators

Two units for victims of trafficking attendance in South Africa/Mozambican border  
Two shelter house for victim of child prostitution in Mozambique and Zambia  
Report on trafficking of human bees from SALRC

#### Objective 4

Promote fund raising initiatives for the regional coordination activities  
And for the implementation of the regional plan of activities

#### Tangible Results

- Mobilized resources for the implementation of the national program for training of humanitarian workers on the prevention against child and women sexual abuse in Mozambique.
- Funds secured for the implementation of the Coordinating Office activities during three years

#### Indicators

Agreement between the campaigners' organizations and donors for financial support  
Implementation of the projects on campaign context  
FDC financial comparticipation on sexual abuse study in Mozambican schools

## Objective 5

Implementation of coordination activities.

To carry out monitoring visits.

To hold regional workshops

Participate in workshops and campaign activities.

Report national and regional campaign activities

Contribute for office rental expenses

Purchase of missing office equipment

Administrative costs

## Tangible Results

Process and campaign activities verified and reported from the field for the annual report

Discussed issues related to the campaign among the regional core group Members

Reinforced technical capacity of the coordination staff

Reported and disseminated information related to campaign process

Coordination activities in process

## Indicators

Annual reports to the donors and regional core group

3 annual meetings during the three year campaign process

two regional workshops attended by one of the staff members

A report for each visit

FDC supported by working tools

## Objective 5

Expand campaign to other regional non-member countries.

## Tangible Results

More Countries integrated in the campaign.

## Indicators

Integration of more regional countries in the campaign

## Key information on steps for achievements

During the period followed by the campaign launching, various activities were undertaken, chiefly advocacy. Taking the advantage of being the country host, the Campaign managed to influence the government of Mozambique, through the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare, to set up a working group that is charged with drafting the national plan of action on child abuse. The Campaign has been working with the country's Legal Reform Commission towards the revision of the existing legislation on children which is now in process.

Molo Songololo in SA has also played an important role as Law commissioner adviser on child trafficking issues.

In line with efforts to harmonise the approach of the regional national campaigns, partners of tdh – German, by expansion of the Campaign, meet in Harare with partners of the Save the Children alliance to adopt a unified line of coordination and FDC as host of the Regional Campaign in coordination with Law Foundation, will be responsible of facilitating the networking of tdh partners and Save the Children Alliance partners involved in the Regional Campaign.

As a result of this approach, tdh partners in Mozambique formed a national network involving save the children Alliance, the Iris NGO - GOAL, in coordination with UNICEF and Government institutions, while in Zambia Mapode has congregated different national NGO's and government institutions with same proposes.

FDC has also lobbied UNICEF, WFP and Save the Children to play a major role on the implementation of an inter-agency project aimed at preventing sexual exploitation of beneficiaries in the context of the emerging humanitarian crisis in Mozambique, through the training of aid workers involved in relief efforts.

FDC has played the role of facilitator and financial manager of this project what together with the role of the national campaign have constituted a valuable moment to promote concrete activities with communities.

The Coordination has been implementing its strategy in direct consultation with the Patroness, Mrs Graça Machel, and this has been fundamental in charting out the campaign map intended to bring positive results.

The process of fund raising for regional activities uses to be more difficult given the fact that many of institutions based in country members may respond for national and not regional activities. So, means that efforts for fund raise must grow up on each campaign member at national level.

The annual core group meetings among the members of the campaign are important forum for learning and sharing of experiences, which contribute to stimulate a strong involvement on the campaign activities at national level.

It is in this line that now, in the middle of the second year of Campaigning, with involvement of the Campaign Patrons, we have managed to influence the regional governments to bring changes in the existing legislation to fall in line with international tools, and that all governments will effectively have implemented the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and that the phenomenon of child abuse and trafficking has been properly tackled.

The project is being managed by the Coordinating Office of the Regional Campaign against Child Abuse in close consultation with the Foundation for Community Development (FDC), which has employed one coordinator and assistant to guarantee the implementation of the project activities.

Two Annual regional workshops for members of Regional Core group, took place in Maputo, for planning and evaluation of the Campaign, as well for exchange of information and experiences.

This period was more concentrated on dissemination and advocacy activities, thanks to media cooperation and the personal involvement of the Patroness on the campaign main concern. TV and radio debates, press release, interviews in magazines and news papers have helped southern Africa community to understand that sexual abuse and child trafficking in our region is not a taboo any more. Thus the volume of denounces seems to be increasing day by day.

During the African Union Summit, two members of the regional core group (one from Molo Songololo and other from tdh Maputo, have join the coordinator in order to guarantee the inclusion of child trafficking and child sexual abuse in the Declaration of African civil society for the African head of states. It was done successfully.

Contacts for the expansion of the campaign to Malawi and Swaziland are currently taking place, and thanks to the core group member, Save the Children of Sweden partners have been identified in Swaziland, as well other national and International who pretends to be members of the Regional Campaign.

To evaluate the national campaign and strengthen the Regional aspect of the Campaign, the FDC Regional Coordinator has visit up today, three countries, namely, RSA, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

1.1. Some discrepancies recorded

- Weak cooperation between judiciary system with regard to child abuse, especially in Mozambique
- Lack of know-how on sexual abuse and trafficking as one of the major cause of a weak implementation of the law
- Economic inequality and extreme poverty as one of the main obstacle for good practices among the community members;
- Corruption among the police/attorney and magistrates pushing for perpetrators impunity specially in Mozambique;
- Voluntary work being difficult at all levels
- Community demand for protection and primary rehabilitation services is running faster then response from the stakeholders (victim friendship services);
- Harmful practices associated to a superficial level of research and impunity, are pushing for the increasing of organs extraction, especially on children.

## 1.2. Areas of unforeseen Developments and Changes

As the core group has agreed at “Vila Italia 201” meeting, the essence of the Campaign was to dynamite societal awareness on child sexual abuse and trafficking by involving various stakeholders – ranging, for example, from governmental institutions, NGOs, CBO, Private sector, media, academia, donor agencies and religious organizations – what was done successfully.

However, 1 ½ year of experience in the field gave us some lessons like, for example, to confirm that main strategic objectives, beside the law reform and implementation of laws, should focus only on the creation of favourable political environment for establishments of national programs, in order to eradicate children vulnerabilities. The campaign found also as very constructive to start the implementation of the POA both at national and regional level from the creation of capacity in institutions like courts, public ministry, police and education, so that when people decide to bring up abusive traumatic experiences can have support, particularly with regard to counselling, treatment and justice.

This should be extensive to the authorities that also need to have information or training to handle related issues to the police and institutions involved in the administration of the law.

In case of Mozambique, for example, it was clear that the impact of the 16 June 2001 - launching of the campaign - was so high that the demand from communities have yet an adequate response from the stakeholders at various levels: police attendance, counselling services, justice, investigation and social reintegration.

Southern Africa Governments at regional level need to be more sensitized in order to bring up consistent responses to the current problems, especially those related to trafficking of children, child and young girls’ prostitution and services for prevention and victim attendance.

Another main concern, which in our opinion need to be regarded with more attention are those related with the transmission of message to communities rather they are rural or urban. Initially, there was a believing that this process could have a similar weight both in urban and rural areas. However in rural areas there are more taboos that could be encountered when addressing the issues of child sexual abuse and trafficking, being this one of the major challenges for the national campaigns.

In the same way, there are an increasing believing that, on the spirit against child trafficking, more attention should be paid to doctor witch and clinics who absorbs human organs in order to discourage trafficking of children for organs extraction;

The strength of the campaign, apart from involving various societal stakeholders, must strongly relate the problem of child trafficking to issues such as AIDS/HIV, STD, human rights awareness, accountability from the institutions responsible in enforcing the law and the criminalization of the Doctor witch who stimulate child sexual abuse and organs extraction to their clients.

### 1.3. *Assessment*

#### STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES

Involvement of Mrs. Graça Machel and Bishop Desmond Tutu on the campaign process;  
Strong cooperation and liaison with coordinator structures through TdH;  
High sensitivity for the campaign constraints from TdH campaign coordinators;  
The increased demand from communities as a mean of pressing of the decision makers;  
Lack of regional institutions that can facilitate fund raising initiatives for regional activities,  
The initiative to create a database on the problem in Mozambique is a relevant idea that would help the country to make a therapy of the problem, mainly in relation to the type of the cases that are frequent, and also to measure if the issue is improving or worsening.

Lack of regional institutions that can facilitate fund raising initiatives for regional activities.

Weakness and lack of government's response with regard to children.

Trafficking is a new issue for several partners and its understanding is very low;

Low understanding of the phenomenon of trafficking from government officials, police and Ministers Public, especially in Mozambique;

Trafficking of children hidden in cross border and internal migration movement;

Corruption in police departments and tribunal;

Weak cooperation between police, public Ministers and courts, specially in Mozambique;

Economic inequality and extreme poverty as an obstacle for mentality changing among the communities;

Corruption among the polices, attorneys and magistrates, pushing for perpetrators impunity, specially in Mozambique;

Voluntary works being difficult at local Level;

Community demand for protection and primary rehabilitation services is running faster than response from the stakeholders

Harmful practices and superficial level of research and impunity is pushing for the increasing for trafficking of children for organs extraction

Written by: Margarida Guitunga

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