



Service Social International Afrique de l'Ouest
Serviço Social Internacional África Ocidental
International Social Service West Africa

International Social Service - West Africa



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ANNUAL REPORT

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SUMMARY

- 03 | When Africa shows the way...
- 05 | Presentation of ISS-WA
- 07 | 2017 in Figures
- 08 | Management of Identified Cases
- 13 | Social Work Quality Assurance in West Africa
- 14 | Family and Community Support
- 15 | International Social Work
- 16 | Other Important Events in 2017
- 17 | African Funds for the Protection of Children

WHEN AFRICA SHOWS THE WAY...

If we are to remember, a constant feature in the international discourse of 2017 was the incessant and always politically-oriented debate on what the «international community» narrated as «migration crisis». This “crisis” was characterized in particular by the massive rush of young migrants from countries south of the Mediterranean and the Middle East war contexts. Yet we know that people move much more inland than they cross the Mediterranean.

Through its international network that is active in more than 120 countries, the ISS has been able to meet the real needs of thousands of separated and / or unaccompanied families and children. In West Africa, the crystallization of humanitarian passion linked to migration has materialized in an unprecedented rush of the international community, agencies and NGOs at the gates of the Sahel, particularly in Niger. If for some, it is imperative to build the boundaries of an advanced fortress in Africa, for others the important thing is to respond to proven vulnerabilities engendered by human trafficking, exploitation of children, abuse, and also human indifference. The plethora of responses, though necessary, has been largely insufficient to provide a viable alternative to people whose ambition is to find a better life, even if it is elsewhere, far from home.

The West Africa Network for the Protection of Children (WAN) is recognized as the ECOWAS reference mechanism for the protection of children in mobility. A memorandum of understanding was signed in this regard between the ISS and the ECOWAS Commission and an action plan drawn up and included in the monitoring and evaluation framework that the Conference of Ministers validated in October in Niamey. This gives the ISS-WA the responsibility for the technical coordination of this regional mechanism which brings together the 15 countries of the community and Mauritania.

Thus any child / young person in a situation of vulnerability identified in an environment that is not his own can have access to quality care, support and reintegration within the ECOWAS space and in Mauritania. This transnational mechanism that operates on a common and harmonized approach is a unique model in the world of which Africa must be proud.

I wish to seize this opportunity to thank the thousands of people, known or not, recognized in their daily work or not, who are working every day with dedication to provide a better life for children and young people who live outside their families and especially those who live outside their countries.

This report that we share with you is the summary of the different results from our actions for the year 2017. We hope to do more and better in 2018 with the recent opening of our Dakar office.

I wish you a good reading.



Dr. Djibril Fall
Director



Mme Lydia Bance
Presidente

QUALITY IN THE CHAIN OF COOPERATION FOR EACH CHILD

Dear friend (s) ... of children

2017 marked the beginning of a new phase for both ISS-WA and the West African Network which is coordinated by ISS-WA.

The opening of our office in Dakar is a concrete expression of our desire to fully participate in regional debates on the protection of children. This new office offers us new opportunities for collaboration and visibility of our activities. Ouagadougou our birthplace continues to play its role of incubator of our ideas and programs while hosting the management of some projects in partnership with other institutions.

The mandate given to us by ECOWAS to facilitate the coordination of its regional mechanism for the protection of children on the move and young migrants is an honour and is a reflection of the confidence that our States have in the quality of work delivered by us over these years. I have no doubt that WAN will continue to support children, young people, their families, professionals, and governments in the realization of a coherent and coordinated regional system for the benefit of the child.

We will continue to mobilize and build effective and committed partnerships for this purpose. I rely on you all.

Best regards.



PRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE - WEST AFRICA

Who we are

International Social Service - West Africa (ISS-WA) was created in 2012 in Burkina Faso. It is registered in Senegal with the status of an international organization in 2018. Its vocation is in human development through the protection of children and youth, as well as capacity building of families and communities to improve individual self-care and protection. It serves as a technical and knowledge resource to its different partners. Headquartered in Dakar, Senegal, it is staffed by experts from across West Africa in its core business as well as crosscutting topics.

Our Vision

All children in West Africa grow up in a safe and conducive environment where their aspirations are supported and their rights respected.

Our Mission

Holistic protection of children, particularly those who have left their families and their countries for diverse reasons and have fallen into difficult situations through the delivery of quality comprehensive and individualized rights- and needs-based transnational and national social work.

Our value

The ISS-WA is a multidisciplinary team whose principles are solidarity and reciprocity following a quality approach oriented to a positive impact on the rights and life of children whose ambassadors we claim

Our objective

To identify children and youth in vulnerable situation, protect them and support their personal self-development initiatives through the engagement of the West Africa Network, the public, national and regional bodies as well as the private sector.

Our domains of Action

- Transnational mobility of children
- Promotion of international social work in West Africa
- Support for alternative care

Our mainstreamed pillars

- Case management
- Contents development and knowledge acquisition through our observatory on child protection
- Social work human resources development
- Support of family and community initiatives in support of child protection
- African Funds for the protection of children

		CORE BUSINESS		
		Protection of children in transnational mobility	International social work	Alternative Care
MAINSTREAMED ACTIONS	Case Work	→	→	→
	Individual, Family and community empowerment	→	→	→
	Knowledge acquisition through Observatory	→	→	→
	Social Work Human resources development	→	→	→
	Mobilization of resources African Funds for protection of children	→	→	→



OUR TARGET GROUP

Children, particularly those in transnational mobility, who have voluntarily or have been deceived or coerced into leaving their countries of origin and who have in the course of their journey run into difficulties that undermine their physical or psychological well-being either in their destination or in a transit country.

The focus of ISS-WA in this regard is twofold:

- That children in mobility are protected from harm through the strengthening of protective systems along their route
- That those in difficulties are quickly identified and provided with quality care

OUR SERVICES

- Needs and Rights-based protection of children on the move through technical and financial support to the West African Network for the Protection of Children (WAN)
- Training, coaching and capacity building of stakeholders in the field of social work and child protection
- Knowledge sharing through publication of specialized documents in social work and child protection.
- Development of innovative approaches to child protection in West Africa.

PARTNERSHIP

Partnership across board is a foundational principle of the ISS-WA in the pursuit of its core business.

ISS-Switzerland is a long-time principal strategic, operational and financial partner of ISS-WA.

ISS-WA signed a comprehensive collaboration agreement with the ECOWAS Commission in 2017 to jointly deliver protection services to children on the move through strengthening of protection systems of Member States and direct service delivery.

In the domain of protection of children in transnational mobility, all the members of the West African Network (WAN), African Movement of Working Children and Youth (AMWCY) as well as Save the Children are principal operational partners of ISS-WA.

In the field of International Social Work, ISS-WA partners with other International Social Service members around the world in international case management

In the domain of alternative care, ISS-WA partners with the International Social Service's General Secretary's Office (based in Geneva).

The Swiss Development Cooperation and the European Union are the two major financial partners of ISS-WA.



2017 IN FIGURES

West African Network

WAN is a mechanism for the transnational management of cases of vulnerable children on the move in the ECOWAS space and Mauritania. All Member States of the ECOWAS region are represented in the Network by their national coordinations which are composed of civil society organizations, youth movements and government agencies. The Steering Committee which is composed of the ECOWAS Commission, National Directors of Child Protection/Welfare of the fifteen ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania is the highest decision making body of the Network and it meets once a year to make strategic decisions.

Composition of The West Africa Network (WAN) 2017





MANAGEMENT OF IDENTIFIED CASES

Direct service delivery to identified children and youths on the move in difficult situations is carried out by trained staff of the coordinating civil society organizations and public service social workers. Quality assurance as well as compliance with established standard operating procedures by the service providers is undertaken by the staff of ISS-WA.



Abena YAMOAH (from Ghana) is the quality controller and compliance manager for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde, Guinea and The Gambia. Abena is also the Coordinator for International Social Work.



Ibrahim LAWANI (from Benin) is the Community support Manager. He supervises ISS-WA community initiatives in Guinea Bissau and Senegal.



Melanie GNANDI (from Togo) is the quality controller and compliance manager for Mauritania, Mali Burkina Faso, Morocco and Tunisia.



Mamadou SARR (from Senegal) is the quality controller and compliance manager for Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Benin, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Niger



What happened to the children and youth on the move identified by WAN ?



311

Children and youth on the move **identified in their countries**, cared for and protected

1'168

Children and youth on the move **identified in other countries**, cared for and protected

575 GIRLS

904 BOYS



Under what circumstances were these children and youths found?

Sexual abuse without payment	24
In conflict with the law	2
Labour Exploitation including begging	206
Prostitution	27
Physical and psychological maltreatment including negligence	119
Forced Marriage	5
Early Marriage	2
Unaccompanied Minors and stranded young migrant	177
Alleged victim of trafficking	160



Children from Guinea Bissau, who under the pretext of being brought by Coranic Masters to learn the Coran in Senegal were found by WAN Senegal in the streets in appalling conditions begging for alms. WAN Senegal provided the necessary first level of care which included food, clothing and health care. The children were returned in safety to Guinea Bissau, where they were handed over to WAN Guinea Bissau and the authorities for next level of care. All these children are now back into their families and are primary schools in their communities. They are also learning the Coran in their communities.



Senegalese children identified in the Gambia by WAN Gambia and received in Senegal by WAN Senegal being addressed by the Governor of Kaolack Region in Senegal.



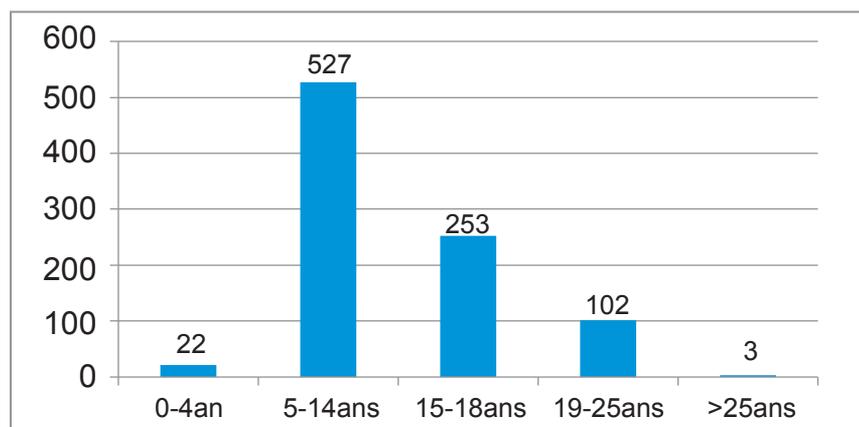
WAN Gambia is supporting these reintegrated children to learn tailoring in the Gambia.



How many children and youth on the move in difficulties did the network identify and provide services for in 2017?

A total of 907 children and youths on the move who were in difficulties were identified and cared for by the network in 2017. Of this number, 4 in 10 were girls, while the rest were boys. The age groups of the children and youths identified are as shown in the graphic below. In addition to this number, 572 children and youth from 2016 were also cared for and protected in 2017.

Age groups of all identified children and youth identified in 2017



Mobility Mapping: Country of Origin and Destination of Identified Children on the Move in Difficulties (2015-2017)

DEPARTURE COUNTRIES	COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION																
	Togo	Sierra Leone	Senegal	Nigeria South	Nigeria North	Niger	Mauritanie	Mali	Liberia	Guinée Conakry	Guinée Bissau	Ghana	Gambie	Cote d'Ivoire	Cap vert	Burkina Faso	Benin
Benin	96	0	0	188	51	11	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	4	0	9	49
Burkina Faso	11	0	6	4	43	60	0	29	0	0	0	2	0	51	0	122	3
Cap vert	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0
Cote d'Ivoire	6	0	0	1	0	4	0	24	0	2	0	4	0	17	0	46	7
Gambie	0	0	32	3	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	32	0	0	0	2	0
Ghana	20	4	1	2	3	2	0	0	18	0	0	16	1	6	0	9	4
Guinée Bissau	0	0	509	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	5	0	0	0	0
Guinée Conakry	0	5	36	0	0	0	5	1	6	29	0	0	2	7	0	0	2
Liberia	1	34	2	0	0	0	3	0	59	3	0	3	4	15	0	1	0
Mali	0	0	8	0	9	5	17	11	2	0	0	0	0	12	0	71	0
Mauritanie	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Niger	4	13	0	0	150	72	0	13	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	12
Nigeria North	0	15	1	0	25	59	0	0	1	0	0	13	0	0	4	1	4
Nigeria South	3	3	4	26	41	32	1	5	5	0	0	5	1	20	3	50	1
Senegal	0	0	80	0	0	2	42	1	0	0	0	0	127	0	0	2	0
Sierra Leone	0	1	1	1	0	0	15	1	55	38	0	3	10	4	0	0	0
Togo	54	0	0	17	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	46	0	18	0	13	67



Back home. These girls from Mali identified in Burkina Faso by WAN Burkina Faso were safely returned to their family in Mali.



Follow-up visit of a reintegrated child in Mampata Forea in Guinea Bissau by WAN Guinea Bissau.



At the Shelter of AMIC, WAN Coordinating NGO in Guinea Bissau.

SOCIAL WORK QUALITY ASSURANCE IN WEST AFRICA

260

persons trained in quality assurance in Case management based on ECOWAS Procedures and Standards

14

training sessions

5 158

Case Management forms submitted by WAN child protection service providers validated by ISS-WA quality control team

9

supervision visits to 9 countries



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

ISS supports vulnerable communities and families in high-departure areas. In 2017, some high departure areas of Senegal and Guinea Bissau benefitted from both collective and individual support.



2 408

men and women benefitted from community child rights awareness sessions

178

families in Guinea Bissau and Senegal are supported in income generating activities (soap making and vegetable gardening) to increase household incomes. A part of the profits from sales is used to support the local schools.



220

vulnerable families benefitted from individual follow-up



INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK

International social work by members of the ISS network entails coordinated links between social services in different countries to conduct social assessments and exchange information in order to resolve complex social issues involving more than one country, particularly as concerning children.

ISS-WA got a mandate in early 2017 to serve as the hub for international social work in West Africa. A total 27 international social cases were referred by 7 countries to ISS-WA in 2017.



International Platforms

FICE

ISS-WA is a member of FICE (International Federation of Educative Communities) as well as its branch in West Africa. The role of ISS-WA in FICE is to represent the philosophy of FICE-International in the region by constituting a reference center for sharing of good practices in support of children and families.

Regional Platforms

GRPE

Active member of the Regional Group for Child Protection (GRPE), ISS-WA participated in the periodic meetings of the Group in 2017. GRPE is a platform for reflection and concerted actions, which brings together major international organizations (ISS-WA, AMWCY, Save the Children, ILO, IOM, Plan, UNICEF, Terre des hommes, Enda, Child Fund, World Vision, etc.) intervening in West Africa, in the field of child protection



OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS IN 2017

ISS-WA and Save the Children (SC) obtained a funding from the European Union in February 2017 to jointly execute a project with the objective to “Promote effective sub-regional governance of migration and migration flows that integrates the protection, social inclusion and rights of children and young migrants between Côte d’Ivoire, Mali and Burkina Faso”

The three-year project, executed with the collaboration of relevant officials of the three countries, will measure the flow of children and young migrants across the borders between Côte d’Ivoire, Mali and Burkina Faso on the one hand and on the other hand provide protection services to those in difficulties.



Official Launching of the joint ISS-WA/SC project on migrant children and youth in June 2017

West Africa Network Steering Committee Meeting

In collaboration with ECOWAS, ISS-WA organized a meeting of the steering committee of the West Africa Network in Niamey in October 2017. At this important strategic meeting, a signage for protection to be deployed across the ECOWAS member states was adopted.



Annual West Africa Network Coordinators Meeting 2017

ISS-WA organized the annual WAN Coordinators’ meeting in Dakar in July 2017. In attendance were official of the ECOWAS, officials of the Government of Senegal, WAN National Coordinators and Government Focal Points from the ECOWAS Member States as well as representatives of youth. The objective of the meeting was to develop a three year strategic plan for the West African Network.

Memorandum of Understanding with ECOWAS

ISS-WA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ECOWAS in June 2017. The memorandum states “that the two contracting parties shall collaborate in relation but not limited to the following bearing gender equality in mind:

- Child protection
- Social Protection
- Migration and Development
- Anti-trafficking measures
- International Collaboration
- Regional Referral Mechanism for the protection and Reintegration of Children on the Move”



AFRICAN FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (FAPE)

The African Fund for the protection of children is an initiative of ISS-WA to source individual, private and institutional funds for a comprehensive protection of the African Child. The Fund is disbursed on a needs-based platform without religious, ethnic, political or any other dividing consideration. The Fund also serves as a hub and service delivery point for disbursement of funds to siblings and relatives for their needs in the following domains addressed by the Fund.

Education

Health

**Vocational
Training**

Protection

**Individual
Enterprise**

Category 1

Contributions received from individual, private and institutional donors are disbursed to pre-identified (by ISS-WA) children and youth in need across West Africa.

Category 2

Individuals remit money to the Fund for direct disbursement to service providers in education, health, vocational training, protection and individual enterprise on behalf of their siblings or relatives across West Africa.



**MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE...
SUPPORT THE AFRICAN CHILD IN...**

Education
Health
Vocational Training
Individual enterprise

Donate to the African Fund for the Protection of Children...

**MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE...
PAY THROUGH THE AFRICAN FUND FOR**

Education
Health
Vocational Training
Individual enterprise

of your siblings cousins nieces and nephews