FK ANPPCAN Exchange of Personnel programme
ANPPCAN Chapters in Africa continue to tap the benefits
In the Sixth Phase of the Exchange of Personnel programme, ANPPCAN comes closer to the Results

Chapters that have received backing of the programme are reportedly fast-tracking child protection programmes with huge success.

Welcome readers to this edition of Childwatch Magazine. This edition is dedicated to the FK-ANPPCAN Exchange programme, currently underway in Africa and which is coordinated by ANPPCAN Regional Office.

The programme, supported by Fredskopset, Norway, has indeed accelerated activities and child protection programmes of ANPPCAN and its Chapters across Africa through mutual learning and sharing of information and good practices.

Besides the Exchange programme, ANPPCAN Regional Office also runs several programmes, both at the national level in Kenya and regional level since it is a continental organization. National programmes include child labour, foster-care and child participation.

Some of the regional programmes include child trafficking, promoting the right of the child to be protected from violence and strengthening child protection systems and now the Exchange programme. ANPPCAN is also mentoring some two budding networks, mainly, the Network of Fredskopset Partners in Kenya (NEPPAK) and End Child Prostitution in Kenya (ECPIK).

ANPPCAN works to enhance, in partnership with others, the prevention and protection of children from all forms of maltreatment, thus, ensuring that the rights of children are realized.

ANPPCAN, through its chapters, aims at enhancing prevention and protection of children against abuse and neglect, promoting the rights of children in Africa and providing preventive and protective services to children.

Some of the strategies used by ANPPCAN include awareness raising and advocacy, networking and alliance building, capacity building, enhancing knowledge through research and direct support to children in need of protection and care.

Currently, ANPPCAN has Chapters in 22 countries in Africa. The capacities of these chapters are at different levels. ANPPCAN, in 2002, embarked on an Exchange programme to strengthen the capacities of existing chapters through exchange of staff among the Chapters as well as the Regional Office. The programme is supported by Fredskorpset (FK), an outfit of the Norwegian Government.

The Exchange has been running for 6 years now, with the First Phase of the programme having kicked off in June 2002. Like in the past, the programme continued to draw ANPPCAN chapters together to share strategies on child protection in the continent.

Chapters that have received backing of the programme are reportedly fast-tracking child protection programmes with huge successes. Some of these chapters are Tanzania, Mauritius and Zambia, which are also participating in the current Phase. The programme has also been credited for mentoring past and current staff of the ANPPCAN network.

A lot of re-awakening on child rights has occurred across Africa owing to increased activities of the Exchange.

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Sharing child protection practices and other benefits through the Exchange programme

The FK-ANPPCAN Exchange of personnel programme entered its Sixth Phase this year. The programme, which began in 2002, has seen phenomenal growth and strengthening of the ANPPCAN network in Africa, especially in its child protection efforts.

The programme involves the Exchange of staff among ANPPCAN national chapters and the Regional Office, with staff from one chapter posted to live and take part in the day to day activities of the other chapter for ten months. This has largely led to mutual learning and exchange of ideas between the chapters.

Some weak chapters have tapped into the benefits of the Exchange programme. As a result, the chapters have been strengthened in human and organisational capacity as well as in their child rights programming areas and reach. In doing so, many ANPPCAN chapters have received adaptation of new programmes and with better human resource capacity.

Many ANPPCAN chapters have created websites as avenues to share their child protection experiences. Many chapters have already done so. They include Uganda, Ethiopian, Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria.

The Exchange has enabled ANPPCAN to identify regional issues such as child trafficking, armed conflicts and violence against children and has started addressing them in partnership with chapters and other regional bodies like the African Union. This has re-energized ANPPCAN and strengthened her in responding to the needs of children not only at the national level, but also at the local and regional levels. Ten ANPPCAN Chapters and the Regional Office are taking part in the current Sixth Phase of the Exchange programme.


ANPPCAN Regional Office, which coordinates the ANPPCAN Exchange programme in Africa, received an Exchange participant from ANPPCAN Ghana and posted one to ANPPCAN Liberia.

The Exchange programme has been running for 6 years now, with the First Phase of the programme having begun in June 2002. Like in the past, the current phase continues to draw ANPPCAN Chapters together to share strategies on child protection in the continent.

The programme has greatly boosted the financial, managerial and programming approaches of the chapters with replication of some of the good practices and experiences from among the staff that are participating in the programme as well as the Regional Office.

Chapters that have received backing of the programme are reportedly fast-tracking child protection programmes with huge successes. These chapters include Tanzania, Liberia and Zambia, which are also participating in the Sixth Phase of the Exchange.

Above all, the programme has been credited for mentoring over 75 staff of the ANPPCAN chapters, spread across Africa. This is true given the exposure of staff to different work environments, cultures with varied experience and dynamics in the area of child protection.

This has given staff an opportunity to learn and grow in capacity in handling child protection challenges not only within their national borders, but also region-wide programmes in Africa.

ANPPCAN salutes FK, Norway, for the continued support and partnership in the programme and, in particular for enabling ANPPCAN to realize her objective of promoting the rights of children in Africa.
ANPPCAN Ethiopia attributes enhanced human and organizational capacity to the Exchange

Thousands of children are now benefiting from activities and programmes of ANPPCAN Ethiopia

The Association for Nationwide Action for Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN)-Ethiopia is a child rights organization established in 1990. It was registered with the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 1990 and the NGO Registration Office of the Ministry of Justice in 1996. The Chapter is a regular participant and a beneficiary of the FK ANPPCAN Exchange of personnel programme.

Being one of the oldest chapters of ANPPCAN, its child protection activities cover a wide area including Addis Ababa, North Shoa (Oromia), North Gondar (Amhara), North Wollo (Amhara), and Moyale (extreme south east).

The Chapter runs a number of programmes bordering on child protection, awareness raising and advocacy on child rights, capacity building for child protection, enhancing child participation and a host of other rights-based approaches centred on child protection.

Under the Child Protection programme, ANPPCAN-Ethiopia provides both prevention and rehabilitation services for cases of child abuse, neglect and exploitation. It operates a Child Helpline which provides medical, counseling, legal and family reunification services for victims of child abuse. It also provides school support and tutorial services for disadvantaged girls. For out of school children, ANPPCAN-Ethiopia provides opportunities for vocational training in recognized institutions.

In the awareness raising and advocacy component, the Chapter increases public awareness on child rights through workshops, and trainings, printed materials including a quarterly newsletter, pictorial booklets, posters and billboards, and engagement of the electronic media including radio and television. ANPPCAN-Ethiopia also undertakes advocacy aimed at making child rights part of school text books, adoption of alternative methods of child discipline in schools, child care institutions and within the family.

In the last several years, the Chapter has been involved in building the capacity of child protection structures including school child rights clubs, parent-teacher's associations, child rights clubs (CRC) Committees, community based organisations (CBOs), Child Protection Units (CPUs) in police stations. Others include the Children's Parliament and increased child rights activities through training, technical and material support.

Given the significance of the place of children in promoting their rights, the Chapter has embraced, and thus, main streamlined child participation in all her project activities. On its part, the child participation project of ANPPCAN-Ethiopia constitutes 400 school child rights clubs with membership of over 30,000 children, with some drawn from the Children's Parliaments in 3 sub-cities of Addis Ababa. ANPPCAN-Ethiopia has a children’s magazine, the ‘Children’s Voice’ prepared by children for children. The Day of the African Child is celebrated in all her project offices where children are actively involved.

Children also participate in project preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in all project zones of ANPPCAN-Ethiopia.

In the last six years, the Chapter has been a major partner in the on-going FK – ANPPCAN Exchange programme. During the review meeting of the programme held in Nairobi this year, the Executive Director, Ayalew Semait, noted that the programme had steadily strengthened both the human and organizational capacity of the Chapter. This, he observed, has led to increased competence of concerned staff and strengthened organizational infrastructure, hence, repositioning the chapter better in the provision of children service in the country.

In the Sixth Phase of the Exchange, ANPPCAN Ethiopia received an Exchange participant, Anslem Wandega from ANPPCAN Uganda and posted Teklu Abate Rikituu to ANPPCAN Nigeria.

Wandega was provided with a modest working environment to enable him contribute his quota to the organization during the Exchange. He was provided with a computer fitted with an internet point, a printer and some stationery. This was necessary in order to undertake his work activities, document and share the same with others.

The participant also conceptualized new project areas and aggressively sought to fundraise in a bid to initiate projects on the emerging areas. In this respect, he has prepared a project proposal and a concept paper and both have been submitted to a donor for support.

He was enrolled for Amharic lessons to enable him interact and communicate well with communities in ANPPCAN Ethiopia project areas. He has also been involved in the preparation of the code of conduct for staff of ANPPCAN Ethiopia. He is currently involved...
in the compilation of annual report 2007 for ANPPCAN Ethiopia. He participated in undertaking baseline surveys and studies, particularly the study on child trafficking.

Besides the above activities the Exchange participant has been extensively exposed to ANPPCAN Ethiopia project sites where he visits with staff of ANPPCAN Ethiopia. During the visits, Wandega participates in all project activities and this has provided him with a informed understanding of the operations and dynamics of the projects and communities where the chapter is working.

To enhance his participation further, the participant attended workshops and meetings organized by ANPPCAN Ethiopia and other organizations. He is also participating in the preparation of the 6th African Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect with focus on Early Childhood Education (ECD). The involvement of the Exchange participant in project preparation, research work and other related activities enabled him to work closely with other staff members. The Exchange participant has certainly accomplished a lot of activities that significantly contribute to the achievement of the objectives and for his personal growth and experience.

So far, the Exchange programme has had huge impact on ANPPCAN Ethiopia since the year 2002. The organization has participated in all the six phases of the programme. More than half of its staff are graduates of the Exchange programme. Overall, the programme has enhanced professional competence of the staff, with the result that there is better leadership and programme execution amongst the staff concerned.

ANPPCAN Ethiopia, in recognition of the increased professional competence has promoted former Exchange programme staff to senior positions. Some staff have moved to international organizations and the same assist the chapter in fund raising for its programming needs. Some of the staff now work with international organizations such as Save the Children Sweden and Christian Children’s Fund (CCF). Majority of those who have left the organization are found to contribute immensely to the success of projects at the Chapter.

The capacity of the organization has also increased ten-fold. For instance, most of the computers currently in use by staff and exchange persons at the chapter have all been purchased through funds from the Exchange programme.

On their part, Exchange participants posted to the Chapter, have all benefited the Chapter in their own unique ways. The contributions and benefits of the staff towards the growth of the Chapter is now felt in many areas including the resource centre, programme initiation and fund-raising, partnership and alliance building and strengthening organizational communication tools including the website, brochure, posters and flyers.

For ANPPCAN Ethiopia, the Exchange programme has been a remarkable capacity building initiative for both the individual staff and the organization as well. During the Review Meeting of the ANPPCAN Exchange programme in June 2008, the Chapter was praised by the Exchange External Evaluator, Ms Georgina Manyuru, as a partner that has consistently adopted and followed the FK guidelines and recruited participants well, who eventually contributed to the achievement of objectives of the Exchange.

ANNOUNCING THE SIXTH AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Date: 4 – 6 May 2009

The aspects of child’s development encompass:

- Physical development
- Perception and sensory development
- Communication and language development
- Cognitive development
- Emotional development
- Social development

The Conference is expected to address the following:

- Why issues of Early Childhood Development and Education and experience in the field are important?
- Kinds of interventions that have been tried to promote child development and education
- What has been tried to promote policies towards child development and education?
- Ways of sensitizing families towards child development and education

Elements that participants should take back to their respective countries and
- Designing mechanisms for follow up of the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference.

The objectives of the Conference are:
- To provide forum for practitioners in early childhood development and education to exchange experiences and best practices.
- To highlight issues of early childhood development and education and raise the awareness of parents, communities and states in Africa.
- To provide opportunity for researchers in early childhood development and education to share their research findings and thereby advance knowledge in the field.
- To generate clear cut recommendations on policy and programmes in early childhood development and education for action.
- To enhance networking of government and non-government organizations working in the area of early childhood development and education.

For more info about the Conference Contact ANPPCAN Ethiopia on E-mail. anppcan-eth@ethionet.et

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ANPPCAN Kenya strengthens programmes’ monitoring and evaluation systems through the Exchange

ANPPCAN Kenya Chapter is the Kenyan National Chapter of the African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect. It was established in 1989 by a group of volunteers who were concerned with the plight of children at that time. It became fully operational in 1995 when a formal secretariat was opened in Nairobi.

Like the other ANPPCAN chapters, ANPPCAN Kenya operates a national resource centre on child abuse and neglect and children’s rights. The organization provides information and technical expertise on child protection and child rights issues, carries out research on emerging children’s issues and lobbies governments, donors, other NGOs and communities on behalf of children.

Currently, ANPPCAN Kenya runs four main programmes which include a Child Help Desk, the Legal Services unit, Information and Documentation Centre, and some two community based programmes dealing with various projects and activities.

To achieve her objectives, ANPPCAN Kenya raises awareness and sensitizes individuals and the community to recognize and accept his or her responsibility to stand up for children’s rights. ANPPCAN Kenya also provides legal advice and, where necessary, litigation to children who are victims of abuse and neglect, or those acting on their behalf.


In carrying out its mandate, ANPPCAN Kenya works with government departments whose work relates to children, especially, the Department of Children’s Services, other non-governmental organizations and the community in general.

The Chapter has participated in all phases of the FK - ANPPCAN Exchange of personnel programme since its launch in June 2002. During its participation in the Exchange programme, the Chapter has initiated and implemented a number of programmes. However, the chapter identified monitoring and evaluation systems as a gap in its programmatic areas and sought to address this through the Exchange programme.

Hence, her objective in the Sixth Phase of the programme was to establish effective monitoring and evaluation systems for the Chapter and this she rightly got by receiving a participant from one of the oldest chapters of the network, ANPPCAN Nigeria.

ANPPCAN Kenya received participant from Nigeria, Ms Sandra Chidimma. She reported in February 2008. On arrival, she was introduced to the staff, programmes of ANPPCAN Kenya. She was then assigned a supervisor.

She was provided with an office and this was furnished with a computer, printer and other accessories. He accommodation is a stone throw - away from the ANPPCAN Kenya offices.

The participant has been able to accomplish many tasks while her placement at ANPPCAN Kenya.

She has developed monitoring and reporting tools for various projects, analyzed existing data at child help-desk to determine impact and trends, handled case management at help desk, including placement of intellectually challenged children employing her psychology skills.

Other activities include handling cases relating to Gender based violence (GBV), government departments whose work relates to children, especially, the Department of Children’s Services, other non-governmental organizations and the community in general.

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She also co-facilitated psycho-social training for teachers, took part in offering services to internally displaced persons in Nairobi affected by the post-election violence in Kenya in the early part of the year, 2008.

Most recently, the participant developed a project proposal for fund-raising to strengthen psycho-social support to children by the Chapter.
Aiding Budding Networks - Mentoring ANPPCAN Ghana through the Exchange programme

Efforts towards making the chapter visible and strategically positioned was facilitated by the Exchange

ANPPCAN Ghana, a budding network member of ANPPCAN, is currently participating in the ongoing FK Personnel Exchange Programme, currently in its Sixth Phase. While in the programme, the Chapter is undergoing mentorship by ANPPCAN Uganda to partly overcome some of the challenges faced in the past in its endeavour to deliver children's services in Ghana.

Early in the year, the Chapter re-located its secretariat from Kumasi to Accra, in order to professionally reposition itself better in responding to the needs of children in need of care and protection. This step towards making the Chapter more visible and strategically positioned was facilitated by the Exchange programme. The Chapter has two main activities - the Child Helpline and Resource and Documentation Centre.

The Helpline project has a national reach in which the chapter was a lead agency in advocating for its establishment. In doing so, ANPPCAN Ghana worked closely with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs through the Department of Children and other relevant stakeholders for its implementation. Ms Ruby Lumbasyo, the Exchange personnel from ANPPCAN Kenya currently posted to ANPPCAN Ghana, helped in designing an outreach component of the Helpline project in the Chapter project schools and communities. This is hoped to lead to the strengthening of child rights clubs in schools.

The Resource and Documentation Centre, on the other hand, is an information centre managed by ANPPCAN Ghana secretariat where children and the public at large access information on a wide range of children issues. Through this, the Chapter collects, documents as well as shares best practices on child rights to partners and other stakeholders in the community.

While this is happening, the Chapter has identified potential areas for child protection in the country. Some of the areas include, child labour issues, provision of legal aid, capacity building for police officers on children Rights.

The Chapter is participating in the Exchange programme for the third time since joining the programme in 2006. The Chapter in participating in the current phase of the Exchange programme is guided by its specific objective, thus, to improve organizational, human and financial resource capacities in the Chapter.

The Chapter sent one Prince Amoako, an Information Technology Specialist to the Head Office. In turn, the Chapter received Ms Ruby Lumbasyo, a lawyer from ANPPCAN Kenya. Ms Lumbasyo has been very instrumental in the restructuring process currently underway in the Chapter.

The participant’s knowledge and skills have greatly enhanced the Chapter’s organizational programming and capacity as she has displayed efficiency in programme design and implementation.

She has actively been involved in administrative duties, workshops, resource mobilization and in lobbying partners on common issues. She was taken through a series of orientations to help her familiarize with the nature of work at the host Chapter given the fact that she was coming from a mature Chapter.

Ms Lumbasyo was enrolled in local language lessons Twi to enable her communicate with and also interact with people in the project sites and communities in Ghana.

In project design and resource mobilization, she sought to set up a child help desk at the office and mobilized resources for the same. She has also identified other possible areas of interventions for ANPPCAN Ghana and is developing project proposals for the same, with the support of the Country Director.

She has been able to attend Child Helpline project activities including meetings called at the instance of the Helpline coordinating committee. She also participated in a needs assessment study, research and also took part in resource mobilization efforts for the Child Helpline.

Later in the year, she aspires to develop a Reporting Format and revamp the Documentation Centre through developing concepts for information, education and communication (IEC) materials, helping set up a Resource Centre and source for resource materials for the same.

She has already developed a project proposal on child sexual abuse - an outreach project - in Accra, which is currently being reviewed for marketing by the country director.

Elsewhere in the Chapter’s projects, Ms Lumbasyo attended the meeting on Child Helpline at the children’s department where
Ruby Lumbasyo shares her highs and lows at ANPPCAN Ghana

ANPPCAN Ghana is the smallest and youngest member of the ANPPCAN, having recently relocated from the Ashanti town of Kumasi to the capital city, Accra.

I arrived in Accra, Ghana from Nairobi, Kenya, just 4 days after the African Cup of Nations and as such, every major street was still lined up with Ghanaian flags and support messages for their national team “The black stars.” The first thing I observed was that people were courteous and friendly and everybody has the time to say hello to everyone, unlike in my home country where everyone is in a hurry and saying hello is considered an invasion of privacy.

Apart from English and pidgin English, ‘twi’ (pronounced as ‘chwi’) is the most widely spoken language. Majority of Ghanaians practice Christianity and football is the most played sport. The main foods in Ghana are foufou which is made from plantain (I was meant to understand there is a big difference between banana and plantain) flour, banku and kenkey, both made from fermented maize flour. Yam and fish are also a daily indulgence and all these meals are considered not complete if not served with hot homemade pepper commonly referred to as ‘shito.’

Settling in Accra was not as easy as I had anticipated. This was made worse by the fact that I arrived during the dry and hot season and the weather was unbearable. Being a coastal town, Accra is both humid and hot with temperatures occasionally soaring to as high as 35 degrees Celsius. I however managed to settle in and made both Ghanaians and foreign friends.

Socially, Ghanaians have a wide range of cultural activities that they practice right from birth with a naming ceremony conducted 7 days after birth to burial rites which may take up to 5 months after which the remains of the deceased are interred.

Chieftaincy is practiced in most regions in Ghana and the chiefs yield so much power and it is patriarchal and hereditary. The chiefs act as traditional rulers of the community and their wives are in charge of all children and women in the community. There is also a queen mother who would either be the mother of the chief or a senior maternal aunt. The Ashanti region still practices the kingdom system where they have a king, Prince and Princess. The King yields much power such that any official and presidential visitors to Ghana have to pay homage to him.

The typical Ghanaian way of life is such that the children are brought up by the family and the community. Everyone sees to it that the children in the community have respect, access rights that can be easily provided for in the...
community, like right to education and that children are protected from harm, with the community playing a key role.

However, this is still not enough as there is increased migration of people/families from the rural to urban centres, which has eroded some of the family and by extension, community values, thereby, exposing children to all manner of abuse and harm.

The most prevalent types of child abuse in Ghana include child labour, in the agricultural sector, cocoa growing areas and fishing industry, but in Accra hawking on the streets is most prevalent. On street hawking, children are often found hawking ice water commonly referred to as “pure water.” Other child rights violations include child trafficking, sexual exploitation and child prostitution, especially, at the coastal towns of Accra and Cape Coast.

Despite the existence of many legislations protecting children from abuse, their implementation has been not so forthcoming. But on a positive note, the Ministry of Women and Children and partner ministries have initiated projects aimed at providing assistance to children in need of care and protection.

At the organizational level, relocation was still in progress and we didn’t have much to do in the first month or so. Currently the chapter has no projects but it is in the process of setting up projects on the ground before trying to go countrywide. However, the organization is a member of the Steering Committee of the Child Helpline where I had the privilege of making a presentation on the experiences of the Child Helpline in Kenya.

Since arrival, I have managed to introduce two main activities, that is, the setting up of the Resource Centre and Awareness Creation on Child Rights in schools.

### Setting up of a Resource Centre

This I did by contacting partners and like minded organizations and sourcing materials from them. I then did labeling of the materials as per the subject content e.g. child labour, sexual abuse or legal. Some of the materials were labelled as per the source, being either UNICEF or ANPPCAN. I then set out the rules and regulations to be followed at the resource centre, designed and developed borrowing sheets and a list of all materials at the resource centre.

This activity was interesting as I was able to interact with and learn from other organizations as I went about collecting the materials.

I was also able to practice the local language that I had learnt when asking for directions and help. I also interacted and networked with many organizations thereby got some insights into the specific and sometimes hidden issues affecting children in the country.

It will be appreciated that this is a continuous exercise and as such I am still sourcing for materials from partners and like minded organizations.

### Awareness creation in the schools on child rights

I started by training two interns at the organization on facilitation skills in training on child rights and child protection. We then identified schools that were to be sensitized on child rights. Currently, we have carried out awareness and sensitization to only one school, but since this is my main activity this quarter, I hope to reach our target of 6 schools and 2 communities.

We sensitized children on their rights as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC), and in particular on child abuse, the forms of abuse, perpetrators, and where to report cases of child abuse.

Other activities that I have been involved in include but are not limited to:

- **Awareness creation on child rights in schools**
- **Making a presentation on the Kenyan Child Help line to stakeholders.**
- **Holding of a legal clinic with a partner organization.**
- **Resource mobilization through project proposal writing.**
- **Drafting and developing some information, education and communication materials, including brochures for the Chapter.**
- **Drafting brochures on various child rights issues in Ghana.**

Being in a new country has its own challenges, the biggest ones being the language barrier and the weather.

However, these challenges have not deterred my pursuit of learning, sharing and contributing my share of work experiences at the Chapter.

By Ruby Lumbasyo,
Exchange Participant,
ANPPCAN Kenya Chapter
ANPPCAN Mauritius emerges a strong chapter, thanks to FK-ANPPCAN Partnership

The FK ANPPCAN Exchange programme has strengthened the capacity of the organisation and her programming needs

ANPPCAN Mauritius is one of the chapters currently being strengthened through the FK – ANPPCAN Exchange of personnel programme.

In the Sixth Phase of the programme, the chapter sent Thierry Maunick to ANPPCAN Tanzania and received Ms Elipendo Kazimoto from the same Chapter.

To enable her communicate well with other nationals in Mauritius while on the Exchange, Elipendo was enrolled in French lessons. She attended French beginners lessons at Alliance Francaise in Port Louis, the Capital City of Mauritius.

However, language is not a serious challenge for Elipendo compared with other participants in the Exchange programme as everywhere she goes, most of the people speak and understand English language, and where necessary, simultaneous translation is done.

Kazimoto has been provided with an office desk, a computer connected with internet to ease her documentation and communication needs while at ANPPCAN Mauritius. She has also been provided with all necessary stationery.

ANPPCAN Mauritius has four regular staff. Ms Kazimoto works in close collaboration with the office staff and she has performed a number of activities in the period she has been attached at ANPPCAN Mauritius.

She has been working with all partners as well as volunteers attached to programmes at the Chapter.

The objectives of the Exchange participant were to create a network of child rights actors in Mauritius and other islands of the Indian Ocean sub-continent.

She was also tasked to initiate partnership on awareness on child abuse and neglect and also advocate for better administration of institutions in working on children rights in the country.

Over the period, Kazimoto has been able to design a brochure and other information, education and communication (IEC) materials for the Chapter. She is also carrying out a research study on laws relating to Child Rights and Child Protection at the Supreme Court in Mauritius, which will form the basis of training for the Child Rights Project in Mauritius.

On several occasions, she has attended many forums with staff of the Chapter and those of other organizations to share her country’s experiences on child rights project in Tanzania, a good practice from ANPPCAN Tanzania.

Further, she has been extensively involved in the planning of the launch and operationalization of the Protection 2Rs Clubs Project. The 2Rs Clubs project is being implemented by ANPPCAN Mauritius in conjunction with the Ministry of Women Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Education. The protection 2R2 Clubs Project was adopted from ANPPCAN Ethiopia in the immediate past phase of the Exchange programme.

The three-year long project aims at establishing child rights clubs in schools as a vehicle to educate children in earmarked schools in the country on their rights and responsibilities in line with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

In the period that ANPPCAN Mauritius has participated in the FK-ANPPCAN Exchange, the programme has strengthened the capacity of the organization and her programming needs.

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She has been working with all partners as well as volunteers attached to programmes at the Chapter.

The objectives of the Exchange participant were to create a network of child rights actors in Mauritius and other islands of the Indian Ocean sub-continent.

She was also tasked to initiate partnership on awareness on child abuse and neglect and also advocate for better administration of institutions in working on children rights in the country.

Over the period, Kazimoto has been able to design a brochure and other information, education and communication (IEC) materials for the Chapter. She is also carrying out a research study on laws relating to Child Rights and Child Protection at the Supreme Court in Mauritius, which will form the basis of training for the Child Rights Project in Mauritius.

On several occasions, she has attended many forums with staff of the Chapter and those of other organizations to share her country’s experiences on child rights project in Tanzania, a good practice from ANPPCAN Tanzania.

Further, she has been extensively involved in the planning of the launch and operationalization of the Protection 2Rs Clubs Project. The 2Rs Clubs project is being implemented by ANPPCAN Mauritius in conjunction with the Ministry of Women Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Education. The protection 2R2 Clubs Project was adopted from ANPPCAN Ethiopia in the immediate past phase of the Exchange programme.

The three-year long project aims at establishing child rights clubs in schools as a vehicle to educate children in earmarked schools in the country on their rights and responsibilities in line with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

In the period that ANPPCAN Mauritius has participated in the FK-ANPPCAN Exchange, the programme has strengthened the capacity of the organization and her programming needs.

Further, the learning and sharing of experiences from other chapters has impacted positively on the programmes at the Chapter. For example, as already noted above, the last years’ Exchange participant sent to Ethiopia, Ms Diolle, returned with the Protection 2Rs Clubs Concept, which was immediately pretested and embraced by the Chapter.

The Chapter, working with government departments and other partners, is at an advanced stage of operationalising the project in the country. This is hoped to empower children in schools to advocate for their rights and also of other other vulnerable children.
Ms Elipendo Kazimoto shares her Experiences while on Exchange at ANPPCAN Mauritius

The Mauritius Government has a budget for funding NGOs and underprivileged parents to take care of their children. This is commendable and should be emulated by other governments across Africa.

I am Elipendo Kazimoto, Exchange participant from ANPPCAN Tanzania to Mauritius. My host organization is ANPPCAN Mauritius.

I am glad to write about my experience, activities and stories in this magazine while in Mauritius to share with all FK, Fredskorpsers and partners.

It has been several months since we reported to our host organizations. We are about to reach the Third Quarter. Hopefully, every participant has something to share during the five months while at their host organizations, so that we accomplish the purpose of the Exchange programme.

On my side, I have lot of things to share with my colleagues but, I will try to summarize some of my important activities so far in Mauritius, my experience and advice for the remaining period. It is my belief that after reading about these, you will gain some interesting knowledge.

As a Legal Officer for ANPPCAN Tanzania, my main area of focus at ANPPCAN Mauritius was the legal concerns of children in Mauritius and other relevant tasks assigned by the Executive Director.

In my firstQuarter, I have managed to perform different activities outlined in my Exchange work plan. Some of my activities were to carry out research on the different laws in the Mauritian Supreme Court.

This was done in line with the Rights and Responsibilities Project, which we intend to start soon with school children, design and publish a brochure for Mauritian Chapter, network with the different NGOs working with ANPPCAN Mauritius, carry out advocacy at Probation Home for Girls and Boys regarding Child Rights and Responsibilities.

Other activities include meeting with the Attorney General to present a proposal to have in place a unified Law on Child Protection in Mauritius and moreover, the possibility of amending the law regarding the early marriage. In line with this activity, I recently held a radio talk-show on the Day of the African Child whose focus was early marriage.

So far, I have learnt many issues facing children in Mauritius. For instance, children suffer the consequences of poverty, prostitution, sexual abuse and also noted that a lot of violence is meted against children in Mauritius. We need to intensify the sharing of information, experiences and good practices amongst African countries in order to respond well to these types of child rights violations.

This is an area that requires us to be more aggressive in order to meaningfully rescue the African child.

Furthermore, it is my first experience in noticing that the Mauritius Government has a budget for funding non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and underprivileged parents to take care of their children. This is commendable and should be emulated by other governments across Africa.

However, there is some weakness in that area - there is no monitoring system for the Government to know whether the money provided for the welfare of children is used for the intended purpose. During my visits, I found out that most of the parents after getting the money, misused it. For example, they drink alcohol, which results in the absence of care for the Children. The Children suffer a lot from consequences of poverty. Instead of going to school, they concentrate in finding their daily bread.

The Mauritius Government supports NGOs, but it is difficult for NGOs in Mauritius to work with the Government in case they have projects. This is due to the fact that according to the system in Mauritius, everything is done by the Government.

Mauritius has many and varied cultures compared to Tanzanian culture and most of African cultures. For example, the way to greet each other, they kiss each other on both cheeks to say hello, which is not done in my home country, Tanzania.

At the beginning of my mission here, it was difficult for me to adapt to this culture, because in Tanzania we are not accustomed to greeting in that manner. With time, however, I adapted and it is now normal and common to me. Additionally, you find different kinds of food from different countries like Chinese food, Indian food and European food.

The way Mauritian people cook food is different compared to other African countries. I feel they add too much chilly, curry and other spices. There is no Tanzanian food in Mauritius. I tried to find some, but it was difficult to get. Therefore, the issue of culture reminded me when we were in Ethiopia for the Exchange preparatory course.

The resource person who taught us about intercultural communication was very interesting. I always appreciated that session especially when I faced many situations relating to the foreign culture in Mauritius.

This Magazine provides a good opportunity to learn what others have done (and are doing) in their host organizations. All that we have learnt in the Exchange will certainly have a positive impact on us, and long after we return to our home organisations.

Elipendo Kazimoto
Legal Officer
Exchange participant from Tanzania
ANPPCAN Zimbabwe makes a way for Children in a Volatile Social - Economic Environment

ANPPCAN Zimbabwe has been operating under very severe socio-economic, political conditions which have gripped the country for the past 8 years.

The increased economic meltdown and the destruction of Zimbabwe’s social fabric has led to the disintegration of the extended family, thus accelerating the vulnerability of children, especially orphans and other vulnerable children (OVCs).

Because of this situation, many children have become vulnerable and susceptible to abuse with large numbers turning to the streets for survival.

Activities of the Chapter have, however, been more compounded by the recent disputed presidential elections. In spite of this, the Chapter has remained resilient and focused in fulfilling its mandate and mission in promoting the protective rights of children in Zimbabwe.

ANPPCAN Zimbabwe runs 4 main programmes. These programmes are the Community Empowerment for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, the Access to Birth Registration project, the Nutrition Garden project and the FK ANPPCAN Exchange of personnel programme.

The Community Empowerment is a three-year project (2007 - 2009) implemented in 2 districts of Zimbabwe targeting 1000 community members including school children and teachers as well as the community leaders.

The aim of the project is to increase public awareness about child abuse and specifically the orphans and other vulnerable children in Marange and Chiredzi districts. It also aims at supporting victims of abuse through provision of legal, medical and psycho-social support to victims in the aforementioned two districts.

The Access to Birth Registration project, on its part, works to raise awareness on the importance of birth registration and the need for every child to access a birth certificate.

To realize its aim, the project has conducted several sensitization and training workshops for traditional leaders such as chiefs and village heads on the rights of children and the importance of birth registration at birth. Ten functional child support groups have already been established in Umzingwane District to spearhead awareness on birth registration, targeting schools and communities.

Another notable initiative is the Nutrition Garden project in Snake Park, Harare. The project has been running since 2004 and its goal is to boost the immunity status of orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) as well as parents, especially those with difficulties in accessing anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs). The project is implemented by the Chapter in collaboration with the Tree Africa, after records showed that Zimbabwe was hardest hit with the HIV/Aids pandemic.

The Nutrition Garden initiative is being run by project schools and managed by the Snake Park Community. To date, ANPPCAN Zimbabwe has provided over 50 Moringa trees at the Chitepo Primary school in Snake Park. The Chapter closely monitors the progress of the project through regular visits.

For ANPPCAN Zimbabwe, one project has kept the Chapter alive despite dwindling finances and political challenges. This project is the FK - Exchange of Personnel programme. The programme has always kept the Chapter’s spirit high through the personnel posted at the Chapter. The financial support received from the Exchange programme has helped the Chapter to focus on its activities, strengthen its organizational capacity and also borrow experiences and learn from what others are involved in the continent.

ANPPCAN Zimbabwe has been participating in the FK Exchange of personnel programme since 2003 when it received a participant from ANPPCAN Kenya and also sent to the same chapter.

In 2004, the Chapter sent an exchange participant to ANPPCAN Uganda and the following year, 2005, sent to ANPPCAN Ethiopia. However in 2006, the Chapter sent a participant to Nigeria and received one from the same chapter. In 2008, the Chapter received a participant from Zambia and sent to Zimbabwe.

However, the participant left the country in the face of unfolding political crisis. As soon as the calm returns, it is hoped that the Exchange participant will return to continue with his activities at the Chapter.

The Exchange programme has benefited the Chapter immensely as it has facilitated the sharing and adopting of good practice interventions on child protection.

The Chapter is proud to have produced two strong participants who are still contributing to the Chapters’ activities. And, in recognition of their services in the organization, the two former Exchange participants have been promoted to senior positions, one assuming the post of the Executive Director and the other the Programmes Director.

The Chapter, just like other ANPPCAN chapters in Africa, is membership driven. The organization has members in all its project zones and has trained the members on child rights and child protection issues. Members who underwent the training are now responsible for the identification, referral of abused children as well as providing psycho-social support to abused and vulnerable children.
Imbibing new Knowledge and Experiences through the Exchange programme

Prince Yaw Owusu Amoako, the Exchange participant at the ANPPCAN Regional Office, shares his part of the story.

It is quite exciting and enriching to work and live in another country other than one’s own. The challenges and difficulties though may initially be felt in areas like the climate, culture and the feeling of missing loved ones back home, one finds it worthwhile to stay and learn the dynamics of doing things.

Even at the work place, you will find striking and yet motivating challenges relating to working structures and the procedures involved in executing tasks.

These may vary from the normal routine in ones home country. This is because an Exchange participant works with different people whose work is characterized by their culture, which is often different from one’s own. These challenges cut across work-places, interpersonal relationship, attitude and other attributes, guided by culture.

Back at my home organization, there were many programmes which were organized for students in higher institutions to visit other countries and experience new culture and international working experience every summer vacation. Many students were always yearning to have that privilege but only a hand full got the opportunity.

The FK-ANPPCAN Exchange programme organized by the Norwegian government, offers a grand privilege to young people to travel to Ethiopia for a preparatory course and afterwards proceed to host countries in Africa on Exchange. The programme has provided the participants with a platform to get international working experience, and in so doing, exchange ideas and best practices.

The Exchange programme commenced with an intensive preparatory course in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. There were 38 participants for this phase who were taken through relevant topics with reference to the exchange such as Intercultural Communication, Entrepreneurship and Positive Inquiry etc.

All these subjects were taught by professionals who were endowed with knowledge in those fields of study to adequately prepare participants in all aspects of their lives during the ten-month stay in another country.

The two weeks spent during the preparatory course was not only for studies but we were also privileged to visit some important places in Ethiopia. My most memorable one is a trip to the famous Langano Beach. This was my first time to climb a mountain which when after getting to the top I regretted climbing because I feared descending. I actually felt dizzy and vomited while descending.

In addition the chance of meeting other young people from different countries was indeed exciting and satisfying. From the 11th of January to 24 January 2008 in the preparatory course was marked with daily acquisition and sharing of knowledge and experiences among participants.

Preparations for traveling abroad continued when I returned to Ghana on January 24, 2008. The eagerness to depart made time appear too short after the preparatory course, since I was now looking forward to the date of my flight. I obtained all the things which will help me to feel at home while I am away, including carrying some rations of our local food.

At about 8:00 am on February 14 2008, I arrived at Jomo Kenyata International Airport, Nairobi. My first shock was when I came out to pick a taxi to my place of residence. In Ghana, the steering wheel of the car is on the left hand side of the car and that is where the driver sits but to my surprise, I opened the right side door of the car only to notice that this was the drivers’ seat. I realized I was becoming the driver. And you can imagine how the driver would stare at me and what he will be thinking in his mind if he had not been to Ghana before.

In Kenya, cars drive on the left side of the road, which is directly opposite to that in Ghana. Because of this, I sometimes miscalculate when crossing the road and I remember an instant when I was nearly knocked down by a vehicle since I looked at the wrong direction of the road before crossing.

I opened the right side door of the car only to notice that this was the drivers’ seat.
It was not difficult for me to adapt to the Kenyan food since I am a vegetarian and fruits and vegetables are not difficult to come by in Kenya. In fact I have come to like a particular Kenyan food called *chapati* and wish to eat it everyday. I have even learnt how it is prepared and will therefore be eating it when I return home.

Another shocking experience I had is when I was going home one day after work and it was raining. I have been paying twenty shilling for transport since I came to Kenya, but on that day I was asked to pay forty shillings since it was raining. I could not believe it until I was told transport fares vary with time and conditions. We have off-peak hours thus between 7am and 9am as well as between 5pm and 7pm since that is the time people are going to or returning home after work and the demand of vehicles is high.

There is also the rush hour which I encountered, thus when raining. During this time, transport fares go a little higher, which is not so in my home country.

I began work at ANPPCAN Regional Office, my host organization, on 18 February. With the help of my supervisor, I developed a work-plan based on my Exchange objectives. I have been specifically working on computer related jobs since that is my profession and the job description clearly emphasizes that. In order to coordinate the various chapters of ANPPCAN in the different countries with the Regional Office, I have been communicating with the Chapters through e-mail requesting updates on their profiles and current programmes. Although this seemed to be simple, it turned out to be a daunting task since many chapters could not respond.

At the Regional Office, I met a volunteer from Canada, Mr Jason Van Dyk, who was, then at an advanced stage in developing the Regional Office’s website. I therefore had the privilege of assisting him in developing and uploading the website. With time, I learnt a lot from him which include the website development tool known as Drupal, which he was using in the construction of the Regional Office’s website. Since then, I have been updating the website whenever there is the need to post any new piece of information or programme updates on the website.

Working at the Head Office has been a very good platform for me since I get the chance to participate in different programmes. I have had field work experience in child participation as well as child labour programmes. The most illuminating one was the awareness and sensitization activities on child prostitution I was actively involved in, organized by the End Child Prostitution in Kenya (ECPIK) for the *Matatu* (the name for public passenger vehicles in Kenya) operators.

I can now confidently say that participating in the Exchange programme in Kenya has opened a new page in my work experience. Kudos to Fredskorpset for the opportunity to live and work abroad.
ANPPCAN Tanzania has its presence felt amongst other child rights organisations in the Country

Thierry Maunick has been able to network and build partnerships, and in so doing, he has improved the overall visibility of ANPPCAN Tanzania

ANPPCAN Tanzania is one of the ANPPCAN chapters that have recorded immense growth and programme expansion through the on-going Exchange programme.

The mission of ANPPCAN Tanzania is to work for the prevention and protection of children from child abuse and neglect.

To achieve its mission, the Chapter is involved in a number of activities. These include awareness raising that is done in collaboration and in partnership with the media, in order to expose and condemn cases of child abuse and neglect in Tanzania.

The Chapter is also involved in educating the community on the rights and responsibilities of the child, especially on the protective and participatory rights of children.

It also provides counseling and rehabilitation services for abuse and neglected children.

The chapter works to add knowledge and learn new trends on child abuse and neglect through organizing seminars, workshops and conferences where thematic issues of child abused and neglect are discussed and solutions found.

ANPPCAN Tanzania from time to time collaborates with other like minded child rights organizations whose objectives and activities are similar to those of the Chapter in the promotion of the rights of children in Tanzania.

On the Chapter’s programming areas, ANPPCAN Tanzania runs three main programmes i.e. child trafficking, community empowerment in combating child abuse and neglect, re-integration and resettlement programme and the Exchange programme.

The Community Empowerment on Child Abuse and Neglect targets rural communities of Kisarawe, Maneromango and Chole in Kisarawe District, Coast Region. The project aims at empowering and raising awareness on child rights. Community leaders, members and children are taught on the rights of children and the need to protect children from violations.

In addition, local structures are formed and trained to respond to cases of child abuse and to act as referral points in child rights violations. These structures in turn are being prepared to take over and continue with project activities, long after the project ends.

On its part, the child trafficking project is a two year project that started in 2007. Although the project is focusing on one district, namely Tarakea District, unfolding scenario on the magnitude and extent of child trafficking indicates that the problem is a nationwide concern. As a result ANPPCAN Tanzania is proposing to initiate a corresponding nation-wide campaign against child trafficking. This will involve using the media as well as establishment of support mechanisms such as local structures, including the grassroot level committees to respond to the vice.

The reintegretion and resettlement programme aims at re-unifying the most vulnerable children with their families or caretakers.

This years’ Exchange is the Fifth for ANPPCAN Tanzania, having joined the programme in 2004. The Chapter received a participant, Thierry Maunick from ANPPCAN Mauritius. ANPPCAN Tanzania has participated in the Exchange programme since 2004 and has received participants from Uganda, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Mauritius. Similarly, the Chapter has sent its participants to Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana and currently Mauritius.

In 2004, ANPPCAN Tanzania received a participant from ANPPCAN Uganda who helped to revive and turn-around the Chapter. Since then, ANPPCAN Tanzania has sent out 4 participants and received 4 from other countries.

In the current phase of the Exchange, the Chapter sent Elipendo Kazimoto to ANPPCAN Mauritius and received Thierry Maunick from Mauritius. At the same time, the ANPPCAN Tanzania is hosting a volunteer from VSO, Netherlands.

Some of the activities that Thierry Maunick has been able to accomplish include mobilizing resources for ANPPCAN Tanzania through proposal writing, training Chapter staff on proposal writing as well as training of students together with staff of the Institute of Social Work and staff from ANPPCAN Tanzania. He has also drafted a proposal on the elimination of child trafficking, earmarked as a national level project.

Thierry has also participated in a number of conferences and seminars. Notable here is a Workshop on Orphans and Vulnerable Children organized by the Social Welfare Department in April 2008, The Annual National Gender meeting, and the Working with Children and Young Persons in Conflict with the Law forum that took place in May 2008.

In these meetings, the participant has been able to network and build partnerships with others. This has helped in improving the visibility of ANPPCAN Tanzania and facilitated building of alliances for enhanced service delivery to children in the country.
Making Africa and the World Fit for its Children - ANPPCAN take a role in setting the agenda

In 2007, ANPPCAN was invited by the African Union to be part of the committee to organize the Second pan-African Forum on Children – mid term Review. This forum was organized in two parts. The first part was a meeting of experts from Africa to Review progress towards achieving the African Common Position on Africa Fit for Children (2002), which took place on 29 and 30 October, 2007 in Cairo, Egypt.

This was followed by a Ministerial meeting to examine and adopt the outcome of the Experts meeting. This forum took place in Cairo, Egypt on 1 and 2 November, 2007. ANPPCAN participated in these two major forums whose objective was to review the status of implementation of the 2001 commitments, identify related challenges and obstacles and adopt strategies to promote the welfare of Africa’s children more effectively between 2008 and 2012. ANPPCAN was represented at these forums by the Director of Programmes, Mrs Wambui Njuguna.

The Forum was attended by 41 member states of the African Union, United Nations Agencies, Inter-Governmental organizations and cooperating partners dealing with children issues.

The main outcome of the Experts meeting was a call for accelerated action on the implementation of the Plan of Action towards Africa Fit for Children (2008 – 2012), which was adopted by the Ministerial meeting.

The Forum noted that the well being of Africa’s children depends first and foremost on the well being of their families and communities. Africa, however, had the highest levels of absolute poverty in the world. This has major implications for the health, education and the protection of the rights of children.

The experts in reviewing the declaration and Plan of Action of Africa Fit for Children (2001) noted that some progress had been made towards ensuring that every child in Africa has a good start in life, can grow and develop in a child-friendly, nurturing environment of love, acceptance, peace, security and dignity. Although some efforts are being made in different countries towards enhancing children’s life, the impact is not significant. It was noted that life of Africa’s children are amongst the lowest in the world. Since Africa Fit for Children was adopted in 2001, an estimated 28,800,000 African Children have died of causes that are preventable.

The Declaration and Plan of Action of Africa Fit for Children in 2001 called for the reduction of the incidence of HIV among young people aged 15 to 24 years by 25% by 2005 and preventing mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV by 28% by the same year. The meeting noted that considerable achievement has been made in this area and PMTCT has actually been reduced by 25% in several countries.

Outside Southern and Eastern Africa, the incidence level of the virus among young people has largely remained low. There is also additional investment of millions of dollars being used to fight the pandemic in every front. Despite these achievements, the magnitude of the pandemic can hardly be exaggerated, especially in Southern and parts of All in Africa. In 2006, 2 million children had been infected as had 10 million youth between 15 and 24 years. The other unanticipated consequence of HIV/AIDS pandemic for Africa is the many numbers of children orphaned by the disease. The forum noted that despite the efforts on the continent to fight HIV/AIDS, it remains the greatest survival issue affecting children and youth.

On realizing the Right to Education, the Forum noted that with abolition of school fees in a number of countries in Africa, more children are attending school than ever before. Progress towards Education for all has come closer to reality. Enrolments increased between 1990 and 2005 from 57% to 70% and in some countries there is improvement in gender parity as well. Nevertheless, educational challenges continue to be a major issue in Africa. Some of the major issues that need to be addressed are the low completion and high dropout rates, access to education facilities and services for children with disabilities, low transition rates to post primary education and abuse of children, especially adolescents and girls.

On realizing the Right to Protection, the Forum was informed that there is inadequate data on most issues of child protection. This includes children affected by armed conflict, sexual exploitation of children, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced and child marriages and child labour. It was noted that violence against girls is still a major problem at home, in the community and even schools.

In recent years considerable attention has been given to female genital mutilation (FGM),
but a major continent-wide effort is needed for its total elimination. Trafficking of children for purposes of prostitution, pornography and child labour has grown rapidly across many African countries. The meeting concluded that although some progress has been made towards realizing children’s right to protection, it is still grossly inadequate.

The Forum was informed that some preliminary initiatives have been launched in various parts of the continent to ensure that children participate in issues affecting them. The African Youth Charter, 2006 provides, among others the right of youth to participate in the development of the continent and in decision making at all levels of governance.

But despite the promises made, the reality is that meaningful participation of children in affairs of state, society, community and family are extremely rare. The meeting recognized that meaningful and well informed participation of children not only leads to a better understanding and possible solution to the problems they face, but it is also one of the most effective ways to enhance their social development, self esteem as well as respect for others and the need for responsible behaviour.

ANPPCAN was invited to participate in the Roundtables for the United Nation’s Commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow up to the outcomes of the Special Session on Children 2002. The thrust of Roundtable will be progress towards providing Quality Education and protecting children against abuse, exploitation and violence.

The Network of Fredskorpset Partners in Kenya meet to share Experiences

The NEFPAK Picnic enabled participants to meet and share notes on the Exchange

The Network of Fredskorpset Partners in Kenya (NEFPAK) in July 2008 held a picnic for its active/current and the just returned FK Exchange participants in Kenya at the Nairobi Safari Walk.

A total of 13 participants drawn mainly from Nairobi and Kisumu took part in the event. The function provided the participants with an opportunity to interact, learn and share experiences from the older participants of the FK Exchange Programme. For majority of the participants, the occasion provided them with an excellent opportunity to bond with past graduates of the Exchange. They spent an afternoon mingling and sharing their experiences, with some recalling fond memories of events at their former stations.

In a group discussion, participants familiarized with each other, giving insights into their tasks and activities while at their host organizations. They also learnt activities and good experiences from older counterparts in the programme.

Matheaus Chege from St John’s Community Centre, Nairobi shared with participants his work activities in Malawi, where he spent during his Exchange period last year. Participants at the picnic also shared more on the cultural differences, programmes and and experiences in other countries.

Current Exchange participants appreciated the session and observed that it gave them immense encouragement, the vigour and motivation to contribute fully while at their host organizations.

Jane Thuo, the Executive Director of the African Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) who attended the session praised the FK Exchange programme in facilitating exchange of knowledge among participants and encouraged participants to freely discuss and share experiences and thus, grow with the programme. She hinted of plans to strengthen NEFPAK through participation of mother agencies in a bid to boost the network’s image and programmes.

The function concluded with participants taking a walk through the animal orphanage. It was exciting for participants as they came face to face with some of Kenya’s big five including the Rhino, Zebra, Hippopotamus, the Monkey, the Lion, Impala, Ostrich, Hyena, among others.

At the end of the nearly five hour encounter, participants observed that it was a day well spent as a team. “Come on the coordinating committee, we need more of these low cost meetings,” a member was heard saying.
The glimmering side of Uganda - James Sonii, sheds light on ANPPCAN Uganda

What helped me adapt quickly at ANPPCAN Uganda were the programme meetings held every Monday of the week.

A lot of negative stories about Uganda abound - the protracted war in North, the prevalence of HIV pandemic and the deadly Ebola.

On February 14, 2008, I arrived in Uganda as the Exchange Participant from Liberia to work with the African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect ANPPCAN – Uganda’s Chapter for a period of ten months.

In spite of the negative stereotypes, I was not deterred from coming to the country. Located right at the Equator, on the banks of the source of the River Nile, Uganda has a very good climate.

The challenge I had initially was how I could assimilate into a new cultural environment with people of different cultures. I remembered when I first came I spent more time indoors than outside. But not very long, I adjusted to the food that is widely eaten in Kampala central region - bananas (Matoke), and socializing with people from different walks of life.

One of the things that helped me to quickly adapt at the office and outside was the regular programme meetings which are held every Monday of the week. The meetings bring together all ANPPCAN staff to the table to discuss programme issues. Further still, attending attending local soccer games and the Premiership matches have all helped in my settling well.

On the weekly meetings are about keeping track of staff activities for the week. This of course makes one more accountable to the activities that one planned to do during the course of the week.

Like the rest of Africa, Uganda grapples with the problem of child abuse and neglect. Recent statistics show that 2.7 million children are working, 2.3 million children have been orphaned by HIV/Aids and over 12,000 children were defiled last year alone. School dropout rate is at its highest peak with 50% of the children who enroll in primary school not completing their elementary course.

On the sad note, just four days to the holding of the Fredskorpset Network Meeting organized by the Ugandan Media Women Association (UMWA) in collaboration with Fredskorpset Uganda under the theme: “Excellence the Way of Life,” I had a terrible accident on the motorcycle (commonly known as Boda boda) while traveling from home (Naalya) to a community in Kampala known as Kanyanya to visit a friend when the accident occurred.

Boda-Boda is considered the fastest medium of transport in the Kampala district simply because of the huge traffic jams, especially during rush hours at all major routes. Just like in Liberia where a similar system is being replicated, Penn-Penn, as we call it, is a new phenomenon that began in 2003 after the cessation of hostilities.

As a result of the accident, I sustained a fractured ankle and I was advised by my doctor to stay home for four weeks.

But on the day of the network meeting, I decided to be present because I had a presentation to make on the topic: “What shift I have made so far through the programme”. So, as I walked into the hall of Hotel Africana where the programme was being held, smartly dressed in a safari suit, with a pair of crutches under my arms, I could see the astonishments in the eyes of many. Many of my colleagues both present and former participants shared my agony that I was going through at the time. I was completely desperate to the extent that my colleagues at the meeting offered to serve me food throughout the function at my seat.

Thought I was in a state of desperation, I decided not to miss out on this programme because it was a platform for meeting renowned speakers like Ethan M. Pen-Penn, an inspirational speaker and other FK Participants both current and past. Muso, as he is popularly known by his many admirers, talked about things that even if you were emptied, you can be filled to over flow.

Some of the key points that I learnt from him, is the issue of time management. He cautioned us to keep on striving for excellence in our work and avoid telling stories to justify our failures.

I also had an opportunity to speak to a reporter of the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) radio about the Exchange Programme as an image building, especially on account of how far the programme has brought us and the apparent professional growth of participants as a result of the programme.

James Sonii
Exchange Participant at ANPPCAN Uganda
In Liberia, children issues rank low in priority as the government grapples with reconstruction, writes Washington Kote

Reconstructing from 14 years of civil war, Liberia faces many challenges in the area of child protection. This is due to lack of the government capacity to employ children officers who can push for policy change and laws to protect children.

In addition, the government has other priority areas that need urgent attention, e.g. security, infrastructure, economy, among others, that make child protection a low priority.

Issues facing children in Liberia are many and varied range from child labour, sexual exploitation to child trafficking.

Child labour is rampant in Liberia. This includes children living in Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia. According to ANPPCAN-Liberia and UNICEF rapid assessment on child labour in rubber plantations in 2005, fifty two percent (52%) of the children living in rubber plantations were child labourers.

Since then, no other studies have been carried out at national level to identify the scope and magnitude of the problem and the various interventions that can be implemented to redress the same. Many children are currently on the streets hawking goods in large containers and some are as young as 6 years. ANPPCAN Liberia has been running a programme on child labour with the support of the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

Many children have allegedly fallen prey to sexual explorers, including the United Nations (UN) staff and security forces. Due to high levels of poverty and lack of parental responsibility, many girls have found themselves victims of sex, with some engaging in prostitution. With the support from United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), ANPPCAN Liberia is running a programme on the elimination of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse whose objective is to sensitize communities to respond and fight the same. The project is called No Help for Sex No Sex for Help.

Another major problem facing children and parents in Liberia is the issue of cross border trafficking. Many children are trafficked from Sierra Leone to Liberia and then to Guinea, and also from Liberia to Guinea for cheap farm labour. Still, some children are trafficked to Nigeria and Ghana to serve as domestic workers. High levels of poverty in the rural areas have forced parents to release their children to friends and relatives, who bring children to Monrovia to work on the streets and houses.

However, all is not lost. A National Task Force on Child Labour and Child Trafficking chaired by the Minister for Labour is now in place in Liberia. The task force will, among others, develop strategies and programmes to address child labour in the country. ANPPCAN Liberia is a member of the task force and is represented by Washington Kote.

Currently, ANPPCAN Liberia does not have a project on child labour. However, the Chapter is approaching partners for support to implement a pilot project on child labour including carrying out a study on the same.

Other issues affecting children and that require decisive action need to be taken, include HIV/AIDS, poverty, cultural practices, among others.

ANPPCAN-Fredskorpset Staff Exchange Programme Comes of Age, quipes Anslem Wandega

In the Sixth Phase of the Exchange programme, I was posted to ANPPCAN Ethiopia to foremost, conduct research and other studies on child protection; develop programmes through writing proposals; document good practices at the Chapter, and contribute in the chapter’s activities and programmes, including trainings and workshops.

It all started with response to an internal advert at the home Chapter that called for qualified staff members to participate in the Exchange programme. Realizing that I had the necessary qualifications, I applied to participate in the Exchange. And following an evaluation, I was selected to take part in the programme at ANPPCAN Ethiopia. Later, I and other participants attended a two-week preparatory course for Exchange participants at the Red Cross Society Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, after which I returned home for further orientation on the programme. As a pre-requisite for participation, I also underwent a comprehensive medical test, gave information on my next of kin, got guidance on life in my host country, received my departure allowances and I was supported to travel to the airport.
sharing experiences - Anslem Wandega participates in a capacity building training in one of the Chapter’s project zones in Ethiopia

On the 13 of February, I set off from Entebbe Airport and was received at Bole International Airport by ANPPCAN Ethiopia late in the evening. I was taken to a hotel and later moved to my house. I once again undertook a Comprehensive Medical test, including for HIV as pre-condition for life insurance. I was thereafter insured for life with Nile Insurance Company (S.C). I further underwent orientation at the host chapter which involved reviewing documents as well as having a face to face interaction with the staff.

Since my arrival at the host Chapter, I have continued to demonstrate unwavering resolve in not only achieving the partnership objectives but also in promoting the rights of children.

In a bid to forge new partnerships in programme implementation, I continued to nurture links with prospective donors, including the Department for International Development-Ethiopia, Irish Aid-Ethiopia and Family Health International-Ethiopia.

With the aim of bolstering the organization’s resource base, I have written and submitted various project proposals for funding. These include one on the British Embassy on strengthening juvenile justice systems in North Wollo, another one on combating internal trafficking of children with a special focus on Amhara, SNNPR and Addis Ababa States, another one on prevention of HIV/AIDS in high risk populations in Amhara State that was submitted to USAID Ethiopia, one on the protection of vulnerable girls from violence in Ethiopia that was submitted to UNIFEM another one on protection of girls involved in commercial sex work from HIV/AIDS that was submitted to Feed the Minds and another one on the provision of psychosocial and educational support to orphans and other vulnerable children in Ethiopia that was submitted to Respond Now International. Some of these have generated positive feedback.

I also prepared the organizations annual report for the year 2007 which was discussed and approved by the Executive Board in the second quarter of this programme. I also prepared two annual reports for the Oak Foundation supported projects at ANPPCAN Ethiopia. I also prepared half annual report for the SIDA/JeCCDO project. Further I prepared the half annual report for the Plan Ethiopia Project. These have gone a long way in contributing to the improvement in the quality of documentation at the organization.

During the period, I undertook some research studies on child protection. An example is the study on child trafficking. I also conducted reviews of secondary information to inform project proposals and newspaper articles for experience sharing.

To enhance cultural exchange, I visited several places including Gonder City, Lake Tana, the source of Blue Nile and the Blue Nile Gorge. I also visited Fasil Castle and the Baptism Centre as well as Queen Mintwab’s Church and Palace. Further, I also visited Moyale, Awassa, Hager Mariam, Fincawa, Yabello and the Jamaican dominated Sheshaman town in the south. I visited Lake Awassa, Wendo Genet springs and Moyale.

At the Office level, I have participated in meetings and workshops, prime among which was the Fredskorpset’s networking meeting that took place at Axum Hotel. During this meeting, I shared best practices in child protection at ANPPCAN Ethiopia in form of a presentation. In turn, I gained knowledge on poverty alleviation and rights based development programming.

At project sites, I had the opportunity to conduct training for staff and other child protection actors in North Gonder Project Area. Key topics included the use of the logical framework approach to design, monitor and evaluate projects, positive child disciplining as well as child rights programming. These are now ready to contend with the situation of child abuse and neglect.

The organization has now adopted a code of conduct covering issues such as child protection and whistle blowing, sexual harassment and gender aspects.

During the period, I continued to document and share best practices in child protection, mainly through the media. In particular, I have authored several articles highlighting best practices in child protection at ANPPCAN Ethiopia and Ethiopia as a whole. The articles were published in the New Vision, The Daily Monitor, The Sunrise, The Defender and The Child Link Magazine.

I continued to attend Amharic lessons. So far, I have mastered some words which I can now speak very well and I am hoping to learn more in the remaining months.

I can say that each day of the Exchange programme has enabled me to learn new issues affecting children in Ethiopia, and some of the approaches of addressing the issues.

I have also interacted with new people, with a different culture and learnt to appreciate their culture and live with them. And, most importantly, the Exchange programme has provided me with an opportunity to contribute positively to improving the situation of children in Ethiopia.