

**Newsletter for Rädda Barnen Rewrite the Future Network
March 2008**



“The Big Draw”, ‘What I like best about school.’

Thirteen year old Rokía Kone is a good artist. She is also a leader at Diézou Rail primary school in Bouaké, Côte d’Ivoire; a participating school in Save the Children’s Rewrite the Future programme. Rokía’s combined artistic and leadership talents have helped her to earn a trip to London in April 2007 to work with famous Welsh artist Ben Johnson.

Children from schools in seven different regions of Côte d’Ivoire participated in “The Big Draw” last August and September. Members of Save the Children-supported children’s clubs drew pictures on the theme ‘What I like best about school. Rokía’s was one of ten drawings selected by children to be sent to London to compete. British children paid one pound each to participate in the contest, and the money raised is used to support Save the Children UK’s Rewrite the Future programming worldwide.

At the final judging in January, several children from England and three children from other countries—Côte d’Ivoire, Pakistan and Liberia—were selected as winners. On April 19, they will participate in a day-long workshop with Ben Johnson, who will encourage them to continue to cultivate their artistic abilities as a means of expressing their views and opinions. They will also get to visit schools in London and meet and share their views with politicians and decision-makers.

What made Rokía’s drawing stand out from the others? It tells a personal story about how children can participate in their school and make the environment positive for children. Rokía’s drew the Diezou Rail School Market, and shows two girls buying from women selling food to children during recess. What it doesn’t show is what happens after recess. That’s when Rokia collects fees from the women who participate in the market, and deposits the money in the children’s club fund. The money from the fund is used to finance special activities and parties for the children.

That the winner of The Big Draw hails from Diézou Rail is a source of pride, but not necessarily a surprise to the teachers. They are used to recognition, having won the award for the school of Excellence out of the 80 schools in their inspectorate. Diézou Rail was recognized due in part to having everything in the school organized and ready to begin the school year last September. This no small feat in the region of Bouaké, which was greatly affected by the civil conflict and has had to deal with challenges of teacher and student displacement and infrastructure destruction.

Rokía was surprised at the news. When asked, the sixth grader responded, “No, I didn’t think I would win.” But she does plan to keep practicing her drawing at home, in preparation for the big day In London. We will update you when she returns from her trip in April.

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US\$ 230 000 for Rewrite the Future Communication in Sweden during 2008.

Rädda Barnen has received a Sida grant of US\$230 000 for 2008 to communicate Rewrite the Future in Sweden. Among the proposed activities for 2008 which were granted were:

- A two day seminar on Rewrite the Future in September aimed towards members and local branches and hopefully with an attendant from one of our programme countries.
- An exhibition package on Rewrite the Future, including films and information materials will be available for our local branches in order to arrange local activities.
- A special issue of Save the Children's magazine Barn on education and Rewrite the Future will be distributed to a wider audience, reaching young people.
- A film contest aimed at young people to create their own film on Rewrite the Future - material given by Save the Children. (The contest will take place on a Swedish equivalent to YouTube)
- School material as inspiration for the mandatory last year project made in Sweden, combined with a contest and school material for teachers
- Rewrite the Future Exhibition at Gothenburg International Book Fair with arranged seminars, hopefully with an attendant from one of our programme countries.

We will arrange seminars for media and/or decision makers on Education and Peace as part of our advocacy work. The proposed communication activities also show the importance of our communication within the Rewrite the Future Network and the Alliance network – both necessary for a strong communication impact.

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Rewrite the Future Advocacy plans for 2008

In the near future a narrative for the Alliance advocacy work for 2008 will be distributed to all of you. In short summary the advocacy work for Rewrite the Future in 2008 will mainly concentrate on the themes "education and peace", "education as part of humanitarian response" and "financing of education". On March 12 the peace theme will be launched as starting up of a dialogue that will continue throughout the year with peace negotiators and governments as primary target groups- a report on the education and peace will be launched in December. A report or rather a document for advocacy work, on education as part of humanitarian response will be launched in September.

The report from last year Last in Line, Last in school which focuses on financing of education, will be updated and launched in April.

In addition, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education has devoted his report in 2008 to the UN Human Rights Council in June to "Education in emergencies". Save the Children has in many different ways contributed to this report and will most probably use it in our advocacy work thereafter. In September, the Committee on the Rights of the Child will devote its yearly Day of General Discussion to "Education for children in emergencies". Save the Children has advocated for this and will in different ways support the day and its outcomes to be as strong and action-oriented as possible.

Overall, the advocacy work is expected to be carried out on all levels where we work, thus in donor countries as well as in developing countries and at the more global headquarters' level of the UN and the EU and other organisations. The advocacy work must be tailored taking into account the specific context of the recipient, thus it is well understood that the advocacy work towards a CAFS government will not look the same as that towards donor governments. Some basic material will be provided to support the advocacy/communication officers.

Education as a Right in 2009

The focus for the theme Education as a Right in 2009 will be on Reaching the "unreachable" (a new title to come). The purpose is to focus on the main message of Rewrite the Future, that is to reach the one's most difficult to reach, children in conflict affected fragile states, and to do so with a rights angle. The task group for this theme will now develop the more narrow objectives for 2009 and start looking at concrete and realistic activities under the lead of Gabriella Fredriksson. The Key Challenge Team for Rewrite the Future has emphasized that it is now time not only to tell others to do more but also

show how this could be done using good examples from our own work within Save the Children. As one of our strengths as an organisation is that we actually have contacts with children, in 2009 we can expect that children themselves will be more part of the campaign. All of this requires involvement from the regional and country levels which is why the task group will be in contact with these offices throughout the planning process, in order to ensure realistic but also inspirational activities/actions that can really make a difference for children in the long run.

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Iraqi Summer Camp

Save the Children Sweden Rewrite the Future project for Iraqis

Response Review

Save the Children has assessed the regional situation of the Iraqi population living in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. In response to the growing needs of the displaced, and consistent with Save the Children's Global education in emergencies initiative "Rewrite the Future", Save the Children has developed a regional strategy focusing on education – specifically early childhood development, primary school and non-formal youth education.

The largest area of implementation is Jordan where Save the Children-US is currently implementing educational support programs for Iraqis and is in active discussions with the Jordanian government and donor governments to more broadly support children. Save the Children-UK has also been in discussions with the Syrian authorities/Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) as to negotiating and MoU necessary to become operational in Syria.

In Lebanon, Save the Children is collaborating with UNHCR and the Lebanese Ministry of Education to ensure access to quality education is provided to Iraqi children. Save the Children Sweden is signing agreements with local partners to provide remedial classes and psychosocial support to Iraqi children through the country.

The ELT decided Save the Children US is the overall lead for the regional response. Save the Children US is leading response efforts in Jordan. Save the Children UK is the designated lead in Syria and Egypt, and Save the Children Sweden is the designated lead in Lebanon.

Situational Assessment

- UNHCR estimates that there are 2.4 million displaced with 1.4 million in Syria, and most evidence points to between 300,000 and 400,000 in Jordan. The remaining displaced population is spread over other countries in the region including Egypt and Lebanon.
- Latest survey estimated Iraqis in Lebanon to be around 50,000. Based upon Iraqi demographics, more than half of these displaced Iraqi refugees should be children under the age of 18.
- Hosting governments do not have the resources to assist such large numbers of refugees.

- Iraqi children and youth suffer from varying levels of psychosocial problems.
- Most of the Iraqis seeking refuge are not able to work legally. This pushes families, specifically women and children, into unsafe and dangerous work. There are reports of children working in exploitive work including sex work.

Save the Children's Rewrite the Future in Lebanon

- The number of Iraqis in Lebanon is estimated at 50 thousand. Most of Iraqis have an illegal status in Lebanon.
- Save the Children received a 2.5 m SEK grant from SIDA (13 months) for supporting RtF with Iraqis. Another grant is being approved by the World Bank of 600, 000 USD (18 months).
- The project will be implemented through local partners and through the Ministry of Education (i.e. public Save the Children schools) and in full coordination with UNICEF and UNHCR.
- The project will benefit 1200 Iraqi children and their host communities
- The project will also involve children in advocacy through developing publications, CRC situational analysis and media materials.
- Educational activities will include: remedial classes, language & IT classes, teacher training, fees coverage and material distribution (ECE, primary education as well as vocational training and non formal education).
- The psychosocial activities will allow children to be included in the communities where they live through play, art work and summer activities.

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