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Newsletter on Children's rights in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Submitted by: International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR)

Bureau international des droits des enfants/International Bureau for Children's Rights
805 Villeray Street, Montreal (Québec) H2R 1J4

Tel. : +1 514 932 7656

Fax : +1 514 932 9453

Website: www.ibcr.org

E-mail: info@ibcr.org

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1. Global Development on Children and Human's rights

[News] Alarming Trends Face Children and Families of World's 21st Largest Country

The world's 65.3 million forcibly displaced people—who would make up the world's 21st largest country based on population—are falling far behind others in terms of education, health, child marriage, and other key factors, a new report by Save the Children illustrates. Forced to Flee: Inside the 21st Largest Country examined indicators most relevant to the well-being of children and found results that demonstrate both the enormous challenges faced by refugees and Internally Displaced People as well as the notable contributions they could make to their host countries and communities if they were allowed to do so.

[Full Article](#) (Save the Children)

[News] California changes laws so children can no longer be prostitutes

27th of September 2016 - Children will no longer be classified as prostitutes in the U.S. state of California after a new law decriminalized prostitution for minors in a move praised by child rights campaigners. Coming on the back of a public campaign coined "There is No Such Thing" as a child prostitute, crimes of solicitation and prostitution will no longer apply to anyone aged under 18. Under-age victims of sex trafficking are to be referred to child welfare agencies.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

[News] Canada's child detention policy unjust, illegal: rights group

22nd of September 2016 - Canada's practice of putting children in immigration detention centers or separating them from detained parents is causing them psychological harm and violates international law, a rights group said on Thursday. An estimated 242 children per year, from 2010 to 2014, were detained at Canadian immigration centers resembling medium-security prisons, according to a report from the University of Toronto's International Human Rights program.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

[Communiqué de presse] Dans les 10 pays affichant les taux de scolarisation les plus faibles, 40 % des enfants n'ont pas accès à l'éducation de base

1er septembre 2016 – Dans les 10 pays affichant les pourcentages d'enfants n'ayant pas accès à l'éducation primaire les plus élevés, près de 2 enfants sur 5, soit 18 millions, ne sont pas scolarisés, a déclaré aujourd'hui l'UNICEF. C'est le Libéria qui enregistre le plus fort taux d'enfants non scolarisés avec près des deux tiers des enfants en âge de suivre une éducation primaire qui n'ont pas accès à l'école. Le Soudan du Sud occupe le deuxième rang : 59 % des enfants ne peuvent pas bénéficier d'une éducation primaire et 1 école sur 3 est fermée en raison du conflit.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

[News] Education Commission launches bold plan to get every child in school by 2030

18th of September 2016 - Bold action and radical funding could see every child in the world in school by 2030 - and avoid a looming global education catastrophe. The high-powered Education Commission today delivered a plan called The Learning Generation to give a quality primary and secondary education to every girl and boy in every country.

[Full Article](#) (A word at School)

[News] Girls Take Over on Day of the Girl

29th of September 2016 - On 11 October, politicians, CEOs and other leaders across the globe will have their positions taken over by girls who are calling for equality and proving they can change the world. Over 200 takeovers will take place in more than 50 countries to mark the International Day of the Girl. Leading figures in politics and business will be taken over by girls including the

first female President of Nepal Bidhya Devi Bhandari. By taking over positions where they are rarely seen, girls will call on governments to remove the barriers that deny millions their rights.

[Full Article](#) (Plan International)

[Report] Half a million children have risked exploitation as refugee and migrant crisis turns into big business for smugglers

2nd of September 2016 - New figures reveal that around half a million refugee and migrant children on the move are believed to have turned to smugglers since January 2015, as delays and desperation drive them into the hands of criminals quick to exploit their vulnerability. In order to shine a light on the murky underworld of migrant smuggling in Europe, and better shape the response, UNICEF has gathered information from a range of sources – including Europol-Interpol, testimonies from children themselves, publications from UN agencies, NGOs, and corroborated media reports.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

[News] Indian welfare cuts led to deaths of 600 children from malnutrition, activist says

22nd of September 2016 - Funding cuts for welfare schemes by India's government have contributed to child malnutrition in Palghar district in the western state of Maharashtra, where 600 children are said to have died of starvation this year, according to activists. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a notice to the government of Maharashtra on Wednesday, asking for a detailed report on the deaths within four weeks.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

[Report] Japan and UNICEF team up to strengthen protection of children and women

21st of September 2016 - The Government of Japan has contributed with approximately US\$ 2.2 million to UNICEF to assist children and women's protection throughout Myanmar. Through this contribution, UNICEF in partnership with the Government of Myanmar, will work to both prevent and respond to cases of gender based violence, as well as contribute to the on-going development and capacity building of key government departments and civil society groups, namely through the provision of quality social work.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

[Communiqué de presse] Les dirigeants mondiaux doivent investir en faveur de meilleures données sur les enfants – UNICEF

14 septembre 2016 – L’UNICEF appelle les dirigeants mondiaux à investir en faveur de meilleures statistiques sur les enfants. Une nouvelle étude du Fonds des Nations Unies pour l’enfance avertit que des données suffisantes sont disponibles pour la moitié seulement des indicateurs de mesure des objectifs de développement durable liés aux enfants.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

[Communiqué de presse] Près de 50 millions d’enfants « déracinés » dans le monde – UNICEF

7 septembre 2016 – Dans le monde entier, près de 50 millions d’enfants ont été déracinés – 28 millions d’entre eux chassés de chez eux par des conflits dont ils ne sont aucunement responsables, et des millions d’autres poussés à migrer dans l’espoir de trouver une vie meilleure, plus sûre. Souvent traumatisés par les conflits et la violence qu’ils fuient, ils sont confrontés à d’autres dangers, dont les risques de noyade lors des traversées, la malnutrition et la déshydratation, la traite des êtres humains, l’enlèvement, le viol et même le meurtre.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

[Nouvelles] Québec exclut la gratuité scolaire pour les enfants sans-papiers

22 septembre 2016 - La question de l’accès à l’école gratuite pour les enfants non résidents ou sans statut passe à la trappe. Car contrairement à l’ancien projet de loi 86, le nouveau projet de loi visant à modifier la Loi sur l’instruction publique, qui s’ouvrait mercredi aux consultations particulières, n’en fait plus du tout mention. Plusieurs organismes de défense des droits des réfugiés et des sans-papiers se disent excédés par le report sine die de ce dossier, y compris la protectrice du citoyen, qui a démontré plusieurs signes d’impatience.

[Article complet](#) (Le Devoir)

[Report] Save the Children Calls for Ambitious Action to Get All Children Reading

8th of September 2016 - 250 million primary aged children worldwide are not learning to read and write – 130 million of whom have completed four years of education. The fact that so many children are failing to learn to read is a crisis that must be reversed urgently. In a new report released on International Literacy Day, Save the Children calls for countries to prioritise and invest in efforts to ensure all children are able to read.

[Full Article](#) (Save the Children)

[Report] Situation Analysis of Children with Disabilities in Myanmar 2016

27th of September 2016 - This situation analysis is the first ever study in Myanmar to provide a systematic understanding of the experiences of children with disabilities and their families, informed by robust, qualitative evidence. Children with disabilities have the same rights as all children. Given the same opportunities to flourish as any other child, they have the potential to lead fulfilling, dignified lives and to contribute to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of their communities

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

[News] UN General Assembly 2016: world leaders need to deliver education for children in emergencies

14th of September 2016 - Leaders from around the world will gather in New York to attend high-level meetings at the United Nations General Assembly. In their hands is the future of millions of children who are denied an education because of humanitarian emergencies including conflicts and natural disasters.

[Full Article](#) (A word at School)

[Report] UN refugees meeting a wasted opportunity to improve the lives of millions of children

19th of September 2016 - As the UN high-level meeting on refugees and migrants draws to a close in New York today, World Vision has expressed serious disappointment with the outcome. “We had high hopes for children, but today displaced and imprisoned children are left with a business-as-usual approach that offers little hope,” said World Vision’s Helen Keogh at the Summit in New York.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

[Report] World Vision and ChildPact to release new tool measuring government efforts to protect children

28th of September 2016 - Today, World Vision and ChildPact, will launch the Child Protection Index in Brussels. This tool serves to prevent and end violence, child trafficking, child labour, discrimination and other violations of a child's rights. The CPI makes use of 600 indicators drawn from child protection language in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). "The Index verifies needs and gaps in protection systems. It is often hard for governments, civil society and donors alike to decide on priorities or next steps. This product offers a way for CP actors to identify what steps should be taken next.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

2. Conferences, Courses and Events

Conference - 2nd National Child Wellbeing Conference: Access to Justice for Vulnerable Children

Access to justice is a fundamental principle in securing, promoting, and protecting the rights and wellbeing of children. The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society works to create safe spaces in which people can come together in an atmosphere of dialogue, participation and inclusion. The Foundation is interested in learning what it is that gives people wellbeing, in order for this to be shared and further promoted and is convinced that access to justice is a cross-cutting component of wellbeing. This conference will explore access to justice from the child's perspective, giving particular attention to children who are vulnerable. The conference is open to NGOs, academics, and practitioners.

Location: Valletta, Malta

Date: 21st to 22nd of October 2016

Registration deadline: 14th of October 2016

[For more information](#) (The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society)

Training - Online Certificate Course in Gender-based Violence

The overall purpose of the training programme is to increase participant's knowledge and understanding of the concept of gender, and gender-based violence, sexuality, and rights. It will further take a look at the various forms of gender-based violence and the core principles for a code of conduct, reporting mechanisms and developing a programmatic response.

Location: Online

Date: 26th of October to 25th of November 2016

Registration deadline: 24th of October 2016

[For more information](#) (Human Rights & Justice Group International)

Training - WASH and Nutrition

Nutrition is a key aspect in our day to day life. Sanitation related diseases affect the nutrition status of both children and adults which may consequently lead to many deaths and yet these conditions can be managed nutritionally. This course is designed to equip the participants with knowledge on how to manage WASH related diseases nutritionally.

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Date: 31st of October to 11th of November 2016

Registration deadline: 24th of October 2016

[For more information](#) (Network for Water and Sanitation)

Training - Achieving education 2030 and eliminating child labour

Child labour is a barrier to education for all. This course explores policy measures and programmes to remove the barriers to education that working children face.

Location: Turin, Italy

Date: 31st of October to 4th of November 2016

Registration deadline: 31st of October 2016

[For more information](#) (International Training Centre of the ILO)

Conference – Child in the City

The conference, which takes place every two years, is a key opportunity for children's professionals, city planners, geographers and policy makers to share knowledge, good practice and research findings from the various disciplines that are important to the shared aim of creating child friendly cities. It aims to promote collaboration within the child friendly city movement and to promote liveable, sustainable designs, services and projects that support the well-being of children and promote their active engagement in the life of their communities.

Location: Ghent, Belgium

Date: 7th to 8th of November 2016

[For more information](#) (Child in the City Foundation)

Conference - Children's Rights in Alternative Care: Walk the Talk!

The conference will serve as a platform for national and international stakeholders from the child protection area to start a dialogue on how to raise the capacity of the children's social care workforce and in particular care professionals on embedding child rights in their work. The training module produced by SOS Children's Villages together with national and international partners, as well as the experience gathered while implementing the project in eight European countries, will serve as starting point of a discussion which we hope will inspire decision makers in setting new standards for training care professionals, ultimately improving the quality of alternative care.

Location: Paris, France

Date: 8th to 9th of November 2016

[For more information](#) (SOS Villages d'Enfants – France)

Conference - International Family Conference: Children's Rights and Family

International Family Conference is a biennial international academic conference which is organized by the Women's Platform of the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF), which holds General Consultative Status at UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Its aim is to stimulate interdisciplinary and cross-national collaboration and approach to various family issues.

Location: Abuja, Nigeria

Date: 19th to 20th of November 2016

[For more information](#) (Journalists and Writers Foundation)

Forum - Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law: Widening the Democratic Space: the role of youth in public decision-making

In resolution 28/14, adopted on 26 March 2015, the Human Rights Council decided to establish a forum on human rights, democracy and rule of law. The purpose of the Forum is "to provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to the relationship between these areas" and to "identify and analyze best practices, challenges and opportunities for States in their efforts to secure respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law".

Location: Geneva, Switzerland

Date: 21st to 22nd of November 2016

Registration deadline: 16th of November 2016

[For more information](#) (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)

3. Sub-Regional and Country updates

Afrique du Sud - Afrique du Sud : la nationalité accordée aux enfants apatrides

6 septembre 2016 - Un tribunal sud-africain a ouvert la voie à la régularisation des enfants nés en Afrique du Sud de parents étrangers. Ce mardi 6 septembre, la Cour suprême d'appel du pays a rendu une décision ordonnant l'octroi de la nationalité à une fille apatride, au terme d'une bataille judiciaire qui a duré deux ans.

[Article complet](#) (BBC)

Afrique du Sud - Lissage obligatoire et autres maltraitances racistes pour des lycéennes d'Afrique du Sud

9 septembre 2016 - Traces de l'apartheid, scandale raciste pour la rentrée scolaire 2016 en Afrique du Sud. Un lycée huppé de Pretoria, capitale administrative du pays, principalement fréquenté par des enfants de la bourgeoisie blanche, interdit aux rares filles noires de venir les cheveux au naturel, en coiffure "afro", c'est à dire non lissés artificiellement.

[Article complet](#) (TV5 Monde avec AFP)

South Africa - "We Are Still Fighting For A School For My Child"

21st of September 2016 - Children and adolescents with disabilities face huge challenges to access education in South Africa. One year on from the release of Human Rights Watch's report documenting barriers to a quality education for children with disabilities, the government has made little progress in addressing systemic barriers and introducing stronger reforms to guarantee inclusive education in South Africa.

[Full article](#) (HRW)

Comores - Rentrée scolaire et importantes réformes de l'éducation aux Comores

20 septembre 2016 - Aux Comores, c'est l'heure de la rentrée scolaire. Les élèves ont commencé, ce lundi 19 septembre, à retrouver le chemin de l'école. Le ministère de l'Education nationale a clôturé, ce week-end, sa conférence annuelle nationale de l'Education, pendant laquelle d'importantes réformes ont été décidées et un plan de transition du secteur de l'Education 2017-2020 adopté.

[Article complet](#) (RFI)

Congo- Congo-Brazzaville Brazzaville: exode de populations du Pool

30 septembre 2016 - Voisine de Brazzaville, la région du Pool connaît un exode de ses populations en raison des accrochages enregistrés ces derniers jours entre la force publique et

les anciens miliciens ninjas du pasteur Ntumi. La situation sécuritaire du Pool va mal depuis le mois d'avril 2016.

[Article complet](#) (RFI)

Côte d'Ivoire et Ghana - Côte d'Ivoire et Ghana signent un accord contre le travail des enfants

13 septembre 2016 - Dominique Ouattara et Lordina Mahama, premières dames de Côte d'Ivoire et du Ghana, ont signé mardi à Abidjan un accord de coopération engageant leur deux pays, premiers producteurs mondiaux de cacao, à lutter contre la travail des enfants dans la cacaoculture.

[Article complet](#) (AFP)

Ethiopia - SOS Children's Villages moves to help drought-hit Ethiopia and Malawi

27th of September 2016 - Emergency programmes to deliver nutritional and other care for vulnerable children and families. SOS Children's Villages is working to help vulnerable families in Ethiopia and Malawi with nutritional and other emergency assistance in response to one the worst droughts to hit eastern and southern Africa in decades.

[Full article](#) (SOS Children's Village International)

Ghana - 'My kids hate me ... I sold them': slavery and child labour in Ghana – in pictures

30th of September 2016 - Child labour is a major problem in Ghana, affecting more than one-fifth of young people. The figure can be much higher in coastal areas, where poverty-hit families send their children to work or sell them into labour. Research by volunteering organisation Ubelong suggests more than 80% of children in the town of Senya are trafficked into hazardous work in the fishing industry

[Full article](#) (The Guardian)

Ghana - National Justice for Children Policy Launched

27th of September 2016 - A policy aimed at improving the conditions of children who come into contact with or at the risk of coming into contact with the law has been launched in Accra yesterday.

'The Justice for Children Policy' has come at the heels of the government's continued commitment and efforts to put people, especially, children first.

[Full article](#) (AllAfrica)

Kenya - Kenyan children learn ballet at Kibera slum

14th of September 2016 - Classical music, colourful clothes and teachers' voices mix to turn the grey cold room into a real ballet studio. With more than 2.5 million people in some 200 settlements, the slum dwellers in Nairobi represent more than half of the city's population and occupy merely 6 percent of the land, according to a report released in 2014 by the African Population and Health Research Center.

[Full article](#) (AlJazeera)

Mali - Halting school meals in Mali could keep thousands of children out of class: U.N.

27 of Septembre 2016 - Taking away school meals from 180,000 pupils going back to class in Mali, where insecurity has closed schools in the north, may deprive even more children of an education, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) said on Tuesday.

[Full article](#) (Reuters)

Namibia - In Namibia, 'Little Bugs' brings early childhood development to the desert

12th of September 2016 - Jeanette Swartbooi was forced to sacrifice education opportunities for her children when she moved her family to the Namib Desert – where essential social services like schools and health facilities are hard to come by. But now, 13 years later, her youngest children are finally getting access to early childhood development thanks to a newly opened centre called Little Bugs.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

Niger - Malnutrition : le dépistage par les mères, une stratégie prometteuse

20 septembre 2016 - C'est une étude qui ouvre des perspectives prometteuses dans la lutte contre la malnutrition, un fléau qui tue près de 3 millions d'enfants de moins de 5 ans sur les 6,3 qui meurent chaque année dans le monde. Former les mères au dépistage de la malnutrition chez leur enfant favorise une détection et une prise en charge plus rapides, et réduit le besoin d'hospitalisation : la démonstration vient d'en être faite par une enquête de terrain, menée au Niger par l'ONG Alliance for International Medical Action (Alima) et présentée dans la revue Journal Archives of Public Health du 6 septembre »

[Article complet](#) (Le Monde)

Nigeria - Rise in Nigerian Sex Slavery in Italy Fueled by Violence and 'Juju' Magic

28th of September 2016 - When Nigerian teenager Beauty arrived in Sicily after crossing the Mediterranean from North Africa last year, she had only hours to phone the man who trafficked her - or risk lethal repercussions for loved ones back home.

[Full article](#) (NY Times)

Nigeria - What next for Nigeria's children?

23rd of September 2016 – Ajija is as frail as you possibly can be when alive. The four-year-old should be actively playing with friends but she can barely stand. When she is checked by a health worker, she is unsurprisingly registered as severely malnourished.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

Ouganda - Ouganda: une école pour les enfants réfugiés du Sud-Soudan

18 septembre 2016 - En Ouganda, environ 250 000 Sud-Soudanais ont trouvé refuge dans le pays. Parmi eux essentiellement des femmes et des enfants. Certains sont dans les camps de réfugiés du UNHCR, d'autres vont à l'école. Trouver une formation n'est pas toujours facile pour ces jeunes. Ayant traversé des événements traumatisants, ils sont souvent considérés comme des élèves difficiles. Dans la Kisubi School, ils sont accueillis en grand nombre et une association dédiée aux élèves sud-soudanais les aide à affronter les moments difficiles. Voici le 2e volet de notre rencontre avec ces élèves.

[Article complet](#) (RFI)

RDC - RD Congo : à Kinshasa, la rentrée scolaire rime toujours avec galère

10 septembre 2016 - La rentrée scolaire a eu lieu il y a quelques jours à Kinshasa mais "seul le dernier de mes quatre enfants va à l'école", regrette Hortense Kabalira. « Les trois autres restent à la maison, faute d'argent pour payer les frais, acheter les sacs, les chaussures, les tenues », explique cette ménagère, qui fait face aux mêmes difficultés que des milliers de familles de la capitale de la République démocratique du Congo.

[Article complet](#) (Jeune Afrique)

DRC - In the Democratic Republic of Congo, protecting and empowering children with albinism in schools

26th of September 2016 - Children living with albinism in the Democratic Republic of Congo often face discrimination and exclusion from their peers, causing some of them to skip school or drop out altogether. Learn how UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education to make sure that children with albinism and other vulnerable students get the support they need to stay in school.

[Full article](#)(UNICEF)

RDC - RDC : 45 magistrats formés sur la protection de l'enfant

15 septembre 2016 - Quarante-cinq juges pour enfants et officiers du ministère public près les parquets venus de toutes les provinces de la RDC suivent, depuis mardi 13 septembre à Kinshasa, une formation sur l'application de la loi portant sur la protection de l'enfant en RDC promulguée depuis 2009. Cette formation s'étend jusqu'au 17 septembre.

[Article complet](#)(Radio Okapi)

Soudan - Le Soudan libère 21 enfants-soldats

22 septembre 2016 - Le Soudan a libéré 21 enfants-soldats capturés l'année dernière au Darfour lors de combats entre troupes gouvernementales et rebelles, a indiqué jeudi l'ONU. Cette nouvelle intervient quelques jours après que le président soudanais Omar el-Béchir a déclaré au Darfour qu'il ordonnerait la libération de tous les enfants détenus appartenant à la rébellion.

[Article complet](#) (La Presse)

South Sudan - Educating girls in South Sudan

28th of September 2016 - Meet the girls who must overcome conflict, hunger, stigma and sexual abuse just to go to school. Fierce fighting in her village in Unity State, kept 18-year-old Susan away from her school in Juba for more than a year. But even those girls who are able to attend often have to travel for hours to reach school.

[Full article](#) (Al Jazeera)

Tchad - Au Tchad, comment se reconstruire après les dégâts d'une grossesse précoce

6 septembre 2016 - Aïcha a trouvé la paix et le silence dans le quartier le plus bruyant de la ville. A Dembé, où se tient le grand marché de N'Djamena, capitale du Tchad, les commerçantes agitent leurs poissons boucanés ou leurs mangues rousses. Elle est calmement assise dans sa tanière de tentures. De flamboyants tissus décoorent du sol au plafond cette petite pièce au fond d'une cour où elle vit avec sa fille de 10 ans, Fatime. Quand elle ne passe pas du temps avec elle, Aïcha coud des pagnes, des draps, des chiffons dans un atelier de réinsertion des femmes victimes, comme elle, d'une fistule.

[Article complet](#) (Le Monde)

Zimbabwe - Hello Hunger

September 2016 - "How is your hunger?" Marita greets you. For Zimbabweans, hit by drought, failed crops and no food, the answer is almost always "bad". Marita, 28 years old, lives in a rural

part in the Hwange area of eastern Zimbabwe. It's close to both the animal splendour of the Hwange National Park and to Victoria Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

[Full article](#) (Caritas)

Zimbabwe - El Nino: Parents leave children in drought hit area

22nd of September - The Ndebele family has been waiting to hear from their main breadwinner for months; but nothing has been heard. The family is one of the many families living in Bulilima districts in the Matebeleland south province affected by a severe drought. Hundreds of young people have fled increasing hardship to seek employment outside the country, as farm labourers in neighbouring South Africa and Botswana

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