



# Newsletter on Children's rights – Sub-Saharan Africa

September 2020

## Table of Contents

Afrique Subsaharienne - Afrique du Sud: le drame des enfants chef de famille.....	1
Afrique Subsaharienne - En Afrique subsaharienne, «95 millions d'enfants n'ont pas d'état civil».....	2
Côte d'Ivoire - Bientôt une étude sur l'Observation générale 16 du comité des droits de l'enfant des Nations Unies.....	2
Nigeria - UNICEF Criticizes Sentencing of 13-Year Old for Blasphemy in Nigeria.....	2
Nigeria - Why the Child's Rights Act still doesn't apply throughout Nigeria .....	2
République Démocratique du Congo - Cinq ans de bons résultats de "Batela Mwana" en RDC: les parties prenantes au projet plaident pour sa pérennisation.....	3
South Africa - Case law suggests South Africa must do more about disrupted schooling .....	3
Sub-Saharan Africa - Climate change denying school to African children: NGO .....	3
Sub-Saharan Africa - Climate Change Impacts, Trends and Vulnerabilities of Children in Sub Saharan Africa .....	3
Zimbabwe - Zimbabwe's education law now does more for children, but there are still gaps .....	4

## **Afrique Subsaharienne - Afrique du Sud: le drame des enfants chef de famille**

6 septembre - De nombreux enfants sud-africains sont contraints de devenir chef de famille. Mis au ban de la société, ils doivent être sauvegardés et protégés, sensibilise Justice et Paix. Des enfants orphelins, d'autres laissés seuls par leurs parents, des filles-mères, autant de situations dramatiques qui doivent être prises en charge. Dans un rapport, la Commission épiscopale Justice et Paix d'Afrique du Sud alerte sur les conditions de ces enfants contraints de grandir trop vite et qui présentent de nombreux symptômes.

VATICAN NEWS - [Article complet](#)



## **Afrique Subsaharienne - En Afrique subsaharienne, «95 millions d'enfants n'ont pas d'état civil»**

28 septembre - On les appelle les « enfants fantômes ». En Afrique subsaharienne, 95 millions d'enfants qui n'ont aucun acte de naissance. Or, quand on n'a pas d'existence légale, on ne peut pas s'inscrire aux examens scolaires et aux concours administratifs.

RFI - [Article complet](#)

## **Côte d'Ivoire - Bientôt une étude sur l'Observation générale 16 du comité des droits de l'enfant des Nations Unies**

16 septembre - Une étude sur le niveau de mise en œuvre de l'Observation générale 16 en Côte d'Ivoire du comité des droits de l'enfant des Nations Unies sera bientôt commanditée par la Direction de la protection de l'enfant, sous l'initiative de la société civile ivoirienne conduite par le Forum des ONG, en partenariat avec Save the Children et UNICEF.

ABIDJAN.NET - [Article complet](#)

## **Nigeria - UNICEF Criticizes Sentencing of 13-Year Old for Blasphemy in Nigeria**

September 18th - The United Nations Children's Agency, UNICEF, has condemned a Nigerian court for upholding a 10-year prison sentence with manual labor for a 13-year-old boy convicted of blasphemy. The Sharia court in the northern Nigerian state of Kano convicted Omar Farouq in August of using foul language against Allah during an argument with a friend.

VOA NEWS - [Full article](#)

## **Nigeria - Why the Child's Rights Act still doesn't apply throughout Nigeria**

September 24th - Nigeria adopted the Child's Rights Act in 2003, giving legal consent to both the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The country's constitution states that for an international law to take effect, Nigeria's legislature must create a national version.

But as Nigeria operates a federal system of government, the law does not automatically become applicable in all of its 36 states. In terms of the constitution, children's issues are the preserve of the constituent states.

THE CONVERSATION - [Full article](#)



## **République Démocratique du Congo - Cinq ans de bons résultats de “Batela Mwana” en RDC: les parties prenantes au projet plaident pour sa pérennisation**

16 septembre - À quelques semaines de la fin de “Batela Mwana”, le comité de pilotage a tenu sa 6ème et dernière rencontre le 16 septembre 2020. Tous les partenaires au projet ont opté pour sa perpétuation.

INFO BAS CONGO - [Article complet](#)

## **South Africa - Case law suggests South Africa must do more about disrupted schooling**

September 24th - Since the first case of COVID-19 was reported in South Africa, the question of how to manage the country's schools has been top of mind. Schools were closed in March and, as part of a phased approach, began returning from June. The risks associated with the pandemic mean the situation could change at any moment.

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## **Sub-Saharan Africa - Climate change denying school to African children: NGO**

September 26th - Floods deprive thousands of children from education, delays chances to resume, says Save the Children. Save the Children urged governments “to step up repair work on schools and provide temporary classrooms for children who had to flee so that they do not fall behind even further following the devastating impact of COVID-19 on their education”

Anadolu Agency - [Full article](#)

## **Sub-Saharan Africa - Climate Change Impacts, Trends and Vulnerabilities of Children in Sub Saharan Africa**

September 28th - Children are the least responsible for climate change, yet will bear the greatest burden of its impact. Nearly 160 million children live in high drought-severity zones and 500 million (almost a quarter of the world's child population) live in extremely high flood occurrence zones. Currently, more than 11 million people are experiencing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity in nine Southern African countries due to deepening drought and climate crisis.

UNICEF via RELIEF WEB - [Full article](#)



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## **Zimbabwe - Zimbabwe's education law now does more for children, but there are still gaps**

September 7th - Zimbabwe recently adopted the Education Amendment Act, 2020 , to align its Education Act with the country's Constitution. The amendment is a result of consultations about how every child could realise the right to free basic education. The Act has fairly extensive provisions to protect, respect and fulfil the right to education for all children. It addresses issues pertinent to education, including the prohibition of expelling pregnant girls from school, free and compulsory education, sexual and reproductive health issues, and the rights of learners with disabilities.

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