

PD-ABY-671

**SAVE THE CHILDREN UK  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

**URBAN PROGRAMME  
END OF PROJECT REPORT**

**1.1. Program Code**

USAID identity code: AOT-A-99-00084-00

SC (UK) identity code: USAID/2201/2301

**1.2. Location**

Kinshasa, North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces- Democratic Republic of the Congo

**1.3. Country/Region/Main Office**

SC (UK), Democratic Republic of Congo

**1.4. Date of Signature**

29<sup>th</sup> September 2000

**1.5. Funding**

Total budget : \$1,487,331

USAID contribution to total budget : \$845,432

Non-federal contribution : \$641,899

Actual spent : \$845,432

USAID spent : \$845,432

Non-federal spent : \$338,526

**1.6. Contacts**

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Stephen Blight, Program Director, SC DRC (pdsdrc@jobantech.cd)

**1.7. Project Duration**

The grant AOT-A-00-99-0084-00 has been on-going since 28<sup>th</sup> February 1999. The current phase runs from March 1<sup>st</sup> 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003.

**1.8. Reporting Period**

Phase 6: March 2002- March 2003.

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**1.9. Summary**

Phase II of the project covered the period from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2002 and enabled SC-UK to re-evaluate and consolidate it's approach to project work in Kinshasa as well as allowing for the programme to expand its geographical coverage to include the cities of Bukavu and Goma in the East of DRC.

The current Phase III took forward our project work in the 3 cities, building on the quality of project work in Kinshasa through a smaller number of partners and establishing a more practical project implementation based approach in Bukavu and Goma following the successful establishment of Community Child Protection

Networks during phase II. The program has worked to promote children's access to basic services and strengthen family livelihood systems to reduce child separation and abandonment.

Stability in senior management was sustained through the Programme Manager's (Balma Yahaya) presence in Kinshasa until December 31, 2002; the continued presence of the Programme manager in the east (Alain Lapierre); and the arrival of the Programme Director, Stephen Blight, in January 2002. After a long period of searching a new Social Protection Project Manager, Javier Aguilar Molina, was recruited in July to replace the former who had left in June last year. Until this time the Programme Manager managed the urban programme in addition to his other tasks. A Support Services Programme Manager has been recruited to provide support to the programme at the national level.

A team visited the programme from DCOF (Displaced Children and Orphans Fund) to draw lessons learned from our work for future programming.

Originally scheduled to end on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2002, a no-cost extension was obtained until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2003. This extension only covered activities in Kinshasa, principally:

- to undertake an external evaluation. Due to the sharp deterioration in security that followed the departure of the Rwandan army from eastern DRC, the evaluation had to be limited to the Kinshasa component;
- to consolidate of the three community child protection networks initiated through the projects;
- to ensure sustainability of livelihood projects, and the handover of some activities to partners;
- to complete rehabilitation work in children's wing of the prison, and conduct training for juvenile judges.

## **Context**

Despite remarkable progress in the peace process over the course of year, the country remains divided, war and chaos continue to reign in the east of the country. Disappointingly, the humanitarian situation is as grave as it has ever been. The impact of the war on the economy and on society has reverberated through to all urban areas in the country, preventing any meaningful progress towards the realization of the rights of children.

On the political front, the two salient events of the year have been, firstly, the conclusion of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. The Dialogue was one of the main pillars for peace as identified in the 1999 Lusaka Accords. After long negotiations, a global agreement was signed in December 2002 that was inclusive of all the parties to the Lusaka Accords; and a new constitution was promulgated at the end of March 2003. At the end of the reporting period, arrangements for the installation of a transitional government are under negotiation. Second, agreements were reached with the Ugandan, Zimbabwean, and Rwandan governments for the withdrawal of their troops from the Congo. This has been more or less completed at the end of the reporting period. However, with the agreement of the Kinshasa government, Uganda

has retained some troops in Ituri District. The Rwandan government is suspected of retaining some troops and providing direct support to the RCD-Goma military.

This progress was not accompanied by increased security for the Congolese population, and in fact the humanitarian situation deteriorated markedly over the course of the year. In the territories controlled by the RCD-Goma, the vacuum left by the departure of Rwandan troops was filled by increased Mai-mai activity; probably around 80% of these territories are now inaccessible to humanitarian agencies. The end of the anti-Kabila alliance during the inter-Congolese Dialogue also resulted in new struggles of power: the RCD-K-ML, MLC, RCD-N, and the UPC were all involved in military confrontations at one time or another. With the involvement of the Ugandan, Rwandan, and Kinshasa governments, the ethnic tensions in Ituri worsened considerably. Power violently changed hands a number of times in the District capital of Bunia, with considerable loss of life of the civilian population.

The NGO IRC published its third mortality report for the DRC, which estimates the number of people dead as a consequence of the war at 3.3 million. At 2.2/1000/month, this Crude Mortality Rate represents the highest death rate in the world in 50 years.

The impact of the war, displacement into cities, and economic collapse were evident in the urban areas of Kinshasa, Goma and Bukavu. These combined stresses have dramatically eroded family units, social networks, traditional safety nets, and societal and economic infrastructures. The principal impact on children's lives is that parent's capacity to respond to their children's needs has become similarly eroded. This decline in social capital is compounded by the impact of HIV/AIDS infection and mortality rates. Children have thus become increasingly vulnerable to separation and abandonment, the adoption of high-risk strategies for survival, and greater exposure to exploitation and abuse.

In Kinshasa, the municipal government reacted to the increasing visibility of street children in public places through a police round-up (August 2002). SC (UK) programme staff, along with staff from other agencies, were drawn into responding to this "emergency". Social structures in place were inadequate to deal with this influx of children, and there was no strategy to deal with the children who were taken off the street. Lobbying was undertaken to stop the round up, and some interim care facilities were reinforced. By the end of the reporting period, however, informants within these institutions suggest that almost all of these children are back on the street.

Despite lack of progress in the formal demobilisation programme for child soldiers, SC (UK) supported the ad hoc demobilization of over a hundred children in North and South Kivu. Our CCPN's were instrumental in ensuring the reintegration of some of these children in Goma and Bukavu.

In May 2002, with the support of USAID, SC (UK) facilitated the visit of 15 Congolese children to the UN Special Session for Children in New York.

### **1.11. Objectives**

**Project Goal:** To strengthen the Formal and Informal Structures within the Urban Communities of Kinshasa, Goma and Bukavu, in order to increase the survival and development opportunities of vulnerable urban children and reduce their exposure to separation, exploitation and abuse.

**Objective 1:** To consolidate the position and build the capacity of community-based child protection networks (CCPN) and of partner NGOs so that they are more effective in fulfilling their respective roles.

**Objective 2:** To promote access to basic services, including health and education services, and to improve the local environment within the project areas for the benefit of vulnerable urban children.

**Objective 3:** To assess the existing legislation and policy framework in relation to the protection of children, including children in conflict with the law. To promote respect of the rights of children in conflict with the law as well as in institutions, and draft recommendations for improved policy and practice based on compliance with the UN CRC.

These objectives are broadly similar to the objectives of the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase (March 2001 to Feb 2002) and should be considered as an extension of existing project work. The main differences are as follows:

Objective 1 is no longer to establish child protection networks but to build their capacity and develop their analysis of the situation with regard to the situation of children in the target communes. The 1<sup>st</sup> objective also seeks to build the capacity of local partners. Following the substantial reduction in the number of local NGO partners during the current implementing year, particularly in Kinshasa, the program is looking to establish a new strategy based on more direct working relationships with other forms of community based groups, including church groups, womens' associations and youth groups.

The second objective remains unchanged as a series of practical measures to improve basic conditions and access to essential services in the communes where we work. However, the nature of the projects implemented differs between Kinshasa and the Kivus, an inconsistency which reflects differing community priorities within the three project areas.

The third objective still relates to improving the legal framework for children, however, in line with the recommendations of the University of Kinshasa evaluation and with what we believe is feasible under the current political context, we have reduced the scope of the work proposed to an analysis of current legislation and it's implementation. SC-UK has already participated in a UNICEF led review of some aspects of current legislation, including a review of the age at which children can be tried under the penal code. The outcome of this research has been a recommendation that the age be increased from 16 to 18 and the case has been submitted to the Minister for Social Affairs. This forms a part of broader work that is intended to lead to the establishment of a 'code National' for the protection of children. Under this 3<sup>rd</sup>

objective, we also wish to continue previous work with children in conflict with the law as well as those living in institutions.

## **2 OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objective 1: To consolidate the position and build the capacity of community-based child protection networks (CCPN) and local NGO partners so that they are more effective in fulfilling their respective roles.**

**Output 1a:** Three CCPN in Kinshasa (Masina & Kingasani) and one in each of Goma (Kyeshero) and Bukavu (Nyamiera) are effective in the protection of vulnerable children in their respective communes.

### **Activities:**

- Continue to support and train the existing 3 CCPNs in Masina, Kyeshero and Nyamiera. Identify and train suitable members for the 3 proposed CCPNs at Kimbaseke (Sub commune of Masina), Matonge and Ngaba. The latter 2 communes are not within the project area but many of the separated children from Masina reside there.
- In collaboration with the CCPN, design, plan and implement a series of workshops to build their capacity to plan, manage and deliver provision for vulnerable children.
- Organize training sessions for CCPN on child rights and protection, including promotion of the CRC.
- Through the CCPN, identify and implement new activities that will support the livelihoods of vulnerable families.
- Through the CCPN, support reunification, reinsertion and reintegration programs for displaced urban youth, separated children and demobilized children.

**Output 1b:** Increased capacity of local partners to assure an improved protection and respect of children's rights.

### **Activities**

- *Train selected NGO partners in proposal writing, financial management and report writing*
- Promote close working relations between local NGO partners and the CCPN, particularly in relation to planning of activities.
- Organize training sessions for local partners on child rights and protection, including promotion of the CRC.
- *Support to local partners in the implementation of small-scale activities, which improve the welfare of vulnerable children in the target communes.*
- *Provide management support to the Provincial Health Inspectorate (Kinshasa), particularly in terms of compiling information from the Zones de Sante (Health Zones) and producing associated reports.*

## **PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES:**

**Objective 1:** To consolidate the position, and build the capacity, of community-based child protection networks (CCPN) and of partner NGOs so that they are more effective in fulfilling their respective roles.

**East:**

This year, training and capacity building of CCPN's have focused on the following:

- Advocacy and communication techniques to reinforce the capacities of network members to advocate for the protection of vulnerable children, victims of poverty and conflicts, especially within families (girls in exploitative conditions or early girl-mothers, abandoned children, street children, children associated with witchcraft...)
- Participative community development to provide basic notions to Community Child Protection Networks in order to ensure durable actions and empower community members in addressing problems in their areas.
- Education on Community Health to raise awareness of the importance of protection against diseases caused by lack of compliance with the basic rules of environmental hygiene
- Child rights and protection in order through sensitization of Child Protection Community Network members on their roles and responsibilities in child protection based on the Child Rights Convention and other judicial international tools for child protection.
- Family mediation techniques and social monitoring to reinforce community capacities to ensure lasting community reintegration of separated children, children in exploitative conditions and abused children within their communities.
- (50 vulnerable children identified in Bukavu have been reunited with their families and communities and ADIF (a local NGO) has ensured mediation to 45 girls under 18 years in conflict with their families. In Goma, HDW is monitoring the case of 115 children working at Kituku market. Also, HDW is undertaking community reintegration process for these children through promotional activities.
- Prevention of abuse and ill treatment of children (through sensitisation sessions and workshops on children rights and duties). These sessions have been organised with children to raise community awareness.

**Kinshasa:**

Save the Children organised 4 training sessions for some 45 members of CCPN's on the following areas: child rights, participative action-research, child care and literacy for teachers in charge of remedial courses.

Three CCPNs were consolidated in three poor areas of Kinshasa: Kinbanseke, Kingabwa-Pêcheurs and Kingabwa-Village. These areas represent different types of shantytowns in which children survive in precarious conditions. From marshes along Congo river to populous urban neighbourhoods, a large number of civil society members were gathered to choose representatives.

Following the consolidation and training of members of three Networks, a refocusing of activities took place. Two strategies were adopted in developing activities to assist at-risk children.

Firstly, to support micro-projects having a direct impact on the life of the most marginalized children. The choice of micro-projects reflects one of the main preoccupations of the community – access to education. Through the Networks, we supported three primary schools, reaching about 600 pupils.

The second consisted of raising awareness of the Networks amongst authorities and civil society helped to increase the visibility of the Networks and train partners for advocacy. Three sensitisation campaigns on child rights were carried out, involving key-actors in communities: civil authorities, local NGO representatives and other actors.

**Objective 2:** To promote access to basic services, including health and education services, and to improve the local environment within the project areas for the benefit of vulnerable urban children.

#### **East:**

- Support to Nyamiera community in hygiene and sanitation activities through provision of equipment (wheelbarrows, spades, pickaxes, crowbars...) to clean out trenches/ditches and collect waste for incineration.
- Sensibilisation sessions with community on hygiene and sanitation to raise awareness on:
  - communicable diseases through dirty hands and unsafe water.
  - use and consumption of potable water.
- Community sensibilisation sessions on STI / AIDS.
- Rehabilitation works on Nyamiera bridge to facilitate access to town and to basic services by children: education, health care, drinking water...also, rehabilitation of trails and stairs to improve access and security within the quarter.
- Construction works of two water points to supply a sector of Keshero quarter with drinking water
- Support to sanitation micro projects (set up communal latrines and rehabilitation of water sources through SACD and ADIF, two local NGOs)

Training of 30 literacy trainers of Nyamiera and other centres for vulnerable children on literacy techniques and setting up of a literacy training programme in Nyamiera for six months. 28 care specialists have been trained in modern literacy techniques. These specialists have been selected from centers including St Kizito, Karibu, Maria Mama and 8ème CEPAC Philadelphie.

Literacy materials and some furniture have been provided to the community through ADIF and PAMI (two local NGOs that ensure implementation of programmes). CCPN monitoring reintegration within the community.

#### **Kinshasa**

- Establishment of community-based health committees.

- Support to the health care inspectorate in data collection and epidemiological prevention
- Set up of cold chain in 15 health centres located in Massina and Kinbanseke as well as vaccination campaigns
- Support to some 950 agriculturalists
- Training of some 300 single mother and sex workers
- Establishment of two community-based bakeries

A new approach to health sector work was adopted in this including intervention at different levels from the top to the bottom including the following areas:

*Community-based health committees (Cellules d'animation communautaire or CAC).* Three CAC were piloted in three "Aires de Santé": Mulie, Efoloko-Tshangu and Mandiangu) in Massina and Kisangani zones. This pilot phase aimed to mobilise community members to form a group that undertakes health promotion work within their communities. Training was organised since September. Volunteers were in charge of identifying households in their street and with promoting understanding of preventing health measures for children. Therefore some early polio cases were identified and the attendance to health clinics increased after prevention campaigns. Among other functions, the CAC were effective in reaching children who have not been touched by the vaccination campaigns. Given what has been learned in the past concerning the early prevention of cholera, awareness raising groups were organised with the health zones. Since these actions, no case of cholera has been declared in a zone of intervention that covers more than 300,000 people. We have nevertheless remarked that the fight against this epidemic is difficult when the population does not prioritise it.

*Support to health care inspectorate:* collection and monitoring of epidemiological data was promoted as well as vaccination rate controlled. The *Inspection Provinciale de Santé* was able to detect the measles epidemic at an early stage in 2002. The annual review that has published with our assistance will promote identification of current health problems and actions that may remedy them. Other authorities are involved in the review, including the Governor of Kinshasa. Given the measles epidemic that is striking Kinshasa's poor neighbourhoods, we helped to strengthen the cold chain in 15 vaccination centres and 3 central offices. Furthermore, our urban program supported the coordination role of the *Bureaux Chefs de Zone*.

*Prevention of HIV/AIDS and other STDs among child-mothers and sex workers.* Two workshops covering around a hundred girls were facilitated. This work requires close monitoring, as a number of misunderstandings among the girls were evident.

Livelihood interventions could be classified in three sectors promoting access to services: support to community-based bakeries, support to vocational training, support to gardeners and women in vulnerable situations.

*Community based bakeries:* two bakeries were successfully established. Two hundred women are the beneficiaries of these projects that are under the supervision of two congregations of sisters (Soeurs de Saint Joseph de Turin and Soeurs de

Notre dame du jardin de Mpassa). Beneficiaries are organised into a sales team after some training received from Save the Children. Identified women are able to pre-order bread returning their revenue to the project at the end of the day and are paid 25% of their turnover as profit at the end of each month.

Despite a successful start the evaluation stressed the how fragile these projects remains because of recurrent management difficulties. While some final training and follow-up was provided and the end of the project, some low-scale misappropriation of fund or resources was detected. Finally at least five people were sacked and more control is currently underway.

*Support to gardeners.* Some 450 agriculturalist where the direct beneficiaries of this project whereas some 500 more were reached through food for work programme. Four agriculturalist sites have been reached

A small group of 30 women including widows and women heads of household who aimed to improve their income composed the pilot-group. SC supported them to buy further land and provided technical support in cultivation techniques and seeds plus training in running a group and co-operative organisation. The evaluation of urban project confirmed that methods of cultivation improved for this group as well as family access to food and education. Following these good results at least 10 other producers have been supported in similar ways. The initial project served as a positive example to other agriculturalist.

However some big challenges remains because of seasonal nature of gardening affecting producer during the dry season in which competition increases. Moreover big risk of flooding remains the biggest threat for gardeners..

*Support to vocational training (CFJFD).* More than three hundred girls living in difficult circumstances (former sex workers or single-mothers) completed training in the following areas: tailoring, hairdressing and bakery. Many problems were found during the execution of the project in terms of social inclusion. Nevertheless, a small team of 15 girls received an electric oven in order to start a new bakery in populous district while a small number of girls found a job in the sector they were trained.

The centre was finally closed and sewing machines are due to be redistributed to new partner in the new project funded by USAID (Aiding children accused of witchcraft)

**Objective 3:** To assess the existing legislation and policy framework in relation to the protection of children, including children in conflict with the law. To promote respect of the rights of children in conflict with the law as well as in institutions, and draw up recommendations for improved policy and practice based on compliance with the UN CRC.

**East:**

- Collection and analysis of data to document the experience of children in conflict with the law and to understand how judicial and administrative instances function as far as protection of children in conflict with the law is concerned

- Identification of local partners involved in juvenile justice and execution of workshop to exchange information on SC and partner activities relating to the protection of children in conflict with the law (juvenile justice)
- Workshop with children in conflict with the law cared for and monitored by local NGOs
- Training of members of local NGOs and CPE (Comité Provincial de l'Enfant / Provincial Child Protection Committee) on the legal framework to justice of minors
- Workshop with CPE members on clarifying and understanding their roles
- Training of CPE members on the rights and protection of children in order to promote the CRC.
- Support to 6 workshops : 2 in Bukavu and 4 in Goma. Workshops organised by the CPE to set up their permanent committee and draw up their 2003 action plan.
- Support to an exchange of experience workshop between North and South Kivu CPEs.

Some comments of the eastern team include:

- During the period child protection community network members in Bukavu and Goma and other components of the community have drawn up a schedule of programme implementation at community level.
- Meetings are regularly held on a monthly basis to exchange experiences on child protection issues and the development of both areas.
- There have been a noticeable involvement of child protection community network members in implementing community works (hygiene and sanitation, rehabilitation of Nyamiera bridge II, water drainage in Keshero etc.)
- Furthermore, there is a rapprochement between CCPNs in Nyamiera and Keshero with implementing NGOs
- Improved level of understanding of the CRC. Children participation has been increased.
- Exchange of experiences between the urban network of Keshero and rural networks have allowed a proper analysis of strength and weaknesses of different structures.
- A child committee has been set up and structured on CCPN pattern has increased the level of participation of children in decision making.

The populations of Nyamiera and Keshero are involved in maintaining latrines and conducting sanitation works (cleaning, drainage and opening of avenues) 30 latrines have been rehabilitated in Keshero in collaboration with the CCPN and HDW (a local NGO)

Literacy activities in both quarters have created an interest in children to school and raised awareness of parents in children's education.

Training of local NGOs and members of CCPN in North and South Kivu on the legal framework for justice of the minors allowed them to understand the scope of national jurisdiction and created their interest in protecting children in conflict with the law.

The Provincial Child Committees in North and South Kivu, considered in the past as stillborn, are partly operational as the provincial secretariat has been set up, rules and regulations finalised, and action plans for 2003 have been drawn up and made available.

### **Kinshasa:**

Main activities in Kinshasa included the training of judges, and the rehabilitation of the children's wing of the prison.

Following an analysis of the juvenile justice system during the period 1999-2000, SC identified a number of key weaknesses.

- Congolese law as it relates to children is outdated and not in compliance with the international conventions and standards ratified by the DRC.
- At times those required to apply these standards are unaware of their content/detail.
- There is a lack of special facilities into which to refer children such that they are held in the same conditions of custody as adults; there are no judges specifically trained in handling child cases
- Details of children coming before the authorities are poorly recorded and with incomplete files children become lost into the system as judicial procedures are not pursued to a conclusion
- There is a need to strengthen social services and community mechanisms for dealing with children in trouble with the aim of preventing children coming before the courts

In 2000 a workshop was held to bring together interested parties and to develop proposals for reforms to existing child law. CNEN, UNICEF, BICE and SC were collaborating partners in addressing this objective and a team was established to draft a proposal for reform of the law. Ministries of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Justice need to secure parliamentary time to be scheduled to debate the proposed reforms before Presidential approval could be sought. Once the work was achieved the forum in which it was developed was disbanded and this has slackened the pressure for its adoption.

During 2002, efforts to assist children in detention took two forms: improvement in the conditions of detention and the training of judges dealing with juvenile cases.

A) In January 2003 SC organised a two-day training for 8 judges and 5 magistrates (the training content was developed by the focal point in the Ministry of Justice) Four modules were covered in the following areas:

- Basic conditions to be respected by judges in contentious and discretionary decisions concerning children
- Procedure and drafting of judgements in private law on problems concerning children
- Delinquency in childhood
- The impact of internationally ratified legal instruments relative to the rights of the child and the draft Congolese law concerning child protection

B) Improving the detention conditions. SC has also improved detention conditions for women and children in the central prison of Kinshasa. Some fifty children are currently detained in the block 10, while ten babies and small children are living in disastrous conditions in block 9. Sanitation, hygienic improvements, installation of electric light facilities and windows nets has changed the standard of the cells.

#### **MAIN PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:**

Some basic difficulties must be highlighted in CCPN implementation and development:

*A- Community participation and Volunteerism limitations:* CCPN members were designated by the community taking into account diversity in terms of culture, origin, religion or sector of activity. The basic principle of this work for each participant is volunteerism. SC does not pay members who are supposed to work for children. Despite many efforts to integrate influential persons from the community or sectors that are essential for child protection some key-actor are not yet fully represented: majors or high rank authorities Volunteering discouraged many people from participating in CCPN. Most of the current members of CCPN are religious leaders, local NGO representatives or teachers. At the end of the project half of the initial group has left the network because of the lack of salaries. Nevertheless new influential members as policemen and *chef de quartier* were integrated at the same time. This allowed a shake-out around a solid committee of the more constant and involved members (No more than 10 people) but able to gather some 20 people when the relevant activities are underway.

*B-Development demand versus child protection need.* The involvement of SC at a community level was perceived by the member of the protection networks as a chance to propose projects to improve economic conditions. Many projects concerned income-generating activities. Given the experiences we obtained in this matter we expressed our concerns about the difficulty to clearly identify beneficiaries and partners conducting potential projects. An important confusion appeared between a protection and development approach. This misunderstanding was finally overcome at the end of the year.

*C- The need for a recognisable structure:* the evaluation of the urban programme confirmed the concern that has been identified several times: the legal identity of CCPN. Indeed, activities could be perceived as suspicious by authorities. A larger inclusion of civil authorities at the end of the project allowed an easier work and revealed the trend of CCPN to become a NGO. SC discouraged this option, as the community representation should be under threat. The main challenged at the end of the projects consisted in defining the role of CCPN role with regard to micro-projects. A fragile compromise was reached and established the role of the community as a structure enabled to identify key-areas of intervention but not involved in the implementation and management of projects;

In the east, social and political instability sometimes hindered project activities. In addition, re-strengthening the Provincial Child Committees will require close monitoring of the activities undertaken thus, we foresee a problem of funding.

## CONCLUSION:

Through this programme, SC (UK) in DRC has gained an excellent understanding of the risk factors that lead children into vulnerability in urban areas. From the start, we have embraced a strategic decision not to work only with street children to deal with the visibility aspects but rather to prevent voluntary separation and to address the root causes of separation by directly engaging with urban communities. We believe we have made the right start and used an adequate approach to working with children in an extremely difficult context.

Firstly, we learned that working with state structures as dysfunctional as those of DRC is an extremely challenging task, and is also essential for achieving long lasting impacts and children's rights. Our efforts in working with DRC authorities will continue and a greater attempt made to engage with other players in pursuit of collective objectives and advocacy.

Second, Congolese civil society is energetic but it operates in a context of dysfunctional state and economic collapse. It is clearly weak in key skill areas notably project planning, beneficiary involvement and financial management. We need to take this more seriously in our decisions to engage with partners, and improve our analysis of group/organisational weaknesses at the outset.

Finally, we have learned that despite the context of poverty, it is possible to revitalise child protection mechanisms that have been dormant within communities. Community Child Protection Networks have demonstrated their potential in seeking solutions to problems facing children, mobilising the community, and undertaking community projects. Importantly, community members seem increasingly aware of child rights and protection issues. In fact, we have been able to assist, directly and indirectly, a large number of children through these Networks.

**Save the Children Fund of the United Kingdom**

Bank account information.

United Kingdom bank:

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Account number:

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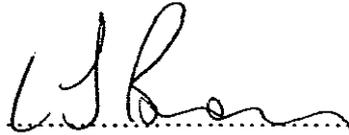
Telephone: 212 552 2222

ABA number: 021 0000 21

The undersigned certifies:

- (1) that current expenditure detailed herein for which reimbursement is requested have not been previously reimbursed to SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND/UK
- (2) that appropriate refund will be made in the event of disallowance in accordance with the terms of this Grant; and
- (3) that such detailed information for actual expenditures reported will be furnished to A.I.D. upon request

SIGNED:

  
.....

NAME AND TITLE:

Laura Brown, Grants Administrator East and Central Africa

DATE:

22 August 2003

Grant No.

AOT -A - 99 - 00084 - 00



**Save the Children**

August 21<sup>st</sup> 2003

Nicolas Jenks  
USAID/REDSO  
Nairobi

Dear Nicholas,

**Subject: AOT-A-00-99-0084-00 (SCFref; USAID/2219/2301)  
Social Welfare, Children's rights and Protection – Disposal of Assets**

In 1999, Save the Children purchased two used light vehicles. These are two Mitsubishi Pajeros, registered KN 8293 BB and KN 4422 BC. The costs of the vehicles (\$5,300 and \$5,500 respectively) were charged and reported against our the above-mentioned award. They have served to support project activities until mid-2002, when maintenance costs became such that the vehicles were taken out of service.

I am not aware of what discussions took place between Save the Children and USAID at the time of the purchase, and have found no related correspondence. We have since raised this issue with Mr. Francis Kavulu, who suggested we write this letter.

We would now like to dispose of the vehicles. We propose that the vehicles are put on the market through an open bidding process, and that the proceeds of the vehicles be credited to the transport budget line of our grant 623-A-00-02-00-110-00. This grant is ongoing until March 2004. It is unlikely that the proceeds from these two vehicles would exceed \$4,000.

We seek your agreement to proceed as suggested above. We are also open to any other suggestions or instructions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

**Stephen Blight**  
Programme Director

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