



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILDHOOD
JOURNÉE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENFANCE AFRICAINE
INTERNATIONALER TAG DER AFRIKANISCHEN KINDHEIT
INTERNATIONALE DAG VAN DE AFRIKAANSE JEUGD
DIA INTERNACIONAL DE LA INFANCIA AFRICANA
....and its YOUTH - IDAY - www.1606.eu

Evaluation Report **IDAY – 2008**

Summary and Conclusions

Considerable progress has been accomplished, both regarding the institutional side of IDAY as in terms of the activities. The statutes of IDAY-International and of two national coalitions were officialised, a first General Assembly was held and management structures defined. Furthermore, IDAY registered a significant increase in its membership (about 200 organisations) and in the quality of the commemorations in each country. The conference day at the European Parliament, whom we thank for their truthful support to IDAY since 3 years, was honoured by the presence of a large public and prestigious personalities. The participation of most of the members of our Honorary Committee in the manifestations in Belgium and in particular of Baaba Maal, demonstrate their commitment to solve the education problems in Africa and to the soundness of the IDAY approach. The local events were a large success and some first concrete results were obtained, even if they remain necessarily modest at this stage. The Manifesto was elaborated on a broader basis and distributed to a larger number of personalities than in previous years.

Of course, numerous remaining obstacles remain to be lifted before IDAY can claim to make a measurable contribution to the “basic education for all “ Millenium Development Goal. The impact in the media remained uneven: impressive in some countries, disappointing in others. These difficulties are partly due to the spontaneous character of our network, which favours the “bottom up” approach. It makes the originality – and perhaps the unicity – of the IDAY network in Africa, where most existing networks are donor or government driven. It also results in wide differences in depth of the action to the point that it could impair the global impact of the network. IDAY wants to continue to listen to its members and needs to define its methodologies as we move along. Nevertheless, IDAY commits itself to develop more and more intervention and evaluation tools that will reinforce the dialogue between our members and their governments. IDAY will seek to organise in 2009 specific activities in some countries to enhance the empowerment of its members and their advocacy capacity in selected countries.

Finally, the financial situation remains delicate: numerous donors investing in education projects in Africa seem to encounter difficulties to incorporate “empowerment of local organisations” and “advocacy” in their funding. Partners and sponsors who supported IDAY in 2008 should find here and on our website our most sincere thanks for their support. Their continuous support is vital to the development of IDAY.

Advocacy programmes have an impact only through repetition. Perseverance and collective work are the key ingredients to succeed our efforts to school more African children and to contribute to economic development in Africa.

1. Structural level

Several advancements can be noted regarding the administrative structuring of IDAY during the period of 2007 - 2008:

- Officialisation of the statutes in January 2008 (statutes attached)
- Restructuring of the website
- A permanent secretariat since January 2008. 1 full time employee.
- First General Assembly and formalising of a new Board of Directors and Management Committee. Details on the IDAY website under "IDAY-International".
- IDAY also started distributing newsletters (3 in 2008) in two languages and launched a "project market" which allows IDAY members to publish investment projects that meets specific criteria.

These progresses demonstrate the growing professionalism of the IDAY network.

Recommendations :

- IDAY-International will need to have offices to recruit temporary support staff to increase its operational capacity.
- IDAY-International will proceed with 2 or 3 days of internal in-depth evaluation in order to identify an action plan with modern advocacy methods (Project cycle, measurable indicators, logical framework, timeschedule...).

2. Members

IDAY is growing. Numerous adhesions have been registered this year. The main ones are the network of the Nigerian diaspora, present in 17 European countries, the emergence of IDAY groups in Burundi, Nigeria, Mauritania, the Central African Republic. Contacts with the Forum of African Women Educationalists (FAWE), through their Executive Director joining IDAY's Honorary Committee, have also been established.

We regret, however, the receded contacts with Senegal, Mali and Malawi where we could not arrange activities in 2008. Also, a new German member could not alone compensate for the loss of former members, who had played an active role during the past years.

In 2008, 11 African and 4 European countries, totalising 177 organisations, participated actively in the commemorations of the International Day of the African Childhood.

IDAY-Africa (number of associations having signed the Charter)

Benin (13)	Nigeria (10)
Burkina Faso (27)	Democratic Republic of the Congo (19)
Burundi (9)	Central African Republic (4)
Cameroon (12)	Rwanda* (10)
Guinea Conakry (10)	Togo (20)
Mauritania (3)	Uganda (11)

* A group was set up but it did not manage to organise commemorations in 2008

IDAY-Europe

Belgium (11) France (12)	Luxemburg (8) The United Kingdom (1)
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To assist local groups to start or develop their activities, several visits of the members of IDAY-international were organised. In particular, Jean-Jacques Schul travelled to Togo, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda at his own expense. Catherine Lievens visited Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Benin.

Recommendations :

- IDAY-International will seek to support more concretely the coalitions in their local endeavours (reinforcement of the administrative means, appropriation of the project, recognition by the local authorities, ...). Considering the limited means available, this support will only progressively reach all IDAY members.
- The representatives of the African coalitions wish to meet more often (some met for the first time in Brussels in June 2008) in their region. IDAY-International has included in its 2009 budget funding of several regional or one general meeting of African delegates.

3. Activities and events

3.1 Participation to the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) – April 2008

- **Participation in the meetings of GCE.**
Ms Valérie Dubois of Abantu (IDAY-Belgium) participated in 2 meetings: a preparatory meeting in Oslo and the General Assembly in Sao Paulo at her organisation's and GCE's expense. The meeting reports are available on the IDAY website.
- **Participation to the Global Action Week (GAW) – The World's Biggest Lesson.**
IDAY-international encourages all groups' participation in the activities organised by GCE for the sake of synergy and complementarity. The dossiers were sent to all and the information widely distributed. Only IDAY-Belgium (with three schools) and IDAY-Uganda (with one school) participated in line with the criteria fixed by GCE. The GCE succeeded with their operation and their initiative entered the Guinness Book of Records.
- IDAY-Belgium, with the sponsorship of the Belgian NGO Petits Pas, repeated the traditional seminar in particular to prepare Belgium's contribution to the Manifesto (see below). A representative of UNESCO presented the latest tendencies about the basic education conditions in Africa. A Representative of the Belgian Ministry of Cooperation for Development assisted at the closing session and received from the hands of several youngsters his "School score card" elaborated by GCE on a world scale. The representative of UNESCO congratulated IDAY for its work but thought that its impact could be improved by the regular participation of professionals in IDAY seminars.
- **Enforcing the bonds among networks.**
IDAY is working to enforce the bonds among organisations working on education in Africa. Measures were taken in July in order to encourage the collaboration among local members of the GCE and IDAY.

3.2 16 June activities

3.2.1 *Group level. For each group, see the complete country reports on the website.*

- *General assessment*

In general, the activities were successful with a larger participation of authorities and a stronger coherence with the IDAY objectives. In Africa, the activities of the new members from Nigeria and Burundi are particularly noteworthy, as well as the very positive and encouraging outcome of IDAY-DRC activities. In Europe, the two weeks of preparations for June 16 in France was an overwhelming success. Luxemburg also celebrated June 16th with exceptional prestige, because of the presence of HRH Grand Duchess of Luxemburg. The remarkable effort of the Nigerian diaspora (NIDOE), who organised a manifestation in London together with a televised presentation on very short notice, should also be noted.

Even if the 16 June events and activities remain insufficient regarding their political weight and impact needed to enhance the goal of education for all in Africa, the events of IDAY 2008 are encouraging and indicate an encouraging trend.

Some African members experience difficulties in organising events on 16 June since national manifestations and activities, organised by the authorities, are already scheduled for this date.

The insufficient use of the IDAY logo has also been noted in the majority of the countries. The massive use of the logo is essential for the reinforcing of the network's capacity to make June 16th a determining event, and strengthen its influence on the authorities.

Another obstacle seems to be the lack of communication during the year in advance of the preparations for the June 16th events. Many associations do not want – and rightly so - to limit themselves solely to events of June 16th, but at the same time they lack the resources needed to structure and organise other events or activities. This is why the groups call for a stronger structural and functional support (bureau, communication, logistics, training in the means of advocacy and political analysis...)

Numerous members also wish to see IDAY-International broaden its field of action. They actively support the creation of the « Project market ».

- *Recommendations*

Improve the professionalism of IDAY in terms of communication and keep regular contacts with the media throughout the year.

Encourage all groups to set up an official, recognised structure in order to access funds and ensure the continuity of work and projects. For its part, IDAY-International strives to establish closer contact between the African and European members, in order to enforce their capacities and encourage exchange on best practices.

The events and activities of 16 June must also concentrate on actual political lobbying. Some groups seem to encounter difficulties regarding the combination of advocacy activities and the establishment of a constructive “checks and balance” relationships with their governments. It seems of tantamount importance that IDAY succeeds in organising local training sessions on autonomous evaluation and advocacy activities for its African members.

The first General Assembly reminded members through a series of motions, of the importance of the common celebration of June 16th by all IDAY members to reinforce by the synergy- and continuity effect of this activity the political power of the local civil society.

Everyone agreed that IDAY activities cannot be restricted to those of June 16th. Citizens' control of the government programmes is a full year activity. IDAY-International commits itself to develop programmes to reinforce the members' capacity in this regard.

Encourage the the coalitions and its individual members to use the IDAY logo, to create their website/blog and information bulletin and to send important news to the IDAY-International Newsletter.

IDAY-international will also seek to create an exchange Forum on its website or develop other means of communications (numeric radios) to encourage exchanges among IDAY members.

3.2.2 ***IDAY-International***

a. **In General**

All reports received indicate a positive impact of the events organised in Brussels by IDAY-International. The most positive aspect is the large attendance and qualitative improvement of the activities. This achievement will yield a positive effect on potential members and donors. The events also allowed the African and European members to meet for the first time, who had never met before.

The main negative aspect was the weak media impact. Also, the programme was overloaded, guests encountered some logistical and practical problems. The organisational staffs suffered from exhaustion. Coherence between the goals and the means must be maintained. Since the goal of the events is to gather large media coverage in order to influence the political leaders and donors, it is recommendable that the financial means be increased in order to avoid lowering IDAY's ambitions.

b. **The Manifesto**

The Manifesto is becoming recurring tool of IDAY. The document realised in 2008 constitutes global recommendations as well as specific recommendations for 8 African countries. The 2008 Manifesto still suffers from consistency and depth, especially regarding specific recommendations at national levels, but it is establishing itself as a forceful means of advocacy. The 2008 presentation was seen as more professional than previous versions.

Recommendations:

The recommendations must derive from meticulous investigation work (together with Social Watch or Transparency International?). One suggestion is to profit more efficiently from GAW (see 3.1.) for the organisation of seminars treating the dilemmas from which the recommendations for the Manifesto are derived. Each country must submit their general and specific recommendations to IDAY-International by mid-May at the latest. Preparatory work must be carried out throughout the year.

The final version of the Manifesto must be submitted to European and national authorities during the June activities in Africa and in Europe. IDAY-International will propose new perspectives to its members as from December 2008.

c. The European Parliament

Overall, the day at the Parliament was highly appreciated. Both the President and the Vice-President of the Parliament, together with the majority of IDAY's Honorary Committee, the representatives of IDAY groups and more than 150 other participants (500 persons invited, more than 200 folders distributed) attended this event (an increase of over 100% compared to 2006). The youth's presentation was moving and original in its presentation despite limited preparation (some youngsters arrived in Brussels from Africa in the morning). The quality of the speakers proposed by IDAY contributed largely to the considerable interest in the debates.

The few negative aspects to be noted are the logistical problems (registration difficulties, unclear signposts...) and the limited participation of the representatives of the African governments, most Ambassadors being present at the Paritary Commission EU-ACP usually convened around June 16th.

The representative of an NGO informed IDAY to have decided following this meeting to try to convince its organisation to become more actively involved in basic education in Africa. The actual impact of this sort of meeting remains difficult to quantify.

Recommendations:

- Foresee 2 persons in charge of registration
- Request the interventions of the keynote speakers 3 weeks in advance in order to submit them to the other participants of the panel
- For the youngsters, IDAY's General Assembly decided to concentrate their coming during the GAW in April since in June, most European youngsters are in the period of exams and are not available for exchanges of views with their African counterparts.
- Prepare the contribution of the youth in advance
- Maintain a closer relationship to the ambassadors during the preceding year
- Attempt to define more specific and measurable performance criteria for this type of event.

Proposal for next year: organise our activities at the same place as the EU-ACP meetings and orient debates on the European elections to attract media interest.

d. General Assembly at the City Hall of Brussels

All participants seem to have appreciated the outcome of the first General Assembly. The presentation by Ms Hélène Ryckmans on advocacy methodology proved highly relevant. All the motions concerning the strategy of IDAY were adopted with few amendments. On the other hand, time was too short to discuss the proposed internal regulation. This lack of time was also at the origin of resentment by some members at the expeditious way the ultimate organisational issues were decided. It also prevented an in-depth discussion among members of the difficulties they encounter in their home countries.

Recommendations:

Reserve one or two days for the General Assembly and start preparations much earlier.

April: assemble the motions that the members want to address.

May: send the final documents that will be deliberated in June.

Reserve one specific day for the training of representatives and allocate more time for exchanged of views among delegates.

e. Cultural events

Baaba Maal held two very successful concerts (Brussels (about 400 people in the audience - MuziekPublique and about 800 in Antwerp - Zuiderpershuis) All tickets were sold out. There is willingness to cooperate with renowned artists in order to spread our message.

A group of comedians organised a successful event in the centre of Brussels but unfortunately the weak attendance left much to be desired. Instead, the didactic show should be presented in primary schools in Belgium.

Recommendations:

Further investment in the cultural sector, which is an excellent channel to raise awareness and mobilise the media. Proposal for next year: organise about 10 concerts in Europe with Baaba Maal, Barbara Hendricks and the young laureates of Jeunesses Musicales. In Europe, seek to organise a common symbolic action with other IDAY-members

3.3 Concrete Projects

3.3.1 Project Market

At the request of several African coalitions, IDAY-International set up on its website a « Project Market ». This place is reserved for the publication of investment projects of IDAY members for which they seek support (financial or other). The projects must be promoted by IDAY members and respect a series of criteria. Before being published, projects are screened by IDAY-International. The goal is to reinforce the communication channels among donors and field operators who promote valuable education projects. Since its creation in July 2008, the Project Market received 5 requests, 2 of which were published and one is receiving serious consideration by a potential donor.

3.3.2 Computers

Following the generous initiative and grant from Deutsh Afrika Marketing (DAM), IDAY-International was able to supply 120 computers to schools served by some of its African members. The call for proposals submitted to all IDAY coalitions gave rise to responses for more than 350 computers. The 120 computers of DAM were allocated to 4 projects in Benin and Togo.

IDAY-International seeks to develop this kind of initiative to reinforce the capacity of its member organisations. Contacts have been established with various organisations active in this field like “Close the Gap » for the delivery of computers and Noord-Zuid/Volens for transportation.

4. Finances

4.1. Expenses

As indicated in the annexed table, IDAY-International spent 74 749 € for its programme in 2008 (September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008). This does not include some expenses that some members assumed before the creation of the bank account at the Triodos bank in January 2008. The seminar during the Global Action Week was financed by the NGO Petits Pas of IDAY Belgium in accordance to their budget, and is therefore not included among the expenses covered by IDAY-International.

The main expenses concerned the establishment of the permanent secretariat, the organisation of the 16 June activities, and the African delegates' trips, as well as the contributions (1000€) to national coalitions in order to support the organisation of June 16th events in their countries (200€ in 2006, 700€ in 2007, 1000 € in 2008) and the concerts.

Of the four fact-finding trips to different countries in Africa, only 1 ½ received reimbursements from IDAY, the rest being financed by the IDAY members themselves.

4.2. Income

IDAY sent a dozen letters to potential Belgian and American sponsors, with no result - except for the generous contribution of Fonds AFLAM from Antwerp, which covered the expenses of the permanent secretariat and those of Fonds Message Yaguine et Fodé, co-founder of IDAY. The contribution of the European Investment Bank will not be renewed next year (a maximum of three consecutive years). The Belgian Lions have been invited to donate 300€: so far, only one has responded positively. A reminder will be sent in October 2008.

The participation to a call for proposal of the European Commission did not succeed. IDAY is engaged in discussions with the Commission to reduce the possibility of failure next year.

It seems that the innovative character of IDAY's approach needs a more profound argumentation in order to attract additional donations. This is the purpose of the seminar organised together with the University of Antwerp and AFLAM in November 2008.

The deficit has been covered in advance by an anonymous donor (24 % of the expenses). This down payment will be converted into a donation to cover for this year's deficit once accounts have been audited.

The administrative committee will establish a special commission which will be in charge of the IDAY financing in 2009.

5. Reflection about the global Impact of IDAY

The global and immediate impact of IDAY's efforts are difficult to estimate due to the very nature of the project. Clearly, it will only be possible to evaluate the effective impact of IDAY's approach in terms of the number of kids put into school. IDAY is committed to develop an evaluation methodology of the results expected and achieved. One notes nevertheless in all countries of which follow a few examples¹ :

- The Uganda press reports that the commemoration of June 16 by IDAY-Uganda is at the origin of the commitment by the government to sanitize the Kampala slums in order to improve the living conditions of its inhabitants. 200 children participated in the event and called upon the government to increase funds allocated to primary schools to reduce the charges left for poor families to pay.

- Despite the recent creation of IDAY-Nigeria (April 2008), the celebration of June 16 at Abuja in the offices of the World Bank, resulted in a special programme about the goals of IDAY and the prospective of the African child being broadcasted on television for one hour. The members of the ANCEFA network participated and the programme of IDAY-Europe and IDAY-Africa are presented in a special edition of a magazine of the World Association of NGO's distributed to about 140 000 subscribers.

- For the first time, at the initiative of NIDOE, the Nigerian Diaspora organisation in Europe, June 16th was celebrated for the first time in London. The celebration was honoured by the presence of Mrs.

¹ Taken from the evaluation reports of the local coalitions. They are not exhaustive.

Hauwa Ibrahim. The public at large was made aware of the education problems in Africa through a television presentation of about one hour.

- In Burundi, for the first time, organisations operating in education were united in a network following IDAY's encouragement. The network includes organisations such as FAWE and AMADE (the Monaco based organisation for the defense of the children rights).

- In the Democratic Republic of Congo République, IDAY's coalition was solicited by numerous organisations during the June 16 commemorations in Kinshasa: national and international partners, radios and televisions, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Secretary-General of primary secondary and professional education, and several Embassies.

- IDAY-Luxembourg was asked by the NGO Union (federation of all the NGOs of Luxembourg) to represent the education sector during their 30th anniversary celebrations. Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess asked IDAY to present a programme to improve schooling of African children in prisons.

Annex 1: The 2008 budget

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DEPENSES	2008	RECETTES	2008
Participation Global Action Week (GCE) 2009 : Participation IDAY-Int : Voyages 6 jeunes	263	Luxembourg	2400
Opération Enfants vulnérables	0	France Belgique UK Deutschland	
Rencontres IDAY-Afrique 2009 : (Nbre pays -3) X1000 €		AFLAM	17500
Rencontres IDAY-Europe 2009 : (Nbre pays -1) X 3x350 €	250	SWIFT (?)	
Action en profondeur (2 pays en Afrique)	0	BEI Fonds Message Y & F	4000 3860
Cérémonies 16 juin :	13068	Donateurs IDAY	2600
Contribution IDAY-International aux Groupements Afrique		Communauté française Ville de Bruxelles	2000 2500
2009: Pays X 1 500 € (moyenne)	12000		
Prospection Afrique	1290	Concerts	13027
Europe	2999		
2009: Pays X 1000 € (moyenne)	3000	Parlement européen	9932
Participation Comité Honneur, délégués		Opération enfants vulnérables	
Parlement européen + Ville de Bruxelles	5500	Evénements	0
Concerts	10936	Sponsoring	3000
Communication	6879		
Secrétariat - personnel	14052	Donateurs	
Administration	2081		
Traductions	6092	autres	635
Autres		Avances	18729
Imprévus		Solde	-1774
TOTAL	74749		74749