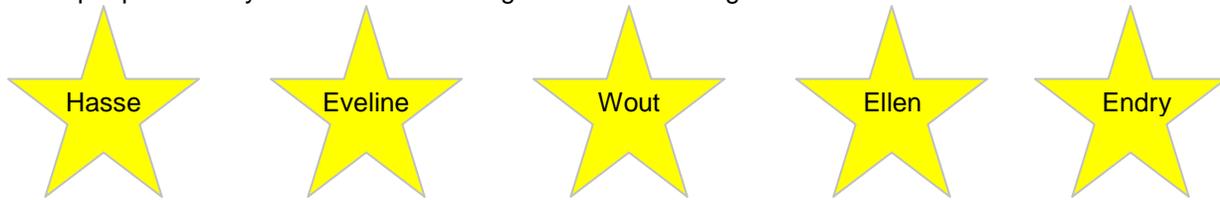


Child Rights lunch meeting # 3: Child Protection

Tuesday, 28 February 2012, 12.30-13.30 (NL time)

NEWS

5 people recently finished the Child Rights e-course. Congratulations!



In the field: **Monica Matarazzo** (FLM, the Sudan) and **Lasu Joseph** (Programme Development Officer, South Sudan) have recently accessed the course! At HO: **George Ooms** (MCF) is the first non-Programmes staff member to begin the course (recently)!

CHILD PROTECTION IN WCH: A FOCUS ON PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Take a look at the lunch meeting's powerpoint presentation on the WCH – HREA portal!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DISCUSSION

Definition of corporal punishment

- What exactly is corporal punishment: Does it only include physical aspects or emotional ones as well?
- General Comment No. 8 defines corporal, or physical, punishment as: "...any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light."
- "In addition [according to the General Comment], there are other non-physical forms of punishment which are also cruel and degrading and thus incompatible with the Convention [on the Rights of the Child]."

WCH's focus: Rehabilitation and Reintegration?

- WCH focuses on response (i.e. the response of systems to children in armed conflict), instead of prevention. (~Wout)
- Rehabilitation and reintegration is something that brings all our work together. For this, we look at all levels of a protection system. This puts WCH in a niche, since other organisations don't focus on this (~Annabel)
- Different people have different approaches and understandings about rehabilitation and reintegration. That's why some people in the field are hesitant to say that this is our core work. Further, rehabilitation and reintegration have different meanings in different contexts. One of the challenges we face is to frame these concepts in a way that's understood and appreciated. (~Wout, Annabel)

WCH's focus: Specialist vs generalist?

- CP is still a field in development. It's difficult to say "this is what we do." (~Esther)
- There are so many levels in a protection system. Wouldn't it make sense to focus on only a few? (~Annette)
- Or, take a holistic approach and work on one or two themes (~Annabel)
- We need to work on all levels, to make a real impact (~Juliana)
- Partner organisations also work on child protection, meaning that in some WPAs, partners will focus more on some levels, while WCH focuses more on others (~Juliana, Eveline)
- We focus on the whole spectrum of CP (child protection) issues, and on all articles of the CRC that relate to CP; yet it's important to realise that each CP issue requires specific expertise (~Esther)
- In some WPAs, we have specialists (in certain CP thematic areas), but not in all WPAs (~Eveline)
- Is our aim in CP to become specialised so others will turn to us for expertise, or to be more generalist? (~Wout)
- While I do not have a preference in terms of WCH being specialist or generalist, we should have this discussion and make a decision (~Esther) **What do you think about this? (Continue the discussion on the HREA-WCH portal's forum!)**

DID YOU KNOW?

Child Rights is not static: There is still room for new insights, developments and improvements. Today, there is a signing ceremony for the **3rd Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a complaints mechanism!** WCH has sent a letter to the Dutch government encouraging them to sign. The Optional Protocol will only come into force once 10 states have ratified it (i.e. have revised their laws to comply with the Optional Protocol).

As we were sitting in our Child Rights lunch meeting, **20 states** signed the Optional Protocol!! Check here to see which states signed:

<http://www.childrightsnet.org/NGOGroup/childrightsissues/ComplaintsMechanism/>

WHAT'S NEXT?

Online discussions

Should WCH be a specialist or generalist Child Protection organisation?

In your view, ideally what would a typical WCH Child Protection project look like?

For those who are interested, these discussions will be continued on the War Child – HREA portal (check the 'forum' section!)

Wrap-up and prize-giving

When? Tuesday, 6 March, 15.30-16.00 (last half hour of PSD meeting)

Where? Green and Blue rooms

Who? All of Programmes

What? There will be prizes for the **first person to complete the Child Rights course**, the **person with the highest score**, and possibly a few more... We will also take this opportunity to reflect on the past months, and to discuss where to go from here.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PSD

Esther
Annette
Elise
Nele
Eveline

Juliana
Jet
Annabel
Noëmi

IFFU
Saskia
Hasse

Advocacy
Wout