

**REPORT OF THE TRAINING OF FACILITATORS OF THE EVANGELIC AND
LUTHERIAN MISSION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND THE NORWEGIAN PROTESTANT
MISSION (MPN) OF SENEGAL ON THE INTERNATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME IN KEDOUGOU, SENEGAL**



March 2023

This report highlights the key discussions and recommendations from the ICDP training workshop for the facilitators of the Evangelical and Lutheran Mission in the Ivory Coast and the Norwegian Protestant Mission (MPN) of Senegal.

The THOMAS SANKARA hotel in Kedougou in the south-east of Senegal hosted the first training session for project actors on the ICDP parenting skills program from February 27 to March 3, 2023.

Mr. GUNNAR Svanholm Skogesal of the Norwegian Mission of Senegal gave the start to the work by thanking all the participants for their presence and stressing the importance of the ICDP session as an answer to the thorny issue of the difficult relationship between children and their parents. Indeed, he meant that this program is a key complementary intervention for a change in the lives of communities. He hopes that this program will lead to positive results for children, especially those from the poorest and most marginalized households.

Before starting the workshop sessions, participants reflected on their interactive profiles. The expectations of the participants were mainly on the understanding of the program and its content:

- ✓ Understand the ICDP theme and how to transmit it
- ✓ Understand about the importance of the program
- ✓ Be able to produce an appropriate definition of ICDP
- ✓ Know the objectives of the ICDP program
- ✓ Have a clear and simple explanation of the modules
- ✓ Become a facilitator
- ✓ How to make a change with ICDP
- ✓ Understanding sessions

The analysis of the expectations expressed is that the participants do not have the same level of understanding, this could be partly explained by the fact that not all actors have the same role or involvement in the activities of the organizations. Overall, these expectations show us that participants have a strong desire to discover the content of the ICDP program.

The presentation of the scientific basis of the program allowed participants to understand the correlation between good interaction and the psychoneurological

development of a child. This module was explained through the concrete examples and illustrative videos used.

Ubuntu Zulu's ideology that "*One person becomes human through other people*" demonstrated to participants that the program has a humanistic foundation and is applicable to all backgrounds. The programme is intended not only for poor countries but for all countries of the world in line with the cause of the relational deficit between children and their parents, hence the constant need to adapt it according to the environmental context.

Through practical simulation exercises, the volunteer facilitators took turns trying to mimic emotions of sadness, anger, fear or fear, it was an opportunity to evaluate the ability to harmonize with the other by respecting the criteria laid down by the program, namely eye contact, facial expression; posture; quality of touch; sound of voice etc.

The redefinition of the child through group work on the qualities of the ideal child and the qualities of the ideal caregiver, encouraged participants to understand that there is positive in any child and that it is the duty of parents or caregivers to value these qualities to enable the child to assert himself better.

The ICDP guidelines received a great deal of attention from participants. The seven facilitation principles of the ICDP program made it possible to discover the attitudes and actions to adopt when facilitating a parenting skills session.

Through a presentation of the three types of dialogues that the participants discovered the eight (8) guidelines for a good quality interaction in everyday life:

1. Emotional dialogue

- 1- Show positive feelings of love towards the child;
- 2- Follow the child's initiative;
- 3- Have an intimate dialogue with children;
- 4- Confirm your child's efforts by praising and encouraging them.

2. The dialogue of understanding

- 5- Focus; share attention with your child and share concentration;

- 6- Meaning; describe and make sense of what you follow together;
- 7- Expansion; provide an explanation beyond what is before your eyes, to the child taking into account his/her age and hisher ability to understand.

3. Regulatory dialogue

8a- Set limits in a positive way

8b- Plan and guide step by step; Provide a graduated support, scaffolding.



A group during the simulation

An important objective of the training is to allow learners, to have the skills necessary for the animation of discussion group. For this, the seven principles of sensitization and awareness raisin were discussed. Their application should facilitate the achievement of the objectives of ICDP. These are:

1. Establishment of a contract of trust between parents or members of focus groups and the facilitator.
2. Positive definition of the child.
3. Activate/encourage parents/caregivers to apply and practice the eight (8) guidelines for proper interaction between them and their children.
4. Confirm the competence of parents or caregivers by highlighting what is already positive in their interactions with their children.
5. Use questions to guide discussions and exchanges about what good interaction is.

6. Encourage sharing and attentive listening between parents or caregivers, during group meetings, in order to learn from each other's experiences.
7. Use two communication styles in relation to parents, by providing personal examples and interpreting the child's behaviour to the parent.

The facilitator's guide produced in Burkina Faso was made available to facilitators for the preparation of sessions for classroom simulations and six groups were set up for this purpose.



Follow the child's initiatives

Remarks from simulations

Overall, each facilitator has done well to implement the guideline provided. The positive points noted are that all groups managed to apply the sensitization principles including: establish a contract of trust with caregivers through the way they sit in the group; confirm the caregiver's capacity; the facilitators did not fail to praise the caregivers through applause or comforting words. They also activated caregivers to apply the 8 guidelines in practice, indeed they asked caregivers to share experiences and gave exercises to practice at home.

The points to improve are the sensitization principles on redefining the child in a positive way and the two styles of communication. What was also missing during the classroom simulations was the sharing of their own experiences with the group of carers; but guidance was given to make this possible.

Recommendations

- Make a good follow-up of the self-training; Close coaching can help facilitators;
- Setting up an ICDP network to share experience and follow a WhatsApp group could be created
- See the possibility of producing a guide adapted to each country.

The next session is scheduled to be held in early June 2023 in Abidjan.



Family photo