

“See Our World”

“An essential part of Plan’s work is to help create spaces for children and young people to discuss together the issues which affect their lives, then ensure adults respect their views so that children may be involved in community decision-making. This communication has been prepared with and by children directly and is intended to give a general sense of the kinds of issues children discuss and how they work together.”

Dear friends,
“Most of us in our areas do not have birth certificates. This is a real problem because birth registration is a child’s right that has to be respected”. Says Blanche, 15 years, President of a children’s forum.

The children recently organised a meeting and discussed birth registration. These are some of their comments:

“I don’t have a birth certificate. My grand father wanted me to be named after him and not my father because my father has not paid my mother’s bride price”.

“I do not have a birth certificate because my parents were ignorant and did not see the need for me to be registered at birth”.

“We don’t have birth registration centres in our area and our parents have to walk for long distances to get us registered”.



Blanche and her friend happy to have birth certificates.



Children discussing issues on birth certificates.

Our 25 year old forum animator Elias says “Without a birth certificate, children can not be identified as citizens of our country, go to school, write public examinations or get a job.”

Change Is Necessary

Plan Cameroon together with the government and other partners have started a project called ‘Rights of the Child’.

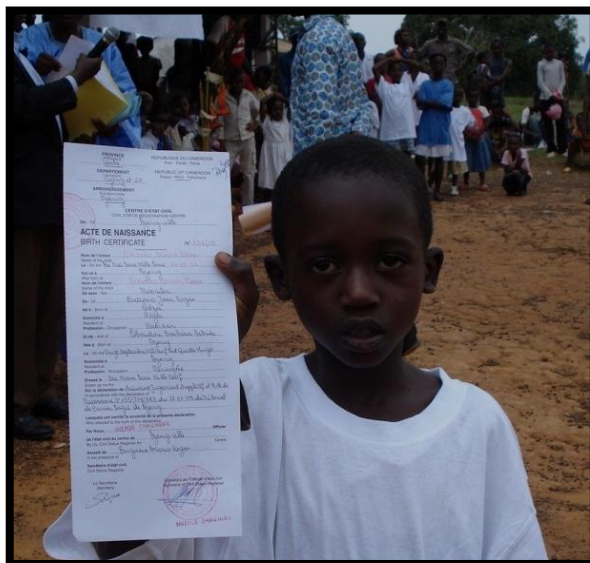
This is to create awareness among parents on the need for birth registration. The main aim of this project is to give the children the ability to talk about and understand issues affecting their rights such as birth registration.



A child receives a birth certificate from a Plan official.

Improvement

Birth registration discussions among children were held on radio. We invited our parents to join us. With their presence they will understand the problems and help us to solve them.



Andrea, a recipient displays his birth certificate.

Plan in partnership with the government made available to us about 1500 birth certificates.

Most of us felt very proud to receive our birth certificates at a ceremony which was organised and attended by our parents, opinion leaders in the society.

“This document was reviewed and edited by Plan Staff.”