

Towards the Millennium Development Goals

This year has been crucial for Terre des Hommes in preparing the evaluation of the effort we have made towards fulfilling our role in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The first evaluation, five years after the goals were established, will take place in 2005 and must be prepared from a non-governmental point of view. We will assess how effectively we have implemented our part in the MDG commitments. For us, the MDGs are more than simple goals, they represent a comprehensive programme, an approach to development in which children play a crucial part in giving the whole world a better future.

At the 2000 Millennium Summit, the international community adopted an ambitious strategy for tackling the main challenges of the coming decades. The heads of state and governments adopted the Millennium Declaration and thereby made commitments concerning poverty reduction, environmental protection, good governance, democratisation and human rights, and last but not least protection of the most vulnerable members of the population, namely children.

Since 2000, the IFTDH has lobbied in different forums, at national and international level, in order to support states and non-governmental actors in their efforts to achieve the MDGs.

Now we see with increasing concern that the results targeted in the first five years will not be achieved. Moreover, we are witnessing declarations from major donors concerning the impossibility of providing adequate resources to achieve those goals. In our view, lack of political will is the main factor

in this disappointing result, and we fear that development cooperation in the support and implementation of child rights is not a priority for policy makers.

The fact is that the gap between the sums of money allocated to weapons and those allocated to development is still intolerable, and should be denounced.

We strongly repeat that peace is the most important precondition for fair development, that nothing except democracy and civil participation can foster long lasting development, that respect for human rights is the framework on which to build a world not only “fit for children” but fit for all of us. There is no real development without peace and no peace without development. This is the reason why the commitment of state and non-governmental actors with regard to the MDGs is so important. To commit to the MDGs means to support a paradigm of development in which human rights are central.

Millions of children are still deprived of a normal life, a normal childhood, and the right to health and education. Girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation or killed simply because they are female. Slave boys are making our products. The lifestyle of the rich is based on unacceptable inequalities.

This “state of the world” should concern all of us; each of us can and must be responsible for change, because we know that only in this way will there be a common future for all humanity. This is the reason why IFTDH is working to enlarge the range of partners involved in programmes

and projects in favour of children. We believe that we need to build new developmental alliances between public and private sectors, and to persuade more and more institutions to commit to a world fit for children, since only a unified effort can provide both political and financial support for the achievement of the MDGs.



Raffaele K. Salinari
President



Terre des Hommes Vision and Mission: Believing in Children

Terre des Hommes believes that children are entitled to the rights set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is the responsibility of the international community to make it a reality and to create an enabling environment through the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights.

Terre des Hommes believes that children are the main participants in their own development, with inherent rights and vital social, economic and cultural roles. Terre des Hommes helps them realise their full potential in the world of today.

Terre des Hommes was created in 1960 to provide direct support to underprivileged children who were not being helped by existing relief agencies. Today, its mandate and activities have evolved while its focus on improving the daily lives of the most vulnerable groups of children has been maintained



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Who Are We?

Terre des Hommes, is a network of eleven national organisations with headquarters in Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland (comprising two organisations, Terre des Hommes-Switzerland and the Terre des Hommes Foundation in Lausanne, Switzerland) and Syria.

The mission of the Terre des Hommes organisations is to provide active support to children, without racial, religious, political, cultural or gender-based discrimination, and to generate positive change. To this end, they develop and implement projects designed to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged children in their own environment (including families and communities), and they lobby governments, together with international and regional organisations for the implementation of children's rights.

The Terre des Hommes organisations share the same name, pursue a common objective, and work together in order to enhance their actions. The Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the conceptual framework that guides the Terre des Hommes activities.

At Home and Abroad

In their own countries and regions, the Terre des Hommes organisations bring to the attention of the public, including children and young people, the causes of underdevelopment together with the rights of the child. They mobilise political will and lobby for appropriate governmental policies. They undertake fund raising activities to achieve their objectives.

An International Profile

The Terre des Hommes movement started in Switzerland in 1960. Subsequently, other Terre des Hommes groups were created in various countries. In 1966, they joined together to form the International Federation Terre des Hommes (IFTDH).

IFTDH is in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, with UNICEF, the ILO and the Council of Europe. It is thus in a position to act at the heart of crucial decision making concerning children.

IFTDH works in collaboration with relevant bodies within the UN system, with the European institutions and with other organisations pursuing comparable aims.

Editorial: Close to People

When the Tsunami disaster struck the world, the funds gathered for emergency relief and reconstruction showed an unprecedented level of solidarity. As a result of its long term presence in the region, and because Terre des Hommes works closely with people, we were able to respond to the needs of affected children from day one, and to provide them with long term protection and care.

In 2004, in many other places of the world, children have suffered from poverty, war, neglect and exploitation. Terre des Hommes has continued to provide health care, education and protection to children through 1'164 field projects in 72 countries.

Direct intervention at field level must be supported by action at a global level to generate lasting change. Therefore, Terre des Hommes also lobbies national governments and European and international institutions for appropriate policies regarding children that are rooted in adequate resources. Our current campaign against child trafficking, launched in 2001, is now fully operational. It has led to awareness at governmental level and also among the general public and groups at risk, to improvement in the legal framework, and to repatriation of some trafficked children.

Terre des Hommes is keen to collaborate with other networks and has joined forces with the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. Protecting children affected by armed conflict is at last high on the international agenda, and the UN Security Council now undertakes a yearly review of their plight. At the other end of the spectrum, thousands of child soldiers have been demobilised and offered support for their reintegration into the community.

In November 2004, Terre des Hommes (Netherlands) rejoined the International Federation Terre des Hommes. The support of this important section will strengthen our ability to carry out our mission to implement children's rights.

Terre des Hommes is committed to efficiency, economy and transparency, and it monitors and evaluates its performance on a regular basis. Lessons learned are used to shape further programmes. Terre des Hommes is accountable to its stakeholders, and pursues its mission for children despite the difficulties it encounters and the slowness of global progress.

This report highlights a few of the programmes of Terre des Hommes and some of the results we have achieved. It also shows that although the Convention on the Rights of the Child is nearly universally ratified, children's rights are routinely violated in all parts of the world. We are well aware that actions are usually fruitful in the long term; it is only with perseverance that Terre des Hommes has been able to obtain results for children, and it is thanks to your support that this has been achieved. We wish to express our deepest gratitude to you, all our partners, donors, supporters and friends, and we invite you to continue fighting alongside with us for a better world, a world that listens to the voice of children, and cares.

Eylah Kadjar-Hamouda
Coordinator



Indian Ocean Tsunami: Devastating for Children

On December 26, 2004, Asia was hit by one of the most violent earthquakes and subsequent tsunami ever to have occurred. These natural disasters, which spread as far as the East Coast of Africa, claimed more than 228 000 lives and have left countless children homeless. It is estimated that 4 million people faced the loss of their

livelihoods and the risk of sinking deeper into poverty. Thanks to its already strong presence in the region, Terre des Hommes was able to respond from the outset to the acute needs of the victims, and it is now engaged in a reconstruction effort to support affected communities in rebuilding their lives.¹

The solidarity of the rest of the world towards South and South East Asia has been unprecedented. Thanks to your support, Terre des Hommes is providing medical, psychosocial, and water and sanitation aid; it is rebuilding homes and livelihoods as well as implementing child protection measures. Operations are taking place in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand with a total budget of EUR 30'400'000.

Many of the surviving children not only have to face the trauma of abandonment and displacement, but are also at increased risk of exploitation and abuse. Terre des Hommes emphasises the protection of children and psychosocial support. It works to identify children at risk, with the aim of preventing further harm, and getting children back to school as quickly as possible.

Even in the hardest-hit areas, rebuilding has begun. Children are attending classes (many of them in temporary facilities), health centres are being rehabilitated and signs of recovery are beginning to appear. However much remains to be done and a full recovery will take many years. Terre des Hommes will stand beside those who are most in need in full collaboration with the other international agencies operating in the region.

In India

Terre des Hommes (Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland) has started relief work together with partner organisations. Psychosocial support is being offered,

especially to children who have lost their parents, and reconstruction is underway.

In Indonesia

Terre des Hommes (Germany, Italy and Netherlands) is providing emergency relief and medical care, and working on water and sanitation. Psychosocial support for children is also being offered. Rehabilitation work to rebuild homes and livelihoods as well as education opportunities is underway.

In Sri Lanka

Terre des Hommes (Denmark, Netherlands and Tdh Foundation, Switzerland) is providing emergency relief and medical care, as well as setting up measures to prevent the exploitation of children and offering support to affected families. Terre des Hommes was appointed by the Sri Lankan authorities to be responsible for coordinating the distribution of medical services in one of the worst hit areas. Reconstruction of the basic infrastructure is underway.

In Thailand

Terre des Hommes (Germany, Italy and Netherlands) is running programmes to support the local fishing economy within the communities. The micro-economy and opportunities from tourism income have been destroyed.

Terre des Hommes is providing support to the families of 3000 fishermen for the reconstruction of boats, and is also doing water and sanitation work, rebuilding day-care centres and schools, and providing psychosocial support to children.

Things are different. People suffer from many problems, including adults. Even the mosque has been destroyed and I have to go to pray in another one. All my friends have lost their homes and everything around me makes me sad... When I grow up I would like to be a doctor because I like helping people. I have seen so many who need help.

Nazeem, Sri Lanka, age 12

Source : Terre des Hommes
(Tdh Foundation, Switzerland)



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1 - As far as possible, the information contained in this report is correct as of June 2005. Statistics are based on latest available figures from Terre des Hommes programmes or recognised international sources.

Child Trafficking: A Contemporary Form of Slavery

Moussa and Abdoullaye² were around 13 years old when they arrived from their village in the capital, Bamako (Mali). They came with the idea of staying there during the dry season and earning a bit of money before returning back home. But they met a man who promised them a job on the Ivory Coast with an attractive salary. The man said he would take care of all their travel arrangements. The kids were taken to Bouaké, 400 kilometres to the south, and sold to a boss for CFA Francs 25 000 (around EUR 35). Then, they were stripped of their clothes and shoes,

and forced to work 12 hours a day in the plantations. If they were not quick enough in their work, they were beaten. Two years later, Moussa managed to escape. He went to the Consulate of Mali, and thanks to his help it was possible to release Abdoullaye and other children in the same situation.

Source : Terre des Hommes (Germany)
² *Fictional names*

Child trafficking is a pattern of human rights violations that is known to affect at least a million children worldwide and probably many more. It concerns the business of taking children away from their homes and families, transporting them elsewhere, often across frontiers and even to other continents, to be used by others – usually to make money.

The ILO estimates that the profit from human trafficking amounts to US\$ 32

billion per year. Trafficked children are often exploited over and over again. Traffickers often go unpunished because of the lack of adequate laws to prevent such activity, while trafficked children are often penalised as illegal migrant workers. The consequences of trafficking are devastating for children. They are at risk of both physical and mental damage, and are deprived of education and basic rights.

In 2001 Terre des Hommes launched an international campaign to stop child trafficking. The campaign now operates in 36 countries with the participation of 900 local and national NGOs. It combines awareness raising activities, advocacy work and direct help to children.

Charity calls for action on child trafficking

The Swiss charity Terre des Hommes is calling for more to be done to tackle child trafficking, estimated to affect 1.2 million children a year worldwide

The organisation is aiming to raise awareness about two major forms of the trade in Europe : the abuse of non-accompanied minors and commercial adoption...

The illegal trade involves minors – children under the age of 18 – being sold as cheap labour or being forced into prostitution or crime. Many of the children come from developing countries and either end up or are transited through western Europe....

Terre des Hommes is also calling for better training for staff involved in child protection and increased coordination between countries to prevent trafficking. Swissinfo, October 29, 2004

There is a huge diversity involved in trafficking and therefore we need to base initiatives on what is happening in practice, not what we think is happening according to either theoretical models or imperfect legal definitions. To be effective, any counter-trafficking initiative has to be based on the reality experienced by the children concerned.

Eylah Kadjar-Hamouda, Coordinator IFTDH, speaking at the UN Commission on Human Rights in April 2004

Kids as Commodities is the name of the Terre des Hommes book published in May 2004, but sadly it is also the reality of thousands of children who are victims of trafficking and exploitation.

The book shows that some progress in the fight against child trafficking has been made, but that governments tend to focus on prosecuting traffickers while the rights of trafficked children are often overlooked. The aim of the book is to help the work of organisations combating child trafficking, and to support Terre des Hommes in developing its anti-trafficking strategy. At the time of the book's launch, there were more than 120 media write-ups. 2000 copies have been printed and more than 1400 people have downloaded the text (since December 2004).

Child trafficking occurs within Europe and across external European borders. Terre des Hommes stresses the crucial need to link national and regional decisions to the reality of field actions, and it analysed the EU's policy before formulating its concrete recommendations in the book **Lost Kids, Lost Futures**.

The campaign has led to:

- Significant awareness about the problem of child trafficking and its complexity
- Legislative change
- Prevention mechanisms
- Repatriation of trafficked children

Achievements of the campaign include:

- Assisted voluntary repatriation of children, for example in Albania and India
- Governmental action to combat child trafficking for example in South Africa
- Training of community workers for example in Cambodia, Indonesia and Peru
- 25 regional studies on child trafficking all over the world, which have resulted in improved knowledge about the phenomenon and a clear picture of the trafficking routes
- The development of an integrated model of action against child trafficking, implemented trans-nationally in countries of origin, transit and destination
- The International Stop Conference held in Osnabrück, Germany in November 2004, where practitioner and decision makers gathered to exchange views and plan further action to prevent and combat child trafficking
- The publication of two books that document best practices: Kids as Commodities: Child trafficking and what to do about it (MikeDottridge)

and Lost Kids, Lost Futures: the European Union's response to child trafficking (Mirjam van Reisen and Ana Stefanovic)

South East Asia: A Regional Approach to Combating Child Trafficking

Asia Against Child Trafficking (Asia ACTs) is the regional campaign to fight child trafficking in South East Asia, and is part of the International Campaign against Child Trafficking run by the International Federation Terre des Hommes (IFTDH). Terre des Hommes (Netherlands) supports the campaign's activities in Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia and Thailand.

The main goal of these projects is to empower communities to take proactive measures to protect children against trafficking as one of the most serious violations of children's rights in the region. At the same time these projects give direct support to victims of trafficking by providing rescue, recovery, return and reintegration assistance.

The programme also lobbies for anti-trafficking policies and laws and their implementation and enforcement, and strengthens the capacity of NGOs to fight child trafficking. The regional campaign will encourage and enlist the participation of children and young people in their own protection and development.

Greece: Protecting Children during the Olympic Games

Terre des Hommes (Tdh Foundation, Switzerland) prepared itself as carefully as the athletes themselves for the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004, but their work was to protect Albanian children

used as cheap labour in Greece. As well as the activities carried out with Albanian children for the prevention of trafficking and the protection of street children in Greek cities, advocacy work was done with the International Olympic Committee, the Greek and Swiss governments, donors, the media and visitors during the Games, with the aim of improving child protection.

Terre des Hommes (Tdh Foundation, Switzerland) work in the region during the last 5 years has had a positive impact and has contributed to a decrease in child trafficking.

Vietnam: Documenting the Trafficking of Women and Children

DOLISA is the department of labour, disabled war veterans and social welfare of the province Thanh Hoa, and it has so far carried out successful projects to reintegrate women from various communities into society.

Thanh Hoa is well known for its high proportion of trafficked women and children. Reasons for this include poverty and fraud, but also lack of information. It was revealed that trafficking and migration are not clearly differentiated, and that women who work outside their villages are seen as trafficked persons or prostitutes.

Some communities discriminate against such women and do not issue documents to them. To improve this situation members of the communities and authorities have been educated about the trafficking of women and children. These people are now carrying out a survey about trafficked women and children, supported by Terre des Hommes (Germany), with the aim of developing strategies and documentation to overcome trafficking and discrimination.

Child Labour: Wasting the Most Precious Potential

Win's Story

Win was only 15 years old when she was first recruited to work in Sarawak, Malaysia. Her employer frequently abused her physically. Her body was crushed against a cupboard, she was punched, and her head was beaten several times. The employer used his bare hands, as well as wood, a board, scissors and a food cover. Moreover, her arms and ears were scraped with a knife. As a consequence, Win bears bruises and injuries on her head, mouth and ears. Win often fainted because of the violence she endured. However, she was forced to work continuously, whatever condition she was in.

Source: Terre des Hommes (Netherlands) book, "Nightmare in Border Areas. A Study on Child Trafficking in Indonesia for Labour Exploitation"

One in six children in the world today is involved in child labour, a complex and challenging issue that defies simple solutions. The Terre des Hommes approach to this problem is guided by the best interests of the child, and by a commitment to children's human rights as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Children do many different sorts of work in widely divergent conditions. The work takes place along a continuum. At one end, work can help the child to improve his or her situation without interfering with schooling, recreation and rest. At the other end, it is both destructive and exploitative. In reality however, much child labour falls into a grey area between these two extremes.

Those children working in exploitative and hazardous circumstances do not have a fair chance of a real childhood, an education or a better life. Today, 8.4 million children are trapped in slavery, trafficking, debt bondage, prostitution, pornography and other illicit activities.

Child labour takes place in a variety of industries and in many parts of the world. The vast majority of children involved work in the agricultural sector where they may be exposed

to dangerous chemicals and equipment. Others are street children having to fend for themselves. Some are domestic or factory workers.

The largest single employment of girls is in domestic work. Child domestics never have a work contract and are thus at the mercy of their employers. They receive little or no pay, must carry out physically demanding tasks, are poorly fed and have inadequate medical care.

Terre des Hommes adapts its responses to the situation of individual children and their communities and acts in their best interests, running projects in more than 15 countries to protect children from being caught up in exploitative and harmful forms of labour and to provide rehabilitation and care to those for whom prevention has failed. Terre des Hommes also offers support and education to working children in the absence of other alternatives, and assists them in making their voice heard so that their living conditions can be improved. Terre des Hommes brings their reality to the attention of the international community where relevant decisions are made.

Burkina Faso: Training Young Women as Electrical Engineers

AT Tous-Y is fighting for the reintegration of young people into society by offering them vocational training.

The organisation's major objectives are to reduce juvenile delinquency and enable young people to get employment. AT Tous-Y has a special focus on adolescent girls from poor families, because it is very common in Burkina Faso for girls to drop out of school early, to have no vocational training, and to work as a home-helps.

The organisation has already successfully trained adolescent girls as motorbike mechanics and has gained a good reputation. In its present project in the area, Terre des Hommes (Germany) finances the organisation's training centre CFIAM in training 37 young women as electrical engineers. Electrical engineering is an area dominated by men and has never been open to women. It needs a lot of courage for the young women to participate in such training, and their doing so can be counted as a breakthrough.

Switzerland: Child Domestic Workers

A study on child domestic workers in Switzerland, commissioned by Terre des Hommes (Switzerland) in 2004, shows that the problem is not confined to the countries of the South but also exists in Switzerland.

For example, Kader from Turkey had to run the household for her aunt, do the shopping, take the children to and from school, and was not allowed to leave the house at any other time. She did

not receive a salary; now and again the aunt sent her mother some money. Kader was 12 years old when she began work as a domestic in Switzerland.

At the conference which Terre des Hommes (Switzerland) organised on the issue, the need for action became clear: the fundamental rights of child domestic workers must be granted, and they must be able to resist exploitative working conditions.

Terre des Hommes (Switzerland) is now trying to gain access to child domestic workers in order to make them aware of counselling centres they can turn to.



Launch of the Terre des Hommes book «Child Trafficking and What to do about it»

Sexual Exploitation of Children : A Most Degrading Form of Abuse

Terre des Hommes runs programmes to inform communities about the danger of sexual exploitation and about protective measures they can take, and to provide rehabilitation and care for children trapped in the sex industry. Terre des Hommes also works on the prevention side to increase household income, so that children can stay within their families and learn skills other than those they need merely to survive. Terre des Hommes endeavours to influence relevant international decision making to protect children from all forms of exploitation.

Sexual exploitation is a most degrading form of child abuse and has always been a priority for Terre des Hommes. Through its membership of the Coordinating Committee of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Terre des Hommes was a partner in the organisation of two successful world congresses against the commercial sexual exploitation of children (Stockholm 1996 and Yokohama 2001). The two congresses highlighted the urgency of combating the sexual exploitation of children, and contributed to the mobilisation of political will. A review of the implementation of commitments made in Yokohama is now taking place at a regional level, not only to assess progress but also to examine the remaining challenges and address them. Terre des Hommes is contributing to the regional review in the Middle East/ Africa, South Asia, and Europe /Central Asia.

Terre des Hommes is a supporter of the Focal Point Programme on Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which aims to promote synergy between national and international NGOs, UN agencies and professional groups. The Focal Point Programme has been instrumental in facilitating

the implementation of commitments made in Stockholm and Yokohama at regional and national levels.

Brazil: Civil Society Gives Priority to the Fight Against Sexual Abuse

The aim of the centre managed by the women of Cabo in the district of Pernambuco, is to raise awareness among the population about the shocking consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse for children and adolescents. Thanks to their organisation of public debates in civil society, meetings with the police, in schools and in medical centres, this fight against a scourge that destroys children's lives has been recognised as one of the priorities for civil society and the political sector in Brazil.

A special infrastructure to receive and listen to the victims has been set up so that they can receive psychological and juridical support. Assistance is also given to their families, who receive credit to establish small enterprises, with a view to helping them overcome the economic difficulties that are among the main causes of prostitution.

Terre des Hommes (Switzerland) supports this programme, which has been extended to two other towns in the North East of Brazil.

“Please disturb”

The Internet has added a new dimension to the problem of sexual exploitation of children through tourism. But it can also be used as a powerful tool to protect children from abuse. “Please disturb” is the slogan of the Terre des Hommes (Germany) Internet platform (www.child-hood.com) that aims to inform and mobilise people against child sex tourism.

It is aimed at all those involved in tourism: states (new), travellers, travel industries, organisations and the media, with a «what can I do?» section listing useful and easy to implement measures for the protection of children.

Ermira³ was born in 1986 in Albania to a low-income family. Neighbours convinced her mother to let her go with her younger brother to work in Greece.

Since arriving in Greece at the age of 8, Elmira has been raped several times by the traffickers who took her there. Her sister was sold in Italy for prostitution.

Source : Terre des Hommes (Tdh) Foundation, Switzerland

3 - Fictional name

