



# MOER-TCHAD

MAISON DES ORPHELINS ET DES ENFANTS DE LA RUE DU TCHAD  
*HOUSE OF ORPHANS AND STREET CHILDREN OF CHAD*

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# I. PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANISATION

The association called "Maison des Orphelins et des Enfants de la rue du Chad" (MOER-TCHAD) was founded on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, registered in the Registers of the Associations under Register number: Folio No. 3466. It is authorized to operate in Chad, all Chad since August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 as a Non-Profit Organization of public utility by the Ministry of Public Security. It has its headquarters in N'Djaména.

## 1. OUR VISION

Our Vision for every vulnerable child is the reintegration into a peaceful society and he/she becomes useful for himself/herself and for the society from which he/she was once foreign.

## 2. OUR MOTIVATION

Seeing the degrading conditions of the hundreds of vulnerable children in Chad, we decided to create MOER-Tchad to help all these children in difficult situations (orphans, street children and any abused child) to enjoy the same Rights (Right to life, Right Education, Right to protection, Right to be loved, Right to be well fed and cared for, etc.) like other privileged children.

## 3. OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to rescue orphans, street children and other children who are victims of bad practices by showing to them a sincere love and facilitate their reintegrating into a secure and peaceful society.

The Association functions as a Non-Profit Organization, which is established for the welfare of the children of Chad especially orphans, street children and any abused child without any distinction of caste or creed, religion or race or other limiting considerations. The emphasis of the Association is social care, uplifting the down trodden and poor, development of the marginalized and to provide special care to any needy individual or group.

## II. GENERAL CONTEXT

Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world. Poverty affects much of the population. It is mainly a much more pronounced phenomenon in the rural world where 87% of the country's poor live. It is ranked 173 out of 177 countries according to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Human Development Index, due to its socio-economic situation caused by constraints preventing the take-off of its development. These constraints are linked on the one hand to its natural, political and institutional environment; and on the other hand, the weaknesses of organizations in highlighting its development potential.



Picture 1 : the Map of Chad

Poverty varies according to family size, level of education and type of economic activity of the head of the household. The poorest are large families, whose head has not studied beyond elementary school and works in the primary or secondary sector.

These problems are reflected in the field, in particular, by the fact that a large number of people lack the appropriate income to improve their standard of living. As a result, they are excluded from various economic opportunities and lack access to basic social services such as health, food, education and infrastructure.

In addition, young people are the most likely to be unemployed. Theft, robbery, aggression, juvenile delinquency, prostitution are the practices that result from it.

Socio-economic indicators of poverty in the agricultural sector are characterized by the lowest per capita gross domestic product (GDP) in the world: 61.9% of the Chadian population lives on less than one dollar per day. Women are the most affected social group despite their strong contribution to agricultural production as that of men.

(Source: **Chad - Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, 2003**).

Disinherited childhood in the world is an everyday reality. There are about 120 million street children in the world, including 30 million in Africa<sup>1</sup>. In Chad, the extent of the phenomenon of these children is difficult to measure. Nevertheless, on the basis of our field activities, we estimate by thousands the number of street children throughout Chad.

More than 10% are minors and schoolchildren, but left alone without support. From the male to over 90%, these children live in deplorable conditions, deprived of their principal rights under parental authority: custody, supervision, physical and psychological protection, health and safety, education, providing food, caring for them. Thus, constrained to face the harsh realities of a life of rejection and opprobrium, the instinct of survival encourages them to form a community of street children which constitutes, in the best hypothesis, a breeding ground for banditry.

In addition, another category of street children made up solely of young girls engaged in prostitution as a means of survival. They are very vulnerable and exposed to serious dangers linked to their "activities".



**Picture 2 : Street girls living in a market place**

This situation is very worrying in view of the many possible repercussions on the current economic, social and security situation in the country. The number of these children in distress increases more rapidly because of the effects of the global economic situation, families abandoning their children and pushing them to accept the invitation of the street.

Victims of cumulative socio-economic factors, the phenomenon of street children constitutes a disturbing reality, but above all worrying. Subjected to a life of suffering and great vulnerability, disoriented and without future, these children constitute a time bomb if we do not take care.

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<sup>1</sup>Source : <http://www.humanium.org/en/street-children/>



### III. PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

The problem of street children in Chad is disproportionate large and it is particularly difficult to estimate them because they are beyond the scope of traditional educational, social and family census schemes and frameworks.

Many political and socio-economic factors contribute to explaining the problem of the phenomenon of street children: poverty, economic attraction of cities, violence within families exacerbated by socio-economic precariousness and the weakness of national protective mechanisms of the child in Chad. As a result, traditional social ties are fragile or even broken and families displaced.



*Picture 3: Street children living under the viaduct near a market place*

Considering that parents constitute the first and main safety net of a child: the loss, physical weakness or divorce of the parents has a negative impact on the child's future. It severely undermines his/her fundamental rights to education, health, material and emotional security and rapidly brings him/her into a spiral of increasing poverty. His/her chances of development (educational, health, psychosocial, etc.) are then reduced, compared to a child enjoying good parental care.

At the root of the causes of this situation of deprived childhood, we can mention among others: loss of parents of certain minor children; the abuse of other children by their parents or guardians; the poverty of families living in precarious conditions, which highlights the parents' inability to meet the basic needs of their children.



*Picture 4: Street children living in a place called "Galaxy", a place near a bar*

Accumulating these causes in their situation, in addition to rejection and humiliation, these needy children are simply forced to accept the invitation of the street. There, they try to assume their existence under critical conditions. Unconsciously, they are exposed to serious dangers: kidnapping, illness, early death, etc.

Indeed, Chad lacks sufficient basic social services and social protection for street children. Moreover, until today, existing interventions for street children are poorly coordinated and not very visible, and their efficiency does not appear to be clearly established due to the growing number of street children and the lack of proper work in synergy between civil society organizations and other centers working in favor of this population.

MOER-CHAD is committed to contributing to a specific and sustainable resolution of the problem of the street children in Chad by facilitating their social reintegration, while raising families' awareness to care about their offspring and promoting the culture of peace and of non-violence.



## IV. OUR APPROACH



*Picture 5 & 6: Identification of our beneficiaries (the street children)*

- We identify and enrol the children who live on the street. We contact the children early in the morning from where they use to live (generally, around the market places). We start the survey process that will end to the identification and enrolment process.
- We multiply visits on the field and we organize awareness-raising sessions and campaigns in order to help the street children realizing the dangers that surround them while they live on the street.



*Picture 7 & 8: awareness campaigns with our beneficiaries*

- We recover the children in critical situation from the street without delay and we accommodate them in MOER-TCHAD Center. It depends on the circumstance in which the child is found the first time we met him/her. Nevertheless, after the first contact with a child, he/she must not stay in the street for up to 3 months whatever the situation is.
- We seek to determine the willingness of the child to return back to his/her parents and / or make him/her wish and seek family reunification, if his/her parents are found.
- We identify the parents' child and taking contact with them.
- We seek to determining the will of the parents for the reunification process. Providing them with primary psychosocial assistance.





**Picture 9:** MORTODE FRANCOIS and his parents; the child stayed on the street for 6 months; recovered on January 28th, 2017; he was brought back home, as we have started the reconciliation process.



**Picture 10:** HAMID YACOUB a 6 years old child left home because of hunger; he was brought back home. For the whole story, visit <https://youtu.be/WCgza5SX2cM>

- We increase meetings with parents of the children;
- Listening to the child and the parents makes it possible to get to know them better, to understand their problems, the difficulties they face and to seek together appropriate solutions.
- Reunifying both sides is an important step, a victory too, but the challenge is to get the child to stay in the family.
- The signing of the family reintegration agreement is not to be lost sight of, accompanied by a follow-up of proximity;



**Picture 11:** Mbaindiguim Treasure reinstated in his family after living on the street for 10 months.



**Picture 12:** Djimasra Amos recovered and brought back to his father after living 8 months on the street. For their testimonies, visit: <https://youtu.be/0bHz5Lqlc10>

- We identify among our beneficiaries, children in distress whose parents were not found or who are unable to return to their families of origin due to some reason. MOER-TCHAD keeps them into its center and takes full charge of them.
- We develop the policy of partnership with local health care structures for the medical care of our beneficiaries who have been reinserted in their families or remaining in MOER-TCHAD Center.



# EDUCATION PROGRAM

- We CARE for the education of our beneficiaries:

We send our beneficiaries to school after having passed through the primary re-education process whether in our Center or in the parents' homes.



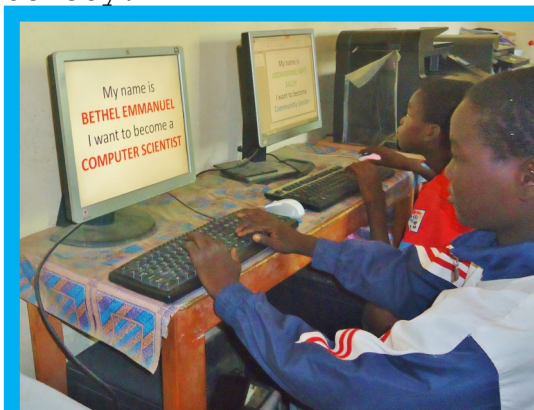
*Picture 13 & 14 : three of our children are in their school*

## V. LONG TERM PROGRAMS

Through our long-term programs, we plan to guide our beneficiaries towards vocational training according to their ages and preferences. The first step is to identify the children on the basis of the knowledge and competence they have acquired; secondly, we have to determine their willingness to receive this or that professional training; Thirdly, MOER-TCHAD will facilitate and ensure their professional training either in the centers that we are going to create or in other accredited centers.

Another strategy is to develop modern agriculture that will enable MOER-TCHAD's Center, in one hand, to have sufficient food and on the other hand, orienting children to modern agriculture because Chad has enormous potential for agriculture.

The ultimate goal of MOER-TCHAD is to bring our beneficiaries to a level of economic and financial autonomy where they will be able to take care of themselves, take care of their families and finally help the whole society.



*Picture 15 & 16 : BETHEL EMMANUEL WANTS TO BECOME A COMPUTER SCIENTIST IN THE FUTURE*

## VI. DIFFICULTIES

1. The instability of children makes fieldwork very complex. We are not able to bring all the children together at the same time for our activities;
2. The number of children increases at each visit; therefore the quantity of meals is always insufficient;
3. More than 70% of children are not able to change their behavior due to the lack of resources of MOER-Tchad because they are unbalanced due to the effects of drug addiction;
4. The lack of a well-equipped MOER-TCHAD structure makes that we are unable to maintain all our recovered beneficiaries in our actual center;
5. The lack of funding makes that we cannot meet all the needs of our beneficiaries and carry out all our activities on time.