

# AFRAM REPORT ON JPIC activities

It is very encouraging to note that in JPIC AFRAM we are not left behind in whatever is happening in our respective areas of operation. Here in below are some developments:

1-Lay participation has greatly helped, offered much needed help and instrumental in all provinces in regards to JPIC issues. Lay people are the backbone of our task. They know the real situations, they live within the areas where some of us can penetrate and since some people are not open to foreign missionaries, they narrate any ordeal, incidents etc to lay people.

2-Our engagement with situations themselves.

JPIC coordinators encounter with victims themselves like Aids patients, street children's, refugees, displaced people and this gives us more courage to give our most on justice and peace issues as realities. It is a positive development which has taken place.

3-Leading figures.

By this I mean AFRAM JPIC coordinators have gone from watching activities to being leading other people from realities they are, for example Politics, corruption, HIV/AIDS. All the provinces have been inviting well equipped people to educate our parishioners.

Civic education and sensitization has been a major factor in as awareness tool in our provinces.

4-Making people aware about what JPIC mean and activities it carries has been a major instrument in making our provinces move ahead. Once the Parishioners know what our activities are, they also join us to make it a success.

5-Collaboration and sharing information with other Provinces and SSpS sisters. This sharing of information helps us to strengthen our team spirit.

**The mentioned above 5 points are major developments in Afram Zone for the past three years.**

## ACTIVITIES

Different Provinces takes various activities according to the situations of the said areas.

**Ethiopia**, our SSpS sisters are very much involved in empowerment adolescent women, farming, wells and water issues. also upgrading workers situations has been of our SSpS sisters main activities.

**Botswana and S.Africa**, HIV/AIDS is the main issue of concern. home based care(eg.CRS Zambia), sensitization in parishes about the HIV/AIDS pandemic, on

defilement of minors by Aids Patients and civic education. Both our Svd and SSpS are very much involved in those areas.

**Ghana and Togo**, Civic education is very strong. they sensitize people and are also involved lay people. HIV/AIDS is another area where our members are actively involved. SSpS sisters in Togo have programs with people with disabilities. They sensitize women and give them seed money. They give that money later in return and save the profit.

**Angola**, they are very much involved with street children and have a rehabilitation centre or drop in center where children from the street are brought and taken care of. also civic education is greatly carried out.

**DR CONGO** main issues are refugees, civic education(it helped a lot during the just concluded elections) and school work.

**Kenya**, Civic education, HIV/Aids sensitization and test, workers issues on better remunerations. Ecology: where in some schools when a child is celebrating birthday he/she plants a tree. One of the Svd is working at refugee camp. SVD students are given talks by different people to make them aware of various issues by lay people who are invited.

The mentioned above activities are actively been carried on for the past three years.

Thank you very much.

**Lawrence Kithinji svd**

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## **AFRAM JPIC COORDINATORS MEETING JANUARY 25-26TH 2007**

On the 25th and 26th the SVDs and SSPS moved camp to the CFC of the SVD at Langata in Nairobi- Kenya. Here they spent quality time to reflect on the state of the JPIC in the world. Fr. Bernard Espiritu and Sister Gretta, Chairman of VIVAT International respectively gave vivid and veritable happenings in the VIVAT at the Headquarters of the UN in New York. We were all satisfied to know that the noble NGO called VIVAT International fully integrated into the UN with accreditation. Sr. Mary John and Fr. Michael Heinz, the Generlate JPIC Coordinators of the SSPS and the SVD were on hand to give us adequate information on the involvement of the JPIC Worldwide. Zonal Coordinators gave their reports interwoven by healthy contributions by all and sundry.

It unfolded that VIVAT will have a workshop for the Euro Zone in Rome in March 2007. There will be a workshop for JPIC coordinators in the Congo (organized by the Comboni Missionaries).

### **PROPOSALS**

During its meeting the AFRAM Zone recognized that human **trafficking in the case of children and young ladies** was a reality that the JPIC needed to confront and eradicate with the help of other NGOs and the civil society at the grass root level. The causes of human trafficking were identified among others to be related to

- a. Poverty
- b. Deceit
- c. Ignorance due to the lack of appropriate education and information.

At the same time **HIV/AIDS** was an issue which is affecting our working areas. We can not work alone without involving lay people. They are very instrumental in our apostolate. It was strongly suggested that we networked effectively with the media to create the awareness of this menace which affected the life and faith of the rural dwellers.

The AFRAM Zone proposed to have its JPIC/VIVAT workshop in Ethiopia early 2008. It rooted for Ethiopia because the UN has offices there and getting resource personnel would be highly probable and cost effective.

Botswana Zone was taken as the second choice. It was agreed that the Co-coordinators of the two provinces would take care of arrangements. The duration would be five full days.

The meeting ended with a liturgy of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Carols Lima SVD, Rector of CFC Langata and Acting Provincial Superior of Kenya.

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## **REUNION DES COORDINATEURS DE L'AFRAM ZONE A LANGATA/NAIROBI 25-26 JANVIER 2007**

Le 25 et 26 janvier après le Forum Social Mondial, SVD et SSPS ont fixé leur camp à Langata (Nairobi/Kenya). Ici ils ont utilisé leur temps à réfléchir sur l'état de Justice et Paix et Intégrité de la Création dans le monde. Père Bernard Espiritu et Sœur Gretta, chairpersons de VIVAT International ont donné à tour de rôle une présentation et des explications concrètes sur ce qui se passe au siège de VIVAT International à New York.

Nous étions satisfaits et contents de savoir que la noble ONG nommée VIVAT Internationale avait intégrée l'ONU par accréditation.

Sœur Mary John et Père Michael Heinz, coordinateurs généraux de JPIC respectivement des SSPS et des SVD nous ont donnée une information adéquate sur la participation de nos congrégations à la JPIC à travers le monde. Les coordinateurs zonaux ont donnée leurs rapports en offrant une possibilité de contribution à tous les confrères et sœurs présents. Il a été aussi annoncé que VIVAT International va avoir un atelier pour la zone Europe à Rome en mars 2007. Et

en juillet, Il y aura une session de formation permanente pour les coordinateurs de JPIC en R.D. Congo (organisé par des Missionnaires cicm, smccj et smnda)

## **PROPOSITIONS**

Pendant sa rencontre la zone AFRAM a reconnu que le trafic d'homme, spécialement des enfants et des jeunes femmes, était une réalité qu'il nous faut confronter et éliminer. Ceci avec l'aide des ONGs et de la société civile au niveau de la base.

Parmi les causes de ce trafic humain, ceux-ci étaient citées :

- a. la pauvreté
- b. l'abus de confiance
- c. l'ignorance due au manque d'éducation et d'information adéquate.

Par ailleurs, VIH/SIDA est un problème qui touche nos domaines d'action. Nous ne pouvons pas travailler sans associer les laïcs. Ils sont très instrumentaux dans nos apostolats. Il a été sérieusement suggéré que nous collaborions effectivement avec les médias pour sensibiliser l'opinion sur la menace qui pèse sur la vie et la foi des gens habitant la campagne.

La zone AFRAM, a proposé d'avoir son atelier de JPIC/VIVAT en Ethiopie au début de l'année 2008. Ce choix de l'Ethiopie a été motivé par le fait que les Nations Unies ont leur bureau là-bas, et trouver des intervenants/conférenciers serait plus facile et moins coûteux.

La province SVD de Botswana était choisie comme deuxième possibilité. Il était entendu que les coordinateurs de deux provinces puissent prendre soins de l'organisation de ce séminaire. Il devra durer cinq jours.

La réunion s'est terminée par une célébration eucharistique présidé par le père Carlos Lima,svd, recteur du CFC Langata et Vice Provincial du Kenya-Tanzanie.

*Traduction Didier Niki-Niki, svd*

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## **ENCONTRO DOS COORDENADORES DA JPIC DA ZONA AFRAM**

Nos dias 25 e 26 de Janeiro de 2007, os Missionários do Verbo Divino e as Servas do Espírito Santo deslocaram-se No Centro Formação Comum ( CFC) da SVD em Langata – Nairobi no Kenia. Aproveitaram esta oportunidade que lhes era concedida para reflectirem sobre questões que dizem respeito a JPIC no mundo. O Frater Bernard Espírito SVD e a irmã Gretta SSPS Responsáveis da VIVAT Internacional, deram a conhecer o ponto de situação do que se passa na sede da VIVAT nas Nações unidas em Nova-York.

Ficamos satisfeitos em saber que a prestigiada ONG chamada VIVAT Internacional integrou-se plenamente e com integridade na Nações Unidas.

A Ir. Mary John SSPS e o Frater Miguel Heinz SVD, coordenadores da JPIC de cada um dos generalatos, deram-nos informações adequadas sobre o envolvimento da JPIC a nível do Mundo. De igual modo os coordenadores Zonais deram uma contribuição valiosa dos seus trabalhos.

Fez-se também saber que VIVAT terá um workshop em Março deste ano em Roma, para a zona europeia. Do mesmo modo haverá um workshop para coordenadores da JPIC no Congo organizado pelos missionários combonianos.

## PROPOSTAS

Durante o encontro, a zona Afram reconheceu que o tráfico de pessoas humanas, especificamente de crianças e de jovens raparigas, era uma realidade que a JPIC terá que enfrentar e se possível ajudar a erradicar este mal com ajuda de outras ONGs e da Sociedade Civil a partir da base. As causas do tráfico humano foram identificadas, entre outras, como sendo:

- a pobreza
- o engano
- a ignorância devida a falta de uma educação apropriada e de informação.

Da mesma maneira o HIV/AIDS é um dos problemas que vem afectando as nossas áreas de trabalho. Não podemos trabalhar sozinhos sem o envolvimento dos leigos. São peças fundamentais no nosso apostolado. Também foi vivamente encorajado a trabalhar com os Meios de Comunicação Social para despertar as consciências sobre esta ameaça que afecta a vida e a fé das populações rurais e não só.

A Zona Afram propôs em que se organizasse o seu próprio JPIC/VIVAT workshop que neste caso se realizaria na Etiópia nos começos de 2008. A opção pela Etiópia deveu-se pelo facto de existirem lá escritórios da ONU, e seria fácil encontrar recursos humanos validos a custos mais reduzidos.

O Botswana ficou como segunda alternativa. Ficou combinado que os coordenadores dos respectivos países encarregar-se-iam da organização. O encontro duraria 5 dias.

O encontro terminou com uma celebração Eucarística presidida pelo Fr. Carlos Lima SVD, Reitor do CFC de Langata e superior provincial interino.

*Tradução do inglês: **Facatino** - ANG*