



Annual Report

2025

**African Movement of Working
Children and Youth**

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ANNIVERSARY OF
**MOUVEMENT AFRICAIN
DES ENFANTS ET JEUNES
TRAVAILLEURS**



«I am Alimatou, I am 14 years old. I am very happy to be among working children and youth (WCY). Since I left school, I never thought I would have the opportunity to receive other forms of training. Today, I feel more free and more useful to my community because I have learned a lot through this project, particularly sewing, food processing, conflict management, and how to sell my products. »

— Testimony of a WCY from NIGER

2025 Key Figures



24

Child-led organizations Strengthened

They were strengthened in evidence-based advocacy, enabling them to engage in dialogue with African Union bodies and with national authorities.



251

Authorities, parents, and community stakeholders reached

They were sensitized on issues such as the protection and inclusion of children with disabilities, child marriage, the recruitment of children into armed groups, and the protection of children and young people on the Move, through the three MAEJT projects.




586

Children and young people supported

They are being financially empowered through the establishment of collective savings groups and income-generating activities in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso.

2025 Key Figures



Il s'agira alors « des gens décident de donner une fille en mariage rien ne les arrête. Des gens sont prêts à créer de fausses informations sur la fille, l'indexant qu'elle connaît un homme. C'est ainsi que des gens procèdent pour donner une fille en mariage » (Aicha, 15 ans, Originaire de Abala, Résidente à Maradi, Niger).

« De nombreuses familles ont pris la décision de faire marier leur fille dans l'espoir que celle-ci accède à de meilleures conditions de vie (...) des conditions meilleures que celles qui existent chez ses parents ; malheureusement ce n'est pas toujours le cas (...) parfois après quelques mois du mariage, des parents se rendent qu'ils se sont trompés seulement au nom de la parenté, il devient impossible d'engager le divorce (...) leur fille est obligée de vivre dans la souffrance. Moi je connais des parents qui ont engagé leur fille dans des ménages pauvres, pires que ceux de leurs parents (...) après ils sont obligés d'assister leurs enfants (...) ils offrent des vivres en cachette à leur fille pour éviter que les gens se moquent d'eux » (Dumy, 21 ans, Ga).

27

Advocacy and awareness-raising materials produced

On the following themes: child marriage, gender-based violence, and the recruitment of children into armed groups; the promotion of children's rights and the inclusion of children with disabilities; and the promotion of the rights and protection of children and young people in situations of mobility.



940

Children and young people reached

through 42 awareness-raising and exchange activities carried out in 11 countries on gender-based violence and child marriage, inclusion and the promotion of the rights of children with disabilities, as well as the protection of children and young people on the move.



2206

Children and young people trained

in professional skills development and advocacy in their favor in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Morocco, and Tunisia.

A Movement with Strongly Established Capacities

- **A Unique Mobilization Force:** MAEJT is a social movement in which our ability to mobilize and self-organize children and young people across eleven countries ensures actions that are deeply rooted in local realities and led by the beneficiaries themselves.
- **Continental Advocacy Expertise:** We have recognized technical capacity to influence public policies. In 2025, our ongoing dialogue with the African Union and regional bodies helped bring the voices of children, including working children, to the highest levels of decision-making.
- **Large-Scale Project Management:** Our administrative and technical structure demonstrates strong expertise in the rigorous management of complex, multi-stakeholder projects (ACCP, VEP-SAHEL, EJM), in line with international standards of transparency and accountability.
- **Social Innovation Capacity:** Through our FabLabs and training centers, we turn challenges into opportunities by integrating digital and entrepreneurial skills into our protection programs.



Our Added Value: Turning Children into Agents of Change

- **The “By and For Children” Model:** The fundamental added value of MAEJT lies in the shift from the status of a “passive beneficiary” to that of an “actor in their own protection.” Our 27 advocacy tools (comics, guides) were co-designed with young people, ensuring unmatched social relevance.
- **Strengthening Regional Protection Systems:** We act as a key link between isolated communities and state protection systems. By facilitating access to legal documents and creating protection corridors for migrants, we make regional systems more inclusive.
- **Social Protection through Empowerment:** We provide a concrete response to economic vulnerability. Our solidarity funds and income-generating schemes offer sustainable social protection that reduces the risks of exploitation and abuse.
- **Inclusion of the Most Vulnerable:** Our specific approach for children with disabilities and young people on the move ensures that no child is left behind in national protection mechanisms.



ACCP Project: : “African Children’s Charter Project”

African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

The **ACCP (African Children’s Charter Project)** aims to strengthen the capacity of child-led organizations to engage with **African Union** mechanisms and to influence States to adopt stronger **child protection laws**. Through various advocacy training spaces, community awareness sessions, and national campaigns, child leaders are gradually becoming true agents of change.

Key Results of the ACCP Project

24

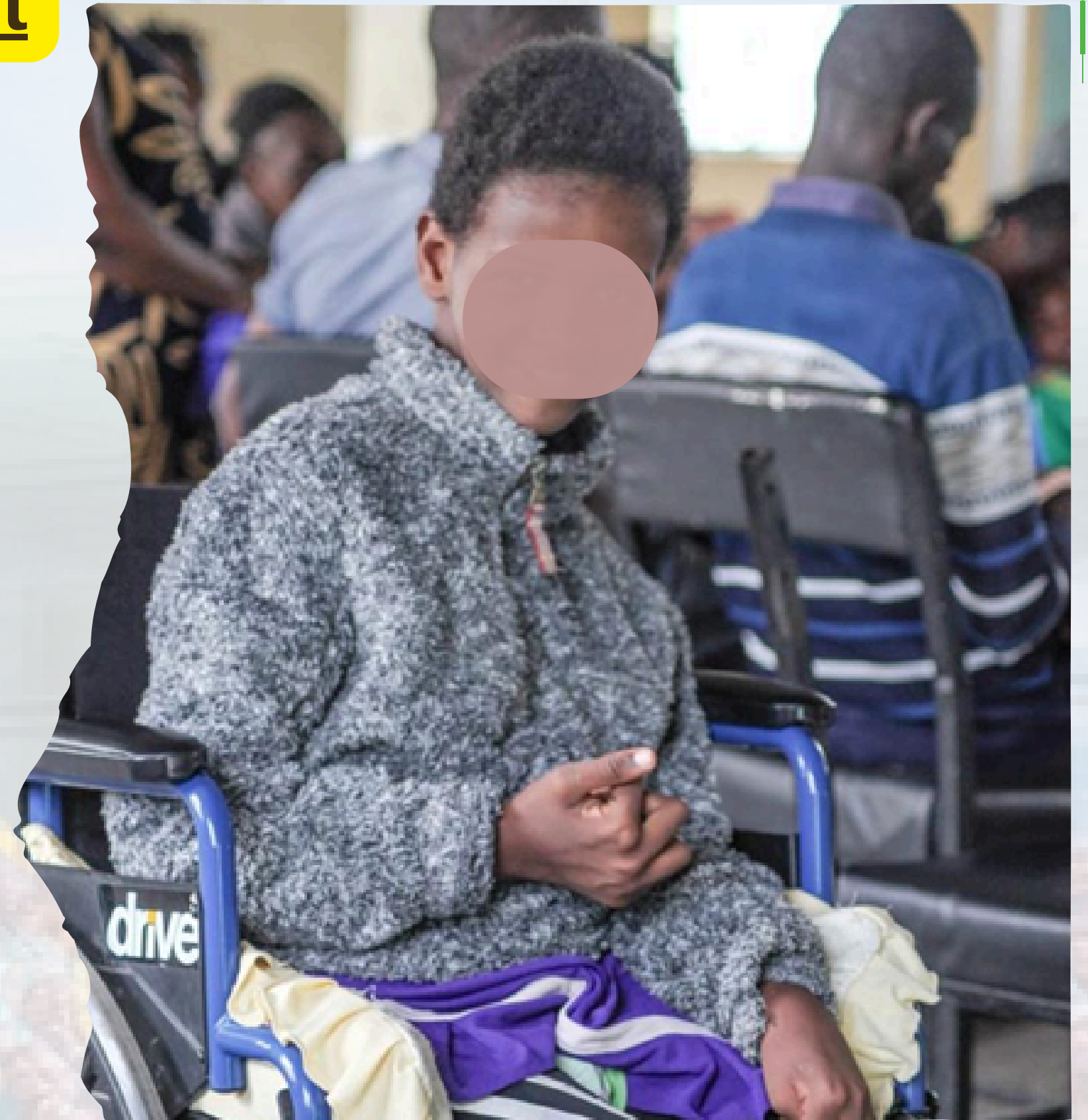
Child-led organizations were strengthened in evidence-based advocacy

These child-led organizations have successfully engaged in dialogue with state authorities at national and regional levels to promote the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

482

children, including 347 children with disabilities

were listened to and sensitized on the promotion of the rights of children with disabilities, through 24 focus group discussions organized in 8 countries: Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda, Togo, Tanzania, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, and Ethiopia.



Key Results of the ACCP Project

3

Child-friendly advocacy tools produced

contributing to the strengthening of their capacity in evidence-based advocacy. These child-led organizations have successfully engaged in dialogue with state authorities at national and regional levels to promote the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

143

Parents, local and community authorities engaged

in dialogue and sensitized to the promotion of children's rights and protection, particularly for children with disabilities. They have become actors and advocates at community and national levels.



VEP-SAHEL Project

“Children’s Voices for Peace in the Sahel”

The VEP-Sahel project supports self-protection initiatives for vulnerable children and young people in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, particularly in the Liptako-Gourma area, a region heavily affected by armed conflict and instability.

In 2025, MAEJT implemented, through community protection committees, awareness-raising activities against early marriage, the recruitment of children by armed groups, and various forms of exploitation. Psychosocial support activities and solution labs have promoted the reintegration of girls into school, thereby contributing to the creation of a safer environment for vulnerable children and young people.



Key Results of the VEP-Sahel Project

18

dissemination sessions

.. of the “Report on Financing Analysis for Ending Child Marriage and Gender-Based Violence,” combined with audio and video listening sessions, enabled 458 people, including 321 children (including 2 children with disabilities), to freely express themselves in a safe space on issues related to child marriage and the recruitment of children by armed groups in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso.

586

Children and young people

including some out of school or in situations of begging, strengthened their community cohesion and financial empowerment through the establishment of collective savings groups and income-generating activities in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso.



Key Results of the VEP-Sahel Project

1767

Children and young people

through the FabLabs incubation program, acquired skills enabling them to design and implement solution-oriented actions that address the challenges of their communities.

3

Advocacy and awareness-raising tools

aimed at combating child marriage and gender-based violence were produced by 10 children and 5 young people in Burkina Faso.



TESTIMONIES

“My name is Fatiya, I am 20 years old. I would like to recall that I was married at the age of 15. I left school because my parents could not afford to pay my school fees in a private institution. I was bored at home, so I joined the association after meeting some WCY who came to talk to me about their grassroots group.

Today, thanks to this project, my life has changed. I have received several innovative trainings, including tailoring, and I have built strong friendships with other girls. I am happy. I hope that this kind of project will be expanded in our community.”

Testimony of a young girl in Niger

“All the children who participated in the workshop are now on their fourth sales cycle. At the end of each week, they conduct a financial review in the presence of everyone. They deduct the cost of raw materials, and the weekly savings contributions are recorded in a register. Each of these girls earns a maximum weekly income ranging between 2,500 and 10,000 FCFA. Given the positive feedback observed within the community, there is growing demand from other interested children and young people who wish to join the initiative.”

Testimony of a woman in Burkina Faso



EJM Project:

“Children and Young People on Migration Routes in West and North Africa”



The EJM project aims to support young people on the move along migration routes in **Niger, Mali, Guinea, Morocco, and Tunisia** by promoting their professional integration, access to education, and social inclusion, in order to strengthen their protection within national and regional systems and organizations.

MAEJT facilitates the participation and access of mobile youth to services and to the development of leadership and empowerment skills, in order to strengthen their resilience in the face of challenges linked to their mobility.

Key Figures of the EJM Project



21

advocacy and awareness-raising tools

were produced by migrant children and young people in Mali, Niger, Morocco, and Guinea.



381

migrant children and young people

strengthened their skills in social media management, remote work, the use of artificial intelligence, and photo and video editing as advocacy tools in Mali, Niger, Morocco, Tunisia, and Guinea.



108

local authorities and community actors

were sensitized and engaged in dialogue with migrant children and young people in Niger, Morocco, and Guinea.

Key Figures of the EJM Project



33

Migrant children and young people

were supported in their integration process through art in Tunisia.



78

Migrant children and young people

acquired skills in job search techniques and first aid in Morocco.

TESTIMONIES

“We are really satisfied, especially when we see that through the trainings and services provided, many people now know how to apply for the UNHCR document (the certificate issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for refugees and asylum seekers). Many have submitted applications, and I even heard that several have already filed their cases”.

Testimony of a young migrant in Morocco

“A friend told me about this association. At first, I was not really interested, but she convinced me, especially when we saw that many people had attended the training last time. When they arrived, I told myself I would give it a try.

What I gained from it is the opportunity to be trained and to look for funding for my project. The first aid training particularly interested me, because I did not know what to do if someone collapsed. Now, thanks to this training, I have an idea of what to do.”

Testimony of a young migrant girl from Cameroon in Morocco

Strengthening Our Institutional Anchoring in 2025

- **Youth-Led Governance:** MAEJT's strength lies in its unique ability to mobilize and structure grassroots organizations. In 2025, we strengthened 24 child and youth led-organizations, enabling them to become credible interlocutors with state and regional authorities.
- **High-Level Advocacy Expertise:** As a leading voice, the Movement maintained direct dialogue with the African Union and continental protection mechanisms, ensuring that the voices of working children are taken into account in public policies.
- **Cross-Border Operational Management:** With an active presence in 11 countries and strong coordination from Dakar, MAEJT demonstrates proven capacity to manage complex multi-country projects (ACCP, VEP-SAHEL, EJM) in collaboration with leading international partners.
- **Training Engineering:** We have consolidated our capacity-building programs, reaching 2,226 young people with modules ranging from advocacy techniques to FabLab management and income-generating activities.

A Key Actor in Social and Regional Protection Systems

- **Support to the African Charter (ACCP):** MAEJT acts as a bridge between legislative texts and field realities. We translate the principles of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child into concrete actions within communities.
- **Community Protection and Resilience:** Through the VEP-Sahel project, we support early warning systems in conflict-affected areas (Liptako-Gourma). Our protection committees work to prevent child marriage, recruitment by armed groups, and gender-based violence.
- **Protection of Children on the Move (EJM):** We strengthen cross-border protection systems by providing young migrants with:
 - Access to legal information (UNHCR certificates)
 - First aid assistance and psychosocial support
 - Protection corridors between the Sahel and the Maghreb
- **Inclusion and Economic Social Protection:** Our “Solidarity Fund” and economic empowerment model provide an essential social safety net for the most vulnerable young people, protecting them from economic exploitation through income generation.

Horizon 2026

Strengthening knowledge of rights and participation

Strengthening knowledge of MAEJT's 12 rights and promoting the active participation of children and young people in decision-making processes that concern them.



Reintegration and empowerment

Protect vulnerable children from exploitation and provide them with practical, digital, and entrepreneurial skills to empower them sustainably



Partenariats

“Build strategic alliances with state institutions and NGOs, and strengthen collaboration with partners to increase the Movement's impact.”



“In 2026, we are strengthening the rights and participation of working children, developing their autonomy, and consolidating our partnerships for a lasting impact on the African continent.”



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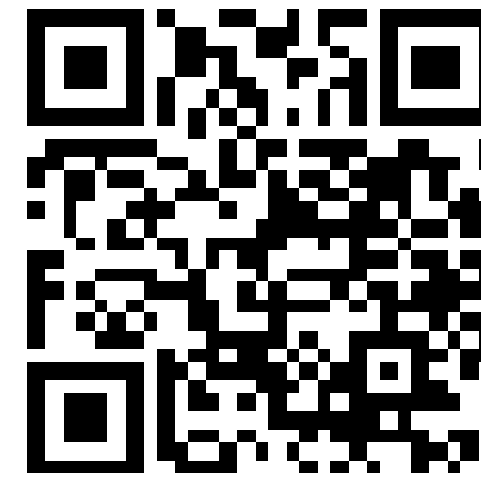
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MAEJT

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