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## Care and protection of children on the street ages from 6 to 16 years in Djibouti-Ville

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### Abstract

This study aims to contribute to appreciate the extent of the phenomenon of street children and their care. The study is qualitative of an analytical and critical nature. The research focused on 30 subjects in total, these subjects were chosen by the technique of reasoned choice. The research shows that the street becomes a field of intervention where many institutions are given the task of cleaning the street. In other words, many actors go through all the means to force these children to leave the street to return to the spaces of socialization. The results revealed that subjects perceive street children in three ways: offenders, victims and actors. In doing so, institutions prioritize family reintegration, integration or reintegration in to school and apprenticeship in a trade. The main purpose of these interventions is to get children to change their behavior so that they can regain their place in society.

**Keywords:** street children, care, protection, reintegration

### 1. Introduction

For more than half a century, humankind has faced a range of political, economic and social problems. The bloody multiplication of wars that have left thousands of children orphaned, infectious diseases such as HIV-AIDS, global warming disorders, violence against women and children are all social problems that threaten the planet. At the same time, much progress is also being made in many areas in both developed and developing countries. But some social problems remain unanswered, where thousands of people continue to live in unsanitary shantytown slums, thousands of people die each year of hunger, others are affected by chronic diseases or cures still wait like cancer, the protection of children, and the promotion of human rights. Among the most recurrent and most debated, we find the problem of street children around the world who, despite the many conventions signed and ratified by many countries continues to mobilize many interventions to find solutions to this problem.

Indeed, the street as a public space has become the object of investment, meeting place, socialization, relaxation and currently, it is occupied by thousands of children, young and adults (Roy and Hurtubise, 2007: 13) [23]. The investment of the street by these people is under the gaze of society. This situation gives rise to a situation of fear among many people both through the prolonged occupation of space and their way of appropriating it (Brannigan and Caputo, 1993) [5].

Thousands of children around the world live in a social and emotional void, left to their own devices without the support of their families (Vélis, 1993) [28]. They live on odd jobs, begging and all other activities that can earn them some money. The lack of hygiene, the consumption of drugs, sexually transmitted diseases reflect the living conditions of these children.

The situation of children on the streets mobilizes many social actors both locally and internationally. International organizations, charities, NGOs are engaging with them. These institutions undertake various actions to meet the

most urgent needs of these children such as: to eat, to sleep, to stay healthy, to dress, to be protected from bad weather and acts of violence. (UNESCO, 1995) [26]. In Djibouti, in recent years, many children are emerging in the streets of the capital they are looking for livelihoods. The difficult socio-economic conditions of many families force many children to roam the streets of Djibouti city. According to a study conducted in 2000 by UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity, it has been shown that the state still has some way to go in dealing with vulnerable populations, especially street children.

In May 2002, at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, the Republic of Djibouti reaffirmed its commitment to promote and protect the rights and well-being of children by committing to create a World Fit for Children (WFC). This historical detour shows the constant superposition of care for children deemed delinquent and those in the situation of street children. This finding is similar in other countries (Abric and Campos, 1996) [1], (Balaam, 1997) [3], (Pérez, Lopez, 2009). Moreover, Joyal (2000) [13] has pointed out that the development of care institutions for young people in difficulty has always associated young delinquents with young people in protection as well as young vagrants.

By choosing to work on the issue of care and protection of children aged between 6 and 16 living in the street of Djibouti-city, we want to open a scientific debate on the situation of street children and thus contribute to reduce the extent of the phenomenon of these children and to encourage authorities and persons of good will to ensure their care.

### 1.1 Problematic

The problem of street children is a global phenomenon. This phenomenon is present in the industrialized as well as in the developing countries. Many children occupy public spaces in a partial or total way in search of means of survival. Public spaces become places of life and survival for

thousands of children. Faced with the increasingly visible presence of children in the streets, many researchers, aid agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as well as states are interested not only in the problems they encounter in the street but also how to get them out there.

Although this phenomenon is considered global, it does not always present the same peculiarities at the local level. Many authors have thus sought to grasp locally or globally the situation of street children both to grasp the extent and causes of it and to understand the experience of the street. However, before discussing these studies, it is important to return to the definition of the phenomenon. Street children live in complete rupture with their families. They are considered abandoned children who have lost all family contact and by extension society has lost all control over them too. This category seems much more vulnerable than the others, because they depend on themselves and it is up to them alone to ensure their own socialization. Following the same logic, UNICEF cited by Agnelli (1986)<sup>[2]</sup> defined them as "children left to their own devices, who spend the majority of their time looking for livelihoods and survival". For these children, the street becomes their only and only source of survival. In this space which is the street, they sleep, work, eat and develop also strategies of defense and survival. At this time, the street replaces the family home and became the place of their personal and social development. In these studies, street children are defined according to their relationship with an adult and their living conditions in the street.

As for Grégoire (1995)<sup>[12]</sup>, he proposes a definition for this category of children which, according to him, should not only be the subject of debate, but also guide interventions. For him, a child in the street "is a child who is no longer loved" (Grégoire, 1995)<sup>[12]</sup>. According to other authors like Vélis (1993)<sup>[28]</sup> and Combier (1994)<sup>[7]</sup>, from one continent to another, it is still the distress of millions of children condemned to live and survive in the streets. According to them, some studies carried out on this issue testify to the gravity of the situation. Still talking about street children in the 1990s, UNICEF estimated them at 10 million in industrialized countries and 75 million in developing countries. Later, according to the UN and UNICEF, their number is estimated at 100 million worldwide (UNICEF, 2011)<sup>[27]</sup>, half of which is on the South American continent, 25 to 30 million in Asia, and as many as in Africa and Europe (Wangre and Maiga, 2008)<sup>[29]</sup>. According to the Childs Right Organization (2008), there is no reliable census on this issue, although estimates made by UNICEF come from some local organizations. Moreover, in some countries attempts are made to estimate, for example, in Manila the number of street children was estimated at more than 60,000 in the 1980s (Dallais and Fischer, 1989)<sup>[8]</sup>, while in New York at more than 20,000 (Combier, 1994)<sup>[7]</sup> and Alexandria 250,000 at the beginning of this century (Palazzolo, Bedwani and Tassiba, 2008). Indeed, the presence of children in the streets is very visible, but quantifying them poses enormous challenges to authors and organizations working on the issue. Undeniably, these children face difficult living conditions and according to UNICEF (2011)<sup>[27]</sup>, are between 5 and 18 years old in the streets of the world.

### **To explain the arrival of children in the streets Tercier (2003) thinks**

*"The most common causes for humanitarian organizations to understand this phenomenon in poor countries are: wars, industrialization, disproportionate population growth and the destruction of family ties. As a result, children are increasingly left to fend for themselves and these situations undermine their basic education and primary socialization. Some families facing situations of great precariousness cannot afford to feed and meet the needs of their children, victims of an unequal socio-economic system. Having no landmarks, these children take refuge in the street in search of means of subsistence".*

To overcome this phenomenon, which has become a social problem, many national and international agencies are looking for the best ways to get these children out of the street. According to some authors, the interventions made with street children are guided by the representation that institutions, professionals and other social actors make of the phenomenon. Faced with the increasingly visible presence of children on the streets and the indifference of society towards them, some governments cannot or do not manage to take care of these young people in their social policies as it is the in some developing countries. The latter do not always demonstrate the will to solve the major social problems and to this is added the lack of resources (Tessier, 1995)<sup>[12]</sup>. In such a case, aid agencies, International Organizations (IO) care institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have the freedom to intervene with children in difficulty. With the adoption of the International Convention on the Rights of Childhood (ICEC), we recognize the importance of international cooperation for the improvement of the living conditions of children in all countries, especially those in the process of development. At this moment, a group of NGOs and International Organizations interested in the problem of street children in the world and in particular in the developing countries, set up a set of programs aimed at the reintegration of children from the street in society. These programs extend to different levels and areas of expertise. To carry out these programs, some NGOs and International Organizations (such as United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Food and Agriculture (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) are directly or indirectly involved with street children or street youth, who are involved in various fields such as: Education and Culture (UNESCO), Health (WHO) and Child Protection (UNICEF).

The Republic of Djibouti has made child development and protection one of the central concerns of national development strategies. Indeed, from the regulatory and normative legal point of view, the country has ratified all international and African conventions on the rights of the child and has adhered to the recommendations of the major international conferences on human rights, including those on children (World Summit for Children, New York, 1990),

Education (Jomtien, 1991), Environment (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), Promotion of the Status of Women in Beijing (1995), the Social Development Summit in Copenhagen (1993) and the Millennium Declaration based on the pursuit of the MDGs (2000). National Strategic Plan for Childhood in Djibouti 2011-2015. The goal is to create a protective environment for all children that promotes the realization of fundamental rights and equitable access to basic social services.

Thus, everywhere, the State, NGOs, International Organizations (IO) and care institutions build intervention programs aimed at rooting out children from the street. They aim at their social reintegration, whether through formal and non-formal education, reintegration into the family, employment, prevention, access to autonomy. The problem arising from this question is to reduce the scale of the phenomenon of street children and their care in Djibouti - ville. However, what is really the situation of street children in the city of Djibouti? Through the theme entitled "Care and protection of street children between the ages of six and sixteen in Djibouti-ville", our study proposes, from an analytical and critical point of view, to analyze the mechanisms of insertion of children from the street in Djibouti city.

## 1.2 Hypothesis

The causes that lead children to be "street children" are related to poverty, abandonment and mistreatment of parents or guardians.

## 1.3 General Objective

The purpose of the present work is to contribute to appreciate the extent of the phenomenon of street children and their care in Djibouti city.

Specifically, it is t:

- identify the causes that lead children to the streets;
- analyze the profile (school and out-of-school) of children who are on the street;
- make proposals for the development of a socio-professional insertion mechanism for children to remove them from the street.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Nature of the study

This is a qualitative study that aims to better understand the extent of the phenomenon of street children in Djibouti-ville. In the first place, it aims to identify the causes that lead children to the streets and, secondly, to develop a socio-professional integration mechanism for children to remove them from the street.

### 2.2. Survey population

These are the people involved in a study who are likely to provide useful information for our study. As part of this study, the survey population consists of four target groups:

- political and administrative authorities;
- officials of the NGO Caritas;
- parents of children;
- Children of the Caritas center.

## 2.3 Sampling

### 2.3.1. Sampling method

To carry out our research, we chose the non-probability

sampling method with "reasoned choice". For this we have identified the politico-administrative authorities, the leaders of the Caritas NGO, the parents of children and the children of the Caritas center.

### 2.3.2. Sample size

The size of our sample is 30 people composed as follows: politico-administrative authorities, officials Caritas NGO, parents of children and children of Caritas center.

**Table 1:** sample of the population

Study population	Effective	Percentage (%)
Political-administrative authorities	02	6, 66
NGO leaders Caritas	02	6, 66
Parents of children	10	33, 33
Children from the center Caritas	16	53, 33
Total	30	100

## 2.4. Techniques and tools of investigations

For the collection of information from our sample presented above, we used two techniques namely the literature search and the interview survey.

### ▪ Literature search

This technique makes it possible to analyze and analyze certain documents relating to the study conducted. It is used to consult documents, including end-of-cycle works, memoirs, legal texts, books and others. Thanks to her, we will be able to consult the data available on the internet.

### ▪ Interview

This technique allows us to obtain information from the respondents on a specific subject; it allowed us to get in touch with the different people where we needed to have information that we are looking for.

However, in view of the financial and geographic (distance) constraints, the interviews were developed and sent to Djibouti so as to allow the subjects to answer the questions asked as in the interview. Through her, we conducted various interviews, with parents and children from the Caritas center, and also with Caritas officials, representatives of some organizations working to promote and protect the rights of the child (NGOs, L State, civil society, etc.).

## 2.5. Data processing

At this stage of the study, we proceeded:

- At first, the data processing consisted in counting the interviews that we had with the subjects. This counting consisted mainly of the transcription of the information in order to highlight the main topics addressed by our subjects through their answers to our questions. Following this we proceeded to a thematic grouping, that is to say a classification of the answers by topic, then a content analysis by topic.
- In a second step, the treatment consisted in counting the questionnaires. This recount consisted of taking stock of the information collected by each question. The processing of the information was done manually and on the computer. It must be recognized that this research has not been without difficulties.

**3. Results**

In this part of our work, we discuss the presentation and analysis of the data collected from the sampled individuals. This phase of presentation and analysis of the data is

decisive insofar as it makes it possible to define the phenomenon in depth and in all its contours. Various actors participated in this qualitative study.

**Table 2:** Summary of the results of the interviews

Problem of street children Djibouti	Perceptions of the actors
Situation or reality of care and protection of street children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Caritas Djibouti is the only structure that works on street children. She has been doing beautiful things since her inception in 1952;</li> <li>▪ The phenomenon is gaining momentum in Djibouti city as the majority of these children come from neighboring countries (Somalia and Ethiopia);</li> <li>▪ Lack of state structure for the care of these vulnerable children.</li> </ul>
The causes of the phenomenon of street children	The three main causes are: dislocation of homes, polygamy and poverty.
The problems faced by these children living on the street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ These children are victims of abuse of all sorts of violence, abuse and aggression;</li> <li>▪ Abuse by their companions and the harassment of the police;</li> <li>▪ Some girls are raped and become pregnant.</li> </ul>
Categories of children in situation	The children we meet in the street of Djibouti city are 7 to 18 years old. These 90% children are boys and 10% girls.
Best formula for the care and social integration of street children	Reintegration into their families, schooling in formal or informal schools and vocational integration.
Reports from other national and international organizations	good collaboration with the public authorities and the National Office of Djibouti for asylum seekers and refugees;
Activities for the professional insertion of children	UNICEF, the Embassies of Ethiopia and Somalia, the International Organization for Migration. literacy classes in French (reading, writing), schooling in public schools; Vocational training (hairdressing, cooking, electricity, welding, embroidery, plumbing and sewing etc.).
Actions for street children are sufficient	a national policy to support these structures and to strengthen the socioeconomic capacities of poor families.
Solutions to get out of this crisis	involve religious leaders, associations, NGOs and the public administration so that they can act to this end;
	Without the political will of the state no one can claim to solve this crisis alone.

Source: Survey Results, June 2017

When reading this information, we notice that the opinions are divergent on the part of the persons in charge of the structures, the parents of children and the children in situation of the streets.

The responses reveal that the child leaves home and his family for a variety of reasons including family abuse, parental divorce and poverty. These factors have triggered the departure to the street, and living in the street these children are facing enormous difficulties. Society treats these children as criminals who have no future. The children carry out small activities to survive as shoe polishers, car wash, and garbage collection in neighborhoods. For girls and boys, drug use is an integral part of survival strategies.

On the side of parents, the phenomenon continues to increase overnight. To the question of who would be responsible for this phenomenon of street children, parents feel that the state has the primary responsibility of the population for not having implemented efficient development projects; society and children because of their poor attendance and some inappropriate programming they follow. For parents, the phenomenon of street children is a real scourge and if it is not controlled, may cause other social cracks. They equate the consequences of the phenomenon with multiple social and psychological tensions namely fights that lead couples separations in families and the questioning of basic cultural identity. It should be noted that opinions are very divided as regards obstacles to action. The most frequent responses boil down to lack of adequate resources and political will, the insufficient number of structures, the inadequacy of the actions and socio-cultural considerations and finally the lack

of control of the land. Thus, to reinforce this policy of taking care of street children, it is necessary to act on obstacles. Therefore, the strategies and social actions that will be adopted as new measures must concern everyone without exception. All levels of responsibility are therefore concerned with this problem, starting with the state, society and NGOs.

The Caritas Center offers children a safe place from the world of the street where they can meet, play and grow together. Activities with children literacy, health management, vocational training, sports / recreation and include other aspects such as awareness non consumption drugs and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. In 2013, the number of children welcomed every day is about 154 children, mostly boys, 134 and 20 girls. Many parents are reluctant to have their children attend Caritas because they fear that this Catholic institution will incite them to convert to Catholicism.

**3.1 Analysis of results**

The analysis of qualitative methodology is the ultimate and most difficult phase of research. The analysis focused on the social representations of the actors of the phenomenon of street children. The analysis of the social representations of the actors with regard to the phenomenon of the children of the street allowed us to release at the same time different representations of the children of the streets. Street children are the subject of a set of images that, in one way or another, refers to how stakeholders perceive their reality. The social representations that enable us to understand and grasp the perception of a person in relation to a given object are based

on the experiences, beliefs, values and norms generally shared in a society. Thus, our analysis revealed three figures or visions of the representation of street children in Djibouti city.

First, for some subjects, street children are perceived as victims sometimes socio-economic conditions of their family sometimes society, but also problems they live on the street such as violence, lack and physical and sexual assault, even exploitation.

Other topics, on the other hand, perceive children as delinquents. These stakeholders will then put forward the various legal and illegal activities they perform in the street to ensure their survival.

Finally, other topics will focus more on defining children as actors. They are considered as such because they develop various skills and strategies to survive on the streets.

▪ **The children of the street: victims of their situation**

Street children in Djibouti city are the subject of a series of representations in society. Among these representations, the term "victim" is one of the characteristics that appears in the speeches of the interveners who intervene with these children. In fact, this term can be broadly defined as a person or group of people facing situations of psychological suffering; moral, social and physical. The children experience a situation of victimization according to the subjects. Some will evoke, for example, victimization events in their family. So, a subject testifies:

*"I came to live on the street because my father-in-law abused me and he did not send me to school. He beat me he does not do it like you should whip a child, but he does it like two adults who are in conflict and fight each other. He beat me like that and he does not give me food and does not send me to school while his children go to school. In addition, it is I who must do all the housework and fetch water".*

This testimony recalls the issue of family abuse that positions children and young people as victims, which confirms the results of Desquesnes (2011)<sup>[10]</sup> on poverty of families and child abuse and those of WHO (2002)<sup>[4]</sup> in the World Report on child mistreatment and violence and health. Indeed, in the literature some authors present child victims as those who experience physical and / or emotional abuse, abuse, neglect, sexual abuse as is the case of Berger (2005)<sup>[4]</sup>.

For the latter, it is society that builds a bad image of street children. However, they are sensitive and loving. Thus, the behavior of the population sometimes determines the behaviors that some might consider delinquent or deviant in children. But for them, they are children who are looking for what they cannot find or they are looking for an imaginary family. In this sense, the objects stressing the fact that children are forced to live on the streets, alone, left to their own devices, are ultimately victims of isolation that does not allow for affection, support and of a family necessary for the good psychosocial development of an individual.

In addition, other topics highlight the acts of violence that children suffer in the streets in this direction:

*"Street kids are beaten by police. Girls are abused by boys in the same groups. The vagrants of the*

*area beat them, they receive iron shots, etc. From time to time, we do not see one, we learn that she is in the hospital because she is a victim of violence".*

These comments confirm that children are victims of violence not only in the groups to which they belong, but also on the part of the police. The girls are assaulted and beaten by the boys in the areas where they are confined. Clearly, children are doubly or even triply victims of their situation.

▪ **Street children considered as "delinquents"**

For many other topics in our study, street children are seen as delinquents. They manage to commit actions described as "delinquency" such as theft, the consumption of drugs etc... The Street symbolizes the place where one learns all the negative values of social life according to the subjects. Especially that sexuality is still a taboo in Djiboutian society. Moreover, for other subjects, it is the acts of banditry and vandalism committed by children that make them delinquents. In this sense, a subject describes the acts of delinquency and banditry that children have committed in the streets as follows:

*"Especially the oldest street children at night try to ransom passersby in certain areas. They use violence to force passers-by to empty their wallets. They use false weapons to deceive and scare people to get what they want. It is the older ones who have this practice and often they use the little ones to commit these acts of banditry as well. They order children to take action without their direct participation".*

Thus, some strategies used by children to ensure their survival prove according to the subjects that they are delinquents. In this context, the use of violence and false weapons help to frighten passersby and force them to give everything they have in their possession. But there is also a hierarchy in the groups where the older ones force the little ones to commit acts of delinquency. Whereas for other subjects, it is the acts of aggression and violence that children do towards others outside their band that make them think they are delinquents.

In addition, to live on the streets, children tend to gather and live in gangs. However, for the speakers if they organize themselves thus it is to face the insecurity and loneliness. That is why those who are not part of their world are not welcome because they can be very violent towards them. Moreover, according to the speakers, some children have murderous behavior and behave like bandits. They confirmed to have eliminated human lives. However, they refuse to give figures. In this sense, the subjects represent street children as delinquents. Other topics present children as actors, but not as victims or offenders.

▪ **The street children considered as "actors"**

Since street children are actors in their own lives, they develop skills and strategies to survive on the streets in order to support themselves. Children living on the streets undertake various activities to survive. They use the street according to the possibilities available to them and according to their age because not all children do the same

activities. Whatever forms of activity they perform, they aim to generate money to ensure their survival. In fact, the people interviewed in this study highlight how children can find all sorts of ways to get dressed, eat, drink, smoke, etc. Children living on the streets are people whose living conditions depend on themselves, unlike other children of their age living in their family environment. Indeed, a subject testifies it by relying on the history that this subject lived:

*"They know where they can find ways to make money because on Fridays this area offers a lot of economic activity. On Fridays, they know that at the seaside, there are more activities that are likely to allow them to have some money. They will meet a lot of people in this area and they will be able to beg drivers, wash and wipe cars."*

Street children, depending on the subject, take initiatives that can help them earn some money. First, these children seek to master the economic environment and then exploit it in their favor. For this, children know when, where and how they can make money.

#### 4. Discussion

To believe the words of our subjects, to consider street children as victims is to remember that they are not responsible for their social situation. Children experience various victimization situations according to these. Thus, for them children the family environment is rather considered as a toxic environment for the good physical, social and psychological development. Some will see children and young people more as victims of the socio-economic conditions of their families. In fact, according to one of our subjects, the arrival of children on the streets is intrinsically linked to the functioning of the current society which prioritizes the market economy. This market economy system seems to have consequences for the living conditions of some families and in this sense, children are considered the first victims since many of them cannot meet basic needs of their offspring. This confirms the results of the Diop study conducted in 2010 on the work of adolescent girls in the Dakar markets. This author believes that the structural adjustment programs imposed by the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and other international organizations compel the state not to invest in basic social programs.

For example, families must take care of their children's education and health care on their own. Unable to respond adequately to their responsibility in this sense, children are the main victims of society and the poor social conditions of their families.

This is confirmed by the words of one of our subjects, who recognizes that children in the streets are victims not only of the social structure of the country, but also of the living conditions of their families. These comments confirm the results of Lucchini (1996), who in turn sees street children as victims of macroscopic determinants such as the socio-economic conditions of their families, the inequalities of the school system and the street.

Our observations on the ground show that street children considered as delinquents, faced with certain problems encountered in the streets, are obliged to develop a set of actions to ensure their survival. This confirms the comments

of López (2009) <sup>[20]</sup> who think that it is the lack of socialization of street children that pushes them to commit delinquent acts. This is how they manage to commit actions described as "delinquencies" such as theft, the consumption of drugs, etc., and violent actions as murders, considering delinquency as a set of actions that go against the norms and values shared by a society. The representation of street children, according to the latter, is a mixture of violence and a lack of school education that make them vulnerable according to stakeholders. It is in this sense that Agnelli (1986) <sup>[2]</sup> Believes that school education should be a driver of social progress to improve the living conditions of the underprivileged.

In other words, a lack of education can lead to violence in the child who would make him a delinquent, while for some subjects it is the street system that causes delinquency of street children. Since street children are actors, street life requires skills and strategies. Children in the streets must survive and to do so, they must develop a know-how to ensure their survival. In such a context, the child is considered as an actor in his life and as an "active subject" who acts on his environment.

According to the Caritas Center, children develop skills to survive in the streets. This result is in line with Lucchini's (1993) results when he talks about a system of opportunities for street children. For him, children know how to operate the street and they always choose the good times.

One topic highlighted the qualities of the children, and his comments also echo the results of Agnelli's (1986) <sup>[2]</sup> work when he states that children sing, play music in the streets and in the sidewalks.

Thus, the visions of the support of street children represent in a certain way the representation that society has of this category of children to believe Leite (2003). Children living on the streets undertake different activities to survive. They use the street according to the possibilities available to them and according to their age because not all children do the same activities. Whatever forms of activity they perform, they aim to generate money to ensure their survival.

At the end of our research, the aim was to help reduce the scale of the phenomenon of street children and their care in Djibouti city. From day to day, many children occupy the streets partially or permanently in order to obtain the means of subsistence. They use several legal or illegal strategies to ensure their survival. In this sense, many social actors whose care institutions develop a set of programs seeking to meet the needs of these children. The various actors involved with street children have as their main mission to remove these from the street and place them in a space ensuring their safety. This study allowed us to understand not only the representations that subjects make of the phenomenon of street children, but at the same time the causes that bring them to the streets, the way they organize themselves in the streets as well as interventions carried out by care institutions.

Institutions integrate or reintegrate school according to the age of the child. For young people beyond the school age, they give them the opportunity to learn a trade. The parents we interviewed gave the reasons for the children's presence on the street. And children have been directly criminalized by parents outside the causes they have sometimes endorsed. The children in turn accused most of their parents of being irresponsible because they did not do their homework properly. The absence of the birth

certificate and registration of births means that children are not enrolled in schools despite the international convention on the rights of children which states that registration of birth is the first right of all children, regardless of their country of origin and the status of their parents. Despite the reduced financial and human resources, Caritas continues its interventions and broadens its partnerships beyond institutions and seeks to explore opportunities for girls and boys to leave the streets.

In Djibouti, we find that state officials have done almost nothing to take care of street children. The state has almost nothing as a reception facility for children in difficult situations and especially street children. The protection of vulnerable children no longer seems to be the responsibility or the will of the Djibouti State in its social policies. It is only Caritas that is trying as hard as it can to support these street children by helping them to fit in. Returning to the Djibouti State, it must be said that the Ministry of the family and social promotion, there is a structure that should take care of the care of street children, but the latter seems almost absent in this area. This problem adds to the complexity of the phenomenon of street children in Djibouti, but in no way constitutes a reason to give up and leave these children on the streets. Djibouti needs all his children for his future.

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