

World Learning



Angola

Onjoi: Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Angola

Children born in Angola are especially at risk of being exploited through child labor. Twenty-two percent of children between the ages of 5 and 14, and more than 40 percent of children over the age of 14, are engaged in some form of labor, including agriculture, trafficking, smuggling, prostitution, domestic servitude, or mining. The majority of these working children live in rural areas and many of them live on the streets, where they are at risk of sexual abuse, trafficking and pornography, as well as other forms of forced labor. Children are overworked, physically abused, forced to handle harsh chemicals and placed in hazardous work environments.



World Learning, through the *Onjoi* project (*Onjoi* means dream), is working to ensure that more than 7,000 at-risk children in the Angolan provinces of Luanda and Benguela are protected from the worst forms of child labor. World Learning is providing direct support to primary education services already in place in the communities and creating non-formal education opportunities to allow out-of-school youth to continue learning as they grow.



The Project is facilitating awareness-raising activities at both grassroots and governmental level by training advocates in important policy methods to help the children trapped in dangerous labor situations.

In order to ensure that the work will be sustained within Angola even after the Project is complete, *Onjoi* is also helping build the long-term capacity of local NGOs through trainings. Finally, through partnerships with local and national government institutions, as well as civil society groups, World Learning is assisting in the development and operation of a country-wide child labor monitoring system.

The direct beneficiaries of World Learning's *Onjoi* project include child victims of civil and ethnic conflict, former child soldiers, displaced children, urban children engaged in prostitution and smuggling, and rural children engaged in hazardous agricultural practices. An additional 14,000 children are indirectly benefiting from a more secure and accessible school environment and improved quality of education.

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World Learning, an international NGO and educational provider based in Washington, DC, and Vermont, USA, has been focused for 75 years on bridging cultures and transforming lives. Today, World Learning runs international development programs, study abroad, and graduate education in more than 75 countries, directly impacting the lives of thousands of people each year. The organization has an annual operating revenue in excess of \$100 million.