

Concerns and Urgent Support for Children amidst Recent Political Tensions In West Africa

Millennium Child Support Group (MCSG) wishes to draw your attention to a pressing issue that directly affects the safety and wellbeing of children in West Africa prominently in Niger, Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso.

The recent political tensions in the region have reached an alarming level, posing significant risks to the lives and futures of countless children. It is MCSG duty to join forces and address this concerning situation before it escalates further. As a result, vulnerable people especially women and children, youth and persons with disabilities are finding it increasingly difficult to secure their basic needs, access to fundamental resources, and opportunities to ensure meaningful life.

The political unrest, power struggles, and regional conflicts have intensified, creating an unstable and potentially dangerous environment for children and their families. Educational systems have been disrupted, access to healthcare has become limited, and the overall social service in these communities is being severely undermined.

Let us not forget to recognize marginalized individuals, despite their struggles, possess invaluable knowledge and skills that we can learn from and that could contribute to the sustainable development of our regions. Let us make a conscious effort to actively engage with marginalized people, listen to, and learn from these individuals instead of overlooking their contributions.

Millennium Child Support Group recommends that, we take proactive measures in reforming multilateralism to reflect these realities and prioritize the concerns of the women and men struggling to feed their families. We urge all the multilateral institutions must strive to promote dialogue, negotiations and open communications by organizing educational campaigns, supporting local communities, engaging in environmental conservation, advocating for social justice, and fostering partnerships with all the stakeholders at the grassroots level to reduce the risks associated with various global issues, including poverty, conflicts, climate change, and public health crises.

Let us work collaboratively to ensure that the voices of vulnerable and marginalized people are heard, their needs are met, and their potential is harnessed through the following steps:

1. Creating open dialogue forums to foster cross-gender communication at local, regional, and national levels where both women and men can openly express their concerns, share experiences, and collaborate on proposing innovative solutions. This open dialogue forums would bridge the gap between individuals of different genders, fostering a culture of collaboration, empathy, and ensure SDGs progress.
2. Investing in agricultural development initiatives tailored for small-scale farmers particularly women, and support systems to ensure access to productive inputs, markets, and resilience-building techniques to foster economic growth, reduce poverty, and enhance food security in our communities.

3. Strengthening economic support for sustainable growth through financial assistance, vocational training, and entrepreneurial opportunities to enable marginalized families to become self-reliant and contribute positively to our local economy.
4. Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment is high a priority to ensure that women have the necessary tools, resources, and support to actively participate in decision-making processes, realize their full potential, and contribute meaningfully to society.