



AFRICA/CHAD - "A school, a life" thousands of children without education condemned to poverty

N'Djamena (Agenzia Fides) - In Chad, public education is free and compulsory, however, extreme poverty, poor school infrastructure, lack of teaching materials and unqualified teachers, transforms school education in a great challenge which depends on the general development of the Country. Currently, only 1 % of children are enrolled in pre-school. In elementary school there continues to be a huge gap between the level of schooling of girls and boys, with more than 20 % difference between both sexes. On the occasion of the International Day of Children's Rights, which will be held on November 20, the Foundation ATRESMEDIA, Spanish radio and television group, has launched the campaign "A school, a life" with the objective of strengthening the literacy of more than eight thousand children of 17 elementary schools in the region of Mongo in Chad, build and equip a literacy center for the community, distribute learning materials in these schools, organize reading and writing workshops not only for children but also for the rest of the community, especially for women whose literacy rate is only 21%. The campaign started on November 1 and will end on the 20th. In the region of Mongo school education is a major challenge, given that only 47 % of pupils who finish primary school go to middle school and the illiteracy rate is very high, about 67%. The cooperation experts believe that education has a direct impact with the reduction of poverty and the promotion of sustainable development, it helps people to have more control over their lives, expanding their opportunities and guarantees them a decent future. (AP) (Agenzia Fides 06/11/2013)