

Observatoire des Droits de l'Enfant de la Région Océan Indien

(Regional Observatory For Child Rights
in the Indian Ocean)

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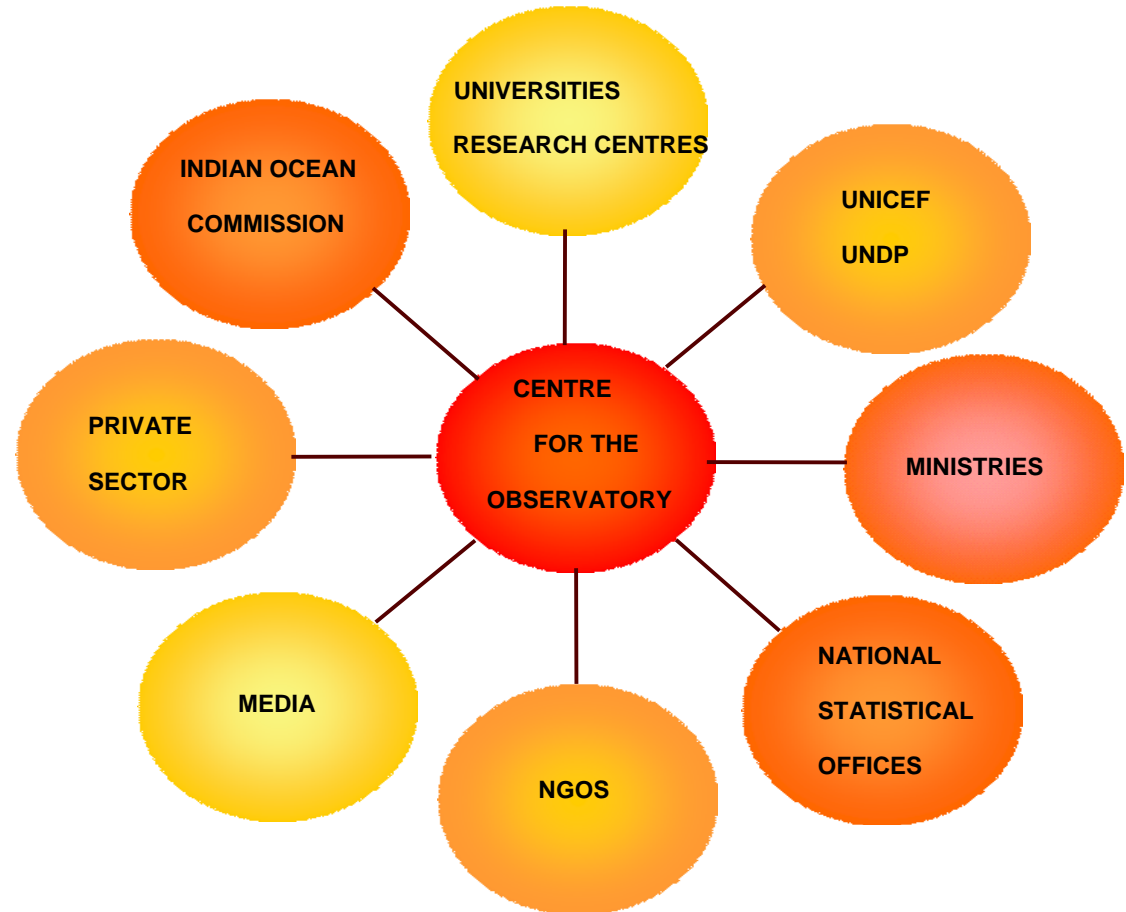
Regional Observatory for Child Rights Monitoring

When and why was it established?

- Established in 2004, upon closure of UNICEF office in Mauritius and UNICEF program in Seychelles; however it was felt necessary to maintain a presence for monitoring child rights.
- The Observatory was set up to cover 5 countries of the Indian Ocean region (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Seychelles) as a Centre of Excellence:
 - to strengthen regional and national monitoring of child rights through appropriate research, advocacy, networking and information exchange
 - to help countries fulfill their commitments to the CRC and the MDGs

Who is involved?

- Indian Ocean Commission (geo political body)
- UN Agencies (UNICEF and UNDP)
- Universities/Research Institutes
- Ministries
- National Statistical Offices
- NGOs/Civil society
- Media
- Private sector



What activities does it undertake?

1. Innovative thematic regional researches
2. Data collection of economic/demographic and social statistics for setting up of regional database and DEV/INFO
3. Capacity building of researchers and academia
4. Public awareness/social mobilisation on the situation of children
5. Evidence-based advocacy
6. Networking and exchange of best practices
7. Communication

What is its “speciality”?

Regional Communication strategy to give Youth a Voice

Memorandum of Understanding signed with the media (radio and television) to provide a platform for young people to express themselves.

Objectives of communication strategy:

- Youth led advocacy and awareness raising
- Social mobilisation with increased participation of adolescents to lobby in decision-making
- Social and behaviour change

Youth-friendly programmes daily on television and weekly on radio with active participation of youth

What have been the problems?

1. **Establishing and sustaining dynamism of national committees**
2. **Availability of social indicators and data for monitoring CRC and MDGs/harmonization of data at regional level**
3. **Ensuring public debates/conferences at the level of academia - social issues not always a priority**
4. **Sustainability of funding of the Support Centre**

What were the solutions?

1. Reinforcement of partnership with UN agencies, observatories, research Centres ... for TECHNICAL EXPERTISE
2. TECHNICAL SUPPORT from Universities/Academia for conferences/debates to place children issues high on the agenda
3. Alliance with Media ... for ADVOCACY and VISIBILITY
4. PARTNERSHIP with private sector for funding of youth-friendly communication strategies