



Child Social & Financial Education

Aflatoun, Child Social and Financial Education

Amsterdam, August 2009

Subject: Submission for **Sub-theme 3:** “Are child Rights a luxury during an economic crisis?”

Social and Economic Child Rights: building blocks for a just and stable economic system

The global financial crisis hits children, women and families worldwide first. Through self-indulgence, opportunism and short-term perspectives, our and our children’s global rights and well-being have been neglected. Social and economic child rights are a necessity to help turn this tide, not a luxury.

Social and financial empowerment of children through rights and lifeskills education is an essential building block for the prevention of this, and future financial crises. As well as being the most vulnerable group in our sociofinancial system right now, children and youth are also the future economic actors, entrepreneurs, leaders, and heads of households. For these reasons, individual *awareness* of one’s economic and social rights and responsibilities, as well as their interconnectedness, needs to start early at school and at home. But even more importantly, children’s financial and social *capabilities* need to be developed.

Aflatoun offers a program of child social and financial education (CSFE) in schools and non-formal education institutions, aiming to socially and financially empower children, ages 6-14. CSFE combines playful and interactive rights and responsibility-focused education according to the UN CRC, with important hands-on lifeskills such as saving, budgeting, and social entrepreneurship. Children discover their own values, confidence and changemaking abilities, and find out how a right of an individual or community is the responsibility of another. The child centered program aims to instill a savings and budgeting habit with the children, increase their knowledge about and experience with the (local) financial sector and introduce them to sustainable child-friendly banking services. Thus, they become empowered to effectively claim and fulfill their rights and responsibilities in the economic reality.

Through a global network of multilaterals (e.g. UNICEF), CSOs (e.g. PLAN and CCF), governments, foundations, companies, and leading financial institutions, Aflatoun already reaches over 540,000 children in 25 countries. Aflatoun aims to reach 1 million children in 75 countries by the end of 2010, and build global child friendly banking networks to bank the unbanked child.

CSFE contributes to the UN CRC’s recognition of every child’s right to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development (Art. 27, 1), and the development of the necessary capabilities (Art. 29, 1a). It prepares the child for “responsible life in a free society” (Art. 29, 1d) and actively stimulates child participation and empowerment (Art. 12).

RECOMMENDATION: Aflatoun recommends that Child Social and Financial Education be taken on by the Committee and integrated in the educational curricula for all children worldwide, age 6 – 18.