



1 May 2009

Welcome to the SMILE Newsletter

SMILE is launching its first newsletter. The newsletter will be published every two months and will ensure that all our stakeholders are informed of the project's progress, activities and development. We will include our research findings and the different events in which we take part.

SMILE website launch

The [SMILE website](#) is up and running, detailing the work our volunteers do to help child refugees, how you can get involved, the research element of the project and loads of useful information on education, mentoring and befriending. We've even got [a blog](#) to keep you updated on the latest developments.

SMILE Toolkits

We have launched our first SMILE toolkits aimed at providing information to volunteers and all practitioners supporting child refugees. By going on our website you can access our four toolkits: [Education of Child Refugees](#), [Support of Child Refugees](#), [Mentoring](#) and [Befriending](#)

SMILE Process Map

SMILE has now launched our [Process Map](#) in which we explain in detail the project's components, activities and all the processes involved. This includes eligibility criteria; referral, assessment and matching processes; volunteer recruitment and support, as well as our processes around safeguarding and health and safety.

Volunteer of the month

Laura Jarmalaite, SMILE Yorkshire



"The SMILE project was a very challenging and interesting experience for me. It gave me a chance not only to recognise different cultures, traditions and way of thinking and but also to see situations from a wider perspective."

SMILE Film Project

SMILE is commissioning a film project aimed at raising awareness of the needs of refugee children and promoting our work and the project. A film project coordinator will facilitate a series of workshops across the 3 regions in which young people will learn to plan, make and edit a series of short films.

"During this project I also had a chance to extend my networks not only as a person but also as a professional which will help me to continue volunteering for SMILE. I also understood that it is not possible to help someone if the person doesn't want to. I wish all volunteers patience and determination."

Education around the world: Nigeria

We're looking for volunteers to help with the workshops. To download a task description and find out more, you can visit [our blog](#) or the [SMILE website](#). We are also still recruiting volunteers for

At secondary school in Nigeria they have a system where students can have a school mother or father. These are other, older students in the school. They can help with your homework and assignments. They can buy you things and if you are being punished for something your school

mentoring, befriending and school talks.

mother or father can help you avoid being punished.

Students approach each other and ask whether they would like to be their school son or daughter. The relationship can last throughout the mother or father's school career and sometimes beyond.

SMILE helps child refugees to enjoy and achieve in education through mentoring, befriending and school talks.

SMILE is a Refugee Council project, funded by the Department of Children, Families and Schools.

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