



January 2018

ANNUAL REPORT –CAS-2017

INTRODUCTION.

The year 2017 is marked by the following:

1. CAS decided to re-introduce rules and regulations of the past. For instance; a). All children who want to follow the sponsorship scheme have to attend Hopeland center for a more intense preparation period.
b). Children who want to learn a skill or a trade have to pass the three stages laid down for each skill or trade.
2. The year is also marked by a closer cooperation between various partners working with street children.
3. The Government has shown more interest in the plight of all those living in the streets of the cities.

We were able to carry-out these activities because of the concern and financial support of the various donors. It is more and more difficult to interest donors because of the negative propaganda by the media. With the result that CAS and others have to prove that the money is really spent on the children. At times it is very difficult to answer all the questions especially about the impact of the activity in the streets. How do you measure the impact of education on a child when he or she attends the street corner education program only once or twice? When the children visit the House of Refuge, their involvement can be measured.

We are very grateful for all the many donors who passed by and presented some items or money without asking too many questions. They saw and believed that the money is well spent. Thank you.

THE CHILDREN:

Many children take part in the street corner education program and activities at the House of Refuge and Hopeland. Many who have passed the age of 18 years now realized that they have lost some opportunities. Unfortunately, they form gangs and cause a lot of trouble by preventing the younger ones to take part in the programs and even come to fight with weapons.

They are frustrated and do not see much future in the street. These groups have become very large and cannot be ignored by the authorities any longer.

Our Registration shows the following:

This year 1,119 were registered, 447 boys and 672 girls.

Attendance during the year: 5226 children boys 2098 girls 3128. First visit boys 62 girls 67

Many children who took part expect rapid results of the training. Therefore, not many children chose trade training which last at least three years or longer. Even those who learnt a skill during a period of 18 months do not have the stamina to attend regularly. Often they come late and still expect they are allowed to sit for the trade test after a short period.

We also noticed that some children who have been trained and even passed their exams are not using their skills but have returned to the streets to loiter about.

CAS Refuge as well as Hopeland are now training centers and we are aware we should follow the regulations. The exams are quite expensive. In addition to the registration, tools and materials have to be provided and these add to the costs.

We hope to improve the preparation for the exams during the year 2018.

STAFF:

Fortunately, CAS staff did not experienced major setbacks this year. The number of staff has reduced because some members chose to do something else and some have gone on retirement. We have employed two new members and soon hope to employ a new nurse.

Several members of staff got involved in the street corner education program and/or awareness creation program. This means they have a new job description. In addition to their regular jobs they are involved in the part time activities.

Instructors have to find the balance between production and teaching. At times when we are preparing to attend a Bazaar, the production takes the upper hand. Still they have to try to involve more children in their workshops.

VOLUNTEERS:

The number of expatriate volunteers has decreased. However, several part time Ghanaian volunteers have assisted us in 2017.

The volunteers from the Norwegian university would not travel to Ghana any longer because of high costs involved. In 2017, three worked with CAS for a period of 5 months. Most probably the high expenses are also the reasons why others do not apply again.

After a period of observation, the volunteer can choose where to assist. Some have interest in sports and games whiles others assist in the classroom during the literacy classes.

Children are always present. Individual teaching can always take place. You do not have to be trained as a teacher to assist a child to learn reading and writing.

BOARD OF ADVISORS:

The Board of advisors met twice in 2017. A special meeting was organized for the Members of the Board to meet all those involved in the street corner education program. This meeting was well attended and members now understand better what is involved in this activity.

During the second meeting, members were briefed on the Government program for street children and plans for the future were also discussed.

We thank the members of the board for their support and interest.

STREET CORNER EDUCATION PROGRAM. CAS ON THE MOVE PROJECT

The Right-To-Play partnership with Street Corner Education Project and CAS on the Move Project supported by CISU saw the continuation of implementation of a number of programs and activities aim at increasing the level of awareness of street children situation in Accra. Ghana

The project's emphasis is on building capacity of partners and empowering street children or 'out-of-school' children through several outlined activities in partnership with stakeholders who have been carefully selected in providing holistic and sustainable support to the target group.

It was also meant to improve holistic learning environment for out-of-school children that will help enhance and retain children in schools and apprenticeship trade training and to improve policy environment for achieving quality education through the inculcation and use of play based activities as a tool for teaching, learning and behavior change.

The two projects cover selected locations in three Districts namely, Accra metropolitan Assembly, Ashaiman Municipal Authority and Ada West District Assembly.

Partners involved in the implementation of this year activities are;

- (i) Department of Social Welfare- specifically, Department of Social Welfare-Zone 'D'-Kaneshie, Department of Social Welfare-Zone 'A' Jamestown, Accra, Greater Accra Regional of Department of Social welfare, Ashaiman Municipal Assembly of Department of Social Welfare, Ada West District Assembly of Department of Social Welfare,
- (ii) District Assembly & Municipal Authority specifically, Ada West District Assembly, Ashaiman Municipal Authority
- (iii) Non-Governmental Organization specifically Right-To-Play-Ghana, Chance for Children (CFC), Assemblies of God Care (AGREDS),

Programs and activities implemented as part of the agreed implementation plans are as follows;

1. Partners Dialogue Meeting/Preparatory meetings

We had a total fifteen (15) sessions comprising of eleven (11) preparatory meetings and four (4) dialogues sessions with follow-ups and exchange of correspondence on development together with partners and other stakeholders as a way of working to sustain the smooth implementation of the project. Most of those meetings are to re-discuss implementation strategies, plan activities and re-strategized. It is also meant for partners as well as the children to make inputs into the programs and most importantly for all involved to feel ownership of the project. Outcomes of those meeting are very successful and guarantee some level of cooperation in implementing the activities in all the locations.

2. Special Meeting/discussion with Regional Directorate of Department of Social Welfare

A number of follow ups and open discussion on how to organize stakeholders was targeted at the practical discussion of the problem of ‘out-of-school’ children and youth with the aim of finding means of guiding the target group with key players such as traditional leaders, District assembly officials, church leaders, government hospitals, police departments playing a role in that discussion was held with the regional directorate of Department of Social Welfare with plans made to explore possibility of carrying out that activities as part of the solution.

3. National Street Children Steering Committee

The organization was represented at three (3) different workshops. One at the departmental level the other at the ministerial level and the last one at the national level where an interim steering committee on street children was formed with CAS as a member. The steering Committee is mandated to ensuring the government’s planned intervention project of getting street children from the street into a better life is fully implemented in the ten regions of Ghana and would be implemented in phases. The project has been code named ‘Operation Get off the Streets for a Better Life”, is aimed at identifying the number of persons on the streets, profiling and integrating them with their parents, caregivers, families and community in the next five years and has since been launched by Minister of Gender & Social Protection-Mrs. Otiko Afisah Djaba.

4. Capacity Building – Partners

Street Workers capacity building training workshop was organized in May 2017 to equip twenty-six (26) participants with skills in working on the street as fieldworkers. Trainees were selected from the three of the Department of Social Welfare project operational districts and three other Non-Governmental Organizations namely; Assemblies of God Relief & Development Services (AGREDS), Chance for Children (CFC) and African Movement for Working Children & Youth (AMWCY) and Catholic Action for Street Children (CAS). Participants were taken through four (4) days training on introduction to street work by StreetInvest; a UK based global training organization for Street Workers. Generally, the training was successful. It re-echoed the need for more street work approach to street situations

5. Capacity Building – Peer-To-Peer Educators

Four (4) days training workshop was organized for 45 selected Peer-To-Peer educators in all the three targeted project districts. The Peer-To-Peer education training took place in three (3) of the Department of Social Welfare Districts namely; Ashaiman Municipal Assembly, Accra Metropolitan Authority and Ada West. The training was received with mixed feelings especially the urban poor children from Sege in Ada West District for the simple reason that some are enjoying public exposure for the first time and for the fact that they are becoming educators of their own peers. For the Accra and Ashaiman training the children saw it as a normal practice except for the ownership it gives them as Peer Educators and the fact that they are becoming responsible for their own life and an opportunity to explore their interest in teaching. The training also offered them opportunity to test their strength and weaknesses as well as skills in leadership, communication, cooperation, teamwork, understanding, teachings and other areas in which they think will contribute to the success of being a good Peer-To-Peer educator. Another challenge was the pre-planning or preparation prior to practical teaching and sharing of task.

6. Peer-To-Peer Education in 3 Districts

Based on a weekly schedule shared with all the partners, each beneficiary trainee of five children/youth per group had formed a group of 5 children or youth who constantly carry out education lessons on articles in United Nation Conventions on the rights of a Child, Life Skills and Health Education at selected meeting point in all the three districts. The teachings or education are being supervised by a group of staff from CAS & partner organizations. It takes place in an open space and this naturally gets the attention of a lot of people. It is instructive to note that some of the leaders who the children work for have grown to understand the work being done that they act as guards when intruders come around. Aside that Peer-To-Peer is steadily seeing changes in children's response to CAS activities both at the Refuge (Drop-in-Center) and on the street. Trainees are steadily gaining confidence in their ability to engage authorities in whichever form some through informal interaction especially at the end of a lesson on the street. Potential children are being seen on daily bases who could be guided to unearth their potentials to a better livelihood in society. Attendance ratio to CAS programs has increased tremendously during the period of implementation. Before the average attendance was pegged between 25-30 daily but had risen astronomically to 55-70 on average especially new faces or those who are first time visitors to CAS Refuge to participate in programs. Some of the partners and collaborators have demonstrated their cooperation through regular participation in streetcorner education and Peer-to-Peer lessons supervision. Partners also found it necessary to contribute to both planning and implementation of the programs and activities through dialogue meetings, participation in the implementation of the project and through other forms of communication. Team work during practical works with the children on the street also speaks volumes of their recognition for the need for synergy in tackling the problem of street children.

7. Celebration of Special feast days

Celebration of ‘International day for Street children this year deviated from the normal celebration or the usual way of celebration. It focuses more on highlighting the problems of out of school children and youth. The celebration was used as platform to raise children’s unheard voices as part of CAS-On the Move Project with partners who include Right-To-Play, Ghana, Chance for Children (CFC) and Department of Social Welfare Districts Zones and in Greater Accra -Region. The theme, to CAS was to emphasize the need for the existence of the current CAS-On the Move Project which focus on advocacy and awareness creation at all levels where the unheard voices of the children will be heard through implementation of different activities. One of the outcomes which contributed greatly to redefinition of the theme for that day was the opportunity given to some of the children to lead the group and get involved in all the activities right from the start of the programs to the end. Allowing the child to do rap music right from the start of the programs also gave them some level of ownership of the day and helps them to reflect on the theme.

8. Streetcorner Education

Based on a weekly schedule shared with all the partners, twice a week, a group of workers from CAS and partners carried out Streetcorner Education in selected locations in the Districts. Teaching is preceded with an introductory section using any play-based methodologies which are mainly ‘Right-to-Play’ games which focused on the themes for the day.

Both Teams and groups did its lessons on selected children’s right article, health, Life skills topics and Right-to-Play games. In all, we had between 20 -25 children or out-of-school children attending the lessons at each Meeting Points. In most of the lessons, children in attendance took active part through contribution to both the lessons and play based activities. Recaps of the previous lessons prior to the start of the day’s lessons also made it possible and gave opportunity to the facilitators to access the previous lesson challenges to be able to adjust to meet the needs of the lessons.

9. Publication

As part of CAS publications for the year 2017, some information on the current project has been shared with donors and other partners just to highlight the problems of out-of school children and youth which were on Ghana web network as a mode of disseminating the workshop activities through the social media approach.

A video shot was also made showing CAS work with the peers in the street education activity in two of the working districts. The idea is to use this clip in CAS advocacy work for the future as a campaign tool.

See „internet links“ to some of the Publications below;

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/NGO-agencies-receive-training-onstreetism-540662>

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/CASorganises-human-rightseducation-workshop-for-streetchildren-573071>

Conclusion

The period has been full of expectation from the children especially those who have been part of the project since its inception, as well as the stakeholders and CAS facilitators as a whole. The strategies too went as expected but not without its challenges especially for the street children or „out-of-school“ children who stood as the target group.

However, we are happy to say, the Street Workers & Peer-To-Peer training workshop which was well organized raise the hopes of all, especially where we had government agents such as the District Chief Executive, Social workers & District Heads from Department of Social Welfare, and traditional leaders, Market women, Heads and workers from different Non-governmental organizations cooperating to make the objectives of the project a success.

We have moved into the second phase of the CAS on the Move Project which will ends in March 2018, while we are still discussing with Right-To-Play-Ghana our next line of action which needs their support.

On behalf of CAS staff, partners, ‘out-of-school’ children and youth, we wish to use this opportunity to thank our donors especially 100% for Children, CISU and Right-To-Play who provided funding to make the two projects possible.

HOUSE OF REFUGE:

The staff of the House of Refuge is responsible for the registration of children, take care of their welfare and health and teach the children to take care of themselves.

At the Refuge, literacy classes as well as classes in measurements, sports and games are organized. The children can read books in a library and learn how to use a computer. Entertainment in the form of a dancing, singing and acting drama is often organized on Fridays.

Registration: All children who visit the Refuge are registered. The basic information is recorded. Later, when the child expresses the wish to learn a skill, a social survey report is written and the children are assessed on their abilities. The ages vary between 11 years of age to 18 years of years.

Especially with “new” children find it very hard to follow instructions given by members of staff. They are used to do what they like and are not ready to change that behavior.

Some children come to the Refuge only to wash their clothing and relax. They simply do not understand that they have to learn something for their own future. They live by the day and the word future is not in their vocabulary.

Fortunately, many, especially boys are interested in sports and games. The educational games organized by Right to Play can be starting points for children to show interest in learning something.

However, all members of staff assist in asking children to take part in activities especially the classroom periods. Those who learn simple literacy follow several steps.

Step 1. Learn to write your name. Step 2. Look at a picture and write the key words. Step 3. Learn to read and write. Step 4. Learn to make sentences.

The volunteers as well as a lady from the U.S.A. assisted in this process. She used phonics to help to learn reading and writing. The library served as a second classroom. Unfortunately, children do not have watches and often when she was present the children were not.

Some ex-street children, who have now succeeded to find a job, came to the Refuge to encourage the present ones with their training.

At times we experienced overcrowding at the classroom. In total 87 children attended who could not read/write. The total attendance was 518 boys and 652 girls.

Counseling, either in a group or as individuals are very necessary to get children involved in the activities. It is also helpful for the staff to learn how to understand the children. After many years of working with them we still have to admit that, this aspect is still very difficult for all of us.

Children can learn how to use the computers. Most of them learn this skill very fast. Linux operation system has been installed on their computers. Unfortunately, some children are very curious and try to change settings or even change passwords. Often reinstalling the program is faster than finding out what they changed. One managed to place a password on the hard-disk. I still do not know how to undo that. At Hopeland, most of the computers are closed with padlock but at the Refuge they are placed in a desk (cupboard). Still children steal hard-disks and memory (Dim)sticks when no member of staff is present.

They learn how to use the internet and YouTube is a favorable site, but a staff has to control it.

SPORTS:

The year 2017 sports/games activities report focus on activities carried out based on the appropriate plans for the year. It includes impact, progress, challenges and successful execution of the sports/games programs and activities.

OBJECTIVES:

Our goal was to notice talented children for the needed support and also organize games to teach, advise, build their confidence, self-esteem and entertain them through sports and games activities, to appreciate the position of collaboration and other life skills in the human growth. All these were to ensure that children are psychologically and physically built.

PROGRESS:

In the beginning of 2017 saw the introduction of a new sport called "N". Aside other sports like football, volleyball, table tennis, handball, netball, and basketball gained a lot of popularity among the children since its introduction. Since the reintroduction of the basketball based on the dwindling interest of the children especially the boys. It also gave CAS the opportunity to introduce a new sport to help the children appreciate other sport activities. During the last quarter, we recorded large number of boys so football, volleyball and basketball, table football and table tennis were rejuvenated.

IMPACT:

- Sporting activities saw increase in the number of participation of children especially boys. Participation of boys has improved tremendously and even believed to be one of the contributing factors in the increasing number of children who visit the Refuge daily.
- The introduction of the transformation of the basketball also increased the children's interest in other sports and games organized for the children at CAS.
- The increasing number of children who made themselves available for the sports made it possible for us to form boys and girl's teams that compete against each other on weekly and monthly basis.
- Competition between the children and neighborhood schools and teams were organized monthly to help identify their weakness and strength and help build their self-confidence.
- The children also benefited from the health and recreation aspect of the sports and games activities.

The Refuge has also rooms (workshop) where skills can be learned. The main offices as well as an office for the secretaries are areas where children are not allowed to come. One secretary keeps records of the registration using Access data base program. It is difficult to keep track of all the registrations, street, education, refuge activities, sponsorship and Hopeland attendance, but when well done a lot of information could be gathered from it which would be useful to give information to donors and persons who show interest.

The other secretary is in charge of the liquidation of the money of the various donors. A tally program is used. Reports are written every quarter of the year.

HEALTH/MEDICALS

The number of sick cases reported at the clinic were 134 and 10 of them were referred whiles the rest were treated at C.A.S clinic; one lorry accident, two abortions, one STD, five pregnancy cases, one hernia cases at Hopeland still pending for surgery. The rest of the cases were treated at the house of refuge clinic.

Health Education

Topics treated were Bilharzias, Personal hygiene, what is H.I.V and A.I.D.S, Hard drug, how you work? Cholera, what do you eat? dangers of self-medication, Balance diet, Family planning and Nutrition. Soap, food and clothing were given to the children for their up keep.

Donors for all the activities are: Kindermannwerk-Germany, Family Kors-Netherlands, Aidworld-Italy, Right to play-Ghana, Stivosina-Netherlands, Adeline Janssen stichting-Netherlands and many private donors.

Many thanks for your support.

DEMONSTRATION:

The core mandate of the department is to introduce and teach various trades and skills to the young people who visit the House of Refuge daily. Among the trades taught are sewing, carving, hairdressing, manicure/ pedicure and general handicraft.

Below are highlights of activities that the department undertook.

PREPARATION OF CHILDREN: The department has a representative on the child welfare committee which meets weekly to discuss and interview children to go to Hopeland Centre for further preparation or for sponsorship. In total, one hundred and sixty children were interviewed by the committee out of this number forty were sent to Hopeland for further preparation and functional literacy and the rest were recommended to the two sponsorship departments for sponsorship.

KNOWLEDGE OF CHILDREN: The department kept records of all the children who participated in its activities and kept records of the levels the children were in the short sponsorship. This enabled the instructors to keep track of all the children.

WORK SCHEDULE: Members of the department worked according to the daily programs and activities of the House of Refuge. Instructors take the children through daily lessons in the various trades and skills and encourage them to take the lessons serious.

One problem that the department faced during the year which needs to be addressed is the incidence of coming to work late and taking unauthorized leave. These were a drawback to the department's progress as there were times children were available but there is nobody to teach them.

During the year, one member of the department resigned for further studies.

MEETINGS: The department held monthly meetings at which reports were discussed and solutions to problems were found. These meetings allowed members to express themselves and to seek clarifications on memos and notifications that came from management.

SEWING: During the year, a total of forty-five children took part in sewing. Out of this number seven were in the short sponsorship program. Along the way, some of them dropped out and it was left with two who were at level three and level two respectively. Several efforts were made with the supervisors to locate those who dropped out or simply stopped coming. Some were found, and they could not give any tangible reasons why they stopped.

CARVING: The carving centre witnessed a total of seventy children taking part. Out of this number, fifty were boys and twenty were girls. They were taken through basic sketching, profiling, sandpapering among others. The instructor also produced some items that were sold.

DECORATION: This skill is gradually catching up with some of the children as could be seen from the numbers available. A total of hundred and seventeen children took part in this activity. They were made of sixty-four boys and fifty-three girls. The instructor took them through identification of colors and many more.

HAIRDRESSING/ MANICURE & PEDICURE: As at the end of the year, a total of ninety girls took part in this program. Out of this number, five who were seriousness were enrolled in the short-term sponsorship program. One of them who has successfully completed has been settled at Hopeland centre.

The instructor in this section also introduced liquid soap making to the children as they could use the skill learnt to make an income for them-selves.

GENERAL HANDICRAFT: This section of the department did well in terms of innovativeness as they were able to make products that were saleable. A total of hundred children took part in this activity during the year.

MEASURING: This activity suffered a relapse during the year. Several reasons can be attributed to this. Some members of the department felt the work had been left to them to do alone and there was no motivation.

BAZAAR: The department took part in two bazaars during the year at the American and French schools respectively. A lot was learnt from these two bazaars and it will inform the direction of the department in the coming year. We thank Laure and Sophie (French Ladies) for their support in organizing the Bazaars.

HOPELAND CENTER:

CHILDREN

Hopeland started the year 2017 with quiet a number of children numbering 20. These children all fall within the three categories of programs we run at the centre; the functional literacy, skills training and preparation/ observation. Functional literacy here at the centre within the contest of its definition by CAS has impacted greatly in the lives of individual children here at the centre. Children who were part of this program are functioning well in the society. The sewing department is training children to acquire a skill in making dresses. Children here at Hopeland 2017 have progressively move from one stage to another. one boy made it to the NVTI grade one level and passed the exams, the rest are on course. hairdressing did not see much of a great impact because we didn't have much children showing interest. Children for preparation/ observation overall assessment for 2017 was on the average. Hopeland had a lot of children, some children made it within the stipulated period of one to three months of preparation/ observation via recommendation to the next stage. few children absconded, we had other children. who were not stable, they go and come. Getting to the last quarter of 2017, we had some children who made it through the stipulated period but are still here and waiting to be moved to the next stage.

Welfare issues also improved this year 2017. Three square meals were provided to all children, supervision and attention was also intensified.

Health wise, Hopeland did not have any major case of reported ailments. Personal hygiene by children improved this year 2017. To sum it all, Hopeland overall assessment of welfare / children was satisfactory.

Hopeland under the year review also under took some developmental projects in 2017. We acquired 3 meters to separate the electricity distribution. This was to reduce the consumption of power and also reduce the load on the only meter we were using. We also got funds from Beer Stichting for the maintenance of the fence walls. There was also the renovation of the volley pitch by the CAS contractor. Stivosina also gave us a football net for the football goal post. We received a Television Decoder for the children and also money for a modern internet connection. Majority of our computers that got faulty were also repaired.

The ford white pickup also was repaired after a breakdown of the engine. To Beer Stichting, Stivosina and all who supported in this work , we are most grateful to you all and thank you for a worthy course.

SEWING

The sewing section had effective training of children in 2017. One of the boys Norris Obeng passed his NVTI GRADE ONE exams with a pass. He is now preparing for grade two. The rest are on stage one preparing for grade one exams of the NVTI. In addition, some sewn clothes were sold to visitors to generate income.

HAIRDRESSING

Hairdressing at Hopeland 2017 was ineffective because the department had few children who expressed interest in it. The children who were also learning were not serious and stable, and getting to the last quarter, there were no children. Not much activity went on in hairdressing. For this reason, the Madam's role was re-scheduled to visit head office twice every week to help the hairdressing unit and also helping the street corner/ fieldwork activity.

SETTLEMENT OF CHILDREN AT HOPELAND

Management and staff of CAS in the year under review decided to settle 10 children who had finished their training at the various workshops. Hopeland centre was chosen as temporal place of settlement for the children. As a result, some chicken structures were renovated to a workshop status/ rooms for the children. In June 2017 the settlement program started with two children, VERONICA GYAU AND YUSSIF YAOU were settled. VERONICA for catering and YUSSIF YAOU for carving. In October 2017, Selikem Lawrence Azamelah was settled for decoration, Joana Tetteh and Victoria Antwi for hairdressing. November 2017, Ayishat Alhassan and Regina Darko were also settled for catering.

PIGGERY

Piggery at Hopeland was doing well despite lack of regular funds to feed the pigs. We had about 36 pigs and some were pregnant hoping we will reach a target of 60 pigs by the close of this 2017. But had some disease outbreak during the month of June to September 2017, and this resulted in killing almost all the pigs. At the end of the outbreak, we had only 2 pigs left, one pregnant female and a piglet. We were fortunate the female littered 8piglets and this has kept the piggery surviving. They are ready for the market and we have started selling them out.

TRACTOR

The Farm Tractor has been a "white elephant" for 7 months. lots of investment from management had gone into the repairs of the tractor, the little sales made from the tractor at the time it was working was also used to supplement pig feeding because management had stop giving funds for feeding the pigs because the tractor was working, so at the time it broke down, there was no money to repair it.

As a result, management decided to dispose it off.

LIBRARY

The library is still in use. We use the big hall in the library for most of our meetings and activities for both staff and children. Children also go there to read and play their indoor games. We have realized some of the books at the library are too high of a standard for the children. It is therefore our hope to receive books that fall within the children's level, so they can do more effective reading.

STAFF MEETINGS

A number of meetings were held during the year under review. During the weekly welfare meetings, we discussed the general welfare and assessment of children. There were also periodic department meetings to discuss over all issues concerning the centre.

RETIREMENT

After 22 years of long service to Hopeland, the Head of department Mr. Alphonsus Azaah retired in November 2017.

VISITORS

We had some people visiting the centre, the volunteers, individual donors, Stivosina, FIC brothers and some individual persons who all have the centre and CAS at heart. To all of them, we are grateful. The Director of CAS also visited the centre regularly to see to the wellbeing of the centre. The deputy Director also did visit as well and some Heads of department. To the director and all staff, we are grateful.

CONCLUSION

As a department, our most priority is the ultimate wellbeing of the children here at the centre. Like any human institution, there are always challenges. As a department, we were confronted with some challenges in 2017, we did our best within our means to make things work for the better. Statistically, absconded cases reduced, lot of children who came here 2017 made it to the next stage of preparation, and those still in it are all doing very well; Health issues improved as well as welfare. We are committed as staff to make Hopeland achieve its dreams and vision as spelt out in CAS goals and objectives. Our overall assessment is satisfactory for 2017. We will make a frantic effort to achieve the other plans we couldn't do for 2017 in the coming 2018.

Finally, We are most grateful to all donors, volunteers, Stivosina, Beer stichting, Director of CAS and all members of staff who's support and effort helped in the running of the centre 2017.

SHORT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM: Executive Summary

This year's annual report is all about the department's plans, projects, programs and activities executed from the beginning to the end of the year. (January – December 2017).

Introduction

Short Term Sponsorship provides practical support and a complete sponsorship package for 18 months and full funding support daily for living cost, apprenticeship agreement fees, settlement cost, accommodation, medicals, logistics and tools for street children who decide to leave the street to learn apprenticeship in any trade or skill of their choice which leads to sitting for Ghana National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) proficiency grade 1 & 2 certificate.

The Department oversees to the implementation of plans, projects, programs and activities in the overall project course.

Overview

Realistic target of an average of 15-20 children was constantly maintained in the scheme throughout the whole year. Measures introduced and implemented at the beginning of the year contributed to achievements made. This includes constant follow-up on trainees who have abandoned the training to explore possibilities of bringing them back to continue the training. This coupled with frequent supervision visit to the training centers or workshops as a form of ensuring proper monitoring of the training process and providing needed supervision. Supervision was done more informal with frequent interaction with Instructors, trainees, and significant others during visits to all the training centers. Meetings were held with group of trainees on their expectations for the year with guidance provided based on the need or request by the trainees. Some of the meetings were also used to brief all the trainees about the essence of the National Vocational Training Institute Trade Proficiency Grade 1&2 skill trade examination. In addition, efforts were made to bring back trainees who (for one reason or the other had abandoned training for a period of time not exceeding three months) and were willing to continue the training after they had been contacted and prepared to be re-admitted into the sponsorship scheme.

On the other hand, the Department's representative on the Welfare Committee made it a point to regularly retrieve from staff, trade Instructors and any significant others information on children who had absented themselves from training and follow-up on them to discuss the re-enrolment process aside his regular task of making inputs into the children 'preparation' process through the Welfare Committee.

From January-December 2017, a total of one hundred and nine (109) children comprise of fifty-one (51) boys and fifty-eight (58) girls were prepared or assessed for various interventions. Out of this total, twenty-nine (29) children which comprises of nine (9) boys, twenty (20) girls were referred to Short Term by the Welfare Committee to be supported by the Department to start apprenticeship in different trades and skills. They were enrolled in Hairdressing, Sewing, Beads making, Soap making, Embroidery, Pastry Making, catering, floral & Balloon Decoration, Mobile Phone Repair & Woodcarving at different time within the year.

However, we had a total of 27 trainees who were at different levels of their training at the beginning of the year with an additional twenty-nine (29) new trainees added within the year.

Out of this total, twenty-five (25) of them sat for National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) proficiency grade one and two Trade examination. Nineteen (19) passed successfully with certificates, three of them were absent on the day of the examination and three failing in either oral or practical but have the opportunity to take the test again.

Those who completed training in 2017 have started working on their own, employed by companies with the rest joining our current project for trained Ex-Street Children. In the new project, the Ex-trained street children run their own trades' centers created as a working workshop at HOPELAND. The implementation methodology makes it possible for each beneficiary to receive a set of tools or equipment and materials as a start-up Aid to kick start his or her own informal job based on the skills or trade acquired. Each of them contributes to the planning and starting of the job through information sharing with the team implementing the project. The Ex-street child also has to be willing to start the job on his or her own. CAS makes the trained Ex-Street child responsible for tools and logistics management. While we provide general supervision and monitoring to ensure the job overcome any initial challenges that may surfaced.

NVTI Examination

The National Vocational Training Institute examination has become part of the scheme though not originally captured as a component. The need has become very necessary because of the job market where it is believed that acquiring skills should be certificated

Added value-Training

(a) Assessment

The Department made it as part of its Bi-monthly plan to conduct internal assessment for all children undergoing skills or trade training. All children at different stages of the training had a chance of being internally assessed in the course of the year. The internal assessment covers both theory and practice using a designed assessment format. Each trainee is asked to answer a couple of verbal questions and demonstrate practically some of the skills acquired within a period. Outcome of the assessment are mainly use to re-shape the training provided to individual children. The result is also used by the Instructors in developing different methods in handling training challenges and to prepare the children adequately to take the National Vocational Training Institute Proficiency Grade One & Two Trade examination. Prior meetings and discussion are held with Trade Instructors to prepare and arrange a day for the assessment. The assessments are done by the Department Supervisors.

(b) Supervision

Supervision takes the form of monitoring individual trainee's progress, welfare, and any other development during the period of training. Supervisors are assigned to individual children who he or she visits twice every month.

However, supervision in most part of the year was more informal. Frequent visits were paid to the trainees to interact with Instructors, trainees, and significant others to ensure children remain focus on the training. Meetings were also held with group of trainees on their expectations with outline made with them to meet those expectations.

Guidance provided was based on the need and request by the trainees.

Some of the meetings was use to brief all the trainees about the importance of the National Vocational Training Institute Trade Test/Certificate. Attendance register were checked and monitored. The Supervisors facilitated focus group discussion to allow the trainees to express themselves and finds means of overcoming some of the challenges. Lukewarm attitude, cooperation, time management and teamwork forms part of the focus group discussion during those focus group discussions.

(c) Functional Literacy

The Department continues to make it compulsory for every trainee to continue taking part in the functional literacy classes to acquire basic reading, writing and measurement skills. These skills are considered necessary hence given more attention during training. Functional literacy as a process continue to stand as one of CAS major activities for street children because it is believed that, street children would need to be functional literates to respond to the times especially considering the job market in terms of skill training. Every trainee who is associated with Short term was given the chance to participate in the morning functional literacy and afternoon theory and practical measurement activities at the House of Refuge.

Accommodation

The department has available three (3) houses (homes) for trainees. Two (2) are for girls and one (1) for boys. Rent for the two of the houses will expire in April 2018. Arrangements are being made with the Landlady for possible renewal of one of them with the other released to the Landlady.

On the other hand, One of the houses developed cracks and an arrangement had since been made with the landlord to move all (CAS) items from that room to another room for renovation work to be carried out after which the items will be sent back. This arrangement suffered some setbacks but due to resume early next year. Meanwhile, all items have been moved to another house to pave way for the renovation works to start.

Challenges

One major challenge that seems to have never gone away completely is the flouting of rules and regulation of the training by the trainees due to attitudes formed over the years for which we have relatively adopted different strategies in handling those situation.

Another challenge is increase in unbudgeted funds situation. We have to hold back some of the activities plan for the Department due to budget constraints.

Conclusion

Despite the above challenges, the Department saw a much coordinated structures put in place to carry out programs, projects and activities in achieving the plans set for the year.

The lessons learnt throughout the implementation of plans for the year helped to inform changes in the strategies for the coming years and beyond.

The Department, the Instructors and the trainees wish to use this opportunity to thank donors who provided funding to make the sponsorship scheme possible.

LONG SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

PROCESS OF ENROLMENT/REPARATION

Preparation is given to the children for the long term sponsorship when they visit the house of Refuge, children are advised to visit the literacy and Demonstration classes that are offered at the House of Refuge and are taken through the various trades demonstrated at the center. During this period the child is encouraged to pick one of the trades that she/he is interested in if this is done then a particular attention is then taken on attitudes and behavioral change before a child is considered either to go to Hopeland for further observation, the social workers there will continue to work on the children for a period of time and then a referral is made to the sponsorship department to be considered for support.

SUPERVISION

The long term sponsorship department consists of three members of staff: the Head of department and two other members as supervisors. The supervisor's main functions are to pay regular visit to children in workshops and places of training, monitor their progress in training their social development, assist them with their health needs, visit their places of abode and write monthly report on their progress. The head of department is in charge of day to day administration of the department co-ordinate the activities of the supervisors and compile monthly reports to the Director.

Settlement /Agreement fees

Before a child is enrolled in any workshop around Accra for any of the apprenticeship training, there is a fee to be paid. Agreement fee is paid before the child starts training. After training a completing fee is paid. The amount varied from one workshop to another. This is a condition of the association of garages in Accra for all apprenticeship training.

N. V. T. I EXAMINATIONS

During the year under review, three of the children in the department wrote the National vocational training institute grade ONE examination and were all successful. The department is happy about this and had advice them to prepare for the grade two exams.

SETTLEMENT.

Two of the boys from the department who have successfully completed their apprenticeship training had been settled. One in electrical installation works and the other in auto-mechanics. They are located at Adjei-Kojo and Hopeland training center respectively.

ACCOMODATION.

Children in the long sponsorship scheme are given places of Abode. These places are furnished with bed and mattresses to enable them have a place to rest after work. The following are places we have the accommodation; Adjei-Kojo the project's buildings with three rooms. We also have a room at Agege and its surrounding areas which can accommodate 4(four) children in a Room.

HOPELAND

Some of the children as part of the preparation are sent to Hopeland to be reformed by the social workers before they are sent to the workshop. During their stay in Hopeland, we visit them to interact with them before they are finally recommended for sponsorship.

These children with further support had agreed to continue with their apprenticeship training in the various workshop and Abode. As our plans for the year 2018 is outlined, we would like to continue to visit these boys in the workshop to encourage them and support them in whichever way we can, and if the contract with Misseror's is renewed, we would put more children into the scheme.

CHALLENGES

In all of these, you still get some of the children having difficulty adapting into the training program. The supervisors often have to do a lot of counseling work on them.

We are happy as workers of long sponsorship department to be part of CAS as an NGO to be able to support children of this kind who could have otherwise been in the street. Today, many are out and living a decent life. We thank all who have been supporting CAS.

Donors supporting the sponsorship scheme:

Misereor, Stichting Wereldwijd, Fam. Galen, Paul E.V.

Many Thanks.

SETTLEMENT:

ANNUAL REPORT ON SETTLEMENT OF TRAINED EX-STREET CHILDREN

Introduction

The idea of setting-up a settlement project for trained ex-street children grew out of our constant interaction through guidance and helping those who complete training to settle into the job market. These interactions reveal that, some initial job entry processes for the Ex-trained street children had seen many challenges as the young adult tries to enter the job market either formal or informal hence our collective decision in assisting them to start working for themselves through the settlement project. The Project offers street children, (now young adult) who have completed trade or skill training under CAS Long Term or Short Term Sponsorship for a period of 36months or 18months the opportunities to

use the acquired skills to work and raise income for their own livelihood. The long term plan is for them to move from where they are currently plying their trades at workshops in, HOPELAND to a place of their own in the near future.

The ex-trained street children run their own trades' centers created as a workshop at HOPELAND and have the chance of training other children as well. The implementation methodology makes it possible for each beneficiary to receive a set of tools or equipment and materials as a start-up Aid to kick start his or her own informal job based on the skills or trade acquired. Each of them contributed to the planning and starting of the job through information sharing with the team implementing the project. The Ex-street child also has to demonstrate the will to start the job on his or her own. CAS makes the trained Ex-Street child responsible for tools and logistics management. While CAS provide general supervision and monitoring to ensure the Ex-trained young adult overcome any initial challenges that may surface. Any damage or repairs of any equipment or tools are borne by them. The assumption is that, once they become responsible for their own workshops, tools, utilities, tax etc, it gives them a sense of ownership and serves as an anchor to build on their future lives after training.

Funding

Funding received from donors have since been used to renovate, paint, make an advertisement board, purchase furniture, equipment, tools and materials for Catering, Woodcarving, Decoration, Hairdressing, Pedicure & Manicure and General Electricals Workshops with ten (10) trained Ex-street children working in individual workshops.

Accommodation

The In-house accommodation at HOPELAND, one of CAS centers are currently being occupied by the Ex-trained children was renovated, painted, furnish and fitted with all fittings to make it more habitable. Females and males are housed in two different accommodations at separate locations on the main compound of HOPELAND.

Workshops or Trade Centers

Reconstruction and refurbishing of the old 'Chicken house' has since been completed and fully turn into Trade Workshops or Centers. The place was partitioned into five, with each section used as a space for a particular Trade Workshop. Currently, we have a total of five Trade Workshops which has Hairdressing, Catering, Woodcarving, Decoration, and Manicure & Pedicure with General Electricals Trade workshop hope to be added before the close of the year or early next year. Plans are still underway to include additional trade workshops in the coming years to increase the number of trade workshops and be able to accommodate more trained Ex-Street Children. The workshops have seen a redecoration in terms of painting and conversion of certain parts, into a storage facility. Display and storage cabinets with furniture have since been supplied to the trade workshops.

Implementation

An interim implementation Committee set up at the beginning of the project in 2016 continued to carry out pre-orientation of beneficiaries, constant monitoring and supervise the Ex-trained street who have been enrolled on the program throughout 2017. The Committee comprises of all staff from all the Departments at CAS and some of the trained Ex-trained street children earmarked for the project. They work on their mandates as outlined in the implementation strategy based on the three phases.

One of the phases focused more on building a data of trained Ex-Street children who are currently being placed on waiting list to be enrolled in the settlement project when funding is secured. The selected beneficiaries were also given different task. The task includes making a list of materials and equipment needed, paying official visit to the workshop location and exploring product marketing possibilities as part of the preparation to be enrolled on the package.

As part of the on-going selection of Ex-trained children process, the Committee are also exploring the potentials and the willingness of the newly selected Ex-trained who are on the waiting list to take up the challenge of being on their own and working for themselves. Assessment includes the willingness on the part of the ex-trained street child, his or her abilities, interest and the willingness to contribute to the discussion on the settlement package just to ensure their stand on ownership of the job and willing to work on their own.

So far all the Ex-trained street children have received tools, materials, equipment, start-up aid and continue to receive the necessary support through monitoring supervision.

Currently, ten (10) of the Ex-trained street children have kick start their job in different workshops. Among the trades are Catering or Pastry Making, Hairdressing, Woodcarving, Decoration, Pedicure & Manicure and General electrical.

We have three (3) Ex-trained street children for catering, three (3) for hairdressing, and one (1) each for woodcarving, decoration, general electrical and manicure & pedicure.

The three (3) caterer's job mainly is pastries making. Pastries such as meat pie, deep fry spring roll and rock bans daily on a medium scale. Preparation of the pastries starts during the early hours of the morning. Each makes between 60-100 pieces of pastries such as meat pie, sizeable cakes, spring rolls and rock bans daily. They market the finished pastries through hawking in selected areas in the neighborhood and beyond. These types of pastries are mostly eaten as snack by individual of all ages especially school children. They are gradually building up customers for their pastries products.

On the other hand, though the woodcarver had some initial challenges of adjusting fully to a settled life at HOPELAND, he appeared to be overcoming those challenges gradually, though needs a bit more time to keep focus. He produces woodcarving in a form of 'face mask', 'thinking man' 'summer hut' 'unit with bone', 'elephant' and 'dancing shadow'. These products are displayed at a space provided at the workshop for potential buyers or alternatively sold in some selected wood carving markets in Accra, the capital of Ghana at a later date. The woodcarver is now being assisted to look for customers who will be willing to order the products for their shops in town.

The two (2) hairdressers and one (1) Pedicure & Manicure professional operate from the workshop or the trade centers. Each take turns on a daily basis to comb the neighborhood to invites potential customers to the workshop through daily visit to inform potential customers about the kind of services provided. They mainly do retouching of hair, washing of hair, perming, rasta, corn roll, weave-on, pedicure & manicure. They are still working on customer search as part of the marketing strategy to enable them keep the workshop busy and improve upon the daily income.

Review

Throughout the year, both formal and informal preparatory meetings and follow-up on activities have been held to review the implementation plans.

Concurrently, those involved in direct implementation and daily supervision have also been tasked with orientation of selected beneficiaries from time to time through finding out more on their future plans to see if that is in line with the above project goals and objective for possible enrolment.

Meanwhile, a waiting list of four (4) Ex-trained street children or possible beneficiaries has since been submitted for consideration in the coming year or when funding is secured in 2018.

Meetings are conveyed every fortnightly to review the implementation strategies and plans for the way forward for the implementation of the project.

At the close of the year, the project management team together with supporting staff from other departments held a meeting to arrive at the following conclusion as one of the ways forward for the settlement project. The sitting found the need for

- Ex-trained street children to form a welfare Association. The association will serve as backup support to each other in the terms of experience sharing on best practices and what can help promote their individual trades. They can also discuss a marketing strategy for all their products. The propose name of the association can be CAS Artisans Welfare Association. (CAWA)
- Members of the Association to sign a contract or agreement with HOPELAND Centre. This will include how they can contribute to monthly utilities fees using part of their income or profit made on the sale of their product.

Constraint

The project major constraints for now is getting a total cooperation from all the children involved in terms of understanding their involvement to get the project to become successful and sustainable.

Conclusion

Despite the above challenges, the project saw concrete structures put in place to carry out the settlement projects as outlined in achieving the overall goal/objectives.

The lessons learnt from the set-up through the lessons at different implementation period of the settlement project will also help to inform changes in the strategies for the coming years.

The team made up of CAS supervisors of the project with the Ex-trained street children partnership drive has also strengthened our work and corrected some perceptions and hope to use all these positives in the coming years.

Management of CAS and the Ex-trained street children wish to use this opportunity to thank donors who provided funding to make this settlement of the ten (10) Ex-trained street children a possibility.

Donors:

Misereor with additional assistance from EOF/KCE and Wings of Support, for equipment and renovation work. Many Thanks

Overall Conclusion:

We have learnt a lot during the year 2017:

1. Dealing with youngsters who are frustrated and are still in the streets.
2. Preparing children for the N.V.T.I. exams.
3. Settling children in their own workshops.
4. Cooperating with Government and Partner NGOs.
5. Participating in Bazaars and other public events.

In 2018 we hope to receive sufficient donor support so that we can continue supporting the many children who are not in school but are in the streets.

Thank you

