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CAS on the Move

Newsletter 75

October 2017



Dear Reader,

Greetings from us at CAS. We want to give you an update. The title of this newsletter is "CAS on the Move". It is the title of the 100% for children/CISU project which is almost complete.

The aim of this project was to strengthen the street-corner education program, to teach some children to become peer to peer educators, and to improve the awareness and relations with the Department of social welfare among others.

Street- corner education can only succeed when a good relationship has been established between the children and the workers. Of course, this is even more important when training peer to peer educators.

This relationship is built on trust. Children in the streets meet the workers regularly. The children count on them on an agreed time and place. Failing to meet that arrangement means the children will scatter and will find it difficult even listen to the workers again. We are worried about the fact that the programs are likely to stop because of lack of funds. Most probably it means that we have to rebuild the lost trust in the target group.

CAS carried out the street corner education program in three districts. The program was also partly supported by Right to Play. With their help, play-based education was introduced. Children who take part regularly are the first to express interest in visiting the House of Refuge.

Therefore, the street-corner education program has great influence on the number of children visiting the Refuge. As you know, at the Refuge, children are prepared to take part in the sponsorship program and learn a trade or a skill. This preparation is very important. At an average, one year is needed to 'prepare" one child. When the child is not properly prepared, the big chance is that the child will abscond.



TOPICS: ARTICLES IN THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

For the street corner education program which is carried out with partners from various NGOs and officers of the DSW, we choose the above mentioned topics. Some of these articles were combined and some were not suitable for the education, but on the average there were enough articles to cover a long period. It is a skill to talk to street children on topics of rights to accommodation and rights to education. For instance, because we know the circumstances in which these children live. The NGOs alone, neither the Government alone can educate all these children. Only few will benefit from the programs.

CAS with the support of MISEREOR intensify the functional literacy program modules. All children who visit the House of Refuge and/or Hopeland center benefited from this program.

The aim is to educate them on “life skills” needed to survive. We are presently in the process to evaluate this functional literacy program in order to find ways as how to continue. Most probably, some experts in special education have to assist us to do a comprehensive evaluation of the impact of the program.

PEER TO PEER EDUCATION CAS as part of Street Project dubbed “CAS on the Move” organized 4days training workshop for selected Peer-To-Peer agents. The Project is about empowering of street children on Human/Children Rights, Communication and facilitation skills on their peers who are in street situations to enable them engage the duty bearers for a dignity in society. This was held in partnership with Department of Social Welfare, Districts Assembly, traditional leaders and other non-governmental organizations working with the target group.

As part of the Project strategy, CAS Peer-To-Peer education took place in three (3) of Department of Social Welfare Districts namely; Ashaiman Municipal Assembly, Accra Metropolitan Authority and Ada West. The first phase of the training workshop took place at Sege in Ada West District Assembly on 14th & 15th August and the second phase of training was organized In August, 2017 at CAS Drop-in-Center at Lartebiokorshie, Accra. Both Street and ‘Out-of-School’ Children selected to take part in the training were drawn from various CAS operational areas of the street and the community in Sege. Numbering 45 which included young mothers benefitted from various topics such as session on Declaration of human rights, play based games on child rights, sessions on convention on the rights of the child, articles on children’s rights, communication & facilitation skills especially using play based approach.

Children and ‘Out-of-School’ youth also benefitted from group discussion and role play which built their confidence and prepare them for the education. District Coordinating director, Alhaji Al-hassan Ziblim Alhassan and Head of Department of Social Welfare & Community Development in person of

Mr. Divine Exorgbe were present at the workshop. In his remarks, The DCE seize opportunity to disabuse the minds of the participants about various perceptions held on child trafficking especially about such gatherings or workshops and pledge his support for the project. He spoke about recent child trafficking incidence in the community and admonishes the youth to guide against such practices and defend themselves to expose those perpetrators of those acts. He called for the need for youth to always seize an opportunity to learn something that will bring significant change to their current situation.

As a follow-up, 'Out-of-school' children and youth will move to their community in the coming months to educate their peers and will be supervised by CAS Facilitators/Fieldworkers.

CREATING AWARENESS. The project also included awareness creation among Government officials and other stakeholders. CAS took part in several meetings organized at the Department of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection A National Steering Committee for street children will be established. NGOs working with children are members. We will keep you informed about this development.



CAS organized a training workshop for street workers from DSW and other NGOs of which we reported about in our June newsletter.

We asked Catholic Digest to make a documentary of the event. The film crew was present during the sessions and followed our staff to the streets in order to see practical aspects of what had been discussed during the training.

VIDEO

The documentary video “CASTraining” was produced by them which we now use to create further awareness among the public. You can view it on youtube on this address or link: <https://youtu.be/Xh6I59A0Svc>

This link is also available on our website and on Facebook. It could be a good tool to reach many persons and organizations. Recently, CAS awareness group decided during their meeting as to how it will be used.

POETIC EMPOWERMENT.

The Danish organization 100% for children organized in June a special workshop to empower the youth in dialogue. Camilla Olsen and Kristoffer Bressum visited CAS and involved many street children at the Refuge.

Th aim was to establish an intercultural exchange between Danish and Ghanaian youth. Writing and reading poetry may teach them how to think beyond themselves. All the findings can be read on the website or link below:

[Artsghana.org/poetic-empowerment-youth-in-dialogue-inspire-ghanaian-kids/](https://www.artsghana.org/poetic-empowerment-youth-in-dialogue-inspire-ghanaian-kids/)

CHALLENGES

CAS also experienced some disasters and problems during the previous months. Hopeland lost 40 pigs because of sickness. All 40 pigs died.

Our investments as part of self-reliance have been lost. This is the second time that we experienced this and we are really discouraged to build it up again.

The other problem at Hopeland was as a result of the flooding. One fence wall which was recently repaired was totally washed away together with part of the football pitch. The local youth, who are allowed to make use of the football field are assisting in repairing it.

The flooding also destroyed the backwall of the courtyard of the House of Refuge. We are now discussing with our neighbors as how to rebuild it.

The Refuge experienced other water problems. The waterpipes which are buried in the walls and ceilings broke at several places. The pipes which are made from copper but more than 25 years old got corroded and had to be replaced.

SPONSORSHIP AND SETTLEMENT

Also these programs are almost completed. Officially, the MISEREOR programs come to an end on the 1st of March 2018. There are some other private donors who support children in the sponsorship program. They of course will continue as usual.

Several children are completing in December 2017 but a few will still be in training and solutions have to be found for them. We already registered some children for the NVTI exams, but unfortunately we realized we did not have sufficient money available. We know we will lose the registration fee, but that is unfortunate.

SETTLEMENT Project: The MISEREOR program included the settlement of 10 trained ex-street children. In dialogue with MISEREOR, we are now settling them at Hopeland as a first step.

The plan is to let them start a workshop at Hopeland center and later when they have found their own plot or room would move to their private place.

This was not foreseen in the budget. We have to reserve some money for that purpose. Fortunately, we have received some additional support for this program from a Dutch organization called EOF and KCE Fonds.

We also hope to receive some support for additional tools and equipment from Wings of Support.

One donor assist us with the workshops and accommodation. Another with materials needed and the third with tools and equipment.

We did not foresee the extra costs involved as well as the fact that these children will not have any income during the first months of the settlement. CAS has to feed them. We hope that everything is completed (Settled) before the 1st of March 2018.





Broken wall Refuge



40 died at Hopeland

Jos van Dinther
Bro. Jos van Dinther
(Director CAS)