



Newsletter 78

June 2018

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Dear Reader,

We want to give you an update of CAS” activities and explain how the “CAS on the Move” and “Get off the street” activities are organized.

The “CAS on the Move” activities are financed and coordinated by 100% for children and CISU of Denmark. This activity will come to an end on the 30th of June 2018. We asked permission to re-direct the activity because of our involvement with the “Get off the street” government initiative.

Our aim to lobby involvement of Government officials, and do more awareness, advocacy and publicity, materialized when the Ministry of Gender and Child Protection launched their project.

The aims and objectives of the two projects are the same. Create more awareness among the public about the street children problems and try to find solutions. Heads-counts were conducted and questionnaires were used to understand the problem in detail.

The root causes have been identified. The children come from families who live in a certain type of communities. So, both should be targeted. Under the “CAS on the Move” project, we (CAS members and partners) organized two meetings with community leaders and family members. The third meeting will be completed before the end of this month.

What is the outcome?

1. Community leaders understand the problems of their children and youth very well with regard to their own community.



2. They have little knowledge about those born on the street and migrant children. They consider them as additional problems and think they can be solved together with the problems of their “own” children and youth.
3. The Community Leaders are very happy with the support they will receive from government and NGOs.
4. Community leaders want to solve the problems using the Traditional methods; discipline and obedience.
5. The NGO network, acknowledge that these traditional methods do not work any-longer.

The cooperation between NGOs and officers of the department of social welfare worked very well. The officers of the DSW have much more experience working in communities and organizing community meetings. While members of NGOs, have in depth knowledge of the problems of children and youth in detail. Therefore we can complement one another.

STREET EDUCATION

The Street corner education program continues. Every day CAS workers team up with members of the partners organizations/DSW visit particular areas in the city.

The program has often the same format implementation. Children are gathered and some games are organized. This is called a play based approach. A topic is chosen such as Leadership or drug abuse and this is explained in detail. Children can asked questions and share their experiences. At the end, the children receive a drink and some biscuits.

Every year, we witness major movement of groups of children in the city. There are many reasons why this happens. It can be because the town authorities are “cleaning” certain areas. This means, illegal built sheds are demolished and people are not allowed to sell items again at certain points. Another reason can be flooding during the rainy season. For this year, the main reason is that the government do want the principal streets in the city free of children and hackers.

As a result, the workers have to find the new location of the children and study their movements. Time is needed for that exercise. Often, they find groups of children at video centers. The children watch videos during the day. Daily Food excursion.



EXCURSIONS

“CAS on the Move” also organized some excursions for the street children. During the month of May, we organized one excursion to a factory which makes beef-rolls and other products for sale (Daily Food). The managers of the factory came to meet children at the Refuge and later at Hopeland center. They offered job opportunities to the young adults. Later, we followed-up with an excursion to the factory. Although the young adults retain their freedom, because they can sell the products at their own time, not many took advantage of the opportunity to get a job.

It shows us again that we do not know what is really occupying their mind. We think it is a perfect opportunity yet, they tell us we do not like it.

Another excursion will be organized soon to a company which makes all kind of artifacts for sale. The company is called “Wild Gecko”



FUTURE

Now that this project comes to an end, we have to evaluate and discuss what is the way forward?

For us at CAS, it is clear that the work in the street should never stop. The teaching and counseling in the streets should be sustained. In addition we should concentrate on certain communities. With the assistance of the community leaders we can get better results.

Unfortunately, now that we have completed the sponsorship agreement and the “CAS on the Move” activities, and donors have not approved our applications as yet, we are experiencing a period of stagnation.

We simply do not have the financial means to continue on the same footing. Therefore, we have decided that at the end of this month-June, we withdraw all the children who are in preparation at Hopeland Center and ask them to return to the Refuge (20 children).

Only the settlement workshops at Hopeland will continue. At the end of July we will slow down the activities at the Refuge as well. The plan to close the Refuge for children has not been concluded yet, but maybe it is the only solution for now. Workers who cannot take up a new job will be given the opportunity to find something else.

Without a regular income CAS cannot function. Therefore, we make an urgent appeal to all those who read this newsletter, Please come to our aid so that we can continue the work for the street children.

IT IS URGENT!

What are our plans? When we get the financial support, we plan to do the following:

1. Increase the street corner education and work in several communities in the city.



2. Invite more street children to the Refuge and Hopeland center and teach them functional literacy.



3. Organize sports and games using Right to Play educational games.



4. Prepare more children for the sponsorship scheme.



5. Organize more activities with NGO and DSW partners.




Bro. Jos van Dinther
(Director CAS)

Thank you and do forget, it is URGENT!