



# Defence for Children International Sierra Leone (DCI-SL)

*The Sierra Leone Chapter of the worldwide movement for children's rights*

## KABALA

PROJECT TITLE

# Strengthening Children and Youth Advocacy work

# BACKGROUND

- Young people are often marginalized and ignored in decision-making and development processes. The government is not doing much to invest in them
- Government is working with its partners including DCI-SL, UNICEF, Plan Int. and other NGO's to build Child Protection Systems in the country.
- This has been done in Western area, Moyamba, Bombali, Port Loko, Kailahun, Bo and kenema Districts.
- Koinadugu/Kabala is one of the districts that has not had such a network and therefore limits the opportunity for children and young people in Kabala to participate and contribute to development processes at communities, district and national levels.
- Further more, UNICEF (2013 : An Evaluation of Teenage Pregnancy Pilot Projects in Sierra Leone) report indicated that Koinadugu is one of the leading districts where issues of teenage pregnancies and early marriages are at alarming rate up to date. This has not only limited the role children and young persons play in the development of the district but has also reduced their role in effective decision making processes as it is with the VAC/CYAB implemented projects in the six listed above; with this current trend, the need for children to participate in decision making processes and capacity building to be self-reliant at communities, districts and national levels are of vital importance, hence this project is designed to fill in the gap.



# Sierra Leone



# Africa

# OBJECTIVES

- To strengthen and harmonize the work of existing children and youth groups for effective participation.
- To influence the District Council to include child protection into their development agenda
- To support advocacy work of children and youths in order to assist them contribute to addressing issues that affect them particularly at the local level.

# TARGET

40 CHILDREN TO FORM the GROUP

**Level 1:** DCI-SL will train 40 children/youths (20 girls and 20 boys) as members of the CYAB and peer educators and advocates for children and youths in Kabala

**Level 2:** The 40 CYAB peer educators will reach out to at least 120 children and youths in the community each year to bring positive influence into their lives through knowledge transfer. The strategy is that each CYAB member should target at least three children/youths every year from the community. These will be the children that they will bring together to commemorate the Day of the African Child- June 16<sup>th</sup> every year.

**Age limit:** children: 14-17years

Youth:18-21years

# REQUIRED PROJECT ACTIVITIES (YR 1)

1. Mapping of existing children and youths advocacy groups
2. Formation of CYAB
3. Training of CYAB (including refresher trainings)
4. Organise monthly meeting of CYAB
5. Coaching/mentoring of CYAB
6. Development of CYAB Working documents
7. Lobby District Council to support children's programmes
8. Life skills building
9. Commemoration of Day of the African Child
10. Participation in the preparation of Development Plan and Budget of District Council
11. School Outreach
12. Development and submission of CYAB position paper for constitutional review

# ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN (YR 2015)

1. Meeting with Stake holders to introduce project
2. Formation of group
3. Orientation meeting with the children
4. Training and Workshop on child abuse and child rights
5. Election for CYAB members to have an Executive.
6. Development of CYAB Koinadugu constitution
7. Weekly meetings with CYAB
8. Weekly meetings on Child Protection with Partners
9. Development of children's position Paper against Early Marriage for June 16
10. Commemorating Day of the African Child



- ❑ Commemoration of DAC
- ❑ Radio Quiz competition for girls in primary schools
- ❑ Debate competition for Junior Secondary Schools
- ❑ Football Match for ladies
- ❑ CYAB prepared Position
- ❑ Observing October 11, International Day of the Girl
- ❑ Secondary Schools visitation
- ❑ Drama (Effect on teenage pregnancy, the importance of girls education, children can be self reliant if given the opportunity)
- ❑ Workshop on FGC ( Bondo)
- ❑ Children participation on the 16 days of activism
- ❑ CYAB partnering with CFN Koinadugu to organize & observe CFN National AGM in Koinadugu
- ❑ Radio discussion programs
- ❑ End of year Picnic (CYAB)

# ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❑ Existence of Children and Youth Advisory Board
- ❑ The awareness of the existence of DCI-SL and the Project in Kabala
- ❑ Defence for children is part of different child protection coalitions in Kabala and is playing active roles the executive bodies
- ❑ Children prepared and presented two position papers against Early Marriage and Adolescent Girls must be educated to the Vice President, Government Officials, Stakeholders and NGO'S
- ❑ The Government, Stakeholders, Chiefs and NGO's signed a Memorandum of understanding to end all Child Initiation into secret societies in Koinadugu.

- ❑ The group has a WhatsApp group that connects children not only in the group but also friends in their schools and other schools to discuss relevant issues monitored by me.
- ❑ CYAB members play active roles in their different schools as role models impacting positive peer influence
- ❑ Children are actively involved in advocating on behalf of children in Koinadugu.
- ❑ Service providers (Police) are involved in the school talk shows to discuss crime, abuse and violence against children
- ❑ The children can identify issues in school and mobilize themselves in addressing it with their school authorities

- ❑ partnering with other child groups in cleaning their environment every Saturday as a way of ensuring their right for a clean and safe environment
- ❑ Effective drama performances impacting knowledge on their rights and responsibilities to their peers in schools and communities
- ❑ CYAB is recognized as a child base organization and is always receive formal letters inviting them to represent children in every forum of decision making on development programmes within the district
- ❑ CYAB girls are invited by Child Protection Agencies for radio discussions on girls education and early marriage.
- ❑ Boys are strongly supporting and motivating girls in the group and also serve as role models for other boys in schools
- ❑ CYAB developed a study group that takes classes on science subjects every Saturday by a volunteer science teacher.

# PICTURE REPORT

# MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS



# TRAINING AND WORKSHOP ON CHILD ABUSE AND CHILD RIGHTS







# COMMEMORATING JUNE 16, DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

Sierra Leone Vice President (right)



June 16th at the kabala Community Centre



# RADIO DISCUSSION PROGRAMS



# DEBATE COMPETITION FOR JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS



# RADIO QUIZ COMPETITION FOR GIRLS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AWARD



# LADIES FOOTBALL MATCH



# CYAB POSITION PAPER FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN KOINADUGU ON EDUCATION



# OBSERVING OCTOBER 11, INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL



DRAMA (EFFECT ON TEENAGE PREGNANCY, THE IMPORTANCE OF GIRLS EDUCATION, CHILDREN CAN BE SELF RELIANT IF GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY)





# WORKSHOP ON FGC (BONDO)



# WEEKLY MEETINGS WITH CYAB



# CHALLENGES

- ❑ Domestic engagement of children limit their participation at meetings
- ❑ Lack of guidance counselors in Schools
- ❑ Limited services in the District to linkup the children with
- ❑ Traditional and customary practices
- ❑ Schools not providing quality education
- ❑ Increase in Teenage Pregnancy
- ❑ Child labour
- ❑ Lack of case management ( service providers lack the technicality to handle child abuse cases)
- ❑ Lack of Child Welfare committees
- ❑ Teachers are ignorant about the “Teachers Code of Conduct”
- ❑ Limitation on my mandates to actively respond to juvenile Justice issues but rather than my implementing program but to observe and do referral when such issues emerged
- ❑ A single staff implementing the whole project ;even though it is part of the project proposal and contract because it’s a small project is challenging
- ❑ Lack internet service ad sometimes phone coverage

## REQUIRED PROJECT ACTIVITIES PLAN FOR 2016

1. Training of CYAB (including refresher trainings)
2. Organise monthly meeting of CYAB
3. Coaching/mentoring of CYAB
4. Lobby District Council to support children's programmes
5. Life skills building
6. Commemorating and observing International Days for children

## EXPECTED OUTPUT ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES 2016

1. Training and mentoring of CYAB members
2. Involving the council in some of our activities, children having dialogue meetings with counsellors.
3. CYAB assemble talk shows
4. Schools to have the culture of **CAREER DAY** every week in schools.
5. Commemorating International Days
6. Cultural heritage (drama, dance, folk songs, story telling and poetry amongst schools)
7. Awareness raising on child protection issues in their communities
8. Have CYAB talk hour at the Radio Bintumani

# ACTION PLAN

1. Advocate to school authorities both teachers and children to have a 45 minute for CYAB Peer education talk on their school timetable before or after launch.
2. Weekly meetings to update and prepare a topic for the next assemble talk.
3. Workshops and trainings for CYAB members
4. Inviting the council to attend some of our meetings/sessions and programs
5. CYAB inviting a Self-Reliant model to have a 15min talk every one week during morning assembles

1. Organise activities to observe every international children's day
2. Drama on teenage pregnancy, education, etc
3. Lobby to the radio station for a free airtime of 1hour to discuss on issues affecting children and how to amen these issues.
4. Develop a template for every member wherein we can monitor their every day life activity till the end of the project for us to know weather we have met our project objectives, evaluation for similar programmes.

# STATUS REPORT

- Kabala office is subletting an office space with AmNeT but yet there is still challenging
- There is only a single staff at the moment
- Available but little amount of fund to manage project
- Kabala office has a laptop computer and a digital camera
- According to the administrative policy all Liquidations are reported on and on time with supporting documents on financial transactions and activity report in every quarter





*Any questions please?*



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throw a stone  
to harm you,  
drop a Fruit to  
Benefit them

Life is like a book.  
Some chapters sad,  
some happy,  
and some exciting.

But if you never  
turn the page...  
You will never know  
what the next  
chapter holds

