

KABALA



PROJECT

STRENGTHENING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ADVOCACY WORK

BRIEF BACKGROUND

This is a three year project which started in 2015, and is dealing with system strengthening and capacity building for children to advocate on child related issues on behalf of other children in Koinadugu. Funded by the Stichting Taiama Andreas organisation in the Netherlands, through the supervision of Defence for Children Sierra Leone.

The project has a group of forty (20 boys & 20 girls) adolescence between the ages of 14 – 21 years that are based in Kabala, Northern Region of Sierra Leone. They are coached, mentored and supervised by DCI-SL to carry out advocacy work and also partake in the decision making processes within the community.

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.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Organise monthly meeting for CYAB
- Coaching/mentoring of CYAB
- Life skills building
- Observing International Days (DAC & IDG)
- School Outreach
- Provide technical and logistics support to CYAB members to implement their project
- Monitor and supervise CYAB project implementation
- Lobby District Council to support children's programmes

ACHIEVEMENTS

- List/inventory of children and youth that form the advocacy board
- Working documents developed- including statute, strategic plan, and work plan for CYAB
- Bi-weekly meetings held with concrete action points, activity plan and work plan for CYAB.
- Tools developed from trainings by other agency are used in networking with other groups within the district.
- Children and youths who are equipped with life skills and capacity are representing the group in both district and national programs.
- Four Secondary schools in Kabala are reached with sensitization messages on teenage pregnancy, Ebola, early marriage, sexual violence and any other emerging issue
- Community awareness raising on child related matters
- Parents are involved in the project
- Increase in District Council support towards children's programme in Koinadugu district

CYAB GROUP ACTIVITIES

- Cleaning and planting of trees
- Focus Group Discussions with community Stakeholders on issues affecting children (teenage pregnancy, early marriage, abuse etc.)
- School assembly talk shows
- Drama with advocacy messages
- Involve in Radio discussions on child related issues
- Peer educator (both schools and community)
- Engaging Semamaya village to send their children to school with continuous monitoring
- Executive members of the group attending sector meetings within the district
- Monitoring the FSU and court on child related issues
- Representing the group in district and national programs
- Visit to Blind School

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Chief and Community Leaders of Semamaya village signed an MOU to send their children to school and they have being working with community bi-laws to punish parents who default/ CYAB has being monitoring continuously.
- Our advocacy intervention in Semamaya attracted more commitment in addressing children's issues- one of which was the first lady's commitment to address some of the challenges affecting the children after seeing video message through WhatsApp.
- Donation of clothes and other items to the Blind School with ongoing visitations
- Partnering with other organisations to advocate on the rights of children (Plan SL, KoinGEM, FSU, and AMNET)
- Cleaning of the Thunder Hill Market and school environments
- Planting of flowers in the community including schools
- Participate on radio discussion programs

ACHIEVEMENTS

- CYAB has being taking the lead to organise & observe Children's International Days (DAC& IDG)
- Development of the Position Paper to the Government and Stakeholders to end early marriage in Koinadugu, June 16, 2016 through the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affair
- Development of Position Paper to end early marriage and teenage pregnancy in October 11, 2016 the International Day of the Girl Child through the support of Koinadugu Girls Educational Movement.
- Members of CYAB have being representing the group & Koinadugu Children on National Programs

 two represented in Parliament in 2016 and one was the Minister of Education.
- Seven rape cases where monitored in FSU by CYAB that were sent to court and are now in high court.
- With regards to the position paper represented to parliament by the children on June 16, we now have a sitting magistrate in Koinadugu.







ASSEMBLY TALK







ACTIVITY WORK PLAN 2017

- 1. Provide logistics support for bi weekly meetings for CYAB group
- 2. Lobby with local council for the involvement of CYAB in the development of the district plans
- 3. Provide technical and logistics support to CYAB group to do assembly talk shows in schools
- 4. Facilitate life skill building and mentoring sessions for CYAB members
- 5. Provide logistic support for CYAB Members to do lobby visit to service providers (police, health workers, magistrate court and school authority in Kabala and solicit information on services to share with other children during assembly talk shows
- 6. Provide logistics support to CYAB member to conduct cleaning exercise and tree planting in public places.
- 7. Commemoration of International Days (DAC &IDG)
- 8. Provide logistic support to do visitation and meeting with of parents CYAB members
- 9. Provide technical support for CYAB to draw and paint out child protection messages in the community

EXPECTED OUTCOME FROM ACTIVITES

- 1. By-weekly meeting activity plans developed by CYAB group.
- 2. CYAB participates in the development of the 2017 district Council work plan.
- 3. Children in four secondary schools are aware of prevention and response measures for child abuse and violence against children.
- 4. Life skills and mentoring sessions held for CYAB members.
- 5. Availability of information on services available to children in Kabala
- 6. Monthly cleaning/tree planting exercises conducted by CYAB members
- 7. CYAB member participate in the commemoration of international days.
- 8. CYAB will meet with parents once in a month to give update on the activities of he group, also to discuss a child protection issue (teenage marriage, violence etc.) with the parents and get their own views on any topic discussed with their recommendations. These information and recommendations gathered from parents, the group will discuss in their meetings to address.
- 9. CYAB members will choose a public wall location where they will draw and paint a child protection message in kabala

PROJECT CHALLENGES

- Domestic engagement of children limit their participation at meetings
- Children migrating to other districts for educational needs drop off the group
- Distraction from other NGO's implementing similar project
- Most of the children in the group belong to other groups thereby limiting their active participation.
- Delay of funds affect activities to be implemented according to the work plan
- A single staff implementing the project
- Lack of internet service and sometimes phone coverage to access information or send report on time

THE END

THANK YOU