



Upendo Daima

Project for street children

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Annual Report 2014 Upendo Daima Street children project Mwanza, Tanzania

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This is the annual report 2014 of the street children project of the foundation of Upendo Daima in Mwanza region. The project operates from two centers, the Back Home House and Malimbe Family. This report covers the street work and reintegration, the education, counseling, health care, home visiting, sports and games, and capacity building of the UD staff. The report will present the planned and accomplished activities, challenges in the project and the way forward towards sustainability of the project.

2.0 ACTIVITIES and RESULTS ACHIEVED

2.1 BACK HOME HOUSE

The Back Home House (BHH) is our centre where we accommodate the street children after we met them on the street and invited them to join us and to start a new life in our centre. Main target is to reunite them with their family after we have taken care of their health, trauma's and started to get them used to a regular life with some education and discipline. They stay average 3 months with us in the BHH. Some figures of our activities in the BHH are presented in table 1.

Table 1 Activities and results from the Back Home House

No	ACTIVITIES	ACTUAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN
1	Street work To make contact with the street children and try to convince them to join us and leave the life on the street	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social workers go to the street to meet the boys 2 times a week: Tuesday night and Thursday during day time. 69 street sessions were conducted last year;• About 55 children were contacted every month;• Rapport building was done for 486 children altogether;• 182 children were coming to the BHH from the street;• 30 children were received from network partners and the Social Welfare Department.• 212 children were registered at the BHH.

2	<p>Home visiting</p> <p>To get to know the home situation and to investigate the possibilities to reunite the children with their family</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 119 Families were visited in the region around Mwanza
3	<p>Reintegration</p> <p>Reintegration is our ultimate goal. Only if there is no family or the family is unable to take their responsibility again, than we have to bring the kid to Malimbe Family</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 111 children were reintegrated with their family; among them 25 children were back in the street after reintegration and 13 came back to the center after reintegration; • 3 children were taken by the family; • 9 children were taken by other organizations; • 42 children were brought to Malimbe Family; • 115 physical follow up were conducted and the boys were visited after returning home; • 74 phone follow up were done to see how things were going; • 103 intensive family follow up were conducted to assist the family after the boy went home again.
4	<p>Counseling</p> <p>Counseling is an important activity to deal with the trauma's of their family life (or lack of family life) and the street life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 197 children got individual counseling; • 164 sessions of group therapy were conducted; • 43 sessions of psycho therapy were conducted; • 244 sessions on capacitor training were conducted; • 48 sessions of spiritual therapy were conducted; • Devine services were organized every morning and evening.
5	<p>Education Program</p> <p>Informal education for new registered children at BHH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal education was provided. 103 class sessions were conducted whereby children were taught how to read and write, some mathematics, drawings and Kiswahili; • 7 boys were taken to apprentice ship training at the local artisan.
6	<p>Health care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 197 children got First Aid in the center; • 32 children were taken to the hospital for treatment and further check up; • 2 children were admitted in the hospital.
7	<p>Sports and games</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys attended football training every Wednesday and Saturday and also they watched football games to increase their knowledge on football; • 31 sessions of acrobatics training were conducted and boys performed in different events; • 4 walking sessions were conducted every month;

3. Vocational Training and college	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Boys graduated in O-level studies Form IV; • 4 boys attended Vocational Training and college; • 3 visits were done at VETA.
3. Home visiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the year 2014, 47 families were visited. The aim was to know the current situation of families, relationship between the children and their parents/guardians.
4. Counseling program and other activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 Primary School Boys got individual counseling every month; • Secondary school boys and vocational schoolboys are also getting individual counseling during holidays or school visit. • Average of 40 sessions of group therapy per year were conducted at the center; • Devine services are organized every morning and evening; • 27 boys were baptized; • 35 boys got 1st communion; • Story telling every evening around the fire; • Children played 2 soccer matches with the children from other centers; • Children performed 4 ngoma and acrobatics shows.
5. Celebrations	<p>Children attended the following celebrations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter celebration; • Eid celebration; • Baptism and first communion; • Confirmation; • Acrobatics and Ngoma group attended Birthday ceremony invited by community members; • Sr. Monica farewell ceremony.
6. Capacity Building and Organization Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 staff members went for a study tour in Nairobi for Bio intensive training organized by Railway Children Africa (RCA); • 6 staff members attended Therapeutic Approach Training organized by RCA; • 11 staff members were trained on action plan development and report writing; • 7 staff members attended a course on how to minimize drop out from school; • 1 volunteer from AFID trained our financial officer in budgeting and financial issues.

7. Organisational aspects

- An agreement was signed between TUWA (Tupende Watoto Organisation for Street children) and Railway Children Africa on the sponsorship for 2014;
- Integrated Response meetings were organized between three organizations (TUWA, COET and Kivuko) and Government officials, facilitated by Railway Children Africa;
- Sr Monica who was a counselor in Upendo Daima was given another chance in her congregation and she was supposed to attend training in Italy; her position was taken by Sr Angela from the same congregation;
- The Board member of UD Netherlands Hetty Bloemen and a representative of Cordaid Josta Nijland visited the organization in June 2014;
- Several proposals were written to local donors;
- The name change from TUWA back to Upendo Daima was done in September;
- 2 volunteers from Holland and Germany were received;
- Networking with other organizations was done;
- Hasanari Rutakamilya company did the financial auditing of the annual report 2013;
- The organization received 567 visitors from various places/institutions. Some of them provided gifts, food, clothes, shoes, oil, soaps etc. to children;
- Chicken project was started in Malimbe family;
- 8 computers were received from Holland for the education center;
- Solar panels were reinstalled in Malimbe family;
- House, bed and kitchen repair was done in Malimbe family.



3.0 CHALLENGES

- Despite all initiatives by Upendo Daima and other organizations, there is an increase of street children in Mwanza;
- Children are escaping from the center after being registered and are going back to the street;
- Some boys are reluctant to go to school and some are dropping out of school;
- Some parents are not committed to take care of their children after reintegration; some children are going back to the street;
- Poor sanitation in the Back Home House during rainy season which hinders the performance of normal activities;
- Not enough funds available for staff development trainings and upgrading;
- There is no proper income generating activities what is leading to too much dependency of donors' funds.

4.0 CASE STORIES

STORY OF DAMAS SAYE, 15 YEARS OLD

Damas Saye, 15 years old is the first born in a family with two children. His father used to be a businessman and his mother a housewife. His mother died of HIV/AIDS and his father was murdered by robbers. Damas had never been to school because his parents were hiding him since he is disabled, suffering from hydrocephalous (a big long head). His younger brother Paul was sent to school. After the death of their parents, his brother Paul, 14 years old was taken by his aunt who lives in Buhongwa. Damas was left alone till the neighbors decided to take him. They tried to bring Damas to a private English Medium Day School but the family failed because it was too expensive. They stopped to go to that school and with the help of a church they took him to Kassa English Medium School. But he couldn't catch up with studies because there was no infrastructure for disabled kids.

Upendo Daima met Paul, the brother of Damas, in the street and we found out that he and his brother Damas needed our help. We discussed with the teachers of Damas, who suggested to take him to the Lake Victoria Disability Centre in Musoma. After the registration they suggested to take Damas to the hospital for check up, because they realized that he is suffering from hydrocephalus and he needs operation. Due to that problem we asked the Railway Children if they can sponsor the expenses for Damas and they agreed. He was admitted in Bugando Hospital and got operation, after one week he was released from the hospital. He was attending the clinic every week but now he is back in Lake Victoria Disability Centre.



Damas before



and after the operation

STORY OF EZEKIEL B. MWAKIPESILE, 13 YEARS OLD

Ezekiel is the only son in his family. His parents are not living together. His father currently lives in Mbeya Region while his mother lives in Magu District. Most of the time Ezekiel lived in Magu under care of his grandmother who works as a nurse in Ndagalu ward. The life of the family was good as they got three meals a day. Ezekiel was in school at Magu Primary School and he dropped out of school when he was in Standard Seven aged 12 years. Ezekiel developed a behavior of stealing. One day in 2013, Ezekiel stole a mobile phone and a radio from their neighbor as well as Tsh. 15,000/ from his grandmother. He was caught and his grandmother punished him. He was also taken to the Office of the Village Executive by neighbors. While at this office he escaped by running away and the villagers could not manage to catch him. He came in Mwanza city and started to live and work in the streets. He was engaging in begging, cleaning buses and cooking utensils with little pay.

Social workers of Upendo Daima met him in the street and invited him to the BHH. He stayed there for two months and he was taken back to his family after counseling and home visiting. When our social workers took him home neither his grandmother nor neighbors accepted him. Our social worker took him to the Village Executive Office to which the Officer did not agree to deal with issues of Ezekiel due to Ezekiel's stealing behavior. After in depth discussions no one showed the interest of accepting him, the child was disappointed and we took him back to the BHH.

We continued with the counseling and discussion with Ezekiel and he mentioned one of his grandmother sister Sabina Bubeba who lives at Kahangara ward in Magu District. Two staff members visited Sabina and she agreed to receive Ezekiel with a promise of taking him to his father.

We made a follow up visits and found that he was taken by one of his relatives who lives in Mwanza City and he took him back to School at Nundu Primary School.