

CHILD RESCUE KENYA



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction:

CRK has kept performance high, surpassing many of our own expectations during the year. With new funding from DFID, through railway Children, we were able to extend the work started under a Big Lottery Grant. Part of this expansion added new elements to the existing programme which included an internal survey of children and youth living on the streets, particularly the dangers and abuse they regularly face. This survey enabled us to focus on and better address the issues highlighted by the children.

Previously girls, who are less evident on the streets, had been underrepresented in the youth programmes. This new funding enabled us to specifically look at addressing issues affecting girls living on the streets and in slums with the introduction of girl only associations where issues like reproductive health, safe sex and anti-natal and post-natal health are included within the development model.

Vital to enable our expanded programmes has been exchange visits with other organisations. These have continued to improve our team's performance. In particular networking with COET in Mwanza Tanzania to experience and learn from their girl's association models. Our team were able to develop packages on mobilization, forming associations and handling expectations during formation. The lessons learnt have been very important in formation of 3 new girl only associations. The most utilized and important lessons were setting individual and groups goals and identifying each member's strengths.

On average at least one child arrives on the streets of Kitale every day. CRK reaches at least 80% of them offering short and longer term support aimed at immediate protection and, eventual, family reunification. Despite our early interventions the street 'community' remains large and we continue to work directly with them.

Our efforts at the street smart programme are geared towards improving the lives of street-connected children for those who choose to remain on the streets and for those who are ready to enter the reintegration process.

This was the final year of our 2012-16 Strategic Plan which had evolved over the years to include the expanded programme of activities necessary for our mission: “To assist children in need while achieving positive change through initiatives that empower families and respect for children rights.”

Activities and Outcomes:



1. Children:

CRK works directly with children through various different projects working in outreach, rehabilitation, protection and reunification. These together form our Children's Section.

Street Smart, who work hands-on with children living on the street, conducted a baseline survey of the experiences and abuse children face while in town. From that survey we found out that over half (54%) experienced extreme physical and/or sexual violence while on the streets. To mitigate this distressing find we adopted a three pronged strategy:

1. carried out participatory exercises enabling the children to identify people they felt safe to be with, night or day.
2. invited the business people for a day's workshop to strengthen their abilities to protect these children from abuse

3. reached out to other individuals in town to also participate to increase awareness and help ensure safety for this vulnerable group.

Overall performance has been:

- ✓ 318 new street children (256 M, 62F) were reached on the streets
- ✓ 157 children (121M, 36 F) referred to Birunda from SS
- ✓ 292 (196 m and 96F) Children provided with accommodation
- ✓ 178 children were reintegrated back home, 148 from Birunda and 30 directly from SS

2. Family:

This section of our work has been very successful in improving the lives of families enabling them to better care for their young ones. Experience tells us that most children do not like coming to town. That it is a choice not easily taken. There are various push factors that need addressing, mostly stemming from severe poverty and associated family decline.



Our work has targeted areas that address each family's needs. Most families suffer emotional and social degradation due to different factors. We have tried as much as possible to include both parents and/or the larger extended family in our meetings to identify ways forward and addressing their issues. We therapeutically facilitate a healing process through our meetings, using tools such as the emotional thermometer. Relating the good and processing emotions to be able to handle challenges.

Before any material or grant support is provided, a family is taken through stages of healing and recognition of individual strengths that eventually support income generating.

- ✓ 95 new families in need were enrolled into the programme as part of their children's reintegration process
- ✓ 101 families were phased out of the programme after they attained emotional stability, self-reliance and were able to provide for their children.
- ✓ 126 children were provided with school support either uniform, desk, education materials to enable them to re-enrol in school.
- ✓ 30 families were supported with Bio intensive training, tools and seeds to enable them utilise their small pieces of land for income generation, food security and improved nutrition for their families.
- ✓ 20 families were supported with grants to establish small businesses or boost existing ones.
- ✓ 12 of the most desperate families were supported with food basket during the process of becoming self-reliant.



3. Youth:

The youth programme that has now hit 7 years since its inception has seen many youths living and working on the streets of Kitale and slums around Kitale improve their lives, gain meaningful employment and some can now reliably meet their daily requirements. This has been possible since the programme is tailored towards improving/supporting them to improve the way they use their energies, improve on their self-esteem, join hands to support each other socially, emotionally and economically. The youth empowerment programme has seen some of most vulnerable youth's access meaningful employment. (see Appendix 2)

In 2016, CRK introduced a special section of the youth programme to reach to girls in their dwellings. A survey conducted in may (to be published) showed that there were 555 Female aged between 15 – 25 and 448 male of the same age who did not come to town but lived in deplorable conditions in slums around Kitale town (municipality)

This report saw the birth of girls only associations where most of the issues that were recorded in the report included girls working as commercial sex workers with little knowledge on reproductive health and safe sex. Most of them worked during the day as casual labourers in local brew dens where they were also exploited sexually by their clients and later frequent the same joints as commercial sex workers which sometimes did not pay enough to support themselves and their families. Occasionally they were abused by their clients and sometimes they would not be paid for the services.

CRK is working with these girls to empower them to get out of that business, be able to access skills that would enable them to earn meaningful employment. We also train them on reproductive health, safe sex, prenatal and antenatal care and refer them to hospitals near them for support. We reached 91 girls in 5 associations.

2016 milestone

- ✓ A total of 377 old members of 21 associations were reached to support them with more skills to enable them lead dignified lives either on the streets or in the slums.
- ✓ 130 new youths were reached to formed new associations, 8 are already functional and have gone through formation stage expecting to move to capacity building stage in the next year.
- ✓ 96 youths (55M 41F) reduced use of drugs. This was evident during meetings, ability to work and save some money and improvement in their ways of living.
- ✓ 40 youths attended apprenticeship programme, 31 of them completed and have been supported with tools to enable them start utilising their skills.
- ✓ 30 students were enrolled back to secondary school, among them 4 completed.
- ✓ 65 youths were provided grants to establish small business, or boost existing ones.
- ✓ 76 youths (37M and 39 F) increased their income levels and are able to take care of their children and/or self and have left the streets.

4. Advocacy:

Through advocacy meetings this year CRK has reached a total population of 24,000 people within Trans-Nzoia, Bungoma, and Kakamega counties with child protection messages in various public sensitisation meetings.

Awareness meetings were held through local administrators' gatherings, schools, youth groups and women groups. The public is well informed with increased knowledge and information on issues affecting children. As a result parents, teachers, guardians and chiefs often call CRK office for consultations. Most Chiefs are able to handle cases of defilement and other forms of abuse lawfully when in the past parents and abuser could locally agree to solve defilement case at home. 10 cases of defilement have been handled successfully by chiefs in Trans-Nzoia alone and report given to task force

where CRK is a member. Stakeholders have referred 40 children at risk to a place of safety - Birunda Rescue Centre for further handling while 10 vulnerable children rescued either at the street or referred have been placed at charitable children organisations through networking and collaboration with stakeholders.

CRK has attended 6 forums held by Government where child related matters and management of C.C.I.S was discussed enabling organizations to work well with the government with mutual benefits. The forums were informative and educative covering a wide scope of new guidelines and requirement for C.C.I.S on welfare of children and new laws enactment .Advocacy has bridged the gap between the communities, government thus giving enabling environment for actors to offer assistance.

Two advocacy trainings were held with teachers and street stakeholders focusing on child protect touching the four pillars; child survival, participation, protection and development. The stakeholders' since then have continued to refer and engage other actors on the course of assisting children at their level and referring difficult cases. Advocacy wing has increased linkages in western, Lodwar and Kapenguria opening platform for stakeholders to address children concerns with ease.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Strategic Plan:

The close of 2016 brought to an end the much updated strategic plan 2012-2016. Participatory methodology was used to build new and expanded strategies for our 2017-2021 Strategic Plan which is to be published soon (the draft is our current guide). Once published it will be available in the 'Organisation' section of our website.



2. Capacity Building:

We are committed to improving the capacities of our staff and volunteers for better delivery since the work environment keeps on changing. The family therapy trainings have been very crucial in working with children and families who have experienced trauma and abuse,

A component of play therapy has been very supportive in getting families/children to use play to identify their emotions, or areas of need and in most times as a communication tool. CRK ideally follows a reintegration journey adopted from the Standard Operating Procedures developed by Retrak, this training has been very crucial in our work, we also involved other organizations working with children who wish to reintegrated them back home in these trainings.

JUCONI has continued to provide our staff with more skills and knowledge on family therapy, each year all members of staff attend a three-day progressive training on working with families and children.

3. General:

Partners who made this work possible

- Railway children UK and Africa
- Big Lottery Fund
- DfID
- Retrak UK
- CRK-UK
- Other granters

Teams that worked to make it possible

- The Board
- The management team
- Street work team
- Family team
- Centre team
- Volunteers
- Students on internship.

4. Finance (Kenya Shilling):

Total Income	31,187,679.26
Total Expenditure	27,125,549.82
Balance @ 31 December 2016	4,062,129.44

(for more detailed info please see www.childrescuekenya.org/public/audit2016.pdf)