



CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATION CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT ON PSYCHOSOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROJECT

LIRA DISTRICT

2005 - 2006

INTRODUCTION:

This project aimed at providing psychosocial and educational support services to the most desperate 300 war affected, disadvantaged (war orphans) and their host families in the six selected IDP camps of Aloii, Erute, Ireda, Aler, Bala Stock Farm and Cassava Factory in Lira district.

The key program areas for implementation were:-

1. To provide psychosocial support to the 180 host families and 300 identified war-traumatized children through counselling and sporting activities and drama and music events.
2. To create 6 pilot psychosocial outreach counselling centres in the IDP camps of Aloii, Erute, Ireda, Aler, Bala Stock Farm and Cassava Factory IDP camps for the children between 11-15 years.
3. To provide food and household supplements to the 180 host families keeping 300 war affected/disadvantaged children (war orphans), 30 host family and 50 children from each camp whose parents were killed by LRA.
4. To facilitate and aid educational progress of the 300 war orphans and disadvantaged children, 50 from each of the 6 pilot camps, who are of school going age by providing education kits (uniform, books, pencils, pens, mathematical sets, shoes and sweaters).

The planned activities included:-

- Selection of the 300 with their foster families done in April by mapping the target groups, sensitizing them on the project goals and objectives and registration of the beneficiaries in the selected camps. These children were selected from primary four and five classes only as this was considered the prime target.
- Initiation of foster parents' groups to facilitate easy coordination and networking to reach all the beneficiaries. 30 major foster parent's groups were formed, each group consisting of 10 foster parents looking after 10 children with 7 selected leaders taking charge over 7 zones within the project coverage. These leaders were meeting once every month to bring reports and evaluating performance and discuss possible ways for further interventions with CCC.
- Group leaders were trained to manage cluster groups, how to identify the challenges foster parents are facing in keeping these children, orientating them on CCC psychosocial and educational support project activities, and monitoring the development of the children under psychosocial and educational support project in their areas.

Achievements:

- The 300 selected were given uniforms, books, pens, pencils and school bags and put to government schools in Lira district.
- Trauma counselling of the war affected children; disadvantaged children (war orphans) were done by voluntary counsellors at various centres.
- 30 foster parents groups were formed and trained on positive parenting in crisis situation, small business management skills to include small business start up, bookkeeping, credit and savings, and revolving loan investment.
- Sustainability of the project after completion.
- Balls were bought and provided for creative activities for sports and games for these children in their respective schools. Competing teams made ready to compete among themselves and

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other school teams during the end of the project day scheduled 15th February 2007. Trophies bought to be given to the winning teams.

- Music, drama and dancing groups formed and developed from both children and their foster parents who will perform during the end of the project day scheduled 15th February 2007.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENT MATRIX:

Objective	Planned activity	Expected out put	Activity implemented	Achievements	Remarks
To provide psychosocial support to 180 host families and 300 identified war traumatized children.	Counseling, sporting activities, drama and music events.	Trauma counseling done to 300 and 180 families trained on positive parenting in crisis situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling services provided for 300 children. • Training of the foster parents done on positive parenting in crisis situation. • 300 involved in recreational activities at their respective schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral change caused to the 300 traumatized children. • Parents display their parental support to the 300 supported children. • The 300 actively participating in sporting activities, drama and music and dance. 	Registered improvement on the behavior and discipline of the children as per the head teachers' report.
To create psychosocial support outreach centres in the six selected camps.	Established counseling centres for traumatized children and their parents.	8 zonal centres created as coordinating centres for counseling, training and coordination centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 zonal leaders selected to head foster parent's groups. • 8 zonal contact centres were created. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 zonal leaders managing coordination, monitoring on the children's performance and care givers support. • The 8 zonal leaders submitting monthly reports to CCC. 	There has been timely reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the children has been effectively done by the zonal leaders together with CCC Child Development Officer.
To provide food and household support to 180 host families	Giving food and supplement	Enhance the livelihood of the 300 children and their host families.	The WFP took up the feeding programs to the IDPs in return areas.		IDP camps were decongested into places of IDPs origin

keeping 300 war affected/disadvantaged children.	to the host families.				and all feeding programs were handled by WFP.
To facilitate and aid the education progress of the 300 war affected/disadvantaged children.	Giving out uniforms, books, pens, pencils, mathematical sets, shoes, and sweaters.	Retention of the 300 war affected/disadvantaged children at school through the provision of the education kits.	Education kits (uniforms, exercise books, pens, pencils and school bags) were given to the 300 war affected/disadvantaged children identified and selected.	The education of the 300 war affected/disadvantaged children aided and retained at school.	Children's performance has remarkably improved as seen from their report cards.

UNPLANNED ACTIVITIES:

Activity	Objectives	Achievements	Comments
Training of the foster parents on small business management skills to include small business start up, bookkeeping, credit and savings, and revolving loan investment.	To make the foster parents become self reliant and self sustaining in preparation for the project completion.	30 different foster parents groups formed and trained on business skills.	The 30 formed and trained foster parent's groups need revolving grant to support the IGA activities to improve on the family livelihood and the children when the project phase out (sustainability).
Relocation of both the 300 children and their host families when the IDP camps and learning centres were	To relocate the 300 children including their host families to the centres and schools accessible by CCC staff.	Spot registration was carried and all the 300 children and their host families relocated under 8 zones in the districts	The 300 children and their host families were successfully relocated.

closed and decongested.		of Apac, Dokolo, Lira, Oyam and Pader.	
Organizing general and follow up meetings for relocation exercises during decongestion.	To create solidarity groups to keep the foster parents in touch with one another and CCC project staff for effective coordination and monitoring of the psychosocial and educational support project implementation during and after decongestion.	Relocation meetings held and foster parents relocated in the designated rural IDP camps in the districts of Apac, Dokolo, Lira, Oyam and Pader.	There was effective coordination and monitoring exercise in the newly relocated points in the five districts.

Note:

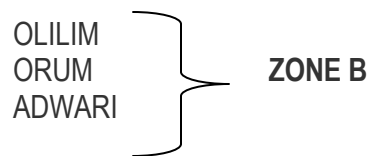
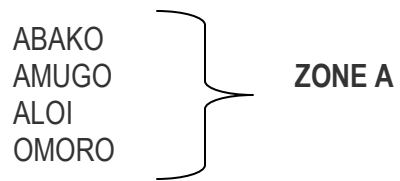
Below is the relocation list of children and their host families.

PSYCHOSOCIAL OUTREACH CENTRES

SUB COUNTY	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
OGUR	52 CHILDREN (Lira)
AROMO	14 CHILDREN
OKWANG	36 CHILDREN
ORUM	33 CHILDREN
ADWARI	28 CHILDREN
OLILIM	26 CHILDREN
APALA	19 CHILDREN
ALOI	18 CHILDREN
OMORO	18 CHILDREN
ABAKO	12 CHILDREN
BATTA	9 CHILDREN (Dokolo)
OMOT	10 CHILDREN (Pader)
ADEKOKWOK	4 CHILDREN (Lira)
BARR	4 CHILDREN

ALITO	5 CHILDREN (Apac)
ICEME	2 CHILDREN (Oyam)
PURANGA	3 CHILDREN (Pader)
PATONGO	1 CHILD (Pader)
AMACH	1 CHILD (Pader)
OGONYO	1 CHILD (Pader)
AMUGO	1 CHILD (Lira)
NGAI	1 CHILD (Oyam)
OTWAL	1 CHILD (Apac)
ADYEL	1 LIRA MUNICIPALITY

CATEGORIZED ZONES PLANNED



AROMO }
ALITO } **ZONE D**

NGAI }
ICEME } **ZONE E**
OTWAL }

LIRA MUNICIPALITY }
AND OTHER AREAS } **ZONE F**

FOSTER PARENT REPRESENTATIVES FOR EIGHT ZONES ARE REQUIRED TO MAN THE PROGRAM OUTREACH INTO THE ZONES ALLOCATED.

CHALLENGES/ LESSONS LEARNT:

We had to change our strategy by relocating the beneficiaries into areas they feel comfortable and also within our reach.

The children were also relocated into government schools in the districts of Apac, Dokolo, Lira, Oyam and Pader which is a new environment and no longer going to learning centres which they were used to and felt comfortable in.

We also had to have all foster parents/guardians regrouped under 8 major zones being headed by the 8 representative zonal leaders whom they elected and had them trained in leadership and group dynamic skills for easy and effective beneficiary management.

Our budget and project scope was affected by the effects of IDP camps decongestion. What we anticipated to achieve when we wrote the proposal and secured funding, now have to make some changes in the approaches and activities to meet and suit the new environment as our beneficiaries were to be relocated in a different project location with different demands.

Cost of administration and monitoring of the new relocation points in the districts of Apac, Dokolo, Lira, Oyam and Pader went high in terms of fuel and travels.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To make the project have a realistic impact in the life of these children, we suggest that the educational supplies (uniform, books, pens, pencils and school bags) be extended for two more years. That is when those we registered in the lower classes i.e. those from primary four will have reached primary seven after which they will join the secondary and may be pick up on another programme.

There is need to bring the 300 children into one educational centre, and this therefore requires construction of accommodation facility (classrooms with educational facilities to include hostel for boys and girls to include mattresses and triple beds).

Pulling out the above assistance would not be timely at the moment when the resettlement of IDPs processes to their original places of origin is not complete yet. And if done most of the children will have fallen out of school at very early age and rendered vulnerable again, and all foster parents had hope in the project.

Since the foster parents have acquired business skills on small business management and as most of them are women and widows, we therefore recommend that some grant be given to them as revolving fund to enable them generate income to support their families and improve their livelihood.

PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR 2007:

In the new wave of resettlement in Northern Uganda we plan to carry out an intervention on “Early Recovery to Improve the Livelihood of the 300 children and their host families in Return Areas” of the districts of Apac, Dokolo, Lira, Oyam and Pader in support to psychosocial and educational project just implemented.

This project is aimed at strengthening and empowering the host families by provision of basic farm tools including oxen and improved seeds with short yielding period to each family. This will help them open up land for cultivation which in turn will provide good earning to support their families and the education of these children from the sales of surplus of food.

Soliciting seed grant to support income generating activities for the foster parents formed and trained by CCC. We hope money raised through these activities will go along way in support to the children’s welfare and education.