

## **SEECHILD Research Report Carried out in September and October 2017:**

### **Back ground:**

### **Introduction:**

**The Baseline survey was purposely carried out for the following reasons below:**

1. Identify potential beneficiaries of the skills training centre of SEECHILD at Bunamwaya.
2. Assess needs to be addressed in the training centre.
3. Promote community awareness of the centre and her services.
4. Attract local community support for the Centre.

### **Environmental Description of the area where research took Place:**

The survey took place in the surrounding area of the proposed centre in diameter of 10KM. This area covers the following villages or zones: Kisigula, Katale, Kanaala, Ngobe, Nakinga, Kitebi, Nfuufu, Wankulukuku, Kabaawo, and Nyanama. This area is located in suburbs of Kampala Bunamwaya municipality, Wakiso district Uganda. The population of this area is estimated to be approximately 150,000 residents.

### **Environment description:**

The area where the survey was carried out is mainly residential area mostly for people who work in Kampala city and her surroundings. Its a mixed community of high and low income earners. The area is developing very fast because of influx of city dwellers. As already mentioned above, the settlement structure is not well planned and many slums are developing because there is no strict settlement regulations enforced.

The economic activities carried out in this area are retail trade, open markets, schools, and small service provision units like (bars, churches, clinics, and restaurants) done in rudimentary manner.

Among the major social problems found in this area is prostitution, slums, poverty and addiction of alcohol and drugs. This has lead to wide spread of sexual transmitted diseases like AIDS, domestic violence which lead to family breakdown and negligence of parental roles to mention but a few. These social problems have made many children to be neglected, they are not taken to school and are malnourished.

### **Preparations for Baseline survey:**

**Before the actual start of the survey we did the following:**

1. We printed out brochures with information about proposed services to be given by the Centre and contacts of the directors. We also printed out questionnaires to be used by researchers.
2. We wrote letters to the local government leaders informing them about our activities in their areas of jurisdiction. A total of ten letters were written and handed in person to the leaders. We also had to inform the municipal council chairman of Bunamwaya Municipality.
3. We recruited three more young people. These were graduates from universities. All had some prior experience in carrying out baseline surveys.
4. We bought and printed out SEECHILD T- Shirts, we also bought cups and umbrellas to manage well unpredictable weather.
5. Finally we had a briefing and induction for one day to equip the researchers with necessary skills to be used in the field.

#### **Methodology applied :**

Researchers moved house to house where they were welcomed and had time to talk to the parents or caretakers of children with disabilities. They formed two groups which moved side along the same street, village to village. A total of 10 villages which surrounds the proposed site of the centre were covered.

#### **Findings from the Research:**

The research has been done for nine weeks. The following below are the issues we have identified:

We talked to over 300 parents who have children with disabilities and those who were willing to start next year 2018 were 116.

#### **Children's living conditions:**

Researchers were overwhelmed by the high number of children with disabilities found in the communities visited. Many of these children were well looked after and loved by their parents. Almost 80% of the children visited had never been taken to any form of training centre or school. When our research asked parents why they never took them for skills training they complained of the high fees charged by these specialized training centers and their scarcity. They are not available. Actually in the area we researched there was no single training centre or school apart from one primary school which had integration system with sign language provision for the deaf.

Our researchers also noted parents over protection of these children and too much love that make these children even fail to develop potentials that would make them less dependent to other people's support.

There are many children found in single parent homes. Men have left all the responsibility to women. Actually many women with children with disabilities testified that the moment men get to know that their children are with disabilities they disappear or separate living their wives to toil alone.

Researchers also found out that in the beginning parents used to take these children to hospitals for medication but majority leave the therapy as they get to know that it's a permanent condition. This practice has worsened the condition of their children.

Researchers found one case where caretakers took a children to Chinese and injected her with chemical that made her stunted. She doesn't grow beyond children's size. This child was found in very bad condition. Left to eat on garbage.

However researchers found that parents in big enclosures had many cases of such children and never allowed anybody to see them. Actually they refused our researchers to meet them or talk to them.

The most common forms of disabilities were cerebral palsy and mental disorders.

### **Parent's attitude**

Majority of the Parents we talked to, had a positive and appreciative attitude towards the program of the skills training centre. However their fear was daily commuting as it is a day program. Most of them preferred boarding program.

There were some parents who had some reservations about these programs. They complained that many people had been visiting them promising support but never come again. So they prayed that SEECHILD should not be like those fake Organizations.

Others had fear that the training might be very expensive as it is the case for other similar institutions.

### **Community interventions / Skills training centers.**

As noted above, we found no training centre for children with disabilities in the communities visited. The only institution we found, with some provision was Kamanya Primary School with Deaf department and the training stops at Primary four.

At Kitebi we found some form of arrangement done by local government leaders where children with disabilities are registered and if they get any form of support they are given. They also have one day when parents meet to discuss issues pertaining to them plight. When we talked to the leader she told us that their problem has been where to take these children for training? She welcomed this idea.

We also found a home of children with some children with disabilities run by Sisters of mother Thereza sisters at Kabaawo Zone. However they have no any form of training given.

**Parents expectations and requests from SEECHILD:**

1. All parents we visited requested for the centre to be opened as quickly as possible because it would be a blessing for them.
2. They also requested for transport provision as many cannot afford carrying them on daily basis to and fro.
3. They begged that fees should be affordable as majority are poor and have other siblings to cater for.
4. They also requested for seminars where parents and caretakers can also be given some counseling and skills especially of good parenting.

**Appendices:**

1. Register of Children who need training.
2. Photos taken during research.

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