

SEECHILD NARRATIVE REPORT



2020



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Preamble:

Sustainable and Effective Empowerment of Children with Disabilities (SEECHILD) currently registered as a company limited by guarantee, is a non-profit making Organization mandated to work with children with Disabilities. It has its head office in Bunamwaya Central, Mutundwe Parish in Wakiso District. Her mission is to empower Children with disabilities and their families through awareness raising, advocacy, skills training and research.

Her Vision is Celebrating a skillful and healthy people with disabilities.

Motto: Skilling disarms Disability.

The management is presenting to you a narrative report of all the activities which through thick and thin were done in year 2020.

Introduction:

2020 has been a year characterized by extra ordinary phenomena in Uganda namely: Covid-19 pandemic and political campaigns in the last quarter of the year. These realities affected our normal operational service delivery. We started the first term in February 2020 and had a very big turn-up.

However, in March thing drastically changed due to Covid-19 lockdown and had to change the way we operate in order to remain relevant and functional to our beneficiaries and the Organization in general. We had to cope-up with the new normal, operating within the standard operating procedures as given by the government. This challenge was worsened by loss of the expected revenue to facilitate operational costs namely: personnel remuneration, transport costs to mention but a few.

Despite all these challenges, SEECHILD continued to register steady progress in structural development and service delivery. All these achievements are mainly

attributed to our donors' support namely: Mirembe Foundation, Church in Action, Wereld Missie Hulp, one time support from German through the Missionary sisters of our lady of Africa and Tusaidiane Uganda for the managerial support.

The following were achieved during the year:

1. SEECHILD (BISTC) acquired a second hand van to transport children and staff to the Centre and people with mental disorders to Hospital for rehabilitation.
2. We have followed our children at their homes and given them homework and physiotherapy services.
3. Six vocational trainees have regularly attended their training at the Centre following the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and will be ready to go for practicing these skills in the wider market for income generation by the end of the first term 2021.
4. People with mental disorders who are being rehabilitated have regularly followed their medical therapies and we had no major case of relapse. Around five are hoping to join vocational training at BISTC in year 2021.
5. The community has been sensitized well about the various types of disabilities, their causes, management and good parenting skills. As a result, BISTC is now having many applications from the community for children with disabilities. As per now over 45 applications are on table for assessment.
6. All children at BISTC with physical paralysis due to cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus have started giving significant signs of development because of regular massage given.
7. The staffs of BISTC have been properly inducted in all the vocational skills given at the Centre. These will ably handle the trainees.

8. Two extra classes were added to make four classes at MPIGI though not yet finished.
9. The management identified a new donor who expressed interest in supporting the construction of MISTC. We are very grateful to Tusaidiane Uganda for their contribution they made which realized a comprehensive assessment of the project.

Management of SEECHILD:

During the year, the directors agreed that due to the continuous growth and expansion of SEECHILD both in service provision and structures, SEECHILD needed a Board of Governors to guide the management in strategic decision making and also fulfill the government requirement as far as good governance of the Organization is concerned.

The following people were contacted and appointed for this function for a term of three years:

1. Harriet Nakasi (Director of Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture) The Chairperson of the SEECHILD Board of Governors.
2. Fredrick Kirigwajjo Matovu Secretary to the Board
3. Achilles Kiwanuka (Senior program officer at National Population Control Program)
4. Jackie Musimenta (Directors of Silent Angels Organization for children with Disabilities.)
5. Lydia Matovu (Accountant of CWAS and Director of Chidefia)
6. Christopher Turyayikayo (Professor at the University)
7. Angella Ssali (Director of women's Organization)
8. Engineer Sulaiman Mayanja (representative of people with disabilities at the municipal council)

The Board had its first meeting on 17th November 2020.



First Board of Governors' meeting: Harriet, Christopher, Florence, Fred, Lydia, Achilles and Sulaiman in the wheel chair.

BISTC:

Bunamwaya Skills training Centre (BISTC) is an educational Centre located at Bunamwaya division, Wakiso district and run by SEECHILD Organization. The Centre has various programs designed to help children living with disabilities acquire the following skills given below:

1. Domestic self-sustaining life skills.
2. Communication and literacy skills.
3. Vocational skills
4. Rehabilitation and skilling of People with mental disorders.
5. Awareness program for community member about causes and management of various disabilities among children.

The Centre has 13 staff members.



Some of the staff members of BISTC who were trained in first-aid drills posing with their certificate.

In year 2020 BISTIC registered 40 children who underwent skills training despite the interruption of Covid-19 pandemic.

A. Activities done before the lock-down Year 2020:

Year 2020 has been the most challenging year. Covid-19 distorted all our programs. Whereby, the first term was untimely terminated in March 2020 by the total lockdown which commenced on 18th March 2020 to 4th June 2020. During this time, all activities were at a standstill countrywide and all schools closed not sparing us also.



Mat- making going on and down below is literacy class.



Music, dance and drama (MDD), each trainee is given a chance participate to show his or her potential.



Laundry class going on

B. Activities done after the total lockdown:

However, we started working after the total lock-down, while observing the standard operating procedures. We have done the following to reach out to our target group



Home visits to our children, we managed to get some food stuff for our children and we distributed it to all those who were in dire need.





Vocational skills training continued during the lockdown namely Tailoring, Music, sweater making and crocheting.



We opened the Centre to allow few trainees on vocational program to continue their training in shifts.



Peter teaching trainees how to play musical instruments.

Physiotherapy services done by our staff at children's homes and the Centre;



A physiotherapy service has been given to our children by the staff on weekly basis. Some staff visits our children's homes on weekly basis, giving physiotherapy exercises to those who need it and vocational training like crocheting to those who have severe mobility challenges.



The following children received this service: Zziwa, Douglas, Andrew and Suleiman: and it has helped them realize healthy development despite their disabilities. Below are some of the positive changes noticed and observed in each child after being given continuous massage.

[1] Kayalango Dauglus

- He can now with considerable difficulty feed himself though sometimes he pours the food down.
- He can also sit down without a chair or any other support.
- The mother explained that Douglas has learnt how to use the TV and I also observed him when he was switching on and off the television with his leg.
- He can now shade the work which he used not to do before joining the Centre.
- He has also learnt how to make table cloth using both his arms and legs.

[2] Mwanika Andrew

- He can now walk alone without using the walking frame.
- He can feed himself without any help from the brothers.

- His speech is also improving because he can mention some words.

[3] Zziwa Hunington

- He can change the position.
- He can sit alone without any support.
- He can move himself down from the chair to the floor without any assistance from the mother.
- He has learnt how to crawl from the house up to outside the veranda.

[4] Suleiman [sula]

- The father reported that the legs are getting stronger unlike before getting massage.
- He can also try to stretch his legs
- There is a good flow of blood to the affected legs because they are now warm unlike before when legs were cold.

Staff skills training in Sweater and book making:



Staff and some trainees have learnt sweater and book making skills.



C. Awareness program done by the staff at Kitebi Health Centre 111

We started the awareness program at Kitebi Health Centre 111 on 23rd June 2020. The program is intended to equip mothers and the entire community with full knowledge of various disabilities among children, their causes, symptoms, prevention, and management. We managed to present (share with, teach about) various types of disabilities among children and adults, their causes, preventive measures, management of different types of disabilities at this Health Centre and also advocated for rights of children with disabilities such as; Right to education or skills training, community participation, work, play, respect, friendship and love.

This was done once in every week by our staff at Kitebi government Healthy Centre 111. It was done using different approaches and styles of presentation as the topic of the day dictated so as to attract people's attention and interest in order to convey our message clearly even to the lowest/least lay person present in our audience. The approaches included; composing songs about disabilities, skits showing how the disabled are usually treated in the community, plays showing management of different disabilities, etc. all these approaches prepared a fertile ground from where we saw our message and indeed we hope to reap fatty fruits.

(Illustrated below is a skit done for the mothers at the hospital portraying cerebral palsy condition among children.)



D. Community Mental disorder rehabilitation Program:

On a monthly basis, we take people living with bi-polar condition to the hospital for review and treatment. This activity was designed to help people with bi-polar condition follow medical treatment from the hospital without disruptions.



The first group of Bi-polar patients being taken from to Butabika hospital.



E. Construction of Mpigi Integrated Skills Training Centre (MISTC):



In July SEECHILD received five thousand Euros (5000Euros) from Wereld Missie Hulp. This money was used to build two classes from the foundation level and was roofed. However WMH had already expressed her inability to support the construction of the Centre at a big magnitude.

Fortunately, the management identified a donor by the names of The Congregation of the Sisters of Breda (Congrava). These have expressed an interest of supporting this project. They have also contacted their correspondent in Uganda the Tusaidiane and asked them to assess the project.

We are very grateful to Kees, Sharifa and Team the team of Tusaidiane, for the wonderful job of making a comprehensive assessment of the project, which has already been sent to the donor pending for the donors' final decision.



Kees leading Tusaidiane Team and Fred (SEECHILD) at Mpigi verifying the site

F. Success attained during the period:

1. We have managed to reach out to our children despite the covid-19 lockdown. Massage has been given to those in dire need, some trainers have been training individuals at their homes and also giving them home work packages. No one was left out.
2. Home visits and relief food supply, have strengthened the bond between the Centre and the parents.
3. Acquisition of the van has helped to ease the transport service in the execution of our duties to our children.
4. We got very few cases of relapses especially those with bi-polar problems. This was due to the regular hospital visits which were maintained for all patients.

5. We have managed to prepare six children and are almost ready for graduation. We are sure that by the end of the first term next year 2021, these children will be going for field work and final resettlement for income generation.
6. Staff members have also been equipped with skills to make books and sweaters.

G. Challenges:

1. Facilitation of operational costs has been a big problem. This has been due to the unforeseeable stoppage of the school terms. We lost all the parents' contribution meaning that 50% of our budgeted income was not realized.
2. We have tiny rooms which are not spacious enough to hold six trainees according to standard operating procedures of Covid-19.



Children and staff attending mass in a small room. Sharon, the trainer with literacy class in a tiny room which was formerly for residential purposes.

3. Another challenge is implementing and coping up with standard operating procedures namely: social distancing, sanitizing, acquiring temperature guns and putting on masks.
4. Overwhelming demand of our services from the community. There a lot of pathetic cases from the community which are referred to us and because of limited funds we find ourselves unable to solve them.
5. Facilitating the operational costs of BISTC will be a challenge in 2021. SEECHILD has not yet acquired enough sources of funding namely sustainable income generating projects, abled parents to pay fees, and sponsorship projects for children.

H. Way forward:

1. We have to prepare our premises (unfinished building in the premises) according to the standard operating procedures as recommended by the ministry of Education. This implies acquiring spacious classes and fitting which allow one trainee one desk.



The unfinished building which has three unfinished chambers that can be turned into spacious classes.

2. Acquiring money to buy temperature guns and other sanitization equipment.

3. Look for extra income to bridge the gap of the decreased income. The parents too have been financially affected. Many have lost their job, capital and may not be able to pay for their children.

I. Vote of thanks:

We are very grateful to you our esteemed donors who support our programs: namely: The skilling program at BISTC, Awareness program at Kitebi health Centre111, Rehabilitation program for people living with mental disorders and construction of the Skilling Centre at Mpigi, Your contribution has enabled SEECHILD realize her objectives hence making a positive impact to our target group and community at-large.

Special appreciation go to the following donors for their special contribution during this year: Mirembe Foundation, Church in Action, Wereld Missie Hulp, one time support from German through the Missionary sisters of our lady of Africa and Tusaidiane Uganda for the managerial support.