

# DOGODOGO CENTRE

*“Caring for our children”*

**DOGODOGO - TCC PROJECT**

**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT, 2012**

## **Introduction**

Dogodogo Centre Street children Trust (DCSCT) is a non profit making organization based in Dar es Salaam, established in 1992 and registered in 1995. Since its inception DCSCT pioneered vulnerable and street children services and advocates for child rights. Twenty years of experience and information gathered from more than 2,500 children indicates the reason that street children have left home is physical and sexual abuse due to grinding poverty and HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Against this background DCSCT seeks to empower vulnerable and street children as peer educators to address children’s right to HIV protection. DCSCT also empowers the children by exploring and helping them to discover their talents through art, drama, sports and music. Dogodogo Centre is currently running clay work, art, drama, sports and music programs for vulnerable and street children at two different sites, one at TCC sports club and another one at Bunju Multipurpose Training Centre.

Dogodogo Centre as well extended this program to include children from the community. Art and Music are quite absent from the primary school curriculum and through 20 years of experience, it is clear that children when exposed to Art and Music develop their minds and spirits in a world of creativity. For vulnerable children it is therapy, for the ordinary child it can only unleash initiative and creativity that touches their learning selves. It provides all children with a sense of participation, discipline, and well being. Creativity is the web of connectedness. Our children need to feel connected to their families and to the community and to one another. Art and drama hold our children in the fabric of belonging. Sports teach them discipline.

Together with art and culture work, Dogodogo thought of a Mobile Education for street children since October 2011. The mobile education takes the position that every growth or improvement process of the street child begins in the streets. It states that the only sustainable way to step into the growth process starts with recognizing the child and its environment as central actors in the process. The educator takes the role of a guide and has to recognize the child as the one who takes decisions and makes choices. The programme operates along major road junctions where street children frequently visit and assemble: Morocco, TAZARA and Ubungu areas.

## **Objectives**

1. To empower 500 street children and most vulnerable children in psychosocial, life skills and behaviour change knowledge.
2. To enable children to overcome earlier traumas which forced them to leave home at such an early age and live on the streets.
3. To provide opportunity to 70 children access psychosocial activities as part of non pharmacological management of their problems, raise their talents and expose them to more opportunities.
4. To prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS through raising awareness on HIV/AIDS and other STD among 100 Dogodogo Street Children and those on the streets.
5. To allow 600 children to exercise their rights to play in the protective environment and enable them to discover their talents through drama, sports and music.
6. To enhance 300 children's physical fitness, health and mental ability.

## **Activities**

1. Preparing schedule for sports for all different categories of children who are on the streets in order to produce physical fitness and critical thinking among them.
2. Implementing a well articulated schedule for all the days that children are engaged at TCC.
3. Provision of capacity building workshops and seminars for staff and instructors who are dealing with children under our care.
4. Implementation of Mobile Education on the streets at the three selected centres.
5. Ensure children active participation in all sports and games organized by Dogodogo staff and other stakeholders.
6. Participate in jump rope competitions in the region and continent.
7. Conduct psychosocial workshops to vulnerable children both from the community and from the streets.
8. Participate in national and international festivals and workshops that enhance children's talents and imaginations.

## **Achievements**

1. Since 2005 when the TCC programme was initiated over 400 children have been profoundly impacted through their own creativity.
2. They have engaged in more than 15 local and international Art exhibitions. They have participated 6 times in the Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF) bringing their music and theater skills.
3. Quality of life of most of our children has been improved. Some parents and guardians have given witness to this fact.
4. There has been a remarkable improvement in school attendance.
5. Dogodogo has made many appearances on national and international radio in raising awareness towards vulnerable children, eg. 3x in Radio One and once in BBC.

6. The street children football teams were empowered to play in league games and many children bonanzas organized by other stakeholders in Dar es Salaam. Currently they are preparing for street children tournament that will take place in Brazil 2014.
7. There have been an increased number of children with different talents including singing, dancing, artwork etc.
8. Increased knowledge on how to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and STDs.
9. Increased skills and dialog among children on how to make informed choices and decisions regarding sexual behavior and practices.
10. Increased team work, cooperation and a sense of responsibility among children.
11. Attendance in mobile education at TAZARA increased from 14 to 26, Morocco from 10 to 17 while at Ubungu it increased from 28 to 40 per session.
12. Through mobile education Dogodogo was able to intervene immediately when children were rounded up in the night since information was brought to us just the following morning.

### **Specific achievements**

1. **Art work:** It has helped 20 children to develop skills and raise their ability to express them creatively (rather than just copy pictures and raised cognitive or thinking skills and language development) as they are encouraged to label and discuss their drawings.
2. **Clay art:** A total of 10 children benefited from this programme. Clay art is useful for sensory development, motor skills, self esteem and self expression, problem solving skills, discipline and pride. It also has unique therapeutic qualities that settle and calm children, it retains their attention for hours.
3. **Drama:** A group of 10 children has been equipped with adequate knowledge in drama. The drama focuses on the stress the children experience in the community and provides opportunity of enjoyment in the delivery of theatre performance in clinical settings. It also aims at wellbeing, relaxation and comfort for the benefit of the child and the family. It also lifts the spirit of the sick child when they watch it and help them relax when they go through a painful situation.
4. **Choir:** A total of 20 children have been recruited in choir group. Children have managed to grieve and freed from pain they have been going through for a decade. Many of them live a positive life seeing their future as a bright star following singing talents identified through this programme. In this group they are taught how to play keyboard, sing, dance etc.
5. **Participation to the international events:** For the first time PASADA children had an opportunity to participate in the world's children meeting referred to as "Fourth Forum" of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) which was held in Dar es Salaam in June 2012. Before then they had an intensive training by an international trainer to prepare them for the performance.
6. **Participation to the local events:** More than 60 PASADA children were invited to the dinner and lunch in two separate occasions at the Serena Hotel where they had an opportunity for recreation and exhibition of their

- talents. They were also facilitated to participate in the “Day of African Child” (Siku ya Mtoto wa Africa) which was accompanied by children portraying their talents to visitors.
7. **Sports academy:** 15 children from PASADA have been enrolled in a “sport academy” which is conducted at TCC ground every Thursday. Football teams made up of street children play football a minimum of 3 times a week with bonanzas every quarter organized by Dogodogo centre.
  8. **Capacity building:** Three PASADA staff from pediatric section had an opportunity to attend a one day refresher course on child rights, child protection policy, violence against children and the law of the child Act. During this course we all agreed to promote children protection, prevention and participation and discourage child neglect, exploitation and abuse. This course was held at Dogodogo Centre Bunju.
  9. **Mobile education:** A total number of 48 children who did not know how to read and write learnt to do so through mobile education at the three different locations as follows: TAZARA 13, Ubungo 29 and Morocco 6.
  10. **Jump Rope:** One of our children travelled to America in July and in December for jump rope camping. Two others together with this one participated in competitions and camping that took place in Mombasa from 10-15 December 2012.

## **IMPACT**

1. Quality of life to most of our children has been improved. For example one parent came and said to us: “I don’t know what you people did to my child, he was a smoker, he usually came back late, he used to stay at the bus stop but now he has stopped all these ...” (from PASADA).
2. More children are now behaving well with improved confidence and self esteem. One child asked: “Sorry, I know I am a good singer and I play drums very well, is it possible for an HIV positive child to board a plane?”. She started experiencing a sense of self esteem!
3. A reduced number of children not going to school due to on/off illness. Health wellbeing of all children participating in this programme has been remarkably noticed.
4. Increased number of children with different talents including singing, dancing, artwork etc.
5. Mobile education managed to identify traumatized children and also reduces stress, burnout and idleness. Most of the early new comers on the streets were easily identified through mobile education programme participants.

## **CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED**

1. Few children have been enrolled in this programme compared to number of children under the care of PASADA. This is due to lack of enough funds to enroll more children.
2. Transport system in Dar es Salaam has posed a challenge which cause some children arrive home late after the programme.
3. Fluctuating behaviour of some of the children due to adolescent changes. Two of the girls got pregnancy.
4. Still there is no enough self initiative to support those children from the community.

5. Lack of proper parenting skills among the community members impacting on the behavior of children.
6. Some children experiencing adult roles thus hindering them to attend the programme regularly.
7. Some guardians not understanding the programme well and hence refusing children to be attending regularly.
8. Other stakeholders on research missions pay money to street children hence they are used to demand money even when it is for their own benefit. Mobile education sessions are affected by this spirit since some children demand money to be taught!
9. Some older children who have never attended school refuse young new comers to take part in mobile education.
10. Attendance to some of them is very irregular causing problems for the teacher to follow any pre-planned schedule even at the individual level.
11. Sessions are done in open space and hence when it rains there are no sessions conducted.
12. Children attend the mobile education in view of being enrolled in primary education later something that is not in our plan.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS ON AREAS TO IMPROVEMENT**

1. To promote exceptional talents shown by children in fine art, choir, clay art, football and drama. This can make their future employment thus reduce poverty in their families.
2. Need for more exhibition opportunities whereby children will have a chance of going whether inside or outside the country to portray their talents.
3. Increase frequency of feedback meetings with parents/guardians.
4. Documentation of children activities in a form of a book.
5. To establish a link with the Ministry of Education for sustainability purposes of the mobile education programme.
6. Need to cover more areas by establishing more mobile education centres and reach out to more street children in need of education but this requires more funds that is not available.