

INCREASED AWARENESS ON CHILD LABOUR PREVENTION AND PROMOTION OF EDUCATION

**A MINI PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED BY SOMERO UGANDA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UGANDA
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK (UYDEL), RUBAGA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (RYDA)
AND WAKISO DISTRICT**

PROJECT REPORT

Submitted to

ILO/IPEC-UGANDA

**Prepared by Namwiza Ritah, Rapporteur and Namikisa Barbara,
Field officer**

April 2011

Table of contents

List of acronyms.....	3
1. Introduction.....	4
2. Strategies employed	4
3. Project outcomes	4
4. Implementation process.....	5
4.1 The planning workshop	5
4.2. The orientation workshop.	5
4.3 Children’s SCREAM workshop	6
4.4 Consultation meetings with:.....	7
4.4.1 ILO/IPEC	7
4.4.2 Government Officials	7
4.4.3 Community members	7
4.5. Painting	8
4.6 Launch of the Art Murals.....	8
5.0. Lessons learnt	9
Annex 1: Case studies	11

List of acronyms

SCREAM	Supporting Children Rights through Education, Arts and the Media
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child labour
UYDEL	Uganda Youth Development Link
RYDA	Rubaga Youth Development Association
DLO	District Labour Officer
DPA	District Programme Assistant
SPO	Senior Project Officer
CTA	Chief Technical Adviser
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
SNAP	Support for the preparatory phase of the National Action Plan against child Labour
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

1. Introduction

In February 2010 the ILO/IPEC carried out a communication audit on current awareness raising efforts as well as the effectiveness and the efficacy with which child labour messages are communicated to communities. The findings showed the need for heightened awareness on child labour issues through increased community knowledge and understanding on child labour and informing communities of its detrimental effects and actions that can be taken to protect children and help them reach their full potential. A community framework was also developed and this strengthened the need to involve children and young people in activities such as awareness raising.

It is against this background that Somero Uganda proposed to work with children who are ex-child-labourers to create awareness on the prevention of child labour and the promotion of education through the development of art murals. With the support from the ILO-IPEC, Somero Uganda in partnership with UYDEL and RYDA implemented a three months' Mini programme on **“Increased awareness on child labour prevention issues and promotion of Education.”** in Nabweru sub-county, Wakiso district.

The main objective of the project was to increase community awareness on child labour, the prevention of child labour and promotion of education. This report therefore explains how the project was implemented, the strategy used and its immediate outcomes and lessons learnt.

2. Strategies employed

- Involvement of the local government Authorities
- Child participation
- Community involvement

3. Project outcomes

- The 35 participating children were empowered to become agents of social change.
- 12 Art murals with messages on prevention of child labour and promotion of education were developed on community walls for public viewing.

- A network between the participating organizations, the district Authorities and the communities was strengthened.

4. Implementation process

4.1 The planning workshop

The planning workshop was held at Somero Uganda. It was attended by 5 facilitators; three from Somero Uganda, one from RYDA and one from UYDEL. The purpose of the workshop was to come up with a plan of action which would guide project implementation. The facilitators reviewed the project document, the communication framework and the findings of the communication audit carried out by ILO/IPEC between April 2010 and July 2010. The facilitators also reviewed the popular version of the National Child Labour Policy.

This meeting also acted as a SCREAM refresher workshop for the facilitators who would be training the children in SCREAM.

4.2. The orientation workshop.

The orientation workshop was held at Nabweru sub-county headquarters. It was attended by the sub-county chief, Educational officials from Wakiso district, the District Project Assistant ILO-IPEC for Wakiso, community development workers, parish chiefs, representatives of RYDA, UYDEL and Somero Uganda. Through a presentation by Geoffrey Nsubuga of Somero Uganda, participants were informed that the project would be implemented by Somero Uganda, UYDEL and RYDA. It was also noted that for the project to be successful there was a need to work closely with the Nabweru sub-county officials and the officials from Wakiso district. Participants were also informed that the project would be funded by ILO/IPEC.

In his presentation, Geoffrey Nsubuga indicated that the project would employ the SCREAM methodology to facilitate the exploration of children's ideas on awareness raising on child labour and the importance of education. He explained that the children would come up with 12 art murals which would be painted in places strategically located to attract the attention of the masses.

He explained to the participants that they would also be involved in identifying walls for the murals. Participants suggested several places where the art murals would be painted and these

included schools, markets, implementing and partner organizations, Wakiso district Education department and the Nabweru sub-county headquarters.

4.3 Children's SCREAM workshop

SCREAM (Supporting Children's Rights through Education the Art and the Media) is an education and mobilization tool ILO/IPEC and her partners use to meaningfully engage children in the campaign against child labour. 35 children were taken through a SCREAM training for 5 days. The children were drawn from Somero Uganda and the ILO-IPEC/SNAP implementing agencies UYDEL and RYDA. These children have been withdrawn from various forms of child labour and these include stone quarrying, commercial sexual exploitation, domestic work, sand mining and brick laying. Apart from facilitating child participation, the workshop also aimed to provide information on HIV/AIDS, child labour, gender, education and extensively explored how young people can be agents of social change.

The workshop explored topics such as the relationship between HIV/AIDS and child labour, child labour and gender, the difference between child work and child labour and highlighted basic information on child labour. Facilitators indicated that there is a very strong relationship between HIV/AIDS and child labour and one can lead to the other resulting into a vicious cycle of HIV/AIDS and child labour.

It was also stressed that to eliminate child labour, all the different stakeholders must work together. More so, the role that young people can play was also noted. Participants indicated that young people need to scale up efforts in raising awareness on child labour in their communities. They added that it was essential that other young people become aware of child labour and its detrimental effects to the children and communities so that they can be in position to stand up for their rights and become part of the fight against child labour.

The children noted that various ways can be employed to raise awareness on child labour. Amongst the ways mentioned were drama shows, designing posters, organizing community outreaches, establishing anti-child labour clubs in communities and schools, using sports and painting of community art murals.

Geofrey Nsubuga, the National Coordinator of Somero Uganda explained that the awareness raising campaign would use art murals to sensitize communities on child labour and the essence

of education. The art mural project was intended to encourage artistic exploration and advancement and most importantly to involve young people in the awareness raising campaign on child labour.

The children were involved in coming up with concepts on child labour. These were developed into sketches which were then transformed into art murals. They were also involved in field testing the art concepts, scouting for walls and seeking permission from the owners of the buildings on which they sought to paint the murals.

4.4 Consultation meetings with:

4.4.1 ILO/IPEC

A consultation meeting was held with the ILO/IPEC. This was aimed at reviewing the concepts developed by the children. The coordinator and the administrative assistant for Somero Uganda met with Ms. Jackie Banya-Senior Programme Officer of the ILO/IPEC. Ms. Jackie suggested changes which were integrated into the children's ideas and the final concepts which were to be painted.

4.4.2 Government Officials

On the 11th of February 2011, the Somero team met with the Nabweru sub-county chief, the Wakiso District labour officer and the education officer. Matters discussed included the art concepts developed and the appropriateness of the messages that were to accompany the concepts. These officials suggested places where the murals could be painted and also encouraged the Somero officials to contact local leaders who would help them to locate walls on which the murals could be painted.

4.4.3 Community members

Officials from Somero Uganda also met with local leaders, business owners, schools and parents. They explained to them the idea of developing art murals to raise sensitization on child labour and the essence of education to communities. The idea was well received and some of these community members pledged to give up walls so that art murals could be developed on them. Some of the walls included Mirembe pharmacy, UMEA primary school, Nakyesanga primary school and Kazo Church of Uganda primary sbchool.

4.5. Painting

12 art concepts were developed by the children with the help of an artist. These were to be painted on 12 walls selected by the children with support from the government officials, community members and the officials from Somero Uganda and partner agencies. The sketching and painting was done by the 35 children selected from Somero, RYDA and UYDEL.

Children in schools were oriented about the art murals. These deliberations highlighted the objectives of the art mural project. It is also important to note that during these deliberations, it was emphasized that child labour deters a child from growing to their full potential. They were encouraged to stay in school and also talk to their teachers, parents and local leaders in case of challenges and when they encounter children involved in child labour.

The trained children were involved in:

- Identifying walls on which the murals would be painted
- Approaching wall owners for permission to paint on the walls
- Pre-testing the paintings to ensure that the developed messages could be understood by other young people.
- Explaining to children in schools the messages in the art murals and holding discussions on child labour and the importance of education in shaping a child's future.

4.6 Launch of the Art Murals

The launch of the art murals was held at the Wakiso district Education department on 20th April 2011. It was officiated by the Wakiso District Labour Officer and attended by officials from the Wakiso district labour office, the Education department, publicity department, representatives from partner agencies and some of the children who had participated in the art murals.

Several presentations were made by the children, the District Labour Officer and the National Coordinator Somero. The children's presentations highlighted the fact that many children are involved in child labour but they are not aware that it is child labour. It was also noted that the SCREAM workshop was instrumental in helping them acquire knowledge regarding child labour and skills that they could use in raising awareness on child labour amongst their peers and the

communities. The children also emphasized that “children should not keep quiet; they should feel free to talk about their problems”

The District Labour Officer’s presentation noted that the ILO/IPEC was doing a great job in fighting child labour and mitigating its effects on children and communities. It also highlighted the fact that the Art Mural project was instrumental in raising awareness on the effects of child labour and the importance of education. It emphasized the fact that advocating for education and supporting educational projects was a principle route of preventing children from falling into exploitation.

Other key points highlighted during the presentation were:

- Wakiso district is putting in place ordinances and policies aimed at fighting child labour.
- Several implementing agencies are withdrawing children who have been involved in child labour and preventing those at risk of engaging into child labour by using the integrated area based approach.
- The ILO/IPEC is funding several other implementing agencies which are implementing project activities in Wakiso, Rakai and Mbale district.
- The ILO/IPEC is funding Wakiso district to formulate child labour bylaws.

5.0. Lessons learnt

- Involving children in the various stages of project implementation ensures ownership and commitment and helps them develop leadership skills that can be called on in other initiatives geared towards achieving social change. Because of this involvement, children were given an opportunity to express themselves through art, speech, music and games. This was intended to enhance children’s confidence to express their views and to come up with creative ways of conveying information regarding child labour to the community. Some of the strategies identified by the children included:
 1. Through music performances.
 2. Through staging drama shows.
 3. By approaching the local leaders and informing them about the children involved in child labour.
 4. By carrying out one on one talks to children and telling them about their rights.

- Art can be a very effective tool in helping children explore their feelings and express them without reservations.
- Working with and through partners is crucial in project implementation as it helps in resource mobilization and coordination.

Annex 1: Case studies

Shelo

18 years

Uganda Youth Development Link

Before I came to UYDEL, I was involved in stone quarrying. I was withdrawn and taken into vocational skills training. I learnt a lot from the SCREAM workshop. I was able to learn how to interact with fellow youths because the workshop brought together several youths from other SNAP implementing agencies. I met and made new friends from the workshop and we were able to share ideas and experiences. I also learnt more about child labour and how I can help children who are involved or are affected by child labour.

Equipped with the knowledge from the workshop, I intend to go out and talk to children and parents on the dangers of child labour. I also intend to get involved in campaigns to call upon the government to strengthen and implement policies on child labour.

Claire

16 years

Somero Uganda

I was withdrawn from Commercial Sexual Exploitation by Somero Uganda. I was taken back to school and this year, I will be sitting for my Ordinary level exams. Somero Uganda has been involving us in several activities such as Behavioral change sessions and art activities.

From the SCREAM workshop I attended, I got a chance to interact with other children from other organizations and learn about their past experiences of child labour. I was happy because I could talk to other people who have been through situations similar to mine.

The SCREAM workshop helped me to discover my talent in Art because I was able to put on paper a drawing about things that had happened to me and other children I have seen involved in child labour and other forms of child abuse.

I feel so happy because whenever I pass by our local market I see the painting I contributed to. Whenever I see people looking at it I feel like I am talking to them. It really makes me proud. I hope to take part in other initiatives organized to tell the whole world about child labour and its dangers.