

Family Strengthening Programme (FSP) in Kasoa Ghana



Some beneficiaries at school in Kasoa

A) Introduction

During the period under review, Family Strengthening Programme (FSP) was implemented in Kasoa in the Central region of Ghana. The period under review saw a sustained effort by the project management committee (PMC) members who ensured that the basic needs of Orphans Vulnerable Children (OVC) are met. In this regard, 560 children and their caregivers continued to receive various forms of support

B) Major Areas of Activity (January-September 2009)

i) Project management

Management Committee Meetings:

The year began with management Committee meetings in all the zones. The meetings, which attracted various stakeholders, mainly deliberated on some strategies to ensure sustainability of the project. Specifically, members have expressed their readiness to ensure effective monitoring of the family development plans.



FSP Children in Kasoa discussing issues on children rights

Volunteers Meeting

The project managed to organize monthly FSP meetings at the project sites. The meetings provided a fora to share and exchange ideas on some pertinent issues affecting the implementation of the project. Prominent on the agenda of these meetings were issues relating to sustainability and the future of the project. The meetings were also used to update the FSP Committee members' knowledge in Sexual Reproductive Health issues and record keeping.

Beneficiaries Meetings

Monthly meetings were held for all beneficiaries in their respective zones to provide an opportunity for them to share and exchange ideas. The meetings were used to update the knowledge and skill of caregivers in child care and parenting

c) Access to essential services for children

The project continued to provide food packs containing basic but varied foodstuffs. Items distributed included rice, cooking oil and beans. A total 400 OVCs benefited from these packages. This ensured proper nutrition primarily for the children and enabled them to attend school regularly.

Besides food packs, the project ensured that needy students received educational support in the form of school fees, books, school uniforms and tables and chairs. In all 502 children has benefited from this support. In addition, community volunteers have been paying

regular home visits to beneficiary families to ensure that all children of school going age are in school.

The project covered medical expenses of beneficiaries who cannot afford them. 80 families were assisted to register under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) which guarantees them free medical care.

The project assisted 10 families to secure accommodation. Some of families were sleeping in uncompleted buildings in the project communities. They were given various sum of money to secure decent rooms for their families.

During the period under review, the project also provided counseling for children with emotional and psychological problems. In all 25 households benefited from this support. To ensure that high quality counseling is rendered to participants, a trained counselor with experience in counseling children provides technical backup.

D) Sufficient Family resources



Caregivers undergoing training at Kasoa

Caregivers have been assisted in setting up a business plans based on income generation activities that are economically viable, possible and acceptable. Support is based on the needs of each caregiver and consists of counseling, equipment and inputs on loan.

Sixty six (66) caregivers have received financial support to engage in various income generation activities, some of which include petty trading vegetable and animal farming.

From January to September 2009, over 30,000.00(\$20,000) cedis have been disbursed to these caregivers in all in the zones in Kasoa.

G) Capacity building programmes

Other training programmes

One day training aimed at improving the skills and knowledge of volunteers in counseling have been held in Kasoa. In attendance were 15 volunteers. Issues discussed included importance and steps in counseling. The training was intersperse with role plays

Entrepreneurial trainings were organized for caregivers. The training includes bakery, tie and dye, food processing and animal rearing.

F) Human Resources

The project was implemented under the supervision of FSP Coordinator with support from 3 full time staff and 20 community volunteers from the community based organization

G) Achievements

The food and other support to beneficiaries have helped most households to provide their children with breakfast before they leave for school and this have ensured that children attend school regularly. The need for some children to do menial works to fend for themselves before they go to school have reduced and most of them now stay in school throughout the week.

The enthusiasm and cooperation by the project communities in children rights as evidenced by high patronage of children rights programmes in the communities is strong indication that the communities are willing to deal with children rights issues. They have actively participating in the project and contributed in ideas on some pertinent issues affecting children rights.

All the children of school going age (above 4 years) are in school and are doing well. The provision of school fees, uniform and textbooks has increased enrolment in the schools. The provision of food to the families and have served as additional incentives for many children to remain in school.