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## **Glad's House Advocacy Programme**

The amount of children and young people living on the streets of Mombasa is unknown but we do know it is in the thousands. Children and young people are orphaned or separated from their parents for a range of reasons, including violence and neglect at home. They spend their lives in a daily struggle to eat and find shelter that is safe. Often they are too afraid to go to sleep due to fear of what will happen to them in the night – rape, abuse, and round ups are all too common occurrences. Many are dependent on glue and other substances to alleviate their hunger and fear. They have no home, no school and no family to support them; and are arguably the most at-risk group of young people in this area.

Children and young people living on the street are routinely rounded up by Municipal Security and Police Forces, and suffer violent abuse at their hands. They are frequently jailed in adult prisons for long periods with no trial, or sentenced to long terms in Approved Schools, far away from their families. Glad's House has been working for 8 years with some of the hardest-to-reach children and young people in the city and has witnessed some appalling violations of rights, from broken limbs caused by Municipal Security violence, to death from severe head injuries, to babies with dysentery after spending time in adult prisons with their mothers.

Glad's House has conducted ad hoc visits for several years to provide supplies and support to street children being held in Mombasa's Remand Centres, Police Stations, Prisons and Approved Schools. On each visit staff see many children and young people being held, often with little or no proof of criminal activity or on long-term sentences for petty crimes. It is a terrible injustice to see children imprisoned simply because they live or work on the street and are trying to survive every day.

Glad's House co-ordinated the team of former street children to represent Kenya at the 2014 Street Child World Cup. Whilst in Brazil during the SCWC Conference and interviews, many players spoke of their experiences as street children at the hands of law enforcement and the criminal justice system in Mombasa. Benson, Captain of Team Kenya, was imprisoned aged 13 in an adult prison for simply sleeping on the streets, with no legal representation for 2 months. The power of children themselves becoming Advocates has been shown by Team Kenya's recent participation at the Street Child World Cup. Team Captain Benson has since been asked to sit on Mombasa County's Children's Assembly. With dreams to become a lawyer himself this is invaluable experience for Benson.

Since the Street Child World Cup, Glad's House have identified a need to take a new approach and wish to actively challenge the violation of street children's rights within Mombasa's criminal justice system.

Glad's House new Advocacy Programme will reach street children who are involved in the criminal justice system. Given that almost all children and young people living on the streets of Mombasa have come into contact with the law (whether currently incarcerated or not), means that the programme will support the majority of children and young people we come into contact with.

Glad's House will use football to gain meaningful access to (and build relationships with) Prisons, Remand Centres, Approved Schools\*, Police Stations and Municipal Security Forces. Football coaches, alongside social workers and street workers and pro bono lawyers, will enter institutions where street children and young people have been imprisoned, to offer sports sessions, meet essential needs and advocate for their rights to be realised. The information collected whilst carrying out this work will be recorded in a report to be used to advocate at a national level for the rights of street children in Kenya's criminal justice system.

\*Approved Schools = These are institutions that incarcerate children under the age of 18, run by the Children's Department.

The beneficiaries of this project will be as follows:

**Children and young people living on the streets of Mombasa**

Glad's House already has a strong and well-established relationship with the street community and have conducted Street Work for over 8 years. This aspect of our work with 2 Street Workers and 1 Social Worker will continue with more structure than previously.

**Street children who have been imprisoned in Mombasa's Prisons, Remand Centres, Approved Schools and Police Stations**

These children need assistance and advocacy to ensure they are supported and their rights are protected whilst they are still within the criminal justice system and on their release, in order to enable them to reintegrate home, enter employment, education and/or training

**Prison, Police and Municipal Security Officers, and staff of the Remand Centres and Approved Schools**

These have been identified as key stakeholders to engage with the aim of challenging the violation of the rights of street children who are involved in the criminal justice system.

Our new programme will be implemented through the relationships already built by Glad's House Staff with the street community. Existing activities will be developed and grown based on feedback from children and young people.

Work with the Criminal Justice system and Institutions will take longer to implement due to the need to build relationships and trust. However, Glad's House Street Workers have already begun building relationships with some Institutions and delivering football training on the streets and in an Approved School. The team has already visited one of the Prisons for initial discussions on working in partnership, the structure this partnership will take and headcounts of children and young people in this prison who are known to us. Both discussions with these Institutions have ensured the implementation plan at these Institutions is the right one.

### **Long Term Impacts**

The Advocacy Programme is rooted in the belief that by empowering children and young people living on the streets, as well as those who have left life on the street, to drive the demands for protection of street children's rights, lasting change for street children can be achieved. The long term impacts and results of the outcomes will be:

- Better life chances for children and young people living on the streets of Mombasa, Kenya
- Changed perceptions of children and young people living on the streets of Mombasa, Kenya
- Children and young people in the Criminal Justice System safer, better represented and supported throughout their imprisonment and on release
- Criminal Justice System workers engaged in the issues of homelessness with children and young people
- Children and Young People empowered to become Street Champions and advocate for their rights and rights of current street children
- Sports used to engage children and young people living on the streets and in the criminal justice system

### **Outputs**

- A minimum of 6 children and Young people trained to become Street Champions and Advocates for change
- A minimum of 25 Municipal Council workers engaged in quarterly Open Dialogue sessions and understanding more and responding to the issues facing street children and Round Ups
- Police accompanying Street Workers on Night and Day Street Work to share expertise and knowledge about the issues and every day experiences of street children
- 50 Police officers engaged in bi monthly 'Open Dialogue' sessions and understanding more and responding to the issues facing street children particularly around Round Ups and imprisonment of street children
- 3 Police Stations engaged with Glad's House through football matches and the Street Champions Scheme
- Up to 4 Prisons, Approved Schools and Detentions Centres engaged with Glad's House through Social Work visits and Football Coaching and the Street Champions Scheme
- Up to 25 Prison visits to children and young people, Care Packs delivered and collecting information on their case to build trends and access legal representation if possible.
- Up to 50 football coaching sessions delivered in Prisons, Approved School and Remand Home
- Report produced focusing on violation of street children's rights in the criminal justice system to use to advocate at National Level

### **Methods**

- Data will be collected on participant attendance at sessions (both children and police/prison officials)
- Case studies of young people who have been supported through the Street Champions programme
- Ongoing comparison of intended outputs and achieved outputs
- Interviews on camera with participants of each strand of the Street Champions programme

- Questionnaires to collect qualitative feedback from stakeholders (children and young people, police officers, prison and remand centre staff, community members)