

## **S4S**

### ***Changing perceptions, changing lives***

African children with disabilities are often hidden, locked-up and isolated from society. Nobody believes in their potential. But S4S does! The only precondition is an encouraging environment.

We empower these children to break free from their isolation and surprise society with their potential. We inspire, encourage and coach them to move boundaries. We create lasting change by involving the whole community. We achieve this by:

- Strengthening them through rehabilitation services, adapted physical activity, provision of medication and assistive devices;
- Increasing access to quality education;
- Connecting them with both able-bodied and disabled peers;
- Teaching them valuable life skills and to stand up for themselves in society;
- Educating their families on dealing with disability and create opportunities to fend for themselves economically;
- Inspiring, encouraging and coaching their communities to change attitudes on disability.

We monitor the progress of the children and their families throughout their interaction with S4S to ensure everyone achieves their maximum potential.

### **S4S' Vision**

A world in which disability is accepted and children with disabilities have equal rights and chances as able-bodied people in order for them to fully take part in society and achieve their full potential.

### **S4S' Mission**

To work towards realisation of equal rights and inclusion of children with disabilities and their families.

### **Area of operation**

S4S is based in the UK, The Netherlands and Zimbabwe. All programme implementation currently takes place in the Zimbabwe.



### **Holistic approach**

S4S works to improving lives of youth and children living with disabilities and their families through implementation of holistic and family orientated programmes with a focus on improving access to quality education, health care, social inclusion and sustainable income.

### **Capacity building**

S4S believes that long lasting change can only be achieved through investment in people. Therefore we focus on training and capacity building of local communities, whether they are the caregivers of children with disabilities, teachers or health workers. This creates the most favourable conditions for sustainability of activities in a local context.

### **Awareness and lobby**

S4S raises awareness about disabilities, the rights of children with disabilities and lobbies for mainstreaming disability within education and healthcare with partners and government.

As well as focusing on rehabilitating the child, S4S empowers families with information, training and access to activities that help to raise awareness and advocacy in communities.

## **Holistic approach – programme activities description**

### ***Increasing access to quality education***

Through our outreach work we identify children with disabilities in their communities and refer them for assessment and placement to the School Psychological Services and Special Needs Department. We provide training for special needs and mainstream teachers to cater better for children with various types of disabilities and how to stimulate inclusion within the school systems. S4S has developed Teacher Training manuals specifically for this type of training.

### ***Direct Child Assistance – Healthcare interventions***

Through needs assessment conducted by our rehabilitation technician or referrals from the Government Hospitals, S4S is able to assist with the distribution of assistive devices such as wheelchairs, crutches, surgical shoes and walking frames to children with disabilities. We mediate and plan for corrective surgeries and procurement of medication for these children.

### ***Rehabilitation and Counselling***

With our fulltime Rehabilitation Technician we assist caregivers of children with disabilities with training on how to conduct rehabilitation exercises in their homes. We follow up through home visits and provide counselling to those in need. Disability and Rehabilitation awareness workshops are an important part of this programme to caregivers and service providers.

### ***Non-formal education***

With many children with disabilities being out of formal education, due to their level and type of disability, S4S provides curricula for Life Skills, HIV/AIDS awareness, Disability Awareness and Children's Rights to children with and without disabilities in our programmes. The adapted and inclusive physical activities are used as platforms to deliver these curriculums.

### ***Adapted and Inclusive Physical Activities***

The adapted and inclusive physical activities take place on community and institutional level. S4S trains disabled youth, teachers and caregivers to deliver adapted physical activity curricula for both children with and without disabilities. These activities provide a platform for physical and social rehabilitation and non-formal education such as the Life Skills curriculum and HIV/AIDS awareness curriculum. Both children with and without disabilities take part together, which increases understanding and reduces stigma and discrimination. Through participation in these activities children with disabilities are also afforded the opportunity to participate in the Danhiko Paralympics and the National Paralympics every year.

### ***Parent support and training***

Parents and guardians of children with disabilities are encouraged and provided with training to form Parent Support Groups. These provide a platform to share, link and learn from each other. They invite facilitators of topics of important to them; reproductive health, disability management, legal support and enterprising.

### ***Livelihood development***

Through organised groups of caregivers of children with disabilities, S4S mobilises resources to provide training for community initiated small scale income generating projects. To date the parent groups are undertaking sewing, buying & selling and rabbit rearing projects. The most important programme is the successful Internal Savings and Lending Scheme for which S4S provides training and monitoring.

## **Contact details**

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