



MOVEMENT TOWARDS EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT- SIERRA LEONE (MEYE-SL)

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REPORT ON SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP IMPLEMENTATION IN SIX SCHOOLS IN KORI CHIEFDOM, MOYAMBA DISTRICT.

BACKGROUND:

In the past two years of our School Sponsorship Programme in Kori Chiefdom, we have been supporting ten (6 males and 4 females) children in their schooling with focus on early childhood education. Based on our assessments for the 2017 to 2018 academic year, we realized the impact of our intervention. Two of our male beneficiary children had graduated to junior secondary schools and one of the females had traveled to stay with her aunt in Freetown, where she is now attending school. During the 2019 final assessment we found out that we only had seven (7) beneficiaries on our School Sponsorship Programme. With this we decided to expand the sponsorship to more children within the chiefdom.

With high interest in the need to extend our School Sponsorship Programme to more vulnerable children across the Kori Chiefdom, we decided to participate in the Global Giving Acceleration Online Fundraising campaign. That program lasted for three weeks and ended on the 27th September 2019, and we were able to raise \$ 850 out of our \$ 5,000 goal. We were unable to meet our expected goal to extend our School Sponsorship Programmes to more vulnerable children in Kori Chiefdom. However, with the little funds raised we leveraged to support 15 vulnerable school children with school supplies, and advocacy programmes on the importance of early childhood education in the Kori Chiefdom.

We are most grateful for the generous support from Woodland Young Peacebuilders and our network members through their kind donations in our September Global Giving Accelerator Online Fundraising Competition. It will be instrumental in the implementation of School Sponsorship Support Programme for 2019 - 2020 academic year. This year's project benefitted 15 (7 Males - 8 Females) vulnerable children across seven vulnerable villages in Kori Chiefdom. These children are supported with school logistics which entails, a pair of uniform, a pair of shoe, a dozen of notebooks, a dozen pens, pencils, mathematical sets, sharpeners, and erasers.

Rationale:

- To help empower vulnerable children to attain a better education.
- Inform and educate communities on their roles and responsibilities on promoting child friendly learning opportunities for vulnerable children in Kori Chiefdom.

Methodology:

- The educational outreach implementation was conducted through school to school visitation, which helps us to track all the beneficiaries in their various schools in order to receive their school packages.
- Advocacy: - This forms the basis for the essential role of parents, School Management Committees and stakeholders in providing support for improved educational opportunities for vulnerable children in their respective communities.
- Provision of learning materials to all the beneficiaries in their schools.

Opportunities:

- We were impressed with the involvement of children we supported, and in their education and the response of the community members and school administrations towards formal education, especially early childhood education.
- The visitation made in these communities was very indispensable. We were able to give the sponsored children their school packages to aid their learning process. These packages include a pair of school uniform, a school bag, shoes, notebooks, a mathematical set, pens, pencils, sharpeners, and erasers.

Lessons learned:

- Beneficiaries' willingness and eagerness to participate in the school sponsorship programme.
- We could involve schools and community stakeholders in supporting our educational outreach programmes within the Kori Chieftdom.
- The beneficiaries' parents, guardians and school administrators really appreciated the donations from the organization.

Constraint/ challenges:

- Difficulty in visiting all the schools and community, as a result of poor transportation system.
- The sponsorship donations to these children was not timely, due to the delay in gathering resources for the implementation of the project.
- The learning environment was not conducive for the children and their teachers. Most of the schools visited were without proper classrooms structures, like decent blackboards, instructional materials, and of trained and qualified teachers to teach the students effectively.
- The vulnerability status of the children in the schools we visited was highly alarming for the future of the Kori Chieftdom. Most of the children lack parental attention, and some of the children are faced with impairment.

- The key and significant things in most of those schools we visited are not government approved or supported schools. They were not functioning effectively to yield desirable result. Teachers explained their plights to us in strong terms to address the poor conditions of their schools and also of the accommodations of the pupils with disabilities in the schools.

How coped with:

- Endurance, courage and empathy for beneficiaries and the operational communities.
- Successful promotion in the community of their right to access a better education.
- By exhibiting patience and courage on the part of the project team members, which enabled the activity to be successful.

Recommendations:

- Community Stakeholders, School Management Committees and parents must help to continue monitoring and supervising their children in the schools and community. They must also take the responsibility of maximizing educational opportunities for vulnerable children within the Kori Chiefdom.
- To seek for more financial support, to help us extend the programme to other vulnerable children within the Kori Chiefdom.
- Based on the deplorable conditions surrounding the children in those schools and communities we visited, we are calling on humanitarian organizations, donors and stakeholders to help join hands with us to extend these services to more vulnerable children in these schools and communities for the next academic year.
- Regular monitoring and following up needs to be in place in these schools and communities in order to help engage all our beneficiaries, community stakeholders, parents, and School Management Committees. Monitoring will illustrate how we all can join hands to together in promoting a child friendly education and further maximize learning opportunities for more vulnerable children within the Kori Chiefdom.

EVIDENCES OF SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION



A beneficiary from Mogbondo village signing the consent form together with her parent.



The tailor taking the measurement of one of our beneficiary in Kawella village.



Project team assessing the progressive results of selected beneficiaries in Largo-Kawelma village.



Three selected beneficiaries from UMC School in Taiama receiving their school packages.



A beneficiary from Roman Catholic Primary School in Taiama receiving her school packages.



Three selected beneficiaries from District Education Committee School in Taiama receiving their school packages.



The project leader (Augustine Macarthy) giving some motivational speeches to school children on the importance of education and how they should learn to study hard, come to school always and take their studies seriously. He went further to encourage the teachers and parents to be very supportive to ensure the effective learning process for their children and the success of the project.