

Organization: Light for Children (Ghana)
www.lightforchildren.com

Program: Light for Children (Ghana) Child Sexual Assault Prevention Program

Location: Ghana, Kumasi

Dates: January 1st, 2010 – December 31st, 2010

Mission: Educating 4000 Ghanaian pupils in the Kumasi area about sexual assault prevention.

Overview: Light for Children wishes to enable adolescents to empower themselves by giving them the personal safety skills that will protect them from sexual assault.

All adolescents in the Kumasi Metropolitan Area should feel empowered to protect themselves against sexual assault. Also, all adolescents should feel comfortable to speak freely about past sexual assault experiences, with the confidence that they have a strong community support network.

The structure of the sexual assault prevention workshops, held within a safe educational environment, will encourage the development of strong support networks within the schools. Teachers will become advocates for the students and the students will feel better able to protect themselves. Most importantly the workshops will provide adolescents with the personal safety skills required to prevent child sexual assault.



Project Summary: Four thousand Ghanaian pupils residing in the city of Kumasi will participate in a school-based Child Sexual Assault Prevention program facilitated by specialists such as educators, social workers and specially trained domestic as well as international volunteers. Using a proven educational module, children will learn about personal safety as it relates to sexual abuse and how to protect themselves from being sexually assaulted. Students who are properly equipped with essential information and practical guidelines for personal safety respond assertively to inappropriate situations and are more likely to break the silence and fear still associated with sexual assault.

Project Activities: The primary focus of the program is developing personal safety skills; and increasing knowledge and skill related to preventing/reporting child sexual abuse. Children learn 4 body safety rules:

- body ownership – that is understanding good touch which gives you a “yes” feeling/bad touch which gives you a “no” feeling,
 - saying ‘no’ to abuse, getting help when you have been abused,
 - permission to ask adults questions about other’s behavior,
 - and that sexual assault is never a child’s fault.
- Through school-based workshops and presentations, information about what sexual assault is and is not, identifying “private parts” distinguishing appropriate and inappropriate situations; learning assertive responses to unwanted touching; and naming adults they trust to tell if abuse occurred. Behavioral techniques such as role-playing reinforce the concepts and offer opportunities to practice the skills.



Objectives

The workshop has been designed to achieve the following objectives:

- To enable adolescents to speak freely and confidently about child sexual assault
- To increase adolescents personal safety skills to prevent sexual assault
- To decrease common misconceptions associated with child sexual assault
- To enable adolescents to compile a comprehensive list of community support resources to refer to in the case of sexual assault
- To increase the support provided to adolescents by school faculties. This will be accomplished by increasing their knowledge and understanding of the issue