

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR STREET CHILDREN 2023
REPORT ON ACTIVITIES
BY
SAFE-CHILD ADVOCACY, CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF KUMASI**

***SPONSORED BY
ADAMFO GHANA, NETHERLANDS***



Introduction

The International Day for Street Children is celebrated every year on April 12, to create awareness and provide a voice for children in street situations so their rights are not ignored. The day is set up to provide opportunities for organizations concerned with the predicament of children in street situations throughout the world to stand with them as they voice out their concerns.

The theme for the 2023 International Day for Street Children was “Safety for All Street-connected Children”. Safe-Child Advocacy dedicated two (2) months (March and April) towards implementing activities to mark the International Day for Street Children. These activities included a school awareness campaign, a street awareness campaign, a workshop for street-connected children, a webinar conference, media engagement/advocacy, and a workshop for Child Protection Committees (CPC’s) in three selected communities in the Northern Region of Ghana.



*School Awareness Campaign Team with Students and Teachers of Kwadaso
S.D.A School*

School Awareness Campaign

The School Awareness Campaign was one of the key activities used to mark the International Day for Street Children (IDSC) 2023. Safe-Child Advocacy dedicated the month of March to education and awareness creation in eight (8) selected public and private schools.

Although the IDSC seeks to give a voice to children in street situations, we at SCA believe there are several other children who find themselves in vulnerable situations that are likely to cause them to end up on the street. In this light, school awareness creation serves as a preventive measure to help tackle issues at the early stages and mitigate the occurrences of child streetism.

The schools visited were Aburaso Methodist Junior High School, St. Louis Jubilee School, Emena M/A Junior High School, Vicande Primary and Junior High School, Kwadaso S.D.A Primary 'A' School, Kwadaso S.D.A Primary 'B' School, Yaa Achiaa Girls M/A Junior High School, and Ayigya M/A Junior High School.



Group Picture of the Campaign Team and Students of Yaa Achiaa M/A J.H.S

The aim was to raise awareness on child rights, emphasize the importance of education and the need to access education as a right. The students were educated on child rights, child abuse, types and symptoms of abuse, and child protection. They were also introduced to appropriate civil and state institutions in charge of child protection and cases of abuse.

During the campaign, it was observed that some of the schools had Girl Child Coordinators (teacher appointees) who educate pupils occasionally on sexual abuse and other forms of abuse, a child protection measure we greatly appreciated and encouraged.

After each engagement with students and teachers in the various schools, both students and teachers asked insightful questions, and informative responses were given. Several children who were silently suffering from abusive situations came forward and reported such cases for the necessary interventions to be taken.

The education provided during the campaign was highly beneficial and as a result, the authorities of these schools expressed interest in inviting the Awareness Campaign Team for more education on child rights and child protection on a regular basis. This is a positive indication that the message is spreading and more people are becoming aware of the importance of promoting child rights and protecting children.



***Campaign Team Member Educating Students of Yaa Achiaa
M/A J.H.S on their Rights***



Awareness Campaign Team Sensitizing Students of selected Schools on Child Abuse, Child Rights etc.



Street Awareness Campaign

Safe-Child Advocacy, in collaboration with other organizations working with street-connected children, embarked on a street awareness campaign on the principal streets of Kumasi on Tuesday, the 11th of April 2023. During this campaign, placards were displayed at vantage points on the streets by the campaign team and they interacted with and educated people on the streets on the need to keep all street-connected children safe.



Display of Placards on the Principal Streets of Kumasi during the Street Awareness Campaign



Pedestrians, Vendors, Drivers, and the General Public were sensitized on their responsibility in Keeping Street Connected Children Safe



Display of Placards on the Principal Streets of Kumasi during the Street Awareness Campaign

Workshop for Street-Connected Children

On Thursday, 13th April 2023, a workshop was organized for street-connected children by Safe-Child Advocacy. Although SCA targeted 50 children in street situations for the workshop, 92 children turned up and actively participated in the workshop. The participants were divided into four groups for a focused group discussion. The discussions were on what makes them unsafe on the street, the things that make them feel safe, what can be done to keep them safe on the street, and what plans they have for the future.

After the group discussions, each group presented the outcome of the discussions on their various topics on a flip chart. Participants revealed their vulnerability to sexual abuse, diseases, flooding, theft, cheating, and emotional abuse, among others, which make them feel unsafe. They also called on the government and other stakeholders to support them by protecting their rights and providing them with opportunities for skill training, and educational scholarships.

At the end of the workshop, participants were given some refreshments.

Also, 200 children in street situations received hygiene packs. This was SCA's way of helping them access their right to health. Each hygiene pack contained a pack of sanitary pad, soap, toothpaste, and toothbrush.



Girls in street situation seated for the workshop.



Focus Group Discussion with Street Connected Children in Kumasi





Excited participants with their food and hygiene Packs after the workshop



Workshop participants with staff of SCA and some partner organizations

Webinar Conference

On Friday, 28th April 2023, a webinar conference was organised by Safe-Child Advocacy. Mr. Paul Semeh, the Executive Director of Street Children Empowerment Foundation addressed the theme for the International Day for Street Children, “Keeping Street Connected Children Safe”. The conference centred on what safety for children in street situations is, things that constitute threats to their safety, and what the government and everyone can do to create safety for all children.

The situation of the safety of street-connected children in Kenya and Kumasi was also shared by other speakers. This sharing of experiences was very enriching for participants and led to a discussion around practical ways individuals, organizations, and networks can address issues of safety for children in street situations. One hundred and ten (110) participants from different parts of Africa, Europe, and Canada joined the conference on Zoom, whilst eighty participated through Facebook Live.

Join
Safe - Child Advocacy
TO REFLECT ON KEEPING STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN SAFE

Guest Speaker
Paul Semeh
Executive Director
~S.C.E.F~

Friday, 28th April
10:00 AM
2023

to climax the 2023 International Day for children in street situations.

↑↑↑

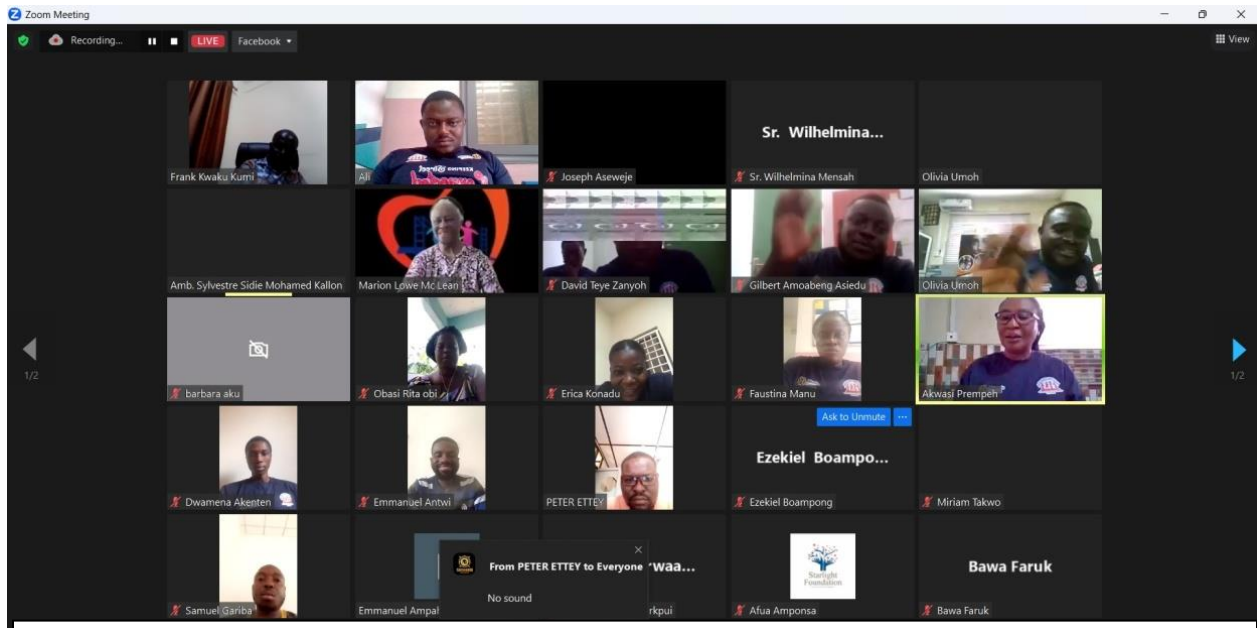
QR Code

Zoom ID : 843 3129 6905
Password : 2023
Bit.ly/Scawebinar7

Host
Sr. Olivia Amoh
Executive Director
~SCA~

For more info. email us on info@safechildadvocacy.org

Partners: Adamfo Ghana SCEF INTERNATIONAL M/V/C/S chance for children



Screenshot of Webinar Conference, April 2023

Workshop for Child Protection Committees in Three (3) Selected Communities in the North

A one-day training workshop was organised on 29th April 2023 for Child Protection Committee (CPC) members and child rights champions in 3 selected communities in the Northern part of Ghana namely Kotingli, Zangbalun, and Gbrimani. This was facilitated by the Centre for Development and Policy Advocacy (CEDEPA), our implementing partner in the 3 communities.

The workshop was aimed at providing a platform for knowledge sharing for the CPC members whilst they build more expertise by updating skills needed for child protection. Participants discussed early detection and management of cases of child abuse, developing indicators for monitoring and evaluating child abuse or compliance with child rights in the three communities.

The opportunity to come together as CPCs working in three different communities was used to evaluate the activities of CPCs in their respective communities. Thus, cases of real or potential child rights violations identified by participants (Negative indicators) and cases of child rights compliance identified by participants (Positive indicators) were revealed (Please find attached a detailed report of the workshop).

In all, 45 people, comprising 21 females and 24 males participated in the workshop.



Participants from the various communities sharing their views at the workshop.





Participants Seated for the Workshop



Group Picture of Partner Organization's Staff and Child Protection Committees

Media Engagement/Advocacy

SCA used the media to reach a wider number of people and create awareness on children in street situations, the need to keep them safe, and ensure their rights are protected. Additionally, we facilitated the release of a short news report on the plight of children in street situations. The story covered the experiences of a girl in street situation and gave a pictorial view of how her daily life on the street looks like whilst calling stakeholders to action.

This is the link to the short news report: (https://streetchildrenproject-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/i_t_safechildadvocacy_org/Ep26ToAfYLVDjR1JWP28GHYBfnuPUBlyzz4O5lFyS7RTYQ?e=c3GjC6)

Conclusion

Gradually, we are building a movement of interested persons and organizations who stand with children in street situations to amplify their voices. Since SCA started marking the IDSC, there has been a significant awakening in the Ghanaian community. Mandated state institutions and other civil society organizations working with children in street situations have joined the move to ensure children in street situations have access to their rights.

We are ever grateful to Adamfo Ghana, Netherlands for fully committing to support SCA take strategic steps towards helping children in street situations have access to their rights as well as the prevention and eradication of child streetism all these years.

We believe that our efforts would someday yield the expected results and lead to the development of favourable policies that focus on empowering the vulnerable in our society and eventually help the total eradication of child streetism.

Reported By

Dwamena Akenten

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

SCA, Kumasi