Introduction

Children’s Gala for Hope is an annual children event organized by Children Reach out Uganda and other children organizations and Companies the gala is where culture, religion are respected and celebrated. Our humility is acknowledged as the thread that unites us all with the children. The gala offers children some time for the first time in their lives a direct experience of what it means to live in Unity, Peace, Love and Care.
Many of the children who attend have experienced Extreme Poverty, Religious Persecution, and Child Labour, violence, Abuse and neglect.

All the children who attend are given Special life skills, Care, Love, Space to heal, Space to Share their stories, a chance to be heard, Space to be empowered, Space to make friends.
GOALS

To deliver relevant activities for children that will aid in their successful development.

To introduce and pair children to community leaders as mentors through group and one on one mentoring activities.

To partner and build alliances with children organizations, Gov’t institutions, private sector to provide resources that will broaden children through activities that strengthen their social well-being.
Access to education is one of the fundamental rights of every child which should be delivered in a conducive and safe learning environment. With the introduction of Universal Primary Education (UPE) and the Universal Secondary Education (USE), the Government of Uganda has greatly improved primary and secondary school enrolment for both girls and boys including those with disabilities. For these programmes to be effective, children need to access quality education and complete the education cycle in an environment free from violence. However, available research shows that violence against children in Uganda is widespread and occurs in almost all settings. Violence against children in schools has adverse effects to children including undermining their right to access quality education. However, most cases of violence against children in schools go unreported.

Definition and forms of violence against children in schools and its impact

Definition

The UN Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) defines ‘violence’ as all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse. Violence against children in school refers to all acts of violence inflicted on children of school going age 3-18 years within the school setting. These include:

1) Acts of violence on children in schools and during school activities,
2) Acts of violence on children on their way from homes to schools,
3) Acts of violence on children on their way from schools back to their homes.

Magnitude of violence against children in schools in Uganda

Violence against children in Uganda is widespread and occurs in almost all settings. According to the study on the Violence against Children: the Voices of Uganda Children and Adults, 98% of the children aged 8-18 years interviewed had experienced physical

According to Raising Voices and Save the Children in Uganda and emotional violence; 76% had experienced sexual violence; and 74% had experienced economic violence with 24% of the children indicating that the violence occurred at school. Further still the Ministry of Education and Sports and UNICEF though the National Study on Assessing Child Protection Safety and Security Issues for Children in Uganda Primary and Secondary Schools found out that 77% and 82% of primary and secondary school students respectively had experienced sexual violence while 5.9% of children were subjected to defilement. Similarly 70% and 57% of primary and secondary school students respectively had experienced corporal punishments.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1) Educate children the importance of reporting and responding of violence against children in schools.

2) Equip children in schools with tools to enable them report violence against children in schools to relevant authorities for appropriate action in conformity with the existing laws.

3) To prevent and respond to violence against children in schools through empowering children.

4) Support children to stop violence against them in schools.

5) Create awareness on violence against children in schools.
This time round the children’s gala for hope 2017 started from schools through our schools outreaches and we covered 30 primary schools in wakiso and Kampala in period of 2 months, over 9000 school children were empowered about violence

The turn up was good we had 600 school children and 89 adults (teachers, parents, facilitators)

Children had workshop training on violence in their groups according to their age with the help of Uganda child helpline (SAUTI 116), Batalo East, Children Reachout Uganda later children did presentations on violence through Music, Dance & Drama and Poems, which was an opportunity for most of the children to participate

One of our partners Erick and Meaghan supported the children transport for all the 600 children to attend the children gala 2017; which helped us to start on time

We had a children panel of children from different schools for the first time, sharing their life experience on violence and what they think can be done to stop violence also what they are going to do to stop violence in their schools

We gave out scholastic materials, stationary to school children and schools provided by shoprite Uganda and Game store Uganda during our schools outreaches

We had all schools together dance performance on violence which was facilitated by Batalo East; it was the performance of the day

We managed to invite schools in wakiso district this time

Mrs kotecha the director of rainbow international school gave a motivational speak to the children as a mother and Hope Natukunda, a girl child activists both encouraged children to always to be strong and report any kind of violence both at school and home
CHILDREN PANEL
LUNCH TIME
FACILITATORS
GROUPS SESSIONS
CHILDREN PRESENTATION
PARTNERS CONTRIBUTIONS

DRINKING WATER was covered by JIBU Water

FOOD was covered by Erick & Meaghan Condon Family and Rainbow International School Uganda

CHILDREN TRANSPORT covered by Erick & Meaghan Family

STATIONARY AND CHILDREN GIFTS covered by Game Store Uganda

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS covered by Raising Voices, UNICEF, Uganda Childhelp Line SAUTI 116

AMBULANCE AND MEDICAL TEAM covered by UMC- Hospitals

DECORATION covered by Children Reachout

VENUE AND CHAIRS covered by University Community Fellowship

SOUND covered by Children Reachout

BREAKFAST FOR 50 TEACHERS, 20 FACILITATORS covered by Nurture Africa

CHILDREN SCHOLASTIC MATERIALS Provided by Shoprite Uganda

SCHOOL OUTREACHES covered by Children Reachout

EVENT COVERAGE covered by MEDIA VISION ACADEMY
WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN?

Violence against children manifests in many forms. It has become normalized and entrenched in how we relate with children and therefore a holistic, multifaceted, long-term, and a comprehensive response is required to address this problem.

What does this mean in practice?

First, we must insist that children play a central and a meaningful role in all the efforts aimed at addressing violence against them. They must be protagonists for their own cause and their experience, views and ideas must form an integral part of any intervention aimed at preventing violence against them. We must learn new ways of listening to them and learning from them.

CHILDREN

1.1 CHILDREN SUPPORT EACH OTHER Respect all children and listen to them. Help your friends, fellow students or your neighbors who are experiencing violence.

1.2 WORK WITH LOCAL ORGANISATIONS Approach a local organization (NGO or CBO) to help you work with your teachers to develop rules about how corporal punishment is used in your school.

1.3 TEACH OTHERS Learn from local child friendly organizations about ways to avoid violence at home and at school and teach other children about it.

1.4 BECOME INVOLVED Learn about the consequences of violence on children and talk to adults, teachers and other children about how it is hurting everyone.

1.5 DISCUSSION CLUBS Start a discussion club of children at school or in your neighborhood about violence against children. Discuss how it happens, who commits it, how it makes children feel, how you can support each other and what action can you take as children to prevent it.
RECOMMENDATION

1.6 CHILDREN’S COMMITTEE Organize a committee of children in your school or neighborhood that will hold children who bully other children accountable. Involve teachers or LC1 leaders to help you set it up.

1.7 SPEAK OUT Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper or probation officers drawing attention to violence that may be occurring in your community.

1.8 LEARN MORE Ask your teacher to talk to your class about violence and how it affects children and what can be done to prevent it.

1.9 SAFETY FIRST Remember in all these actions, your safety must come first Seek help from others if you feel you are in danger.

2. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

2.1 CODE OF CONDUCT Develop a Code of Conduct at your school to which all staff and the administration are required to adhere, including a written directive on what happens when a staff member contravenes the code.

2.2 STUDENT COUNCIL Establish a Student Council in your school that represents all students, reports students’ concerns to the administration, and advocates on students’ behalf. The Student Council should consist of elected students trained to discharge their duties as representatives.

2.3 POLICY AGAINST VIOLENCE Create a written policy against violence in school that emphasizes the responsibility of administrators and teachers regarding adult- to-student violence, inappropriate disciplining, and violence between students (bullying). Post the policy on public notice boards within the school. Write an annual report regarding the implementation of the policy, and submit it to the Student Council for comment.

2.4 TEACHER TRAINING Ensure teachers receive training on the alternatives to corporal punishment, the consequences for disobeying the school’s policy against violence, and how to protect students from older children or other teacher’s inflicting violence.
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2.5 SUPPORT TO CHILDREN Keep at least one teacher on staff at all times who has training in how to respond to and support children who are experiencing violence. Children should be assured that this service is confidential and will respect their wishes regarding action to be taken.
The gala was prepared quite well and progressed smoothly in accordance to the schedule. A few weaknesses manifested were inevitable to avert, after all they serve as indicator of rectifications and corrections.

Otherwise we look forward to meeting Every Child, Parents, Teachers, School Administration and all the stakeholders to better next year’s Annual Children’s gala for hope 2018. Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year to you Partner

NOTE

We want thank you for the contribution advanced for the 7th annual children’s gala for hope 2017 In addition to this narrative report submitted to you it is shared to all stakeholders like, Schools, Gov’t Ministries, NGOs, CSOs, Media Houses and to all our partners internationally and locally

Yours
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