

REPORT ADAMFO GHANA

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR STREETCHILDREN 2018



**EQUALITY FOR
STREET CHILDREN**

STARTS NOW!

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN

GET INVOLVED!

By Street Children Project Kumasi

Introduction

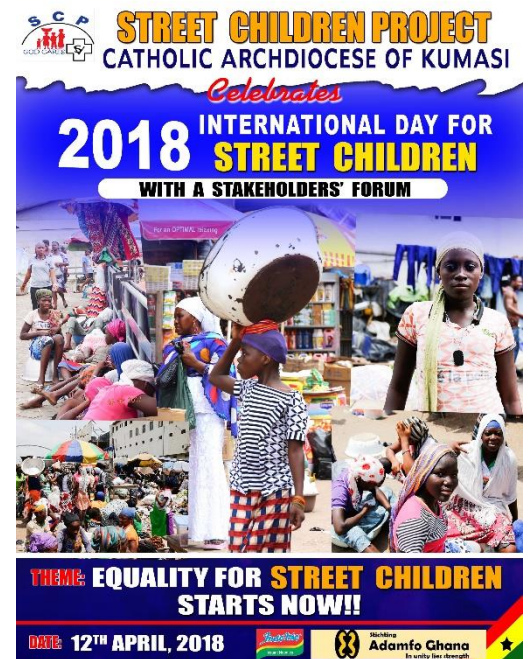
The International Day for Street Children is marked annually on the 12th of April. The day provides a platform for the millions of children on the streets around the world and their campaigners to speak out so that their rights cannot be ignored. It also serves as an opportunity for nations together with NGO's, Civil Society Organisations etc. to reflect on the plight of street children, assess the progress of programs and interventions and strategize on the way forward to help these children become beneficiaries to themselves and society.

Every year The Consortium for Street Children (CSC) releases a theme for the International Day. The theme for the 8th edition of the International Day for Street Children celebration is **“Equality for Street Children starts here. Let's make it happen”** and we invite all of you to **“Get Involved!”**

As previous years Street Children Project in cooperation with Adamfo Ghana, organised a number of activities to mark this day. With these activities we want to empower street children to claim their rights and create awareness regarding the plight of street children to the public.

This year 2018, we carried out two activities to mark the International Day. We organised a stakeholders' forum to ask the Ghanaian authorities to show more interest in the issue of street children; develop policies that include structural solutions to the phenomenon. Aside from the forum we held a month-long sensitization campaign in schools.

This report presents the activities SCP embarked on during the International Day for Street Children celebration 2018.



“There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way of which it treats its children” ~ Nelson Mandela

Sensitization programme/ awareness creation

Street Children Project embarked on a sensitization programme for a month long as one of the International Day activities of 2018 with the aim to raise awareness and educate the young people and the public on the risks of street life and benefits of education. This to prevent children dropping out and become 'street children'. During this period staff, students of KNUST, and beneficiaries visited twenty (20) schools in Kumasi to educate students, teachers, parents, and communities on this topic. The programme was very successful as children were asking many questions and SCP was invited to come again and educate the children more on this subjects.



Media

Aside from the sensitization programme in the schools and churches we also carried this programme out through the media. Staff were hosted on different media stations and media covered the whole event on the 12th of April. After the programme this was broadcasted on the television as well as written articles that come online like the following:

<https://globalnewshubgh.blogspot.com/2018/04/scp-marks-2018-international-day-of.html?m=1>

International Day for Street Children 12 April 2018

The chairman of this occasion Most Rev. Gabriel J. Anokye (legal owner of SCP) gave a welcome address and launched the celebration with special attention to the theme: "Equality for Street Children Starts Now. Let's make it happen." After the welcome address the special invitees were called forward to address the public on how they fight the phenomenon streetism. Below an overview of the outcome of speeches given during this occasion.

Presentation of the project: *"Let us join forces to chase away this ugly monster to give equal rights to all children"* By Sr. Olivia Umoh, Project Director

Sr. Olivia gave a presentation of Street Children Project which included activities, achievements, sponsors and gave an overview of why we celebrate the International Day for Street Children. She pleaded that Government and traditional leaders should initiate policies which would protect the children rights. By implementing these policies; SCP and other civil society organisations should be involved in the planning and implementation to prevent a waste of resources. She continued by seeking support of the Government, invited guests and other stakeholders in addressing the problem of streetism and compliment the efforts of international help. Sr. Olivia ended her presentation by recognising all the guests who came to the forum which was a sign of their commitment to counter the problem of streetism.

Ghana Immigration Service (GIS): *"How Ghana Immigration Service is addressing the issue of Child Migration and Trafficking in the Metropolis"* by the assistant of the Ashanti Regional Commander of Immigration

In his presentation the assistant of the Ashanti Region Commander of Immigration gave out the work of the Immigration (e.g. prevent unsafe migration), definition of who a child is and as well stressed on the impact of child trafficking on the vulnerable. He also gave out their mandate towards the nation and how they are addressing the problem of streetism as they are those in charge of our borders (by campaigning, intelligence unit etc.). He concluded that the public should be security conscious and report any issue concerning child trafficking and that GIS will continue collaborate with other stakeholders to fight the child trafficking menace in the region.

Ghana Police: *“Practical Ways the Police as a Law Enforcement Agency Protects the Rights of Street Children”* by Ashanti Regional Police Commander



In his speech, the Ashanti Regional Police commander uttered that a stop should be put to child marriage and that children on the streets are also our children. He also gave out the constitution of the police which mandate them the rights to protect every child. He spoke about the Children’s Act as one of the policies protecting the right of every child in the nation. They collaborate with Department of Social Welfare as one of the agencies to protect these rights. The Regional Commander concluded by saying that our children are our incoming future leaders so maximum protection should be given to them.

“Children on the streets are also human beings!”

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection: *“How the Ministry is implementing Policies to Practically Address the Issue of Children on the Streets”* by representative of the minister

The representative started by recognising the problem of children in street situation and giving out that it’s difficult to determine the number of Street Children. She emphasized on the social problem relating to children of which Child Trafficking was part. She emphasized also on how children are abused on the street and how it contributes in bringing about all manner of crimes in the society. She uttered that a policy has been developed by the Ministry which is **“Operation get off the street now for a better life”**. This policy is yet to be initiated to eradicate streetism of which strategic plan have been developed and an implementation technic community have been formed and its functional. She gave an assurance that the Ministry will ensure that the policy is initiated to address the problem of streetism. She concluded by calling on all individuals and offices to participate in getting children of the street.

“Government should not say we should not be on the streets. They should not harass us if on the street. We should be accepted.”

Department of Sociology and Social Work: *“Who is interested in the issue of street children?”* by Dr. E. Manful

Dr. Manful from the Department of Sociology and Social Work of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) gave out a brief speech on ‘who is interested in the issue of a street child’. She spoke about the fact that children on the street have the right to be on the street, though it is not the best for them. We should look for ways how we can make their lives better while they are on the street. Dr. Manful concluded that the offices/agencies can help in making the life of street children a better one through policy formulation.

“Living on the street does not mean that we cannot have rights.”

The Ashanti Regional Minister: *“The Position of the Regional Administration on child streetism”* by Representative

The representative from the Regional Minister Office started by addressing the issue of street children; that is has become one of the commonest societal problems of Ghana today and that society seems to have accepted it as a phenomenon in the nation. She continued with stating the position of the Ashanti Regional Co-ordinating Council on the issue of Street Children. She uttered that the council is in line with the policy of the government passed on through the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection. In ensuring the implementation of all governments intervention the council monitors and works closely with the Department of Social Welfare, Community Development etc. She also emphasized on the new policy developed and concluded by ‘urging officials and stakeholders to participate in the project as well as gave assurance that the suggestion given by Gladys in her speech would be sent to the office of the Ashanti Regional Minister.

“We don’t want help, charity, pity. Governments should work with the community to give us rights”

Solidarity speeches by NGO’s and other organizations: representatives from African Development of Migration Tamale (AFDOM), Street Girls Aid, Catholic Action for Street Children (CAS) Accra, Operation Mobilisation Ghana, Defence for Children, the Regional Child Protection Committee, the Kayayei association and others gave brief speeches on the services they render to street children and other vulnerable children in the society. They mentioned different organisations they work with and concluded by urging each office and individual to work together so we can do more for these children in street situation.

In between the speeches of the different offices and organizations a fundraising section was organized where people were called to donate, buy the International Day t-shirt from SCP,

and the public could buy handmade products (bags, purses aprons etc.) from the Vocational Training Centre. Whiles the program was going on inside more than 1000 children gathered outside to join the event. Some of them where later called inside to display their cultural dance to the public. Gradually the program came to an end with the sharing of food to the public and all the children that gathered. Jessica Deh (program manager) gave the vote of thanks where after the chairman Most Rev. Gabriel J. Anokye (Metropolitan Archbishop) gave the closing remarks and ended the program with a prayer.



“No child chooses to live on the streets”

Overview of the Int. Day Celebration



VOICES OF STREET CHILDREN

Two beneficiaries of SCP were also called forward to give out their experiences while on the street, their present situation and make suggestions to the Ministry in addressing the problem of streetism.

D: "With my street experience, I crave to advocate that, Children on street are not good for nothing neither are they brainless nor talentless. But what they need is deliberate attempt from the government, charity driven organizations and persons to help them get trained or educated and they can become good Christians or Muslims and responsible citizens."

D: "I wish to humbly plead with the government to roll out policies and programs such as, scholarship schemes to support the less privileged, and also to establish industries and factories to offer employment for the parents of these young people and again, to support charity foundations such as the Street Children Project in their quest to reunite children on the street with their family and also help them get trained or educated in order to become useful in the society.



"Give us an opportunity to change our story"

G: Read the story of a street child. From there she continued to by pointing out suggestion on how government can help children in street situation. The representative of the Ashanti Regional Minister asked for a copy of her speech to be given to the Regional Minister. Meaning? G was straight to the point. Both D. and G. made with their stories and suggestions *made it happen!*

Conclusion

Street Children Project celebrates every year the International Day for Street Children. This year's International Day celebration was exceptional because we invited all stakeholders who are concerned with the plight of street children and vulnerable youth. We invited them for a stakeholders' forum to discuss the phenomenon of street children in Kumasi, and Ghana as a nation. During this forum all of them had the opportunity to share their concerns, responsibilities, and commitments towards street children.

We are very grateful with the response of the special invitees, and all invited guests to this forum to make this day such a big success. We hope to have more of these platforms to enlighten the public and to discuss what we can do more together as stakeholders towards the problem of streetism. We would also like to express our gratitude to the beneficiaries of SCP who went to the different schools in Kumasi to educate their peers on 'streetism and benefits of education.

To our donors: many thanks! Adamfo Ghana our partner from the Netherlands; it is with your constantly support that we were able to celebrate this day. Indomie: thank you so much for your response and commitment to cook for our guests and children during this event. Edna Brouns our Dutch volunteer who sourced for funding and all others who donated we couldn't have done it without you. It is our wish that SCP in collaboration with all the stakeholders will make ***"Equality for Street Children. The time is now! Let's make it happen. Let us all get involved to save your children and our children."***



"Everyone can help stop streetism"
