

CAS annual REPORT 2019

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Catholic Action for Street children
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INTRODUCTION:

Dear Reader,

We have concluded another year of working with street children. Our researches, interventions and interactions have given us a lot of knowledge about street children. The year 2019 has become a very historical year because we have come to a series of conclusions which could be very helpful for future interventions with street children in Ghana.

Conclusion 1. Not one “uniform” group of street children exist, but there are several groups. This means, when talking about street children you have to mention one particular group That you are referring to. The categories are:

a. **Migrant children** are those who come from the rural areas of Ghana. They are alone or with friends and often do not have any accommodation. They sleep in the streets. Some have a poor educational background.

b. **Urban poor children** are those who live with the parents or with single parent/their mother in a “kind of a house”. These children have a “home” to go to in the evening. Some have obtained some level of education and are partially protected by their parents.

c. **Future generations of street children.** These children live often with their mothers in the streets. The mother and father are street children or street young adults. These children have a very poor educational background. They often do not know how to behave and have no interest in education. They do not understand the word future but live from day to day.

When preparing interventions for these three groups, the interventions have to be completely different in design (structure) to be able to obtain good results.

Conclusion 2. The main reason why children of group one and three are in the street is the break down of families. Although these families and individual children are poor, it is not the main reason why they are in the street. Neglect, indifference, and lack of care are the main reasons. Therefore; it is a social need which should be addressed as such.

Conclusion 3. It was encouraging to know that the NGOs were able to exchange ideas about street children with Government officials. Both groups were trying to find solutions for the many children who are in the streets. However, we are yet to see the desired results but there is hope that this dialogue continues. Neither the NGOs and the Government can solve this huge problem alone. It needs a collective effort.

Government has indeed the duty to protect the children while in the street but both parties have to concentrate on the families to find solutions.

We are of the opinion that churches, associations, societies could be instrumental to assist families who are in difficulties. Churches could pay more attention to those who are divorced as well as support single mothers, for instance.

Churches can also introduce after marriage counseling as a way of assisting newly married couples to understand marriage.

They could open youth centers where all youth of various denomination are welcome. Schools of the diocese could allow children of poor families to enter and give them free education.

However, there seems to be not much hope for all the children and young adults already in the streets. Solutions can only be found on individual bases. It appears there are no solutions for the main group of street children.

Society should never accept that children live and work in the streets. They do not belong there but they should living in a family setting.

There are groups and individuals who try to glorify this phenomenon, but we are of the opinion that this is completely wrong.

All these findings are published in the booklet “The Ghanaian street-child” which can be found on CAS’ website; www.casghana.org.



Staff:

CAS staff is composed of social workers, administrators, teachers and instructors. In total 34 are employed. A small group of workers, works at Hopeland center, some members of staff go to the streets, others are do teach or are introducing skills to the children. There are members of staff who does dual duties especially those who go to the streets.

Recently, we have updated the “personnel-guide”. Every member of staff has a personnel guide which describes what CAS expects from an employee.



2003 Forum consortium

Volunteers:

CAS staff are assisted by volunteers, students: expatriates as well as Ghanaian. Often they are students who have to learn the practical fieldwork. CAS understands that, the students have to do the internship assignments from the university or schools, but their main job should be assisting the staff of CAS in carrying out the various jobs mentioned on the timetable which is to help teach the children.



Board of Advisors:

The Board of Advisors of CAS welcomed two new members. We are very grateful to the members who resigned. The replacements are often as a result of new job descriptions and positions in various departments taken up by them.

In 2019, the Board of Advisors met three times while the Heads of Departments of CAS met separately for four times.

Fieldwork/ Streetcorner education.

Members of staff visit the streets daily. They do street-work and follow-up work, but also educate the children during street corner education sessions.

During the year it became necessary to conduct a mini survey in the city because of the situation in the city changed a lot. Several members of staff were asked to assist the fieldworkers so that many areas in the city could be visited and explored for information.

Although we know the areas where the urban poor families reside, we were wondering whether migrant and second generation children also reside there.

Findings reveal that the various groups do not mix. Finally, we selected three areas in the city to work where most of the migrant children stay and live.

A new program for the street education was made and workers continued with their job. However, at one location, the Metal scrap Association prevented our workers to enter that area. The dispute was about publication. The Association was of the opinion that, CAS was behind the negative publication about dump site of computers and printers and other electronic material. Some sensational documentations were made and shown on foreign TV stations. After thorough discussions we are able to enter the area again, but the dispute has not been settled.

The streetcorner education program is very important to CAS because it is in fact the first contact point of CAS workers and street children. We will re-discuss this program plans made for continuity in 2020.



Donors who support Fieldwork: Family Rijbroek and Stiphout

House of Refuge:

Every year we experience a period in CAS where the number of children visiting CAS reduced. The reasons are, during the Christmas period many children travel home and some do extra work when they come back from home because they are in debt. It was the same during the first month of 2019. Sometime it is difficult to carry out the regular programs and staff has to be creative to work with a few children. Those who are learning skills have to attend the training centers as usual. We have decided to examine closely the number of hours children are being trained. Some are not ready to sit for the exams when the time comes.

TOTAL NO_ OF CHILDREN REGISTERED	NO_ OF BOYS	NO_ OF GIRLS	NO_ OF NEW CHILDREN REGISTERED	NO_ OF NEW BOYS REGISTERED	NO_ OF NEW GIRLS REGISTERED	AVERAGE AGE LIMIT
1085	477	608	184	85	54	17

Functional literacy:

Trust and Confidence must be built between the children and the Teacher.

The Teacher must understand the problem of the child.

Better communication through counseling must be improved. Working with child to gain self-esteem is paramount.

Counseling about how to communicate with others and staff should be encouraged

It is important that the children learn to be responsible about their personal hygiene and their own lives.

All these are achieved through a teaching program at three different levels. A meeting was held at CAS last year to be sure that all staff understands this functional literacy program because it is taught at the Refuge as well as at Hopeland. Several members of staff were involved. Some work in the field, others at the classrooms and some on the sports-field.

Records should be kept at all times for information and monitoring.

We introduced a lesson called "Measurements". All those who learn a skill or a trade come in contact with measurements one way or another. These lessons are very helpful.

Instructors can repeat the lessons practically.

While evaluating 2019, we concluded that two more topics have to be taught but this time the instructors become the "students". One topic is cost price calculation and the other marketing. We will try to include them in 2020.



Library:

The children were assisted at the library to read and play the educative games on the computers. Story telling is another method.

Children were made to tell or describe various interesting stories or movies they have ever heard or watched to the class after which the other children were asked to share how they felt about the stories and the following questions were asked.

1. What lesson can be learnt from the story?
2. Which part of the story was interesting?
3. Which part of the story was sad?
4. Which part could be acted?

CAS has a library with many simple English stories. Almost all the children should be assisted and again this exercise is also an individual learning process.

Computers:

The House of Refuge is situated close to the sea, the Gulf of Guinea. The results is that all items made of metal become rusty. Therefore, it is skill to keep the old desktop computers in good order. The teachers have to learn how to maintain them. The Linux program has been installed on all of them and the children enjoy the computer classes.

Clinic:

CAS runs a clinic at the House of Refuge.

Total number of cases reported to the refuge clinic was 194 and 4 pregnant girls were referred to the street girls Aid center. The clinic recorded nine teenage pregnant cases and three abortion cases.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES TREATED

STD	10
ABORTION	3
WOUNDS	41
COLD/FLU	20
DIARRHEOA	8
CANDIDIASIS	8
GASTRO-ENTERITIS	20
PILES	5
DIZZINESS	5
MALARIA	29
HEADACHE	45

HEALTH EDUCATION TOPIC TREATED

STD, FAMILY PLANNING, PERSONAL HYGIENE, ORAL HYGIENE, TEENAGE PREGNANCY, MENTRUAL CYCLE, PILES AND EFFECT OF ABORTION.

Items distributed.

Assorted clothes, shoes, sanitary pads, tooth brushes and paste, buckets and baby clothing were given to the children.

Counselling:

Counseling can be said to be the process of helping and supporting a person to resolve personal, social, or psychological challenges and difficulties. At the refuge center, individual counseling was held for both gender of children as well as individual counseling, just so to help shape the life of our street connected children.

impact

- 1, career counseling has helped most of the children to pursue the right type of trade to go in for whenever they are confused between two career options.
- 2, it helped them to make important decisions about their life
- 3, it helped prepare them to meet future goals.

challenges

- 1, children do not come out to express themselves properly.
- 2, children are often influenced by their peers and turn to pay attention to them even more than the social workers.
- 3, due to peer influence, they keep coming with the same problem.



Drama:

During the year, the children were taken through the following drama exercises: Reciting Poems, Rhythm clapping, Emotion Car, Emotion Box and Mirror and image exercises.

During some of the feast days held, a group of children dramatized a story. These stories are often traditional stories which they have heard in the past. They take place at villages.

Sports/games:

Sports and Games is to provide children with the opportunity to achieve their full potential through initiatives that promote personal and social development.

This year has not been that easy because the children were not coming in large numbers at the beginning of the year. In the middle of the year we were able to get quite a number of children in the refuge.

We were able to train both boys and girls in Handball, Basketball, Volleyball and Football but the girls were trained more in Handball, Volleyball and Basketball.

We had the opportunity to play a volleyball match with Mamprobi Senior High School which served as a big motivation for the children. They were happy they have gotten the chance to compete with a School outside. They were able to make friends with the school children and it also built their self-esteem and confidence.

IMPACT:

- Helped children develop physical skills
- It helped children make friends and have fun
- It improved their self-esteem and confidence
- Exercising made them fit and strong so they were not becoming sick
- It taught them how to communicate with others and work as a team
- It reduced the amount of fighting among the children

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Entertainment:

Children's play has been viewed as important for helping foster development of their social behavior and also sharpens their skills and talents.

Physical activities like dance kept the children physically fit and healthy. Activities like Salsa and Choreography have the fun element so the children enjoy doing them.

Entertainment also brought different type of children together.

impact

- Builds the self-esteem and confidence of the children
- It unearths the talent in the children
- It builds children physically and mentally
- It brings out the smile and happiness in the children



Donors who assist to run the House of Refuge: Kinder Mission Work, Stivosina, Family Rijbroek. Private donors, Adeline Janssen Stichting and Wings of Support.

Demonstration:

The department has as its core work to introduce and train different trades and skills to street connected children who visit the House of Refuge.

Several skills are introduced namely:

Hairdressing, Sewing, Bead design, decoration, Carving, catering, cooking and general handicraft.

ATTENDANCE/ PARTICIPATION 2019

TRADE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
SEWING	35	50	85
DECORATION	25	35	60
CARVING	40	15	55
HANDICRAFT	35	50	85 Bead design.
CATERING	25	40	65
HAIRDRESSING	5	45	50
	165	235	400

CHALLENGES: The department as a unit of corporate CAS had some challenges. Among the issues that the department faced were lateness to work and absenteeism. These issues were so chronic that it was often repeated in monthly reports with appeals being made to management to intervene as several efforts made by the head of department yielded no results. It is hoped that in the coming year, management will take a strong stance on this issue. As an answer to this challenge, management has agreed that, in 2020 all Heads will have the authority to warn and even present written warnings to the instructors as well as children. Management will act on these warnings as a follow-up action.

Another issue that was of concern to the department was the lack of seriousness on the part of some of the children in sponsorship. Most of them appear not to know why they are being helped and it is hereby suggested that strong supervision be put in place to ensure that the organization has value for money.

It is also being suggested that in future, imprest for December should be halved since work is not done for the whole month. The other half of the money can be given when work resumes in January so that instructors will not give the excuse they don't have materials to work with.

The Departments sold all items made and took part in Bazaars often organized by our expatriate donor partners to raise money to support other activities of the organization.

Hopeland Center:

Hopeland center has been changed during the year 2019. Three quarters of the fence wall has been completed with gates installed. The compound has been partly cleaned from many of the scrubs. The wood which has been cut but has still to be gathered and the rubbish has to be collected. One old chicken house has been changed into a recreation/dining room for the children. The old pigsty has been locked so that at a later stage we can decide how to use it.

A few toilets stands have still to be bought and installed as well as one fence wall still to be raised. A day security man will be employed in January 2020 so that staff and children are safe and can concentrate on the educational activities.

Children:

All children who want to start the sponsorship program are invited to stay at Hopeland for some time. During the period, the staff gets to know the children well because the staff also stays at the Center. It is a kind of reform period. Some children have to learn how to behave in order to do away with certain habits.

Some children experience it as a challenging time because they have to leave their friends in the city and listen to the staff. Some abscond because they were used to a lot of freedom. At Hopeland, the children receive three meals a day. This has been very helpful for many.

Some members of the House of refuge visit Hopeland to assist the staff. The nurse visits Hopeland every week and a clinic has been installed for her and the children.

The center has a similar timetable like the House of Refuge and many children continue with the functional literacy program there.

Three girls who followed the training in sewing at the center, sat for the NVTI exams and completed their training. Hopeland will now recruit 10 girls from the surrounding community to train them in the sewing course. We expect that the parents of these girls continue paying for their upkeep and travelling costs. These girls will not be accommodated at the center. The rooms are reserved for children on sponsorship. This is CAS support or contribution to assisting urban poor girls from the community and the surroundings where street corner education took place,

The settlement program also takes place at Hopeland. At the end of the year only two girls remained and five others can be added for the future.

Tools and equipment:

Fortunately, CAS is supported by donors who pay for the tools and equipment needed at the Centre. A lot is needed because the center is residential.

Now that the renovation and the fence wall will be completed, all attention can be paid to the welfare of the children and the training program.



Recreation room



New fence wall

With thanks to the donors who assisted to run Hopeland Center namely: Beer Stichting, Misereor, private donors, Paul EV, Wings of Support, and Family Stiphout.

Short sponsorship program:

Short Term Sponsorship Department's mandate is to oversee to the implementation and supervision of 18months CAS sponsored apprenticeship training in any skill of a street child's choice. The scheme takes care of cost of living, training tools & materials, accommodation, apprenticeship agreement fees, medicals and all other logistics needed during the period of training. The trainees' progresses are closely monitored through daily or weekly supervision visit to all the training centers or workshops, as well as places of abode. Successful trainees in this context are termed as (young adults) are offered opportunity to start practicing their trade either privately or get enroll on the 'Settlement' Project after obtaining Ghana National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) Proficiency Grade 1 & 2 certificate.

At the close of the year, the department had a total of thirty-one (31) trainees who are currently learning apprenticeship training in Hairdressing, Beads Design, Shoe Making/Leather works, Wood Carving, Dressmaking, Tailoring, Fashion Design, Pastries Making, Balloon & Floral Decoration and Barbering. All of them are at different levels of training. Although our target to maintain between 15-20 children in the scheme monthly, we were also cautious of avoiding cosmetic job. Though attempts at introducing more skills or trade appeared to slow down we were successful this year in introducing leather works as one of the newly introduced trade this year.



The newly introduced 'home care' or home science concentrated on providing daily home care assistance to newly enrolled trainees in their various homes after closing from training and going back home or during weekends and holidays. The Department supervisors visited the homes of the children on daily basis to provide the needed attention to speed up adjustment to their new environment. These departments believe will help them stay focus on the training and satisfy some of the conditions needed for a successful stay at their homes to ensure proper home living and cooperation with their neighbors. Daily visit to their homes was combined with constant visit to their various training workshops as well.

Throughout the year, major supervision of trainees dwell much on their welfare, progress, providing guidance and home care support. Constant visit to both training workshop and abode targeted some particular children who appeared to have many problems and needed daily guidance and support. The main focus was to provide them with the necessary guidance through advice and support. Support targeted many aspects of their lives and training requirement. Additional supports in form of needs when necessary are given to enhance their training. Routine follow up and checks in their homes and training workshops continued throughout the year.

Challenges:

One major challenge especially amongst the female trainees this year was the high possibility of pregnancy during training. However, a quick measure in form of 45minutes weekly 'Girls sexuality education' was added to their weekly training. This was after three of girls were medically confirmed pregnant. They have since been referred for anti-natal care at CAS' sister organization called Street Girls Aid. Their sponsorship is currently on hold with high possibility of re-admission into the scheme after delivery to complete the training.

Lastly, the Department will have to explore other means of support for newly trainees after reaching the target of 65 children limit for the current donor that support Short Term Sponsorship scheme.

Long Sponsorship Program:

Children who come to the Refuge are attached to the various centres in the Demonstration department. They are then introduced to the trades that are been run there for about a three to four weeks. During this process a list of the children is given to the sponsorship department by the Director then a questionnaire is then administered. Some of the questions we ask are, trade interest, why you come to CAS, why do you want sponsorship, how do you relate with people.

After the three to four weeks in the demonstration, a test is then organised for them both in theory and practicals. Some of the questions are about the tools given to them to name them and to explain how they are used. We ask them to write two or three letter words, and also to identify alphabets and the taking of measurements. For the practical test, we ask them to make a dress. To do hairdressing .Cave an object of wood, prepare a meal during cooking or make a decoration with flowers. The result of the test and questionnaire is then sent to the Director from there they are selected to go to Hopeland for further preparation

Below is the list of children in sponsorship.

NAME	TRADE	STARTING	COMPLETING	LOCATION
Philip Anaba	Auto-mechanics	Jan-2015	Nov-2018	Ajei-Kojo
Daniel Mensah	Welding	Sept-2016	Sept-2019	Accra
Nathanial laryea	Auto-mechanics	Nov-2015	nov-2018	Accra
Yaw Tetter	Carpentry	Mar-2016	Mar-2019	Accra
Augustine Tieko	Electrical	Aug-2018	Aug-2019	Accra
Augustine Amoani	Aluminium fabric	Aug -2018	Aug -2019	Abossey okai
Bright Gyamang	Auto-mechanics	Aug-2018	Aug-2019	Abodwe
Isaac Sackey	Auto -mechanics	Sept-2016	Sept-20119	Ajei-Kojo
Emmanuel Fiamor	Aluminium fabric	Oct -2018	Oct-2021	Abossey- okai
Emmanuel Osei	Auto-mechanics	Feb-2018	Feb--2021	Kaneshie
Emmanuel Sackey	Aluminium fabric	Apr-2019	Apri-2022	Kaneshie
Wisdom Awuku	Auto-mechanic	Feb-2018	Feb-2021	Kaneshie
Abubakari Ibrahim	Aluminium	Apr-2019	Apr-2022	Kaneshie

Those who completed in the course of the year

Name	Trade	started	completed	Location
Philip Anaba	Auto -mechanics	Jan -2015	Dec -2019	Adjei-kojo
Daniel mensah	Welding	Sept-2016	Sept-2019	Accra
Nathanial laryea	Auto-mechanics	Nov-2015	Dec-2019	Accra
Yaw Tetteh	Carpentry	Mar -2016	Dec -2019	Accra

Drop-outs during the course of the training.

Samson Arthur	Auto-mechanics
Hackman Abass	Electrical
Bernard Prah	Building construction



Resettlement of ex-street children.

The ex-trained street children settlement project aim at giving the opportunity to willing Ex-trained children, (who are now young adult) to run their own trades' centres created as a workshop at HOPELAND and have the chance of training other children. Each beneficiary receive a set of tools or equipment and materials as a start-up Aid to kick start his or her own informal job based on the skills or trade acquired. With little or no general supervision, CAS makes the trained Ex-Street child responsible for tools and logistics management to ensure the Ex-trained young adult overcome any initial challenges that may surface. It is also to give them a sense of ownership and serves as an anchor to build on their future lives after training.

Victoria Antwi is one of such product she had been at Hopeland for well over a year now. She want to relocate now and management had agreed together with her about her relocation.

SUPERVISION

The department has two supervisors. The children who are in the scheme are shared among them. They visit them two times a week in their workshops and places of abode. In each of the visit the supervisor discuss with the workshop manager the progress of training of the child. The welfare of the child is also of paramount importance to the supervisor.

AGREEMENT

Before a child is send to a workshop there is a kind of agreement between the workshop where the child is been trained and CAS. A fee is charged before the child is then taken to start the training and a set of rules and regulations are signed. This is what we call the agreements fee. The amount being charge varied from workshop to workshop. In that same agreement there is a completion fee. This fee is taken when the child complete his or her training. The agreement fee is therefore paid after observation, if we are sure the child is interested and willing to start the training. The period of training also varied from trade to trade. The shortest is two years and the longest three years. The completion fee is paid at the end of training.

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SETTLEMENT

If a child has successfully completed his or her apprenticeship training a settlement package is given to them according to their trade needs. This include the tools and equipment given to them at the start of their training. A separate report has been written to give more details on settlement and relocation to donors supporting this activity.

CHALLENGES.

Some of the children sent for training have the problem of adapting to the new environment in which they found themselves. Yet others have relationship problem. Relating with the people they work with, the people training them and even consumers who happen to have contact with them.

However, we have our social workers who work around the clock helping them. In most cases they are able to help them stay and work.

Donors who assisted the sponsorship program: Misereor, Family van Galen, Private donors.



National Vocational Training Institute Exams:

Four of the sponsored children (long Sponsorship) who are about completing their apprenticeship training wrote the NVTI proficiency examination. Three wrote the proficiency grade II exams and one wrote grade I. The three who wrote the grade two were successful in the grade I exams they wrote last year. They got their certificates this year. Two got credit one in general electrical and the other on auto mechanics

At the close of the year, the short sponsorship had two badges of trainees who took the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) in Proficiency grade 1 &2 in March and September respectively. In total, we had fourteen (14) who took the NVTI in Proficiency grade 1 or 2 examination. As part of the preparation for the proficiency examination, the department in consultation with the instructors carried out pre-assessment for the entire selected candidates with few assisted in areas of practical training that needed support to enable them take the NVTI practical trade examination.

Out of the total, we had nine (9) who successfully pass the NVTI with Five (5) of them currently awaiting the release of their result in February 2020. They are currently being assisted at different stages to either take the grade two or start working on their own.

Two (2) of them are already in the Ex-Street Children Settlement Project. The project allows an ex-street child, who is now a young adult, runs their own trades in centers created as a working workshop at HOPELAND.

The implementation methodology makes it possible for each beneficiary to receive a set of tools or equipment and materials as a start-up Aid to kick start his or her own informal job based on the skills or trade acquired. Each of them contributes to the planning and starting of the job through information sharing with the team implementing the project. The Ex-street also has to be willing to start the job on his or her own. CAS makes the trained Ex-Street child responsible for tools and logistics management. The department provide general supervision and monitoring to ensure the job overcome any initial challenges that may surface.

Donor support:

CAS is very grateful to all the donors who have contributed to the upkeep and training of the children. Many individual children are assisted and they can now regain a respectful place in society.

The staff of CAS is ready to train many more in the future.



Bro. Jos van Dinther
(Director CAS)