

PROJECT: A ROOF FOR STREET GIRLS

As part of the programme
VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE FOR STREET GIRLS



Project proposal by:
Kumasi Street Children Project
Catholic Archdiocese of Kumasi
Kumasi, Ghana

2013



VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE FOR STREET GIRLS

1 Introduction

Kumasi Street Children Project is an initiative of the Catholic Archdiocese of Kumasi, Ghana to address the problems of street children and young vulnerable women who are displaced and homeless in Kumasi city. The Project is managed by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. It was officially launched in June 2005 by Most Rev. Peter Kwasi Sarpong.

The organisation currently works in the following thematic areas;

- Field work and Street education in daily skills (e.g. hygiene, food, HIV/ Aids, self-defense).
- Drop-in centre for street children and Day care center for street babies and toddlers.
- Night work and Counseling of young sex workers.
- Basic education (literacy, mathematics and English) and Vocational skill training.
- Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Follow-up visits after reintegration with the family.

2 Programme rationale

Kumasi is the capital of the Ashanti Region in Ghana. Almost all street children on the street of Kumasi come from the Northern Region. These regions are very poor and the majority of children who live there never see inside a class room. These children are driven to do something about their situation and often end up trafficked on the streets of Kumasi thinking that they will be able to earn money easily and then return with their earnings to go back to school or to get married. The reality on the streets of Kumasi is quite different: children work for long hours just to make ends meet; they have difficulty finding shelter and food. An alarming number of children are not able to earn enough money to survive and turn to drug peddling and even child prostitution. Kumasi Street Children Project aims to help these children in finding an alternative livelihood through vocational training in a trade like dress making or hair dressing. In addition, the children are offered a place away from the streets, food, counseling and basic classes in daily skills, literacy, mathematics and business at the Vocational Training Centre. The main objective of this programme is to increase the children's employment prospects and consequently empower them to be financially independent and even help support their families.

3 Programme objectives

3a Objectives Vocational Training Centre

- 60 former street girls per 2 years who have finished the vocational training are able to be financially independent by working in the trade they have learned.
- 60 former street girls per 2 years who have finished their training know basic literacy, basic mathematics and basic business skills.
- 60 former street girls per 2 years who have finished their training know their life skills, e.g. to run a household, stay healthy and take responsibility for their wellbeing.
- 20 former street girls per year are prepared towards reintegration with families again, because they have learned daily life skills and some social/ relational skills.
- 20 former street girls per year are prepared to go back to school, because they have learned the basics in literacy, and have to follow regular structure such as in schools.

3b. Objectives A Roof for Street Girls

- Construction of the roof of the Vocational Training Centre within 4 months.
- Increase the useable space in the VTC to provide accommodation for at least 40 girls.



4 Target group

Young girls in the age of 14 – 18 years, living on the streets of Kumasi, Ghana and willing to leave the streets and learn a trade through vocational training.

5 Description and planning

With the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) we want to provide a safe shelter where street girls receive vocational training in dress making or hair dressing. The training for hair dressing is a full time training which is completed within one year. The dress making training is a full time training to be completed within two years. This means that every two years a number of 60 girls will complete the vocational training (40 hair dressers and 20 dress makers). Upon finishing the training the children will be able to be financially independent by working in the trade they have learned and able to leave the streets. The VTC also provides short term accommodation for street girls who are prepared to leave the streets and return to their families. At the VTC these girls can make the needed preparations for the reintegration and for going back to school.

In January 2013, we celebrated the opening of the Vocational Training Centre and were able to accommodate the first group of street girls in the centre. A number of 10 girls has now started their vocational training at the centre.

Though initially enough funds were raised to construct the whole building at once, several setbacks during the construction phase and the rise of prices of building materials have put a big strain on the budget. This has resulted in the inability of completing the construction of the building. The ground floor is ready and in use, but there is an urgent need to construct the roof of the building. We hope to finish this as soon as possible as the rainy season is on its way.

6 Estimated construction costs Roof

The estimated costs for the construction of the roof and underlying woodworks are GH¢ 49.000 or €19.705. A detailed overview of the material and labour costs can be requested by email: info@adamfoghana.com.