



**ST. CAMILLUS
DALA KIYE CHILDREN WELFARE HOME**

REPORT

THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD



THEME:

“COMBAT CHILD TRAFFICKING”

**AT MASARA PRIMARY SCHOOL,
SUBA EAST DIVISION, MIGORI DISTRICT**

JUNE 16TH, 2007

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
DO	District Officer
DCO	District Children Officer
DC	District Commissioner
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
DEO	District Education Officer
DSDO	District Social Development Officer
CBO	Community Based Organization
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
LRCDP	Lake Region Community Development Programme
AAC	Area Advisory Council

OVERVIEW

The day of the African child is usually marked on 16th June every year to commemorate the day in which thousands of South African children lost their lives in one of the grisly riots and massacres that have ever occurred on the African continent. This was later to be dubbed, “The Soweto massacre.”

In a show of solidarity with the other regions of the world, Migori district have always celebrated this event since the year 2005. The tutelage of the event is usually undertaken by the area advisory council (AAC) that is tasked with the selection of the organizing committee that brings on board personalities from key government departments, NGOs, and CBOs.

The formation of this organizing committee is usually at the district level and the committee is usually mandated with the key responsibility of ensuring the successful organization and accomplishment of the Day of the African Child within Migori District. At the center of operations in the entire process is usually the District Children’s Officer who is the secretary general of the organizing committee. The task of convening and organizing all the committee meetings rests squarely on the shoulders of the officer.

Last year’s celebration was hosted by world vision at Wath Ong’er center in Nyatike division. This year therefore, the committee mandated LRCDP to host the day, which was marked at Masara primary school in Nyatike division. There was adequate allocation of roles, responsibilities and financial contribution to the participating organizations and other stakeholders. To this effect every participating organization /stakeholders had well defined roles and responsibilities and financial commitment for purposes of efficiency and worth fullness. St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home joined the entire Migori District in marking the Day of the African Child at Masara Primary School, which is 35 km away.

The venue of this year’s Day of an African child (Masara) was very significant and symbolic in the sense that child trafficking is very rampant in the area. There was therefore need for intensive and extensive mobilization and sensitization to the local community on the dangers of this vice that deprives the child of his/her rights. This was in line with this year’s theme of “Combat Child Trafficking.” The day therefore provided an opportunity for various organizations and stakeholders to voice their concerns on this cancer that continue to inflict and destroy the young souls of our beloved children. Proper strategies on ways of combating this vice were therefore explored and resolutions arrived at. These were some of the resolutions; -

- That all children of school going age must be enrolled and retained in school
- That all the perpetrators of this vice must identified and be brought to book
- Community members, the government and NGOs to put in place proper mechanisms of combating the vice.

Theme

The theme that was adopted this year for marking the Day of the African child was, “Combat **Child trafficking.**” The celebration was in line with the resolution that was passed by the African Union that earmarked 16th of June every year for celebrating the “Day of the African Child”

Marking the day honors and celebrates the initiatives taken to improve the life chances of children throughout the African continent. The day serves as an open forum to encourage and promote healthy child care practices and activities geared towards ensuring that they live their lives devoid of any form of suffering and rights violation.

Objective

To improve protection to children against all forms of malpractices visited to them in communities of Migori district.

Expected Results

1. Legislations put in place to curb abduction and trafficking of children
2. Sensitized and educated community members able to address all forms of malpractices that are vested on children
3. Instituted mechanisms to check and contain child trafficking

ACTIVITIES AND ACTUAL RESULTS

1. Processions.

The processions commenced at around 11.00a.m having been officially flagged off by the District Commissioner, Migori district. Business at the Masara shopping center came to a stand still as hordes of curious on lookers, several invited guests and about 3000 children drawn from 13 primary schools joined in a colorful procession that started at Masara shopping center and snaked its way into Masara primary school. The procession covered a distance of about 2km and was characterized by drumbeats, songs, dances and ululations from the charged participants. The procession was lively as all participants were in jovial mood with children carrying the banner and placards of the day. 60 children and 12 staff from Dala Kiye Program including the Assistant Director participated in the procession.



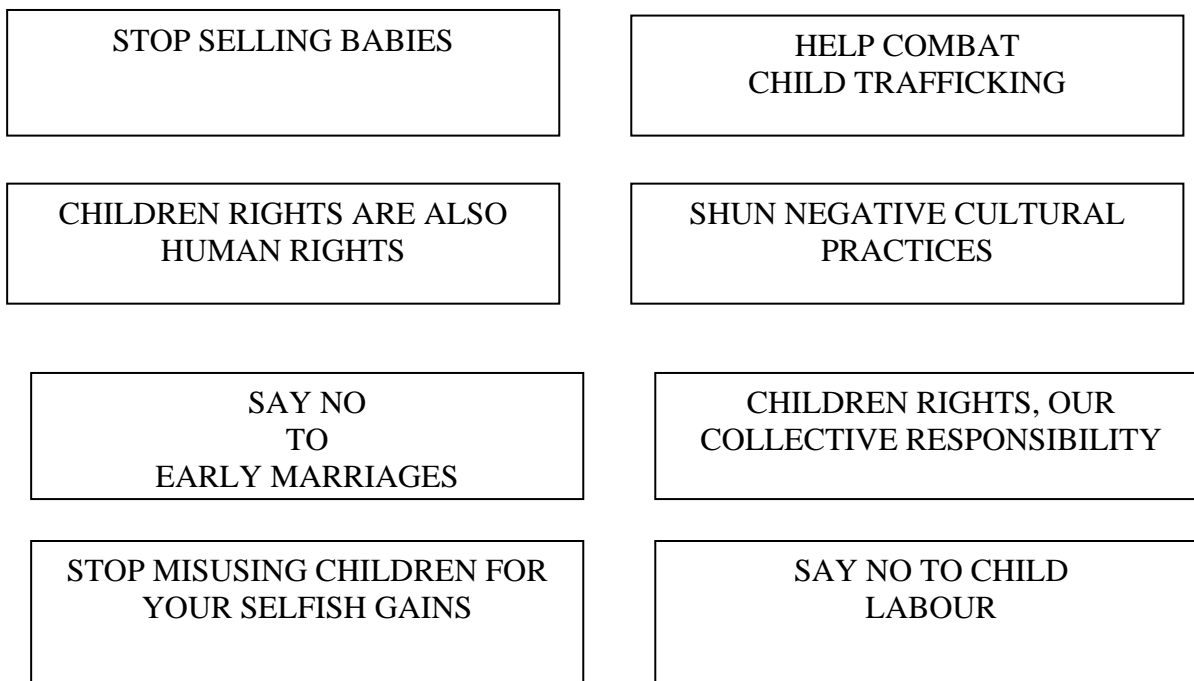
Part of the participants that took part in the processions on the Day of African Child 2007

1. Opening Ceremony

The venue of the celebration was awash with a sea of humanity that had already gathered there waiting for the procession to reach the venue. The procession reached the venue at around 11.45a.m to a tumultuous reception from the crowd. This year's celebration was hosted by Lake Region Community Development Program. A number of members of community based organizations from Karungu and Nyatike divisions arrived on time. The

government was well represented, as 7 sub-chiefs, 5 chiefs, 3 D.Os and the Migori D.C were in hand to jumpstart the process. A number of pupils, teachers, and other community members drawn from every part of the district were also settled at the venue in time. The Migori District commissioner also arrived in time to officiate over the day's events. The District Children's Officer together with other district departmental heads were already settled at the venue ready to mark the day.

Over 3500 people were altogether gathered and a call for order for opening ceremony was observed by an opening prayer coordinated by the Master of Ceremony (the DSDO area office). During the opening ceremony a group of children carried placards that bore the following information.



3. Presentations by Children.

13 different primary schools presented wonderful items that thrilled the guests and other participants present in the Day of the African Child event. The children from these schools made well polished, thoroughly researched and educative presentations denouncing all forms of malpractices against children in the community. Through 12 pieces of songs, 5 sets of skits and 5 tunes of poems the children focused on the following:

1. Imploring the government to come up with stringent measures to help curb child trafficking
2. Demonizing all acts of abuse on children
3. Sending a stern warning to the perpetrators of violence against children
4. Advocating for the care and protection to disadvantaged children in the community
5. Lamenting and warning people against HIV/AIDS being the main cause of deaths that leave children behind in despair and desolation.
6. Requesting the government to enact legislations that protect the rights of children
7. Advocating for the establishment of monitoring and evaluation system to monitor the legislation addressing children deprived of poverty.
8. Calling upon all the children to resist all attempts by strangers to lure them with gifts and any other forms of bribe.
9. Advocating for a fair society that will be free from stigmatization especially to those affected and infected with HIV/AIDS.



Dala Kiye foster children thrill the crowd with their dance

4. Presentations by community lyric entertainers.

Thim Lich band was the star attraction of the day with their nerve racking and invigorating music that drove most of those present to a frenzied mood. Most of those present danced to the tunes of what comprised of very educative lyrics especially on issues touching on child labor, sexual exploitation, child neglect and a host of other vices that were relevant to the theme of this year's Day of African Child



Thim Lich band unleashes one of their pieces to the crowd

5. Speeches

At the close of the very thrilling entertainment session, it was time for key note address from invited guests and the exercise was presided over by the District Social Development Officer (DSDO) who was the master of ceremony. A total of 9 guests and one child guest delivered

speeches that were in line with the thematic issue of the day. The speeches were delivered in this order; -

5.1 Head teacher-Masara primary school

Since the occasion was being celebrated within Masara primary school, it was in order for the head teacher to deliver the opening remarks. He took the opportunity to welcome all the guests in Masara primary school and went a head to give a brief history of the school. He decried the ever increasing number of orphans in the area and extolled the good work that is being done by various organizations in the area especially when it comes to addressing the plight of OVC in the area.

5.2 Ministry of Health Representative

Thanked the organizers of the day and welcomed all those present. Elaborated the steps that the ministry is taking in dealing with cases of assault on children.

5.3 Ministry of Social Services Representative

The office of ministry of Social services requested all those present to take a leading role in promoting child welfare.

5.4 District Education Officer

The DEO emphasized on the fact that primary education is free and compulsory for all yet other children are still denied their right to education.

5.5 Representative from Kenya Red cross, Migori branch

Thanked all those present for taking their time to show solidarity with the children. Challenged those parents who have not taken their children for polio vaccination to do so as the exercise was free. Meanwhile about 50 children received free medical treatment for various ailments from the Kenya Red Cross personnel.

5.6 District Children's Officer

The officer in his well crafted and educative speech implored on all the stake holders to take a leading role in protection of children against all forms of abuse and said that legislations were already in place to check, control and contain all the perpetrators of child trafficking which was taking a shocking trend in the Masara area and Migori district as a whole. He concluded that the government will take very stringent measures on those who continue to involve themselves in all manner of malpractices against children including those who breach the adoption laws.

5.7 Director, Lake Region Community Development Program (LRCDP)

Being the host organization of this years Day of African child, LRDP took a leading role in sensitization and mobilization. The director first welcomed all the guests and participants present and commended them for dedicating their time and other resources to ensure that this year's celebration was a success. He went further to elaborate on the work of LRDP whose main area of focus was promoting general welfare to the OVC in Nyatike constituency. He elaborated that the care for OVC requires a holistic and multisectoral approach and called for continued cooperation from all those present. The director challenged the caregivers of the children to shun practices that will put them in collision with the law especially in areas touching on child labor, child trafficking and failure to enroll and retain the children in school. He concluded that LRRDP will continue to work with like minded organizations in ensuring that the vice of child trafficking is brought to a halt.

5.8 District Officer, Suba West Division

Thanked everybody present for showing solidarity with the children by coming out in large numbers to mark this very important day in the history of this continent. Challenged

members to learn from the suffering of the children that perished in the Soweto massacre and that the gathering and the occasion should act as a rallying call to all and sundry when it comes to care and protection of the children.

5.9 Guest of Honor – The Migori District Commissioner

The DC started by welcoming all those present and congratulated the organizers of the celebration for their astute mobilization skills. The D.C commended various organizations working with the OVC for being at the vanguard in promoting the well being of OVC. Noted that the government has put in place very effective legislative measures to combat all forms of child trafficking. He advised all parents and caregivers to ensure that all the children of school going age are enrolled and retained in school as per provisions of the law. He challenged them to take advantage of sound government policies like free and compulsory primary education and warned that the law will deal firmly and ruthlessly with those who do not adhere to this government directive.



Migori D.C gives a speech during the Day of African child 2007 celebrations

During the speeches the following issues were brought out by a number of speakers:

- That the community should take a leading role in care and protection of OVC.
- That it is illegal to retain a child of school going age at home and that primary school education is free and compulsory.
- That all children just like any other human beings have their rights and liberties which must be respected by all.
- That most orphans are made vulnerable due to archaic traditional property inheritance laws that deprive them of the right to inherit their parent's property.
- That in most parts of the district OVC were still being discriminated and that their caregivers were subjecting them to all manner of abuse like child labor and child trafficking
- That child trafficking and child labor was rampant in the region and that local community should rise up and shun this vice, which deprives children of most of their rights.
- That despite the continued existence of most organizations addressing the plight of OVC, a good number of the OVC are still wallowing in despair.

6. Distribution of social support materials to selected OVC households

Courtesy of the Area Advisory Council, material support was extended to 20 selected child-headed households and a total of 67 children from the selected 20 households benefited. Each household received 6kg of beans, 6 kg of rice, mosquito net, 10 liters water container and a blanket. The DC and the DCO led in the distributions.



One of the children from selected household receive material support from Migori D. C. Looking on is Migori DCO

7. Provision of Meals and Refreshments

Around 3000 children and about 500 adults received a bottle of soda and a half a loaf of bread. The cost of meals and refreshments were shared among various organizations. Dala Kiye children home provided mineral water for everybody present. The figure was approximately 3500 people with all the guests inclusive.



Some of the participants having their meals and refreshments

8. Football Match.

This was the last event of the day. Two teams participated in the event that attracted a huge crowd. The match pitted Karungu team and a team from Suba west location. In the end, Suba

west F.C emerged victorious after a narrow and labored win of 1-0.The day of African child 2007 soccer tournament trophy was therefore secured by Suba west F.C

ACHIEVEMENTS

Having marked the day, the following achievements were made based on the objectives:

- Over 3500 people (children being the majority) were able to converge at the venue of the start of procession on time.
- Participation was all inclusive as children and adults came together to mark this day.
- Adequate information on child rights were passed to all those present.
- Those present were informed of various legislations that are already in place that will check and contain any form of abuse vented on children.
- The DC challenged the caregivers to ensure that their children were enrolled and retained in school and that the government would take stringent measures to those who violate the act.
- In as much as rights are entitlements and children do not need to struggle to get them, it was also the opportunity for children to be helped to understand that they too have duties and responsibilities to their caregivers and community at large.
- There was a general agreement that all the stakeholders should take a leading role in the care and protection of the OVC.
- The number of organizations working for and with OVC had increased and this indicated remarkable sign of improvement on the side of OVC care and support.

CHALLENGES

- Most schools could not present all their items due to the overwhelming number of schools that turned up to mark the day of an African child.
- Most of the government representatives are usually late and as a result there is usually a time lag in the program.
- Some adults are still not aware of the magnitude of this day as evidenced by the number of adults who turned up to mark the day.

LESSONS LEARNT

- That care and support of OVC need a multisectoral approach
- That the community should shun practices that violate the rights of children
- That children rights are also human rights
- That the strategy of combating child trafficking and child labor lies with the local community members themselves

THE WAY FORWARD

- The processions should always start at the agreed upon time to avoid time lag
- Extensive sensitization and mobilization should be carried out prior to the event and especially the adult members of the society should be targeted.
- The day should be dedicated to the children, as it is their day by limiting the number of adult speakers.