



Slum Aid Project's Presentation to the Central District-
HIV/AIDS Symposium 2008.

Slum Aid Project
P.o. Box 10388,
Kampala
Uganda
kabandaepm2@yahoo.com
sap@sap.or.ug
Telephone: 256 772 506680

Introduction:

Slum Aid Project (SAP) is a Non Governmental Organization working in 7 slum areas around Kampala in Uganda. These areas include; Wandegeya, Nakulabye, Katwe 1 Kisenyi, Naguru 11, Kibuli, and Wabigalo. The Organization works towards improving lives of the people living in the slum areas.

The humble beginnings of SAP can be traced back to 1991 when four female students, then at Makerere University Kampala identified with the vulnerable conditions in which people in the slum areas lived. They came up with an idea to improve on the lives of the most vulnerable and having done their research they discovered that women and children were the most affected.

We at SAP believe that all people have a right to a good life, and this is why we came out with a mission to strengthen the capacity of slum communities in Uganda, to challenge and effect sustainable positive change through research and documentation, capacity building, advocacy, policy influence, Organizational development and fundraising.

At inception in 1991, SAP's major goal was to address the many problems faced by women, youths and children living in the slum areas. Today SAP targets all the people living in the slum areas with women and children as the priority SAP targets an estimation of 7000 people in the seven (7) slums.

SAP Objectives

1. To build the capacity and strengthen the effectiveness of community based structures and groups in slums to demand for their rights and to articulate their development needs.
2. To identify research into and document best practices in working with Slum communities, i.e Case indexing, Networking.
3. To strengthen advocacy work through increased documentation of SAP experiences, and using this to interface with and influence political leaders, sensitize them about slum matters, and thus contribute to better policies and thus a more conducive environment for slum dwellers.
4. To put in place a strong organizational development structure that will meet the challenge of the new strategic shift from short-term funding to developing long-term strategic funding partnerships.

Some of the identified Slum Problems

1. Gender and child related problems.
2. Domestic violence
3. High infant mortality rates
4. Poor maternal health facilities
5. Child sexual abuse and exploitation

6. Child labour
7. Child trafficking
8. Child prostitution
9. Vulnerability of young girls to HIV/AIDS is alarming.

Poverty

1. People living in the slums are still very poor, where some of them go for one meal in a day. (*SAP Annual report 2007*)
2. Poor accommodation
3. Improper infrastructures, i.e they still lack good toilets, Poor drainage systems etc.
4. Many refugees easily find themselves in the slums because they feel that the standard of living in these areas is generally low. In Kisenyi you find a lot of Karamajongs and Somali's, especially from war torn areas. In Naguru you find many people migrated from the Northern Uganda,
5. High unemployment levels, many people are unemployed and probably this is one of the reasons for the high crime rates in the slums.

Knowledge of the law and human rights

Many of the people living in the slum areas do not know the law, nor their human rights this puts them in a tricky position and they tend to succumb to pressures that arise within their environments.

SAP activities include:

- a. HIV/AIDS trainings for support groups and volunteers to equip them and to take on HIV/AIDS activities in the slum areas
- b. Life skills training for girls formerly engaged in commercial sex
- c. Referral of HIV victims for treatment
- d. Campaigns against domestic violence (DV), Child sexual abuse and child labour, through sensitization workshops, video shows, music and drama, community discussions, counseling and mediation, publicity and IEC materials.
- e. Training of women as Human Rights Advocates.
- f. Research and publications on Domestic Violence (D.V.)
- g. Support/rehabilitation of DV victims through counseling, referrals and emergency relief fund.
- h. HIV/AIDS sensitization and condoms/femidom promotion.

- i. Networking with different Government line ministries, district officials, and community leaders and other Organizations
- j. Indexing of DV cases and Child abuse and exploitation as a means of sharing it out with other stakeholders.
- k. Monitoring and Evaluation

Challenges

- Due to the transient nature of the slums, trained community volunteers shift leaving a capacity gap.
- Inadequate funding
- Political influence

Lessons learnt:

- Police not trained about handling issues of gender based violence
- Poor housing conditions have accelerated Child abuse and exploitation

Resources

We received Ug SHS 342,250,000 from various donors including, Global Fund for women, MoGLD, MoH, EU etc.

The Ministry of Health has continued to supply the slum areas with condoms to fight the HIV/AIDS Pandemic. The Community volunteers work together with SAP to distribute these condoms in the 7 communities.

Presented By;
Agnes Kabanda Kyambadde
ED- SAP