



Date: 30/04/2019

REPORT ON THE VISIT OF Ms. DEBBIE YIP (SINGAPORE) AND Mrs. STELLA AMANDRU (GENDER AND TECHNICAL ADVISOR-STAD) TO YOUTH AND WOMEN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (YWCO) ON SATURDAY, 30th MARCH, 2019.

THE VISIT

On the 30th March, 2019, Ms. Debbie Yip from Singapore and Mrs. Stella Amandru, the Gender and Technical Advisor for STAD paid a courtesy visit to YWCO to interact with staff and a few members of the community. This report has been written to give account of the matters discussed during her short visit

KEY ACTIVITIES/AREAS OF FOCUS DURING THE VISIT.

Opening prayer

The meeting started at exactly 10:30am with an opening prayer led by the Women Coordinator Mrs. Rose Leya.

Welcome Remarks from Program officer YWCO

The program officer Mr. Martin Lemi welcomed the visitors to the Organization. He thanked the visitors for the courtesy visit and also welcomed the members of the community who were mainly the youth and the women and for coming to attend to the visitors.

He thanked Ms. Debbie and Mrs. Stella for accepting the invitation to come and visit the organization. This was followed by introductions of the YWCO members. This was preceded by a brief poem from the People With Disabilities (PWDS) in the community presented by a lady called Deborah who is deaf who presented it nicely which was translated to the audience who didn't understand deaf signs language.

Presentation from FAL Youth

The Functional Adult Literacy Youth group who are currently



The FAL Youth performing a skit title “Customer handling in Business” during the visit.

undertaking training in non-formal skills training within the Organization did a welcome presentation song for the visitors followed by a brief skit on business customer care relationship management.

Welcome remarks from Program Coordinator

The program coordinator Mr. Baiga Ronald welcomed the visitors and the community members. He briefly explained to the gathering how the organization was started as two different groups i.e. the youth and the women group (The Youth Action for Development under the youths and Progressive Women Group under the women) who merged in 2005 and gave birth to the Youth and Women Community Development Organization (YWCDO) aimed at delivering better and efficient work and services to the community.

Mr. Baiga said that since the inception of the organization, it has had many achievements and has implemented many successful projects which have benefited a lot of people in the community.

He again warmly welcomed the visitors and said that the program Officer Mr. Lemi Martin will be able to give detailed history of the activities the organization has undertaken and the other proposed projects in pipeline which shall be in the presentation on the plight of the people of Koboko in the next item in the program of the visit.

He concluded by wishing the team a successful deliberation and urged the visitors to feel free while in YWCDO.

Presentation on the Plight of the people of Koboko

The program officer Mr. Lemi Martin highlighted on the Organization thematic areas of operations. These include the fight against Social Gender Based and Domestic Violence (SGBV), Community Health, Environmental Protection, and Advocacy and lobby for human and women rights, girl child education, children rights, income generation schemes just to mention but a few. He mentioned certain key achievements of the Organization such as Community Sensitization, dialogues, youth and women empowerment programs, etc. He mentioned the accomplished projects implemented by the organization such as the V.I.P that received funding from ETWA and STAD, the Canteen which is still ongoing, etc. and thanked STAD very much for the advice and all the financial support plus the other partners like ETWA, the Church of St John and Philips and all stake holders individuals etc. that has been supporting YWCDO. He made a presentation on a project title **“UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDRENS’ WELFARE”** aimed at providing opportunity for the underprivileged children to learn, read and write.

(See attached copy of the project proposal and the budget).

He outlined how the organization will contribute to enable these under privileged children in the community to get access to education and requested that if this project is funded it will increase



The program Officer YWCDO making a presentation on the plight of the people of Koboko during the visit by Mrs. Debbie & Stella

the access of the non-school going children to education and further reduce illiteracy which will later lead to self-reliance among the growing youth population in the District and the Country at large. The program officer went on with a brief presentation of those children within the community who are unable to join school by projecting a clip on a big screen.

He said that the organization is ready and willing to support this project with some resources which included rooms for classes, land for practical work (i.e. agriculture), volunteers, and



A Presentation on Progressive Catering Service on the Screen

lobbying from partners willing to support like Muni children's library. He however said that the organization needs a lot of support from donors to support this project.

The program Officer then introduced Progressive catering service (PCS) project. A project that was formed under YWCDO aimed at helping many youth within the community with skills and knowledge of catering service, create employability among the youths and

further self-reliance. This was preceded by a twelve minute screen presentation of the interview conducted with some of the beneficiaries and how the project was started; this altogether wined the presentation on the plight of the people of Koboko made by the program Officer.

Communication from Gender and Technical advisor STAD

The representative of STAD i.e. the gender and technical advisor Mrs. Stella Amandru thanked the management of YWCDO and applauded the staff for the tremendous job well done by the Organization in helping the community.

She said that the community requires gender equality especially the aspect of involving fathers to contribute in the support of the underprivileged children since fathers are mostly the bread winners of most families in the community.

She said the idea of the project is very good and encouraged that lobbying be done to make sure this can be put forward to support the underprivileged children such that they have access to Education.

She then welcomed Mrs. Debbie to share with the staff and management YWCDO.

Communication from the main Guest -Ms. Debbie Yip

Debbie started by introducing herself and thanked the organization for the warm reception offered to her and the colleagues. She also thanked the community for the good work they are



The Gender and Technical Advisor for STAD, Mrs. Stella Amandru (On the right) making her communication during the visit to YWCDO

doing and she appreciated the ongoing projects the Organization is handling with the Community.

She gave thanks to Ms. Florence Aate Andrew, the Chairperson of STAD for allowing her to visit YWCDO. She said that she works as a volunteer and a well-wisher for STAD and her coming was on recommendation of STAD.

She said that there's need for economic empowerment within the community, she proposed an idea of saving scheme for the members of the community to be introduced by the Organization where the community can have small savings and lending to help them have some small income generating activities.

She seconded on the idea of the STAD gender and Technical advisor on the idea of involvement of males who are the fathers while we are doing our activities as an Organization to encourage gender equality.

She further said the issues of gender is on policies set and suggested that in order for the community to achieve gender equality there should be advocacy for policy change and human mentality about gender.

She said that women in the community should be encouraged to have more entrepreneurial skills since they have more skills sometimes more than men.

She winded up by asking how the relationship between STAD and YWCDO is? and whether there's some gaps for improvement and how it can be addressed.



Ms. Debbie Yip from Singapore, making her communication during the visit at YWCDO.

DISCUSSIONS

Key Areas in the Discussions include;

The Relationship between STAD and YWCDO

The program Officer said that the relationship between STAD and YWCDO is good. He said that this can be evidenced in the number of projects of YWCDO that have been supported by STAD and has been implemented successfully and the existence of the relationship up to now can show the type of/level of relationship between the two Organizations.

He said that through STAD, the organization has been able to succeed in many of the project such as the Peace Hall, the VIP toilet project, Payot/shelter, Public address system (PAS), Tents, Easter celebrations, Christmas celebration and many more. He said that STAD does not only offer financial support but also offer advice on certain matters and plans that YWCDO would wish to implement.

He also said that he is grateful on behalf of the Organization for the continued support STAD is rendering to the Organization for instance; they have recently pledged support to the ongoing Canteen project set to continue soon.

The program Officer however said that the biggest challenge the Organization is facing is the issue of staffing, he said that the Organization staff are majorly volunteers as such they come and leave the Organization often times leaving a gap in the management of certain duties.

The other challenge facing the organization is in the implementation of the projects due to high prices of commodities and currency fluctuations in the markets. The fluctuations in the exchange rates caused a big variation in the total amount sent from the Donors with what is received or estimated in the projects proposal

The women coordinator Mrs. Rose Leya, added to the issue of relationship between STAD and YWCDO by taking us through the history of how STAD by then called Sudanese Orphans Support Trust (SOST) came to know about the Organization through the group of women called Bethelkerk from Holland who lobbied for Progressive Women group and gave the first money to buy the piece of land which YWCDO is currently settled on, it is a group of widowed women by then, since then the Bethelkerk members who fund- raised for them closed down as most of the member were very old and some founders died, the group closed, however through Bethelkerk, Progressive women group came to know the SOST Chairperson before it was named STAD, while the Progressive Women Group was later named, “Youth and Women Community Development Organization” after the merger between the Youth Action for Development and Progressive Women Group, STAD took over up to now and implemented so many projects with the Organization. She said since then up to now they haven’t had any bad relationship with STAD.

Question. Then Debbie asked whether there’s an issue with reporting and why the organization delays to submit project reports?

The program Officer said that there’s an issue of delayed reporting to donors especially this happened in the VIP Project which has caused a lot of disagreement between the donors and YWCDO, however he attributed this majorly to the time frame put by engineers and also the inadequacy of staff/human resource to work on certain things while the project Officer would have concentrated on implementation and report writing.

Suggestions/Recommendations.

- ✓ There’s need to have key permanent staff at least two paid staff to manage the Organization with the assistance of volunteers.
- ✓ There should be proper communication between donors and YWCDO management in case of any delays in reporting and explaining why there’s delays.
- ✓ There should be allowance given by engineers to cater for any inconveniences such as unexpected circumstances in meeting deadlines.
- ✓ There should be allowance for exchange rate fluctuations given while coming up with budgets for project proposals.

Presentation of gifts from the YWCDO

This session involved exchange of gifts between YWCDO and the visiting team. See picture below.

This brought the discussion session to an end; a closing prayer was led by the women coordinator and was followed by the next program.



The program Coordinator receiving gift from Debbie



Mrs. Stella of STAD receiving gift from Mrs. Leya of YWCDO



Mrs. Debbie receiving gift from Mrs. Leya of YWCDO



Mrs. Leya of YWCDO posing with Mrs. Stella & Debbie after receiving a gift from Mrs. Stella

Tour of YWCDO compound and Some Key areas in the Community

The visitors led by the Program Officer, Women Coordinator, Youth Coordinator and the volunteers first had a group photo then toured the YWCDO compound, the team took the visitors through the poultry, the old toilet, the new VIP Toilet, the Offices, the surrounding where the new project staff of PCS are cooking and the new canteen project under construction. **See Photo below.**



A group photo of YWCDO staff and the visitors



The back challenge of the staff and the visitors



The program Officer explaining to the visitors the new ongoing Canteen project and the proposed extension plan



Ms. Debbie taking the photo of the old toilet



Ms. Debbie at the scene where the Progressive Catering Service prepare their food.



Ms. Debbie inspecting the recently finished VIP Toilet

THE VISIT TO GOCU VILLAGE.

The staff of YWCDO together with the visiting team moved to a village named GOCU neighboring DR Congo whereby we meet a family of disabled mother and her children and the leadership and members of the community. The disabled woman who is the bread winner of the family has both legs crippled; the children all have the same condition just like hers. She barely survives on digging while scooting; she said that her biggest challenge has been displacement from one place to another. She has no permanent plot for staying with her children. We took her photos together with Debbie and Stella. **See photos below and aside.**



The photo is the woman in her homestead. She has three children who all crippled like her.



The crippled woman in GOCU Village digging when we arrived.



Ms. Debbie and Mrs. Stella greeting the disabled woman and other members of the community of GOCU Village upon arrival in the area. *Photo Credit Mr. Asiki Alex*



The area female counselor (in the right end), Ms. Debbie (Inset) and YWCDO staff posing for a photo with the woman in the room where she sleeps. *Photo Credit Mr. Asiki Alex*

The Tour to Koboko Hill.

This was the last destination that the team moved to after the visit to GOCU Village; this was on our return journey. Here we had some view of Koboko hill and its sceneries and the ongoing water project for Koboko District after which we returned to the Organization compound and flagged off the visitors as they moved to Arua District before Debbie returned back. **See photos below.**



The visitors with YWCDO Staff posing for a photo at Koboko hill. Behind is the water project for Koboko District still under construction. Photo Credit Mr. Asiki Alex



Ms. Debbie, the Program Officer and a community member during a tour at the Koboko hill. *Photo Credit Mr. Asiki Alex*



Ms. Debbie pointing at writing after crossing to the DR Congo border post. This photo is taken in the Democratic Republic of Congo. *Photo credit Mr. Asiki Alex*

Report compiled and produced by;

LEMI MARTIN
Program Officer
YWCDO