

STAD CHILDREN INITIATIVE 2024 CHRISTMASS CELEBRATION



St Andrew nursery and primary school presenting Acholi cultural dance

Acknowledgement:

STAD extends its heartfelt gratitude to the generous donors who care about the well-being of the children. Their financial support made the occasion successful and colorful. We are grateful to the executive director of STAD, Ms. Florence Andrew for her continuous efforts in lobbying for funds to support this yearly programs. A big applause and appreciation to the entire STAD Saff and volunteers who worked diligently from concept writing to implementation to ensure that the event was a success. Last but not least. We also appreciate the community of Ayimini village and surrounding villages in Midia Sub county where the program was conducted for their tireless support and involvement in every department during the implementation.

Executive Summary:

The STAD children initiative was celebrated under an inspiring theme, “**The Roots of education are bitter, but the fruits are sweeter.**” The program brought together over four hundred fifty-one (451) stakeholders - parents and government officials and local government, religious and community leaders for engaging awareness raising and educational information sharing and experiences. All took active roles and recognized the importance and challenges related to children education. All stakeholders were advised to take education serious despite the hardships related to meeting school fees requirements.

Objectives :

- Raise awareness about the importance of education and encourage parents and communities to support their children education.
- To encourage children and motivate them to pursue their educational goals.
- To create a joyful and festive atmosphere for celebration.

Expected Outcomes:

- The children are motivated and encouraged to pursue and remain focused on their educational goals.
- Parents are able to comprehend the importance of education as a key tool for community transformation.
- Stakeholders would be in a better position to advocate for the educational needs of children and society as whole.
- To share inspiring and positive successful stories and experiences about education.

Activities performed:

Prior to the actual date of the celebrations, preparations conducted ranged from awareness creation and sensitization was conducted prior to this program where community leaders' engagement was held. Mobilization of children at the nursery and primary schools in Degiba parish, Midia sub – county.

Formulation and training of the various children's groups by their various teachers in dramas, poems, riddles and creative dances etc. in relation to the theme. And procurement of the items.

The children groups conducted various activities such as creative dance, riddles, poems, memory verse and welcoming songs. The groups were appreciated with financial assistants for their tireless effort during the program insertion up to implementation. Refreshments such as soda, water and biscuits and lunch were served to the participants.

Key note Speakers: The Guest of honor

The guest of honor gave an appealing speech that brightened the occasion. "Children should be taught religion that creates fear for God's kingdom, respect and unity among themselves". He was so grateful to STAD for establishing the nursery and primary school in Ayimini village, where the children initiative was conducted. He urged the community members to embrace ownership quote: "this school belongs to the community". He concluded by saying the government will support STAD programs.

Education coordinator, STAD



Right. Mr. Data Amule

The education coordinator STAD, Mr. Data Amule encouraged the parents to send their children to school and play their role. "Education is the major thematic area for STAD amidst others such as health, economic empowerment, food security and livelihood, climate change etc. 'said the education coordinator. The speeches delivered by the few selected guest speakers aimed to foster positive attitudes towards education and change the mindset of the community members.



The women representative addressing the audience. A religious leader said a prayer.

Achievements:

- The STAD children initiative achieved its primary objective of promoting education and inspiring children to embrace the value of learning especially in the villages of Ayimini, Bango, Wani and Mundugoru of Degiba parish Koboko District.
- The event promoted socialization and a supportive environment where children and parents could engage in educational activities together.
- The event also achieved its target participants, both parents and children.
- The speakers delivered motivating and encouraging speeches to the audience regarding education and its benefits.
- Children were able to discover & develop their talents, by creative dances, poems etc.

Challenges:

Despite the overall success, the following challenges were encountered as follows:

- Some of the anticipated children's groups did not turn up for the event because some schools closed early and children disperse to different localities for Christmas celebration.
- Some invited guests were not familiar with the venue, which resulted in delays while locating the venue compromised the time allocated for the event.
- The Guest of honor could not witness the activity until its completion this was attributed to his busy schedules.
- There was an over whelming turn-up of participants, more than the expected number that led to shortages of chairs, refreshments, meals and accommodation.

Success Stories

- The guest of honor who was the Local council III chairperson for Midia sub-county, Koboko district local government pledged that the government would support STAD's interventions in Ayimini village in terms of technical guidance.
- St Andrew Nursery and Primary school in Ayimini village became known throughout the whole parish since people gathered from different locations.

Recommendations:

To improve the future event, the following recommendations should be taken seriously:

- There is a need to buy tents and chairs to reduce the costs of renting specifically for children initiative activities.
- Children should also be mobilized from the community especially from churches and mosques as most schools are closed in December for holidays.
- Sufficient funds to cater for the unintended number of participants that turns up during the occasion to minimize shortages.

Conclusion:

The STAD Children Initiative was a remarkably successfully implemented. The event achieved its objectives of promoting Education and inspiring children, parents and communities to value learning. STAD and the children and community register their gratitude, and thanks to all donors for the support that made it possible. Thanks to all the staff, volunteers and the community members of Ayimini, Bango, Wani, and Mundugoru village. SCI and STAD look forward to building on this success and improving future initiatives.



Creative dance by children from St Andrew and Exodus ECD



Serving meals during lunch time



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