



REPORT ON STAD CHILDREN'S EASTER INITIATIVE CELEBRATION 2025



Children thanking donors and STAD after celebration at STAD office in Abele.

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Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions all the donors, well-wishers and stakeholders that contributed to the success of the program. The support and the invaluable guidance provided by Ms. Florence A. Andrew, Executive Director, Support Trust for Africa Development.

Activity background

STAD children Initiative (SCI) annually organizes celebrations for children during Christmas and Easter seasons aimed at bringing together children, parents, government and religious and community leaders from various locations for a peaceful and joyous celebration of these festivals.

The celebrations are accompanied by messages sensitizing the parents about child up-bringing, awareness of gender-based violence, observing child rights, fostering social cohesion among children, parents, and communities at large.

Theme: "Hope Renewed: Extend God's Love to Others." The theme focused primarily on hope, renewal and the joy that comes with the gospel of resurrection of Jesus Christ embodying the victory of life over death. The celebration was held on 21st April, at STAD premises in Abele Cell, South division, Koboko Municipality. Abele is one of the cells in Koboko Municipality with the highest number of about 873 urban (self-settled) refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Sudan These statistics implies

that the message of hope is preached and has reached majority of both the host and the refugee community in Koboko district.

Activities conducted:

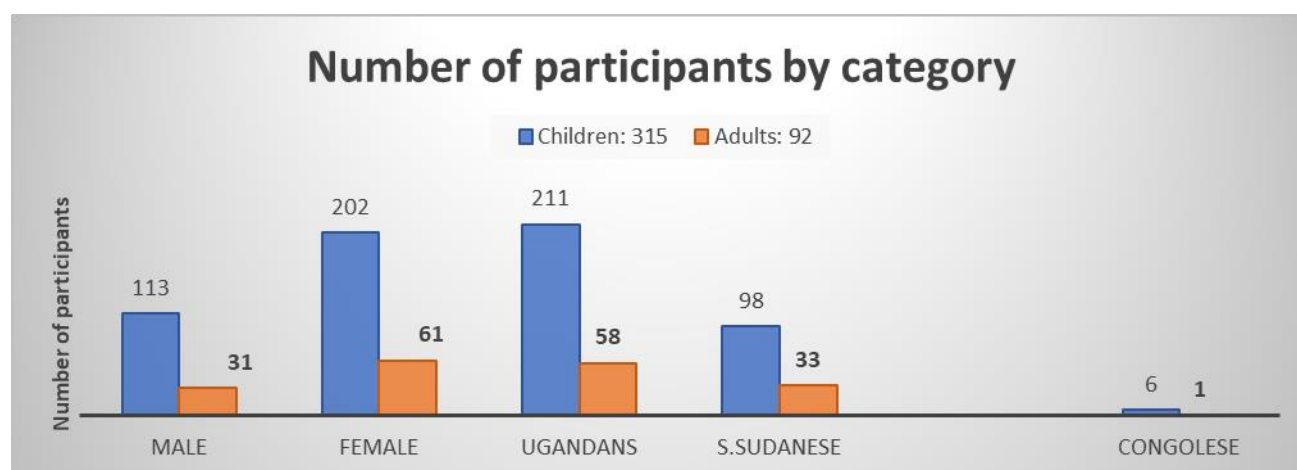
Prior to the program on the 21April, massive consultations and meetings were held with Stakeholders to ensure full engagement and involvement or participation in mobilization, registration and formation and training of the children's groups in various activities in line with the theme under STAD team's supervision.

Participants

The table below shows the summary of the number of participants.

Category		Gender		Nationality		
		Male	Female	UG	SSD	DRC
Children:	315	113	202	211	98	6
Adults:	92	31	61	58	33	1
Total:	407	144	263	269	131	7

Graphical illustration



Activities performed:

The following activities were performed by the different children's groups:

- Reciting memory verses and poems
- Dialogue about the true meaning of Easter.
- Creative dances
- Children's games

Speeches:

Among the guests speakers- the Local Council leader, women's representative and children representative, STAD's project officer delivered encouraging messages. The quest of honor while delivering his speech said: **." We should invest in children's future or generation"** . This didn't only impress the audience but also challenged the parents and stakeholders to invest in children's future in terms of education and moral values. He quoted the scripture from the book of Jeremiah 31:15-17. "So, there is hope for your future; declares the Lord. Your children will return to their own land" He interceded for all the children, parents and the whole organization and appealed for future collaboration with STAD and St. Mark church of Uganda where he serves as the pastor for youth and children.

Achievements (the outcomes):

- i. The mobilization and engagement of schools and churches was successful evidenced by the high turn-up of the children.
- ii. The main objectives of the initiative were accomplished as children were able to demonstrate their abilities and potential through various presentations.
- iii. The activity brought together children from both urban and rural settings, allowing experience sharing. St. Andrew Nursery and primary school group was safely transported back and forth Ayimini village to be part of the activity at STAD office.

Challenges:

- i. Inadequate space to accommodate all the invited and uninvited children and parents resulted some of the people to attend outside premises.
- ii. Inflation in the exchange rate of foreign currencies affected the planned budget negatively.
- iii. Fluctuation in the prices of commodities in the market affected the quantity of items purchased.

Successful stories (Lessons learned):

Peaceful co-existence among different communities from the host and refugees. Children interacted freely with each other regardless of their groups, locations and status.

Children gained leadership skills and confidence as they were bold enough to stand and speak in front of the multitude of people, improves their confidences, thus preparing them for better future leadership roles.

Recommendation:

- The event should be held in a spacious venue to accommodate the targeted and non-targeted number of participants.
- To lobby and fund raise sufficient funds for the constant rising prices of commodities in the market due the inflation.
- Local fund-raising activities should be organized to reduce dependence on donors.

Conclusion:

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our donors for ensuring the success of this program through the financial support provided. These initiatives provide opportunities for children, parents, teachers, all stakeholders to learn some positive ideas from their peers, as child/ren up bringing is and remain a joint responsibility in society as a whole. It's our hope and dream that these recommendations would be taken into consideration for smooth implementation of these program in the near future.

Appendix: Activity pictures.

A child giving a speech



Women councilor giving a speech



Guest of honor addressing the audience.



Children competing during a game



A child reciting a poem



Children performing a cultural dance.



Audience being entertained by the different groups of children.



Children receiving biscuits and soda



Children after the end of the program.