

**STAD CHILDREN INITIATIVE (SCI) EASTER 2024 CELEBRATION REPORT****Summary**

STAD Children Initiative (SCI) Easter and Christmas programs are organized every year by and for children, parents, government officials, church and community leaders. They are funded by well-wishers, donors etc. with the aim for children to have joy, put smiles on their faces of children and foster to peaceful co-existence within and among the communities, organized every year under different themes.

This year 2024 the theme was (“**OWNER OR STEWARD**” “**Am I an owner or a Steward**”) In Psalm 50:10, God tells his people “Every animal of the forest is mine, even the cattle on a thousand hills.” As stewards, God requires us to instill good values, teach, train, coach, and mentor the children to grow to love and follow Jesus footsteps as God purpose of creation. The event which drew over 428 people, both elders and children, as conducted on the 30 April at STAD office premises.

Activities carried out: Mobilization process

The SCI organising committee conducted awareness raising and mobilisation with the Abele cell, Abele ward with all the stake holders: the local council (LC), church and community leaders, teachers from different schools, and some parents about the children’s initiative Easter celebration theme followed by distribution of official invitation letters to all the stake holders.

Formation of groups; six groups were randomly selected and formed regardless of gender, nationality, and education level within Abele cell. The Sunday school, community and school leaders trained the formed groups with different activities such as welcoming songs, riddles, creative dances, poems, games, drama, news reading, and memory verses around the theme with closed supervision from the STAD children coordinators.

CATEGORY	UGANDANS	REFUGEES	CONGOLESE	TOTAL
Male	127	54	3	184
Female	188	49	7	244
Total	315	103	10	428

Achievements.

- The targeted number of children was achieved. A total of 428 people (children 280 and elders 48) attended, exceeding the initial targeted number of 380.
- Parents, local government officials - the LC1 and LC2 and their cabinets of South division, church and community leaders speeches were very encouraging and inspired the children, parents, guardians and everyone present.

- Both pastor Atiku and the LC1 thanked STAD for the program that brings children and parents together every year.
- One child was awarded for his beautiful bible memory verse that says” the punishment of sins is death, but gift of God is eternal life” (Romans 6:23).

Challenges Faced:

- The big turn up facilitation affected sitting arrangements and program presentations.
- Lack of sufficient funds to rent a bigger venue to accommodate a big or large number of children
- One group from one of the schools did not turn up due to lack of a leader from the school side.
- Power was a big challenge, i.e., microphones disturbed especially during communications.
- Failure of the generator to work though repaired affecting smooth communications.
- Refreshments were not enough due to the big number that exceeded the targeted number.
- One school group did not turn up due to lack of a leader from the school.

Recommendations:

- Proper budgeting and lobby for sufficient funds to cater for big turn outs of children/people.
- Need for STAD’s own public address system i.e., speaker and tents to reduce rental expenses.
- Extend activities to other municipalities or neighborhoods.
- Parents were encouraged to spend time with the children and listen to them or their rights.

Lessons Learnt:

- Parents recognized their hidden talents, evidenced by the different activities and performances e.g. creative dancing, welcoming songs, news reading, riddles, telling bible memory verses among others.
- Peace, joy and smiles were vividly seen among the children as they interacted freely during the day.
- Children should be encouraged to learn the word of God to grow as God fearing children.

Conclusion.

The children initiative events play great roles in bringing both refugees and host communities and building peaceful co-existence, especially in difficult situations. There is high demand to extend these activities to different municipalities so that various communities could participate. These activities are clear testimony of STAD vision: “Envisions a future of sustainable peace and socio- economic development especially for the vulnerable people in the horn of Africa”

Below are the photos of the Easter 2024 celebration



Left. Children during the mobilization process Right. Mr. Elly, STAD Field officer welcoming visitors



The well talented news readers from All saint’s church that made everyone happy.



Different presentations from the selected groups of children



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