

HISTORY OF SOME STREET CHILDREN PROJECTS IN ACCRA.

In 1990, a French priest, Fr. John Thebault, asked the department of social work at Legon, to conduct a survey on street children in Accra. Fr. John worked in Ghana from 1982 till 1994 with the handicapped in the Hope for Life organization. Through his work he met many street children and became concerned for them.

Fr. John applied to Save the Children Fund for assistance to finance this research, which was approved. As such, four parties were involved in this research:

- The Department of Social Welfare- Ministry.
- The Department of Social Work at Legon
- Fr. John of Hope for Life
- Save the Children Fund.

The training of interviewers and supervisors started on the 9th of May 1991. The research was carried out successfully and the first report on street children in Ghana (Accra) was prepared.

YEAR	MONTH	TITLE OF REPORT.	PUBLISHED BY:
1991	May	Street Children in Accra	N. Apt, E.Q Blavo, S.K. Opoku

In a colloquium on street children, which was held at Legon, this report was presented to the public and press. May 1992. At this time, the number of street children was estimated to be 4000.

The activities did not end here. A concerned group of people continued the discussions to see what concrete action could be taken for this group of children.

In November 1992, a Committee on street children was formed. Members of that committee were:

Fr. Andrew Campbell, Fr. John Thebault, Fr. Patrick Shanahan, Ms. Rosemary Baah, Mrs. Johanna Greenstreet, Sr. Norma Capangpangan, Mr. Ken Amoah, Dr. Antwi. Prof. Nana Apt and Bro. Jos van Dinther.

Two members of this group visited the street daily, Mr. Ken Amoah and Bro. Jos were later joined by Fr. Patrick who had completed his job at the Urban Aid Clinic.

Ken, Jos and Patrick decided that it was time for action, and Catholic Action for street children (CAS) came into existence. CAS started officially on the 24th of April 1993. Bro. Jos was appointed as the first director. Certificate of Incorporation No 60,763 –21st. of March 1995. Certificate Social Welfare No. DSW/666-5th May 1995.

Members of the board were:

- Fr. John Thebault - Fr. Patrick Shanahan
- Mr. Ken Amoah -Sr. Kate DMJ
- Sr. Norma FMM -Bro. Jos van Dinther

During the same period the group decided that an umbrella was needed for future street children projects. And so RESPONSE was born. RESPONSE was officially launched on the 21st of June 1993.

Members of the board were:

- Prof. Nana Apt
 - Fr. John Thebault
 - Mr. E.Q. Blavo
 - Mr. E.A. Amo-Akomeah
 - Dr. S. Kwawukume
 - Mrs. S. Mahama
- Fr. Patrick Shanahan
 - Mr. F. Ashun
 - Mrs. Laura Gbedemah
 - Dr. P. Antwi
 - Dr. G.B. Pupulampu
 - Bro. Jos van Dinther.

While CAS was in operation, members of staff learnt a lot from the street children. The staff also realized that the problems of street girls could not be handled effectively together with the problems of street boys. CAS therefore asked RESPONSE to study this problem in greater depth. RESPONSE decided to start a separate organization for street girls in 1994. It started in a building, which was rented by URBAN AID clinic.

Two members of RESPONSE board, Fr Patrick and Bro Jos were asked to run the refuge until a permanent director could be employed. Mrs. Vida Asomaning was the first director and Street Girls AID became an independent NGO in 1995.

A group of older boys formed the McCarthy Foster Welfare and Development group. They received a certificate of Incorporation No. 52,721 in December 1993. This group comprises male porters and had an official office at the AMA head quarters.

The NGOs became member of the coalition called GAPVOD, Ghana Association of Private Organisations in Development.

In November 1995, the GNCC initiated a project that seeks to improve the status of the child through law reform. The Ghana National Commission on Children publishes every year the State of the Ghanaian Child report. At times street children are mentioned.

In 1994 and 1995 some studies were done on street children:

YEAR	MONTH	TITLE OF REPORT	PUBLISHED BY:
1994	Jan.	Bearing the weight. The Kayayoo, Ghana's working girl child.	S. Agarwal, M, Attah, N. Apt, M. Grieco, E. Kwakye, J. Turner.
1994	Oct.	Empowerment of At-risk youth through self-employment opportunities and community reintegration.	Department of Community Development, Accra, Ghana
1994	May	The missing gender	V.Asomaning, S. Agarwal, N.Apt, M.Grieco, J. Turner

1995 Nov.	A project review mission report of the street children project in Ghana	Muelanzambi Bakwa
1995 Nov.	Listening to girls on the streets.	N.Apt, M. Grieco
1995 Nov.	Jobs for the boys, loads for the girls. The social organization of portering in Accra.	N. Apt, M. Grieco, Felix Donko-Badu, J. Turner.

Another organization started in February 1995, The Pan African Street Child Liberation Foundation (PASCLTF). This organization obtained a 10-acre plot to set up a centre for street children in Bortianor, Ga district. They run a Raffle lottery, The Stake Vision 2000 Raffle Lotto. The organization has stopped its activities since.

Two other NGOs started:

Charity Resources Management projects (CRMP) and Foundation for Future Leaders (FFLI).

The Sport and Cultural Academy for Children (SCASC) was already in operation since 1985. Also CACIPO (Creative child workshop) started in 1992. The two organisations work together with CENCOSAD, which is based in Ga Mashie. However, they are taking care of Urban Poor Children of the Ga Mashie district and are as such not working for street children.

The Salvation Army Church were asked by CAS in 1996 to run the Health projects for street children. The Salvation Army took over the running of the clinic at the House of Refuge as well as a clinic at the Baby Care program, which CAS had started at the Konkomba market. This Baby care project was handed over to S.AID in 1997.

Ken Amoah, who was working with CAS, went for further studies. He stopped his work with CAS officially on the 9th of September 1996. Ken and his wife Tina wanted another approach and started with a house for street children. They formed the NGO called Children in Need Ghana at the beginning of 1997.

It was in March 1997 that UNICEF with its urban partners organized an International Workshop on Africa's Urban Poor Children. This workshop brought together mayors of African Main cities to discuss how the cities could become more child friendly.

So the coalition for Child Friendly Cities was formed. Members are: CENCOSAD, CAS, S.AID, Salvation Army, GNCC, UNICEF, AMA.

In 1996 and 1997 other studies and reports were published:

YEAR	MONTH	TITLE OF REPORT.	PUBLISHED BY:
1996	March	Some Mothers and Babies of Konkomba market Shanty.	CAS
1996	June	Youth and Aids peer education project	Ghana Red Cross Society and ActionAid Ghana.
1996	June	HIV AIDS in Ghana	

1996 Oct.	Survey on the Situation of street children and STD/AIDS in Ghana.	Dr. Arnerfi - CAS
1996 October	Embedded evaluation programme for street children.	CAS, SAID
1997 March	International workshop of Africa's urban poor child towards child-friendly cities.	UNICEF, UNESCO
1997 March	Street Children in Ghana, policy framework.	Ministry of Employment and Social Work.
1997 Sept.	Ga Mashie urban community development progress report	UNICEF
1997 July	Infant feeding patterns adopted by female porters, Accra	Anastasia Atiogbe

In 1996 CAS and SAID conducted a headcount of street children.

In May 1997 a group called ASMAG Assist Mankind Ghana, led by then Miss Ghana conducted some fundraising activities on behalf of street children. They claimed to be working with CAS. CAS however had never met this group and conducted an investigation. It appeared to be a group of students who are concerned about street children.

Several other groups were fundraising for street children, using the existing NGOs as a cover. Major Hotels and the police were informed about this development.

In 1997 and 1998, The Ministry for Employment and Social Welfare discussed the problems of street children and a draft policy was produced. The Technical Committee on Poverty (TCOP) and the National Development Planning Committee was formed.

Other studies were conducted:

YEAR	MONTH	TITLE OF REPORT.	PUBLISHED BY:
1998 Nov.		Technical Committee on Poverty Street Children in Ghana.	Aba Amisah Quainoo
1998 Nov.		Interventions to address the street children phenomenon in Ghana.	Elijah Yaw Danso, PAB Consult
1998 Nov.		The Informal sector survey on street youth aged below 20 years in the Accra metropolis.	The Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare.
1998 May		RESPONSE evaluation report	UNICEF
1998 June		SPA status report on poverty in SSA. Gender, Growth and Poverty Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa.	Paris

After several years of existing, some of the NGOs organised an evaluation to determine whether the set-up and structure were functioning well.

SAID and CAS followed an embedded evaluation in October 1996 and February 1999. While RESPONSE was evaluated in May 1998.

Father Patrick Shanahan who repatriated to England established a Fundraising NGO called Street Child Africa in 1998 - Charity No. 1074832 in the UK.

The Salvation Army Church opened their House of Refuge for street girls, Anidaso Fie on the 30th of April 1999.

With the financial assistance of UNICEF, CAS conducted a research on the background of street children in 1999 and the report the EXODUS was presented to the public and press.

YEAR	MONTH	TITLE OF REPORT.	PUBLISHED BY:
1999	March	The EXODUS, the growing migration of children from Ghana's rural areas to the urban centers.	CAS/UNICEF/Eric Beauchemin
1999	Feb.	Embedded evaluation programme for street children.	CAS, SAID

The Department of Social Welfare formed the coalition for the European network. Members are: Philip Foundation, Child to Child, Muslim Relief Association, Youth Association, Compassion Delivery, Children in Need, Need Care International, Vision of the Youth, S.AID, CAS

2000

Results of the reasons why street children come to the streets:

Single parents	25%	Divorce	21%	Poverty	17%
Neglect	8%	Orphan	6%	Ran away	5%
Violence	5%	Family in the street			3%
Broken Home	2%	No reasons	2%		
1%	Handicapped parent	1%	Handicapped themselves		
1%	Pregnant in school	1%	Sexual abuse		
1%	customary rites				

YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHED
2000	Combating Trafficking in Children W.A.	ILO

2001

CARE wanted to introduce a savings schemes for deprived groups. Although the start was encouraging they did not succeed in sustaining it.

CAS conducted the following researches. The results have been published in the book "The Ghanaian Street Child" (2003).

- Research in Health education – health education

- Street corner education – literacy
- Follow-up – children who completed their training.
- Research in vocational training – what should we offer to the children who follow apprenticeship training.

2002

YEAR	TITLE OF THE BOOK	
2003	THE GHANAIAN STREET CHILD	published by CAS

CAS also started issuing invitation cards to all street children in Accra to assist in the Headcount.

2003

Civil Society Forum on the Rights and Protection of Street Children took place in Accra between the 21/24 of October 2003. Participants were invited from other West African countries namely the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Liberia and Cameroon; unfortunately, Cameroon failed to turn up.

On the local scene, organisations such as street Academy, Neglect Foundation – Kumasi, Youth Development Foundation – Kumasi; Mercy Foundation – Takoradi; Youth Alive Tamale and Don Bosco - Ashaiman. Others were Street Girls Aid, Maamobi – Accra and CAS, which hosted the organisation.

There were also other personalities who were also invited as a resource person. They included Alois of Udugu Society from Kenya, Jeroo Bilimoria of child Help International – Netherlands, Professor Nana Araba Apt Van Ham of the Centre for social policy studies (C.S.P.S) University of Ghana – Legon, Professor J.K Arnarfi, Director Institute for Social, statistical and Economic Research (ISSER) also at Legon. Alexis Derry of the Assembles of God Street children Project (AGRES) Accra, Mrs Kutuatsi, the Deputy Director of Department of Social Welfare Ghana Mr.S.N Wailer. The Greater Accra Director, Department of social Welfare Ghana among others.

Observers were from G.NC.C; WAJU, Red Cross Society of Ghana, Plan international Ghana, Coalition on the Right of the child – Netherlands Embassy, Accra the rest were “Ricerca e coopreazion” of Italy, Fan Milk Ghana and Women Development Agency – Accra.

Some important personalities were present both at the opening and closing ceremonies:

Rev Fr. Anthony Asare, Chairman of CAS Board. Dr. Susu Kwawukume of the Trust Hospital and members of CAS Board. Mr. Daniel Darfour, an Accountant of Morrison and Associates official Auditors of CAS and Mr. Dzakpasu, the country Director of the international Labour Organisation.

The President of the Republic of Ghana nominated the Hon. Minister of manpower and development Yaw Barimah to represent him and the Minister for Women and children's Affairs Mrs. Gladys Asmah and her Deputy Mr. Kofi Adusei were also present. The forum officially opened by Fr. Patrick Shanahan, the executive Director of Street Child Africa and also a trustee of the Consortium for Street Child Africa followed by an introductory speech by the Director of CAS.

YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHED
2003	A Civil Society Forum in Street Children W.A.	Consortium for SC. UK.

2004

2005

CAS exists 12½ years

SAID moves into a new House of Refuge at Achimota.

YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHED
2005	Identification Of Street Children	By FAFO -Norway

2006

2007 Research in street children who are in need of more attention.

YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHED
2007	Report Research SAP	Margaretha Ubels

2008

- Ricerca and Department of Social Welfare.

An Italian NGO Ricerca Cooperazione (RC) and the Department of Social Welfare together with some NGO's CAS and S.AID prepared to set up a new data base on children in the street which could be kept up to date by the DSW. Several meetings took place to prepare this activity.

- Personnel were trained.
- Street mapping exercise took place.

2009

- A head count has been conducted.
- A census took place.

CAS completed its research on street children and published its findings in a report.

YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHED
2009	The state of the Ghanaian street child- CAS' perspective.	CAS

As a result, CAS withdrew most of its field-staff from the field and re-assigned them. CAS members of staff will be available for all children below the age of 18 who should have been in schools. CAS continues assisting children who choose to leave the streets.

CAS' new mission is to create the awareness of out of school youth targeting tertiary students.