

City Wide Strategy In Working With The Street Children

CITY WIDE STRATEGY

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I. Introduction

The problem of street children started to be felt in the 1970's, and became more visible in the 1980's. There was a rising of population growth. In the urban areas population growth was fastest in Metro Manila, which is composed of (four cities and 13 municipalities). In 1974 it had a population of only 1.5 million; by 1980 it had grown to six million, which was more than 12% of the national population and one third of the total urban population of the country at that time. In 1984, Metro Manila and the nation are other urban centers were home to about 17 million people or over one-third the country population of 50 million. With a current population of 8-10 million the metropolis continues to grow. A government estimate places the number of migrants to the capital region at 250,000 per year and over the years, urban poverty has worsened.

The population of slum areas is young; at least one half is below 20 years old. Often children are forced by circumstances to engage in occupations such as scavenging, buying and selling scrap materials, vending, and sometimes even prostitution. From these ranks come the children who go to the street in order to feed for themselves or help their families earn a living.

Strategic Planning on city Wide Strategy in Working with Street Children

In October 2005 we started research and survey about their Strategies and Responses in Street Children Ministry among our partner churches and agencies in different parts of Metro Manila and Provinces. Then after consolidating all the information and data, we organized a Strategic Planning in August 31-September 2, 2006 which our main objectives was to respond with a more deliberate programmed in our Street Children Ministry, Presentation of the Survey, Discussion of the Strategies, Goal Setting and Spiritually encourage the workers. And to document best practices and effective approaches in helping street children that shall be used as a basis for further policy and program development. We have 40 pastors and workers from the different parts of Metro Manila, Antipolo, Quezon City, Bulacan, Olongapo and Bicol. Were also glad that the Project Coordinator of the National Network for Street Children/DSWD joined the said activity.

II. Street Children in the Philippines

A. Statistics

Region	Cities	Population 0-17 yrs. Old	Estimate of Highly Visible Children	Estimate of Population 3%	
National Capital Region	Manila	611.337	3.266	18.340	
	Mandaluyong	105.427	281	3.163	
	San Juan	40.833	350	1.225	
	Makati	173.711	320	5.211	
	Quezon City	768.686	2.867	23.061	
	Marikina	139.967	256	4.199	
	Pasay	150.381	1.420	4.511	
	Paranaque	150.743	240	4.522	
	Muntinlupa	152.245	508	4.567	
	Las Pinas	163.578	308	4.907	
	Kalookan	428.651	1.530	12.860	
	Regional Total		2.885.559	11.346	86.566

Region	Cities	Population 0-17 yrs. Old	Estimate of Highly Visible Children	Estimate of Population 3%
Luzon	Bicol	92.144	833	18.340
	Olongapo	74.210	301	1.225
Mindanao	Cagayan De Oro	188.350	1.070	5.651
Regional Total		354.704	2.204	25.216

Note:

Estimate of Highly Visible Children – based on the actual survey 1989 by the UNICEF Commission, Street Children can be regularly seen in the street, park, commercial areas, hang-outs, vacant lot or building etc.

Estimate of Population 3% - street children/youth – drop-in and temporary shelter, institution, centers and communities.

B. Who are they?

- Out of school youth
- Poor
- Abandoned by parents
- Neglected child
- Stokwa (stowaway)
- Rugby “yebe” or sniffing glue
- N.P.A. (No permanent address)
- Mangangalakal (scavengers)
- Kalabit-penge (beggars)
- Punas sapatos (shoe shine boys)
- Atras boys (jeepney or bus barker)
- Grasa boys/taong grasa (dirty boys)
- Homeless
- Rugby boy ‘palobo” (sniffed rugby)
- Working in the street
- Parking boys
- Punas boys (car wash boys)
- Kaninbaw boys (kanin at sabaw) – (kids main menu rice & soup)
- Palaboy (run away)
- Badjao boys (Muslim boys)
- Call boys
- Barker (boys call for passengers)
- Bakal boys (boys who collect or stole steel)
- Magbabachoy (kids who eat left over food of customers from restaurant or food chain)
- Disobedient
- Syndicated
- Separated from families
- Orphans
- Gang members
- Car washers
- Pick pockets
- Baggage carriers
- Scavengers

- Askal – aki sa kalye, bata sa kalye (children in the street)
- Ulila – kaherak herak (orphans)
- Neglected
- Vendor, laborer

C. Where do these children come from?

- Squatters
- Home along the Riles (families live near train)
- Product of broken families
- Kick-outs from school, Out of School youth
- Ilalim ng tulay (under the bridge)
- Malls, Plaza, market
- Slum/depressed area
- Push cart family
- Open space
- Underpass/overpass, LRT
- Poor and dysfunctional families
- Rural migrants
- Run/stow away from the province
- Many from Visayas, Mindanao
- Province
- Under bridges
- Dumping area
- Broken families
- Jails or rehabilitation centers
- Homeless
- Neglected, unwanted, rejected
- Enjoy earning money of their own
- Exploited
- Friends/Gang members
- Child trafficking
- Escape (home responsibilities, from abuse in the family)
- Survival
- Adventure/just for fun
- Syndicate
- Victims of child trafficking

D. Why are they on the street?

- They need to work to help and support their families
- Broken families, breakdown of family relationships
- Homeless
- Poverty
- Small space in the house
- Friends/Gang-influence of peers
- Victims of child trafficking, prostitution
- Vices
- Survival
- They don't feel important and being unloved in the family
- Abused-physically, sexually abused kids
- From the jails or rehabilitation centers
- Drug pushing
- Begging and jobless

- Desire for freedom and adventure
- Companionship and sense of belonging offered by street children
- Tribal war, Conflict between the military and rebel soldiers
- Victims of Child Trafficking and Child Labor

E. Approaches/Program

- Build relationship and trust
- Make friends of them
- Medical mission
- Camps
- Giving of gift
- Make friends with them
- Visitation
- Rights based approach
- Counseling
- Feeding program
- Residential care facilities
- Processing center
- Community based program
- Back to school
- Scholarship
- Counseling/Bible study/evangelism
- Street outreach
- Skills training
- Provision of livelihood program
- Family Outreach Program
- By way of helping them
- Visiting them
- Barkadahan/build closer fellowship
- Showing respect
- Sharing the love of God
- Let them feel welcome
- Give them something to do that benefits them
- Let them know that you sympathize with them
- Be like a parents to them
- Scholarship program
- Joining them to all special (occasion/activities) of the church
- Recreational activities
- Tutorial - Non formal and Formal Education

F. Impact – Result

- Change lives
- Restoration
- Additional members of the church
- Church workers
- Good testimony to the community
- New perspective and direction in life
- Change of behavior from negative to positive
- Rationality
- Restored hope
- Involvement: church and any related activities
- Effective stability: emotional

- From low self esteem to positive self esteem
- Enrolled in formal schooling, study in non formal education
- Improved personal hygiene
- Assertive
- Respectful and thoughtful
- Prayerful
- Strong bond "peer"
- Improved social relationships
- Actively involved in the church or youth fellowship
- Honor students
- Streets educators and street workers
- Bible school students
- Skills training develop
- Involved in Creative arts: drama, singing, mime
- Voices of children now being heard
- In some areas NGO's, LGU's become involved
- Reunification with families
- Mainstreaming
- Productive/change lives
- Spiritual renewal
- Empowered
- Finished schooling
- Being educated in the word of God
- They felt important
- Obedient to their parents
- Kids experience love, respect – valued
- Relationship to God, family and community improved
- Salvation (spiritual)
- Changed mindset (long process)

G. Identified Needs

1. Bulacan and Antipolo

- Lack of resources
- Manpower/recruitment (well trained, dedicated)
- Workers training
- Proper planning
- Evaluation
- Promotion
- Monitoring

2. Manila, Las Pinas and Pasay

- Stay focused – one direction (workers must have one focus)
- Identify the classification of the ministry
- Titled program – monitoring
- Planning – (resources, manpower, facilities and networking with other organization)
- Recruitment/promotion
- Implementation/reporting
- Measurement and evaluation
- Documentation

3. Quezon City

- Resources

- Manpower
- Sustainability

4. Olongapo

- Agape
- Structure (family)
- Passionate workers
- Child protection policy
- Church supporting
- Training/exposure
- Government assistance (medical)

5. Bicol

- Goals – Vision – Mission
- Stay focused
- Identify the resources and manpower
- Monitoring/report/evaluation
- Sustainability

6. Mindanao/Cagayan De Oro

Work Force
 Financial Support
 Seminars and Trainings
 More Churches to get involve
 Train and Equip the Coordinating Team
 Strengthen Vision, Mission, Goals

7. San Fernando & Angeles City/Pampanga

Funds
 Communication materials
 Equipping Churches

III. City Wide Strategy: Program and Services

A. BASIS OF STRATEGY: Hopes and Aspirations

1. Go back to school and finish studies.
2. Learn vocational skills.
3. Be reunited with their families.
4. Long for better and happier families.
5. Among the sexually exploited, substance in conflict with the law: start new life and become productive member of the community or society.

Our basis of strategies is the Hopes and Aspirations of every children and youth. The Churches and Agencies create and develop their program and services in this three strategy, the Prevention, Restoration and Developmental. Along the process of this strategy we are still learning and trying to enhance our skills in this area. At this point, we still need to strengthen and give focus on Developmental strategy, as part of the “long term” plan.

B. “Strategies” in working with Street Children

PREVENTION	RESTORATION	DEVELOPMENTAL
<p>Aim to reach out children and youth who are still in contact with their families or have regular ties with their families and or relatives: they usually work in the streets to support themselves and their families.</p>	<p>Aim is to restore and reconcile them with their families or relatives. Restoration is a process to assist, advise and help kids to build their relationship with their families, friends and communities. These also include their Rehabilitation process, meaning not only as drug users but also in terms of spiritual, psychological, emotional healing. Sometimes these kids are completely abandoned by their families; they usually stay in “institution”.</p>	<p>Aim to develop, discover children and youth in their skills, talents and work. This needs to be learning and training process. The process should help them to be mature in his/her spiritual life, to be educated and attend skills training. Preparation for their future life.</p>

Today, after the initial innovations and experiments, these approaches in helping the street children have been developed and so are now being used. These are the community-based, center based and street based approaches. The need of this strategy should be: In God’s plan should have Connection, Fitted to the needs of the children, should have Coordination and Teamwork, there is Impact and Results.

1. Program Strategies, which evolved:

❖ **Community-based** – The community-based approach is largely preventive, addressing the problem where it starts, the family and community of the child.

2. Program and Services-include providing street with:

1. Educational assistance for formal and non-formal education as well as other form of alternative education.
2. It also offers their families with opportunities and resources to attain better and regular income.
3. Training parents on responsible parenthood, especially in the care and protection of the young.

❖ **Street-based** – The street-based approached reaches out to children in their street or places of work.

3. Street educators conduct informal dialogues with children to:

1. Get to know them.
2. Understand their situation.
3. Offer assistance, and impart desirable values.

This approaches applies to children who are not prepared to give up the little adventures and fortunes in the streets, for the children to know that there is assistance available to them should they need it and where to get it.

4. The street-based approach offers at least three types of services:

A. The Street Gang Work – The children get involved in certain activities while waiting for work opportunities to turn up.

These activities could be undertaken with them not necessarily by social workers but also by trained street educators, church workers and volunteers.

B. Supervised Work Environment – has yet to be successfully carried out. It requires the formal organization of street children with groups or organizations with the knowledge of community group such as: As the barangay council and officer, the barangay leaders, volunteers, etc so that they can easily identified and assisted when in need of help. This is the easier to implement in smaller communities or districts.

C. The Street School – is so far the latest and most innovative project undertaken. The children usually gathered together during a lull in their earnings activities. The street school may be mobile tent or open roofed structure when many of the children work or stay to rest.

5. The curriculum includes:

1. Normal and non-formal activities to achieve learning objectives related to the reality situation.
2. Lifestyles, needs and aspirations of these children. Teaching-learning methods are adapted to their needs and aspirations.

❖ **Center-based** – the center based approached is curative and restorative. It involves putting up a shelter where abandoned and homeless children can find a home:

1. **Drop in Centers** – usually provide children with a hot super and space for the night.
2. **Temporary Shelters** – offers and lasting services. Among these are:
 - Medical and Social Treatment – for physical injuries and emotional trauma suffered.
 - The restoration and rehabilitation of impaired social functioning.
 - Sending the children to school.
 - Preparing them gainful occupation. Some centers also offer fosters care and adoption services.
3. **Processing Center** – the program is not structured but there is assessment based on their performance for the next step.

IV. City Wide Strategy: Networking

A. Basis of Strategies: Unity – People work together

Biblical unity is the adequate foundation for the effectiveness of all our ministries. Only together can we make a real impact in the community, our nations and the world. The aims of the network are:

1. To build and strengthen the Network among Local Churches and Christian and Non Christian NGO's on the issues of street children.
2. To share experiences, exchange resources and information in responding to the issues affecting children in Philippines.
3. To aware, advocate and mobilize churches and agencies to minister and be a part in reaching the street children.

Definition

1. Contact
2. Cooperation
3. Connection
4. Working together
5. Sharing
6. Inter-connection/sharing of resources
7. Working together
8. Connection and sharing
9. Bayanihan

- 10. Interdependence
- 11. Synergy
- 12. Collaboration
- 13. Unity

B. “Strategies” in working with Street Children

With four steps, we have Phases of Local Network Development that serves as our guide every time we start or establish Local Network, together with the Local Churches and Agencies. The six phases are: Interest, Exploration, Consultation and Awareness, Relationship Build, and Consolidation and Advance Development. Along with the development, from the first phase they show interest in working together, Members of the Coordinating Team or the Steering Committee will shared the same Vision, Role of the Coordinating establish, Plan of Action developed and agreed by the group. We want to strengthen a sense of “ownership” among the local network and as part of this we encourage them to raise funds to support the needs of their Networking ministry.

Mobilization	Training & Equipping	Interventions	Impact
The purpose is to mobilize churches and agencies to be part or to get involved in ministering to the street children. The strategy should be developed to mobilize communities, local churches and agencies, NGO’s and LGU’s to create their own vigilance systems in prevention, restoration and developmental and to provide them alternatives.	The purpose is to enhance and equip workers in the work or area of ministry. Workers need to learn not only the Biblical aspects of the ministry but the different approaches.	The purpose to analyze, make assessment and reflect together by sharing on the current situation and concerns of the children. Make possible Plan of Action. We hope the churches and agencies will be the transition of “Change Agent” to propel all remedial programs to prevention program for effective advocacy and to be the voice for the children.	The purpose of this is to evaluate, to measure the set standard in Programs and Networking Development.

The Needs of our Local Network: Strengthen the Network Operation, Focus Vision, Long Term Commitment – the Leaders and Workers heart. Funding and Sustainability of Programs, Teamwork/ Cooperation.

V. The National Program on Street Children

The National Project on Street Children was finally launched in April 1987 under the National Network for Street Children. It was a joint collaboration of DSWD, NCSD and UNICEF.

A. Objectives:

- 1. To mobilize and strengthen partnership among community, national government agencies, faith based ministry, NGO’s in assessing collective responsibility in protecting children.
- 2. To provide capacity building among stakeholders with and ultimate objective in establishing a component support system in the community.
- 3. To effect changes among street children and their families.

B. Major Accomplishments:

1. Children are able to go to school-education is the most significant intervention.
2. From low esteem to positive self image.
3. Improved social relationships with pees, families and adults.
4. Improved work conditions.
5. Voices of street children now being heard.
6. Movement for street children has been created.

VI. Challenge

Vision, Mission, Goals:

A. Antipolo

Vision:

- We want to see the street children of Antipolo to come to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, within a community where they can feel safe.

Mission:

- Children's Garden exists to provide practical solutions for healing the minds, heart and bodies of street children and their families of Antipolo.

Goals:

- We want to restore street children back to the way God intended for their lives. We want to equip them with Biblical knowledge, unto Salvation. We want to equip them with life, education and vocational training.
- We want to reconcile these street children with their families, and provide their family with applicable resources.
- We want to build a dynamic networking team within Metro Manila, which can come alongside Children's Garden of Antipolo and meet their diverse needs.
- We want to help street children from streets of Antipolo and the drug usage, prostitution, STD's, lack of education, life skills and spiritual deprivation.

B. Quezon City

Purpose:

- KIDSAVE Q.C. – addressing the needs of street children by providing opportunities and experiences to fully develop them through a holistic approach.

Vision:

- Street Children realize self-worth, renewed, reconciled and productive member of the society by the year 2020.

Prevention:

1. To promote advocacy to the rights and responsibilities of a child with in a community.
2. To promote health and nutrition.
3. To promote advocacy in responsible parenting.

Restoration:

1. To meet the immediate needs of children in the street and encourage them to go to the feeding center or processing center.
2. To integrate them to a local church for spiritual growth and development.

Developmental:

1. To provide educational opportunities and assist the family through livelihood program.
2. To refer the child to an institution and promote child fostering among church members in case reconciliation with family is not possible.

C. Manila, Las Pinas, Pasay:

Vision:

- We envision the street children to become agents of change who are God-fearing, productive and responsible member of society.

Purpose and Mission:

- We as Disciples of Christ, situation in Metro Manila, bonded together by a common desire in reaching out the street children so as reconcile them to God and their families.

Goals:

- Strengthen networking among member-organizations through regular Q-meetings so as to:
 - Share resources/experiences/expertise
 - Networking – programs and services
 - Strengthen “bonding”
 - Plan, implement, monitor, evaluate, identified plans.
 - 1st meeting on November 24, 2006 to be hosted by Chaplain Namocatcat. 9-12 A.M., Secretariat; SPECS Foundation Inc.
- Implement/execute/monitor/evaluate direct service programs for Street Children.
 - Feeding Program
 - Medical/Dental Services
 - Formal/Non-Formal Education
 - Christian Education
 - Social Services
 - Etc. as the need arises
- Capacity – building on Street Children Ministry in terms of KAS building/enhancement on direct service implementation.
 - Staff/Volunteers
 - Children on Discipleship – building
- Identify, Develop, Disseminate. Information Education Communication and Fund-sourcing.
 - Local/National
 - International

D. Olongapo

Vision:

- To see the entire family of street children transform in Christ through KID in Need Ministry of Calvary Chapel in Olongapo City.

Mission:

- Kids in Need (KIN) Ministry reach the children through its ministry of: scholarship, stay-in student, medical/dental outreach, feeding, Bible teaching and family follow-up.

Goals:

- To see a maximum of 80 kids every Thursday come to KIN Ministry.

- To sponsor 4-6 stay-in student yearly.
- To conduct a monthly medical/dental outreach.
- To have advance education for needy high school graduate.
- To visit street children at triangle, Victory Liner and Public Market and invite them to KIN Ministry every Thursday.

E. Bicol

Purpose:

- Local churches, organizations and we are working together in restoring children at risk in Daraga and Legazpi City by providing holistic ministry.

Vision:

- We see 200 children at risk in Daraga and Legazpi City restored to their family or connected to caring homes and become useful members of the community.

Goals:

PREVENTION	RESTORATION	DEVELOPMENTAL
<p>1. Team up with NGO's/ LGU's in strengthening family values and child development.</p> <p>2. Create a programs/ministries using Word of God as tool/ guide that will change mind set/ values/ practices and teach acceptable practices.</p> <p>3. Community awareness and contribution: a.) Educate/inform community how to deal with children at risk. b.) Provide hotlines, offices, contact persons for referrals. c.) Continues campaign to help children at risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evangelistic efforts ➤ Discipleship ➤ Small group meeting <p>4. Tapping former Children at Risk as resource speakers.</p>	<p>1. Organize local churches/ organization September '06</p> <p>2. Build relationship with NGO's/ LGU's, September '06 onwards.</p> <p>3. Mobilize prayer groups/ intercessors, September '06.</p> <p>4. Create program/ ministries</p> <p>a.) Physical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pick up phase December '06 (relationship building) Rizal park, Legazpi City/NAP, Daraga. ➤ Feeding once a week January '07 <p>b.) Emotional</p> <p>c.) Spiritual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evangelism/Camp '07 ➤ Discipleship <p>d.) Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Back to school June '07 ➤ Family/Community restoration <p>5. Recruit/train workers, Sept.- Nov. '06</p> <p>6. Raise Funds – October '06</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continues campaign = partnership, March '07 ➤ Continues = partnership ➤ Train parents/guardians in food prep/health sanitation ➤ Regular one on one talk. ➤ Child and family connect to growth group/church June '07. ➤ Connect with other agencies for livelihood, IGP, relocation and housing. ➤ Upgrade training 3x/year, welfare workers, one on one talk-quarterly '07 ➤ Maintain partnership widen supporters. ➤ Skills Training.

F. Mindanao

Vision:

Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to street children and underprivileged children and develop their potential to become productive members of the society by networking Christian church in Mindanao.

Mission:

To share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the children of the street by uniting Christian Churches and Agencies with the same compassion.

Goals:

1. To promote the ministry of street children to Christian Churches.
2. To develop relationship between churches involved in the network through fellowships.
3. To indulge in training to harness skills in street children ministry.
4. To be able to raise funds for street children's temporary shelter or drop-in center and activities such as: Camping, Feeding, Evangelistic Christmas Party, Sport Fest, Medical Clinic and First Aid Training and most of all sending them to school.
5. To establish street children outreaches in the whole area of Mindanao.