

PLATFORM FOR LABOUR ACTION

OUR JOURNEY STOPPING CHILD EXPLOITATION (SCE) JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2013



IMPACT BRIEF

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INTRODUCTION

The **Stop Child Exploitation (SCE)** project, implemented by **Platform for Labour Action (PLA)** was designed to address the urgent issue of child exploitation in Uganda. Running from **January to December 2013**, The project aimed to rescue and rehabilitate children subjected to exploitative conditions, while ensuring their reintegration through access to education and vocational training. In addition to direct support for affected children, the initiative focused on strengthening both community structures and institutional frameworks to combat child labour effectively. By promoting awareness, building capacity, and providing sustainable alternatives, the SCE project sought to create a safer environment where children could thrive free from exploitation.

IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

1. MAPPING EXERCISES TO IDENTIFY HOUSEHOLDS WITH VULNERABLE AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN AND VISIT SCHOOLS TO IDENTIFY AT RISK CHILDREN.

The exercise was undertaken during the first half of the year between 13th March and 19th April 2013. 520 households were visited in the 13 selected zones of; Salaama parish, Nsambya west, Nkere and Kabalagala. The zones in Salaama included; Kalani, Zikussoka, Valley, Takkajunge, Nakinyuguzi, Salaama central, Mulungu, Munyonyo, Kyamula, Buziga, Kosovo, Boston and Badongo. Further five Primary schools including Munyonyo Primary School, Kibuye, Military, Kisugu Primary school, st. John Baptist Primary school and two secondary schools were also visited to identify children at risk of falling into child labour. **During this process 10 children at risk of falling into child exploitation were identified**

2. OVERALL CHILDREN RESCUED AND ENROLLED INTO SCHOOL.

199 children (111 boys, 88 girls) were enrolled 189 children (106 boys, 83 girls) were placed in Vocational Training:

Of these 103 children (62 boys & 41 girls) were prevented and withdrawn from child exploitation and placed at Nile Vocational Institute for vocations skills training.

Course / Skill	Total Enrolled	Boys	Girls
Hairdressing	25	1	24
Motor Vehicle Mechanics	48	48	0
Electrical Installation	15	12	3
Catering	10	1	9
Tailoring / Textile	5	0	5
TOTAL	103	62	41

Four of the six children in primary school sat for their primary school examinations, two were promoted to primary six and all 3 children in secondary school were promoted to senior three.

- **Primary Education:** 7 children (3 boys, 4 girls) Secondary Education: 3 children (1 girl, 2 boys)

During the same period, two trainings were undertaken for twenty (20) teachers on supporting



Children`s Rights through Education, Art and media (Scream). This helped and ensured that the vulnerable children placed into schools remained in schools as their needs were meant and both the parents and teachers were give duties to ensure the children`s rights are upheld.

3. CHILD PARTICIPATION

One thousand four hundred eighty eight (1,489) children participated in the World Day Against Child Labour. PLA facilitated 16 children (7 boys and 9 girls), 2 teachers and 2 task force members to participate. overall 1473 children participated 1200 in 2013 and 273 in 2012 Day of the African Child and Makindye stakeholders` conference that were held on the 11th and 12th June 2013.

Supporting Childrens Rights through Education Arts and the Media (SCREAM)

Thirteen (13) schools (6 in 2013 and 7 in 2012) were reached with SCREAM messages to prevent children from dropping out and getting involved into exploitative labour. 9,970 children and more than 3,000 people including community members, parents and children were reached through SCREAM activities of poems, songs, skits, plays and speech.

Messages on the fight of child labour were disseminated to fellow children, parents and guardians, teachers and other stake holders. The included messages of stop child labour and send children to school. As a result 4,853 children were reached in 2012, while 5117 children were reached in 2013 with messages under Supporting Children`s Rights through Education, Art and Media (SCREAM).

Action plans were continuously reviewed through meetings and the teachers were mainstreaming the SCREAM methodology in the school curriculum. The trained teachers were able to train other teachers in their respective schools as a result of this work 10 child rights clubs were formed one in each of the ten schools were teachers were trained on SREAM,

In some schools, SCREAM activities were mainstreamed in existing clubs. The teachers took to understand the children`s situations at home and encouraged the child to speak out and create awareness on the rights of children.

Furthermore the teachers also respected the children and listened to their views and opinions. The teachers also encouraged the children to report cases of child exploitation.

As a result wo children from Kibuye Primary School reported their parents to the head teacher for involving them in child labour.

Seven (7) meetings were conducted in seven (7) schools to follow up on the action plans prepared by teachers trained on SCREAM, and to confirm the dates when inter class SCREAM competitions were held. They include; Military police primary school, St. John Baptist Primary school, St Peters Nsambya Primary School, Uganda Martyrs Nursery and Primary School, Bethel Primary School, Makindye Junior Academy Primary School, Police children's school. The Primary Schools included the following; Kibuye Primary School, St. John Baptist primary school Kabalagala, and Katwe primary school.

Secondary Schools: East high school, Pearl Secondary school, Kololo high school, Munyonyo primary school and St. Ssebugwawo secondary school Military police primary school agreed to competitions during their second term and asked PLA team to join them in the last week of the holiday for joint planning.

Other schools held their competitions during the third term because they were participating in regional music dance and drama competitions. However, they asked PLA to join them on the 26th July 2013 during the competition because the theme was "Effective Learning, having a malaria free country".



4. LEGAL AID SERVICES

Twenty-nine (29) children comprising (21 girls, 8 boys) were provided with legal aid services. Seven (7) children (6 girls and 1 boy) benefited from legal aid in the first six months of this year while Fifteen (15) children (12 girls and 3 boys) were provided with legal aid services in the second half of the reportings year.

Eleven (11) cases comprising of (8 girls and 3 boys) children were successfully handled and closed while 3 remained ongoing. The issues handled included resettlement, payment, defilement cases and refusal by guardians/ employers of the children to enroll children in school.

For example;- Nakakande Sandra a 16 year old dropped out of school due to early pregnancy and gave birth to baby Kalyesubura. However, the father of the baby was not giving her any assistance but after PLA's intervention, the man took on his responsibility of providing child maintenance.

Kyomugisha Prossy, an orphan and a former domestic worker, identified by PLA during the mapping exercise had not been paid her for 5 months which amounted to 250,000/= in arrears. PLA lawyers engaged her employer who paid her arrears. PLA rescued her from this exploitative labour and enrolled her at Nile Vocational Jinja (NVI-Jinja) where she got skills in hair dressing.

Makanga Reagan a 16 year was trafficked, PLA intervened and upon resettling him, the mother was counseled and cautioned on the dangers of trafficking and child exploitation.

Naigaga Rehema a 3 year old child was neglected by the father since the mother Kyomugisha Shadia's conception. After PLA's intervention, a clan meeting was organized with relatives and the father committed himself to cater for the child and currently provides maintenance.

Nakiganda Margaret a 13 year old a former domestic worker was exploited at her aunts' place and the payment sent to the father. PLA intervened, rescued her and placed her at NVI. After her skills training she was safely resettled with her mother in Masaka.

Namu is a 13 year old who was referred to PLA by Gloria Atuhair (0785595094), one of PLA's trained domestic worker peer educator. She reported that the young girl stays with her auntie (Namutebi) who is subjecting her to child labour, while Namutebi's other children attend school. PLA counseled the auntie and she has agreed to enroll Namu into a deaf school starting next year. PLA is exploring alternating organizations that can offer support considering all special care schools are expensive. PLA will follow up to ensure that this happens.

Kasozzi Peter is a 16 year old, he was identified during the mapping exercise as he was making bricks and rearing cattle. His employer owed him 63,000/=. PLA rescued and enrolled him into motor vehicle mechanics training course to enable him access his right to education and the legal team is still following up the employer to ensure he gets his dues and enable him access justice.

Nabulime Hawa a 13 year old was referred by one of our taskforce members in Nkere zone as lost and formerly exploited child. PLA rescued her and took her to one of our partner organization Save street children Uganda located in Kamwokya for accommodation where she is getting psychosocial support; PLA has further provided medical aid to her.

The issues handled include resettlement, payment, defilement cases and refusal by guardians/ employers of the children to enroll them in school.

For example Nansamba Viola aged 13 years old was a domestic worker and later on came back to her father's place in Nkere-Kibuye. The father lives with her step mother. Viola used to do the domestic work at home after her father denying her education. After PLA's intervention during the mapping exercise, Viola was withdrawn from domestic work and enrolled at Nile Vocational Institute.

2 girls (Ssamali Suzan and Tibabulawo Fazila) were-united with their families after PLA's intervention.

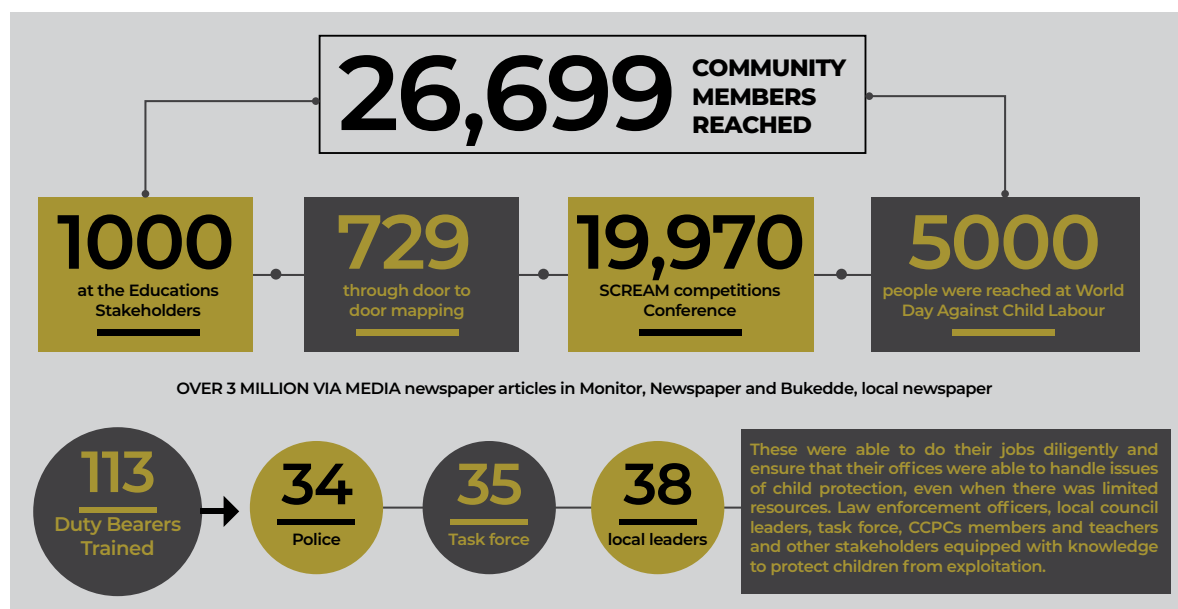
Two defilement cases were handled; one child, 17 years old, was placed at Nile Vocational School to acquire vocational skills. Unfortunately, she was could not continue with school after realizing that she was 4-5 months pregnant. She was not willing to disclose information about the person responsible for her pregnancy and PLA could not proceed with prosecution. She has returned home.

Another defilement case, also resulting in pregnancy, was between two minors Ainembabazi Phionah, and a boy who was her relative. She also could not continue with school.

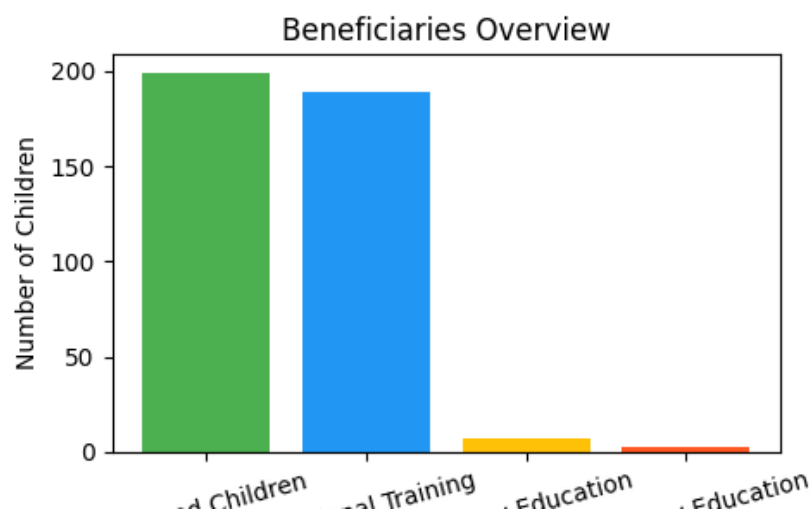
Un paid wages for Gabito Trenyome and Kalembe Annet were recovered. In cash (50,000/=) and kind (school materials) respectively.

Ongoing legal cases include 4 of nonpayment and 1 of child neglect.

5. COMMUNITY AWARENESS:



14 Vulnerable Households were trained on viable business techniques including simple book keeping, record keeping, report making, stock checking and basic accounting and budgeting to improve their household incomes and protect children by taking them back to school and preventing child exploitation





6. IMPACT STORIES

Children rescued from exploitative labour, given education and vocational skills; reduced risk of dropping out; empowered to advocate for child rights. Community awareness increased; partnerships strengthened; institutional capacity enhanced through CACL formation.

Deborah Namanyi (17 years) From a domestic worker to a professional hair dresser (Former Beneficiary of PLA)

Unlike before, today I can afford basic necessities. Great thanks to PLA for rescuing me.

Above: Namanyi Deborah in yellow at her workplace with one of PLA's task force members

Deborah is a 17 year old girl who graduated in hair dressing from Nile Vocational Institute Jinja in March 2013. She is a former child domestic worker who dropped out of School in 2009 due to lack of school fees after her primary seven. After her father's death, her poor peasant mother could not further her education due to her low income. She decided to come to Kampala to find a job and only got a domestic work job. During her time of work, she used to do everything at home and could not rest. Through one of our taskforce members (Ms. Naluwu Magaret), PLA identified her, rescued her and placed her at Nile vocational institute Jinja where she gained vocational practical skills in hair dressing. Presently she has a job as a hair dresser and she is the manager of the salon and the manager as well. She said that she earns a salary of 50,000/= a month and her meals and accommodation are fully catered..During our visit she says that "Unlike before, today I can afford buying basic necessities like clothes and basic necessities to look good. I will also tell other people who come to do their hair from here about the dangers of child labour".

"Great thanks to Platform for Labour Action for rescuing me from child labour".

I urge them to continue rescuing vulnerable children from child labour and offering them opportunities so that they can also become better citizens like me.



Balekye Frank (Former Street Boy)



PLA gave me education and a future. I request them to help more street children like they did for me.

I am proud to mention that I am “a reformed former street boy”, a beneficiary of PLA who completed from Nile vocational institute with a certificate in mechanics

One day a lady from Platform for Labour Action approached me while I was at a friend’s video library; I did not know that her coming would make a turning point in my life. I thought she was among the KCC people who had come to take me on to kampirigisa, a rehabilitation home for street children. For sure I gave her hard time but her persistence and concern enabled me to give her my details.

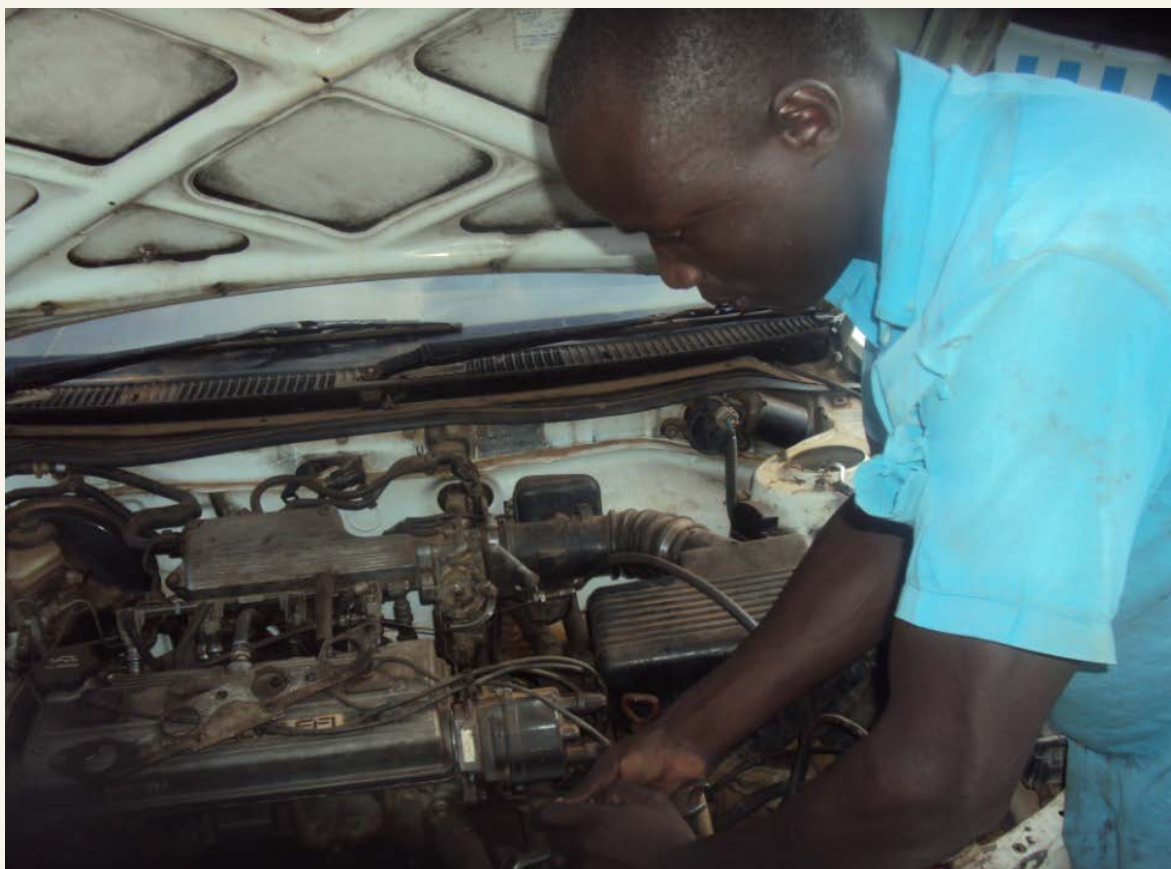
About myself, I come from a very poor background of a single widowed mother who is a peasant in my home village in Ntugamo. I was brought to Kampala by my elder brother a former Wheel barrow pusher who brought me to get better education, in the start, life was fair but suddenly his wife’s attitude towards me changed, she always complained about me and I dropped out of school. Life in Kampala became unbearable and my brother decided to move on to a village in Nakasongora to start farming.

When he was about to leave he told me that he could not go along with me, he advised me to find a job at the age of just 15years. I got a part time job as a taxi tout but did not have where to sleep as my earning was so low and unreliable at the same time. The part time job of a tout gave me an opportunity to sleep in the taxis at the park yard; I used to pay back the taxi drivers by washing their cars. Some days I could not get the chance of sleeping in the taxis and so used the shop verandahs as my home. Life moved on, sometimes I could collect scrap to earn some money. Through my struggles luck came my way when PLA interviewed me, rescued me and gave a school and home to stay in, I had spent over a year without testing the comfort of sleeping on a mattress; I feel PLA was my savior, as they gave me education, the living materials and a future of becoming a mechanic. After my studies I could not go back on the streets, I was a changed person, I could not stand the cold and a local leader took me on and gave me shelter. My challenge today is that I have not yet got a job to practice my skills; I have a dream of getting a job and reuniting with my mother and at least take with me some basic needs to make her smile and tell her all the history I had and the happy and changed boy that I am today.

I conclude by hailing Platform for Labour Action and request them to help more street children like they did to me so that they also get a chance to get transformed.



Dhikube Cyrus (19 years)



PLA gave me skills in mechanics. Now I earn 10,000–15,000 UGX daily and plan to open my own garage.

Dhikube Cyrus is 19 years old PLA beneficiary who was enrolled at Nile Vocational Institute in a motor vehicle mechanics course for 6 month. After his course, he got employed in a garage at Kabalagala in late May 2012 where he worked for one year and two month. He later got employment at Classic Auto Garage along Rubaga road opposite Barbados hotel. He earns 10,000/= to 15,000/= on a good day and a bad day, he is only given transport to and from thus 4000/= which he spends on transport. He is also given lunch at work place. He stays in Kabalagala in a single rented room at 60,000/= per month.

Cyrus has a challenge; this is what he had to say;

He says he is happy because he now takes care of himself and thanks PLA for rescuing him from child labour. His plan is to open up his own garage in future.

Cyrus dropped out of school in 2010 because his father could not raise his school fees and for his siblings. The father is a police man and the mother is a house wife. He has 7 siblings and the father can't afford to pay school fees for all his children. He dropped out of school because he was always chased for school fees and thus decided to sit at home until he gets money.

When Cyrus got tired of staying at home, he decided to look for a job so as to pay his own fees. It is then that he met a friend who asked him to join him in painting people's houses. As a painter He worked for 12 hours a day from Monday to Saturday.

Though he was earning money, he hated his job because of the bad smell of paint.

Nassanga Robinah (17 years)

PLA recovered my unpaid wages and enrolled me in vocational training. I now have hope for a better future.

- Below is a Photo of Nassanga Robinah receiving her unpaid salary from PLA Legal Officer.
- She is 17 years old, working in a saloon in Matuga-Sanga village, she earns 3000/= to 5000/= a day. She completed a hair dressing course from Nile Vocational School-Jinja in April 2013. Before PLA took her to school, she was a domestic work earning 40,000/= per month. She was not paid for five months and PLA recovered her 200,000/= shillings.



LESSONS LEARNED

Community engagement and child participation amplify impact; vocational training empowers economic independence; legal aid restores dignity.

CHALLENGES

Budget constraints limited placements; dropouts due to pregnancy; delayed activities from approval processes; lack of elected local leaders at Local council level one hindered training.