The Reintegration of Street Boys & Girl Mothers in Sierra Leone

By
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Help a Needy Child in Sierra Leone
The Reintegration of Street Boys & Girl Mothers in Sierra Leone

- Help a Needy Child in Sierra Leone –
  HACi/SL is a local organisation
- Founded in December 1994 to provide shelter for separated children during the war in Sierra Leone.
- Our initial focus was to establish and run shelter homes for the children
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- In 2000 when the war was declared over we started the reintegration phase for children in residential care with us.
- In 2003 we started working with street boys and girl mothers.
- These were either girls held as sex salves or as child combatants by the forces.
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- Post conflict Sierra Leone has over 300,000 of either street children or teenage girl mothers.
- Most interventions failed because the needs of these children were not considered.
- The traditional vocational skills were no longer attractive to their eyes. They needed a skill more challenging and rewarding.
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- From a market survey conducted by us we identified the untapped market for the youths of Sierra Leone i.e. ICT.
- In 2005/06 we introduced ICT in our vocational training facilities for street boys and girl mothers.
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Recommendations put forward by our beneficiaries

- Basic computer hardware maintenance,
- Software installation
- Networking configuration and
- That they should be given access to ICT in order to form support networks amongst themselves across the country.
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**Our desire as an organisation**

- equip our Technical and Vocational Training Centre for street children and girl mothers at Kissy in Freetown, Sierra Leone
- To secure and equip a mobile ICT training unit for these children because we believe in them and that with the right tools in hand they can also contribute in building Sierra Leone.
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Our aim is to empower street children and girl mothers access their economic and human rights as a reintegrate through ICT.
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Distribution of intended beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>The Kissy Vocational</th>
<th>ICT Mobile unit</th>
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<td>Bo</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>150</td>
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- ICT a new phenomenon in Sierra Leone yet there is a future and can contribute immensely to a nation’s development agenda.