



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
GHANA

ACTIVITY REPORT

WRIGLEY ORAL HEALTH PROJECT GHANA



Organization: SOS Children's Villages Ghana
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Reporting On: South Tongu, Volta Region
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INTRODUCTION

This year marks the 5th year since the introduction of the oral health project in October, 2013. Several deprived communities across Ghana benefited from the project over the period. The project has been very impactful in creating awareness and educating the public on the dangers of poor oral care and the need to cultivate good oral care practices from childhood.

For the year 2018, the oral health team is determined to extend the project to targeted population of 60,000 children in other deprived communities. To be able to reach the set target by the end of the year, the team kick starts its outreach campaigns early enough. From January to March, the team had been working in collaboration with the South Tongu Education office in the Volta Region of Ghana.

A number of activities were carried out in the district in a bid of creating awareness as well as educating children to cultivate good oral care practices. Activities carried out include; training workshop for School Health Program (SHEP) coordinators, oral health education in schools, meeting with parents/caregivers and media presentation.

At the end of the campaign, 77 public primary schools grouped under 12 educational circuits were visited. A total of 17,828 school children comprising 8,896 boys representing 49.9% and 8,932 girls representing 50.1% participated in the exercise. These figures are an indication that social interventions aimed at promoting girl child education are yielding positive results and that girl child education is gaining grounds in the South Tongu district. Hence a positive signal that the oral health education exercise would yield positive results in the district.

BACKGROUND OF THE AREA

South Tongu district is located in the southern part of the Lower Volta Basin and bounded to the north by the Central and North Tongu districts, to the east by the Akatsi South district, to the west by the Ada East district of the Greater Accra Region and to the south by the Keta municipality. Sogakope is the district capital. The Volta River runs through the district and the Lower Volta Bridge provides link between west and east by the Accra Aflao road.

The district has a population of 87,950 according to the 2010 Population and Housing Census Report. The communities in the district fall under five traditional areas namely Agave, Fievie, Tefle, Sokpoe and Vume and each of the traditional areas is autonomous with its own paramount chief. The people of south Tongu are rooted in tradition hence they still celebrate old time festivals such as the annual 'Dzawuwuza' festival of the Agave's, 'Tortsogbeza' meaning the historic crossing of the Volta River by the people of



Sokpoe, Kporleza, (arresting the tiger) which is usually celebrated in December by the people of Fievie and 'Afenorto' which means home coming, celebrated by the Tefle's during the month of December. During these festivals, all indigenes residing outside the locality return home in order to connect with the extended family and community.

The district is endowed with large clay deposits at Lolito, Vume and Sokpoe communities which are used in pottery to produce earthenware and ornaments on a medium to large scale. However, the manufacture of brick and tile used in the construction industry has not been fully exploited. The southern section is covered with swamps and mangroves, while the northern section is predominantly savannah woodland. The savannah vegetation supports the production of livestock and the swampy areas favour the cultivation of rice, okra, pepper and sugar cane. About 52 percent of the active population is engaged in agriculture. Rice is cultivated commercially. Other food crops cultivated in the district are maize, cassava, tomatoes, okro and pepper or chilli. Cattle rearing dominate livestock activities in the district. The Volta River which flows through the district is extremely rich in fishes such as tilapia and fresh water clam (Adodi) which are harvested and sold to travellers along the Trans ECOWAS Highway.

ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH TONGU DISTRICT

1. *Training Workshop for School Health Program (SHEP) Coordinators*

As part of getting teachers involved in promoting good oral care amongst children, a training workshop on good oral care practices was held for SHEP coordinators in the South Tongu district. Seventy seven (77)



Section of participants at the workshop

SHEP coordinators and five (5) officials from the South Tongu Education Office attended the workshop. Participants were educated on topics such as; importance of developing good oral care from childhood, the role of teachers in promoting oral care as well as practices that promote good oral health such as regular brushing of teeth, eating healthily and visiting the dentist. During the workshop participants were encouraged to include oral health education in their school health programs. The SHEP coordinators were particularly

urged to adopt strategies to motivate the children to regularly practice good oral care. Each participant was given educational materials for use in their schools.



2. Media Presentation



Oral health team at Freedom FM studio

Freedom FM as part of their social responsibility dedicated free of charge 45 minutes of their morning show to the oral health team. The oral health team together with 1 official from the South Tongu Education Office was hosted on air. The team used the opportunity to educate listeners on consequences of poor oral health and encouraged them to adopt good oral care practices. The team also encouraged parents to help their

children to develop good oral care practices. A journalist from the radio station accompanied the team for a day and took coverage of the educational exercise which was reported in their evening news.

3. Meeting with Parents

Even though it was difficult if not impossible to meet all the parents of the beneficiary children in all the schools, the team was fortunate to meet parents in some of the schools who happened to be having Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting at the time of the team's visit. The team interacted with the parents and called for their involvement in promoting good oral care of their children. The parents were tasked with the responsibility to monitor and assist their wards to regularly brush their teeth at least twice a day, morning before meals and evening after meals. Even though many of the parents lamented about their inability to provide the brushing materials for their wards, the team encouraged them to put aside money for purchasing the materials as this would be more economical compared to the cost for treatment of dental problems. Many of the parents expressed their appreciation to the sponsors of the project.



Interacting with parents at Dzetorkoe

4. Oral Health Education in Schools

The main component of the oral health project is educating children to adopt good oral care habits. As such, the team again engaged in a vigorous oral health education exercise in public primary schools in the South Tongu district. Methodology for the education remains the same; demonstrations, pictorial illustrations, posters and songs. During the period under report, the team visited 77 public primary schools of which some are located in very deprived communities which are hardly motorable. A total of 17,828



children benefited from the education exercise and had received free tooth pastes and tooth brushes. Below are details indicating schools visited as well as beneficiaries from each school.

AGAVE CIRCUIT		BENEFICIARIES		
S/N	NAMES OF SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	AGAVE PCG PRIMARY	70	106	176
2	NEW AGAVE D.A PRIMARY	47	75	122
3	KUVE D.A PRIMARY	130	131	261
4	AGBEVE R.C PRIMARY	125	116	241
5	ADZAKE D.A PRIMARY	59	61	120
6	DZEBEATO D.A PRIMARY	68	84	152
7	TADZE D.A PRIMARY	84	69	153
8	KUA R.C PRIMARY	105	97	202
	GRAND TOTALS	688	739	1,427

DABALA JUNCTION CIRCUIT		BENEFICIARIES		
S/N	NAMES OF SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	ALESIKPE R.C PRIMARY	84	73	157
2	LAKPO D.A PRIMARY	139	114	253
3	DABALA JUNC.D.A PRIMARY	155	142	297
4	AWUYAKOPE D.A PRIMARY	113	91	204
5	DABALA JNC. COMBONI R.C PRIMARY	159	191	350
6	KPODZADZI D.A PRIMARY	45	45	90
	GRAND TOTALS	695	656	1,351

DANYIKPO CIRCUIT		BENEFICIARIES		
S/N	NAMES OF SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	AGBAKOPE R.C PRIMARY	322	351	673
2	AGBAGORME E.P PRIMARY	136	152	288
3	XIKPO D.A PRIMARY	192	171	363
4	TSAVANYA D.A PRIMARY	118	114	232
5	TORDZINU D.A PRIMARY	118	116	234
6	DORKPLOME D.A PRIMARY	169	172	341
	GRAND TOTALS	1,055	1,076	2,131



ADUTOR CIRCUIT		BENEFICIARIES		
S/N	NAMES OF SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	ADUTOR E.P PRIMARY	121	132	253
2	AVUTO AKUTUKOPE D.A PRIMARY	107	104	211
3	ADUTOR PRIMARY R.C PRIMARY	121	102	223
4	GONU-AGBOKOPE KG	15	14	29
5	BEKPO SONUKPO D.A PRIMARY	119	124	243
6	GONU R.C PRIMARY	71	51	122
	GRAND TOTALS	554	527	1,081

NYINUTO-LOLITO CIRCUIT		BENEFICIARIES		
S/N	NAMES OF SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	LOLITO D.A PRIMARY	62	43	105
2	ATRAVENU D.A PRIMARY	106	84	190
3	HLORTORTO D.A PRIMARY	27	31	58
4	GBORGBLENUKPO KG	17	9	26
5	AGLORKPOVIA D.A PRIMARY	48	39	87
6	SUKLADZI D.A PRIMARY	58	55	113
7	KPENU D.A PRIMARY	46	50	96
	GRAND TOTALS	364	311	675

KPOTAME CIRCUIT		BENEFICIARIES		
S/N	NAMES OF SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	DORDOEKPOE R.C PRIMARY	108	110	218
2	DZETORKOE D.A PRIMARY	171	155	326
3	AGBADZAKOPE D.A PRIMARY	147	132	279
4	KPOTAME PCG PRIMARY	293	258	551
5	DEDO L.A PRIMARY	86	105	191
6	KPOTAME D.A PRIMARY	115	128	243
7	AGORGBE D.A PRIMARY	125	130	255
	GRAND TOTALS	1,045	1,018	2,063



TEFLE CIRCUIT		BENEFICIARIES		
S/N	NAMES OF SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	TEFLE PCG PRIMARY A, B AND C	448	458	906
2	SOKPOE D.A BASIC PRIMARY	277	252	529
3	SOKPOE PCG PRIMARY A& B	283	285	568
4	ANAOSUKOPE PRESBY PRIMARY	49	53	102
5	MORKORDZIE D.A PRIMARY	21	20	41
6	VUME R.C PRIMARY	158	182	340
	GRAND TOTALS	1,236	1,250	2,486

LARVE CIRCUIT		BENEFICIARIES		
S/N	NAMES OF SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	LARVE D.A PRIMARY	62	107	169
2	DZOGBORVE R.C PRIMARY	88	99	187
3	AKALOVE D.A PRIMARY	45	48	93
4	GAMENU D.A PRIMARY	87	78	165
5	GALOSUTA E.P PRIMARY	128	155	283
6	HAWUI VOLTA GOSPEL PRIMARY	67	53	120
7	GALOTSE E.P PRIMARY	63	43	106
8	AMEDORMEKOPE D.A PRIMARY	63	72	135
	GRAND TOTALS	603	655	1,258

DABALA CIRCUIT		BENEFICIARIES		
S/N	NAMES OF SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	DABALA COMBONI R.C PRIMARY	69	47	116
2	DABALA D.A PRIMARY	104	124	228
3	DABALA E.P PRIMARY	266	295	561
4	AGBOGBLA E.P PRIMARY	144	139	283
5	TOSUKPO D.A PRIMARY	80	70	150
7	AGORHOME R.C PRIMARY	103	85	188
8	TSIEVETO D.A PRIMARY	41	42	83
	GRAND TOTALS	807	802	1,609

SOGAKOPE EAST CIRCUIT		BENEFICIARIES		
S/N	NAMES OF SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	SOGAKOPE D.A PRIMARY C	217	228	445
2	ATSIEVE D.A PRIMARY	145	129	274
	GRAND TOTALS	362	357	719



AGORDOMI CIRCUIT		BENEFICIARIES		
S/N	NAMES OF SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	NUTAKPOR D.A PRIMARY	18	22	40
2	AGORTA D.A PRIMARY	118	123	241
3	DALIVE-TORDZIKPOTA D.A PRIMARY	69	81	150
4	DETSAWOME D.A PRIMARY	84	85	169
5	AGORDOMI E.P PRIMARY	83	70	153
6	ATITEKPO BAPTIST KG	13	10	23
	GRAND TOTALS	385	391	776

SOGAKOPE WEST CIRCUIT		BENEFICIARIES		
S/N	NAMES OF SCHOOLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	SOGAKOPE PCG PRIMARY	242	255	497
2	SOGAKPOE CURNIBERTO M. PRIMARY	207	230	437
3	YORKUTIKPO D.A PRIMARY	85	97	182
4	DENDO D.A PRIMARY	130	106	236
5	AVORVI D.A PRIMARY	76	83	159
6	AWUSAKPE SALVATION ARMY PRIMARY	46	62	108
7	SOGASCO D.A PRIMARY	316	317	633
	GRAND TOTALS	1,102	1,150	2,252

EXPERIENCES/NARRATIVES

The team sort people's views about the oral health project and how the project would impact on the lives of the people in the district. Below are some views expressed.

Antoinette Gbedzi (District SHEP Coordinator)

This is a very good project. Going round the schools with you (oral health team) and seeing the joy on the faces of the children warms my heart. Many of the children like they indicated do not have tooth pastes and tooth brushes, so having the opportunity to get one is in the right direction. As the District SHEP Coordinator, I will work hand in hand with the SHEP coordinators in the various schools to continue the oral health education. We shall also extend the education to the parents anytime we meet them at PTA meetings and through radio presentations.



Mr. Apedo Jonny (Officer, South Tongu Education Office)

I must say that the project is very good especially in promoting education as it is said that a healthy mind lives in a healthy body. As the children's health improve, they are more likely to be regular at school and be more attentive which will improve their academic performance. But what I fear for is the sustainability in terms of acquiring the tooth pastes and tooth brushes. Considering the economic condition of many parents in the district, it will be difficult for some to continuously purchase the brushing materials for their wards. However as educational institution, we shall continue to sensitize parents on the dangers of poor oral care and encourage them to support their children to adopt good oral practices.

Mawunyo (Primary 6 boy)

Today I learnt that it is important to brush our teeth twice a day. I used to brush my teeth only in the mornings before I go to school. But sometimes too I chew stick when there is no tooth paste in the house. I am happy SOS Children's Villages Ghana came here today to give us this education. From today I will brush my teeth in the morning and in the evening.

Joan (Primary 2)



This is Joan, a primary 2 child of about 8 years. She has severe tooth discoloration with multiple plaques stuck on her teeth. The team spotted her unusual aloofness when the education was going on. When the team tried interacting with Joan, she almost cried but her colleagues around whispered that she lives with a family member.

OBSERVATION

The team was quite disappointed at the dental condition of some of the children. Even though South Tongu district is close to the capital city of Ghana where one would believe that residents would be abreast with knowledge on oral health, the situation is quite the opposite. Some of the children at very young age have developed severe tooth discoloration and cavities. Below are some pictures.



CHALLENGES

Common to many deprived schools in Ghana, many of the schools closed before the usual closing time which posed a challenge since the team was working with a tight schedule. As a result the team had to resort to calling schools to wait on us. In some cases telephone communication network was also bad making it difficult to get in contact with some of the schools.

Some of the schools visited were not easily accessible by vehicle. The team had to sometimes walk a few kilometers to get to some schools. This was time consuming and quite exhaustive for the team.



Trekking to Hawui Volta Gospel Primary

CONCLUSION

The oral health team is once again grateful for partnering with you to reach out to deprived and vulnerable children who need social intervention to shape their lives for a better future. The team welcomes your comments, suggestions and any other support to better improve the project and make it more sustainable.

The team is also appreciative of the collaboration from the South Tongu Education Office as well as Freedom FM for their unwavering support towards the success of this campaign.

PICTURE GALLERY



Facilitators educating children on good oral care practices



Children demonstrating brushing techniques



Each child received a tooth paste and a tooth brush



Some dental cases found in the children

