



ECCA Monthly Bulletin

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EMPOWER CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES AGAINST ABUSE

EDITORIAL

This year (2007) is a door to greater opportunities for everyone. As we embark on quests to achieve our dreams, how many of us are looking out for opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others?

In a bid to promote a spirit of community self help and the proactive participation of men and boys in the prevention of GBV, ECCA men are at the forefront of forming men's groups that shall enable the latter devise means and avenues to rid their societies of gender-based violence.

Women have obtained support from their partners (men) who have joined self help groups in Lyantonde. The women of Munyonyo were also equipped with entrepreneurship skills to help them start up income generating activities.

Children have not been left out either. They have found comfort and obtained therapy in the pen, thanks to ECCA and their schools which are working in tandem to help children deal with various troubling issues.

To avoid seeing and hearing about GBV cases similar to or worse than those highlighted in our January and February media analysis reports, we are calling upon all Ugandans to denounce GBV and fight for justice to prevail.

Louisa Nakitende

TIME TO CONSOLIDATE OUR ADVOCACY STRATEGY By Mr. Isaac Bwire (Executive Director)



As we begin a new year 2007, we renew our commitment to promoting a spirit of community self help and a proactive participation of men and boys in the prevention of gender-based violence.

It is now clear from the different interventions undertaken to prevent gender-based violence that women, children, and men cannot live free, safe

and dignified lives when violence pervades their public and private experiences.

It is upon this background that ECCA is to take up advocacy at both local and national levels this year; to see to it that men and boys are key partners in gender-based violence prevention interventions.

We recognize the efforts of all partners in the struggle to have a world free of gender-based violence.

I wish you a prosperous year, 2007.

You and I can make a difference.

COMMUNITY SELF HELP APPROACH ADOPTED BY FAMILIES IN LYANTONDE

By Bob Natifu

From the margins to the mainstream is to say the least of the Community Empowerment Program activities that have been conducted in the past two months to help rural people in Lyantonde increase family incomes at the household level.

The process of community participation in the prevention of family violence started with the identification of ten families in a Participatory Rural Appraisal exercise (PRA) targeting self

help group members in the villages.

This culminated into a workshop for ten families trained in the Self Help Group (SHG) concept on 23rd and 24th of January 2007 at Kembega Community Center, Biwolobo parish, Lyantonde district. The primary aim of the workshop was to equip participants with knowledge and skills in the Self Help Group concept.

Participants were trained in various modules

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a Counseling Letter Link sensitization meeting at Kololo High School on 20th March 2007, 2:00pm

We would like to welcome a new staff member, Ms. Noeline Kirabo to the ECCA family. Ms. Kirabo will be working as a Program Officer, Psychosocial support program

SELF HELP GROUP CONCEPT EMBRACED BY FAMILIES... Contd from page 1

that included:- Roles of group leaders, Savings and Credit management, Income Generating Activities.

It is important to note that ECCA is already working with women SHGs namely:-

1. Nakinombe women's group
2. Kwesitula women's group
3. Munomukabi women's group
4. Nakinombe Kasansula women's group

Ideally, these women SHGs were formed to:-

1. Foster development among families
2. Promote awareness on the SHG concept
3. Promote unity among communities

More specifically, ECCA's unique intervention in the SHG formation involves men and boys. This underscores their involvement in the prevention of family violence.



By the end of the workshop, participants were committed to integrate the skills they had acquired to increase family income at the household level. The men also committed themselves to form SHGs. We are happy to report that two men's SHGs have been formed in Nakinombe and Kyakakala parishes in Lyantonde district— which is a plus for us men.

Bob Natifu is the Program Officer, Research and Advocacy Program (ECCA)

ECCA COUNSELORS ATTEND A TRAINING WORKSHOP By David Musaaazi

At ECCA, we strongly believe that in order to effectively build the capacity of others, we must build our own capacity. In February ECCA organized a counselor's orientation workshop that was facilitated by ECCA members who have long been in the counseling profession.

The workshop aimed at equipping participants with more counseling skills, adding value to their counseling knowledge, developing and building consensus on strategies that will strengthen ECCA's psychosocial support program and last but not least sharing experiences and challenges in counseling.

Counselors from Kampala and Lyantonde work stations attended the workshop,

which was officially opened by the Executive Director, Mr. Isaac Bwire. Topics such as : record keeping, child counseling and advocacy, making referrals, resilience counseling, value systems as well as team work were covered.

Owing to the relevant content that was prepared, we shall be able to handle clients with various concerns ranging from marital troubles to relationship discord. ECCA counselors are now also readily equipped to counsel children who in this case need to be handled with the utmost care for positive results.

David Musaaazi is the Program Officer, Psychosocial Program officer/ Trainer (ECCA)

HEALING PEN By Leila Sandra Nalubega

Counseling Letter Link (CLL) has been introduced and is running in six schools located in Lyantonde and Kampala districts.

In the month of January, a total of two hundred thirty eight (238) letters were collected from our partner schools while in February 234 letters were collected

One of our outstanding challenges while handling cases has been that



Lyantonde children carrying their letter box

most of the children are still expecting physical assistance in the form of tuition fees, scholastic materials and uniforms.

We have also handled other cases, two of which we wish to share with you.

CASE STUDIES:

One pupil wrote in saying that she fails to understand or memorize what she is taught in class. "How can I retain this information?" she asks the counselor.

The second pupil has completely

MUNYONYO WOMEN EMPOWERED WITH LIFE ENHANCEMENT SKILLS

By David Musaazi

Workshop sessions on entrepreneurship skills development for identified women groups of Munyonyo were held on 2nd, 9th and 20th February 2007 at Munyonyo Church of Uganda Primary School (their meeting place).

The objectives of the workshop were to promote entrepreneurship skills among participants to enable them lead a suitable life through practical work, to introduce the participants to peaceful conflict resolution strategies as well as equipping participants with knowledge about early

detection and the prevention of gender-based violence.

The workshop attracted 40 women all working and living in Munyonyo. Some of the women were already involved in small income generating activities; thus, all they needed was to be empowered with entrepreneurship skills to strengthen and maintain their businesses. This workshop stems from several training needs assessment exercises that were conducted by ECCA last year.



Healing Pen Contd..... from page 2

lost interest in going to school. "I lack the interest to go to school everyday".

"I lack the interest to go to school everyday"

Our goal in the CLL is to provide psychosocial support to the children through letter writing. Their cases are very sensitive and we handle them with care because it is important to bear in mind that some of these children are unable to open up and tell a friend or talk to their own parents.

Special thanks goes to ECCA counselors who have restored the children's hopes .

Leila Sandra Nalubega is the program officer , psychosocial support program

With lots of encouragement, discussions and good options at their disposal, the children are able to gain confidence and make informed decisions.

RATE OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ESCALATES

By Susan Nansamba and Noeline Kirabo

The rate of gender-based violence is still high especially when it comes to child abuse and domestic violence .

The percentage of child sexual abuse has risen from 16.6% in January to 23.5% in the month of February according to the cases reported in the print media (New Vision, Monitor and Bukedde newspapers).

Most of the abusers are uncles, brothers, sisters, taxi drivers and boda boda riders.

The profile of the abusers is mostly family

and it takes on many forms of abuse such as sexual intercourse with a child who is below the age of maturity, touching of a child's private parts and early marriages.

Some children have been victims of harsh treatment for instance the New Vision of 29th January 2007 reported on a girl who was tortured by her mother. The victim's back, thighs and legs were scalded with hot water.

The New Vision of 17th February 2007 also highlighted a case of a young boy

whose father suspended a brick on his private parts because he had wetted his bed.

With such cases still in our midst, we need to appeal to the government to come up with stronger laws that protect women and children.

Susan Nansamba is a volunteer;

Noeline Kirabo is the program officer, Psychosocial support Program

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You and I can make a difference!!!!

ECCA Staff Acquire Skills To Mobilize Communities To Prevent Domestic Violence

By Bob Natifu

Last year, Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) conducted a week long training for its partner civil society organizations (CSOs) in Uganda at Nob View Hotel in Ntinda. The workshop aimed to equip the participants with skills in domestic violence prevention strategies. This is a project that will run for two years starting January 2007- 2008.

ECCA was ably represented by Ms. Louisa Nakitende (Capacity Building Program Officer) and Mr. Joseph Kasenene (Community Empowerment Program Officer).

Following the action plans that the staff came up with at the workshop, Ms. Louisa Nakitende and Mr. Joseph Kasenene facilitated staff training workshops at their

different work stations in Kampala and Lyantonde respectively. They were supported by Ms. Josephine Kamisya, CEDOVIP officer in charge of the National Domestic Prevention Strategy Intervention.

The training covered a range of subjects such as : Gender– Based Analysis, Primary Prevention of Domestic Violence (DV), Guiding Principles in the Prevention of DV , a phased in approach to preventing DV and above all the identity and values of organizations.

The training was conducted in a participatory manner and staff was able to raise queries about and obtain responses to the subject.

By the end of the training, ECCA staff

were readily equipped to mobilize communities in Mulungu and Buziga zones (Munyonyo Salama parish) and also in Lyantonde district where their first assignment was to conduct a community assessment exercise seeking to know the perceptions of community members about domestic violence.

The residents welcomed the project and pledged to support ECCA staff as they conduct the survey in the community.

All this is aimed to promote a spirit of community self help and the proactive participation of men and boys in the prevention of gender– based violence in Uganda.