



## Monthly Review of PAHO, Ghana

September, 2012

Projects:

Social Justice	Legal and Professional Placements
Slum Project	1 Psychologist: Kete Krachi
School Advocacy	2 Legal Graduates: Legal Aid
Human Rights Focal Training	<b>Research</b>
Juvenile Remand Project	Politics and Governance
Human Rights Clubs	Needs Assessment: School

### **Social Justice**

#### *Slum Project*

This project largely addresses the rights of communities but over the month of September PAHO focused on the rights of the child within the slum. This was done in three ways;

1. Through a series of teacher trainings: Two training programs for teachers of the slum came off in the month of September. These sessions focused on behavioural management and corporal punishment.  
Next Steps/ Comments: Impact assessments will take place in October.
2. Through the launch of a resource and donation appeal: At the beginning of September all PAHO volunteers came together to plan the launch of a donation appeal for the children and school of the slum. The appeal will extend to stationary shops, book shops and food companies in Accra. Internationally, PAHO hopes to spread the word through social media sites in search of donation commitments.  
Next Steps/ Comments: This is hoped to begin in October.
3. Through the establishment of a read and feed program: Mid-September PAHO volunteers entered the slum to discuss the establishment of a read and feed program for the children of the local school. Unfortunately after one session it became clear that the infrastructure of the school would not allow for a successful programme. It has been postponed until further notice.

#### *School Advocacy*

Every Friday over the month of September PAHO volunteers, who had an interest in the rights of the child, visited schools in Tema Newtown. With the help of posters and interactive sketches the team provided basic education on fundamental human rights to junior high and primary students. In September, students learnt about their rights and responsibilities.

Next Steps/ Comments: Volunteers, particularly younger volunteers, really enjoy this project. It is consistent and will continue to come off each week over October.



### *Human Rights Training*

Every Thursday over the month of September PAHO volunteers provided training to groups of teachers in Tema Newtown, a suburb of Accra. Focusing on child protection and children's rights, each week the team presented relevant laws and case studies concerning some of these issues. The aim of the training was to encourage a better understanding of child protection and the steps towards its actualisation in Ghana.

Next Steps/ Comments: Feedback on this project is positive and consistent. Teachers have become more and more responsive allowing volunteers to discuss sensitive issues such as corporal punishment. This project will continue to take place every Thursday during October.

### *Juvenile Remand*

Osu's Social Welfare complex is a temporary home for juvenile boys and girls who have perpetrated the law and are either on detention or awaiting sentence from the courts. For the past few months PAHO volunteers have been visiting the complex three times a week. Over September these interactions focused on academic and social development of the juveniles. Lessons were given in English, Geography and Math as well as alcoholism, homosexuality and crime. At the end of the month a break was taken for a period of one week to prepare for the next phase of this project.

Next Steps/ Comments: A new proposal was drawn up at the end of September. In the next phase we intend to continue with both social and academic lessons but introduce a monitoring program for the children aimed at developing their standard and understanding of human rights and focusing on their individual development needs.

### *Human Rights Club*

In the last week of September the first human rights club of the term was held in Accra High. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> term running that Accra High has hosted a Human Rights Club. 'HR Clubs' as always, runs over a period of 5 weeks. During this time PAHO volunteers visit Accra High every Friday to facilitate a gathering which has a strong focus on promoting advocacy among the young adult student body. The first (and only) lesson this month brought 'women in parliament' to the forefront of discussion. We hope to focus on 'Elections and Governance' as a continuation from last term and in view of Ghana's upcoming Governmental elections (to be held in December).

Next Steps/ Comments: Presbyterian Secondary School will not be joining us this term. 'HR Clubs' is adored by volunteers who are always blown away by the intellect, opinions and competency of participating students. It is a versatile project with maximum volunteer input. There are 4 remaining club sessions to be held.

### **Legal/ Professional Placements**



#### *Kete Krachi. PRO Psychologist*

Patrice van Zimmeren is our professional psychologist. Since joining the Campaign against Child Trafficking in March, Patrice has actively been developing and supporting the children of Village of Life shelter for victims of trafficking on the site of the closed Campaign. During the month of September Patrice joined us at PAHO to train our volunteers on child development and the adverse psychological effects of common human rights abuses. This training programme was immeasurably useful for our HR Focal training preparations.

#### *Legal Aid, Legal Graduates*

In September PAHO had two legal graduates intern at Legal Aid. Here, they had the opportunity to attend court and mediations, draft legal documents and manage client intake. Legal Aid is a placement which provides legal resolve experience to our volunteers.

### **Research**

#### *Politics and Governance*

Since June, approximately 1000 questionnaires have been completed by a range of Ghanaians across the city and suburbs of Accra. This survey aimed to assess the general perception of the role of women in politics and governance. The data has been collected and a report has been prepared and shared with partner; WILDAF (Women in Law and Development in Africa).

Next Steps/ Comments: A press conference will be held in October to publicly release our findings.

#### *Needs Assessment: School*

At the beginning of September a team of volunteers was sent into a neighbouring school to complete a needs assessment. The school was obviously in need of support of all kinds; from personnel training to resources. Furthermore, many of the attending students are involved in labour duties. A proposal was put together and it was decided that PAHO would provide HR Focal training and School Advocacy. As well as this, the office is currently setting up a child sponsorship programme for needy students.

Next steps/ Comments: Training and Advocacy will begin in October.

### **Other**

#### *Read and Feed*

In the first month of September PAHO volunteers travelled to Abokobi to close its Read and Feed program. It was marked by the presenting of certificates to participating children.

#### *Child Trafficking and Labour Stakeholder's Seminar*



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September Anna, volunteer Jenny Phillips and PRO volunteer Patrice van Zimmeren (above) travelled to Kete Krachi to participate in a stakeholder's forum on the elimination of child trafficking and labour in Ghana. Only 4 months ago Projects Abroad closed its Campaign against Child Trafficking in the area. There was a stark change of attitude amongst the community members and noticeably more support and understanding since we first arrived in Kete Krachi in March. The program was shown on national television and was given a lot of support.

#### *Amnesty International Death Penalty Workshop*

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of September two volunteers were selected to join Amnesty in a workshop on the abolition of the death penalty. The event bundled partners and their opinions on how to do so. It was a great experience for Stephanie and Grace, the attending volunteers.

#### *WILDAF Seminar*

In the last week of September volunteers attended a WILDAF seminar on women in politics.