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Good Practice *IN DETAIL*

Halfway House Rehabilitation Centre: Timothy's story



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AUSTRIAN ORGANISATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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Mukuru Slums Development Projects

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Chart 1: Localization of the Experience **Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.**

List of Abbreviations

MSDP	Mukuru Slums Development Project
DKA	Development Kenya Action
NIC	New Initiative Coordination
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation

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1. General Information

Mukuru Slums Development Project (MSDP) operates within Mukuru slums and other adjoining areas. Our interventions are carried out through various programmes that help in assisting the poor and vulnerable residents of Mukuru slums. MSDP operates in conjunction with local and international stakeholders for purposes of funding, logistical support and capacity building.

MSDP started off with small programmes as an initiative of the Mukuru community and Development Kenya Action (DKA). In 2006 with the help of New Initiative Coordination (NIC), MSDP was registered as an NGO bringing together seven community-based projects that had initially been initiated by DKA (Mukuru Projects, n.d.).

This document presents the experience of the “Halfway House Rehabilitation Centre” which is located in the Mukuru Slums in Nairobi, Kenya. The experience was made in 2014.

This good practise could be relevant for other organisations of our network because of its holistic approach; i.e. the 360 degrees approach in the intervention of rescue cases of vulnerable boys.



Figure 1 Location of the experience



2. Context of the Experience

Mukuru Slums is one informal settlement in Nairobi. 60% of the residents of Nairobi live in slums in deplorable housing and sanitary conditions and often below the poverty line. The slums dwellers livelihoods opportunities are diminishing by day due to their sheer numbers, low education and lack of skills and assets.

This situation creates socio-economic pressure to families. This, most of the time, leads to parental separation with the women bearing the heaviest burden as they are left to take care of the children. Consequently, the basic needs of the family are not met and children end up in the streets.

In 2002, a need was identified for starting a program for youths staying in Mukuru slums. These were youths who had undergone some form of basic education but could not proceed further due to poverty, lack of school fees and unemployment within the slums. These problems in turn often lead to idleness, and were manifested in substance abuse, petty crime and disintegration of family social fabric and values (Mukuru Projects, n.d.).

Thus, the main reason for this good practise to emerge was the realisation that most street children (children out of the school) are in this situation because of socio-economic reasons in their families. The Halfway House targets street children at risk, aged between 5 and 17 years from the streets of “South B”, “South C”, and adjoining areas within the slums and other informal settlements. It has continued to support vulnerable children who cannot access formal education placement due to poverty, HIV and AIDS, child labour and influence of street life (Mukuru Projects, n.d.).

Gender issues were part of the initial challenge. This is because there are high numbers of women who are single mothers in Mukuru who bear the burden of taking care of their families. Most of them have separated from their husbands. On the other hand, Halfway focuses on boys. Most of the interventions of MSDP are focused on girls, but Halfway House interventions are focused on boys.



3. Main Characteristics of the Experience

Halfway House works with the families and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that family reintegration is done where possible. This type of intervention seeks to address the root causes why boys are on the streets. The rescue and rehabilitation section of the intervention addresses social issues, whereas the parent/guardian business training and start-up address the economic issues.

To clearly illustrate this, we have taken the case of Timothy Kimani who was rescued, rehabilitated and reintegrated back to his family in 2014. Timothy Kimani comes from a Single headed family. He has 2 siblings. The mother, Alice Wanjiku, separated from her husband and had difficulties undertaking casual jobs due to health problems. Due to this situation, there was a lack of food and school fees were too expensive. This situation made Timothy run to the streets. He joined bad company and started stealing and abusing drugs. He was rescued and brought to Halfway House. After assessment, the mother was trained and started on a business to help address their economic challenge. After the end of his rehabilitation period, Timothy was reintegrated back to his family and placed in class 5. He has now completed standard eight with the support of his mother.

Thus, the Purpose of the good practise is to ensure the sustainability of the rehabilitation and family reintegration process, by empowering the family, both socially and economically. The social empowerment is done during the rehabilitation process when the boy is at the Centre; whereas the economic empowerment is done through business training and start up.

Timothy Kimani was the first boy rescued by this programme. After admission to the Centre of each boy, a case assessment is done, and then a home visit is also done to find out the socio-economic situation of the family. It is a participatory process as there is a child and parental counselling to prepare both the child and the parent for reintegration. The business training is also done in a participatory way, where the clients and the parent (Alice Wanjiku) chose her business and wrote a one page business plan. Also she was given the value of

the business she wanted to start and was accompanied to the market to purchase the products of her choice.

The turning Points for this good practise were:

- (1) Rescue and Rehabilitation of Timothy to Halfway House
- (2) Family and school placement
- (3) Business training and start-up
- (4) Monitoring of beneficiary (Timothy) and mother's business.

Different methods and tools are used to address the challenge of children being in the streets. The methodologies include counselling and guidance sessions, home visits, business training and start-ups and monitoring visits among others. Tools used include: case assessments, monthly progress, one page business plans, etc.



4. Stakeholders and Partners – Roles and Responsibilities

The main beneficiaries are the boys and their families. Once a boy is rescued, the process of family tracing takes place. The parents/guardians voluntarily consent admission of their children to the Centre, give support and take up shared responsibility upon reintegration.

The parties involved in the implementation of this practise are:

- The boys themselves: The rescued boys join the rehabilitation program voluntarily. Their main motivation is having their lives changed and a brighter future.
- The Staff: Halfway House Staff are involved all through the process, from identification of potential beneficiaries to family reintegration. Their responsibility varies depending on the work. For example, the social worker will ensure that the identification, recruitment and home visits are done and the teacher will ensure that the tutorial program runs properly.
- The Parents/Guardians: They are the beneficiaries for business start-ups. After the socio-economic assessments of the families are done, most vulnerable parents are empowered with business training and start-

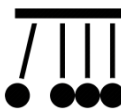
upswing addition; during parents' meetings we also discuss the different roles, rights and responsibilities of the different family members.



5. Resources

Some of the Resources needed to implement this good practise are:

- Human: Different Staff members who are well knowledgeable to carry out rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and business training of beneficiaries.
- Time: The six months rehabilitation period.
- Finances: This includes the total costs for having the child at Halfway and 10,000.00\$ for business training and start up



6. Impact of the Experience/ Practice

In the case of Timothy, Alice Wanjiku was able to pay fees for school until Standard 8. Timothy was enrolled in a Private School, where school fees and expenses are much higher compared to public schools. But the mother was able to pay the school fees for 3 years since the boy was enrolled back to school.

The experience contributed in the innovation of livelihoods since it empowered the beneficiaries from just having an idea of a business to an actual business that is sustainable.



11. Bibliography

Mukuru Projects. (n.d.). Retrieved January 18, 2018, from <http://www.mukuruprojects.org/>



7. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

The key lessons learnt are that with good collaboration between the street boys and their parents, the root causes for children being on the streets can be addressed in a sustainable way. For a project like this, I would suggest to first do a good socio-economic analysis of the families and use a collaborative approach with all stakeholders.



8. Challenges

One remaining challenge is that the number of people in need of this intervention is still high. But we are trying to have more sustainable approaches like the case of Timothy.



9. Sustainability

To make the practise sustainable, women who have been empowered are put into a Group Saving and Loan (GSL) so that they can continue with their work. This group acts as self-monitoring. Secondly, during the Parents Meetings we discuss on some basic parental skills so as the parents can understand the best ways for dealing with their children and avoid that they run away from home and school. The parents also share their experiences among one another.



10. Experience Sharing/ Up-scaling

Another institution with a similar programme is "Rescue Dada", where they rescue and rehabilitate street girls.