



## WEEK OF COMPASSION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT

### For Global Ministries

*Please type or print clearly. Return electronically to Week of  
Compassion.*

#### SECTION 1: Basic Information

<b>Area Office</b>	Africa
<b>Date of Proposal Submission</b>	May 4, 2023
<b>Project Title</b>	Rehabilitation, education and job training of adolescent street children inside of prison and after liberation: Social integration and prevention of recidivism
<b>Project Period</b>	June 2023 – June 2024
<b>Name of Local Partner</b>	Service Protestant of Development and Diakonia with the Church of Christ in Congo (SEPRODDIA)
<b>Location- City/State/Country</b>	Kinshasa
<b>Total Amount Received from WoC</b>	\$12,000
<b>Person Completing Report</b>	Jake Brooks, Global Ministries Resource Development Department in collaboration with the implementing partner
<b>Contact Information</b> <i>Phone, email</i>	Jake Brooks, Program Associate for Resource Development (317) 713-2562 jbrooks@dom.disciples.org

## SECTION 2: Project Summary

### Project Goal

*Referring back to your original proposal, what is the overall goal of the project? If your plans have changed from the original proposal, please describe.*

The ambition of SEPRODDIA's project is to realize activities inside and outside of the juvenile section of Makala prison with three major objectives:

1. Prepare the youth in prison through individual counseling and workshops that will help them build their life projects, professional projects, and personal projects. The workshops will also include literacy classes.
2. Continue to accompany the youth for six months after the liberation from prison. This period will be concentrated on finding economic activities that allow self-sufficiency and autonomy alongside individual counseling. To better achieve social integration, the youth will receive house painting training. A work project with a job contract will be offered, which allows the youth to receive their first work experience.
3. Social reintegration and, when possible, reconciliation with estranged families.

Our goal was to work with 100 youth inside of the prison: 40 youth in literacy classes, 40 youth in a house painting training, and another 20 on a work project.

The initial project budget was \$41,068, which was based on receiving the maximum amount of funding from all funding sources. We received \$12,000 from Week of Compassion, and the Church of Christ in Congo contributed \$3,090, resulting in a revised budget of \$15,090.

In consequence, we had to modify part of the activity. The literacy workshops that we intended to implement in the prison were suspended and we were only able to realize them with the street children near the Victoire Plaza.

Despite a reduced budget, SEPRODDIA has been able to meet its community impact goal by improving the lives of the youth who were able to be involved in the program. The funding from Week of Compassion was wisely used to reach the greatest number possible.

### Primary Activities Implemented

*Describe administrative and programmatic activities implemented in your request for funding.*

#### **Phase 1: Counseling in the juvenile part of the prison and presence with the homeless youth.**

On a weekly basis, counseling was organized in the Makala prison. 105 youth participated. Among them were 86 young men and 19 young women. Their ages were between 8 and 20 years old. When possible, contact was made with the family with whom there had been a rupture. Others were counseled on their orientation after leaving prison.

On the International Day of the African Child, we organized exchanges and sharing with the street children. With the protestant Bishop Mossi of ECC and Pastors Parrish and Wantate, a worship service was held with hymns of praise and sharing of the Gospel. After refreshments, there was time for exchanges with the youth.

## **Phase 2: Training with homeless youth after release from the juvenile prison Makala**

With a professional painter, SEPRODDIA organized job training workshops for the homeless youth after their release from prison. For the abandoned youth, the objective was to reduce urban violence and to contribute to a social and professional integration. Two groups of twelve apprentices were trained during a month for a total of 24 participating youth.

During the training, the youth traveled to a workshop that was rented by SEPRODDIA. The coordinator identified the youth who would most benefit from the training and gave an accelerated course on house painting. The most motivated were chosen for the third phase of the project, which was to use the new skills to paint the Shaumba Center, which had not been painted for more than 25 years.

## **Phase 3: Putting into practice the skills that were learned - Repainting the Shaumba Center**

After the training, it was important that the youth could put into practice what they had learned. Only the most motivated were chosen for the work project. Each youth had a contract for the work that was accomplished.

The first group of twelve youth between 17 and 20 years of age were from the Gambella marketplace in the commune of Kasa-Vubu. With the coordinator and the deputy director of SEPRODDIA, the youth had a meeting place where we could find them and offer breakfast. They all sleep outside without shelter. They then traveled to Shaumba and worked until 3 p.m. when they also received a meal before going back to Gambella. This group worked for three weeks.

A second group of 10 youth was from the Victoire Plaza. They were also between 17 and 20 years old and had all just been released from the Makala prison. This group worked for another three weeks to finish the entire structure.

The results of the work not only showed that the youth could meaningfully contribute to society, but also gave them confidence. Many people who came to the Shaumba Center congratulated them and gave compliments. This is more important than it may seem at first sight. Many of the homeless youth are rejected and are social outcasts. Some may even be considered "witch children" as if they were possessed at birth and consequently rejected by their families.

Recognition of their worth is extremely important to reconstruct a positive image.

## **Phase 4: Literacy classes for the homeless youth**

Initially, the literacy classes were intended for the youth during their incarceration. Due to the difference in expected funding, we adapted by renting an office space at the Victoire Plaza.

For three months, classes were held for homeless youth from 10 to 17 years of age. For an effective educational environment, it was important that the classes be limited to 10 students.

During the first two weeks, the focus was on learning the 26 letters of the alphabet. The third week, small words of two, three, or four letters were learned. The instruction continued for another two months. Furthermore, all the youth learned the four fundamental operations of arithmetic as well as the structure of simple phrases.

It is important to emphasize that the 10 homeless children live on the streets without shelter. Despite the deplorable living conditions, they all showed amazing assiduity and never missed classes.

## **Challenges and Actions Steps Taken to Resolve**

*Summarize what organizational and environmental (political, social, infrastructural, etc.) challenges arose during this past year that hindered the project achievement of its goals. Also, include how the project/program addressed them.*

As previously mentioned, the funding we received for this project was less than expected, so there was a need to adapt the programming accordingly. The literacy workshops that we intended to implement in the prison were suspended and we were only able to realize them with the street children near the Victoire Plaza. We rented an office space for this purpose.

SEPRODDIA is still convinced that projects need to be developed inside of the prison as well as outside of the prison. The time of incarceration could and should allow new projects to develop for the inmates before their liberation. With proper counseling, the prison should allow the inmates to rebuild their lives, which will permit social integration and prevent recidivism.

Even though many young women are counseled in prison, activities for young homeless women have not been developed. Of course, a young woman could become a house painter, but it is very rare in the Congolese culture. SEPRODDIA is looking into new projects that can benefit the youth, both men and women, when they are released from incarceration.

## **SECTION 3: Project Results**

### **Client/Participant Success Story or Details of a Program Achievement**

*Please share a client success story or a program achievement from this project. The success story or the program achievement should be related to program activities implemented and should convey the need or impact of the project. If using a client/participant success story, please keep client confidentiality in mind. If available, include pictures as attachments to your report.*

#### **Positive aspects of the project**

The need for educational projects with the homeless youth is evident and the project has shown that even with a small budget, a positive impact is noticed. All the youth who participated are still in contact with the pastor-educator who gives much of his time in prison and with the homeless youth in Kinshasa. Even though the homeless youth have not all become house painters, the experience of a first job with a contract is rewarding and encouraging.

#### **The story of Josias**

One story that could illustrate the transformation that was possible thanks to this project is from Josias Ngokali. Josias is 18 years old and has been living in the streets for the last 8 years. He was in prison for the first time at 16. Josias was involved with a group of violent youth called the kuluna. Coming out of prison, he was able to learn a trade thanks to SEPRODDIA and the partnership of Week of Compassion. Even though he has not yet found a job as a painter, he found a new group of friends and has started working on cleaning the marketplace and selling small items. Josias has come a long way in a short time. Contact was made with his family with whom he had been estranged for a long time. He is still in contact with the pastor/educator at SEPRODDIA.

#### **The story of Fortine Mbuma**

Fortine is only 17 years old and left school during the second grade when he was 6. Fortine did not know the alphabet and could not read or write. When he was 16, he was arrested for theft and spent one year in the Makala prison. The literacy classes gave him the opportunity to learn, which is already very positive in itself. It also allowed Fortine to change the group of homeless youth that were the source of violence

and theft. He is very proud of what he has learned. Currently, he makes a small living by washing cars in the streets.

### **Short and Long Term Results**

*Realistically link program activities to the difference they are making. Describe how the project's activities are making a difference in the short and long-term for both the client and the community.*

In the short term, many of the youth have benefited from counseling and relationship building. These activities have provided avenues for the youth to process their trauma and develop a strong sense of self-worth. Many of the youth are still connected to the pastor who worked directly with them in this program. This relationship will benefit the youth in the long term by having an influential advocate for them within the community. The ones who were able to reconnect with their families will have received long term support.

The job training is both a short- and long-term benefit. In the short term, the youth were able to successfully orient their lives after release from prison. In the long term, they now have skills that will provide stability through a viable income source. The job of painting the Shaumba Center provided the short-term benefit of immediately putting their skills to use and the positive feelings that coincide with an accomplishment. In the long-term, they now have on-the-job experience on which they can rely to secure future painting jobs.

The youth who were able to participate in literacy classes will receive the long-term benefit that comes along with the ability to read and write. These skills are needed to build a successful and stable life that's integrated into society, and they will be key to avoiding recidivism.

In general, many of the youth have expressed pride in what they have been able to accomplish through this program. They are grateful to have been given the opportunity to build stability within their lives where little to none previously existed. This stability provides more choices that will lead to positive outcomes for the youth, their families, and society. Instead of seeking stability within gangs, which can lead down the path toward prison, the youth have the choice to find stability within themselves by relying upon the skills they learned in this program.

### **Best Practices:**

*Please Identify and Describe processes or practices that you implemented in this project that were successful, and that you recommend for use in similar situations.*

Connecting with the youth and building relationships while they were in prison is a critical component. This connection establishes a rapport and builds the beginning of a pipeline that orients them toward the next steps of the program. The counseling sessions provide mental and emotional health care that set the tone on which the youth can build technical and vocational skills once they are released from prison.

For the job training, it was necessary to bring in an expert so to ensure we made an effective use of time and to make sure the youth were trained in best practices. Lastly, the literacy classes were successful due to the smaller class sizes. It allows for more individualized instruction.

## Quantitative Results

Provide “numeric indicators” of your work in serving people and implementing project activities.

<b>PEOPLE Served</b> <i>Avoid Duplicate Counts  between Categories</i>	<b># of  People  Served</b>	<b>Comments or Description</b>
<b>Women</b> <i>age 18+</i>	<i>0</i>	
<b>Men</b> <i>age 18+</i>	<i>0</i>	
<b>Youth</b> <i>age 13-18</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>86 young men and 19 young women  aged between 8 and 20 years old</i>
<b>Children</b> <i>age 0-13</i>	<i>0</i>	
<b>Families/Households</b>	<i>Handful</i>	<i>When possible, contact was made  with the family of the youth with  whom there had been a rupture.  The exact number of families with  whom contact was made is unclear.</i>
<b>Disabled</b>	<i>0</i>	
<b>Other:</b> <i>specify such as  employed, unemployed,  immigrants, etc.</i>	<i>0</i>	

<b>ACTIVITIES Implemented</b> <i>-Specify Activities-</i>	<b># of Activities or Service Units</b>	<b># of Participants or Beneficiaries</b> <i>If applicable</i>	<b>Comments or Description</b>
<i>Counseling in prison and connecting with homeless youth</i>	<i>Three times a week</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>Counseling was organized in the Makala prison. Others were counseled after release from prison.</i>
<i>Job training with homeless youth</i>	<i>1 month-long workshop</i>	<i>2 groups of 12 = 24 youth</i>	<i>A professional painter gave an accelerated course on house painting.</i>
<i>Repainting the Shaumba Center</i>	<i>2 separate three-week sessions</i>	<i>1 group of 12 + 1 group of 10 = 22 youth</i>	<i>Each group worked for three weeks</i>
<i>Literacy classes</i>	<i>1 hour, four times a week for three months</i>	<i>Multiple groups of 10 students or less</i>	<i>Classes were for youth aged 10 to 17. Class sizes were limited to 10 individuals.</i>

*Examples of Activity Descriptions: food distribution, legal assistance, trainings, workshops, clinical services, TB screening, intakes, pigs raised, wells dug, school supplies provided (units), etc.*

#### **SECTION 4: Financial Management**

##### **Required Attachment: How was funding used?**

*Provide a financial report of how gifts were put to use in support of your project. A template for this financial report is attached for your reference. Any report that does not follow this template will not be considered a completed report and not eligible for applying for WOC Sustainable Development grant.*

**If expenses differ from the original proposal, please explain variances here:**

# Financial Report

## SEPRODDIA

<b>Project TITLE</b>	<b>EDUCATION SUPPORT AND TRAINING OF ADOLESCENT STREET CHILDREN IN PRISON TO PREPARE THE LIBERATION AND ADAPTATION</b>	
<b>Object Class Categories</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
Funds		
WEEK OF COMPASSION		12000
EGLISE DU CHRIST DE CONGO		3090
LEARNING TRAINING		
Materials and suppliers	\$ 3 500.00	\$ 7 490.00
Trainers Fee	\$ 1 200.00	\$ 1 600.00
Coordinator Fee (Consultants)	\$ 2 400.00	\$ 2 400.00
Rent (Victoire)	\$ 1 800.00	\$ 1 400.00
Meals for learners	\$ 900.00	\$ 1 000.00
Transport & Communication	\$ 240.00	\$ 300.00
<b>Total 3</b>	<b>\$ 10 040.00</b>	<b>\$ 14 190.00</b>
Administration Fees		
Salary and fees	\$ 2 400.00	\$ 900.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12 440.00</b>	<b>15 090.00</b>







