



Promoting Alcohol And Drug Free School Environment Through Children And Young People's Clubs in Sierra Leone

Presented by
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The Challenge of alcohol and drug use among children and young people

- Illicit drug trade is rampant, even around schools.
- Irregular enforcement against illicit drug trade in communities.
- No alcohol policy that restricts the sale of alcohol to children.
- Unrestricted sale of cheap alcoholic drinks and drugs make children vulnerable to substance abuse.
- In a culture where children are expected to be seen not heard, they are normally recipients, and not agents of change.

Response

- **Project:** Prevention and Reduction of Harm from Alcohol and Drugs Among Children and Young People in Sierra Leone
- **Theme:** Demand reduction and related measures (Prevention of drug abuse)
 - *Recommendations (a) and (g) of Outcome Document of UNGASS on World Drug Problem (2016) - focusing on children and young people and improving access to recreational facilities;*
- **Objective:** Promoting an alcohol and drug free environment around schools and leisure areas
- **Strategy:** Child-led advocacy, using over 1,500 children as anti-alcohol and drug advocates in Children and Young People's clubs (CYP) in 54 schools in Sierra Leone.
- **Target:** 38,000 CYP in and out of school



FoRUT support to CYPs

- Trains CYP clubs on harm from alcohol and drugs, advocacy skills, leadership and group management;
- Trains teachers as focal persons to supervise CYP activities and counsel affected pupils
- Trains the police on how to deal with children on drugs and support the work of child advocates



- Provides recreational and sports materials
- Builds multi-purpose centres in schools for counselling, meetings, and other CYP activities
- Finances mini anti-drug campaigns

Child-led Advocacy Campaign



- Peer education in and around their schools using recreation and sport, including drama and quiz competitions;
- Outreach in school environment and advocacy to discourage alcohol businesses and illegal drug trade from operating;



- Reach pupils in other schools, and parents in communities to discourage them from taking alcohol and drugs.



- Monitor and report child rights violations and alcohol and drug cases in and around their schools;
- Advocate that children affected by drugs are counselled and rehabilitated, instead of expelled from school;

Results

- ❑ Over 38,000 pupils have participated in anti-drug and alcohol activities;
- ❑ There is less demand for drugs among pupils in target schools;
- ❑ Clubs report less number of alcohol and drug related cases;
- ❑ Children are growing into dynamic child advocates on drugs and alcohol control and child rights issues;
- ❑ Joint action with the Police leading to arrests of illicit drug traders, and unlicensed petty traders that sell alcoholic drinks around their schools,
- ❑ Police receive less cases of drug-related violence among children and youth around target schools;

