REPORT ON THE CHILDRENS SPORTS BALL GAMES LEAGUES IN THE SEVEN DISTRICTS AND ONE MUNICIPALITY, KARAMOJA (JULY - AUGUST 2012)

DATES: July - August 2012

VENUES: Districts of Abim, Amudat, Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Napak, Kotido, Kaabong and Moroto Municipality.

Introduction

Sports leagues in primary schools in Karaoja, are avenues for children’s participation in sporting and other traditional games in their schools. These leagues are organised under the Sports for Life programme which is meant to reinforce efforts to mobilise and attract children of school going age to go back to the school system, remain and complete primary school cycle. Low enrolment in schools in Karamoja has been a big challenge. Ministry of Education and Sports in conjunction with UNICEF initiated the Sport for Life Project in Karamoja, to target primary school age going children in the region. The activities are intended to make schools more child friendly to counter the challenge of low enrolments and high dropout’s rates. It’s also to counter the traditional household activities that keep children at home such as keeping watch on goats and cattle, taking care of the young and at a later age gardening mainly for the girl child.
A games prefect displays a trophy that the team won in the concluded sports leagues

**Content of the sporting activities;**

The following activities were conducted;
- Football for Boys and girls
- Netball for Girls and boys
- Volleyball for both the Girls and Boys.
- Handball for both boys and girls
- Traditional Akarimojong games
Expected results

- Improves on the basic skills and knowledge of the games for both the teacher and the pupils
- Positive Change in attitudes towards education and participation in sports.
- Positive messages passed from children to other children and parents on the importance of education

Number of children that took part in the children’s sports leagues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Moroto</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>1,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Napak</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>1,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Nakapiripirit</td>
<td>1,352</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Amudat</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kotido</td>
<td>1,342</td>
<td>1,112</td>
<td>2,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kaabong</td>
<td>1,574</td>
<td>1,324</td>
<td>2,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Abim</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>1,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Moroto Municipality</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>13,476</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A football game between two schools from Moroto municipality.
Good practices / benefit to children

- Children’s mental, social and physical development
- The children receive knowledge as they are trained and taught by their teachers.
- Spirit of tolerance and appreciation especially for those who will have lost in the Game.
- They will also develop a spirit of appreciation for one’s performance
- Building of districts teams for national Primary ball games

Challenges

- Heavy rains that made most field water logged and transport of children difficult
- Poor standards of the sports field at sub county level.
- Most Schools still lack Uniforms for their teams
- Lack of a standard measure for categorizing children in Karamoja (over aged children).

Some fields are completely bare like this one in Panyagar in Kotido
Lessons learnt during the competitions

- Some schools had never introduced the volleyball game to children as such, they performed poorly.
- Organising competitions in a rally form was good enough because teachers were able to gage the performance of each/all schools and allows more children to participate.

Recommendations

- Schools should be encouraged to buy sports Uniforms for the school teams.
- Training of teachers in handball coaching and officiating skills
- Sports equipment e.g. Balls and the nets be purchased for the children
- Most major Games be introduced in schools e.g. Volleyball, Basketball, etc
- More competitions be organised at all levels so that kids get used to playing and training regularly.
- Include games for the SNE.

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