

Community Care for Kids



1. The organization

Community Care for Kids is a non-profit organization that helps children in Sierra Leone by improving conditions for and value of education and promotes self-development.

The organization “Community Care for Kids” was founded in 2012 by Sierra Leoneans and Germans from Munich, Germany. While focusing on children as ultimate target group, we aim at strengthening the socio-economic potentials of a whole community, while at the same time reducing existing dependencies and avoiding the establishment of new ones, i.e. to **help setting up a system in which the community takes care of its kids.**

We try to design holistic concepts that will benefit the whole community in the long run. Community Care for Kids will support the community with resources it cannot mobilize for itself: the main objective is to activate the resources within the community to build independent and permanent structures. Our approach strongly involves the targeted **community of Hastings** – the village of origin of CCK’s founder – in the measures taken, since local support is vital in order to change the situation of children in the long run. The project will rely on local expertise to ensure the cultural sensitivity and local embedment of all activities.

To grasp the problem areas adequately, extensive consultations have taken place between the CCK team and various members of the community in April 2013. Two local experts are currently working on a nutrition plan and an agricultural assessment in order to facilitate further activity and budget planning.

2. Description of the project

2.1. The components of the Project

2.1.1. *Component 1: Introduction of a locally supported daily school meal in REC Primary School Hastings*

Because the lack of a balanced nutrition is one of the major problems both for the ability to learn and for the health of children, we aim at introducing a balanced diet in the REC primary school of the Hasting Community. Providing a daily meal will have positive effects on the school performance and the health of the children. In addition, it can be a motivation to send kids to school. The different activities to reach the introduction of a daily balanced meal in the targeted primary school are elaborated with the community.

2.1.2. *Component 2: Support of local agriculture*

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The school meals will be composed of locally grown products. An assessment of agricultural needs by a government expert is expected to give the information on necessary input to increase the productivity of local agricultural practice. Increase in food production should not only benefit the school feeding program but also generate surplus for both home consumption and selling.

2.1.3. Component 3: Social strengthening of children

The school meal project and support to local Agriculture will respectively improve the health of the children and the socio-economic situation of their family. These measures will be accompanied by a training program targeted at children, their parents and other community members. These trainings will aim at sustaining the beneficial effects of healthy nutrition at home and strengthening the social situation of Hasting's children by addressing various topics such as health, nutrition and education. These trainings will be held by Sierra Leonean professionals.

All three components are interrelated. The success of our project will depend on the successful implementation of these components and especially on the degree of responsibility and ownership of the community of the system. CCK expects the community to take over and carry on the project as its own system of community care for kids.

2.2. Key values

CCK is driven by the following key values:

- **Local embedment:** CCK sees the human, technical and innovative potentials and capacities already available in Sierra Leone. As far as possible, the organization would like to limit the use of input from outside the country to the necessary minimum: all measures will be based on local (Sierra Leonean) intellectual and material resources, whether they are trainers, experts and participants or simply the ingredients for the school meals. All decisions are to be made by the community. CCK staff uses Krio as language in all consultations and project activities.
- **Sustainability:** all measures should be socially and environmentally sustainable. They aim at building up strengthening long lasting community structures. Agricultural development measures should be based on resource saving practices and avoid the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides;
- **Ownership:** The project is owned by the community and should continue without input from outside after completion;
- **High efficiency of resources:** a minimum of financial input should lead to high effects on the target group.

2.3. Progress and current status

In April 2013 first consultations took place in Hasting and Waterloo. The following stakeholders were addressed (protocols of the consultations are provided in the annex):

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- Headman of the Hastings Community
- Community Chiefs
- Councilor
- School staff of REC Primary School Hastings:
- Deputy Chairperson of Western Area Rural District Council: Margrette Kagbo
- Community members

During these consultations with the community leaders, the community members and the school agreed upon the following points:

- The objective of CCK agricultural support is to enable the farmers to produce sufficient output to provide for:
 - the school meals
 - their own home consumption
 - surplus sale
- Parents and community members will produce the products for the school meals through gardening
- Community and the individual participants will provide the land for that
- CCK supports the agricultural development through training and resources
- In exchange the participating farmers will give a share of the production to the school meal
- At the moment 46 community members have interest to participate
- The farmers might be organized in groups (size to be defined)
- An Agricultural expert will examine the land and structures and give an expertise on the agricultural development
- The school meal will in the first step be introduced for the infants of REC Primary School (approximately 250 children) and if the project is running successfully will be extended to the whole primary school (about 800 children)