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Growing Leaders From Every Soil

WE ONE ACTION NETWORK (WOAN) PROGRESS REPORT – SUNFLOWER TRUST

Reporting period: July – December 2024

Introduction

In July 2024, Sunflower Trust initiated a series of strategic efforts to enhance communication and collaboration with its partner non-formal schools and parents in Kibra Sub-County. These initiatives were designed to amplify the impact of the Trust's literacy, STEM education, and leadership programs while ensuring seamless coordination of upcoming activities.

During the first week of July, the Sunflower Trust team conducted visits to partner schools to engage headteachers, managers, and teachers regarding two key events: an **end-of-year teacher meeting on 13 July** and a **parent meeting on 20 July 2024**. These visits aimed to secure full participation and provide clarity on the agendas for these meetings.

Teachers' Meeting: Reviewing Progress and Planning Ahead

The teachers' meeting provided a platform to review the progress reports of girls enrolled in Sunflower Trust programs and discuss preparations for the **August holiday program**. Key topics included:

- **Evaluation of the PALE Program:** Teachers assessed the performance of the Pathways to Alternative Learning and Education (PALE) program during the school year, identifying areas for enhancement before its scheduled resumption on **August 3, 2024**, in line with Ministry of Education guidelines.
- **Updates on the 24-Week Life Skills and Gender Sensitization Curriculum:** Teachers discussed the conclusion of this year's in-school program and plans for its continuation in 2025.
- **Parent-Teacher Collaboration:** Strategies for effective parent-teacher engagement, including distributing invitation letters to PALE girls' parents, were finalized.

The meeting witnessed a **100% turnout of school principals and teachers**, who commended Sunflower Trust for its consistent efforts to improve literacy among academically challenged girls, address mentorship gaps, and promote education in marginalized communities. Teachers highlighted the transformative impact of the PALE and Gender Sensitization programs, noting significant improvements in literacy, discipline, and leadership among learners.

Parents' Meeting: Strengthening Community Engagement

The parent meeting on **20 July 2024** showcased strong community support, with nearly all parents in attendance. Discussions centered on:

- **Literacy Progress:** Updates on the girls' advancement across literacy group levels.
- **Upcoming Holiday Program:** Plans for the August 2024 program were shared in detail.
- **Feedback on Gender Sensitization Curriculum:** Parents expressed gratitude for the Sunflower Trust's programs but raised concerns about their exclusion from the impactful **24-week Gender Sensitization curriculum**.

In response, Mrs. Rukia Sebit, Executive Director of Sunflower Trust, assured parents of their inclusion in the 2025 program, reinforcing the Trust's commitment to community collaboration.

These meetings underscored the shared dedication of Sunflower Trust, partner schools, and parents to fostering literacy, STEM education, leadership, and advocacy among girls in Kibra. By strengthening these partnerships, Sunflower Trust continues to make a transformative impact, empowering marginalized communities and paving the way for brighter futures.

SEED School Graduation Ceremony

On **October 25, 2024**, the Sunflower Early Education and Development (SEED) school proudly hosted its **annual graduation ceremony** at KCERT Center in Kibera's Olympic Estate. Themed "**Sowing Seeds of Success**," the event celebrated the accomplishments of 25 young learners and their journey toward brighter futures.

The joyous occasion was made possible through the generous sponsorship of **We One Action Network (WOAN)** and support from other local partners and SEED parents. It highlighted the creative and academic milestones of the children through vibrant activities, including a **fashion show** and **song presentations**.

Dressed in their bright green uniforms, the young graduates radiated confidence and enthusiasm as they showcased their projects to the gathered guests. The colorful decorations and lively performances emphasized SEED's unwavering dedication to nurturing talent and potential in early learners.

Parents, teachers, and community members came together to celebrate these young achievers, whose determination and growth symbolize hope and promise for the future of the Kibera community. The event served as a testament to SEED's commitment to providing high-quality early education and fostering a foundation for lifelong success.

End of Year Celebration and Awards Ceremony

On **December 6, 2024**, the Sunflower Trust, with the generous support of **We One Action Network (WOAN)**, hosted two impactful events to celebrate the achievements of children and youth while promoting education, empowerment, and leadership.

The highlight of the year's activities was the **End-of-Year Celebration and Awards Ceremony**, held at **Rowallan Scout Camp** under the theme "**Shape Tomorrow Together.**" This event showcased the collaborative efforts of PALE (Pathway to Alternative Learning and Education), Sunflower Trust, and WOAN in empowering disadvantaged girls to thrive academically, socially, and as leaders in their communities.

In partnership with the **Kenya Scout Association**, the event emphasized unity and collective action in building a brighter future. Awards were presented to outstanding girls who excelled in **education, leadership, and community service**, embodying Sunflower Trust's **LEAD principles** (Love, Education, Action, and Discipline). These accolades highlighted the transformative impact of the Trust's programs in nurturing resilience, confidence, and a sense of purpose among the girls.

The ceremony featured interactive sessions, inspiring performances, and engaging activities that created a festive and memorable experience for all attendees. Parents, teachers, Sunflower Trust staff, board members, and community partners celebrated the success stories of the girls, whose determination and achievements reflect the promise of a brighter future for their communities.

Through events like this, Sunflower Trust reaffirms its commitment to fostering education and leadership in marginalized communities, empowering the next generation to shape a better tomorrow.

Conclusion

The reporting period from **July to December 2024** underscores the Sunflower Trust's steadfast dedication to empowering marginalized communities through transformative initiatives in **literacy, STEM education, and leadership development**. By fostering strategic relationships with partner schools, teachers, and parents, the Trust has successfully advanced collaboration and extended its influence across Kibra District.

Key milestones during this period include the **SEED graduation ceremony**, themed "**Sowing Seeds of Success,**" and the **End-of-Year Celebration and Awards Ceremony**, held under the theme "**Shape Tomorrow Together.**" These events celebrated the academic, creative, and leadership achievements of girls enrolled in Sunflower Trust programs, emphasizing the collective commitment to nurturing their potential.

The active participation of stakeholders—such as the **We One Action Network (WOAN)** and other local partners—was instrumental in these successes. Their support enabled the recognition of learners' accomplishments and the expansion of critical programs. Notably,

efforts to bridge gaps, including increased parental involvement in programs like the **24-Week Gender Sensitization Curriculum**, highlight the Trust's adaptive and innovative approach to addressing community needs.

As the Trust transitions into 2025, the lessons learned and achievements made during this period provide a solid foundation for continued progress. With a renewed focus on collaboration, capacity-building, and program impact, the Sunflower Trust remains resolute in its mission to empower disadvantaged girls and their communities, fostering a brighter and more equitable future.