The Abuse of Children’s Rights

STREET CHILDREN - A FOCUS ON DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Street children are, more often than not, ignored and resigned to fate. Our group’s resolve to thoroughly understand the issue of street children in the Dominican Republic is consummated by profound personal experiences that are intricately intertwined in this problem.

WHO IS A STREET CHILD

“A street child is any girl or boy who has not reached adulthood, for whom the street (in the broadest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become her or his habitual abode and/or sources of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults” (Inter-NGO, 1985).

Problem Landscape

This study attempts to assess the current challenges associated with street children in the Dominican Republic, the working plans that are already addressing this challenge, and the areas needed for intervention.

WHO IS A STREET CHILD

These are children who perpetually live and survive on the streets.

Two kinds of Children on the Streets

ON THE STREETS

These are children who go out to work on the street in order to earn a living and return home to aid their families.

OFF THE STREETS

These are children who are sexually exploited commercially in the Dominican Republic.

GAPS and LEVERS of change

What opportunities exist?

LEVERS

- Institutionalized programs that educate parents about proper parenting and child welfare.
- Improved close collaboration and communication between organizations to inform specialized education and widespread implementation.
- Adapting educational practices from neighboring countries/areas that are doing better academically. Also, taking steps towards protecting youthful children within the school system.
- Increased opportunities for locals to provide services and earn income.

GAPS

- Lack of capacity and education about proper parenting.
- Fragmented impact as a result of the absence of cross-sectoral collaboration amongst organizations and communities.
- Dominican Public School systems being seeded with coaches amongst Spanish-speaking countries, children are deprived of having a valuable education.
- Limited opportunities for locals to earn money legitimately.

Solution Landscape

LOCAL SOLUTION MODEL

PREVENTIVE

OUTREACH & REHABILITATION

CORRECTONAL

COMMUNITY

ORGANIZATION

FAMILY

GOVERNMENT

Integrated street children bases to policy decisions and allocate resources to implement policies that address the challenges associated with child abuse.