

# APAID - Up to date

1<sup>st</sup> News letter 2009



## In this news letter:

- APAID delegation in East-Africa
- Successful course in Uganda
- APAID celebrates first anniversary
- First activities in Uganda
- APAID attracts Ugandan media
- New partners of APAID

## APAID delegation in East-Africa

The Project and Research directors of APAID left for Kenya on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January. After a one-week stay in Kenya to evaluate the project, they continued their trip to Uganda.

In a two months stay, the APAID delegation assists the Ugandan partner The Kids League in the implementation of a Kids With Disabilities Project.

## Successful course in Uganda

With the support of the Ugandan ministry of Sport and the National Council of Sports, APAID and its partner The Kids League were able to organize a 4 days course at the national training centre.

32 coaches, including 13 coaches with disabilities, completed the course about general disability issues and sport for people with disabilities. Moreover among the coaches were 6 staff members of War Child (an international organization working in conflict areas).

In the coming weeks, the possibilities of a future collaboration between APAID and War Child will be discussed.

## APAID celebrates first anniversary

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of February APAID celebrates its first anniversary. Since that date, APAID has reached the following communities:

1. Partnership with MYSA (Kenya) since February 2008 - Implementation of Kids With Disabilities project:
  - Capacity building: 47 individuals including persons with disabilities
  - Adapted sports activities: 816 youths with disabilities
  - Raising awareness campaign: 2735 community members
2. Partnership with The Kids League (Uganda) since January 2009 - Implementation of Kids With Disabilities project:
  - Capacity Building: 32 individuals including persons with disabilities
  - Adapted sports activities: 60 children with disabilities
  - Raising awareness campaign: 174 community members
3. During raising awareness campaign in Europe, APAID reached 3070 persons.

Total number of persons reached by APAID in its first year: 6788!

We believe that these figures do not fully capture our larger social impact. Therefore, APAID prioritizes additional research to measure results. Qualitative data about the Kids With Disabilities project in Kenya shows that majority of the participants report a better quality of life. One of the quotes that illustrates this the best is coming from one of the beneficiaries in Kenya: *'Before this project I thought I was useless but now I realize that I mean something'* (Johnson, Kenya).

## First activities in Uganda

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, APAID and The Kids League organized the first sports activities for 60 children with disabilities. Coached by 32 trained volunteers, they enjoyed playing soccer and boccia. The children attracted lots of attention from their able bodied peers and parents who were around for the regular competition.

The visible interactions between children with and without disabilities was a very hopeful sign for the future.

## APAID attracts Ugandan media

Both during the course for coaches and during the first activities for children with disabilities, the media turned up in big numbers. Journalists from news papers, radio and television already reported very positively about "this great project for children with disabilities."

## New partners APAID

In 2009, APAID already attracted some new partners.

1. Dutch based Stichting Alle Beetjes kindly donated EUR 5.000 towards the project in Uganda.
2. The Ugandan branch of Stanbic Bank promised to donate EUR 6.000 towards this project.
3. Dutch Drukkerij Hultermans contributed towards the production of APAID brochures.

Thank you to all!



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