

## PROGRESS REPORT FOR NET4KIDS

### A. GENERAL INFORMATION :

**1. Title of the Project** : Foster a Child Program for 150 Children in 3 unions of Namakkal District, Tamilnadu, India.

### 2. PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION :

This project is being implemented in 90 villages of three unions like Puduchatram, Namakkal and Mohanoor in Namakkal District, Tamilnadu, India.

**3. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY :** SOCIETY FOR SERVING HUMANITY,  
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**4. PROJECT PERIOD** : October 2007 to September 2008

**5. REPORTING PERIOD** : October 2007 to February 2008  
(5 months)

**6. PROJECT NUMBER** : 2007-240

## **7. OBJECTIVES :**

### **Main Objectives :**

To provide an enabling environment for the social, educational and health development of 150 children of HIV Infected / Affected in the Namakkal District.

### **SUB OBJECTIVES :**

- i) Controlling drop outs and enrolling in the school for continuation of education of vulnerable children (CIA/CAA/OVC).
- ii) Providing health education and health care services to these children.
- iii) Referring the children who are suspected to be infected to the VCTC.
- iv) Bring out the potentialities and talents of the children through competitions.
- v) Providing special coaching to the children in the village for their better scholastic achievements.
- vi) Social integration of children through children's club in the HIV/AIDS hit areas.
- vii) Promoting sustainable Economic growth among the parents / care takers of HIV/Positive to children.

**B. PROGRESS REPORT :****B1. ACTIVITIES PLANNED:**

<b>B1. Activities Planned</b>	<b>Activities carried out</b>
<p>1.1. Formation of Children's clubs enrolling all the children in the street or geographical area.</p> <p>1.2. Establishing coaching centres for all the children in the village or geographical area according to the needs of / number of children.</p> <p>1.3. Home visits by health workers to the children of HIV Infected / Affected.</p> <p>1.4. Providing Education support to the children of HIV Infected / Affected for the continuation of their studies.</p> <p>1.5. Conducting workshop, seminars for the CBOs, SHGs, Youth Clubs, Community Leaders on Child Rights and Child Development.</p> <p>1.6. Training programmes for the care takers of children of HIV Infected / Affected.</p> <p>1.7. Advocacy meeting with Teachers, Health Service Providers, Community Leaders etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 Children's clubs were formed .</li> <li>- 7 coaching centers were formed</li> <li>- Visited all houses of 150 children.</li> <li>- All 150 children are getting the education support.</li> <li>- Conducted two workshops on Child rights and Child development to 50 SHG members and Youth club members and Community Leaders.</li> <li>- Will be conducted in the month of March.</li> <li>- One advocacy meeting was conducted.</li> </ul>

<p>1.8. Cultural programmes on Child rights, Elimination of Stigma and Discrimination, Care and Support to OVC, Gender Discrimination, Community responsibilities of control and prevention of HIV/AIDS and Care and Support.</p>	<p>- 10 cultural events were conducted.</p>
<p>1.9. Linkages with Banks / Govt. Departments.</p>	<p>- 12 children got assistance from the govt. departments.</p>
<p>1.10. IGP support to PLHA families.</p>	<p>- 20 PLHA families were supported with IGP.</p>
<p>1.11. Monthly Review meetings for the staff.</p>	<p>- 5 Review meetings were conducted so far</p>

## **B2. RESULTS ;**

### **2.1. Realization of concrete Results and the realization of objectives :**

#### **2.1.1. Progress in children's education :**

Through our little support to both school going and non-going school children pleurably we see a gradual and steady progress in educational status of our targeted children. We had established tuition centres which run three hours every day with a help of a qualified teacher. Each centre consists of children of CLHA's, CAA's, child labours, orphans, semi-orphans etc. Each centres has its own schedule and moves accordingly. Only here the non-school going children get a chance to learn the basics of education and the school going children get a

chance to revise and do the Home work completely. Especially the teachers give special attention and care on the children who are CIA's and CAA's.

The teachers of the tuition centres help the children to be neat and tidy and to keep the note books in good condition. In the tuition centres the children who study well help out the poor children to perform better. Apart from this the children are given school bags tuition fees, uniforms dress, colour dress, pencil box, writing materials, note books, guides etc. which enable them to study well. Through these supports the children say that they have cultivated interest to study well and inculcated confidence to become a doctor, IAS, Engineers etc. in future. Also in order to make them comfortable for studying in the house, a chair is given to them all. Thus we see the children with eagerness and great enthusiasm to study well. They say that by coming to FCP day every month they have enlarged their friendship circle. Through own every little effort we confirm that there is no drop outs from schools in our target villages: Besides the children participate in co-curriculum activities like drawing, singing, essay and dancing competitions in the school. Our staff members make frequent visit to schools and teachers in order to confirm the children's educational improvement and holistic development. Due to these services they are able to concentrate on studies rather than on anything else.

### **2.1.2. Integration with Children's clubs:**

Children's club is the place where all the children get involved in a task together. There is no stigma & discrimination in terms of caste, health status, family status and gender. These clubs welcomed the CIA's, CAA's and child labours in to the clubs which made them enjoy childhood happiness, child rights etc. Through the induction of CIA's & CAA's into Children's clubs, they cultivate the habit of savings and formation of kitchen gardens and Bio intensive gardens. Every day all children and use it for purchasing note books and others things at the time of reopening of schools. They also donate some

money for purchasing dress for CLHAs and other very poor children. They also involve in mass cleaning of the village and environmental sanitation activities.

### **2.1.3. Improvement of Health & Environment :**

Inorder to improve the children's health status we are providing nutrimix pockets every month, seeds for making kitchen garden and Bio-Intensive gardens so as to get fresh vegetables, green leaves and fruits. This has helped them to regain their health and to be alive throughout the days. We also provided a training on the importance of nutrition and making nutrimix with locally available ingredients, cereals and vegetables. We have also given them Yoga training which has helped the children to improve their health and concentration power.

#### **2.1.3.1. Daily Usage :**

Daily usable commodities like bathing soaps, washing soaps, tooth paste, brush, hair oil, shampoo, powder etc are given to these children every month. Main purpose of providing such things is nothing more than helping them to be neat and tidy as they go to school every day. This has definitely made them to be closer to their teachers and their follow children.

#### **2.1.3.2. Nutritional Support :**

Every month two kilogram of Nutritional powder pocket is given to all these children so as to maintain and improve their health status. This small help makes them to be energetic and active and then to regain good health. This has also taught the parents to cook their meals nutritious and to make use of the locally available grains for making nutrimix. The vegetables seeds and saplings provided by us have been a great way in their nutrition improvement.

#### **2.1.3.3. Educational Support :**

As these children are basically from very poor families and / or who are staying with their care takers, they could not meet out all their educational needs. Hence the children are given a minimum education support to pursue their studies. This includes school feeds, tuition fees, pair of uniform dress, pair of

colour dress, cheppals / shoes, notebooks/ guides, tiffin box, school bag, pencil box with pen, pencil eraser, sharpener, scale etc. It is indeed very much helpful for them to continue their education. Lack of such educational materials made many students drop outs or absenteeism from the school. Through these supports they go to school with curiosity to learn a lot with everything they need for their education.

#### **2.1.3.4. Environmental Support :**

In order to maintain and safeguard the local environment each of them has been given tree sapling and a small package of seeds. This package includes bottle guard, pumpkin, spinaches, drumstick, raddish, okra etc. It helped them to create a small kitchen garden in front of their houses. Through this activity they saved little money on purchasing vegetables as they got fresh and good vegetables from their gardens. We also have insisted to store some seeds for the fourth coming year. Many trees have been voluntarily grown by these little children either at their own houses or in schools.

#### **2.1.4. Social acceptance :**

The General feelings of PLHAs is that HIV virus is not killing them actually but the Stigma and discrimination by their own fellow-men and the community members. Hence we are creating the community sensitization on HIV/AIDS through IEC and cultural programmes. This has resulted in social acceptance which is evidenced in many forms like induction of PLHAs into the women organizations, participation of PLHAs in village festivals etc. The PLHA's are also given loan free of interest and the maximum amount. Children with HIV/AIDS are also accepted into children's clubs where they experience unity, love, care and friendship from their fellow friends. The SHG members also support in marketing of the products produced by PLHAs . This is only a beginning and we hope to have more participation and acceptance from the society in due course.

**2.1.5. Linkages Made :**

We have organized Advocacy and Coordination meetings, through which we have created good rapport with Govt. departments and officials which include VAO's, Thasildars, RDO's , Police departments, Social Welfare departments etc. through which we have enabled the PLAHAS to get free pattas, ration cards, voters ID, widow pension housing scheme etc. and these departments show a sympathetic approach towards the PLHA's and their family members. We are also making good linkage with Banks that provide small loans to PLHAs. The PLHA's are linked with the health departments which provide free treatment for their opportunistic infection diseases. These linkages really shape the life of PLHA's towards development.

**2.1.6. Yoga and Life skill Training.**

Through Yoga and Life Skills training the children have developed their health and mental status. This training brings a kind of refreshment in their mind and body. Yoga helps them to acquire good health and their regulatory system functions smoothly. They also have very less chance for opportunistic infections.

**2.2. Direct Beneficiaries :**

There are 150 Children who are the direct beneficiaries and their family members numbering about 750 are the indirect beneficiaries of his project. These 150 children are between the age of 6-15 years. There are 79 boys among whom 4 are urban and 75 are rural and 71 girls among whom 6 are urban and 65 are rural. All these children are really in need of educational nutritional, psycho-social and economic support which will help them pursue their studies.

**2.3** The targeted children and their parents of the project are benefited by this project in the following ways. The children being the direct beneficiaries are supported with educational support which includes school bag, school fees, tuition fees, uniform dress, colour dress etc; tiffin box to carry their food;

pencil box to carry writing materials, note books for updating notes and to acquire knowledge; cheppals for going to school regularly; then nutritional support with a package of nutrition powder; daily usable commodities like bathing soap, washing soap, tooth paste and brush, powder hair oil, shampoo etc. to keep them clean, neat and tidy; then also with psychosocial support in terms of Yoga training, Life Skills Education training etc. Their parents are helped with IGP support for strengthening the economic status of the family. Through this support they are given a loan for goat rearing, chicken rearing, running a petty shop etc. so that the entire family can find sustainability for their economic growth so as to meet and manage the everyday requirements of the family. All the above said supports are given to children and their parents with a purpose of fulfilling their current basic needs which fall in line with the objectives of this project.

#### **5. Perspectives for future Sustainability :**

We are already in the process of making this FCP project sustainable after the project period. Basically we are creating the CBOs (Community Base organization) like the women groups, the Village Development Committees, the children's club etc. These groups will take up the integration of PLHAs into the community and will have the way to live in dignity. And as we are also simultaneously involved in mainstreaming them with the existing govt. health and welfare departments, the PLHAs and their children can avail the existing govt. schemes. SSH has been also supporting them with economic assistance with Net4kids assistance to restart or sustain their Income generation activities. Hence we can proudly say that we ensure the sustainability of this project.

#### **6.0. SPECIAL EVENTS :**

##### **6.1. Children's Week :**

In order to observe the National Children's Day we have organized a Children's Day /Week from 13th November to 18th November of 2008 in 5 coaching centres of our intervention villages. In which the children took initiative to

organize various types of competitions like Essay competition, drawing competition, Singing Competition, running race, dance competitions etc. The main purpose of the event was to bring awareness on child rights and HIV/AIDS prevalence in the country, among the children of our target areas. Through these children, we also brought these messages to their parents and the whole community.

### **6.2. Workshop on Child Rights and child development to SHG members :**

SSH has organized an one day workshop on Child rights and Child development (from their early childhood to their old age) for the 50 SHG members. We had two resource persons, for Child Rights and Child Development respectively. In the morning session Mrs.Srinivasan brought about the importance of Child Education, Right to live, Right to education, Right to equality, Right to health etc. Then in the afternoon session nutrition, health status, mental/social need of a child, psychological need of a child, physical need of a child, economic status for child, importance of love and affection from parents, Care & Support from SHG members and others in the community. He also said that if the above mentioned factors are given to a child, it would help in actualizing himself / herself in a concrete point of life and shine better, and when the above said factors were denied to a child, he/she may have problems like wandering and retardation. So each and every step of child growth indeed needs very specific attention and care. Thus this event was very useful for the SHG members and the staff too learnt particulars about child right and child happiness.

### **6.3. Cultural events :**

Cultural events are the best ways to bring awareness on a particular fact to all the people of the village. We have conducted such cultural events in 10 villages of our intervention during the last five months. For this event initially we did not get good cooperation and participation from the villagers but as the days passed on seeing our activity and the message that we give in the events more people came to attend these events. This was a powerful tool for us to

educate the rural mass on HIV/AIDS which is a powerful tool for behaviour change and mental attitude of people.

#### **6.4. IGP Support to PLHAs:**

IGP support to 20 PLHA's were given during the FCP day's every month. This support was given specifically to find their economic sustainability for their entire family. Through this support we help the PLHA's to help them find sources for their life by their own initiative and willingness, so that they can stand on their own legs. Thus the PLHAs have got their own poultry units, goats or petty trades and the Community also support them in the inter sale.

#### **6.5 Visit of Ms. Sandrine and Ms. Mireillie**

We were privileged to have Ms.Sandrine and Ms.Mireille in last December 2007 in Namakkal. They were with us for five days (14th to 18th December ;08). They had an in-depth discussion with our staff members specially on FCP project. They also participated in the FCP day on 15.12.2007 along with 150 children and their parents. Many resource persons had also participated in this function. Here is the enclosure of photo and News paper cutting.

They also visited more than 40 houses of FCP children, and Non-formal educational centres. Both of them showed red interest on field visits to villages like Thumangurichi, Ernapuram, Pudupatti, Chellappa colony, Jeyanthi colony, Kosavampatti, Muthudaiyarpalayam etc. and visited families living with HIV/AIDS, four families of orphan and vulnerable children they also visited few, IGPs kitchen gardens, etc, which gave new strength to both PLHAs and to SSH staff members.

#### **6.6. Visit of Mr.Loek Van Den Boog. Chairman, Net4kids**

We had the pleasure of having Mr.Loek Van Den Boog to our organization at Namakkal for two days in February 2008 along with Mr.Aloysious, Director, SAVE, Mr.Loek arrived at Thiruppur. We took them on field visits to 9 of our targeted villages to have a first hand information on the lies of CIA/CAA and their parents. On February 2, 2008 we had the FCP day in which he could see

all our 150 children and their parents to gather. Around 20 women have also got the privileged of receiving the IGP assistance from his hand on that day.

We had the pleasure of taking Mr.Loek to our new office building site at Periyapatti. This building has been coming up with the kind assistance of the Consulate of Japan in Chennai. As there is not provision for the kitchen hall and the training equipment, we made a special request to Mr.Loek for these facilities along with few more other requests,. And these requests have been already put on the process by the Net4kids team. Our special thanks to Ms.Veronika Uhl for her kind follow-up activities.

#### **6.7. CASE STUDY ABOUT NANDHINI :**

Selvi.Nandhini is female child and first of four children (two girls and two boys) in the house who is doing her fourth standard. Her father's name is Mr.Rajkumar who passed away due to HIV/AIDS before four years. Since then her mother Mrs.R.Kaweri shoulders the responsibility of the entire family. Her mother is also living with HIV/AIDS. She is unable to go for any kind of work as her health condition is very poor and she is consuming ART also. She is also one among many who referred by us to the Welfare Department to avail the Old Age Pension of Rs.400/- and four kg. of rice. Nandhini is also an infected child of HIV/AIDS and consumes ART. Before the Induction of Nandhini into the FCP program she discontinued from the school and went for working in fruits godown. She has to carryout the fruit bags while loading and unloading from lorries. For this kind of work she used to get Rs.20/-at the end of the work. Only this was the source with which they ought to manage the entire family and her family was living in a rented hut for some time, then because of the inability to pay the rent they were asked to leave away the hut by the owner and made use of the plotform in the bus-stand as their inhabitant for sleeping. They went starving for many days or managing with little whatever they get from the people in the bus-stand. It was this juncture our staff members found this family and inducted into the FCP project through which her mother was referred

for ART & OAP as mentioned above. Now this family is living at a village called Vankarasalai Medu in Veesanam Panchayat. They had just made a tent which appears without door and walls for protection. So there is no guarantee for the things kept in the house. They have just only one pot, two cooking vessels, two plates & glasses and two ladles as their utensils. Indeed their living condition is in utter poverty and pathetic which eventually needs adequate care & support. Nandhini is given educational, nutritional and economical support for her holistic development. But for our FCP assistance she would not go to school and her family would not be living here. She is being helped directly and her family is benefiting indirectly through this project. She looks neat and tidy by taking both, applying hair-oil and powder, brushing etc. She appears nice as she was given pairs of colour dresses and pairs of uniform dresses. She spends atleast two hours daily for study and is slowly improving in studies. This family was referred to Self Help Group from where they get benefit from handful of rice and Hundial collection. For any emergency situation they are being helped by the SHG in the village. Thus Nandhini's life along with her entire family is being benefited from this project. Now she has many friends and her mother also participates in the FCP programme regularly every month. Thus this project effects them positively for sustainability of their life. Nandhini also had the privilege of meeting Mr.Loek on 01.02.08 at her own house along with her month.

### **B3. Analysis :**

**3.1.** It is our pleasure to say that with the works of our committed staff members we have been in the track of achieving our planned and concrete results without any deviation in the planned activities.

**3.2.** During the implementation of this project we have experienced some side effects both positive and negative as given below:

**Positive Effects :**

- As we have inducted PLHA's into the Self Help groups there is a possibility for the sustainability of this project in future.
- Collection of Handful of rice and Dumb box indeed provokes the SHG members to be more concerned with PLHAs.
- Establishment of children's clubs, tuition centres and the Youth clubs in the village assures continuous education for the children.
- Many children in villages come forward voluntarily to join the children's clubs.
- There is a general feeling to support the PLHAs among the community members.

**Negative Effects :**

- Since we concentrate on one child in a house other children in the same house feel some kind of discrimination.

**3.3.** No changes have occurred in the background of the project. We along with the committed staff members and the local volunteers would complete the project in accordance with the planned objectives and concrete results.

**B.4. PLANNING :**

**Plan for the next seven months :**

- The activities like provision of educational support, psychosocial support, nutritional support and IGP support will be continued.
- Integrating the children with other Youth clubs, Educational Institutions, and like minded NGO's for availing more services.
- Integration of PLHAs into the SHG's will be continued.
- We would organize the Coordination and Advocacy meetings in the coming months.
- Yoga and Life Skill training will be arranged for children in the month of

April & May 2008.

- IGP support for another 30 PLHA's would be provided.
- Exposure /Picnic to Children will be arranged in the month of May 2008.

**B5. Concluding Comments :**

Since the implementation of this Foster Child Programme from October 2007, we have been experiencing a positive response from the children, parents, PRI's, Community Leaders, Youth club members, Self Help Group members etc. We also see an economic improvement among the PLHAs families. Educational, social, recreational and mental ability of children have been gradually developed. Many other people other than our direct and indirect beneficiaries and other local officials have become aware of the life situation of people who are infected and affected of HIV/AIDS and the series of difficulties they face in their family and community. Above all, this FCP programme has brought a turning point and behaviour change amidst the people. Hence our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the members of Net4kids and especially to Mr.Luke Van den Boog and his team members. We assure you that there will be a lot more activities in the next half year which will be given in the first annual report of this programme.

**Appendix : Photos of the Foster a Child Program.**



**Police officials participating in FCP Day**



**Integration of CIA/CAA with other normal children**



**Mr.Loek Van Den Boog is visiting FCP child's house**



**Yoga Education to Children**



**Education assistance to FCP children**



**FCP child in the school with teachers and Ms.Sandrine & Ms.Mireille**



Cultural event by SSH staff members on the FCP Day



An evening chat with Mr.Loek by a FCP child.



Staff training at SSH



The Income Generation programme witnessed by Ms.Sandrine.



Smiling kids along with SSH Secretary



FCP children and their Parents actively participating in the FCP Day



Thirukural Thiliban exhibiting his ability in poem



Active participation of Children in the FCP programme



Children involved in playing Carom in the children's club



The real outcome of FCP smiling faces