



MODEL of CHANGE

PHASE 5 – CASCADE IMPACT

Cascade impact into the **wider community** via **multiple influencers** acting to reduce incidence of accusations and abuse of children.

In this phase you are seeking **multiple influencers** (such as community and church leaders, child care agency staff, other advocates for children) to take the learning from earlier phases in the process, and to implement changes in the **wider community** which result in increased protection and wellbeing of children.

Method: a diversity of locally-initiated projects and actions.

Purpose: to see an increasing amount of intentional actions and advocacy with and on behalf of children and families in the community affected by child witch accusations.

Outcomes: during PHASE 5 of the *Model of Change*, the Planning Committee will be able to track and observe the following...

- follow up all those trained to encourage them, assess the impact and resulting positive change locally.
 - ongoing education and awareness-raising among an increasing number of leaders – including: pastors and church leaders, children's workers, community leaders.
 - more leaders in the immediate and neighbouring communities are attending and engaging positively with workshops and seminars on this issue.
 - increasing numbers of pastors and community leaders who are actively advocating for and supporting children accused.
 - growing involvement of local authorities (local governors, councillors, police) in taking a positively-nuanced approach towards child protection.
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It might seem strange to say it, but this is where things begin. Up until now, all the work of the Planning Committee (including running the Focus Groups and analysing the research, holding an Action Forum, and providing Interactive Training Workshops to engage influencers), has all been a preparatory laying of good foundations for the ultimate outcome, namely: reducing the incidence of accusations, stigmatising, and abuse of children in churches and communities, and an increasing focus on children's protection and wellbeing.

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Communities that are beneficial to children are places where they experience security, have access to support services, and opportunities to thrive and flourish in life.

Note: throughout this *Model of Change* the term “we” refers to SCWA, and “you” refers to the Planning Committee – or on occasions, as indicated, their appointed Facilitator.

How to effect community change?

By this stage the Planning Committee will already have some notions of interventions that will be effective in the local community and beyond. And they will also have a widening pool of eager advocates for children:

- Each of the Work Groups that emerged from the Action Forum in PHASE 3 have been focused on taking steps to implement a key resolution or response.
- Many of the leaders who attended the Interactive Training Workshop during PHASE 4 will be ready to take further action.

Initiatives for community change need to emerge in the local context. Imposing initiatives from outside simply won't work, and actually risk making the local situation worse. It is crucial that those who have familiar experience with local community realities take the lead in any initiatives that emerge.

However, it is also vital to allow everyone who has been engaged along the process of this *Model of Change* to experiment and be creative in trying to explore what can bring about positive change. *Also, please refer to the monitoring note* under “Keeping track”.*

Resources for community change

The following resources (at least) will now be available to all who intend to work for change in the local community:

- a report on the analysis of the Focus Groups, showing the existing roots, realities, and responses to the issue of child witch accusations in the local context;
- a series of theological papers from the Action Forum addressing key themes or topics which address several aspects of common viewpoints on this issue (potentially including: • Spiritual Powers, • Human Agency, • Child Development, • Role of the Church, • Socio-Economic Context);
- supplementary material used in the Action Forum (including: • the Voice of the Child extracts, • audio-visual inputs);
- outcomes of the Talk Groups at the Action Forum, in response to the questions asking, “How does this theme affect the way we think and act now?”
- any further local resources and initiatives developed by the Work Groups that emerged from the Action Forum;

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- copies of the material used in the Interactive Training Workshop (potentially including: • biblical basis for valuing children, • awareness of actions and consequences, • understanding child development and trauma, • exposure of the roots of fear, • practical responses for pastors — answering accusations, praying with children, • knowledge of the laws protecting children, • role of the community in child protection);
- supplementary material accompanying the Interactive Training Workshop resources (such as • audio programmes, or • video productions);
- outcomes from the Interactive Training Workshop, any resolutions or responses that were initiated.

Ideas for community change

Here are some ideas based on what has actually been implemented in diverse local contexts in Togo and the D.R. Congo. These are offered here purely to generate imaginative ideas. No detail is given, nor any suggestion made that these will necessarily all work equally well in other contexts.

Any of these will need to be tailored to according to the local situation by the person initiating change.

in Churches...

- run full-length training workshops for clusters of church leaders.
- run training seminar days (or series) for all involved in church leadership, in local and neighbouring locations.
- provide fresh training for all those working with children and young people.
- provide awareness-raising for church members and congregations (teaching on responding to accusations, child development needs, and such).
- adapt relevant theological resources to use in church sermons and teaching.
- adapt training resources for use in advocacy, campaigning, counselling, and more.
- appoint persons with responsibility for child protection, ensuring appropriate oversight and accountability, following the guidance in the training materials.
- appoint children's advocates, following the guidance in the training materials.
- create and implement child protection policies, based on the examples given in the training materials.
- implement positive guidance on appropriate prayer with children.
- implement guidance on discipline, forbidding harmful forms of punishment.
- offer new approaches to counselling of parents within the church.
- offer family mediation and reconciliation.
- run seminars for parents within the church.

in Communities...

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- advocate via marketplace conversations in teams to educate the public.
- advocate via awareness-raising campaigns (about needs of children, their value and rights of children, child protection laws).
- advocate by visiting families where abuse is evident or has been observed, or accusations have been made.
- introduce new approach to social work and engaging with families.
- introduce new methodology in child-care centres, and schools.
- establish parents' meetings in the community, to educate and provide support.
- establish children's clubs, based on valuing children, and upholding their rights.
- provide safe refuge and other support services for street children.
- offer training for local authority personnel, local judiciary, and police.

And of course, change is also initiated by people sharing one-to-one with neighbours, family members, and other informal exchanges.

Keeping track

Monitoring ongoing change and evaluating impact is helpful for the Planning Committee, especially when it provides evidence of the positive transforming effect of these initiatives. We anticipate that a positive outcome for children will be evident in three contexts: the home environment, the local church, and the neighbourhood streets.

Follow-up surveys with those who have been involved in various phases of this *Model of Change* will be the most effective way to measure impact. Acquiring quantitative data (numbers and such) may prove difficult, but qualitative data (testimonies and such) can be equally valuable if gathered and presented in an appropriate format.

** Monitoring Note: while it may be helpful for the Planning Committee to know of key initiatives that are occurring, especially for monitoring and evaluating the impacts for change, it is essential not to impose a control on emerging actions, as many opportunities will evolve organically. Ultimately, it is more far important that change happens than that change is measured!*

Finally...

The SCWA Coalition is here to provide guidance at all phases of this *Model of Change*, and to help in developing new resources, and making these more widely available.

If you (or any on your Planning Committee) have questions or need assistance at any stage, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Thank you.

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