

2015 Educateurs sans Frontières Assembly – NOTES

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Topic: Kenya

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Q: is there a way to help the Corner of Hope Project.

A: yes, you can donate, but it might sit there awhile. We had not thought about budgeting for shoes, so the first donation was used for shoes. You will get a note back from an adult, not a child (who are feeling what a lucky child am I that I got new shoes from a stranger) will send you a thank you note.

Q: What about privileged schools talking to other privileged schools could see how they have helped.

A: the truth is that it is almost impossible to get donated items through the border. Any container becomes very costly.

Q: I was thinking about fundraising.

A: it is not helpful to get things. Just send money. If we have the money we can buy from the local factory. The shoes are only used inside the school, so they can pass them down.

Q: my question is about teacher education. They come from the community itself. I am always thinking about teacher trainers. Many are not prepared to deal with very low-income children. Have you shaped the teacher education of the needs of the children?

A: we selected the teachers from the community, but also qualifications that we were looking for. They needed to have previous background and already practiced for years. It gave hope to the community because they had their own taken for training. So they could see the possibilities that can be used somewhere else. The people that we really needed to train, which were the 2 mentor teachers. They had to withstand the distrust of the community. They were from the local community, they understood the

local issues, but they were not from within the community. The two mentors were from different tribes to. They really trusted Hilary in the end. It worked. There is a lesson to be learned about what happens in traumatized communities. They were the repository of the blame for anything that went wrong. The big learning is how to deliver the teaching from their community.

Comment by Victoria Barres: thank you for sharing the video for the initiative on such a short amount of time. Comment about the work that is working with NGOs with UNESCO. All of those videos are available on YouTube. These are the kinds of ways we can share through the eyes of the children and share with teachers, children, adults and parents. So not necessarily monetary objects can be effective. I wanted to publicly acknowledge that today.

Q: are there more projects in other parts of the world. we had to see if the training and mentoring system would work and be sustainable. The first year you do the training and then the practice. Originally we thought we would have one per class. And then have two more for the next classes. But that was too ambitious. So we double every year. I am learning that rarely do you have a community that is willing to take the time to work with the community. At one point we had to stop for 3 months with only one roof crewmember working on the roof. If we had a donor that said why have you not finished the roof yet and I will pull my funding now. We have to have time for the complications. It was quite complicated to do the whole things and I am not sure I would do just part of it. We are hoping that we can replicate it, but we will have to see if KiSima (?) will work. It is good for camps, but have to have land to do this. So it is possible, but you can't just say we can do this anywhere. You have to have donors that are willing to go with the pace of the community, not just end of the year results.

Q: so this makes you feel a little bit a lack of hope. You have to be focused driven and never give up.

A: you have to plan properly. We spent a long time planning. You need talking to people and talking to people. The planning is the most important thing. You have a vision. You can use a cowshed. Somebody will make the materials. The planning gives you the elements. You can share the planning, but it is the most important and a really good on the ground partner who can help you solve the problems as they come up.

Comment: Victoria – spending the amount of time is a major problem with the projects. The programs keep having shorter cycles for the instigating of a project. It saves time in the end.

A: Once the community you are working with will have the resources they need once you give them a little point in the right direction.

Q: it takes a vision. You can't just stomp out fires as you go along. I would be very appreciative to get more information.