

Community Participation in the Development and Running of Simukai Street Youth Program, Mutare, Zimbabwe

Type of Involvement	By Whom	How were They Involved
In the research	Street children	Performed the research alongside the adults.
In the design of the program	All stakeholders incl. street children	Community meetings were held at which the community responded to the research and came up with recommendations that informed the design of the program. A separate meeting was held with the street children to discuss the recommendations and add to or change them.
On the Board	The two lead organisations in partnership, Scripture Union and FACT, and 3 Church groups. Also the Police, Dept of Housing (City Council) and Dept. of Social Welfare	A board was formed involving SU, FACT and representatives from 3 Church Groups. In order to maintain the Christian integrity of the Board, the Police, Council and Social Welfare were made ex-officio members, attending meetings but unable to vote. The Board appointed the Program Manager, advised the PM, was guardian of the vision and ensured accounts were audited. Note: A mistake was made not to include the Dept. of Education as well.
On a community action group	Members of the community asked by the Program manager	This group was made up of enthusiastic doers who assisted the program to source needed goods and services through their contacts. They also produced the Simukai newsletter known as Strength to Strength.
In annual reviews	Stakeholders	A annual 360° review of aspects of the program was held in order to ensure that the program was fulfilling its stated objectives and meeting the needs of the target group.
In new developments	Street children from the slums, their guardians and community leaders. Board	When the second phase of the program was established, the staff, slum children and their guardians, as well as selected community leaders, were involved in where the day centre should be located, the activities that should be conducted there and the name of the program, known boringly as the Sakubva Support Centre (SSP). The Board considered and approved the SSP once a certain level of funding had been sourced.
In activities at the Day Centre	Street children and staff.	The street children designed the rules (and consequences) for the Drop in Centre with the staff. They also had input into the location, opening hours and activities that were available there.
In decisions that affect their lives	Street children, guardians and staff	Regular meetings were held with the street children to talk about where they "were at". Any decision to leave the streets was their initiative. Any reunification was a negotiated discussion between staff, child and guardians.
In advocacy programs	Street children	The street children participated in street marches (when they were permitted) to conscientise the community about their issues. Youth were trained to participate in relevant adult forums.