

Inclusion of children and youths with hearing impairments

Papua New Guinea - Callan Services for Disabled Persons

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Since 2008, Callan Services for Disabled Persons has provided nationwide educational and vocational training to children and youths with hearing impairments and capacity-building to school teachers on a local level to facilitate inclusion in general education institutions.

“Callan’s support to mainstream education and vocational training leads to greater participation and inclusion of hearing impaired and deaf persons.”

—Kevin RYAN, Director

FACTS & FIGURES

- Since the beginning of the project Callan Services has reached over 100,000 children and adults.
- The project currently has 20 people directly employed by Callan Services.
- Nationwide, a minimum of 60 additional teachers employed by the Department of Education are directly linked to the project.

PROBLEMS TARGETED

Child deafness, often a consequence of malaria or other infection, is widely spread in Papua New Guinea. Approximately 67 percent of all children have ear and hearing problems, and up to 48 percent suffer hearing loss. This ‘hidden disability’ is a leading cause of school drop-out, exclusion, and malnutrition, thus contributing to the cycle of child poverty.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

Children and youths in all provinces are regularly screened on ear and hearing problems in local institutions. In cases of severe problems, referral to further medical support is facilitated. These children are then prepared for and included in the regular education system through the development of

individual education plans. Children and youth with hearing impairments are included in community initiatives and events to give them an opportunity to illustrate their skills and gain acceptance in society.

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

Several manuals have been distributed, and Callan Services is currently working with Light for the World on a lessons learned guide for similar approaches to national hearing health and education projects in other countries.

Photo

Screening for hearing impairment is conducted in an elementary school in Ningerum.

Photo credit: Light for the World

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