**COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR) UNIT. REPORT ON ANOTHER FAD SPONSORED TRAINING CONDUCTED AT MILE 91, YONI CHIEFDOM, TONKOLILI DISTRICT IN THE NORTHERN PART OF SIERRA LEONE FROM MONDAY 2RD NOVEMBER TO STAURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2020**

**OVERVIEW-** The training was conducted for 27 persons with visual impairment which comprising of 12 females and 15 males from 16 different locations in the Yoni Chiefdom, Kolifa Mabang and Malal Chiefdom. CBR unit staff namely Idrissa Tarawalie, the CBR coordinator and Foday Kalokoh field worker and supervised by Rev James Davies.

Training components. The training has two components namely

1. Mobility and orientation

2. Agriculture rehabilitation

Mobility and orientation

1.1- The five senses:- This component started with an in-depth discussion of the five senses and their importance to man. During the training of the 27 participants were encouraged to particularly recognize the sense of feeling and hearing which are the two major senses that are highly helpful and therefore are mostly used by blind people in their environment as well as in agricultural activities while they engage in subsistence farming

1.2 Orientation training- For orientation participants were made to realize the importance of knowing various objects and their relations in the blind environment in order to safely move around with less assistance from sighted people.

1.3 Introduction to Mobility cane

Participants were taught that the cane is the symbol for blind people and that it helps them, if correctly used to walk independently, thereby seriously reducing the burden on the sighted family members, more so in terms of assistance in movement from one place to the other.

1.4 practical session with the mobility cane- during the practical perios, emphsasis was laid on the importance of the mobility cane for the daily movement of the blind person. The participants were then taught about its qualities, its standard measurement; length and size. They were also taught how to protect the cane especially in the midst of children and that it should not be used to show directions or killsnakes

1.5 the language of the mobility cane

“Do you believe that the mobility cane speaks also.”? As the rehabilitation facilitator, listen to the language of the cane and its command, with demonstrations he went on to teach participants the language of the cane. Several important language patterns of the cane were taught to the participants and in the end all the participants understood tha language of the cane and were able to demonstrate walking alone with the cane without guidance.

1.6 Agriculture rehabilitation- the agriculture session consisted of both theory and practical lessons. They were taught skills on hoeing and brush clearing for simple agricultural crops grown locally including, rice, ground nuts, cassava potato and corn. They were taught how to recognize various crops and do their own weeding.

Emphasis was placed on timing of agriculture. Blind people were taught to start early before the sighted farmers which would give them an opportunity to receive some help from people who can see, before they too would commence their own agricultural activities. It also ensures that they would yield a good harvest. IN some cases the blind people were taught to encourage family members to assess their farms and help them check for any problems that cannot be handled by them in anyway.

The participants were also taught how to test seeds before planting to ensure that all seeds are viable.

General comments.

1. All the 27 participants attended the training and participated well. They went home with happiness and mentioned that the training had helped them to walk independently and that will earn them some respect in their various communities

The participants were very grateful to FAD for facilitating the program and also supervising it and making the provisions

2. Challenges- The increase of prices for tools, seeds and food- this is for Rev Davies

Recommendations

I wish to recommend that blind people receive training not only on mobility and agriculture, but also on different handcrafts, since not all may be too strong to do farming and in between planting and harvesting they are involved in some other activity.

I wish to personally thank FAD for sponsoring the programme and supervising it, which has enabled 27 persons to improve their livelihood and not to depend on begging in the future

Submitted by

Idrissa Tarawallie

CBR Coordinator