

Script for PowerPoint presentation



Reaching Out – breaking down barriers and working with all segments of society

Slide 1 - Strategic Priority 4: Reaching Out

The aim of this strategic priority is to help Scouting to identify and respond to the needs of young people, adults and society, particularly where Scouting is currently not having an impact.

Slide 2 – If Scouting does not reach out...

If Scouting continues to serve only its traditional audiences, it will limit the Movement's potential to build a better world.

If Scouting does not reach out – it will limit its impact on society.

Slide 3 – Barriers to development...

All organisations naturally face a number of barriers which limit their development. These may be:-

- lack of human and financial resources,
- competition from other groups,
- social or cultural barriers,
- image problems.

Slide 4 – Organizations, like living organisms...

Very naturally, organisations, including Scouting, are looking for allies and favourable conditions to support their development.

Plants, animals and social organizations, are all looking for a niche, a space offering favourable conditions to guarantee their growth and survival and perhaps even to find the conditions necessary to thrive.

'Niches' are also defined by borders. Scouting has borders. It has a specific nature, and precise purpose, principles and method.

Slide 5 – Scouting is not...

Scouting is not a solution for any social problem. It is not a development agency, nor a humanitarian or first aid organisation.

Slide 6 – Scouting is...

It is an educational movement for young people.

Robert Baden-Powell, with his usual sense of humour, defined some of the limitations of Scouting.

Slide 7 – a picture of Baden-Powell...

Here are some of the things that Baden-Powell said Scouting is not:

- *it is not a charity organisation for people in society to run for the benefit of poor children.*
- *It is not a school having a definite curriculum and standards of examination.*
- *It is not a brigade of officers and privates for drilling manliness into boys.*
- *It is not a show where surface results are gained through payment in merit badges and medals.*

Slide 8 – Scouting needs...

Scouting needs to be open to all but it also needs to retain its specificity.

- Has Scouting's niche become too narrow?
- Does Scouting only attract a small number of young people from the same social background?
- Do Scouting's borders limit its development?
- Let us look at a couple of the borders that have been created in Scouting over the years.

Slide 9 – Scouting's borders...

School based Scouting versus community based Scouting

First, in many countries Scouting was established through the school system.

This initially provided a lot of advantages but as time progressed teachers were less interested in volunteering their time and energy so Scouting could only survive by teachers being seconded to Scouting.

However, the distinctiveness of Scouting was reduced and it became more like school, sometimes even taking place in the classroom during school hours.

- Is Scouting predominately school-based in your association?
- Are there opportunities to reach out into the community?
Sometimes in the community, Scouting has not secured enough support to allow it to develop.
There is not sufficient leadership of the right quality, meeting places may be available but are too expensive – the infrastructure may not be available to support Scouting.
- If Scouting in your association is predominately community based, would there be an advantage of reaching out into schools?
- How could Scouting benefit from developing partnerships with formal education?

Scouting for the middle-classes versus Scouting for less privileged young people.

Secondly, Scouting traditionally has been attractive to the middle classes.

Scouting was viewed as less relevant, and had little to offer poorer children who had the responsibility of earning an income and contributing to the family budget.

Scouting is often perceived as not meeting the needs of young people who work, young people who have very little time for recreation and personal development.

This perception also contributes to Scouting's image as a leisure activity, rather than non-formal education.

Slide 10 – Other borders in Scouting...

These are examples of two barriers and there are other barriers which you may wish to discuss. For example:-

- Scouting for children versus Scouting for adolescents
- Mainstream Scouting versus Scouting for ethnic minority communities
- Traditional Scout activities versus the new expectations of young people
- Uniform versus youth culture.

Slide 11 – Graph 1

Here are some facts on the different groups targeted by associations, from the returns of the 2001 census.

- The global indicate that all the groups identified are targeted to some extent.
- The group that is targeted most is young people with disabilities or special needs, followed by socially deprived young people.
- The results are influenced by a comparatively high return from associations in the European Region.

Slide 12 – Table 1

If we look at the results from the individual regions in the table on the screen:

- In the Interamerica Region, the focus in associations is socially deprived young people.
- Working with street children of homeless children comes out as sthe second group targeted, after young people with disabilities, in the Africa Region, the Asia-Pacific Region and the Eurasia Region.
- From the responses received the focus in associations in the Arab Region is divided between the young people with disabilities and socially deprived young people.

Slide 13 – logo of Kenya Scouts Association

Let us now have a look at how the Kenya Scouts Association has reached out to children in especially difficult circumstances to increase its impact on society.

Slide 14 – Photo of child sniffing glue

Today there are many young people in Kenya living in especially difficult circumstances. Some have disabilities, some are AIDS orphans, with one or both parents having died of AIDS, some are street children, living on the streets for a variety of reasons and often having to steal and sniff glue to survive.

Slide 15 – Photo of large group of children

The Kenya Scouts Association developed a programme to reach out to these children – not as an act of charity by the adults, but as a response to the particular situations in which the young people find themselves.

Slide 16 – Photo of children working

There are 1200 Scouts in the Kenyan Extension Scout Programme. Through Scouting all these young people are helped to develop skills and interpersonal relationships. The result will be that they can improve their personal situations and take charge of their lives.

Slide 17 – Photo of Scout making bread

The skills which Scouts can learn are bread-making, zero-grazing, carpentry, computing, teamwork, interpersonal skills and managing money.

Slide 18 – Photo of Scouts camping

The Scouts also go camping. They take part in regular activities in their Districts and also have their own camp each year at Rowallen Campsite on the outskirts of Nairobi.

Slide 19 – Photo of Scouts walking

As part of the programme, a health clinic has been set up on the campsite.

It is staffed by a qualified nurse, supported by a team of doctors and it provides free treatment to Extension Scouts and affordable treatment to the local community which comprises a shanty town of around 1 million people.

The clinic is aptly named Sisi Kwa Sisi, which means 'for ourselves and by ourselves' in Kiswahili.

The programme depends on good Scout Leaders with special skills. Special training is provided for leaders who choose to work with these young people. They may need training in particular disabilities or counselling to support young people who are addicted to glue. There are also four full time staff to support the programme and the leadership teams.

Slide 20 – The Community Development Committee seeks to...

The programme is fully integrated into the Kenya Scout Association.

The Community Development Committee has responsibility for the programme. This committee, chaired by Suaib Adam, seeks:-

- **to ensure that the programme is sustainable.**
The needs are immense and it would be easy for the programme to become overwhelmed and lose the focus helping the Scouts to reintegrate into society.
- **to be fully accountable to the donors.**
All requests for funding are put to the committee. Donors receive regular reports on how their money is spent.
- **to promote the sharing of ideas and good practice.**
The Danish Development Agency, DANIDA, recently funded a seminar which enabled the sharing of good practice which the leaders found very useful.
- **to promote the programme more widely.**
Most of the programme funding is received from outside Kenya. As the programme responds to the problems of society in Kenya the committee thinks that it should be able to get more support from Kenyans, particularly in Nairobi.
- **people with professional skills to support the programme.**
The programme needs money, time, effort, good will and people with the right connections in government, business and the community to make things happen.

Slide 21 – Photo of group of Scouts...

The situation for many children in especially difficult circumstances in Kenya is bleak. There is a ray of hope for the young people in the Kenyan Scout Extension Programme and through the programme a ray of hope for society in the future.

Slide 22 – Button and title



World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout



World Scout Bureau Mondial du Scoutisme