

Dreamcast

Drama project
April to September 2006
Report



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Project Title: Dream cast drama project

Name of Organisation: Dreamcast Drama group

Introduction

Dreamcast drama group is a community based drama group that consist nine female and eleven male Out of school and unemployed young people from different ethnic background and religion in Tuvaruhu multi-ethnic community in the central ward of Honiara, Solomon Islands.

The drama project was funded by UNESCO with the total amount of AUD\$2900 which was equivalent to the total, SBD\$21'654.14

Kennedy Folasi and the Dreamcast committee coordinated the project.

The committee consist of Coordinator, vice coordinator, secretary vice secretary and two female treasurers and two members.

The project was targeting unemployed and out of school Youths in the multi-ethnic community by participating young people and enabling young people to learn new skills and new information through active participation.

Dream cast participants facilitated the program with the support from SCA volunteer peer educators and also using the Save the children network to the communities.

Aim of your Project:

To assist in the social development of the community by empowering young people and promoting active participation for youths in the community through drama production.

Activity: How did you go about doing it? Summarize the activities that were carried out.

A meeting was held at the coordinators house for informing Dreamcast drama group to aware of the program and to alert the young people of when the program starts and discussions made about the activities and informing them on the responsibilities that each of the participants going to undertake.

Consultations.

The Dreamcast committee team does consultations with Save the Children on communities to visit. We talked with the Save the Children Youth outreach project coordinator and along with the peer educators they help us with networking with the community volunteers in identifying issues affecting young people in their own communities and through consultation we came up with four major issues affecting youths in the communities including children. Issues identified were STIs and HIV, Teenage pregnancy, domestic violence and major Child abuse issues happening in the communities.

Collecting information.

Collection of information was done in four days by all the participants and were divided into four groups of five young people in equal gender, each group focused on each issue identified by community volunteers:

Group 1. STIs and HIV and AIDS;

Group 2. Domestic violence;

Group 3. Teenage pregnancy;

Group 4. Child abuse including child rights.

Each group has a day to collect information in various organizations that are dealing with the each of the issues identified.

Organizations visited were Save the Children Australia, Solomon Island Plan Parenthood Association (SIPPA), Family support center and Ministry of health HIV department.

We involved all the participants to take part in information collection so that young people fully understand where to get information and what are the information all about so that they themselves can learn about the issues when it comes to the next activity which is script writing so that they can fully participate in formulizing the scripts.

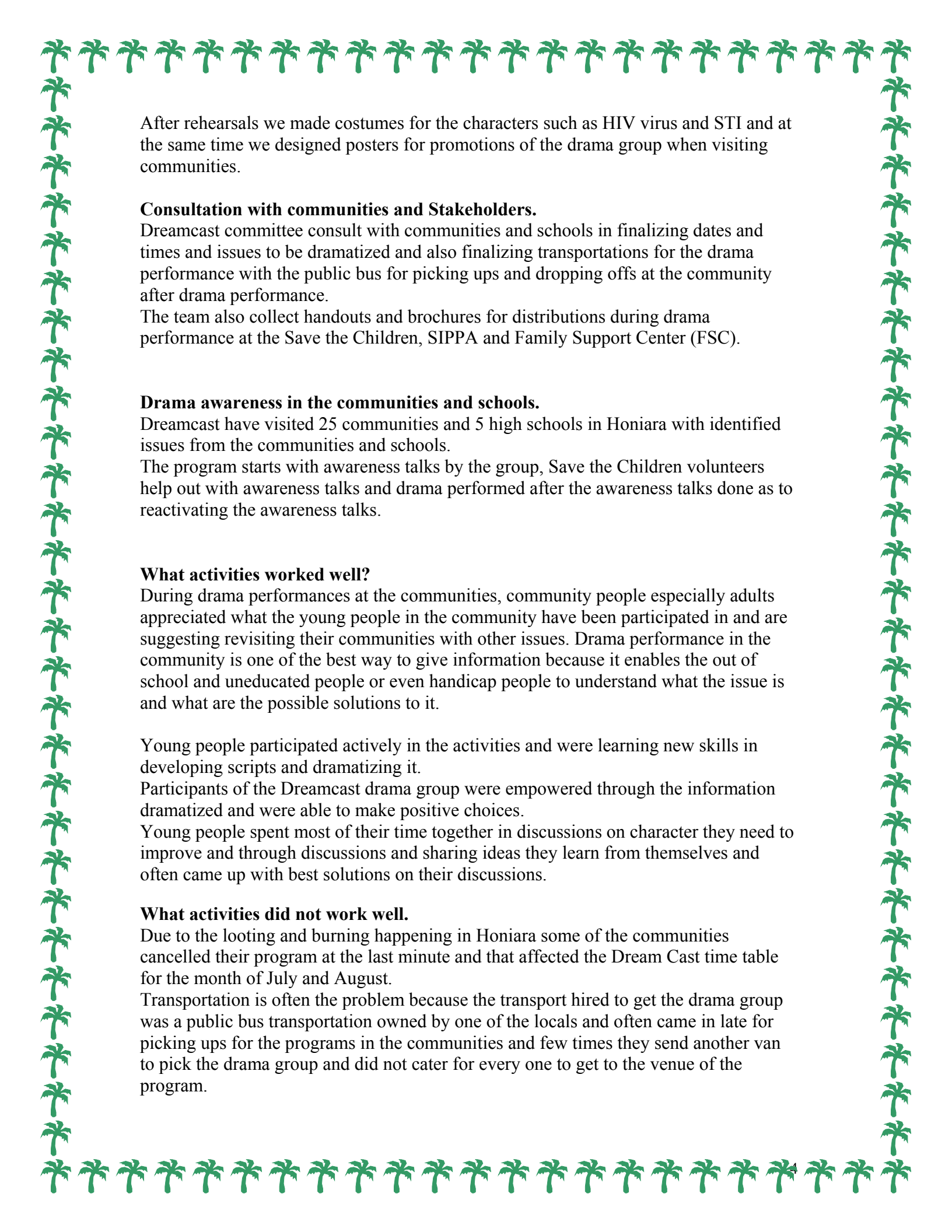
Script writing.

Script writing was done by the groups themselves, they went into their groups and wrote the scripts for each of their issues.

It was done in five days for script writing. Each group had four days to write their scripts and the fifth day the team leaders of each group met up and finalized their scripts and typed it up on the computer.

Rehearsals.

Drama rehearsals was done in five days for the four dramas and we realized that we need some more days for rehearsals so we extended it to another eleven days extra due to four new dramas which they needed to rehearse it so that we have the perfect presentations in the community.



After rehearsals we made costumes for the characters such as HIV virus and STI and at the same time we designed posters for promotions of the drama group when visiting communities.

Consultation with communities and Stakeholders.

Dreamcast committee consult with communities and schools in finalizing dates and times and issues to be dramatized and also finalizing transportations for the drama performance with the public bus for picking ups and dropping offs at the community after drama performance.

The team also collect handouts and brochures for distributions during drama performance at the Save the Children, SIPPA and Family Support Center (FSC).

Drama awareness in the communities and schools.

Dreamcast have visited 25 communities and 5 high schools in Honiara with identified issues from the communities and schools.

The program starts with awareness talks by the group, Save the Children volunteers help out with awareness talks and drama performed after the awareness talks done as to reactivating the awareness talks.

What activities worked well?

During drama performances at the communities, community people especially adults appreciated what the young people in the community have been participated in and are suggesting revisiting their communities with other issues. Drama performance in the community is one of the best way to give information because it enables the out of school and uneducated people or even handicap people to understand what the issue is and what are the possible solutions to it.

Young people participated actively in the activities and were learning new skills in developing scripts and dramatizing it.

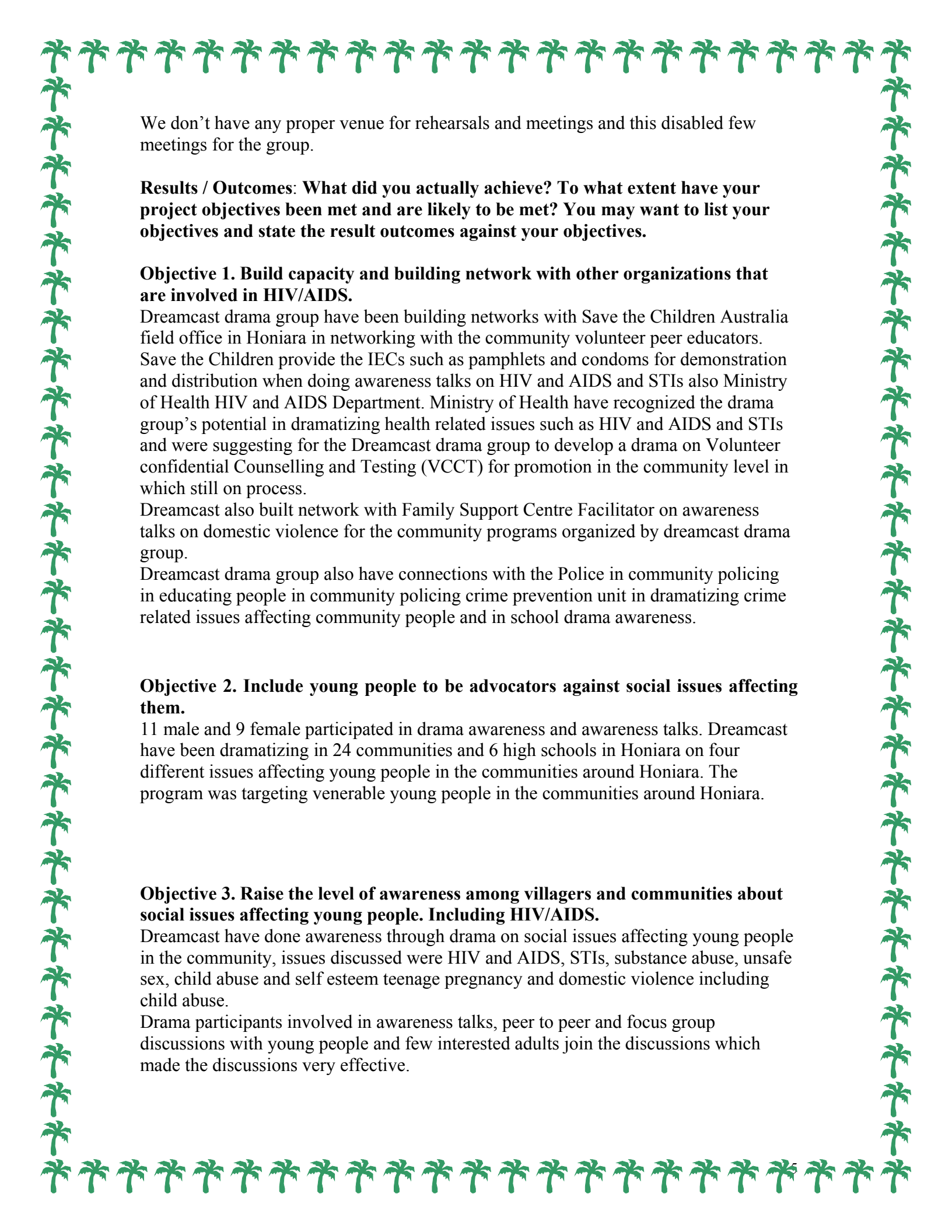
Participants of the Dreamcast drama group were empowered through the information dramatized and were able to make positive choices.

Young people spent most of their time together in discussions on character they need to improve and through discussions and sharing ideas they learn from themselves and often came up with best solutions on their discussions.

What activities did not work well.

Due to the looting and burning happening in Honiara some of the communities cancelled their program at the last minute and that affected the Dream Cast time table for the month of July and August.

Transportation is often the problem because the transport hired to get the drama group was a public bus transportation owned by one of the locals and often came in late for picking ups for the programs in the communities and few times they send another van to pick the drama group and did not cater for every one to get to the venue of the program.



We don't have any proper venue for rehearsals and meetings and this disabled few meetings for the group.

Results / Outcomes: What did you actually achieve? To what extent have your project objectives been met and are likely to be met? You may want to list your objectives and state the result outcomes against your objectives.

Objective 1. Build capacity and building network with other organizations that are involved in HIV/AIDS.

Dreamcast drama group have been building networks with Save the Children Australia field office in Honiara in networking with the community volunteer peer educators. Save the Children provide the IECs such as pamphlets and condoms for demonstration and distribution when doing awareness talks on HIV and AIDS and STIs also Ministry of Health HIV and AIDS Department. Ministry of Health have recognized the drama group's potential in dramatizing health related issues such as HIV and AIDS and STIs and were suggesting for the Dreamcast drama group to develop a drama on Volunteer confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT) for promotion in the community level in which still on process.

Dreamcast also built network with Family Support Centre Facilitator on awareness talks on domestic violence for the community programs organized by dreamcast drama group.

Dreamcast drama group also have connections with the Police in community policing in educating people in community policing crime prevention unit in dramatizing crime related issues affecting community people and in school drama awareness.

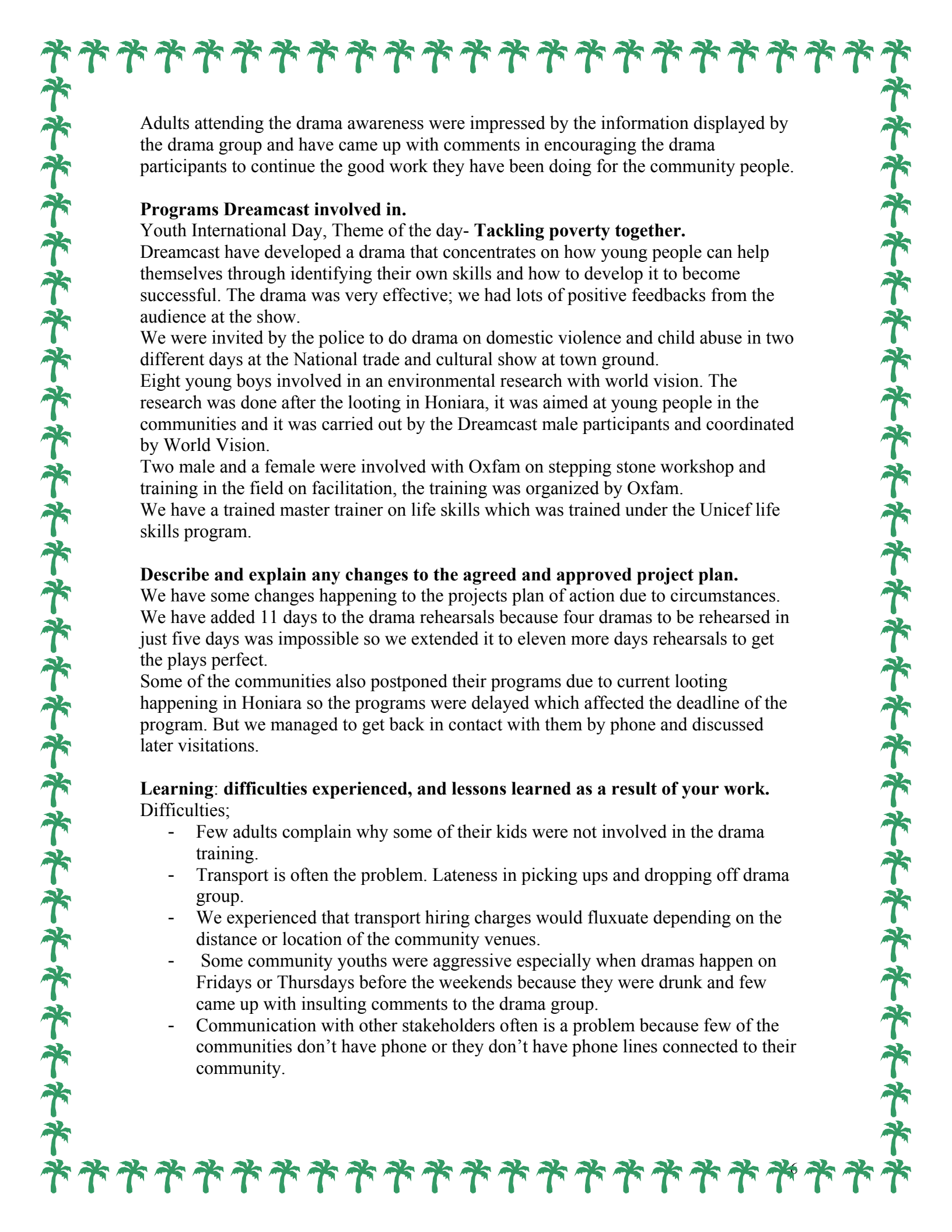
Objective 2. Include young people to be advocates against social issues affecting them.

11 male and 9 female participated in drama awareness and awareness talks. Dreamcast have been dramatizing in 24 communities and 6 high schools in Honiara on four different issues affecting young people in the communities around Honiara. The program was targeting venerable young people in the communities around Honiara.

Objective 3. Raise the level of awareness among villagers and communities about social issues affecting young people. Including HIV/AIDS.

Dreamcast have done awareness through drama on social issues affecting young people in the community, issues discussed were HIV and AIDS, STIs, substance abuse, unsafe sex, child abuse and self esteem teenage pregnancy and domestic violence including child abuse.

Drama participants involved in awareness talks, peer to peer and focus group discussions with young people and few interested adults join the discussions which made the discussions very effective.



Adults attending the drama awareness were impressed by the information displayed by the drama group and have come up with comments in encouraging the drama participants to continue the good work they have been doing for the community people.

Programs Dreamcast involved in.

Youth International Day, Theme of the day- **Tackling poverty together.**

Dreamcast have developed a drama that concentrates on how young people can help themselves through identifying their own skills and how to develop it to become successful. The drama was very effective; we had lots of positive feedbacks from the audience at the show.

We were invited by the police to do drama on domestic violence and child abuse in two different days at the National trade and cultural show at town ground.

Eight young boys involved in an environmental research with world vision. The research was done after the looting in Honiara, it was aimed at young people in the communities and it was carried out by the Dreamcast male participants and coordinated by World Vision.

Two male and a female were involved with Oxfam on stepping stone workshop and training in the field on facilitation, the training was organized by Oxfam.

We have a trained master trainer on life skills which was trained under the Unicef life skills program.

Describe and explain any changes to the agreed and approved project plan.

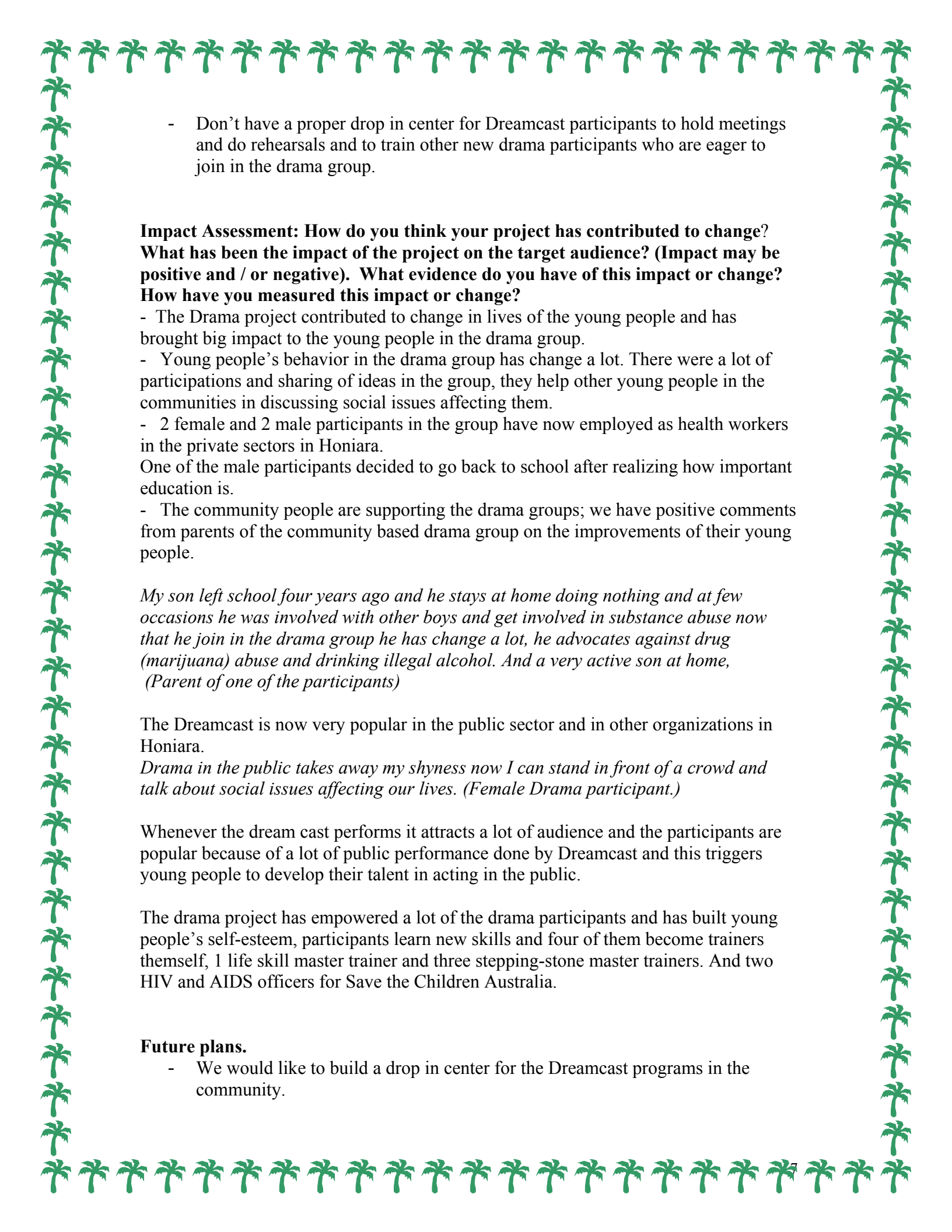
We have some changes happening to the projects plan of action due to circumstances. We have added 11 days to the drama rehearsals because four dramas to be rehearsed in just five days was impossible so we extended it to eleven more days rehearsals to get the plays perfect.

Some of the communities also postponed their programs due to current looting happening in Honiara so the programs were delayed which affected the deadline of the program. But we managed to get back in contact with them by phone and discussed later visitations.

Learning: difficulties experienced, and lessons learned as a result of your work.

Difficulties;

- Few adults complain why some of their kids were not involved in the drama training.
- Transport is often the problem. Lateness in picking ups and dropping off drama group.
- We experienced that transport hiring charges would fluxuate depending on the distance or location of the community venues.
- Some community youths were aggressive especially when dramas happen on Fridays or Thursdays before the weekends because they were drunk and few came up with insulting comments to the drama group.
- Communication with other stakeholders often is a problem because few of the communities don't have phone or they don't have phone lines connected to their community.

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- Don't have a proper drop in center for Dreamcast participants to hold meetings and do rehearsals and to train other new drama participants who are eager to join in the drama group.

Impact Assessment: How do you think your project has contributed to change? What has been the impact of the project on the target audience? (Impact may be positive and / or negative). What evidence do you have of this impact or change? How have you measured this impact or change?

- The Drama project contributed to change in lives of the young people and has brought big impact to the young people in the drama group.
- Young people's behavior in the drama group has change a lot. There were a lot of participations and sharing of ideas in the group, they help other young people in the communities in discussing social issues affecting them.
- 2 female and 2 male participants in the group have now employed as health workers in the private sectors in Honiara.

One of the male participants decided to go back to school after realizing how important education is.

- The community people are supporting the drama groups; we have positive comments from parents of the community based drama group on the improvements of their young people.

My son left school four years ago and he stays at home doing nothing and at few occasions he was involved with other boys and get involved in substance abuse now that he join in the drama group he has change a lot, he advocates against drug (marijuana) abuse and drinking illegal alcohol. And a very active son at home, (Parent of one of the participants)

The Dreamcast is now very popular in the public sector and in other organizations in Honiara.

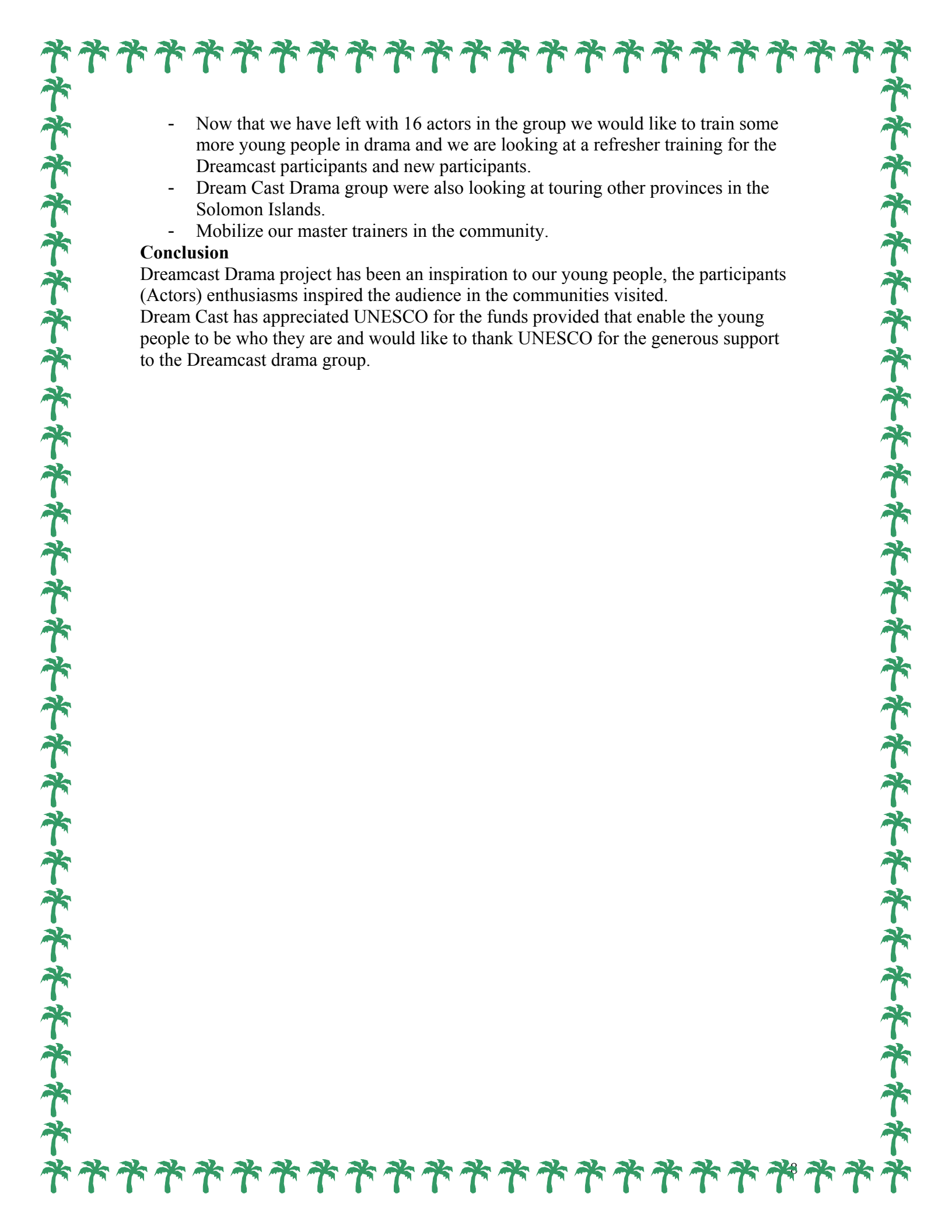
Drama in the public takes away my shyness now I can stand in front of a crowd and talk about social issues affecting our lives. (Female Drama participant.)

Whenever the dream cast performs it attracts a lot of audience and the participants are popular because of a lot of public performance done by Dreamcast and this triggers young people to develop their talent in acting in the public.

The drama project has empowered a lot of the drama participants and has built young people's self-esteem, participants learn new skills and four of them become trainers themselves, 1 life skill master trainer and three stepping-stone master trainers. And two HIV and AIDS officers for Save the Children Australia.

Future plans.

- We would like to build a drop in center for the Dreamcast programs in the community.

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- Now that we have left with 16 actors in the group we would like to train some more young people in drama and we are looking at a refresher training for the Dreamcast participants and new participants.
 - Dream Cast Drama group were also looking at touring other provinces in the Solomon Islands.
 - Mobilize our master trainers in the community.

Conclusion

Dreamcast Drama project has been an inspiration to our young people, the participants (Actors) enthusiasms inspired the audience in the communities visited.

Dream Cast has appreciated UNESCO for the funds provided that enable the young people to be who they are and would like to thank UNESCO for the generous support to the Dreamcast drama group.