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IMPROVING LIVELIHOOD



Lwengo Rural Development Support
Organisation

Mission “To improve the health and economic status of vulnerable population through provision of health, education, agriculture and income generating services

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Vision

Sustainable transformation for a healthy and wealthy society.

Objectives

- increase access to clean and safe water of 1000-3000 families by 2020
- ensure improved food security and increased family incomes of 1000-3000 by 2020.
- increase awareness, care and support to reduce the spread and adverse effects of HIV/AIDS.
- increase access of 1000-3000 families to improved health care services.
- to improve literacy levels by enabling 1500-3000 orphans and vulnerable children access good quality education by the year 2020.

Core values

- we are committed to work with others.
- we are accountable
- we are pro poor
- we are effective and efficient in all our interventions.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO.

LWERUDESU-Uganda is a Community Based Organization operating in Lwengo district which was formerly part of the greater Masaka district. The organization began way back in June 2007. Since its commencement in 2007, the organization has up to date carried on several community developmental interventions in various core sectors including: Education, Health, livelihood/agriculture, HIV/AIDS, care and support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC)/ children with disabilities (CWD), and water and sanitation.

The organization began as a self-help project with volunteers rendering services to the; orphans, widows, single mothers, children on their own, grandparents, people living with HIV/AIDS, who were most disadvantaged people whose lives were at great risk among others. The organization's offices are situated at Nakyenyi Village in Nakyenyi parish, Lwengo Sub County, Lwengo district (Uganda)

THE SCHOOL PROJECT



The year 2017 we have registered up to 549 orphans and vulnerable children in our education system and child development program. We provide good quality education to these children. Last academic year we had one of the best students in the country with other children performing well to put our school on a high national ranking. This would not have been possible without the help of the sponsors who are working hard to sponsor children at school for our financial capacity alone cannot meet the requirements of the school. Children while at school they engage not only in academics but also in co-curricular activities like sports which are essential for child development.

Sponsorship Program

We have found out that due to a hyper population increase in Uganda many young children are being subjected to suffering, neglect and abuse. This has also consequences like high spread of HIV/AIDS and parents die leaving more children orphans and vulnerable with no stable care givers. In Lwengo we have a large number of vulnerable and orphaned children who are potential academicians but have no support and thus end up on streets and others suffer locally. We have a desire of improving the life and literacy of 1500-3000 orphans and vulnerable children our community. Our set targets and goals are not easy to achieve but we believe through building strong partnerships with the community we live in, governments, business, self sustaining projects and donors we can have the audacity to say that we can make it to the top. in partnership with Dutch volunteers, the project has a sponsorship programme that pays school fees for the vulnerable children. This year we have over 150 children registered under sponsorship program

The special needs children

In 2016, we continued to see an unprecedented number of children suffering in their homes, either due to violence, conflict and others because of disabilities on their bodies sometimes brought on by environmental changes, others being born like that and with no treatment. These are presumed helpless and useless in the community and hence locked in houses all day long to transit thus creating a home prison for them. Being treated in such a way has a long-lasting negative impact on children. They are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, and often miss out on school and have often experienced some sort of mental trauma. LWERUDES0 therefore is working all over in the Lwengo community to protect these children with the few resources we have to provide them with learning opportunities and ensure they survive. we are constructing a block for them where rehabilitation is expected to take place.



Currently we have 17 special needs children whom we have picked from the community in the explained conditions above and are now being rehabilitated at our learning centre. Four of them who are dumb but are very intelligent are now in baby class and are performing even better than children with disability. They are promising to even do better ahead.



Nanyunja Rose has a hearing impairment and was found home not schooling. She is now one of the best five pupils in baby class though she only uses sign language. She and the other three friends are helped by their teacher of sign language to integrate with others who can listen.

Volunteers mostly from Holland have always given a hand in helping the special class by providing learning materials to keep these children. These materials keep the children busy and make them learn to concentrate to one thing. This has come to show that there is a mental impact on these children.



At school they are given meals and trained to use their arms and utensils to eat. They stay in a clean environment. Before brought to school most of them cannot feed themselves or think of cleaning utensils but a positive impact is already being realized.

The biggest challenge we are now facing is that parents are still slow and resistant to respond to our participation in rehabilitating our children simply because they are psychologically victims of stigma and shame which is ideal. This is another hindrance to our operation.

We absolutely believe that disability is not inability thus we have not sat down on the violation of rights of people with special needs'. We are working hard to inform parents of such children and those who have them that being disabled is not a mistake nor a crime but natural thus needs no discrimination.



These children have two teachers a male and a female who tirelessly take care of them month to month during school time.

When they are home we also make follow-ups to monitor how they are doing and how they are copying with family integration minus discrimination. This is done by direct visitation where the social workers visit all the families to monitor them.

Spotting these children is also not cheap as we fuel motorcycles every day to bring them to school and take them back home.

We celebrate strength in numbers

It is our joy to see an increase in numbers of children being sponsored to attend school for this is the hope of the nation.

Most of these children's parents are very poor that they cannot pay school fees and so leave their children home until when we have some people to sponsor their education. Children themselves are willing to study but have no way to get to school without money.

With the HIV/AIDS stories.

With the sponsorship project, we have gone deeper to touch every life in all aspects. There is a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in our community that is not followed by checkup and drug administration. These grow up with the virus and don't always accept medication but still want children with no protection thus putting the unborn children on the acquisition risk. This has increased the spread of the disease in this community. Our sponsors have gone further to support the families victimized by the disease through giving home use materials, supporting children at school to give hope to the hopeless.



This year 2017 we supported these families not only education but also in agriculture by giving farm equipment's like hoes. They are expensive for individual families to purchase so we provide these for free so they can do some farming to get food for consumption and sale to get some income. This year we have supported over 13 children with HIV/AIDS and we are in sync with their families for more support. We work with government clinics to get drugs for these children. We go ahead to emphasize that every life is important no matter the infirmities. Therefore, there is no need or necessity of leaving one behind because of sickness or disability.

Water and sanitation

In our community, people still get water from local water sources that are really not clean. the water is almost colored because of dirt. this water people use it for drinking and doing other

home activities. People have untidy toilets, kitchens, only a few families wash their hands. the project has provided water tanks since 2012 at a free cost to curb the unhealthy outcomes.

The year 2017 was not an easy one financially but we have managed to maneuver through.

The project accomplished two water tanks in the community for clean and safe water storage.



a finished tank at Nakyenya Mosque

Another tank this year was constructed for a family in the community with OVCs at our school. These tanks have a capacity of storing 10000 liters of water for a long time when it is not contaminated. Thus people can use it both in wet and dry season. This water tank project started all way back in 2012 and up to 149 water tanks have been constructed and on average five



families use one water tank. averagely a family has a least of five members. Due to financial step-down tank construction is now at slow rate.

Clean and safe water is an essential for a healthy and wealthy society. This is because with this the rate of diseases is also limited; cleanliness and good hygiene will be at its peak.

LWERUDES0 has also one water tank at LWERUDES0 primary school that supplies water to the entire population of the school and runs most of the activities. The school also has borehole that supplements the water tank. Due to the fact that he school is growing, these water sources are presumed not to be enough with time thus a need for either another tank or preferably a borehole to have sufficient water supply in the school. The bore hole also supplies water to the community members nearby the school.

Though we have all these tanks, the population in Lwengo is not 100% covered with water supply, as a project has done its best to provide water reservoirs to a big population but there is more need for such. In some areas some people still get water form unclean wells in adjacent parts of the community which is unhealthy to them.

to help prevent the non-communicable diseases, we need a lot of sensitization about general sanitation and usage of clean and safe water.

Generally, in Lwengo and Uganda as a whole agriculture still remain the backbone of the economy and the major source of food no matter how much money one has. Our community has most of its residents unemployed this depend on farm produce to get food and sell to get income. As an organization we have also gone ahead to support our community in our relative capacity to encourage more farming and improve on production. This year we gave 78 hoes to vulnerable families who may not have managed to easily buy these hoes.



We hosted agriculture experts from the Netherlands who visited most farmers in Lwengo to find out more information on agribusiness. These experts urged farmers to be innovative and research more for better farm output. Team work was one of the emphasized points to the farmers with fellow farmers for mass production. Farmers were also argued to start farmer's savings and cooperatives to boost their income. Practices like mono-cropping especially for perennial crops were said to be exhaustions to the land which would lead to low agricultural production in the long run. Therefore farmers were urged to practice intercropping and always give furrow period to land to retain its fertility. With coffee, it was seen that most coffee trees dry up at a young stage and others after some years. A sample of soil from the infected trees was taken for more study about the disease and what could be the possible solutions for such.

Our sustainability strategy

Because our project depends on donor support and local support, it is being realized that that may not be sustainable for long. We are therefore now investing in more sustainable projects for future income and more employment.

One of them is the tree project.



We have planted over 150,000 eucalyptus trees on our project thus we hope to use this to get more money to run our project. This comes as a result of having a big staff on the child development program and many pending activities which all need money and our current budget cannot meet this demand thus we operate in deficit. We therefore hope that in 2 years from now we can get our first harvest and get money from this project.

This project is also aimed at conserving the environment since a big number of people depend on agriculture which has caused over cultivation and land exhaustion. These practices increase susceptibility of the bare land to erosion and drought. Over cutting of trees for construction and firewood also has led to a negative change in the climatic conditions such as rain formation. This project has created employment to most of our youths who are jobless in Lwengo. They get temporary jobs to work in maintenance of the project and earn a living other than staying idle and disorderly.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY

JJUUKO ANTHONY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR