

A BRIEF ON UGANDA ORPHANS RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UORDP)

Uganda Orphans Rural Development Programme (UORDP) is an indigenous child focused Non-governmental organization, founded in 1998 and established in 1999. The overall goal is to promote care and support to HIV/AIDS Orphans, their families and communities and to further contribute to the prevention of the HIV/AIDS prevalence as well as mitigation of its impact in our operational area.

The National NGO Board duly registered the organization under the reg. no.S.5914/2706 in 1998 and then renewed the certificate in 2003. It has a constitution and the National Board and all management committee members are democratically chosen.

Our Vision:

We envision a healthy and economically productive society where all orphans and other vulnerable children live and grow to their full potential.

Our Mission:

“ We are committed to the promotion of holistic care and support for orphans and other vulnerable children, their caregivers and communities.”

Objectives

- To assist the rural partner communities acknowledge the extent of prevalence and magnitude of the HIV/AIDS scourge, the socio-economic impact on the community and the possible solutions.
- To assist the communities in setting up a school -feeding Programme to ensure the provision of meals for orphaned children within the UORDP area of operation.
- To promote the capacity of orphaned families within the operation area in increasing food production through adoption of appropriate sustainable and environmentally sound farming methods.
- Setting up a community based health care Programme to address the needs of vulnerable groups within the communities in UORDP operation area in collaboration with the ministry of health, UNICEF and other important stakeholders.
- To encourage education of AIDS orphans, through existing national educational facilities and programs.
- To initiate family income generating projects with the aim of providing employment, raising family incomes and standards of living and conditions of orphans and their foster families.

- To provide post primary orphans, foster families and other communities with vocational skills so as to ensure sustainability and livelihood.

Our Motto: *“Whatever you did to the least of these brethren, you did to me”.*
Matt.25:40.

Working Theme2003-2005

“Total empowerment of communities to deliver”

Our Values

- Unity
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Proper planning by the people
- Political support

AREA OF OPERATION

Tororo, Mbale, Busia, Manafwa, Butelaja, and Masindi, districts.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

A Community support Oriwa project was signed in April 2003 for three years between BVLf and UORDP and the former has been remitting financial support to the later to implement planned and agreed upon activities and make reports on the same to the former accordingly.

The project major activities include:

- A) ECD services through community based day care centers.
- B) Income generating activities support for raising household income levels.
- C) Provision of health services to ECD children and good care practice education to caregivers.
- D) Food security for orphaned children and affected families.
- E) Prevention of HIV/AIDS through IEC activities.
- F) OVC advocacy, Care and support

Others

- Capacity building;
- Psychosocial helping;
- Education sponsorships.
- Promotion of Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT)and PMTCT.
- Life Skills training
- Youth interaction activities.
- Peer Education
- Psychosocial support.
- Revolving and savings scheme
- Gender and Environment mainstreaming.
- Child rights
- Networking, Lobbying and advocacy.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Background.

Built on the foundation that the early years of a child determines their later performance in life we have been strengthening the family care giving support systems through a multi-sectoral approach that tackles Health, Nutrition, Early childhood education and the economic lives of young people between the age of zero and eight, 0-8 that are affected by Aids.

Major Activities:

- Establishment of community Early Childhood Development Centers.
- Recruitment and training of ECD teachers and paying them minimal volunteer allowances.
- Provision of learning materials.
- Provision of sanitary materials.

The reason we emphasize “early childhood education” is that it is the foundation of a person’s intellectual and social Development. We have however discovered very interesting advantages of giving a child this education. In our case we planned for a project that would appropriately cater for the nutritional needs of these children, and in so doing our intention was that they-children would access other services at a central location, hence ECD centers. We have got a whole range of discoveries;

- Caregivers/parents say they now have more man-hour than they used to. This they say is a result of less burden at home caused by the children’s absence.
- That their children challenge them by the level of their assertiveness.
- That household wrangles between the spouses have reduced since they now have enough time for one another and even for their children.
- That standard of living at the respective homes has improved. This is made possible by the family heads having sufficient time to engage in other productive work.
- Children are more interested in schooling than sitting and playing at home opposed to what we would imagine. The caregivers and parents say children prepare to go to the centers on weekends and that when they are stopped, they cry and ask why they should not, the same during holidays.

HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES

This program was specifically designed to reach orphans and children in difficult circumstances through their caregivers, by strengthening their family support systems that had been stretched and weakened by the epidemic. The program targets children below fifteen years of age.

Objectives

- Prevention of further transmission of HIV/AIDS
- Mitigation of the psychosocial effects of HIV/AIDS.
- Capacity building and training for care giving families and households.
- Promoting VCT services.
- Promoting PMTCT.

Major Activities

- Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) activities in West Budama in conjunction with the Local government Health units (Health Center IV s) are conducting out reaches to take the service nearer to the people in Sub counties of West Budama.
Results indicate that people prefer VCT through out reach to VCT at the Health units.
- Memory book writing.
- HIV/AIDS awareness through film shows.
- Referral of clients for PMTCT and other support services provided by other players.

LIFE SKILLS ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE;

To promote assertiveness and informed decision making among young people both in and out of school.

To reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, STDS/STIS, School drop outs, early marriages, early pregnancies, drug abuse and Alcohol abuse.

Discourage absenteeism in class by promoting behavior change.

ACTIVITIES;

- Life skills teaching in selected primary schools of West Budama in Tororo.
- Life skills teaching activities for out of school youths
- Life skills training by trained teachers have continued since they finished the training.
- To work hand in hand with the life skills trained teachers to see that life skills clubs are introduced in their respective schools.
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Psychosocial support

Psychosocial support has been benefiting the children at the ECD centers and the Orphans in Primary schools under Agwera project. An approach of empowering the caregivers to carry out awareness campaigns through role-plays within their villages is a better approach due to the fact that the entire community where the children live will benefit and lasting results are realized.

HEALTH.

- Recruitment of trained community health workers (CHWs)
- Provision of health kits.
Ensuring;
- Constant Health Education,
- First aid Kits for simple treatment.

- Follow-up of cases through home visits.
- Referral of cases to Government health facilities for treatment.
- Protect spring wells that were found to be the only nearby source of water for particular localities of some orphan communities.
- A Nutrition officer has boosted the ECD health activities through education to the caregivers and the entire orphan communities on proper nutritional practices to enable children feed learn and grow well.

ENSURING FOOD SECURITY

- Mobilizations of care giving families into food security groups.
- Provision of farm implements and inputs.
- Organic farming training.

Raising household income.

- Business skills training;
- Provision of small loans to both groups and individuals,
- Send a pig/goat project;
- Savings scheme for low-income households.

With the funding from the BVLFF, we managed to expand on our loan schemes for both organized groups and individuals who had the qualifications for the loans. These loans are soft small loans with repayment period of six months having only a 5% interest rate.

The send a pig/goat project has seen orphans in destitute situations receiving either a pig or goat. This project that looks at the future of these children and provides for a method of ensuring a sustained way of meeting their invisible but definite needs. It is a rotating process where the current beneficiaries agree to give the others in the line the first female offspring of the animals they have received.

Business skills trainings: These trainings are intended to equip the potential and existing loan beneficiaries on management of small income generating activities. It has been carried out at all the project areas of Uordp.

ATWILLA CUP

Uordp with innovations of an overseas volunteer, Alice Brathwaite from the University of Stanford California USA, formed children's interaction groups. This has helped them find a forum where they could freely and competently express their feelings, experiences and attitudes as a process of psycho-socio healing. These groups had many sporting and game activities introduced to them. They also had a touring program of their surrounding communities.

Football and netball tournaments have been organized for them where the winning teams receive prizes. This was intended to liven up the children during the festive seasons of Christmas and New Year. It is always a thrill and Uordp now intends to make it an annual activity with more groups and therefore teams involved at the entire organizational level

MEMORY BOOK WRITING

One volunteer (Intern) named Genevieve Daftary from Harvard university trained a group of women (MARI WOMEN GROUP) in memory book writing. She also initiated a computer based Database for monitoring purposes. The system has not taken off because of capacity gaps that are to be filled by a Computer expert.

CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

UORDP was blessed with a new one year project in March 2005, The American Jewish World Service (AJWS) supported project *“Enhancing community support for child headed households in West Budama County, Tororo district”* The project was designed to build on the strength and resilience of these children by mobilizing and identifying elder volunteer members of their communities to support them on recognition that placement in formal institutions is expensive, has a high failure rate and denies them socialization and contact with their local communities, the project having received funds in March has so far; Provided four pairs Oxen, ploughs and hand hoes, distributed seeds to groups, trained beneficiaries on crop and animal management. The project is yet to; Train caregivers on sex gender and child care, Give domestic animals to the children to raise income among others.

The project has significantly boosted our Food security and IGA components

AGWERA SUPPLIMENT:

A Friendship scheme where 100 primary school children were identified to interact by exchanging letters with children from different schools in America. The children have benefited from scholastic materials (books and pens) and have continued to exchange letters on their areas of interest like culture environment, sports and politics among others.

SAMARITAN PURSE SUPPLIMENT:

We are blessed receive Christmas gifts from the Samaritan Purse USA, for children. These have been a great source of happiness for the children as they play with materials from other parts of the world on top of the ones made using local materials available within the community.

Needy Orphans scheme:

The scheme gives educational support to the needy orphans. One hundred and thirty eight (138) primary boys and girls receive scholastic materials and school uniforms. Sixteen secondary school children, 7 boys and 9 girls have benefited from supplementary support of school fees and scholastic materials. All these receive psychosocial support and Life skills among others.

IN MASINDI DISTRICT

Currently (October 2004-September 2005) a direct Implementer of the Global Fund project HIV/AIDS component.

Activities include.

- IEC on HIV/AIDS.
- Condom social marketing.
- Home Based Care for community members and work place personnel.
- Life skills for in and out of school youths.
- Peer Education.

CURRENT MAJOR CHALLENGES:

- Inadequate transport as our one double cabin pick up is not adequate for our staff and the many field programs hence an additional pickup would enhance our activities especially VCT, Life Skills and Video for educating the populations on HIV/Aids among others.
- Hiring office premises has proved very costly to the organization so in a bid to surmount this, the Board acquired a plot within the Municipality of Tororo district along Nagongera road. The plot has been surveyed and an Architectural plan for a combined office block and a multi purpose resource centre is in place but the challenge now are the resources to put up the structures.
- The overwhelming demand for our services in Tororo, Mbale, Butelaja, Manafwa Busia Masindi, Kiboga, Kampala, Kabale as expressed by communities in the mentioned districts among others strongly prompt the need for a coordinating office in Kampala for effective resource mobilization, advocacy and Lobbying.

Towards the above, We thank all our Donor partners among others and seek any form of support from all well-wishers and stake holders as we work to improve the lives of orphans and vulnerable children.

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