ACTION FOR RURAL WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

FOOD SECURITY

INCOME GENERATION

CLEAN WATER

EDUCATION

HIV AND HEALTH PROGRAMS

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

ARUWE ANNUAL REPORT

2012/2013
**Who we are**

Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment (ARUWE) is a non-profit, Non-Government Organization working with marginalized groups of people especially the rural Women farmers and children in Uganda established in 2003 as a community based organization and later registered as an NGO in 2008 with the functional governance structures by a board functioning directors. Initially, the organization started its operations in Nsangi sub-county, Wakiso district focusing on women micro credit. Currently, ARUWE operates in Wakiso, Kiboga and Kyankwanzi districts focusing on promoting social economic empowerment of women.

**Our vision:**

A world in which women and their children are able to realize their full social, economic, and civic potential

**Mission:**

To support and advocate for needs and rights of marginalized rural poor women to enable them initiate and manage their own social-economic and development process.

For eight years now, Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment has contributed towards the improvement of the lives of rural women and children in Uganda. With the support of likeminded partners, ARUWE has continued to expand its operations to more rural communities in Uganda in Wakiso, Kiboga and Kyankwanzi districts. As individuals and groups, women have progressed in the socio-economic aspects of their lives. Together, women have formed a common voice to transform their communities.

**Our core operations:**

- Food security, Nutrition and Income Generation
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion
- Health promotion and HIV/AIDS
- Environmental conservation and protection
- Promoting Access to quality Education

**Our Values**

- Participation: In all that we do, at all levels, from our staff to our strategic partners and the communities that we serve particularly the women, we embrace their participation for a shared vision, responsibility and ownership of the results.

- Empowerment: Requires us to identify opportunities, create spaces and provide the necessary support to the women and children who are our core target group to enhance their inherent abilities so that they can realize their full potential.

- Equality of opportunity: We value and recognize each person’s contribution, and discrimination on any grounds is unacceptable.

- Innovation: We encourage and promote the willingness to experiment and to take the lead in the design and implementation of programmes, research and policy.

- Teamwork: We are committed to fostering a collaborative working environment that recognizes and supports cooperation with others.

- Quality and performance: We are committed to raising the quality of the work of our staff, affiliates, partners and communities with whom we implement our development programmes.
Our Theory of Change:

ARUWE’s theory of change is based on the understanding that among the rural poor, women and children are the most disadvantaged and marginalized. Women suffer disproportionately inequalities in access to and control of production resources and political participation as well as decision making both at household and community level. We therefore, believe in a holistic empowerment approach that enables women to overcome not only the political, economic and social marginalization but also promote a positive change in their attitudes, behaviors and practices that limit their internal abilities to meaningfully participate in all development processes at household and community level; and exercise and enjoy their rights. From our experiences over the years we are convinced that when women are empowered with information, knowledge and skills to participate and actively make decisions, generate income and sustain livelihood, have strong and strategic networks and safety nets, they are in better position to challenge violations and advocate for their rights.

Our Approach:

Our approach is based on our theory of change that puts women and children at the centre of our development programming. Thus our efforts are geared towards mobilizing, organizing and empowering women. This is achieved through supporting the development and strengthening of their economic and leadership abilities to enable them to actively participate and benefit from the local and national government initiatives. Support and facilitate them to demand for inclusion in the local government decision making processes at the different levels; transparency and accountability; and democratic governance to achieve meaningful and people centered development. Our approach also emphasizes community participation, innovation and creating partnership and collaborative linkages to foster sustainable positive changes.
Word from the Executive Director

Greetings to you all. We are honored to present to you ARUWE’s annual report for the period 2012/13. During this period, Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment has remained committed to its mission to support and advocate for the needs and rights of marginalized rural poor women and children to enable them initiate and manage their political, social and economic development processes.

While promoting the rights based approach, ARUWE has continued to empower the rural women in the target areas of operation through provision of both financial and technical assistance. To this effect, ARUWE has during the year mobilized and organized women to form village women groups that have combined development with savings and micro credit activities specifically in Wakiso, Kiboga and Kyankwanzi districts. This has not only created strong bonds within women as members of these groups but has also been motivated to take joint actions to address common problems.

More specifically, ARUWE been able to reach out to its target communities through undertaking activities that have contributed to the improvement in access to clean and safe water, improved access to health services particularly for the elderly, worked with the youth to address their sexual and reproductive health issues, as well as working through VHTs to promote family planning, antenatal and postnatal services; supported community initiatives to increase agricultural production for household food security and incomes; promoted environmental conservation through awareness raising and distribution of tree seedlings. In partnership with Rural Empowerment Trust, we have supported initiatives that have enhanced women’s knowledge and skill in income generating activities. Through this year’s annual program activities alone under the core operations we have been able to reach out directly to over 500 vulnerable women and 2500 children in the three districts. While another 4000 people have benefited indirectly from our community targeted actions.

In undertaking all our work, sustainability has been at the centre of each action. And we would therefore like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation for the supportive partnership we have had with the local government leadership at all levels in our areas of operation. We are confident that this will ensure continuity of the initiated community development processes.

We have been able to make the above progress with support from our likeminded partners - The Stephen Lewis Foundation Canada, Global Fund for Women USA, Action Water –U.K, Wheels 4 Life –USA, Strategies for life- Canada, Virginia Gildersleeve Fund USA, Kitchen Tables Charities Trust UK , African Women Development Fund Ghana, Swiss hand Switzerland and from our own local initiative - Rural Empowerment Trust whose financial support has made it possible for ARUWE to make a difference in the lives of the rural poor communities. ARUWE acknowledges the important role the district and sub county leaders of Wakiso, Kiboga and Kyankwanzi districts plus the community health structures played in the implementation of the programs.

ELIZABETH NAKIBONEKA DDUNGU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OVER VIEW OF OUR WORK IN 2012

This annual report shares the details of our work in 2012. It highlights progress and impact of our work, in collaboration with the community women groups and the local leadership structures as well as school management and children who have been involved in our work. The report also highlights key lessons and challenges in our struggles to support the poor and marginalized.

The report has three major sections. The first section highlights the specific programs implemented during the year and major achievements, lessons learnt from the implementation process and institutional development and future plans.
CHAPTER ONE:
FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION, INCOME GENERATION
Under this sector, a total of 400 women headed households were targeted for support to reduce their vulnerability to hunger. This was done through trainings in appropriate farming practices to increase agricultural production, support to livestock rearing by providing hybrid piglets and goats, promoted agribusiness by linking farmers to potential market opportunities, vegetable growing for both incomes and nutrition. A total of 500 beneficiaries from 35 villages groups were facilitated to access micro credit and this has empowered especially women headed households to meet their basic needs and also become self-reliant.

“With the support provided to us, we are now able to feed our families. Women have learnt to work hard because there is hope in the future. We are also able to provide the basic needs to our children. Our members’ children are all in school and we also support other needy children in the community with books and other scholastic materials to enable them access education. Therefore, together we are making strides to fight famine and poverty in our households.” Ruth Nakimera a beneficiary from our interventions and spokesperson for Kamwanyi women’s group

Farming inputs were also provided to over 500 households in order to improve their yields. In addition to trainings and on farm expert advice, improved planting materials maize, beans, cassava, bananas and vegetables were also provided to the targeted beneficiaries. As a result of these interventions, 80% of the women farmers have been able to expand their farming acreage.

“Before ARUWE’s support I did not think that it is possible to grow cassava at large scale, but now I have two acres of cassava and its generating income to supplement my other sources yet food security is now guaranteed even during times of bad harvest”, Nakachwa a member of Mukisa mpewo grandmother group.

A total of 200 women benefited from ARUWE’s income generation initiatives, the linkage and partnership with Rural Empowerment Trust (RET) for micro credit access. Mindful of the vagaries of changing weather, new and alternative skills in liquid soap making and crafts were also provided to the women groups to diversify their sources of income and not to rely on agriculture alone.

From the survey that was carried out in October 2012 by ARUWE with support from the Global Fund for Women, women who were able to generate and control some income, reported having been able to participate in decision making processes at household level. Some of the areas they sighted to have participated in included making household expenditure decisions, whether or not to take on Family Planning as well as access to land for personal IGA activities and adoption of conservation practices. In addition, these women had control over their own lives, while contributing directly to their children’s development (nutrition, health and education).
Nalongo Maria with her grandson in their garden of beans they were able to grow with ARUWE’s support in form improved beans seeds. She expects to sell some and expand her garden further in the next season.

Women of St. Mark group tending to their piggery. They received hybrid piglets from ARUWE. They expect to revolve the off spring until all members have their own before extending support to other community members who are also needy.

Kalagi grandmothers’ group transplanting Sukuma wiki from their bed to individual household gardens. They reported to have generated incomes from selling vegetables. Some members now practice vegetable growing at river banks and they are able to supply to their customers through the year. “There is great improvement in my home. Am able to cater for children’s education needs from only the vegetable business alone,” said one of the grandmother from the group.

Caroline and children in their carrot garden. Women in Mulagi are known for supplying vegetables to nearby trading centres and are benefiting from it. “Thanks to ARUWE because before we had a lot of unutilized, but now from my small piece of land am able to earn a living”. Said Caroline.

A banana garden belonging to Rose, one of ARUWE beneficiaries. Women were trained in sustainable agricultural practices of banana growing.
Through the food security, nutrition and income generation programs:

1. 500 women households were food secure. Women households were able to establish vegetable gardens for nutrition improvement. As a result, 90% of women households acquire their food from their own fields hence promoting their self-reliance.

2. ARUWE extended credit services 400 women organized in 35 groups who were able to invest in income generating activities including agribusiness, to improve their livelihood.

3. 200 women were involved in livestock rearing including piggery, poultry, goat and cattle rearing for income generation and agriculture improvement through organic manure making.

4. Through basketry, 50 women supplemented their household income.

Nabbossa Aidah (37 years) lives in Kiyuuni village. Through the micro credit scheme, she borrowed Ugx300,000 which she invested in passion fruit growing. She established two acres of passion fruits. From the agricultural trainings she received from ARUWE, she applied the knowledge acquired and project is doing well. She projects to harvest over 60 bags. With this expected income, she plans to set up a retail business, pay school fees for her 5 children, and other basic needs. “This change in life has contributed to peace and harmony in my family since I no longer ask money from my husband, which used to be a source of conflict and violence”, said Nabbosa in appreciation for the support.
“My name is Catherine Nabuuso from Nakabiso village. I am a group leader of Mukisa mpewo women group of 17 members. ARUWE helped us to develop and establish our group. Through the continuous support from ARUWE, I have been able to establish a big cassava garden, using irrigation I am able to grow vegetables throughout the year and this provides us with daily income, with ARUWE’s support, in the last season I was able to harvest 450kgs of maize and 200kgs of beans. This has not only provided constant supply of food in my home but also income. My next target is to use the income I generated to grow four acres of maize. Everyone at home is happy with this gradual change in our household welfare, we are now motivated to even work harder, we now have a big dream to build a good house.”

“I have greatly benefited from the trainings in value addition that ARUWE has taught us,” says Ruth Mugole a widowed grandmother living in Kiyuuni village. “Instead of keeping my maize produce in my store where at times it is destroyed by pests, I fry, pack and sale it to schools and in my small grocery along the road. In a day, I earn at least Ugx 10,500 which enables to meet my household needs and put away some in my savings to cater for the scholastic needs of my orphaned grandchildren. My tenacity has encouraged my neighbors to invest more efforts in their agriculture activities”. Said Ruth

Nuliat (33 years) is a married woman with 8 children. She got married at an early age. She is married to a Muslim man. She joined ARUWE programs in the last one year after getting to know about ARUWE. After attending training and careful analysis, she applied for financial support to enhance her bee keeping project which was dormant. Due to the uniqueness of the project and the burden of 8 children, she was supported with a loan of Ugx 2,000,000. She invested it in her bee project and also expanded her banana garden to two acres. From bee keeping especially in the rainy season, she gets 6 jerricans of honey. Each Jerrican is sold for Ugx 200,000. This totals to Ugx 1,200,000 per season. Therefore in 2 rain seasons, she earns Ugx 2,400,000. She is now able to cater for the needs of her children. ARUWE has also linked her to family planning services and she in happy. Now working even harder, her husband now realizes her efforts and benefits and is willing to support her on their farm and the apiary project.
“Hard work pays say Maria aged 57 years. I am now so happy thanks to ARUWE’s trainings and the financial support. I have managed to buy a solar system of Ugx 300,000 from my hard work. From the savings I made from the sale beans last season, I have purchased this solar system. I am so happy that my grandchildren will be able to revise their books and do their homework at night with the bright light. It will also help me to save money that I have been spending on paraffin but we will also have a better and clean house”.
CHAPTER TWO:
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION
Inadequate access to clean and safe water still remains a challenge for Mulagi sub county in Kiboga district. Coupled with low latrine coverage and poor hygiene practices there are rampant cases of diarrhea diseases especially among children. “There has been some positive change but there is still more need particularly for the under serviced or not reached villages” says the LCIII chairperson of Mulagi.

In response, during 2012/13 ARUWE has constructed 25 3000litre rain water harvesting water jars for households for the vulnerable grandmothers looking after Orphan and Vulnerable Children. Another 30,000litre Ferro cement tank was construct at Katoma Church of Uganda Secondary School benefiting 428 school students, and the entire school community in addition to about 10 households adjacent to the school and 8 shallow wells were also constructed benefiting over 3900 people in eight villages in Mulagi S/C. ARUWE also trained eight Water User committees from the eight villages in the operation and maintenance of the facilities. This is hoped to greatly increase their access to clean and safe water, and thus reduction in the spread of water and hygiene related diseases.

In addition, the women and children’s time while collecting water from long and insecure distances will be saved for other equally important activities. Besides the improved health, this programme will also lead to improved children’s learning and performance in school. Women will now have more time for other activities and leisure.
**Community voices**

“I am so glad at last my community is able to access clean and safe water. For years I have been lobbying and advocating council during the planning and budgeting period but we had never been successful. People have been sharing the water sources with their animals which a health hazard. As a leader, am happy that with this new water facility, benefiting over 200 households I will be working with health people to develop our community.” Says Nassiwa Margaret the sub county woman representative of Mulagi from Kasimbi village.

Ssemakula Aloysius, the local council chairperson of Kibaanga village says, “We are so grateful to ARUWE. Our people are now able to access clean water with a short distance. Before people from this village would move a long distance of about 2km access clean water down the hill. With this new shallow well, over 300 households are benefiting.

Nakabugo Anatolia a 68 year old widow in Kafagagala village living with her five school going orphaned grandchildren was relieved after a 3,000 water jar was constructed at her home. Given her old age and the burden of having to take care of young OVC, she had challenges in getting clean and safe water. The rain water harvesting jar within her reach was a big step towards improving her household hygiene and health. “Miracles happen; this is something we had never thought it can happen to us. Where would we have gotten the money to construct this tank? Say Nakabugo Anatolia.

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Grandmother Anatoliz with her grandchildren infront of their water jar

Grandmother Alice Norah with her two of her grandchildren getting water from the water jar
CHAPTER THREE:
HEALTH PROMOTION
AND HIV/AIDS
PROGRAM
HEALTH PROMOTION AND HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

Under the health promotion programme, ARUWE worked with Village Health Teams (VHTs), Youth Peer Educators (YPEs) and Naliinya Health Centre III to increase community access to health services. This was done through training of 86 VHTs in collaboration with the district health office. This aimed at creating awareness of existing Reproductive Health, Antenatal (ANC) and Postnatal (PNC) services in the public health facilities in the district. The VHTs after the training they were facilitated to organize village and household level awareness sessions for women in the reproductive age group. In addition, ARUWE facilitated the health workers from Naliinya H/CIII who also carried out integrated immunization and family planning community out reaches and as a result over 500 women were reached with the information and services.

VHT says, “The trainings were timely and very useful, I am now more knowledgeable and in better position to help my community. For instance there was a young woman in my community who had four miscarriages. After the training I knew I could help her and I advised her to go for a thorough medical checkup. When she went to the health facility and she was diagnosed with severe syphilis to which her miscarriages were attributed. She has since then been able to receive treatment and is now...”
pregnant with no difficulties yet. In addition, after the training we conducted community mobilization, awareness and individual counseling. And as a result there are more people now going to health centers for proper checkups and diagnosis rather than self-medication, which is a big problem in the community these days as people can just buy drugs from the village clinics and drug shops”. As Reported by Edward Kisembo a VHT from Ssekamalya village

“Of all the family planning options available women have shown more interest in the use of moon beads, the community sensitizations and individual counseling. Couples say that this natural method of family planning work better for them as it has no side effects. There is now high demand for the moon beads in the community especially among the married couples. And we are organizing ourselves as VHTs in this community to make the moon beads because they are scarce. I think we can make them cheaply”, said Fred Nsubuga a VHT from Nakabiso village.

Due to the high teenage pregnancies leading to school dropouts especially in the rural areas, ARUWE worked with the school authorities through the senior women teachers to organize group and individual counseling sessions for the adolescents in the beneficiary schools. This was also extended to households of grandmothers with OVCs’ benefiting from ARUWE activities. Through these sessions a number of young adolescents’ problems and challenges were identified and some were addressed. While others were linked to health services providers. Absence of adolescent friendly health services was identified as the biggest challenge facing many young people both in and out of school. Additionally, training of senior women teachers in adolescent counseling, guidance and life skills was identified an urgent need. As a result from these activities, youth clubs have been facilitated to form and they are continuing to offer peer support and counseling. Feedback was also given to the school administration on their needs as well as their guardians for more support.

Christopher admitted that he never engaged much into investing in his career but when he was involved in life skill talk he has refocused his life, came up with small projects (animal husbandry) and his grades in class have improved. Now he passionately dreams of becoming a doctor in future.

“My parents died of AIDS and as a result I always felt unworthy to be among other people. I feared that I too would die of HIV. But since we started holding the counseling sessions, I opened up my fear to others and feel accepted my colleagues, says Kirabo from Kigando village.

Tomusange said, “Since I have learnt some interpersonal skills, my relationships with my family and friends have really improved. Before I was not assertive enough but now I am able to express myself in a friendly manner.”
Due to the increasing HIV rates, ARUWE with Youth Peer Educators (YPEs) and school clubs carried out community and school out reaches to promote awareness of HIV. And in partnership with Kiboga hospital, Nalinya Health Centre and Infectious Disease Institute (IDI), ARUWE conducted 2 mobile clinics for VCT in Kiwaguzi and Kigando parishes, Mulagi Sub Counties in Kiboga district. About 450 people were able to access the services and got to know there HIV sero status. The lesson learnt was that people respond more to community outreach services. Than the facility based services even if they offered for free. More still, communities still need a lot of mobilization and awareness about the availability of health services in public facilities.

During the community HIV/AIDS awareness, ARUWE used music and drama to mobilize and sensitize the masses. The Youth life club from St Joseph SSS Vumba and the Youth Peer Educators that ARUWE has facilitated and trained played a significant role in making the community more aware about HIV/AIDS. It should be noted that since awareness messages targeted behavioral change, campaigns needed to be carried out on a regular basis to foster the change that would lead to reduced infections. And the trained youth peer educators are playing a big role as change agents in their communities sustaining information dissemination.

Actively engaging the young people in disseminating information about HIV/AIDS not only empowered them with knowledge but also enabled them to stand for what is right and just in their society.
The life club members at the school have taken it upon themselves to pass on sexual education to their fellow youth at the community level through one on one talk. Tumusiime an active member liaised with the local council leader to support his work of engaging fellow youth non-school going to be able to understand issues of HIV/AIDS, sexuality and adolescence. He had been involved so far in three village meetings and had spoken to youths that attend the meeting.

**GRANDMOTHER HEALTH CAMPAIGNS**

ARUWE supported 150 grandmothers to access medication given their declining health. ARUWE worked with Nalinya Health Centre 111 to provide grandmothers medicine, body checkups and making referrals for more serious illnesses.
ARUWE organized 6 physical education campaigns for grandmothers to boost their physical and psycho-socio health. Grandmothers were taught the different exercise techniques and the purpose of each. Given their age and declining bodily strength, exercises were tuned to suit them. Through the campaigns, grandmothers got a time to relax their bodies and minds away from the fields and housework.

The back stretching helped grandmothers’ back as many of them suffered from the aches due to the heavy work in the gardens. “I am so happy about the exercises, says Grandmother Alice Stella. Many were the times my back ached so bad that I could hardly sleep at night, but with the simple back stretches, my back is beginning to feel better.”

“The hand stretches are so wonderful. Due to the hard work in the fields, my hands and fingers have had difficulty in flexibility. With these exercises, my hand and finger movement is getting better. I wake up and do them every day. We are indeed returning to our youth,” says grandmother Toe.

“What a good way to relax after the long day in the fields and doing housework. We are so glad that exercise helps us to relax our minds. Oh, and the laughter we share is good for the soul,” says grandmother Juanita.
CHAPTER FOUR:
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

In response to the rapid environmental degradation through deforestation, ARUWE together with the beneficiary women, the local leaders and the community agreed to undertake activities that promote proper land use especially among women farmers that benefit from ARUWE programs.

Promoting Agro Forestry

To this effect, in the bid to promote agro forestry, ARUWE established community based nursery beds for tree species that add nutrients to the soil to boost its fertility hence, increasing agricultural yields among the target women farmers. Such trees include Caliandra, Susbania, Cashew and Leuceana. The nursery beds are now managed and maintained by the ARUWE’s women farmers groups. The groups were trained and provided with varieties of tree seeds. Now, regularly women transplant the tree seedlings to their own gardens but also provide the same to the wider community at no cost.

Some of the trees species are quick maturing and will soon be used to provide firewood for household cooking. This will in turn reduce the long hours women take in search for fire wood in the forests and thus save their time and energy for other productive activities and leisure.

Establishing group tree nursery beds

ARUWE organizes women farmers groups to establish tree nursery beds. The groups are trained and provided with tree seeds to set up nursery beds. It is from the beds that women transplant the tree seedlings to their own gardens. The trees also provide firewood for cooking. Women spend long hours in search for firewood. It should be noted that the forest reserves where they would get firewood are out of bounds.

Energy saving stoves

In addition, ARUWE has promoted the use of Lorena stoves, an energy saving technology among the women households . The different women groups supported by ARUWE were trained how to construct these stoves and they are now extending the knowledge and skill to the wider community. The stoves use less firewood, emit less smoke and avoid direct with fire which protects the women and their children. They have proved to be very effective in meeting their households cooking needs. Lorena stoves are cost effective since all the materials used are locally available at community level and skill is very to learn.
CHAPTER FIVE:
PROMOTING QUALITY EDUCATION
Over the past year, ARUWE has carried out a number of school programs including HIV awareness campaigns, counseling, guidance and life skills training for senior teachers and school club leaders, promoting art through support to school club activities including music, dance and drama and individual and school hygiene improvement. Working with and lobbying the school administration, many schools now are including in their school programmes co curricula activities that are aimed at developing life skills among their students. In this regard, ARUWE has contributed to the inter school completion activities by rewarding the best performing schools.

ARUWE facilitated HIV awareness in 3 schools through ARTs and film shows. Through these programs, students’ knowledge on HIV/AIDS prevention, teenage pregnancies, hygiene improvement was enhanced.

ARUWE with the support from Strategies for Life renovated a five class room block in St. Joseph Senior School Vvumba. This led to the improvement of the school environment benefiting about 520 students who are now able to access improved and better education facilities. The old structure was put the students life at a risk most especially during the rainy season due to leakages, open windows without shatters.

“I am very proud of my school now that it has been renovated,” said Mwesigwa. “It is now the best school in our sub county” Mwesigwa concluded.

**Families with disabled children**

ARUWE has worked with 23 women headed households with disabled children. Having a disabled child puts extra strain on the family physically, financially and emotionally due to the attention the needy child needs. ARUWE has supported the families in promoting household food security, nutrition and small loans to set income generation projects.

This is one of the families that ARUWE is supporting. The 16 year old Allen in a white blouse is disabled. She stays with her grandmother Nampereza who is looking after 5 other orphans two of whom are not in the picture. ARUWE started supporting this vulnerable family by providing improved seeds and livestock to enable Nampereza pay school fees for her grandchildren especially Allen who was of age. Currently with the increased farm holdings and income generation from the piggery, Allen is able to attend school.
Right from needs assessment, project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, ARUWE engages the communities. This does not only promote cooperation among the beneficiaries and the wider community, but has also fostered learning and ownership.

**CREATING SELF-RELIANCE**

ARUWE being a women focused organization, efforts are always made to promote development of women groups through mobilization, organization and empowerment of women beneficiaries. Leadership training has led women taking up leadership positions in their communities.

“It is because of ARUWE’s work, that Nabwiso has been elected a woman leader for her hard work and being an exemplary member of the community”. reported one of the women group member.

When in leadership women are in better position to lobby and advocate for the needs of women and children in their communities. For this to be achieved, women need to be empowered with literacy skills. ARUWE in its interventions with the women groups, it integrates provision of literacy skills in basic numeracy, reading and writing. These literacy skills have also enhanced marketing opportunities for their products and have improved their public speaking during community meetings.

*Nansubuga the chairperson of Kapeke women’s group addressing her group members*
NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In our efforts to bring about the socio-economic impact in the target communities, ARUWE has used different strategies like networking, alliance building and establishing strategic partnerships with other likeminded organizations. This is aimed at enhancing the impact so far created while promoting scaling up and deepening the interventions in addition to promoting their sustainability.

BUILDING ON ALREADY EXISTING AVAILABLE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

For all the interventions, ARUWE worked with and through existing community structures such as community resource persons like the community Health and water resource persons, Youth Peer Educators, political and opinion leaders which contributed greatly towards community mobilization, sensitization as well as monitoring and maintaince of community established facilities.

FUTURE PLANS

ARUWE plans to scale up its activities to Gayaza Sub County in Kyankwanzi district. This has been as a result of the initial discussions held with the district leadership followed by a baseline survey that was conducted by ARUWE in January 2013 whose findings reveal the poverty and vulnerability challenges faced by the communities in Gayaza. From our needs assessment report (Jan 2013), the communities in Gayaza are faced with problems of food insecurity, malnutrition, common diseases like diarrhea due poor hygiene and sanitation, youth unemployment, deforestation due to heavy cutting of tree for charcoal burning and low incomes at household level. The community’s vulnerability is further worsened by the uncontrolled use of natural resources and environment degradation, poor farming practices due to lack of appropriate agricultural knowledge and skills due to lack of extension services. Like many other communities in Uganda, Gayaza Sub County is also greatly affected by HIV/AIDS. According to the sub county official statistics, HIV prevalence is at 12% far above the national average of 7.3% (UAI S 2011). ARUWE will extend her programs in Food security, Nutrition and Income Generation, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion, Health promotion and HIV/AIDS, Environmental conservation and protection and Promoting Access to quality Education.
**Funding sources for 2012/13**

Over the last year, ARUWE has been supported by the following partners:

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<td>Local sources</td>
<td>7,235,600</td>
<td>6,625,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funds received</td>
<td>336,793,530</td>
<td>323,030,767</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Income and expenditure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>Ugx</td>
<td>Ugx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funds received</td>
<td>336,793,530</td>
<td>323,030,767</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenditure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Expenses</td>
<td>275,558,582</td>
<td>281,062,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Operating Expenses</td>
<td>21,446,144</td>
<td>19,396,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure</td>
<td>297,004,726</td>
<td>300,459,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
<td>39,788,804</td>
<td>22,571,605</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>