



GRANDMOTHERS'

Housing initiative report in Mulagi, Kyankwanzi District, Uganda



REPORT 2014

Mid-term project report from 1st April 2014 to 30th September 2014

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The Stephen Lewis Foundation

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Compiled and Prepared by

ARUWE



INTRODUCTION

In 2010 ARUWE started a partnership with Stephen Lewis Foundation to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable grandmothers' households with Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Kyankwanzi District. The SLF-ARUWE interventions have led to increased food security and income generation; improved nutrition and health status among the targeted grandmothers households as well as increased awareness of HIV/AIDS.

During the implementation of the projects, It was realised that Grandmothers were facing a challenge of poor housing infrastructure. Out of the program visits made by SLF and ARUWE; the grandmothers always put housing as one of their biggest challenges. Most grandmothers are unsecure due to poor housing structures as many of the houses have holes in the walls, have poor Loafs whereby if it rains they get wet and or have to run out fearing that the house may fall. 98 of the houses are without floors. Such a poor housing status limits the benefits from improved hygiene and sanitation practices; their health is affected by the cold especially during rainy season and the fact that they share accommodation with rodents that enjoy grass thatched roofs despite our health promotion initiatives. Therefore The grandmothers 'housing initiative interventions is intended to address the housing challenges of those poor and most vulnerable grandmothers and their OVC.

The grand mothers' Housing initiative which started in April 2014, Intends to support the construction of 11 model houses for 11 grandmothers. The main goal of the project was to improve general household health and productivity of the most poor and vulnerable grandmothers and their OVC. The project targeted 11 grandmothers' households with a total of 77 Orphaned and Vulnerable Children staying with them.

The project is implemented in Mulagi Sub County in Kyankwanzi district. The report covers the first six months of the intervention.

Purpose: To support the construction of low cost, decent, affordable and functional homes for poor and most vulnerable grandmothers and their OVC.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

The project planned the following activities in the first six months.

1. Identify and select a technical construction supervisor.
2. Develop and draw a low cost model housing design.
3. Conduct a one day consultative and planning meeting with local community leaders.
4. Conduct a one day consultative, planning meeting with local leaders and grand mothers.
5. Conduct a two days home visit for the selected grandmothers' households.
6. Conduct a focus group discussion with selected grandmothers'/beneficiaries.
7. Mobilize locally available materials.
8. Procure and transport to sites building materials.
9. Undertake construction of 5 houses in six months
10. Monitor and supervise construction work.
11. Document and share quarterly project progress reports to partners/stakeholders.
12. Organize handover of completed houses to beneficiaries during the implementation process

DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTED ACTIVATES IN SIX MONTHS

Identifying and selecting a technical supervisor

ARUWE identified and selected a technical construction supervisor who is managing the Technical construction of the houses, including supervision of workers. With the help of the technical supervisor ARUWE choose to work with local masons. This ensures not only that the local community is fully involved in their own development but also benefit by earning some income and enhancing their skills. A contract was signed between ARUWE and the construction engineer clearly stating the terms and conditions of the project

Develop and draw a low cost model housing design.

The Project hired an architect who developed the design and worked alongside the construction supervisor. The house design was a two bed roomed house with a sitting room. It had three windows each room a window, two doors entrance front door and back door exit. The structure of the sanitation facility is a Ventilated Improved Pit latrine and a bathroom. Such a structure was adopted as it was easy to maintain by all the grandmothers households.

CONDUCT A ONE DAY CONSULTATIVE AND PLANNING MEETING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS.

A one day consultative and planning meeting was conducted at the Kyankwanzi district headquarters. The meeting was attended by the local leaders and technical team of Kyankwanzi district including Local council V chair person, the Chief Administrative Officer, the SAGE coordinator (Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment- a program targeting the elderly), District Planner, District Community Development Officer, Programs Officer and the Field Coordinator of ARUWE. The meeting was aimed at introducing and planning for the implementation of the project. Through the meeting, active participation of the leaders and the technical team of the district was enhanced



The Program coordinator giving a brief report during the meeting



The meeting held at Kyankwanzi district

The meeting was successful as it resolved to adopt the house model/design, the selection criteria and the developed activity work plans for the project. It was also resolved that a grandmothers monitoring team be establish to provide an oversight follow up and monitoring of work done. From the meeting, the Chief Administrative Officer was able to support ARUWE acquire a Civil Engineer to provide technical supervision during the project to ensure good workmanship and or Quality Assurance.

CONDUCT A TWO DAY HOME VISIT FOR THE SELECTED GRANDMOTHERS' HOUSEHOLDS.

A two day home visit was carried out among the 11 selected grandmother households to collect information of the current situation. The information was to help track progress and impact registered by the project in the lives of the grandmothers and their household members. Factors taken into consideration while selecting the grandmothers included the poor and uninhabitable status of housing structure, age and health; the most elderly and frail grandmothers were given priority, grandmothers taking care of a big number of orphans at least seven and above plus years other household members and land ownership or control Grandmothers with guarantee of ownership and or control of the land where the house will be constructed.

	Name of Grandmother	Age	No of Dependants	Village	Parish
1	Nampereza Alice stella	63	17	nakabiso	Kigando
2	Carolyne Nakimera	61	4	Kiyuni	Luwawu
3	Nakirija Enfrance	67	5	Kampiri	Kiwaguzi
4	Esteri Nanvubya	64	26	Kiyuni	Luwawu
5	Namusisi Gladys	74	8	Kiwaguzi A	Kiwaguzi
6	Ntakobatigize Jocelyne	75	4	Kalagala	Kiwaguzi
7	Namboze Margarita	69	6	Munyami	Kiwaguzi
8	Nanyonga Agatha	76	3	mulagi	Kigando
9	RUTH NAKIMERA	61	18	Kiyuni	kalagi
10	Nansubuga Teopista	71	6	nakabiso	Kigando
11	Baragiragisa Theresa	75	4	Kakoto	Kiwaguzi



Grandmother Ruth (second from the left) with some of her grand children standing in front of their house.



Grandmother Alice stella (carrying a child) with some of her grand children standing in front of their house.



Margarita inside her house; Look at the old iron sheets, polythene bags and rugs she uses to cover.



Grandmother Gladys showing the damaged wall which caused her household members to vacate the entire section of the house to use the sitting and dining room.



Grandmother gladys in front of her latrine; she covers the entrance with polythene paper



Carolyn in her bathroom, its built with fence trees, it has no door hence no privacy is assured

Through the consecutive home visits, ARUWE was able to understand and appreciate the socio-economic and cultural issues faced by grandmothers. For instance, during school term holidays, more members were added to grandmothers households with the grandchildren coming from school. This increased the number of house members in already small and limited space.

CONDUCT A ONE DAY CONSULTATIVE, PLANNING MEETING WITH LOCAL LEADERS AND GRANDMOTHERS

A joint planning meeting was held with the Mulagi sub county local leaders, beneficiary grandmothers and their caretakers. During the meeting, the house designs were introduced to the grandmother. The meeting was crucial because of land ownership. This was a very important issue in project implementation. Village leaders were the first community reported to for any kind of land conflicts. During the meeting, the terms and conditions of land ownership were established. The prepared memorandum stipulating clearly ownership was signed. The meeting defined and harmonized expectations, roles and responsibilities for all the stake holders in the project.

CONDUCT FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH SELECTED GRANDMOTHERS'/BENEFICIARIES.

Two focus group discussions were held with the selected grandmothers and their caretakers. The FGDs aimed at understanding the nature and purpose of the project for the grandmother households and entire community and to ascertain the community (grandmothers') contribution towards the project to consolidate ownership. The FGDs were used as an opportunity to address other issues such as maintaining the new housing structures through good hygiene and sanitation (cleaning of the floor, windows, compounds). Refresher training in proper hygiene and sanitation practices, children rights issues with emphasis on promoting education and protection of girl children were emphasised.



Grandmothers attending a focus group discussion at Kiyuni village in Mulagi subcounty



Grandmothers and caretakers during the focus group discussion held at Mugereka village

Through the FDGs, grandmothers and care takers pledged their active participation in the project since they expected changes in their lives through reduction of fear houses falling on them any time. They also promised to keep working harder to ensure that their grandchildren especially the girls go to school to achieve good education. The FGD further enhanced active participation of the grandmothers and the caretakers in the project

MOBILIZE LOCALLY AVAILABLE MATERIALS

To promote ownership of the project, grandmother households were mobilized to make local contribution. Such contribution included water for the construction, food for the masons, and storage for the construction materials. Grandmother household members positively responded by ensuring those materials were availed in time for the construction. It was during this activity that the memorandum of understanding was signed by the different parties.

PROCURE AND TRANSPORT BUILDING MATERIALS TO SITES

All Construction materials for 5 houses planned for this period were purchased. In addition all iron sheets for 11 houses were bought and 80% of the nails. This was to ensure bulk purchases to reduce the costs. Proper accounting procedures were followed and all third party documents were acquired.



Construction materials being delivered at the construction sites

UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION OF 5 HOUSES.

By the end of six months, four houses have been fully constructed and one is near completion stage. The completed houses include Margarita Nambooze, Gladys Namusisi, Theresa Baragiragisa, Joylance Ntakobatagize. The construction went on smoothly with grandmothers and their household members fully participating in the construction and supporting the contracted engineers.



House construction at Gladys's place; all household members actively participating in the construction process.



Joylance's grandson helping the engineer to carry sand to the construction site.



2-stance latrine and bathroom being constructed at Jjaja Margarita's home



House being constructed at Jjaja Gladys's home

The house structure was a two bed roomed house and a sitting room. It had three windows with each room a window, two doors front and back exit. The structures of the sanitation facilities have a two stance Ventilated Improved Pit latrine and a bathroom.

MONITOR AND SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

Weekly monitoring and supervision of the construction work was carried out by ARUWE monitoring and evaluation officer. The aim was to ensure quality and timely service assurance from the contractors and active participation from grandmothers' households. The technical supervision was done by a civil engineer assigned by the district to ensure the correct quality and quantity material mixes were done and the accurate house dimension and measurements were carefully followed.



Board Vice Chairperson, Accountant and the Finance and Administration interacting with engineer at the construction site of Jjaja Gladys's home.

PROJECT SUCCESS OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS

Over the past six months, the living conditions of four grandmother households have greatly improved. An improvement in general household health and productivity of four poor and vulnerable grandmothers and their OVC through construction of low cost, descent, affordable and functional homes has been realised. One of the grand mothers had this to say, “Life will never be the same again and I don’t regret ARUWES coming to our village. God will reward them abundantly”.

There is a significant improvement in the hygiene and sanitation of the grandmothers’ households with the establishment of cemented house floors and plastered house walls in replacement of mud walls. Grandmother households especially the grandchildren sanitation facilities have been regularly maintained which has eliminated the flies from carrying germs around the homes and all other health related infections resulting from poor hygiene.

The establishment of sanitation facilities has increased the toilet coverage in the sub county by four households so far. This has complimented government efforts which over the past years geared towards improving household hygiene and sanitation practices through establishment of sanitation and hand washing facilities. It should be noted that every grandmother household by this project end had installed a functional hand washing facilities.

Through the project, the image and working relationship of ARUWE and the local government and leadership of Kyankwanzi district has been greatly enhanced. Since ARUWE is one of the major development partners in the project area, its contribution towards improving the lives of the rural poor is documented in the district report. Furthermore, the project contributed to more active involvement of the local government in ARUWE programs targeting the grandmothers.

PROJECT CHALLENGES OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS

The heavy rains at times disrupted the smooth progress of the work especially in the brick laying process. The rains also caused washing away sand from the site at times hence the constructors had to use bricks to block it. The rains also delayed delivery of construction materials since the roads were very slippery rendering them impassable.

There was still a big need in the community especially among the other ARUWE grandmother beneficiaries. Much as the project selected the 11 neediest among the grandmothers, it cannot be denied that there were many others that are still in a vulnerable state.

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

Nambooze Margarita



Margarita's house before the project



My name is Margarita Namboze and I live in Munyaami village with my five grandchildren and son. I am 69 years old and widowed. Words alone are not enough to express my gratitude towards SLF and ARUWE for such a great blessing given to me and my family. With my new house which is safely locked with proper doors and windows, my family security is enhanced. Now at least, I will be able to sleep in my house with my dependants without fear. The sleepless rainy nights are over! No more going to neighbours to accommodate us on rainy nights as the situation was with my former house that had leaking iron sheets. With my secure, comfortable, clean accommodation, my heart is at peace knowing that my family is safe”.



HOUSE Design:

This was the first design ARUWE started with, But later some changes were made because this type was more costly. It was taking more space and thus more materials. ARUWE had to change the front look.

Theresa Bagiragisa

Jajja Baragiragiza Teresa is 83 years widow living with 4 OVC in Kakoto village, kiwaguzi parish, Mulagi Sub County. She never got any formal education. She is a peasant farmer growing beans, cassava, sweet potatoes and maize selling off the surplus to get income. Her house and sanitation facilities were in poor shape. When the 83 year old received the news, that she was to be a beneficiary from the grandmothers' housing initiative, she could hardly contain her excitement. Not even the heavy rains that disrupted the work of construction could keep her and her entire family from actively participating in the project process.



Theresa and her son inside their former house; note the dangerous cracks in the walls and the holes in the iron sheets that leak during rain causing coldness which affected the old woman's health.



Theresa near her unsafe old latrine; note the cloth that was used for a door which leaves no room for privacy



Theresa and her grandchildren actively taking part in the construction process



Theresa standing near her newly constructed Pit latrine With a tippy tap for hand washing



Theresa with some of her grandchildren in front of their new house singing for joy

Theresa said she now has good nights of sleep because she is sleeping under a strong structure unlike her old house. Her household hygiene and sanitation has improved drastically now with a good sanitation facility. She now dreams of harvesting water running off the roof.

“Fellow siblings and I are so happy for this new house. We will no longer have to suffer from jiggers that came as a result of having a dusty floor in our house. We will also keep cleaner than ever since we have a cemented floor now. We thank SLF and ARUWE for the great work done and we pray that God blesses everything they do. We love you SLF and ARUWE”, said 13 year old David grandchild to Theresa.

“Thank you so much wonderful partners for this wonderful gift that you have given me. Being an elderly woman, a good night sleep means a lot to me. With my new house, I can sleep comfortably at night. You have made my life and that of my grandchildren so much better. We are all very happy”, said Theresa

Joylance Ntakobatagize

Joylance is a 75 year old widow living with her five orphaned grandchildren. Like all the beneficiary grandmothers, she depends on agriculture for livelihood. Before the housing initiative, her old house which had been constructed with reeds and mud and for over years become a breeding place for termites. The dust in the floor of the house used to cause flue especially to the young grandchildren. During the rainy seasons, the iron sheets giving way to rain to wet their beddings.



Joylance and her young grandchildren sitting in front of their old house. The walls were so weak that whenever it rained, they used to absorb water which made the house so cold that her grandchildren suffered periodic colds.



Joylance standing near her old latrine which she and her family used before the project; it was just a pit with no covering. This facility was not only dangerous for Joylance's young grandchildren but also the neighbours.

“I am loss of words for this divine intervention. Since I started benefitting from the grandmothers program, I knew my life and my family's will never be the same. When I lost my husband, I thought my life had come to an end but the ARUWE grandmothers' program has changed my life and given me hope which I didn't have. Now that I have a better house, I will be able to save for my business to earn a daily income that will help me meet the education needs for my grandchildren. Thank you”, said Joylance.



Joylance's new Latrine



Joylance and her grandchildren sitting in front from their new house

Gladys Namusisi

“For such a long time I have wanted to have better sanitation facilities but due to lack of funds I have not been able to fulfill my dream. My previous sanitation facilities were not only full but also dangerous especially for my young grandchildren to use them since they had big holes. In addition, they offered no room for privacy since they had no doors. Now, not only have we got better facilities but also we are now experiencing better hygiene practices such as hand washing, using latrine covers, regular cleaning, and among others. My grandchildren are very excited to use the new facilities without any fears of falling in the pit as was the case before”, said 74 year old Gladys.



Namusisi's old un safe home



Namusisi's new house



Namusisi's Former un safe Latrine



Namusisi's new safe Latrine



UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES

The project enabled ARUWE find out the number of grandmothers benefiting from the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment; a program targeting to assist the elderly with a monthly allowance of UGX22,000(9CND). Due to ignorance about the programs, most of ARUWE beneficiary grandmothers had not benefited from the program yet they qualified. Through the project, grandmothers were made more aware of the program and how they could benefit from it.

Now that they have a better housing structure, three of the grandmothers and their caretakers desire to further improve their living conditions by getting a donor to support installation of solar power in their homes. The grandmothers have started putting aside savings to purchase solar panels for their homes but it will take a long time before their dream come true Grandmother too want to improve their living conditions by installing water jars now that their roofing structure and iron sheets which will harvest clean surface run off rain water is available.

INNOVATION

The project was the first of its kind in Mulagi Sub County, Kyakwanzi district. It was initiated out of the need for improved living conditions for grandmothers and their orphaned grandchildren. Given its selection criteria, the intervention reached out to and impacted positively to the most vulnerable members of the community.

INTERNAL CHANGES

ARUWE welcomed a new board of directors to further improve organization effectiveness. In addition, two volunteers Damilola Ojuri and Tine Rienert. Damilola served for 6 months and has returned back to London while Reinert will return to Denmark in December 2014.

ARUWE has further expanded her working relationship with other sector actors including Kampala NGO Forum and Kiboga AIDS NGO Forum. This has further enhanced organizational learning, sharing and improving staff advocacy skills.

EXTERNAL FACTORS

Environmental factors especially the rain interfered with the construction work. This caused delays in the work.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

- Construction of seven houses for grandmothers
- Document and share quarterly project progress reports to partners/stakeholders
- Organize hand over of completed houses to beneficiaries during the implementation process.
- Conduct an end of project evaluation
- Compiling end of project report to Stephen Lewis Foundation

The grandmothers' housing initiative is improving the lives of the grandmothers and their families.



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