



Good Samaritan Women's Group



KEEPING THE CANDLE LIGHTING

Annual Report, 2015

Introduction:

This 2015 report highlights the activities implemented by Good Samaritan Women's Group and what we stand for. It illustrates all the programs and activities carried out by the organization during this reporting period. The report gives you details of all our exciting achievements, challenges and presents an insight on where we see ourselves come 2016. Without any doubt we know that 2016 will turn out better with all your support. We chose to take a step!

Background:

Good Samaritan Women's Project was established in August 2006 as a result of the increasing number of Orphans and Vulnerable Children who were unable to meet their own basic need yet most of them are in orphan headed households. The organization is located in Lukaya Sub-county. The operational area is predominantly rural and poor, with high rates of HIV (12% prevalence) and large numbers of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The most vulnerable include women, orphans and vulnerable children (approximately 800 thousand orphans now) in the target sub-county, people living with HIV/AIDS, widows and grand mothers.

Good Samaritan Women's Project embraces networking to improve service delivery and above all improve the lives of widows and most vulnerable orphans in the community.

Our Mission:

Our mission is to improve the quality of life of people affected by HIV and AIDS through working with communities in the areas of care, support for rural women, widows, grandmothers, orphans and vulnerable children and HIV/AIDS Prevention especially among youth.

Major accomplishments for 2015:

- ✓ With support from the Global Women's Leadership Network (GWLN), we trained 20 women leaders from various community based organizations on Transformative Leadership
- ✓ Conducted financial literacy trainings in 4 villages benefitting over 121 rural women
- ✓ Provided income generating activities to 26 families
- ✓ Trained 22 widows in making hand craft materials to meet their basic needs and the needs of orphans and vulnerable children under their care.

Pictorial, 2015



Some of the beneficiaries after the financial literacy training at Butongo-Mwota village



Some of the beneficiaries income generating activities keeping

One of the beneficiaries explaining about book

Candles lit by workshop participants as a sign of hope

An IGA for one of the beneficiaries at Lugasa village



Some of the women who benefited from the Transformative Leadership Training

Some of the OVC children supported in school



Some of the pictures of the women's leadership training sponsored by the Global Women's Leadership Network

Our programs:

Good Samaritan Women's Group aims at creating opportunities for these vulnerable families to live to their full potential. Economic empowerment activities are conducted by the organization to improve the economic status of widows and vulnerable children with specific focus to Orphan headed households. This holistic approach takes into account individual personal empowerment and a wide range of competencies and skills.

Through the Livelihood and Economic empowerment component, in 2015, 110 families of vulnerable families have been equipped with knowledge and skills in income generating activities of various types. This year, 26 most vulnerable families in all the target villages were provided with Income generating projects.

Centering as a methodology to collective thinking was one of key positively adopted way of reflection during all training activities conducted by GSWG and as a pre cursor to group/community trainings and discussions. This activity provided an opportunity to the beneficiaries to open up for learning and communication.

The GSWG Board:

The organization has six highly competent Board members that meet twice each year. These are also called upon whenever there is need to discuss pertinent issues.

Out Training Approach:

✚ A problem-posing approach known as Training for transformation is always employed. Transformation (TfT) is being successfully used in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. TfT's unique strength is building participants skills of understanding what is happening around them and why, and then taking actions with others to change the direction of things if they so wish. The techniques used by facilitators during the trainings are highly interactive using simulation games, codes and group work in order not to propose solutions or come with ready-made answers to questions but to instead release deep creativity and confidence within the women leaders and energize them to find solutions to their own situations. Participants are given an opportunity to explore their experience, challenges and possible alternative solutions basing on personal, organizational and community aspects.

The symbol of Training for Transformation is a butterfly. A butterfly being the last stage from the egg, it passes through different stages to become a butterfly. From one form to another, "this is radical change". Therefore the trainings aim at changing the rural women's ways of thinking, analyzing and engaging in meaningful action in their capacity.

Techniques and facilitation skills used in our trainings:

- ✚ The techniques include small group discussions, skits, role plays, simulation games, small buzz groups, stories and the film. The facilitation skills employed include: probing and pausing question, provoking discussion, summarizing participants' ideas among others.

Some of the beneficiaries of the Transformative leadership training had this to say in their own words;

"I have re-discovered myself as a woman leader. The different methodologies used in this training were excellent. Many thanks to the facilitators for such an insightful approach" **Pauline**

"Through the FILM, Pray the Devil back to Hell, I have been empowered. Women can transform the world through working in solidarity. Whenever challenges come, I will not give up but stand upright until there is transformation". **Teresiah**

"It is important to have a dream and keep it burning. Get the right people around me to push me ahead. I will not let my vision die out". **Teopista**

"I have discovered what others think of me as a leader and I have also discovered the weakness I have as a leader which I will systematically work on as I continue with my leadership journey". **Josephine**

"I didn't know who I'm and I didn't want to believe who I'm and trying yet I wanted to better myself. So, the self-discovery exercise through the river of life enlightened me." **Lydia**

"My vision and focus for 2019 is now very clear". **Evelyn**

"I have lit the candle while kneeling down in honour of the training. In whatever I do, I will look at the end/outcomes and this will sustain my stamina as a woman leader to achieve goals in life". **Grace**

"I discovered that women are leaders by nature and leadership starts at home. The challenges I encounter will help me push self to the end". **Constance**

"Whenever there is power struggle in the organization, my efforts to achieve as a woman leader fail. I will work on suppressing the power struggles in order to achieve early enough before it gets late" **Harriet.**

"I have re-discovered myself that I have the potential to do what I purposed to do first and be a 2 quadrant leader". **Musya**

"Organizational conflict doesn't know race, religion, sex and once a woman leader is faced with it, she can't run way. I will always positively deal with conflict" **Jennifer.**

"I have documented my vision and I'm awakened to pursue it once again" **Dorothy**

"Whatever situation I face as a woman leader, it's not new. I need to remain focused on my vision for the future". **Sarah**

"I have re-discovered myself; I have learnt that there is a greater leader in me. And my scares have changed into a STAR. I'm really transformed and I'm going to share this with other women in my community". **Wanjiru**

"It has been a transformative period to me as a woman leader. This is a new period of change for me and I'm whole, transformed woman leader." **Mariam**

"I have made a personal reflection about my life. This training is a great opportunity for me to look back, reflect and see what is ahead of me. I will write down my vision and pursue it to the end". **Veronica**

*“Before I came for this training, I had a vision but it was still vague. This training has helped me to sharpen my vision and I will work towards achieving it by 2019”. Thank you facilitators! **Christine***

Constraints during 2015:

There were a number of challenges despite the many achievements:

- Lack of a field vehicle hindered timely implementation for some of our field activities especially during the rainy season March-may 2015
- While planning for project activities, we find that our local communities have multiple needs which require lots of resources. Given the high poverty levels, sometimes community members are also forced to focus on basic rather than strategic needs thereby focusing their energy on resources required for survival such as food. There is need to find more resources for effective implementation of projects. In future, there will be need to fundraise to find a better home for GSWG team.
- Limited funding to cater for the community needs

Way Forward /Future planned activities 2016

- ✚ Organize community mobilization and sensitization meetings
- ✚ Training rural women in vocational skills of weaving various items with locally available materials
- ✚ Proving rural women and grand mothers with Income generating activities to enable them meet their basic needs and the needs of the OVC under their care
- ✚ Training women in intensive integrated organic farming and rearing of poultry plus keeping animals
- ✚ Training rural women and young people in life skills for HIV/AIDS prevention
- ✚ Organize and conduct counseling sessions at individual, group and family levels
- ✚ Conduct agricultural skills and micro-enterprise development
- ✚ Payment of school fees and scholastic materials for orphans and vulnerable children
- ✚ Organize Games and sports as well as music, dance and dram competitions for youth, orphans and vulnerable children.
- ✚ Fundraise for a capacity building grant and find a home for GSWG (office space).
- ✚ Purchase and provide bicycles to at least 10 community volunteers
- ✚ Purchase of Vehicle for the organization to aid in field visits
- ✚ Organize and conduct relevant educative radio programs on local FM radio stations
- ✚ Conduct family visits, follow up and mentoring

Conclusion:

We are thrilled for all the support provided by our development partners. A big thank you to you all! More thanks go to the community members and beneficiaries for being supportive throughout the year. We hope that this kind of self sacrifice will flow more strongly into 2016. Our organization has the technical capacity to deepen the knowledge and skills of the rural women and the Orphans and vulnerable children but needs more financial support to do so. We hope that more interested partners will recognize our effort and support us. **We are in this together and the struggle continues!**

List of our Donors, 2015

| Donor | Amount US\$ | Purpose |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Light my Fire | 3,600 | Training on Financial Literacy in 4 villages |
| Global Women's Leadership Network | 6,000 | Women's Leadership Training |
| Government grants and contracts | 21,000 | Office repair & community training & Income Generating Activities |
| Friends of GSWG (foundations) | 64,000 | Various community meetings workshops & staff capacity building |
| Other donations | 2,600 | OVC scholastic materials |
| Community contribution | 1,000 | In-kind (labour, time) |

Signed:



Nakijoba Rosemary

Executive Director