

ITESO WELFARE ASSOCIATION UGANDA (IWA-UG)



**Six Monthly
Progress
Report**

**August 2018-
January 2019**

Background

Iteso Welfare Association Uganda was founded in 2014 and formally registered indigenous Non-Governmental Organization in 2016 with the overall goal of establishing a social network to promote mutual support among Iteso as well as to enhance their social and economic wellbeing wherever they are and always. Its sister Organization, Iteso Welfare Association UK was founded 20 years ago in the United Kingdom (UK) with the objective to nurture development in the region as well as empowering the Teso communities in the UK and Africa to fight poverty, disease and ignorance. IWA aspires to achieve positive citizenship, community participation, life learning and ultimately, a healthy community. IWA-UG operates in the North-Eastern region of Uganda covering ten districts in the Teso sub-region that include Amuria, Bukedea, Soroti, Kumi, Ngora, Katakwi, Serere, Pallisa, Kaberemaido and Tororo.

IWA Mission: To improve the wellbeing and living standards of the Iteso communities through the provision of high quality health, Education, Environmental, Agriculture, Economic and other interventions.

IWA Goal: The overall goal of the association is to establish a social network to promote mutual support among Iteso as well as to enhance their social and economic wellbeing wherever they are and at all times.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

IWA-UG	Iteso Welfare Association Uganda
TASO	The Aids Support Organization
USAID RHITES E	Regional Integration to Enhance Services In Eastern Uganda
DHO	District Health Officer
TERREWODE	The Association for Rehabilitation and Re-Orientation of Women for Development
TSM	Teso Safe Motherhood
DLG	District Local Government
DHT	District Health Team
VHT's	Village Health Teams
HC	Health Centre
EUWS	Eastern Umbrella of Water and Sanitation
PWD's	Persons With Disabilities
HTS	HIV Testing Services
SMC	Safe Male Circumcision
HMIS	Health Management Information System
IWA-UK	Iteso Welfare Association United Kingdom
CPHL	Central Public Health Laboratories
ANC	Antenatal Care
DHE	District Education Officer
HBP	High Blood Pressure
STI's	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UTI's	Urinary Tract Infections
FP	Family Planning
ANC	Antenatal Care Services
HTS	HIV Testing Services
SMC	Safe Male Circumcision
EUWS	Eastern Umbrella of Water and Sanitation

1. Overview

This Six Monthly Progress Report reviews implementation of the Iteso Welfare Association Plan for 2018 for the period starting August. It highlights the activities for the different committees, the plans ahead and how best they can work together. It reports key performance indicators as well as providing other quantitative and qualitative information for the activities throughout that particular period, lessons learnt, avenues for maximum community engagement, challenges and recommendations for the next six months and beyond.

1.1. IWA-UG Program Strategic Focus

Following the launch of the organization in 2016, IWA-UG has consolidated its capacity to delivering and improving rural community health, rural education and rural agriculture for development in a range of locations and Teso Sub region. In the first six months from August 2018 to January 2019, the Organization has ramped-up its delivery of community services and other initiatives; refined its systems; sought to build on its experience and establish sustainable programs further tailored to each of its regional needs. The Organization has also developed a strategic framework (Table 1) to better support its targets and priorities of the Organizations, strengths against development needs and drawing on this, implemented a community based development framework emphasizing results. Refinement and expansion of IWA-UG membership system will ensure on-going engagement of the growing membership numbers and aid the development of better ideas for organizational growth. Analysis and consultation has commenced to guide implementation of the strategic programming areas, improve understanding of priority areas and refine modes of capacity-building as the basis for strategic and pedagogical approaches in the coming years.

1.2. IWA-UG Program Delivery

1.2.1. Delivery Highlights.

During the 2nd half of 2018, IWA-UG achieved most of its targets and is on track to achieve most targets against the activities articulated in the 2019 Plan. By the end of January 2019, IWA-UG as expected was able to meet most of its cumulative targets for the 6 month period since operations began in August 2018. During the August 2018 to January 2019 period, the Organization has:

- Conducted two community health outreaches in Serere and Kaberamaido districts.

- Carried out selection of schools for the school gardening project
- Conducted a health charity concert
- Sought for partnerships with other Non-Governmental Organizations in the implementation of her programs.
- Developed and submitted project proposals seeking for funding to meet outstanding targets.

1.3. Management and Operations

1.3.1. Personnel

The management and operations of the activities of the organization are supported by the Volunteer Administrative Manager, Board of Trustees, team of Committee and registered members. The Volunteer Administrative Manager, committee members and some registered members aid in the dissemination of the organizations' activities to the targeted communities while the Board of trustees play the supervisory role and passes decisions. The core team is supplemented by casual staff and community volunteers from Local Government as required for activity delivery/implementation. The Organization is supported by other Partner organization through provision of specific services as assigned by IWA-UG. These organizations include TASO, USAID RHITES E, EUWS, TERREWODE, Serere and Kaberamaido district local Governments

1.3.2. Financial position

As at 31 January 2019, the Organization had spent 11,735,200 and 7,200,000 in Serere and Kaberamaido health outreaches respectively as detailed in Chapter 3. Since its inception in 2016, the organization mobilizes its funds from individuals who are either members or well-wishers for the development of Teso sub region. The Organization plans to acquire its own funds to comfortably be able to fund its activities.

Table 1: IWA-UG Strategic Framework

Goal		
To establish a social network to promote mutual support among Iteso as well as enhance their social and economic wellbeing wherever they are, and at all times		
Strategic Program Areas		
Health	Education	Agriculture
Objectives		
Promote health and wellbeing of Iteso community	Promote access to high quality and affordable education	Provide timely health education to school children and parents on nutrition
Activities		
Conducted community health outreaches Held health charity music concert	Designed the school gardening project	Designed the school gardening project
Activity Outcomes		
9,400 rural persons tested treated	22 rural primary schools targeted	22 rural primary targeted
Implementing partners sought		Acreage mapping already done
Mission		
To improve the wellbeing and living standards of the Iteso communities through the provision of high quality health, education, environmental, agricultural and economic interventions		

2. Program Delivery

2.1. Community Health Outreach Program

2.1.1. Overview

In the first six months from August 2018 to January 2019, IWA-UG conducted two community health outreaches in Serere (Kyere HC III) and Kaberamaido districts (Kaberamaido HC IV) on 8-9th August and 13-14th December respectively. The program provided fistula screening services, health education, deworming, HTS, child health and maternal health. Others were diagnosis of minor illnesses and treatment, immunization, General medical check-up, family planning services, ANC services, SMC services, cervical cancer screening, Hepatitis B screening and vaccination. We also conducted minor surgical procedures for the first time in Kaberamaido health outreach. This program was carried out in collaboration with the two DLG's, TASO, USAID RHITES E, Teso safe Motherhood, Rotary Club Soroti and TERREWODE. Table 2 provides a summary of these activities. Each health outreach was carried out for two days.

Highlights have been:

- Total number that turned up stood at about 9400
- 61% of these patients were females, making them the majority
- Positive feedback from the rural communities through interaction and media stories.
- Identified evidence on inadequate health education campaigns evidenced by their lack of knowledge on health issues like hygiene and sanitation.

The program was in response to the ailing health needs identified in rural communities in Teso sub region.

Table 2: A summary of the Community Health Outreach Program Information in the Last Six Months

ACTIVITY	Participants	Number Tested	Number Treated	+ve Cases
Health Education	9400			
Hepatitis B Screening	496	496		23
Immunization	43			
Malaria	381	381	59	59
Deworming	3400		3400	
HTS	431	431		30
SMC	44			
ANC	67			
Minor surgeries	16		16	
Family Planning	730			
Fistula screening	6	6	6	
Dental services	267		267	
Optical services	328			
Sickle cells	333	333		49
HBP Screening	310	310	310	150
Cervical Cancer Screening	434	434		4
Scanning	62	62	62	
STI's	402	402	300	300
UTI's	90	90	40	40
Diabetes	113	113	16	16

2.1.2. Participant Diversity

This community Health Outreach Program did feature participants from priority areas of Serere and Kaberamaido districts. Due to the unending need for health services, the program attracted participants from as far as Soroti, Ngora, Dokolo and Amolatar districts yet all we able to receive the much needed services with goodwill.

The turn-up from the neighbouring districts clearly exposed the immense gaps in our public health systems and the need for more funding and allocation of funds to services targeting rural health.

2.1.3. Participant Feedback

Participants we interacted at the completion of each outreach were very much positive about the program and applied for continued follow-up of patients. Feedback of individuals in media outlets also revealed high community commitment and support towards the program.

Participants have provided sustained positive feedback on community health outreach program. They largely recognise the program has been relevant to communities in hardly accessible areas and they have benefited from obtaining an understanding of the approaches taken by IWA-UG in specific areas. IWA-UG consistently receives feedback that a key benefit is opportunity to receive services unavailable in local communities hear from their peers in the programs, and to share their own experiences. Increased opportunities for participants to share information and to increase the opportunities for field activity are the suggested areas for improvement.



"I was at home and didn't get a chance to receive information about this outreach early not until my son who was returning from Serere town informed me that he had been told in Serere hospital that, IWA-UG would be carrying out a health outreach in Kyere Health Centre III on 9th-10th August 2018

I am so grateful to Iteso Welfare Association for bringing these free medical services closer to us. I wouldn't have managed to raise medical fees for me and my mother to receive treatment from a private facility. We have been thoroughly checked and supported with the required drugs to regain good health. We pray and hope that you continue coming here to treat us..I am much more grateful that IWA has supported us and we hope other organizations will emulate them."

Ms Florence Anyait

Beneficiary, Community Health Outreach Program, Serere, August 2018

2.1.4. Program Delivery for Feb- July 2019

In the coming six months, the program will still focus on delivering community health outreach services to the economically deprived communities of Soroti and Tororo districts. This will be done in collaboration with our implementing partners.

The organization plans to re-design the program in to school-health model. In this model, health programs will be designed for specific school communities targeting teachers, school going children and their parents. This model will also be aligned to parallel school gardening initiatives specifically designed for the same schools to reduce short term hunger and malnutrition among school going children and the nearby communities. This model gives the organization an opportunity to carry out effective patient follow-up and tackle malnutrition among school going children.

The program will target treatment of common illnesses, health education (focusing on abstinence, hygiene and sanitation), guidance and counselling.

2.2. School Gardening Program

2.2.1. Overview

This Sub-section reviews the strides made in the implementation of the school gardening program and how best school feeding for enhanced student/ pupil nutrition can be achieved in a school-community model. It reports targeted beneficiaries per district and the plan for the future. It also briefly outlines the plans for the year 2019.

Highlights have been:

- 20 schools I identified for the school gardening program.
- School acreage for the program mapped.
- District Chief Administrative Officers notified.
- School head teachers have welcomed the program.
- Delivery of planting materials to selected schools will start in April.

The program was in response to the ailing food situation in the sub-region and the high levels of mal-nutrition in students/ pupils in rural schools.

Despite the selection being done, delivery of planting materials to these schools couldn't be achieved by August 2018 due to climatic bottlenecks. We therefore believe and hope this delivery will be done from April- August/September 2019.

Table 3: A summary of information on the school gardening in Teso Sub-region

School	District	Acreage	Crops
Odoom Primary School	Katakwi	5	Cassava
Ongatunyo Primary School	Katakwi	12	Cassava
Ongongoja Secondary School			
Asamuk Primary School	Amuria	100	Cassava, Sweet Potatoes
Orungo High School	Amuria	250	Cassava, Sweet Potatoes
Olobai Primary School	Kapelebyong	5	Cassava
Acowa Primary School	Kapelebyong	8	Cassava
Opuyo Primary School	Soroti	5	Cassava, Sweet Potatoes
Odudui Primary School	Soroti	5	Cassava, Sweet Potatoes
Kalaki Primary School	Kaberamaido	10	Cassava
Kobulubulu Primary School	Kaberamaido	12	Cassava
Olobai-Kasilo Primary School	Serere	5	Sweet Potatoes
Kanyangan Primary School	Serere	8	Sweet Potatoes
Kapir Primary School	Ngora	8	Cassava, Sweet Potatoes
Moru-kakise Primary School	Ngora	5	Cassava
Mukongoro Rock H/S	Kumi	2	Cassava
Aligoi Primary School	Bukedea	4	Cassava
Kongunga Primary School	Bukedea	6	Cassava, Sweet Potatoes
Agurur Primary School	Pallisa	4	Sweet Potatoes
Odusai Primary School	Pallisa	5	Sweet Potatoes

2.2.2. Participant Diversity

The selected cover the 10 districts of Teso Sub region comprising Katakwi, Amuria, Soroti, Serere, Ngora, Kaberamaido, Bukedea, Pallisa, Kumi and the newly created Kapelebyong

district. This kind of selection will ensure that the program covers a wide area and these food technologies can be spread to wide areas

Due to the fact that districts in Teso Sub region face the similar food security scenarios, it was necessary to adopt an inclusive and diverse approach to food technology transfer. School gardening therefore offers that one avenue where local communities are brought to work together to achieve a common interest.

2.2.3. Program Delivery for Feb-July 2019

The organization will aim at delivering new crop technologies to the 22 selected schools across Teso sub region. The new technologies will include orange fleshed sweet potatoes, pumpkins, water melon and improved cassava varieties. This program right from material delivery will involve teachers, pupils and their parents. This is aimed at ensuring effective crop technology transfer from the selected schools to the local communities.

The program will aim at mentoring young farmers to understand hands-on agricultural practices and adopt them for their own agricultural initiatives after school. This program will also offer university agricultural students with an opportunity to conduct agricultural farm lessons and provide agricultural extension services. These selected schools therefore will act as demonstration farms.

3. Organization Operations

3.1 Staff and contractors

The management and operations of the organization have been supported with 1 active staff and a team of committee volunteers. Of these, the active staff sits at the head office. Out of total staffing, the team of committee volunteers supplements program delivery. Casual staff and district health and agricultural teams supplement the core team as needed for program delivery.

During the implementation period, IWA-UG engaged TASO, USAID RHITES E, TERREWODE, Teso Safe Motherhood, Rotary Club Soroti, EUWS and the various district local governments to provide logistical and in-kind support for participants and communities in IWA-UG activities. IWA-UG activities parallel similar arrangements existing within some of these partner organizations. Therefore, their participation in these activities aids meeting some of their objectives.

3.2 Governance and reporting

Governance of the Organization is via the Board of Trustees assisted by committee Heads. The management plans to establish long term memoranda of Understanding with partner organizations to build long term partnerships and easily deliver the much need services to communities. Regular discussions have continued between IWA-UG and the relevant organizations to support program direction and communication. Frequent communication between the IWA-UG team and TASO will continue to take place to secure their commitment in providing HTS, TB testing and treatment, Counseling and SMC services to participants in all the planned Community Health Outreaches. Teso Safe Motherhood and TERREWODE Programs continued to rotate around women health. IWA-UG always submits her activity reports to the partner organizations and her registered members to ensure fulfillment of transparency and accountability requirements.

In addition to the activity reports provided to partner organizations like TASO, Teso Safe Motherhood, IWA-UG through the secretariat provides frequent reports to registered members and other stakeholders.

4. Challenges, Opportunities and Conclusion

This chapter identifies some key challenges and opportunities IWA-UG has identified in the reporting period that are to receive particular attention during the next six months.

4.1. Challenges Faced

This sub-section explains the challenges the organization has faced in the last six months in meeting her objectives;

4.1.1. Participant Management

An on-going challenge for IWA-UG is arrangement of logistics for, and management of participants in all the community and organization based activities. This would ease the facilitation of volunteers while carrying out activities for the organization. The Organization has implemented new arrangements partner organisations during the activity implementation period for community based initiatives but even these arrangements do not protect the organization from the huge labour costs. IWA-UG will continue to monitor the effectiveness of arrangements in this regard.

4.1.2. Permanent Staffing

The organization still faces a challenge of limited staffing. Many of the participants are committee volunteers who have sacrificed their time and effort to deliver services to economically deprived communities in Teso Sub region. Recruiting permanent staff to carry on the organization's planned activities would go a long way in ensuring effectiveness and maximum efficiency.

4.1.3. Grants

The organization as for now hasn't been successful in securing grants for its planned activities. Funding has been coming mainly from individual member contributions and organization's well-wishers. This has in one way or the other led to delays in activity implementation. It has also brought in a sense of entitlement from politicians who always want to dictate on program direction. Securing funding will ensure timely activity implementation and a high degree of organizational independence.

4.2. Opportunities.

4.2.1. Alignment with Government Policy

IWA-UG's role and activities align very well with the Government's health, agricultural, educational and economic policies and aim at aiding the country's development agenda. For many developing countries, community health and agriculture offers a rapid pathway to economic growth and poverty alleviation.

IWA-UG has experienced a period of policy uncertainty and adjustment. The Organization has maintained its program as planned while contingency planning around potential changes to the health program design will be looked at in the next six months.

During the integration of the health and educational program, IWA-UG will continue to prioritize local communities.

4.2.2. Planning for Program Transition

The Board of Trustees has approved a plan to manage the transition of IWA-UG activities to any follow-on phase to manage closure. This includes measures to wind down the Community Health Outreach activities and adopt the school-health model, sustain the Membership network and hand-over records and systems.

4.2.3. Effective Member Engagement

There is need to involve registered members and mobilize new members more in to the activities of the organization and keep them informed. This will help the organization in networking for

opportunities and partnerships. This will help the organization grow and grow local communities in to reasonable and sustainable initiatives suggested by various members.

4.2.4. Long-term Partnerships

The organization plans to establish long-term partnerships with different Non-government Organizations to ensure effective program delivery. Long-term partnerships will also contribute to peaceful, well-governed and secure societies, and stable operating environments, collective sharing of values that underpin economically and socially successful societies, Empowering marginalised groups and reducing inequality, and contributes to peaceful, well-governed and secure societies, and stable operating environments.

4.3. Conclusion

IWA-UG will carry on its activities for the last six months in to the next month. The Organization will also re-design its health program to suit in to school environments while working on an ambitious approach to realise sustainable results to aid her meeting her goal of establishing a social network to promote mutual support among Iteso as well as enhance their social and economic wellbeing wherever they will be.