



**RESCUE WIDOWS, ELDERLY, YOUTH AND
ORPHANS WITH AIDS
(RWEYOWA)**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2008/2009**

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Foreword from the Executive Director



Our partners, friends and well wishers, I am most obliged to present to you the RWEYOWA Annual Report for the implementation year 2008/2009.

RWEYOWA continued to implement its interventions in line with its mission of curbing the further spread of HIV/AIDS and improving the livelihoods of those affected/infected with the virus in the community.

This report will provide an overview of our progress, our remarkable achievements, our continued challenges, and a future plans for RWEYOWA programs.

We have registered substantial progress and our successes are absolutely a direct result of our partner organizations, donors, friends and the commitment of the RWEYOWA staff members.

I also wish to acknowledge the role of the Board of Directors in steering the organization in the endeavor to realize our mission.

We have entered the new implementation year with a lot of confidence to implement the challenging interventions aimed at reducing the continuing spread of HIV/AIDS and improving the livelihoods of increased number of people affected/infected with the virus in the community.

However, we continue to call upon all stakeholders to join hands with us because it is through partnership we can make a difference.

May God bless you!

Kasamba Ronald
Executive Director

Message from the Program Director



This is the third Annual Report to be produced by RWEYOWA since its registration in 2006. RWEYOWA has been implementing HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support activities in Ssabagabo Makindye Sub-county and Wakiso District at large.

During this implementation year under review, RWEYOWA registered several achievements in its effort to curb the further spread of HIV/AIDS and improve the livelihoods of those affected/infected with HIV/AIDS in the community.

A resource centre/library has been established and is booming with the support from Book Aid International, Children International and the National Library of Uganda. It is the only community resource centre/library in our local area and is stocked with a wide range of information on HIV/AIDS and other related health issues, textbooks, and works of fiction and non-fiction. The resource centre is serving not only local students, but also the community at large as well as the RWEYOWA staff.

The official website of RWEYOWA was also launched in this implementation year, and this has helped to extend the awareness of the organization's activities well beyond Uganda's borders.

RWEYOWA started hosting international volunteers in this implementation year under review. This has strengthened the implementation of some of the organization's interventions especially the community outreach, voluntary counseling and testing for HIV and orphan support activities.

We also introduced an HIV/AIDS Counseling Training Course. This was established in an effort to address the persistent shortage of qualified counselors available to implement the voluntary HIV testing and counseling clinics. As demand for this service continues to increase, the recruitment and training of additional counselors was a critical need.

RWEYOWA could not have had the successful year marked with so many milestones were in not for the steady support of our partner organizations, donors, friends and the commitment of RWEYOWA staff as detailed in this report. Without this, the registered achievements would not have been possible.

We look forward to continued partnership any many more successful years for RWEYOWA.

Ssekibuule Wilson
Program Director

Executive Summary

Introduction

Rescue Widows, Elderly, Youth and Orphans with AIDS (RWEYOWA) is a community-based organization registered with the Directorate of Community Based Service Department of Wakiso District in May 2006. It is an organization that provides HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services in the community. These services include: comprehensive HIV/AIDS awareness and sensitization; voluntary counseling and testing for HIV; community outreach; vocational skills training; condom promotion, education and distribution; and orphan sponsorship.

The mission of RWEYOWA is to curb the further spread of HIV/AIDS and improve the livelihoods of those affected/infected with HIV/AIDS in the community. This report chronicles the performance of the programmatic interventions from May 2008 to April 2009.

Achievements of the year

HIV Prevention

- Approximately 2,844 young people (both school-going and not school-going) have been reached with information concerning HIV/AIDS prevention and adolescent sexual and reproductive health.
- About 1,284 people have accessed condoms free of charge. This brings the cumulative total to 2,610 people who have accessed condoms since the program began in January 2007.
- A total of 1,260 people have accessed voluntary counseling and testing in this implementation year 2008/2009. This results in a cumulative total of 2,520 people who have accessed VCT since this activity commenced in 2006
- Through Information, Education and Communication (I.E.C) materials and seminars/workshops, about 894 adults have been reached with the messages of the importance of couples counseling and HIV testing, abstinence until marriage, faithfulness to one partner, condom use, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and immunization.

HIV/AIDS Care and Support

Provision of HIV/AIDS care and support aimed at improving the livelihood of the people affected/infected with HIV/AIDS in the community;

- About 124 people have been registered under RWEYOWA's community outreach program and are receiving material support in the form of food, clothing, treatment referrals and counseling. This service targets the people living with HIV/AIDS or those who are affected by the virus in some way. This includes but is not limited to widows, elderly individuals and orphans.
- 149 people have been referred to the partner health facilities (ex. Mildmay Uganda) for medication and the related health support.
- 24 girls who had dropped out of high school have been trained in tailoring, knitting and weaving in this implementation year 2008/2009.

- 18 orphans have been registered under the orphan sponsorship program and are accessing primary education. This brings the total to 44 orphans sponsored by RWEYOWA since this program commenced in 2007.

Training and Education

- Three RWEYOWA staff have been comprehensively trained in HIV/AIDS counseling, care and management by the close partner organization Mildmay Uganda
- Two RWEYOWA staff have been trained in proposal and report writing by the Centre for Disease Control (CDC)
- HIV/AIDS counseling training course has been established by RWEYOWA in February 2009 and 12 volunteers have been trained
- Three RWEYOWA staff members have been trained in organizational capacity building and management by The Global Community Transformation and Business Clinic Services

Capital Developments

- Acquired additional office space to facilitate the administration and implementation of organizational programs and services
- RWEYOWA's web site was launched and has increased its partnership with many international entities
- Successful recruitment of a long-term international volunteer has elicited new organizational ideas and increased RWEYOWA's capacity to perform its activities
- A resource centre (community library) was established to benefit all people of all education levels in the community including RWEYOWA staff members
- Two bicycles were generously donated by Mildmay Uganda to facilitate the community outreach programs

Public Relations

- RWEYOWA has created and strengthened its partnership with a number of organizations, institutions, schools and local government entities
- The department coordinated the promotion of RWEYOWA's public image through distribution of information leaflets, radio talk shows and exhibitions
- A total of 129 visitors from Uganda and outside were hosted during in the year 2008/2009.

Background

RWEYOWA started in 2003 and was officially registered in May 2006. It was formed for five main objectives:

- To establish care and support activities/projects to improve the lives of those affected/infected with HIV/AIDS
- To prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS and other STDs among people of all ages through the ABC strategy (Abstinence, Being Faithful, Use a Condom)
- To promote adolescent and sexual reproductive health of young people in the community
- To advocate for equality, respect, and protection of all those infected /affected by HIV/AIDS
- To promote coordination/cooperation through mobilization, information sharing and expertise with other partner organization in the struggle against HIV/AIDS



RWEYOWA office in Namasuba

Since its inception, RWEYOWA has been implementing core interventions like community outreach, comprehensive HIV/AIDS awareness and sensitization/education, voluntary counseling and testing for HIV, vocational skills training, condom promotion and distribution to at-risk populations, and orphan support activities.

Mission Statement

RWEYOWA exists to curb the further spread of HIV/AIDS and improve the livelihoods of those affected/infected with HIV/AIDS in the community. This is through the provision of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services.

HIV/AIDS Prevention program

Comprehensive HIV/AIDS awareness and sensitization/education

Through the HIV/AIDS prevention program, RWEYOWA has continued to sensitize people of all age groups about effective means of preventing the further spread of HIV.



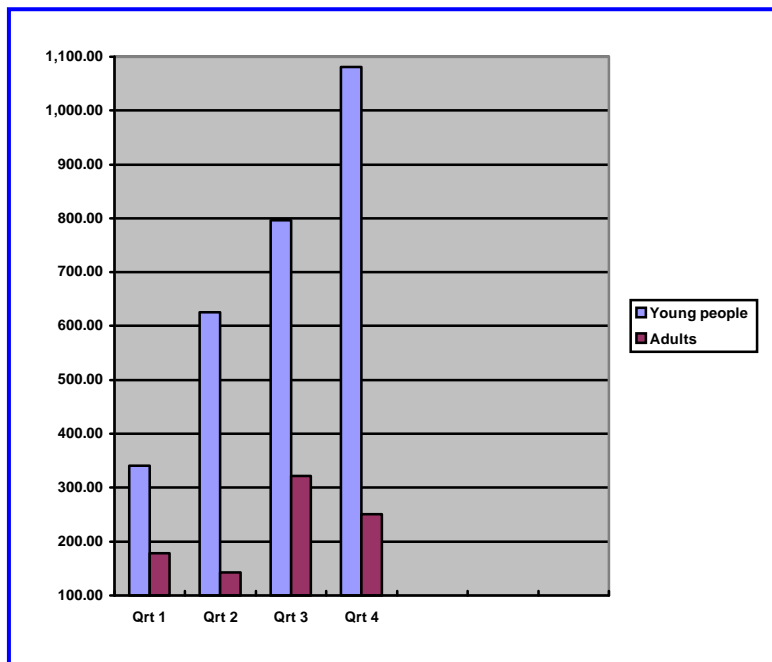
Between May 2008 and April 2009, a total of 2,844 children under the age of 18 have been sensitized about HIV/AIDS prevention. Of these, 75% are currently attending school, while 25% are not in school. With the support of Straight Talk Foundation and Young Empowered and Healthy (Y.E.A.H), each child (participant) received literature specifically designed to communicate difficult and sensitive information to a young audience during the sensitization sessions.

A RWEYOWA peer educator during a Sensitization session at a local school

RWEYOWA also received a projector from Mildmay Uganda to enhance the sensitization activities.

About 894 adults (above 18years) have also been reached with the HIV/AIDS prevention messages under the comprehensive HIV/AIDS awareness and sensitization activities. These include married and unmarried individuals. This has been possible through sensitization seminars and distribution of information, education and communication materials,

Fig 1: The total number of young people and adults reached with HIV/AIDS prevention messages



Voluntary Counseling and Testing for HIV

Voluntary counseling and testing for HIV (VCT) is yet another of RWEYOWA's interventions during the course of the year 2008/2009. About 1,260 people have been able to know their HIV status free of charge. Of the total number tested, 57.1% were female and 42.9% male. Adults (those 18 years and older) constitute 73.7% of the total number of people tested. 87 people were found to test positive for HIV resulting in an overall infection rate among our clients to be 6.9%. Of those testing positive, 93.2% were adults 18 years and older and 63.6% were women.

RWEYOWA has been running this activity in close collaboration with partner organizations especially Mildmay Uganda and Bunamwaya Teenage Centre (BUTEC). At the beginning of the calendar year 2009, RWEYOWA launched a new program whereby VCTs were conducted at RWEYOWA offices in Namasuba. Other sessions have been carried out in different communities of Ssabagabo Makindye Sub-county. Areas outside Ssabagabo have also accessed this service on request. We look forward to acquiring enough testing kits to respond to all requests for VCT in the community



Voluntary counseling and testing session in Busukuma

Condom Promotion and Distribution

Condoms have been distributed among the most at risk populations especially the long distance truck drivers, Boda-boda cyclists, sex workers, discordant couples among others. About 1,284 people have received condoms from RWEYOWA during the course of this implementation year 2008/2009. Of those receiving condoms, 33.6% were women and 66.4% men. Correct and consistent use of condoms has been emphasized while giving out condoms to the beneficiaries. The distribution of condoms has been carried out from RWEYOWA office, in the trading centers, during the voluntary counseling and testing sessions and sensitization seminars. The Ministry of Health has been providing RWEYOWA with condoms tested to provide quality assurance.

Fig 3: No. of people accessing condoms in 2008/2009



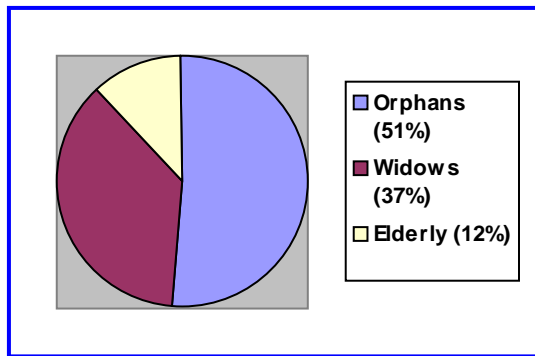
Boda-boda cyclists being sensitized on condom use in Busabala

Qrt	Male	Female	Total
Qrt 1	94	53	147
Qrt 2	125	58	183
Qrt 3	167	79	246
Qrt 4	135	73	208
Total	521	263	784

HIV/AIDS Care and Support Community Outreach

This activity has been running with the objective of providing welfare services to those living with HIV/AIDS, widows, elderly and orphans affected/infected with HIV/AIDS in the community. In this implementation period, the widows, elderly, and orphans affected/infected with the virus were the project's first priority. The community outreach team has been visiting these targeted individuals in their respective households/homes. About 124 beneficiaries received support in form of food, clothes, mosquito nets and emotional support (counseling). In addition, 149 beneficiaries were referred to the partner health facilities, especially Mildmay Uganda, for treatment and other related medical services. This project has benefited people from Busabala and Masajja parishes but is ultimately aims to cover the entire sub-county depending on the availability of resources.

Fig 2: Vulnerable people under RWEYOWA's Community Outreach Program



Reaching out to RWEYOWA clients through community outreach

Orphan sponsorship program

RWEYOWA has continued to provide sponsorship in the endeavor to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable orphans affected/infected with HIV/AIDS in the community. This is as a result of the wonderful partnership with the local primary schools which provide RWEYOWA with full and half bursaries for orphans to access primary education. These schools include Namasuba Parents' School, Born to Win Primary School, St. John Primary School and Step Up Primary School. In this calendar year 2009, some of the orphans under RWEYOWA's sponsorship program will sit their primary leaving examinations.



Program Director with some of RWEYOWA's sponsored orphans at Namasuba Parents' School

Vocational Skills Training

This has been the most challenging activity in the year 2008/2009. It is because of the great deal of material, financial and human resources required. RWEYOWA has been able to run training



in tailoring, knitting, weaving and crafts specifically targeting female youth who have dropped out of school as a result of the death of their parents to HIV/AIDS. In this implementation year, training in carpentry and joinery has not been carried out for the male youth due to resource constraints. However, the vocational skills training has benefited 24 female youth and this makes a cumulative total of 77 female youth benefited from this project since its inception in 2007.

Orphans undergoing training in knitting

Education and Training

The education and training is aimed at ensuring increased efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the organization's programs.

Staff Empowerment/Development

RWEYOWA supports staff development by encouraging them to access training and education courses offered by the partner institutions/organizations. During this implementation year under review, Mildmay Uganda trained three of RWEYOWA staff members in the area of comprehensive counseling, care and management of the people living with HIV/AIDS. This has resulted in improved service delivery as far as care and support for the people living with HIV/AIDS in the community are concerned. In addition, two of RWEYOWA staff members were trained in proposal writing, resource mobilization and management by Centre for Disease Control and organization capacity building course by The Global Community Transformation. This has improved RWEYOWA's capacity to mobilize resources, helped to enhance record/bookkeeping and further developed project management skills.

HIV/AIDS Counseling Training

Toward the end of this implementation year under review, RWEYOWA introduced HIV/AIDS counseling training. This was established in an effort to address the persistent shortage of qualified counselors available to implement the voluntary HIV testing and counseling clinics. As demand for this service continues to increase, the recruitment and training of additional



counselors was a critical need. By the end of April 2009, 12 volunteers had completed the HIV/AIDS counseling training organized by RWEYOWA. All participants were recruited from RWEYOWA's geographical area of operation, Ssabagabo Makindye sub-county (Wakiso District). These trainees now serve as part-time RWEYOWA volunteers.

Volunteers trained by RWEYOWA in HIV/AIDS counseling

Resources

This department provides the financial, material/physical and technical support to enable the implementation of the organization activities.

Finance

The bookkeeping and financial management system in general was revised during this implementation year 2008/2009. This was through the introduction of the monthly internal auditing, in which all RWEYOWA's monthly earnings and expenditures are reviewed for purposes of accountability. The expansion of office space with support from Philip (international volunteer) has ensured effective record/bookkeeping.

Human Resource

RWEYOWA has continued to host international volunteers in this implementation year 2008/2009. The most competent outstanding volunteer was Philip Nelson from UK, who was involved in almost all RWEYOWA interventions including community outreach, voluntary counseling and testing, comprehensive HIV/AIDS awareness and sensitization, immunization, resource mobilization and organization capacity building. All RWEYOWA staff members received the official identification and business cards for easy official recognition and the smooth running of the community activities.



*A volunteer (Philip Nelson) with
A lab personnel at work*

Information and Public Relations

In this implementation year under review, RWEYOWA launched its Web site: www.rweyowa.org and this was aimed at raising awareness about RWEYOWA's activities worldwide. A resource centre/library has been established and is booming with the support from Book Aid International, Children International and the National Library of Uganda. It is the only community resource centre/library in our local area and is stocked with a wide range of information on HIV/AIDS and other related health issues, textbooks, and works of fiction and non-fiction. The resource centre is serving not only local students, but also the community at large as well as the RWEYOWA staff.



*RWEYOWA staff making use of the
the resource centre/library*

RWEYOWA's public image has also been promoted through the distribution of information leaflets, radio talk-shows and exhibitions. A total of 129 visitors from Uganda and outside were hosted by RWEYOWA in this year 2008/2009.

Partnership with other sister organizations has been created and strengthened. This has ensured efficient and effective implementation of the organization interventions. RWEYOWA is proud of the existing fruitful relationship with Mildmay Uganda, Straight Talk Foundation, Young Empowered and Health (Y.E.A.H), Kyosiga Community Christian Association for Development



(KACCAD), Uganda Network of Aids Service Organizations (UNASO), Aids Information Center, Joint Clinical Research Center, and Bunamwaya Teenage Center among others. These partner organizations have provided material, financial and technical support to RWEYOWA for the implementation of its core interventions in the year 2008/2009.

RWEYOWA staff with the Directors of Mildmay Uganda during the Mildmay celebratngo of its 10th anniversary

Challenges

- Increased number of vulnerable people living with HIV/AIDS, including elderly, widows, youth and the orphans requesting support from RWEYOWA.
- Shortage of enough testing HIV kits/equipments to test an increased number of people
- Limited office space
- Transportation difficulties. RWEYOWA finds it difficult to offer services in the very remote areas of Busabala, Mutungo, Mutundwe among others because of poor means of transportation
- Lack of resources to run the vocational skill training activities
- Lack of data management equipment (i.e. computers)
- Lack of power supply to RWEYOWA office.

Planned Activities

- Continue with HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services
- Conduct a baseline survey/research concerning HIV/AIDS, adolescent and sexual reproductive health in schools of Ssabagabo Makindye sub-county
- Expansion of RWEYOWA office space and purchase of data management equipment
- Purchase of a vehicle to enable RWEYOWA services to reach more remote areas.
- Finding means of supplying power at the offices
- Installing/connection of internet at RWEYOWA office
- Creating and strengthening partnership/collaboration with other organizations and institutions to ensure increased efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery

Acknowledgements

With utmost gratitude, RWEYOWA is proud to give special recognition to all its partner organizations, donors, staff and the beneficiaries who played remarkable roles in the implementation of the organization core interventions. Without the following partner

organizations and donors, RWEYOWA's remarkable achievements would not have been realized in this implementation year under review:

- Mildmay Uganda
- Straight Talk Foundation
- Young Empowered and Health (Y.E.A.H)
- The Ministry of Health- Uganda
- Kyosiga Community Christian Association for Development (KACCAD)
- Roofings Ltd.
- Children's Aids Fund
- Aids Information Center (AIC)
- Joint Clinical Research Center (JCRC)
- Uganda Network of Aids Service Organizations
- Bunamwaya Teenage Center
- National Library of Uganda
- Book Aid International
- Namasuba College of Commerce
- The family of Philip Nelson UK
- Omega Healing Center
- Harvest Mission Church
- Namasuba Parents' School
- Born to Win Primary School
- St. John Primary School

The following people are acknowledged for their roles in the endeavor to help the organization realize its mission: Hon. Nakabaale Hassan (Sec. Office of the vice president), Mr. Senabulya Vincent (Chairman Finance Committee Wakiso District), Mr. Kiyaga John Bosco (Commissioner Buganda), Hon. Sengo Kalule (Former RDC Wakiso District), Philip Nelson (Volunteer UK), Hon. Kyazze Frank, Mr. Naika Paul, Mr. Were Ambrose, Mr. Ssemambo Charles among other well-wishers.

Above all, the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and the staff of RWEYOWA are acknowledged for their commitment and voluntary spirit, which has made the implementation of the organization interventions possible during the 2009-09 year.

Editorial team

Kasamba Ronald, Ssekibuule Wilson, Walusimbi Tonny, Philip Nelson, Namuli Hasifah, Dr. Damalie Bajunga and Sserunjogi Samuel.