



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2010/2011

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1. List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABC	Abstinence, Being faithful and Condom use
AIDS	Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
ARVs	Anti Retro-Virals (Drugs)
CAF	Children's AIDS Fund
CBO	Community-Based Organization
HCT	HIV Counseling and Testing
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KACCAD	Kyosiga Community Christian Association for Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PEPFAR	Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PHA	People living with HIV/AIDS
RWEYOWA	Rescue Widows, Elderly, Youth and Orphans with AIDS
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TB	Tuberculosis
UNASO	Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organizations
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
YEAH	Young, Empowered and Healthy

2. Foreword from the Executive Director



We exalt all those who have generously enabled us to realize the listed achievements in this document. You have enabled us to continue responding to the crying voices of HIV/AIDS-vulnerable people within our community and to restore joy to the lives of those orphaned and widowed by the virus.

For clients who have not made it through this year, we express our sorrow. May your souls rest in eternal peace and may the mercy of the Lord be upon us as we continue struggling to provide care and support to members of your families left behind.

I would like to also honor RWEYOWA volunteers both local and international for their great voluntary spirit and understanding during this implementation year.

It is safe to say that RWEYOWA's work in 2010/2011 was probably needed more than ever. We helped people affected/infected with AIDS to receive care and support at home including food, counseling etc, and also mobilized the community to help us provide HIV/AIDS services with the little resources we had.

I close by again expressing my pride and heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers who do everything with a loving spirit. I strongly invite all those who can support us with actions and kind words, with means and good ideas, and with social endeavor and/or experience to share to join us as we strive to continue to strengthen our work throughout the coming year.

May God bless you.

Kasamba Ronald
Executive Director

3. Message from the Program Director



The implementation year 2010/2011 marks yet another milestone for RWEYOWA programs as we report the tremendous progress made in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support.

The first quarter of this implementation year under review marked the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development enabling us to strengthen our formal partnership with the government of Uganda.

The acquisition of the donation of humanitarian aid (40ft container) from Crossroads Foundation in Hong Kong was RWEYOWA's most remarkable achievement of the year 2010/2011

This year also saw RWEYOWA partnering with Uganda Cares (through signing a Memorandum of Understanding) to implement the "Test and Treat Campaign 2010". This enabled us to conduct more HIV Counseling and Testing outreaches in the community. In the course of this year, RWEYOWA conducted eighteen HIV Counseling and Testing outreaches in Wakiso and Kampala districts enabling at least 3,218 people to know their HIV status free of charge.

We are also delighted that our community outreach program expanded to benefit 174 clients (i.e. HIV/AIDS patients, widows, elderly and orphans affected/infected with the virus). RWEYOWA also continued to provide comprehensive HIV/AIDS sensitization in schools; in the course of this year under review, we reached 2,741 young people/youths. In addition to programmatic outputs, we also continued with our international volunteer placement program; RWEYOWA hosted a total of six international volunteers from the USA. This has increased RWEYOWA's financial and human resource capacity to better serve the community.

Overall, 2010/2011 was a wonderful year for RWEYOWA. The organization faced several challenges but these were outnumbered by its achievements. Full credit goes to RWEYOWA international and local donors, partner organizations/institutions, the government of Uganda, staff/volunteers, clients and all other stakeholders whose support and commitment has made RWEYOWA what it is.

Through partnership we can make a difference!

Ssekibuule Wilson
Program Director

4. Overview

From its home in Namasuba in the Wakiso District of Uganda, RWEYOWA has ascended to new heights as an organization, continuing to provide our unique approach to HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and comprehensive support in our community. This report chronicles and sheds light on our core interventions and progress through the 2010-2011 implementation year (May 2010 – April 2011), RWEYOWA's fifth year in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Uganda.

The past year has proven to be a remarkable journey for RWEYOWA's staff, volunteers, patients, and community. Still emerging from the nascent stages of its life as a registered NGO in Uganda, RWEYOWA has solidified its reputation throughout the two districts of Wakiso and Kampala as a trusted source of information, clinical care and comprehensive support to combat the HIV epidemic.

It is that very trust that puts RWEYOWA in such an ideal position to make a considerable impact in the fight against HIV/AIDS in our community. The respect commanded by our staff and volunteers ensures the efficacy of our services. Community members take our prevention information very seriously, recognize the validity of our clinical services, and perhaps most importantly, facilitate the reduction of the stigma attached to HIV through discussion and routine testing, so that all members of the community are aware of their status and the status of others.

Since expanding to become a registered NGO in 2009, RWEYOWA has made great efforts to expand its base of local partnerships, which prove invaluable to both our day-to-day operations and special events. Following the recent local elections, local members of parliament have joined our burgeoning list of partners and have provided support that has enabled us to provide their communities with only the most top quality assistance and attention.

Throughout our implementation year, RWEYOWA also had the pleasure of hosting even more international volunteers as part of our Volunteer Placement Program. These individuals helped RWEYOWA take substantial and imperative leaps towards a sustainable future for our operations. With their assistance, we have begun laying extensive groundwork for income-generating activities and vocational training projects that will not only sustain RWEYOWA's operations, but will serve to truly empower the remarkable patients under our care to lift themselves out of unlivable conditions and be revered as valuable members of our community.

5. Background

Mission Statement: RWEYOWA exists to curb the further spread of HIV/AIDS and improve the livelihoods of those affected/infected with the virus in the community.

The RWEYOWA Vision: We envision a community accessing HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services in the most prosperous and sustainable way possible.

RWEYOWA's Operational Principles:

- Principle of practical involvement and participation of beneficiaries in the identification of key areas of operation and possible solutions in tackling issues associated with HIV/AIDS
- Principle of non-political and non-partisan operating environment
- Principles of non-discrimination, confidentiality, adaptation, responsibility and partnership

Established in 2003, RWEYOWA began as a small non-profit organization aimed at alleviating the plight of the victims of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Uganda, specifically in our community of Makindye-Ssabagabo Sub-County in Wakiso District. By May 2006, the small group of visionary youths who founded the organization had already achieved a considerable amount of progress in the community, and had officially registered as a community-based organization (CBO).

In October 2009, RWEYOWA registered with the National Board of Non-Governmental Organizations as a certified NGO (Reg. No. S.5914/8248), and expanded its geographical area of operation to cover both Wakiso and Kampala districts.

RWEYOWA was founded on 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 improve coordination and cooperation with other partner organizations through mobilization, information sharing, and expertise in the struggle against HIV/AIDS

What does RWEYOWA do?

Since achieving NGO status, RWEYOWA has continued to implement successful HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support interventions. These include:

- Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Sensitization
- Voluntary counseling and testing for HIV
- Condom promotion and supply
- Community outreach services
- Orphan support and sponsorship
- And many others!

6. RWEYOWA and Crossroads Foundation

One of RWEYOWA's most remarkable achievements this year was the acquisition of an enormous donation of humanitarian aid from Crossroads Foundation in Hong Kong. The donation was granted to RWEYOWA in December 2010, promising items such as:

- Clothing (children's and adults) & footwear
- Bed frames, mattresses and blankets
- Vocational training equipment (sewing machines, craft kits, etc.)
- Classroom supplies and textbooks
- Office furniture/supplies

These donations, delivered to RWEYOWA towards the end of the 2010-2011 year currently under review, have already brought an extraordinary amount of assistance and inspiration to our community. The mere process of acquiring the donations (a feat in its own right!) was one that brought the entire community together. From in-kind donations of the use of cranes and trucks, to clearing the land in Namasuba for the transport container to rest, to the dozens of men, women, and youth that helped in the process of unloading the donated goods and conducting detailed inventory, it seems that everyone was eager to bring such a wonderful supply of aid to our community.



Some of the donated items from Crossroads Foundation

These donations have begun to be incorporated into our Community Outreach, Orphan Sponsorship, and HIV Sensitization programs, all of which will be discussed in later sections. As for the behemoth 40-foot transport container itself, RWEYOWA has officially begun transforming the steel container into a partitioned, ventilated and

electricity-ready office and Community Outreach Center. Projected to be completed by December 2011, the new facilities will serve as a more cost-efficient office for RWEYOWA's clients to visit, as well as a Vocational Training Center for our upcoming implementation of a training program for community-based income-generating projects aimed at empowering the community on a sustainable basis.

7. HIV/AIDS Care and Support Programs

As the global economy has continued to struggle, several local organizations providing care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS (PHA) must continuously turn away potential clientele due to a lack of resources. RWEYOWA is proud to offer its services to those who would otherwise have nowhere left to turn, at no cost to the client and at very minimal cost to the organization. Over the past year, this program has expanded to accommodate 64 families throughout our districts, comprised of 174 individuals: 98 orphans/vulnerable children (OVC), 32 elderly, 12 men, 26 widows, and 6 youth between 8-24 years of age.

7.1. Community Outreach

Through the course of the 2010-2011 operating year, RWEYOWA has continued to provide trusted, life-saving support services to our client base throughout the Kampala and Wakiso districts. Our growing Community Outreach program, in effect since 2006, provides home visits and home-based care to our clients who cannot travel to our offices in Namasuba.



Client receiving food under the
RWEYOWA Community Outreach

RWEYOWA makes weekly visits to the people affected/infected with HIV/AIDS under our care in order to provide routine health checks for opportunistic infections, assistance with necessary medications, and imperative psychosocial support and counseling for the PHA and the families that care for them. Additionally, we provide these clients with stocks of basic necessities such as foodstuffs, clean water and clothing.

Until the 2010-2011 implementation year, RWEYOWA had only been able to travel to the homes of these patients on a semi-regular basis, as our staff is not large enough to pay visits to all of our clientele every week. However, this year, an invaluable partnership with the Honorable Kikungwe Issa, Member of Parliament for Kyaddondo South Constituency, secured the availability of a local community car (pickup) and driver whenever RWEYOWA's patients needed more specialized attention. As a result of this

development and the help of our most recent volunteers, RWEYOWA has been able to provide life-saving interventions in the lives of several of our patients.



RWEYOWA community outreach team taking a client for medication

Though not comfortable for our work, the continued use of this community car is of no cost to RWEYOWA, allowing us to use our limited resources on the essential upkeep of our stock of medical equipment, medicine and foodstuffs. Regardless of problems of availability of transportation and supplies, our Community Outreach program is among our most cost-effective operations, able to continue in any financial situation. It is also the program that we seek to expand the most, as will be discussed later in our 2011-2012 agenda.

7.2. Family Empowerment Project

This year under review marked the implementation of the Family Empowerment Project with a mission of facilitating the economic independence of vulnerable individuals and families affected/infected with HIV/AIDS in the community; by providing them with the capital necessary to raise small livestock at home for sustainable subsistence and income.



Clients receiving livestock (chickens) under the Family Empowerment Project

As a special pilot project under the auspices of the Community Outreach program, the Family Empowerment Project was designed to provide some of our vulnerable clients with the basic capital necessary to earn an income at home by tending small livestock that do not require intensive care. Selected clients/families were given choice of either chickens or piglets to raise, based upon their personal interests and capabilities. A total of fourteen (14) families benefited from this project. Nine (9) of these were supplied with four (4) laying hens each, large nesting baskets, feeds and appropriate chicken medications; five (5) families received a piglet each, a basic structure in which to keep it, feeds and appropriate medication. Upon delivery of supplies, RWEYOWA personnel counseled clients on how to care for their animals in order to keep them healthy and productive, as well as how to save money over time to continue purchasing feed and eventually expanding their income-generating activities as they are able.

These home-based sources of food and income empowered clients to take an active role in their own welfare by overcoming the costs of capital investment and allowing them to immediately reap the benefits of a small business venture. The proceeds from these income-generating activities provide these families with a degree of financial independence they desperately needed. Many thanks go to our past international volunteer Rieti Gengo who spearheaded the project design, fundraising, and implementation.

7.3 Orphan Support and Sponsorship

One of RWEYOWA's most cherished and far-reaching interventions is our Orphan Support and Sponsorship program. Thanks to the efforts of our staff and the dedicated sponsors paired with our orphans, RWEYOWA has been successful in setting up regular sponsorship for 44 orphans throughout the Wakiso and Kampala districts. Of these, 12 have international sponsors and are given strict and comprehensive care to keep them healthy, happy, and ready to learn. 32 others are under the scholarship/bursary scheme established by RWEYOWA with local schools in the community. We extend our thanks to our past international volunteers and our local partner schools who have made the RWEYOWA Orphan Sponsorship program a success during this implementation year under review. We strongly believe that "education is the best gift to a vulnerable orphan". However, there is an overwhelming number of orphans in need of educational support and we call up on more local schools and international sponsors for support.

8. HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs

RWEYOWA fully recognizes the fact that the key to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic once and for all is through prevention. This is why, in addition to our care and support programs, we have continued to provide current, accurate and trusted HIV/AIDS Sensitization in local primary schools and throughout the community. These are supplemented by our Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) days with the help of our partner organizations.

8.1 Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Sensitization

As part of our prevention initiative in the area, RWEYOWA has been conducting HIV/AIDS Sensitization sessions in local primary, secondary, and higher education institutions since 2006. The past year has brought an enormous increase in the numbers of schools, and thus youth, that RWEYOWA has been able to educate with accurate HIV information. Our general curriculum covers such topics as: Life skills, Puberty and virginity, Healthy living, HIV transmission scenarios (Sex, Blood-to-Blood, Mother-to-Child), STDs and pregnancy, The ABC Method (Abstinence, Being faithful, and using a Condom), Caring for HIV-positive individuals, Stigma-reducing & myth-busting exercises, etc.



Comprehensive HIV/AIDS sensitization/education in progress

To date, RWEYOWA has reached 2,746 youth aged 9-22 at over 100 schools in the Wakiso and Kampala districts. Our approach is one of mutual understanding bred through open discussion of the aforementioned issues, rather than limiting ourselves and the youth with which we engage to mere lecture formats. Questions are posed both candidly in the classroom and written down anonymously to facilitate a sharing of knowledge free of the hindrances of embarrassment. Many thanks to Straight Talk Foundation for providing RWEYOWA with reading materials (Information, Education and Communication materials) about young people/youth and HIV/AIDS prevention.

8.2 Condom Promotion and Supply

In addition to academic settings, RWEYOWA continued to hit the streets this year to provide up-to-date information on HIV prevention and care for PHA to a wider base of community members. The Community Sensitization Program targets members of the community that may be at risk for transmission of HIV, including youth using recreational drugs, local public transport providers, shop-owners, and other interested parties. Through our partnership with the Uganda Cares and the Ministry of Health, RWEYOWA is provided with a running supply of condoms to distribute in these community sensitizations. The condoms are also available any time at our offices in Namasuba.



Condom sensitization and supply among the boda-boda riders

Our condom sensitization/promotion and supply coordinator leads these interventions, utilizing his exemplary knowledge and standing in the community. Assisted by international volunteers and local staff, demonstrations in proper condom use are provided to local men and women. These sensitization sessions have proven remarkably successful, in the past year averaging 120 individuals educated per day of sensitization.

8.3 Voluntary Counseling and Testing for HIV (VCT)

RWEYOWA stresses in all our endeavors that the only true way to know your HIV status is to get tested for HIV on a routine basis (every 3 months). We have been able to facilitate this process for our community by providing Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) services.



This service promotes behavioral change in case of HIV-negative results, whereas once tested and

found positive, individuals can then receive support from RWEYOWA's outreach services and referrals to partner health centers/hospitals for free HIV/AIDS treatment services.



People lining up for free HIV counseling and testing

We conducted 18 HIV Counseling and Testing outreaches during this implementation year under review, and at least 3,218 people were able to know their HIV status. This has been possible as a result of our fruitful partnership with Uganda Cares, especially during the implementation of the “Test and Treat Campaign 2010”.

Clients reached during RWEYOWA’s HIV VCT outreaches in 2010/2011:

	Male (adults)	Female (adults)	Male (below 18 yrs)	Female (below 18 yrs)	Total
Negative	1,331	1,150	219	341	3,041
Positive	74	79	9	15	177
Total	1,405	1,229	228	356	3,218
No. of couples tested:					54
No. of discordant couples:					11
Total number of positive clients referred for care/treatment:					177
Overall infection rate among those tested during the year 2010/2011:					5.5%

9. International Volunteer Placement Program

RWEYOWA’s International Volunteer Placement Program has been a remarkable and mutually beneficial way of adding to the depth and breadth of knowledge and resources at RWEYOWA’s disposal.

The volunteer program can be either short-term or long-term, with past placements ranging from two months to one year. Regardless of the time-frame, these volunteers have assisted in all of our day-to-day operations, facilitated the acquisition of supplies and monetary donations, and helped to expand our programs and create new innovations to help RWEYOWA better serve the community. In the past year, a total of six international volunteers were hosted:



Christina Hoffman
Texas, USA



Michelle Workowski
Wisconsin, USA



Alena Mack
California, USA



Rieti Gengo
North Carolina, USA

Devin Faris
California, USA

Bonnie Haskell
California, USA

2010/2011 International Volunteer Placement Timeline												
	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
Christina												
Alena												
Michelle												
Rieti												
Bonnie												
Devin												

Several of our past volunteers continue to work with RWEYOWA from abroad, hosting fundraisers and benefits for our operations and providing a continued base of volunteers from all over the world, as well as maintaining international partnerships and lining up sponsors for our Orphan Support Program.

10. Special Events and Community Health Activities

In addition to its core activities/programs, RWEYOWA carried out special events and other community health activities during the course of this implementation year. These included among others:

10.1. World AIDS Day 2010

RWEYOWA commemorated the International World AIDS Day 2010 in partnership with Uganda Cares under the Test and Treat Campaign project. The rationale of the Test and Treat Campaign 2010 was the need to promote access to free HIV counseling and



Some of RWEYOWA's Test and Treat Campaign team members

testing, and effective care/treatment in case of HIV positive results.

We conducted several HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing (HCT) outreaches through which over 1,400 people were able to know their HIV status. This campaign also promoted condom use in the community, through distributing free condoms to the most at-risk population especially discordant couple, boda-boda riders, long distance truckers etc.

10.2 Christmas Packages

RWEYOWA continued to end up the calendar year in its usual style of distributing Christmas packages to its clients under the community outreach program.



Clients receiving RWEYOWA's Christmas packages

All 64 families received Christmas packages which included; rice, sugar, bread, spaghetti and clothes. All beneficiaries were very happy to join the rest of the community in celebrating and enjoying Christmas. We would like to appreciate our past international volunteers (Christina Hoffman, Rieti Gengo and Philip Nelson) who mobilized the financial support for this activity to be a success.

11. RWEYOWA Resources

RWEYOWA continued to receive financial, material and technical support from international and local sources. During this implementation year under review, many of RWEYOWA's financial resources consisted of international donations from individuals and institutions in the USA and UK. Thanks go to our past international volunteers for their continued commitment regarding international fundraising for RWEYOWA.

More of the financial resources acquired during this year were allocated to RWEYOWA's direct/core interventions i.e. Voluntary Counseling and Testing for HIV, Community Outreach, and Orphan Support/sponsorship.

The RWEYOWA's financial management system was also strengthened; this year saw the contracting of **Sebira & Company Certified Public Accountants** to carry out the annual external audit and provide an independent opinion on RWEYOWA's books of accounts and financial statements. This has resulted in improvement in keeping proper accounting records which disclose the financial position of the organization.

RWEYOWA is looking forward to initiating sustainable projects which could provide returns to the organization to reduce dependency on donations.

12. Challenges

RWEYOWA continued to operate in the face of a number of challenges including among others:

- An overwhelming number of clients (people affected/infected with HIV/AIDS) in need of RWEYOWA support services in spite of limited resources.
- Lack of reliable transportation.
- Inadequate space at the RWEYOWA office for counseling services which require maximum confidentiality.

In spite of these challenges, RWEYOWA continued to offer great services, with strength to continue coming from the countless lives that it saves.

13. Planned Activities

While RWEYOWA's progress has been enormously beneficial to the surrounding community over the course of the past year, there is still much work to be done. In the 2011-2012 implementation year, RWEYOWA plans to:

- Develop, with the assistance of local partners, an income-generating project, run by RWEYOWA staff and clientele that will provide a sustainable source of income for our programs and office maintenance, and enable us to maintain a stock of proper medical and educational supplies.
- Extend our Community Sensitization Program to target women's groups, providing comprehensive sensitization of the risks of both sexual and mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, as well as advice for childcare and healthy living.
- Establish the RWEYOWA Community Medical Center that will provide free health/medical services to our clients
- Acquire a reliable vehicle to improve and facilitate our Community Outreach Program by allowing our staff to reach our most distant clients in a timely and routine manner.
- Expand the Family Empowerment Project to facilitate the economic independence of more vulnerable clients/families under RWEYOWA's community outreach program.
- Expand our International Volunteer Placement program with the aim to host a greater number of long-term volunteers to add to RWEYOWA's knowledge and efficiency in fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS.

14. Conclusion and How to Donate

The 2010/2011 year has been one of notable strides for RWEYOWA as a certified non-governmental organization. A great deal of work has been put in and much has been achieved despite several challenges.

RWEYOWA is looking forward to consolidating the achievements registered during the year under review and to implementing more innovative and sustainable projects in the coming implementation year 2011/2012.

RWEYOWA welcomes financial, material, and technical support locally and internationally. For international donations, please contact us using donations@rweyowa.org for more information.

15. Acknowledgements

RWEYOWA wishes to acknowledge and appreciate all partner organizations, individual donors, agencies and volunteers that made RWEYOWA's implementation year 2009/2010 a success. These include, among others:

- Crossroads Foundation, Hong Kong
- Uganda Cares
- Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
- Uganda Ministry of Health
- Mildmay Uganda
- Christina Hoffman, her family and friends, USA
- Philip Nelson, his family and friends, UK
- Rieti Gengo, his family and friends, USA
- Naeema Tharani, her family and friends, Canada
- Devin Faris, his family and friends, USA
- Bonnie Haskell, her family and friends, USA
- Michelle Workowski, her family and friends, USA
- Alena Mack, USA
- The Hon. Issa Kikungwe (Area Member of Parliament-Kyadondo South)
- Muko Investments
- DamCo
- Med Source, USA
- Viroqua Food Cooperation, USA
- Chippewa Valley Hospital, USA
- Kyosiga Community Christian Association for Development (KACCAD)
- Namasuba College of Commerce
- Straight Talk Foundation Uganda
- Young Empowered and Healthy (Y.E.A.H) Uganda
- Ndejje Health Center IV
- National Library of Uganda
- Book Aid International (BAI)
- St. John Primary School
- Namasuba Parents' School
- Born to Win Primary School
- Kawombe Memorial Secondary School
- Step Up Primary School

With our utmost gratitude, RWEYOWA wishes to acknowledge the key role played by the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and above all the staff and volunteers for their commitment and diligence that ensured outputs for this year. RWEYOWA looks forward to continued, fruitful collaboration with these partners.

Editorial Team

1. Kasamba Ronald - Executive Director
2. Walusimbi Tonny – Financial Coordinator
3. Ssekibuule Wilson - Program Director
4. Devin Faris – Special Programs Consultant
5. Bonnie Haskell – Special Programs Coordinator
6. Sam Weavers - Volunteer