

USAID UBAKA EJO “BUILD THE FUTURE”



Cooperative Agreement AID -696-A-12-00005

FIRST QUARTER PROGRAM REPORT

Reporting Period: October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

Submitted to:
PPC/CDIE/DI
USAID WASHINGTON
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

and

To:
Esperance Mukamana
Agreements Officer's
Technical Representative
USAID RWANDA

INTRODUCTION

African Evangelistic Enterprise (AEE) Rwanda was on September 12, 2012, greatly privileged to receive a three year award from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for an Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program known as USAID Ubaka Ejo “Build the future”.

The overall goal of the USAID Ubaka Ejo Program is to improve social and economic wellbeing of 18,000 orphans and vulnerable children and their families affected by HIV/AIDS, through a community- led program of sustainable care and support, in 9 districts of Rwanda namely: Gasabo, Nyarugenge, and Kicukiro of Kigali City, Kayonza, Gatsibo, Rwamagana and Bugesera of the Eastern Province, Nyamagabe of the Southern province and Rubavu of the Western Province. The program has two major results:

- (i) Increased access to a network of high-quality preventive, curative and social and education services at the household and community level for the most vulnerable and,
- (ii) Strengthened stability of families and communities through economic strengthening and improved agricultural services

This report highlights the main achievements of the first quarter of program implementation, which is from October 1 to December 31, 2012.

Major Achievements of the First Program Quarter

Program Start Up activities

- Staff recruitment
- Program start up workshop
- Procurement of Program equipment and furniture
- Identification and selection of program beneficiaries (OVC)

Activities done under result 1: Support Educational Needs for the OVC

- Procurement of school materials
- Storage and Transport of school materials
- Distribution of school materials

Activities done under result 2: Support to ISLGs and Cooperatives

- Follow up on existing 387 existing ISLGs and 5 Cooperatives

Program Start Up activities

Staff recruitment: As soon as AEE Rwanda received the award, the management recruited all the staff members that were needed for the implementation of program activities. The management also realized that there was a gap of an OVC officer who was needed for successful program implementation and he too was recruited on a fulltime basis. AEE foots the total bill with her own resources as part of her cost share in the Ubaka Ejo program.

Program start up workshop: A program start up workshop was held for all AEE Rwanda staff members who are directly involved in the program implementation. This included 2 staff from the AEE Rwanda senior management team: Executive Secretary and General Finance Manager, 4 staff at the AEE Coordination level: Program director, Monitoring and Evaluation officer, Grant Accountant, OVC Officer, 6 Program staff and coordinators of 6 AEE branches, from which the program activities are being implemented in the 9 districts of operation.

The major purpose of the workshop was to facilitate all the concerned staff to have a common understanding of the program, since they were not all involved in writing the proposal. At the end of the workshop, each staff had a general overview of all program activities and what is expected of him/her.

Procurement of program equipment: The AEE procurement committee made a procurement plan, after which it invited eligible bidders, through announcements in a widely read newspaper, the New Times, who could supply the needed equipment. The best bidders were selected and they supplied to AEE the office desks, chairs, computers and printers for the Ubaka Ejo Program staff.

Identification and selection of program beneficiaries (OVC): After knowing the details of the Ubaka Ejo Program, the program officers held meetings with 95 local community leaders who included but were not limited to; District Mayors, officers in charge of the District AIDS Control Committees, Heads of the Joint Action District forums, Executive Secretaries, Education officers, and officers in charge of Social Affairs, at the sector and cell levels, so as to give them a general orientation on the program. This orientation facilitated the local community leaders to know the basic details of the program that was going to be implemented in their areas of jurisdiction and the services that will be delivered, so that they can work hand in hand with the AEE staff and other program stakeholders to follow up on all activities and ensure successful implementation.

In collaboration with the local community leaders, identification of OVC fulfilling the criteria was done. The identified children were; poor orphans of both or one parent due to HIV/AIDS, very poor orphans due to other causes other than HIV/AIDS, and from very poor families according to categories of poverty as set by the Rwandan Government Poverty Profile Survey. After the identification, the lists of the most vulnerable children were publically validated in the communities where the children live, so that the community members themselves could testify that the selected children were actually fit for the support. The children on the validated lists are the current program beneficiaries. The total number of the OVC that will benefit from the program in the year 2013 is 13,208: 11,200 in 12 year basic education, 1,208 in boarding secondary schools that are far away from their homes and 800 children in the catch-up accelerated program. 7,601 of these children were brought along from the USAID Higa Ubeho Program through CHF International, which AEE implemented as a sub grantee, before graduating to become a direct implementing Partner of USAID/RWANDA.

Activities Under result 1: Support Educational Needs for the OVC

Procurement of school materials: After the identification and validation of the OVC list, the OVC officer at the coordination level working hand in hand with the AEE Rwanda procurement committee invited bidders who could supply school materials, through a newspaper known as the New Times. The best bidder was then selected, and she supplied the school materials to the AEE Branch offices in the districts of operation.

Storage and Transport of school materials: The supplied materials were briefly stored by the program staff at the branch offices as they awaited the earmarked distribution date and time, which had been communicated to the OVC and their families. At the time of distribution, the scholastic materials were transported to distribution centers in the communities where the children reside, which centers were selected by the local authorities, representatives of beneficiaries and the Ubaka Ejo program staff.

Distribution of school materials: The OVC and their guardians went to the distribution centers where the children received scholastic materials basing on the OVC education levels. Before receiving the materials a discussion session was held by the program staff and the topics discussed included: the duration of the program activities (three years), and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other STDs. These are some of the topics that AEE Rwanda used to train the OVC in during holiday camps when she was still a sub grantee in USAID Higa Ubeho Program through CHF, and discussing them at the time of distributing school materials is one of the strategies that AEE has laid, in order to facilitate the beneficiary OVC to receive the same message. The parents were encouraged to keep reminding their children of the content of the discussion, so that the message can be internalized and put into practice.

Forms for filling in the materials that each child received were also made by the Monitoring and Evaluation officer and given to the staff at all the distribution centers. The purpose was to track the process of distributing the school materials, so as to avoid duplication, and to help in the process of cross checking the stock. Each child signed on his/her form after receiving the materials and verifying that what is on the form is what he/she received.

In the photo below is Uwineza Dada happily signing for the materials she has just received



Performance by result area

Under Result 1, the Program increases access to a network of high-quality preventive, curative and social and education services at the household and community level for the most vulnerable, through facilitating family leaders to pay for health insurance “mutuelle” for their children, improving basic hygiene among the most vulnerable, PLHA, OVC and their families, increasing enrollment and retention in 12 year basic education, upper secondary, Catch-up and TVET among the most vulnerable children, and increasing the capacity of services to protect the most vulnerable children and their families from trauma, abuse, neglect, exploitation, stigma and discrimination

Program Performance Summary

Indicator	Achievement Quarter 1	Target Quarter 1 to 4	Percentage of the completed target
Number of adults & children provided with a minimum of one care service	11,414	15,208	75
Number of OVC served by the project	11,414	13,208	86.4
Increased knowledge of preventive health behaviors among vulnerable families and OVC	12,620	15,208	83

Performance against the targets in the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP)

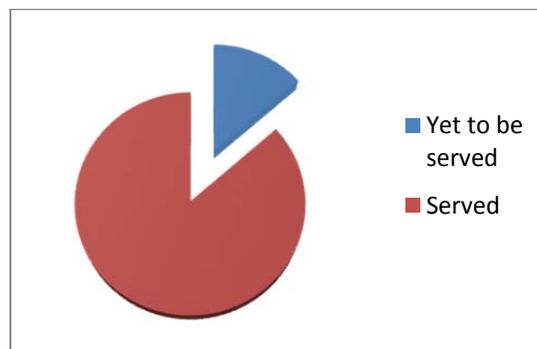
Indicator: *Number of adults & children provided with a minimum of one care service:*

During the period under reporting 11,414 children received at least one service. This is the number of children that were offered scholastic materials. There will be an escalation in the achievement level in the next reporting period as the same activities will continue to be conducted.

Indicator - *Number of OVC Served by OVC programs:*

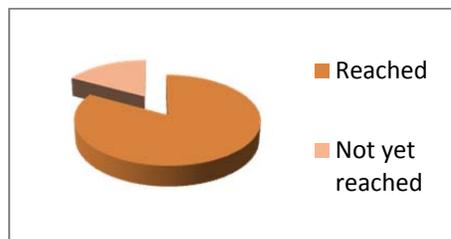
During the first quarter, the number of OVC served by the program was 11,414 out of the 13,208 targeted for the whole year. These are children in 12 year basic education, boarding secondary school and catch-up accelerated program who received scholastic materials. The total target was not reached as some children were still waiting for their National Examinations results for leaving primary school and ordinary level secondary school. 86.4% of the targeted children is what was reached during this quarter.

Below is a pie chart showing the percentage of children served by the program in comparison to the total target for the year:



Indicator: *Increased knowledge of preventive health behaviors among vulnerable families and OVC:* Sensitization on HIV prevention was done during the distribution of school materials, to the parents present as well as the OVC. The total number reached was 12,620: 1,206 adults and 11,414 children, which is 83% of the targeted number for the year. The number reached will keep increasing as this activity will continue to be done in the next quarter, among the OVC and ISLGs which will be formed.

Below is a pie chart showing the percentage of members of vulnerable families and OVC reached with an HIV/AIDS prevention message in comparison to the total target for the year:



Under result 2, the USAID Ubaka Ejo Program strengthens economic security of most vulnerable children and families through increased access to market-linked interventions and mechanisms appropriate to the poorest and increases income generation capacity of Cooperatives through market-linked interventions.

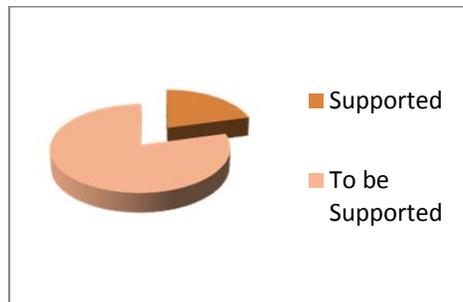
Indicator	Achievement Quarter 1	Target Quarter 1 to 4	Percentage of the completed target
Number of eligible adults and children provided with economic strengthening services	3483	6966	50
Number of supported Cooperatives adopting improved practices impacting productivity or business performance	5	24	20.8

Performance against the targets in the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP)

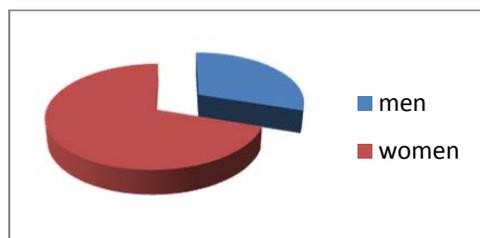
Indicator: *Number of eligible adults and children provided with economic strengthening services.* In the new USAID Ubaka Ejo Program, AEE is operating in areas where she has been operating as a Sub grantee in the USAID Higa Ubeho Program through CHF. As such, during the first quarter, she strengthened the capacity of 193 ISLGs composed of 3,483 members through follow up visits, in which advice and on the spot trainings were offered to the members.

Indicator: *Number of supported Cooperatives adopting improved practices impacting productivity or business performance.* Out of 24 already existing cooperatives, AEE supported 5 cooperatives through mentorship for economic strengthening. These cooperatives have specialized in growing chili pepper, cassava, pineapples and in bee keeping, and are composed of 415 members: 290 women and 125. During the reporting period, the cooperatives made sales amounting to 7,177,745 Rwf equivalent to about US \$ 11,215.

The pie chart below shows the percentage of existing cooperatives supported as compared to the total target to be supported



The pie chart below shows the percentage of women supported through the cooperatives in comparison to men



The Success story is on the attached success story template.

Plans for quarter 2:

- Collect school fees invoices from different boarding secondary schools attended by the OVC
- Payment of school fees for 1208 OVC
- Payment of health insurance for 800 children in catch up centers
- Recruit and train 1200 caregivers in the 9 districts of operation
- Form and strengthen 50 ISLGs

Conclusion

AEE Rwanda is deeply grateful to USAID Rwanda for the funding opportunity, which is enabling her to reach vulnerable children and their families with activities that improve their social economic conditions, hence providing them with new hope for a better tomorrow.