

P-11
94

USAID

COMPLETION REPORT

(January 1995 - June 1997)

Prepared by:
UWESO SECRETARIAT
JULY 1997

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 UWESO has successfully implemented the USAID funded project (Grant Number 617-0133-G-00-5002-00) since January 1995 to June 1997. The project registered a lot of achievements in meeting the objectives as set out in the agreement. The lessons learnt from this project, especially in relation to empowering guardians to run sustainable income generating projects, will be capitalised upon in our future orphan programmes.
- 1.2 The Women in Small Enterprises (WISE) project objective is to increase women's household income, thereby strengthening the extended family's ability to adequately provide for the children under their care. Since the WISE project started in 1994, UWESO has received and worked with **23 Peace Corps Volunteers** in 14 district based branches in Uganda.
 - 1.2.1 The Peace Corps Volunteers work directly with the women who care for needy orphans, providing them with the business and income generation skills through training, and linked them with technical agro-business and financial services.
 - 1.2.2 The goal of increasing women's household incomes was achieved largely through training workshops and consultancies for individuals and groups involved in income generation projects so that they profitably run their projects. During the project period, a total of **3,700 women** were trained in the following areas:
 - ▶ leadership
 - ▶ decision making
 - ▶ communication and planning
 - ▶ record keeping
 - ▶ proposal writing
 - ▶ budgeting
 - ▶ cash management
 - ▶ book keeping and reporting
 - ▶ marketing
 - 1.2.3 The WISE project, therefore, played a very crucial role in increasing women's household incomes thereby strengthening the extended family's ability to adequately provide for the children under their care.
 - 1.2.4 Other achievements under this component include:
 - ▶ A training manual with lesson plans based on the actual sessions conducted by the WISE volunteers was completed and is now available for use, by UWESO members.

- ▶ The Volunteer who was working in Rakai compiled a 43 page manual called Uganda Basics. This is a book written in simple English and using examples and practice based on her training experience in rural and semi urban Uganda. This is a self-guided business manual intended for people already engaged in small business ventures.
- ▶ With these two manuals in place, it will be easy for other people to pass on the skills to other women in districts where we do not have volunteers.
- ▶ The WISE Volunteer in Iganga District produced a pamphlet on quality control in maize production for use in the district. It is part of a post harvest handling and quality control programme as a tool to improve quality and supply. This assists the women in the area who are predominantly maize growers, to gain access to a larger market. This pamphlet will be followed by additional ones on storage, handling and marketing.
- ▶ The WISE Volunteers in Soroti, Kumi, Masaka, and Mbarara have worked closely with the clients of the UWESO Savings and Credit Scheme. They conduct weekly training sessions in marketing and book keeping.

1.2.5 Linkages to Resources:

- ▶ The Volunteers who combine their work with the USAID funded IDEA Project have linked UWESO members to IDEA's production and marketing services.
- ▶ In Kiboga, through the efforts of the Volunteer and their counterpart, the branch has received US\$ 2,500 from the Small Project Assistance Programme of Peace Corps to start a poultry project for their orphans' school.
- ▶ Again through the efforts of the volunteer and her counterpart, Kiboga submitted a proposal to the American Ambassador Self-Help Fund requesting for money to build three permanent classrooms for the school. The request has been granted and the branch is now working on its contribution of locally available building materials.
- ▶ The Volunteer in Kiboga linked a group of 15 women to the Poverty Alleviation Project. The women have received loans to undertake individual projects in poultry and cattle rearing.
- ▶ The linkage with Land O' Lakes that was reported in our last report has continued. The UWESO members from Kiboga have been attending training in herd management, dairy livestock husbandry and dairy livestock nutrition. The 15 women who received loans from the Poverty Alleviation

Project have particularly gained a lot from these training as they have a direct bearing on the projects they are carrying out.

1.2.6 Although there were no funds to provide micro finance services to family projects. UWESO introduced some of the members to a sister organisation in Kampala and Jinja where FINCA operates. The rest of the districts under this programme could not benefit from this linkage because FINCA works in a few limited districts.

- ▶ In Kampala, two UWESO women groups with 186 members have received loans amounting to Ug Shs 35m/=. By June 30, they had saved a total of 3.3 m/= (Three million, three hundred thousand shillings only). One group is in its second loan cycle and one group is in its first loan cycle.
- ▶ In Jinja, the volunteer helped to establish three UWESO women groups of thirty members each to be village banks and participate in FINCA's village banking programme.

2.0 Under the school sponsorship programme, in addition to the **835 targeted orphans** in the grant, another **358 needy orphans** benefitted from the programme by annual replacements of orphans who completed P.7. Therefore, a total of **1,193 needy orphans** were able to acquire the numeracy and literacy skills during the period.

2.1 The girls have been vulnerable as far as education in Uganda is concerned. They have been discriminated against, especially when school fees charges increase and when money becomes scarce for guardians. Girls are often married off at a young age or kept at home to run the household. Young, out of school girls are very vulnerable to defilement and pregnancy.

2.1.1 Educated girls are much more likely to raise their children in clean homes provide a nutritious diet for their family and put their girls in school. UWESO, therefore, gives first priority to the girl child in school sponsorship programmes. UWESO is proud to have sponsored **662 girls, who were 56% of the total sponsored orphans**. This is a significant accomplishment given that it is difficult to find girls who will be released from their family responsibilities to attend school. A total of **207 girls** were retained in school and were able to complete P.7, thus ensuring that they were able to achieve basic numeracy and literacy, avoid early marriages, through the counselling of the social workers they are better equipped to avoid the AIDS epidemic.

2.2 The UWESO Social Workers have monitored school sponsorship in all the 18 district branches, except Moyo which was insecure. A total of **40 monitoring trips** were made from January 1995 through June 1997. These trips were instrumental in monitoring of school attendance, performance, payment of

school fees, counselling sponsored children, meeting UWESO branch executive members and meeting government district officials. All these activities led to a marked improvement of the programme and ensured that the project funding benefited the targeted orphans.

3.0 USAID's invaluable support to UWESO headquarters enabled the organisation to retain and continuously train staff which has contributed to the improvement in the delivery of services to the needy orphans of Uganda. UWESO is now able to attract further donor funding basing on the tremendous staff capacity building and institutional support by USAID.

3.1 The successful implementation of the first grant promoted UWESO's image as an efficient organisation capable of implementing developmental programmes that improve the quality of life of orphans and their guardians. From 1995 to date UWESO has participated in various donor funded projects. For instance, the Belgium Survival Fund (BSF) through International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) extended a four year US\$ 1.45m in support of the UWESO Development Project. After 30 months of implementation, this development project is ranked the best of all projects being funded by the same donor in the region and there are indications that we shall receive funding for the second phase of this project.

3.2 The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funded UWESO projects in Kumi, Kabarole branches and Masulita Childrens Village. UNICEF has funded UWESO activities in Masaka, in recognition of our role as a leading NGO on orphan issues, they donated the film "Everyone's Child" to us for advocacy efforts. GTZ funded some of the older orphans in Kumi to acquire life skills training and vocational tools.

3.3 UWESO will continue to pursue local and donor support to implement sustainable development projects aimed at improving the quality of life of needy orphans and their guardian families.

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ugandan society traditionally provides for orphans through the extended families and communities. UWESO's mandate is to improve the quality of life of needy orphans by empowering the communities to meet the social, economic and moral needs of the orphans. However, the magnitude of the orphan problem is making it difficult for extended family members to cope with the extra burden of feeding, clothing, and caring for their own children and orphans and enabling them to acquire basic education.

UWESO submitted a proposal to USAID/ Uganda's Delivery of Improved Services for Health (DISH) to seek further assistance to families that care for orphans to contribute to the project's objective of decreasing high risk pregnancies, and controlling and

reducing HIV/AIDS. In this endeavour, UWESO was to give priority to the girl child who is very vulnerable to early pregnancies, and exposure to HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

From 1995 to 1997 a grant of US \$ 225,345 was extended to UWESO to provide support for the efforts to keep orphans especially female orphans in school and to increase UWESO's capacity to implement sustainable income generating activities for families supporting orphans.

1.1 PROJECT COMPONENTS

The project had three components:

- 1) Support for women in small enterprises. This a project initiated by UWESO in collaboration with Peace Corps Uganda under which the Volunteers will provide technical assistance in marketing, formation credit operatives and training in financial management among others.
- 2) Funding school fees for 835 orphans previously supported by USAID for a period of two years.
- 3) Funding for operating expenses for two years in support of the UWESO Headquarters.

2.0 COMPONENT ONE: WOMEN IN SMALL ENTERPRISE (WISE)

2.1 Peace Corps Volunteers

With the increasing orphan population, the Uganda families are growing bigger and bigger as they absorb the children of their relatives who die.

Meeting the basic needs of these children is generally the responsibility of women. Such needs, which include education and medical care among others, are very expensive. The primary purpose of the **WISE** project therefore, is to increase women's household incomes thereby strengthening the extended family's ability to adequately provide for the children under their care. The Peace Corps Volunteers work directly with these women providing them with the business and income generation skills necessary to improve their business and project activities and linking them with technical agribusiness and financial services.

The second purpose of the project is to strengthen UWESO district branches and their ability to address development needs. In this respect, the volunteers assist with the organizational development of UWESO by promoting membership in UWESO, identifying and building capacity of local branch leadership and assisting the branches in fund-raising to support branch

operations.

The areas in which the volunteers train the branch members include:

- ▶ leadership
- ▶ decision making
- ▶ communication and planning
- ▶ record keeping
- ▶ proposal writing
- ▶ budgeting
- ▶ cash management
- ▶ book keeping and reporting

Since the **WISE** project started in 1994, UWESO has received and worked with 23 volunteers in 14 districts distributed as follows:

1994 Volunteers	1995 Volunteers	1996 Volunteers
Kiboga	Soroti	Jinja
Jinja (2)	Mbale	Kumi
Rakai (2)	Hoima	Mukono
	Iganga	Mbarara
	Masindi	Masaka (2)
		Kapchorwa
		Kasese
		Rakai (2)

Some of the **WISE** volunteers combine their work with the USAID funded Investment in Developing Export Agriculture (IDEA) project. Volunteers have worked for both projects in Mukono, Masaka, Kasese, Kapchorwa, Masindi, Iganga, Hoima and Mbale.

2.2: Training of Volunteers and their Counterparts

For **WISE Project** to be effectively implemented, regular workshops that bring together the Volunteers, their counterparts and UWESO staff are organised. Such workshops provide a forum for discussion of roles and responsibilities of all stake holders, project targets and accomplishments, constraints and strategies to overcome the constraints. During the project period 3 workshops were held.

2.2.1: Information Exchange and Annual Report Workshops

Two information exchange and annual report workshops were held for 1995 and 1996. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance the forum

of information exchange and reporting amongst UWESO staff, Peace Corps Volunteers, their counterparts and Peace Corps staff. The following were the workshop outputs:

- The volunteers and their counterparts were familiarised with UWESO's mission statement and current activities.
- The volunteers reported on their achievements and constraints in the past year and strategies to overcome them were developed.
- The volunteers and their counterparts developed work plans for the remaining period of the year.
- The training manual that was developed by the volunteers themselves was reviewed and plans for its future revision were made.

2.2.2: The Community Representative Workshop

In an effort to establish a good working relationship and foster understanding between the new volunteers and the people they are to work with at their sites, a workshop was organised in September 1996 to provide a forum for the volunteers and their future counterparts to meet and develop a good positive working relationship with each other. The following were the workshop outputs:

The volunteers and their counterparts learnt about the personal background of each other, each other's roles and responsibilities and how they can assist each other to work more effectively.

The volunteers and their counterparts came up with work plans for the first few months' activities.

2.3: Achievements towards the Goal of Increasing Women's Household Incomes

2.3.1: Training

- ▶ Under the WISE Project, the goal of increasing women's household incomes is achieved largely through training workshops and consultancies for individuals and groups involved in income generation projects so that they profitably run their projects. During the project period, this service was offered to 3700 women. These have trained in a wide range of topics including basic business skills, cash management,

book keeping, cost analysis, feasibility studies, customer service, problem analysis and group management.

- ▶ A training manual with lesson plans based on the actual sessions conducted by the WISE volunteers was completed and now available for use.
- ▶ The volunteer who was working in Rakai completed her assignment in September 1996 wrote a 43 page book called Uganda Basics. This is a book written in simple English and using examples and practice based on her training experience in rural and semi urban Uganda. This is a self-guided business manual intended for people already engaged in small business ventures.

With these two manuals in place, it will be easy for other people to pass on the skills to other women in districts where we do not have volunteers.

The WISE volunteer in Iganga District produced a pamphlet on quality control in maize production for use in the district. It is part of a post harvest handling and quality control programme as a tool to improve quality and supply. This assists the women in the area who are predominantly maize growers, to gain access to a larger market. This pamphlet will be followed by additional ones on storage, handling and marketing.

- ▶ The WISE volunteers in Soroti, Kumi, Masaka, and Mbarara have worked closely with the clients of the UWESO Savings and Credit Scheme. They conduct weekly training sessions in marketing and book keeping.

2.3.2: Linkages to Resources

- ▶ The volunteers who combine their work with the USAID funded IDEA Project have linked UWESO members to IDEA's production and marketing services.
- ▶ In Kiboga, through the efforts of the volunteer and their counterpart, the branch has received USD 2,500 from the Small Project Assistance Programme of Peace Corps to start a poultry project for their orphans' school.
- ▶ Again through the efforts of the volunteer and her counterpart, Kiboga submitted a proposal to the American Self-Help Ambassador Fund requesting for money to build three permanent classrooms for the school. The request has been granted and the branch is now working on its contribution of locally available building materials.

- ▶ The volunteer in Kiboga linked a group of 15 women to the Poverty Alleviation Project for a loan. The women have received the loan to do individual projects in poultry and cattle rearing.
- ▶ The linkage with Land O' Lakes that was reported in our last report has continued. The UWESO members from Kiboga have been attending training in herd management, dairy livestock husbandry and dairy livestock nutrition. The 15 women who received loans from the Poverty Alleviation Project have particularly gained a lot from these training as they have a direct bearing on the projects they are carrying out.
- ▶ In Jinja the volunteer helped to establish three UWESO women groups of thirty members each to be village banks and participate in FINCA's village banking programme.
- ▶ FINCA has started its operations in Kampala and two UWESO women groups with 186 members have already undergone training and received loans amounting to 35m/=. These are the UWESO sub-branches of Wandegeya, Nateete, and Bwaise. The 3 groups have started paying back and have since July saved a total of 3.3 m/= (Three million, three hundred thousand shillings only).
- ▶ The women who have been funded have been able to improve on their businesses which include such activities as groceries, restaurants and salons. They are now in a better position to look after the 1100 orphans under their care.

2.4: **Achievements towards the Goal of Strengthen UWESO District Branches**

In all the branches where we have Peace Corps Volunteers, they have played a very big role in identifying and building the capacity of the local branch leadership. As they interact with the UWESO membership during training, the volunteers have identified and encouraged women with leadership potential to come up and take positions of responsibility in their respective branches. This has always been followed by training on their roles and responsibilities in their respective positions.

In Hoima, the volunteer helped the branch to put up a stall at the National event to mark the start of the international year of Poverty Eradication. Before this she had earlier in the year mobilized the branch members to march on the International Women's Day. These two activities have helped the branch to draw attention to its work and to raise funds.

Also in Hoima, the Volunteer obtained funds from Peace Corps Washington to hold a district wide workshop for women NGO's focusing on institution building and collaboration.

2.5 Other Accomplishments

Members of the communities where the volunteers are working have come to recognize their great contribution and are involving them in secondary activities.

In Hoima, the volunteer was co-opted on the District Development Planning Committee which wrote the district long term development plan.

In Iganga the volunteer has teamed up with the District Assistant Agricultural Officer to design and implement a district-wide post harvest handling programme for maize.

In 1996, UWESO started implementing a Savings and Credit Scheme in 4 districts. The volunteers in these districts have been instrumental in training our staff in the areas of adult education and using computers. They have further helped in the designing of different forms for use in the scheme.

In Kiboga, the volunteer has conducted AIDS education sessions in secondary schools in the district.

2.6 USAID Support

The USAID support to the WISE component enabled UWESO to hold workshops with the volunteers and counterparts, develop and produce training materials, facilitate the volunteers with bicycles and renovate houses which were donated by the branches to meet the volunteers' housing needs.

This capacity building has greatly enhanced UWESO's ability to be a professional private voluntary organisation which implements sustainable development projects to improve the quality of life of needy orphans by empowering the local community to meet the moral, social and economic requirements of the needy orphans .

2.7 The Future of UWESO and WISE

Although this grant has come to an end, the WISE component will continue . The Peace Corps Volunteer placement, especially in UWESO target districts where development activities are being undertaken, is still encouraged. Micro entrepreneurs from these districts will continue to benefit from the training and advice from the Volunteers.

3.0 COMPONENT TWO: PRIMARY SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

3.1 Extension of the programme

From 1992 to 1994 UWESO successfully implemented a USAID funded project where a total of 1123 primary school going orphans were assisted to acquire

basic numeracy and literacy skills. The project was targeting very needy orphans in 24 UWESO district based branches.

On completion of the above programme, the guardians of the previously sponsored children expressed the need for the continuation of the program to retain the children in school. This great need was presented to USAID which further extended funding for two years from 1995 to 1997. The extension of the grant enabled UWESO to continue sponsoring 835 poor orphans based in eighteen (18) districts who had not completed primary seven by the end of 1992-4 period.

Meanwhile UWESO recognised that direct school sponsorship for needy orphans does not meet most of the needy orphans needs and is not sustainable. The organisation revised its mission statement and actively sought donor support to implement a sustainable development project which would improve the quality of life of needy orphans by empowering the communities to meet the moral, social, and economic needs of the needy orphans.

In 1995, UWESO started implementing another project, the UWESO Development Project funded by the Belgian Survival Fund (BSF) through International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in six districts of Lira, Masaka, Kumi, Gulu, Soroti, and Mbarara. A total of 288 continuing primary school going students from the six districts which were previously funded by USAID were transferred to the new project to ensure that they continue obtaining basic education. UWESO was able to attract further donor funding basing on the tremendous staff capacity building and institutional support by USAID. The successful implementation of the first grant promoted UWESO 's image. To date UWESO Development Project is ranked the best of all the projects being sponsored by the same donor in the region.

3.2 Orphans who Completed P7 during 1995 - 1997

In Uganda, several children, especially those in very difficult circumstances, drop out of school before they complete the primary school cycle. It is gratifying to note that between 1995 - 1997 a total of 358 orphans completed primary seven. Most of these children will definitely lead better lives and the girls will become better mothers because of this valuable educational level that they have attained as a result of this programme.

Table I : Sponsored Children Who Completed P.7 Between 1995 - 1997

PERIOD	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTAL
1995	55	40	95
1996	87	70	157
1997	65	41	106
	207	151	358

Source: UWESO branches sponsorship lists from 1995 - 1997.

3.2.1 Increase in Numbers of Beneficiaries

The programme benefitted more children through the replacement of P.7 leavers. In addition to the **835** targeted orphans in the grant, another **358** needy orphans benefitted from the programme as replacements of orphans who completed P.7 in 1995 and 1996. Therefore, a total of **1,193** needy children were able to acquire the basic education. Completion of the primary school cycle is a means to other opportunities for them in future. UWESO is lobbying the districts officials to ensure that those children who have not completed the primary cycle under the programme should benefit from the new government policy of the Universal Primary Education which is committed to meet tuition expenses for all orphans in government schools.

3.3 Emphasis on Girl Child Education

The girls have been vulnerable as far as education in Uganda is concerned. They have been discriminated against especially when school fees charges increase and when money becomes scarce for guardians. Girls are often married off at a young age or kept at home to run the household. Young, out of school girls are very vulnerable to defilement and pregnancy.

Educated girls are much more likely to raise their children in clean homes and put their girls in school. UWESO, therefore, gives first priority to the girl child in school sponsorship programmes. During the three year USAID funded project, UWESO is proud to have sponsored 662 girls, who were 52% of the total sponsored orphans. This is a significant accomplishment given that it is difficult to find girls who will be released from their family responsibilities to attend school. A further accomplishment is that the sponsorship enabled 218 girls to complete P.7., thus ensuring that they have attained basic numeracy and literacy skills. The table below illustrates the number of sponsored children segregated by sex. It also indicates the amount of money paid per branch.

Table II Distribution of sponsored children by sex and School Fees disbursements

No	branch	female	male	total	amount paid in Ug.Shs.
1	Bukuya	49	21	70	2,970,000
2	Bundibugyo	26	15	35	1,620,000
3	Hoima	26	11	37	1,800,000
4	Iganga	20	26	46	*c524A, 2,610,000
5	Jinja	10	13	23	1,080,000
6	Kabale	26	16	40	1,980,000
7	Kabarole	35	36	71	5,805,000
8	Kampala	71	44	115	7,560,000
9	Kasese	21	14	35	1,620,000
10	Kisoro	28	21	49	3,060,000
11	Kotido	17	20	37	1,800,000
12	Luweero	37	32	69	4,410,000
13	Masindi	45	33	78	5,670,000
14	Mbale	104	89	193	9,360,000
15	Moroto	34	28	62	4,230,000
16	Moyo	20	16	36	1,620,000
17	Mubende	28	27	55	3,510,000
18	Nebbi	44	40	84	5,580,000
19	Rakai	49	45	94	6,930,000
TOTAL		662	531	1,193	73,215,000

Source: UWESO branches sponsorship lists 1995 - 1997.

3.4 Monitoring

The UWESO Social Workers have monitored school sponsorship in all the 18 district branches, except Moyo which was insecure. A total of 40 monitoring trips were made from January 1995 through June 1997. The exercises covered monitoring of school attendance, performance, payment of school fees, counselling sponsored children, meeting UWESO branch executive members and meeting government district officials.

Regular monitoring trips improved the accountability of funds disbursed through the UWESO branch network. All the branches which had not submitted accountability at the time of 1995 audit have now fully accounted for all the funds received.

These regular trips played a very important role in discussing with the guardians and school personnel all the issues pertaining to the programme:-

3.4.1 School Attendance

From on the spot assessment during the regular monitoring trips and consultations with the relevant teachers, the social workers noted that sponsored children attended classes regularly through out the grant period. Regular attendance definitely contributed to good performance among sponsored children. It is important to note that one of the biggest achievements of the programme was to retain vulnerable girl orphans in schools for 4 years. In most circumstances poor girl orphans drop out of school before reaching primary four; where school charges are higher.

3.4.2 School Performance

It was reported by the Head teachers that sponsored children have generally been performing well in class resulting from regular attendance, timely payment of schools fees (therefore not being chased away) adequate scholastic materials and counselling they received. For instance, one of the girls Kabughu Alice of Kasese UWESO branch, obtained very good results:- English - Distinction (2), Science - Distinction (2), Maths - 2, Social studies- 2, She passed in Division 1. She was able to join Lukoki Secondary School. Alice's guardian is paying fees for her secondary education out of savings from young orphans under her care who are now benefiting from the Universal Primary Education .

3.4.3 Payment of School fees

In 1996, Social Workers were able to disburse school fees directly to schools in time to avoid delays created by the inefficient postal system and to obtain supporting documents from schools directly. This greatly streamlined the process of obtaining accountability for funds and also ensured that funds were put to their intended use.

3.4.4 Counselling Sponsored Orphans

One of the most important roles that the Social Workers had to play was to counsel the sponsored orphans . The counselling focused on AIDS/HIV education on prevention and control of the epidemic, class attendance and performance, family life education, child rights and responsibilities. This counselling was very beneficial to traumatized children who have witnessed their parents or close relative die of AIDS. This strengthened the children's self esteem and resulted in improved attendance and performance. In addition, the girl orphans were able to avoid teenage pregnancies which is rampant at this time in their lives. Most children realised the importance of staying in school and since most of the expenses were met by the project, the drop-out rate was checked. Most of the girls who completed the cycle of education were empowered through this counselling to say "no" to early sex and early marriages.

3.5 Lessons Learnt During the Implementation of the Programme

3.5.1 Orphans who completed P7

Not all children who successfully completed primary seven were able to continue with further education due to their guardians' inability to afford the ever increasing costs of secondary education. However much they try , it is difficult to get sponsorship to

attend secondary school or vocational institutions. Other than acquiring the basic skills, most of the children find themselves at home without a job. The current primary school syllabus does not prepare children with practical skills which can enable them to get employment in their communities. Eventually these children become idle and resort to flocking to towns in search of employment. Since they lack marketable skills, they may consequently end up on the streets; the girls work as house assistants where they are paid meagre salaries.

3.5.2 Insecurity

Due to insecurity prevailing in Moyo district it was not possible to disburse school fees in that district during 1996. The same insecurity made it impossible for Moyo UWESO branch executives to obtain supporting documents for funds received in 1995 for 36 students from their schools. However, the 1996 funds for Moyo branch were utilised in monitoring and disbursing school fees directly to schools in the rest of the 18 districts which had greatly improved on the accountability of the project.

3.5.3 Continuing Students

Whereas the Government of Uganda has implemented Universal Primary Education (UPE) the guardians have to contribute school requirements such as building materials, school uniforms, stationery and lunch. Most aged guardians cannot afford to supplement the scheme. Orphans find a lot of difficulties in getting such essentials. We are already receiving information that some of the head teachers are already threatening to dismiss such children from the schools. Failure to afford some of the school expenses will definitely lead to orphans dropping out of school.

3.5.4 Lack of facilitation of UWESO District Executive Members

UWESO is a grassroots, voluntary member organisation with a small secretariat in Kampala. UWESO does not and cannot afford to facilitate the branch members in any way. The executive members locally fund raise to sustain their programmes at the district level. Lack of facilitation and general poverty in the rural areas affected the branch executive's ability to closely monitor the sponsorship programme. This constrained their capacity to visit special cases of orphans who were in remote rural areas.

However, through membership fees some branches were making the contribution to the programme by collecting accountability documents, termly demand notes from schools and coordinating with school authorities and relevant district officials.

3.5.5 Poor School Infrastructure

Most rural schools lack good training facilities like classrooms, laboratories and furniture. This was directly affecting the performance of sponsored children like any other children in those schools.

With the advent of UPE, the poor infrastructure is being strained as enrolment for the lower levels has increased tremendously, without an increase in buildings. Many young children attend classes under trees. Most rural schools lack proper sanitation and water facilities, leading to an increase in diarrhoea diseases among the students.

3.5.6 Lack of Basic Text Books and Untrained Teachers

Most rural schools lack basic text books. This is coupled with the untrained teachers who teach in most rural schools. This affect all the children in those schools including sponsored orphans. They cannot compete favourably at the national level with children from urban schools and other schools with adequate teaching facilities.

The doubling of enrollment due to UPE has stretched the teacher-student ratio beyond manageable size. Our social Workers report P.1 classes of over 400 children running out of control.

3.5.7 Legacy of UPE

Until the infrastructure, text books and teacher population is increased to meet the needs of the UPE enrollment, the children in primary school will continue through the system, being passed on to the higher grades, but without assurance of basic literacy and numeracy skills. It is conceivable that six years from now the P.7 graduates would not be literate.

3.6. Opportunies for Sponsored Orphans

3.6.1 Universal Primary Education

Continuing students who have been benefitting from USAID sponsorship got registered under the Government programme of Universal Primary Education (UPE). Much as the programme has some constraints, the orphans, especially total orphans, have been exempted from paying school fees and have automatic entry into the programme regardless of the number in the family.

3.6.2 Support From District Authorities

Some district authorities have offered a budget line in their council budgets to support UWESO orphans to continue in schools. A good example is Mbale Municipal Council which has provided Ug. Shs 1.5 million per year to continue sponsorship of orphans who have been benefitting from USAID sponsorship.

3.7 Conclusion

In conclusion, USAID support to UWESO has enabled vulnerable orphans to acquire primary education without which they would have remained illiterate and vulnerable. Sponsored children have been grateful for the assistance accorded to them and have express this in letters. Enclosed are letters from sponsored children expressing their gratitude.

/bm

c:\usaidend

Kaboyo P/S
P.O. Box 373
Fort Portal

Kaboyo Primary School 1997

The Director
USAID
P.O. Box 7007
Kampala

Kabarole District

Dear

RE THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME

Thank you very much for helping me with school fees, uniforms, books, pens and pencils. You started helping from 1992 to 1997. I have managed to reach P.S.

I lost my father and my mother. My grand mother is very old and very poor.

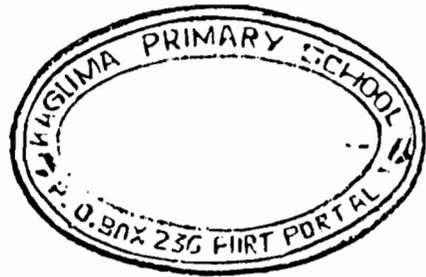
The assistance you gave me through Uwesha has helped me very much.

Thank you. Kaboyo Primary School
God bless you. Kabarole District

Kenyanzi Jackline P.S.

The Director
USAID,
P.O. BOX 7007,
Kampala.

Kaguma P/School,
P.O. BOX 236,
Fort-portal.
20th/3/97.



Dear Sir,

RE: THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING ME.

I thank you very much for sponsorship you gave me from 1992 to 1996 through UWESO. The assistance helped me ~~so~~ much. I would have dropped out of school.

Most my father and my mother is very poor.

The sponsorship covered school fees, uniforms, books, pens, mathematical set.

Thank you,

May God bless you.

Mwesige Robert.

NEBBI P7 School

8.8.1996

Dear Madam,

I am praying God for you.
I am working hard in my class.
I want to pass my exams
every year.

I thank you very much
for paying my School fees,
Uniforms, a pair of shoes and
books, pens, pencils.

I always pray God to give
you more.

I am your child

Gloria Atach.

Mutekya P 13
P.O. Box 293
Kasese
10/14/97

DIRECTOR
USAID
P.O. Box 7007
Kampala

Dear Sir

RE: APPRECIATION FOR THE SPONSORSHIP
Thank you for helping with school fees
uniforms and books.

I have managed to read in class P. 7
Kindly continue helping me
Kemizinga Jeska.

RUKOKI HILL COLL
EGE P.O. Box Private
te Bag Kasere
9th / 4 / 1997

The Director
USAID
P.O. Box 7007
Kampala

Dear Sir,

RE

RE: APPRECIATION FOR THE SPONSORSHIP

I am very happy for the sponsorship you gave me. I lost my father and mother is very poor.

Your help which started in 1992 enabled me to finish P7 and now I joined RUKOKI Hill college (secondary).

Because of your assistance I performed well in P.L.E I got 100% score 10, division one!

Thank you once again
my God bless you
Kabugho ALICE.

IBULANKU PRIMARY SCHOOL,
P.O. Box 2009,
BUSESA,
29/10/96.

Dear sir/madam.

I wish on behalf of my fellow
Orphans to pass my sincere thanks
to the entire staff of UWESO
for the assistance being given to
us in terms of school fees, books
and uniform.

We are indeed very grateful
and request you to continue
assisting us even in the future
Thank you very much.

Remain yours faithfully.
Namuyaga Naome.

P.O BOX 106 NEBBI,
NEBBI DISTRICT,
(UGANDA)

13/2/1997.

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON,
UWESO HEAD OFFICE,
P.O BOX 8419,
KAMPALA. (UGANDA)

THRU,

THE CHAIRPERSON,
UWESO NEBBI BRANCH,
P.O BOX 1, NEBBI.
(UGANDA)

DEAR SIR/MADAM,

REF: LETTER OF APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HELP

BY (UWESO) UGANDA WOMEN'S EFFORT TO SAVE ORPHANS

I hereby wish to thank you and acknowledge in writing the help you have been giving me since then up to now Jan 1997.

I still put my trust that you are going to continue helping me as you are very much aware of my condition. The money help me very much that I paid all my school fees, other scholastic materials and other personal things.

May God bless you and your effort too.

Yours faithfully,

Manican Grace