

“Provide shelter for 20 Ugandan Rural Grandmothers” PROJECT

PROGRESS REPORT

FOR

THE PERIOD STARTING JAN TO JUNE, 2015

SUBMITTED

TO

GLOBALGIVING FOUNDATION PLATFORM

BY

**Justine Ojambo
National Director**

PHOEBE EDUCATION FUND FOR ORPHANS (PEFO)

**P.O Box 112
Jinja-Uganda
TEL: +256 434 122651
E-mail: pefo2004@gmail.com
Website: www.pefoug.org**

Introduction:

In 2014, Phoebe Education Fund for AIDS Orphans launched a fundraising campaign on the Global giving platform to raise US\$ 83000 to **provide shelter for 20 Ugandan Rural Grandmothers**. In effect, campaign raised US \$4,929.75 in that period and consequently one house was constructed for one grandmother household which was due for eviction from the road reserve. A report on this house and details on the family were shared in the previous report we submitted to Global Giving last year. This year again, we received funds worth Uganda Shs 7,874,860 from the same platform to build another grandmother household a decent shelter. This funding was received in the month of January, 2015. Today, we are happy to share with you progress details on the second house herein.

About the PEFO Housing project;

Pefo implements an eco friendly housing department which seeks to respond to the urgent need for decent shelter among the elderly.

A high percentage of over 70.5% of Grannies and OVC in rural Jinja reside in semi-permanent and grass-thatched houses which are weak, with un-cemented floors, poorly ventilated and crowded rooms which also serve as kitchens and animal shelters in the nights (PEFO housing baseline, 2010). Considering that most houses of older persons are small, it can be observed that they are crowded. These housing shelters provide a good environment for respiratory-related illnesses while crowding rooms accelerate transmission of communicable diseases which affect the health and the vitality to work by grannies as well as concentration of vulnerable children in school. In addition, inability to work productively by these grandmothers translates to increased poor access to services and care for orphans under their care.

In response, Pefo constructed Eco-friendly and less costly shelters for grandmothers caring for orphans in the rural communities of Jinja, Easter Uganda.

An insight into our second beneficiary through her own story;

Mukama Fridah is 74 year old widow with 5 orphaned grandchildren to care for; with a responsibility of meeting all parenting needs. She lives in Bufuna village, Budondo S/c in Jinja District. Fridah lost her husband in 1983 to sleeping sickness and she had to assume his role of being a household head. Her main source of livelihood is subsistence crop farming which she does on a small plot of land given that she's in a community taken over by sugarcane plantations and where gender stereotypes don't easily facilitate female ownership of land.

Fridah's struggles go beyond putting food on the table to educating grandchildren, paying their health care, sheltering them just to mention but a few. Sheltering however is always the least attended too need given that its way too expensive for a subsistence farmer like Fridah.

Fridah was living in a very dangerous small structure with all her five grandchildren. This structure is made of mud and wattle and local unpolished and untreated tree poles as support for the walls. The rain water had washed away the mud plasters of the house exposing the poles out. There are also visible holes all around the house which are big enough to let in rain water and crawling insects and animals so easily. The roof is also too rusty and leaking.

"...one day we woke up in the night only to find ourselves lying in a pool of water". It had been raining heavily for hours and water filled our house from the leaking roof and the holed walls. Our stored food from the harvest was destroyed with dirty water and our other belongings. My grandchildren lost their class books in the process and it was a very devastating moment for them but I had no means of meeting both the expenses of replacing the lost food and scholastic materials at the same time. Their notes went along and their performance in class exams for that term dropped low; we are not safe here. I try to fill the holes I did not even tell the children because it would scare them more, the only option was to fill holes with mud and others with old clothes.

The villagers know that Fridah's family is sickly and common visitors at the health center. They suffer quite frequently from malaria because their holed house lets me mosquitoes in the night. ***"The people at the health centre know us because my family is a frequent visitor there. Being sickly has not only affected our health and children's class performance but also my ability to farm for them since I' am growing weaker day by day. Narrated Fridah***



Photos from the inspection visit at Fridah's house. On the right; she stands with three of her grandchildren that were present at the time of the visit.

Why Mukama Fridah was selected as our 2nd Beneficiary

- She is in her advanced age (74 years) where she's weak physically and thus mobilizing resources on her own to build a new house may be impossibility.
- She has a burden of caring for 5 children with endless needs which she cannot meet adequately.
- Her current house was very dangerous for human inhabiting in terms of providing protection. The walls could give way anytime and the holed walls could let in any dangerous animals and water.
- The congestion, moist floor, dusty walls can be a very fertile breeding ground for respiratory tract infections
- Her source of livelihood is very undependable and thus generates very little incomes which have kept the household below poverty level.
- She was recommended for the housing support by her fellow grandmothers in her small village group and local community leaders.

Actual construction work;

The actual process of constructing Fridah's house commenced in May and was completed by the second week of June 2015. Like the first one, this house has two bedrooms (i.e., one for the grandchildren and the other for Fridah) and a sitting room. The community was very supportive and made tangible contribution to the selection process for the beneficiary and actual construction process. They provided labour, security and temporary storage of the construction materials such as cement, bricks and sand. They also prepared and shared their meals with the builders.



Constructed house as at the stage of writing this report

Therefore, construction of the second house is complete but pending painting although the foundation stone installed. Given that the old house is very dangerous, we have advised Fridah to occupy the house even before official handover.

Mukama and her grandchildren are now occupying their new home and living a happy life. ***“I am planning to remove the old house and then use the iron sheets to construct a house for chicken. I have plans of rearing chicken to generate income,”*** she says.

Concluding remarks;

We want to appreciate every individual and organization on the Global Giving Platform that has made it possible for us to get this funding. You have not only sheltered a grandmother, but 5 HIV/AIDS orphans and most likely their other children to come. You have given this family a reason to regain their esteem in their community and a sense of being loved. This house has also stimulated community unity. The contribution made by the community members was voluntary and they gave cheerfully. We hope that they use the same spirit to keep supporting such vulnerable persons in the communities even without our presence on the ground.