



Report on the Scholarship and Nutrition Program for OVC's in Rural Uganda for 2022 – 2023 prepared by Hands of Empowerment Uganda.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Scholarship and Nutrition Program for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) in rural Uganda has made significant strides in improving the lives of children by providing access to education and ensuring they receive adequate nutrition. This report highlights the key achievements of the program during the period from **2022** to **2023**, focusing on the number of children reached, the impact on their educational and nutritional status, and the challenges faced.

2. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

2.1 **Background:** In rural Uganda, many children are unable to attend school due to financial constraints and the need to work for survival. Additionally, the lack of proper nutrition exacerbates poverty, affecting children's ability to learn and grow healthily. This program was designed to tackle these challenges by offering scholarships and nutritional support to OVCs in targeted rural areas.

2.2 Objectives:

- To provide scholarships to **80** OVCs in selected areas around Jinja to cover tuition fees, school supplies, and uniforms.
- To ensure children receive at least one nutritious meal per day through school-based feeding programs.
- To improve the health and academic performance of beneficiaries through integrated health and education interventions.

3. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

3.1 Scholarship Distribution

A total of 80 scholarships were awarded to children from low-income households. Each scholarship covered school fees, books, and uniforms. Scholarships were distributed across selected areas in Jinja ensuring gender equity. .



3.2 Nutrition Program

A school feeding program was implemented in one selected school, ensuring daily nutritious meals for OVCs. The meals consisted of locally sourced grains, vegetables, and proteins, addressing malnutrition and encouraging regular school attendance. Periodic health checks were conducted to monitor the children's growth and health status. Over 85% of the children showed improvement in their BMI and overall well-being.

4. IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

4.1 Educational Impact

School attendance increased by 30% among the scholarship recipients compared to the previous year. The dropout rate dropped significantly from 15% to 4%. Academic performance improved, with 60% of the children scoring higher grades in end-of-term exams. Two OVCs were recognized for academic excellence and have been nominated for additional scholarships to continue their education at the secondary level.

4.2 Nutritional Impact

The nutrition program contributed to a 50% reduction in malnutrition cases among OVCs in the targeted schools. Regular health checks showed improved immune function and growth rates among the children. Feedback from parents and teachers indicates that children are more energetic and focused in class, which has positively affected their learning outcomes.

5. CHALLENGES FACED

5.1 Funding Constraints:

Despite the success of the program, financial resources were limited, which affected the ability to expand to more schools or increase the number of beneficiaries.

5.2 Logistical Issues:

Delivering food supplies to rural schools posed challenges due to poor road infrastructure, especially during the rainy season.

5.3 Parent Participation:

Engaging parents in monitoring the health and academic progress of their children remains a challenge due to cultural and economic factors.



6. FUTURE PLANS

- The program aims to increase the number of OVCs benefiting from the scholarships to **100** in the next year.
- Expand the feeding program to one additional area i.e Ghetto areas in Jinja.
- Strengthen community involvement by organizing parent and teacher workshops focused on child welfare and educational support



Figure 1: GRATEFUL HEARTS READY TO LEARN WITH THEIR NEW SCHOLARSTIC MATERIALS



Fig 2: FOCUSED MINDS AT WORK TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACHIEVEMENT.



FIG3. JOYFUL MOMENTS AND BRIGHT SMILES, MAKING THE MOST OF FREE TIME TOGETHER.



Figure4: EXCITED CHILDREN RECEIVE SCHOLARSTIC MATERIALS.



FIG 5: TAKING A BREAK, RECHARGING MINDS: STUDENTS ENJOYING REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN LESSONS.



7. CONCLUSION

The Scholarship and Nutrition Program for OVCs in rural Uganda has positively impacted the lives of many children, improving both their educational prospects and health. Support from donors and partners is essential to sustain and expand this important initiative.

Prepared by

GIZAZA DAVIS

Director Hands of empowerment Uganda
Email: handsofempowermentu@gmail.com
Tel: +256783520269