



AMERICAN WOMEN FOR
INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING

Grant Report

2023

Turkana Community Foundation

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Overview

American Women for International Understanding established the micro-grants program in 2008. The program awards grants annually to organizations and projects that support women internationally. The focus of these projects is on one or more of the following topics: health, entrepreneurship, and education.

In 2023, AWIU worked with 18 grantees across the world. Recipients were located in Uganda, Guatemala, Honduras, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Ivory Coast, Nepal, Ghana, Kenya, and Mali. Projects ranged from sewing programs, to malnutrition programs, to hospital upgrades.

Grants ranged from \$1,000–\$3,000. All grantees were required to submit reports at the end of their projects. While some grantees received AWIU grants in the past, many were first-time recipients.

AWIU is proud to support the work of women, women-led organizations, and critical programs that enhance the livelihood of women internationally.

216 women were trained on income generating activities.

20 computers were purchased for a school.

146 beneficiaries received dental evaluations and treatments.

387 children and their families received malnutrition support and education.

AWIU Micro-Grant Program At-A-Glance



Alpha Women Empowerment Initiative (AWEI), Uganda



About the Grant

In 2023 AWIU celebrated nine years of partnership with Alpha Women Empowerment Initiative (AWEI).

AWEI was granted \$3,000 to support 36 single mothers in a tilapia fish farming project. This included education on feeding, breeding, pest and disease control, general pond management, harvesting, and food preservation methods, as well as the implementation of a fully-functioning fish pond with a pond management committee in the community.

All participants also received nutrition and entrepreneurship training, thereby enhancing their ability to generate income and improve the health of their community.

Anasi Farmers Association, Uganda

About the Grant

The Anasi Farmers Association was granted \$2,500 for 30 young mothers to be trained and equipped for vegetable farming.

The women were trained on the establishment and usage of a vegetable solar dryer to increase food availability.



They also learned about food loss, wastage, and post-harvest handling.

Finally, the women learned financial literacy and management principles to increase independence, such as collective selling to increase bargaining power.

Asociación Grupo de Cajolá, Guatemala

About the Grant

Asociación Grupo de Cajolá was granted \$2,500 for library books. The organization recently started a library and purchased books for preschool and primary school-aged children. They can now offer the opportunity for students to continue their academic studies and provide a space where students can go to read, thereby promoting reading as a habit.



Asociación Legión Honduras, Honduras



About the Grant

Asociación Legión Honduras was granted \$2,800 to purchase and train in the use of dental equipment. As of October 28, 2023, 146 beneficiaries had received dental evaluations and treatments in Trinidad Santa Barbara, which is 7 hours from the capital city.



Association D'Espoir/Gaia Vaccine, Mali

About the Grant

Association D'Espoir/Gaia Vaccine was granted \$1,000 for a nutrition program. Prepared by a group of women called Association Espoir Cooking, these lunches feature a balance of rice, meat, and vegetables. More than 250 people are served each month, including pregnant women, children, and HIV+ community members.

The nutrition program also provides a safe space for HIV+ community members to support each other, work to reduce stigma, and ensure that they receive the nutrients necessary to maintain their antiretroviral therapy.



Association for Social and Educational Rehabilitation (ASER), Pakistan



About the Grant

Association for Social and Educational Rehabilitation (ASER) was granted \$2,000 to provide goats for 15 women along with livestock management training and follow-up veterinary care. The selected women were the hardest hit during severe floods in 2022.

The goats will give birth to 2–4 babies per year, thereby increasing the income of the beneficiary families.

Congo Restoration Girls School of Compassion, Democratic Republic of Congo

About the Grant

Congo Restoration was granted \$3,000 to finish the final 6th grade classroom in a school in Mudaka. 40 students now have a fully finished classroom to start school in September. The work included a roof, windows, door, and inside finishes.

Congo Restoration's goal is to revitalize the village of Mudaka, restoring hope and dignity by empowering women and girls through education.



Divine Action Rural Development Foundation (DARUDEFO), Uganda

About the Grant

Divine Action Rural Development Foundation (DARUDEFO) was granted \$2,000 for a briquette formation and sales training program, encouraging the use of local resources to develop sustainable energy and combat deforestation.

Women received training in briquette-making practices using machines to form good quality briquettes, and are now familiar with using locally-available materials like organic waste (coffee husks, rice husks, maize cobs, banana peels), charcoal dust, and sawdust. Since the training program was initiated, briquette production has risen by an estimated 67% in the community.

Annet, a 30-year-old mother of five living in Kasese, used to spend over UGX 115,500 (~\$35) every month on charcoal to prepare food for her family. This was a big expense for her as it accounted for 50% of her monthly income.

Recently however, this changed due to the introduction of “green charcoal” briquettes in her district. With this new type of fuel, Annet’s budget has been halved. She now spends about UGX 59,400 (~\$18) per month on charcoal.

“The briquettes are cheaper, dustless and burn longer,” Annet says, adding that they have helped her to save time (because they are readily available) and money, which she is now reinvesting into her business selling food crops in the market.



Femmes En Action (FEA), Burundi

About the Grant

Femmes En Action (FEA) was granted \$2,500 for sewing training for 25 women.

25 unemployed women were trained in sewing, accounting, and marketing with continuing support and advice from trainers. Most beneficiaries began without any sewing experience but can now sew traditional Burundian shirts, trousers, gowns, and more. The women are currently being mentored by trainers as they start their own shops or work for other tailors.

Foundation for Women Afflicted by Conflict (FOWAC), Uganda

About the Grant

The Foundation for Women Afflicted by Conflict (FOWAC) was granted \$1,000 for training and materials for sewing school uniforms and reusable sanitary pads.

Girls in five primary schools were supplied with assorted garments to make reusable pads. The previously-purchased sewing machines were also serviced, including replacement of spare parts by a technician. Some of the girls who learned stitching were able to make and sell bags, thereby earning money to facilitate their scholastic needs.



Ivory Coast Mothers and Children, Ivory Coast

About the Grant

Ivory Coast Mothers and Children was granted \$1,000 for a nutrition program for children and \$2,100 for hospital upgrades. The organization transformed the labor and delivery room of the hospital into an area that ensures care and comfort for expectant mothers and their newborns. The newly upgraded recovery areas, which now have tiling and fans, have already garnered positive feedback from patients and their families. Patients now have access to an environment that is conducive to healing and welcoming little ones with confidence and joy. The children at the primary school in Braffouebay also received nutritious meals during their first semester.



Modern Model Residential School (MMRS), Nepal

About the Grant

The Modern Model Residential School (MMRS) was granted \$2,500 to provide furniture for dormitories, classrooms, and offices.

Previously, the 32 children in the dormitory did not have any storage space for their clothes and personal items in their rooms. With these new cabinets, each child now has a designated space. Shoe racks were also purchased. The children's rooms and corridors are cleaner and better organized as a result.

With the remaining funds, MMRS also bought office racks for books and storage, a bookcase for medicines in the health room, and tables and chairs for the school.



Prince & Princess Academy, Ghana

About the Grant

The Prince & Princess Academy was granted \$2,500 to develop a library and purchase books and 20 desktop computers, installed and equipped with the latest software. Currently 170 students benefit from the computer laboratory.



Rwenzori United Group For Improvement (RUGLI), Uganda



About the Grant

The Rwenzori United Group for Life Improvement (RUGLI) was granted \$4,000 for the care and management of goats. Forty women were trained in goat care, nutrient and crop management, and marketing principles. Training sessions were held by experienced trainers from the National Agricultural Research Institute – Kasese Branch. Women are now able to provide their children with goat milk at a reduced cost, and the goat manure generated is reused as fertilizer on their banana plantations.

Tejidos Cotzal, Guatemala

About the Grant

Tejidos Cotzal was granted \$3,000 for weaving projects for the Ixil Maya Women's Museum of Art, Education, and Survival. The weavers set out to create *guipiles*, traditional women's woven blouses that date back hundreds of years to before the Spanish conquest, and other clothing with traditional patterns and techniques that are being lost. The 11 women weavers created 10 guipiles and 1 jacket for display. This museum is the first of its kind, and is already offering cultural education to tourists and the community alike.



TRACK Nepal, Nepal



About the Grant

TRACK Nepal was granted \$2,000 for the training of traditional birth attendants. The project provided pre- and post-natal care and hygiene training to 20 traditional birth attendants in ten rural areas of Nepal, providing services to approximately 300 mothers by proxy. The project provided the traditional birth attendants skills training and kits, which they are now using during the birth process. This has helped in reducing the infant and maternal mortality among these ten communities.

Turkana Community Foundation, Kenya

About the Grant

The Turkana Community Foundation was granted \$2,300 for their Revolving Dairy Goat project. The aim of the project is to improve the nutritional health and living standards of widows infected or affected with HIV/AIDS who are residents of Kanamkemer villages and to create employment and income-generating opportunities in the realm of goat husbandry. 30 women were the beneficiaries of this effort.



Women Arises Association (WAA), Uganda



About the Grant

Women Arises Association (WAA) was granted \$2,750 to install a solar power system for Bwatale community hospital. Previously the maternity ward did not have power or lighting at night when the hydroelectric power was turned off. As a result, pregnant women were not in an environment where they could safely give birth, and doctors and nurses were unable to safely do their jobs. The hospital now has power and lighting at night and during outages, thereby improving birth outcomes.



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