


WIDOWED SURVIVORS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (WSEP) QUARTELY REPORT


1. *Name of the project: WSEP*
2. *Project Implementer: AVEGA AGAHOZO*
3. *Reporting Period: April 1st – June 30st 2012*
4. **Basic information**
 - I. *Total Amount received in quarter One: 76,264, 340 Rwf*
 - II. *Donor/Financier(s): DFID*
 - III. *Date of signature of credit/grant agreement: March 30th 2012.*
 - IV. *Date of effect: April 1st 2012*
5. **Project Objective(s):** To transform the lives of widowed survivors of the genocide, and their dependants, by eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and eventually empowering them to integrate into Rwandan society.
6. **Project components:** 1st: Enable economically active widows to receive livelihood training and access to capital, 2nd: Assist widows and dependants in the concerned regions who require legal assistance, land and property rights, 3rd: Attendance at clinics and counselling by widows who require healthcare, 4th: Raising awareness of HIV, and testing, among widows and their dependants; provision of treatment if required 5th:. Enrolment of widows' dependants in primary or secondary school.
7. **Project Boundaries:** Avega Southern Region (ASR), Avega Northern Region (ANR) and Avega Western Region (AWR).



No	INDICATOR	PLANNED ACTIVITY	ACHIEVED	IMPACT	CHALLENGES
1.		<i>Activity 1: Raising awareness on Trauma issues and HIV/AIDS</i>	Educational activities for 24,269 participants, of which 13,006 were men and 11, 263 were women. (45 women HIV+).	The community is educated about trauma, HIV/AIDS, its effects on the community and means of prevention. The community is aware of the need to support victims.	Limited number of counsellors.

2	HEALTH CARE	<i>Activity 2:</i> Individual Counselling	502 clients received individual counselling.	502 people who experienced trauma during the commemoration of the genocide were assisted and regained a stable state of mind. 12 clients were transferred to Psychiatric Centres and have received treatment as well as regular follow-ups.	
3		<i>Activity 3:</i> Help in trauma crises	1362 clients were assisted with counselling of which 55 were men, compared with 1307 women.	Reduction of traumatic disorder for 105 clients living with psychological problems;	
4		<i>Activity 4:</i> Group counselling	56 groups were trained: 704 members of which 679 are women and 25 are men. 	A new therapy group was created in each region, resulting in three (3) new therapy groups overall.	

Picture 1: group counselling session.

<p>5</p>		<p>Activity 5: Training of volunteers in trauma counselling</p>	<p>120 Volunteers were trained in Trauma Counselling</p>  <p><i>Picture 2: Training of volunteers in Trauma healing</i></p>  <p><i>Picture3: Refresher Course on Trauma issues/ Volunteers on Trauma (APS) AVEGA West</i></p>	<p>The participants returned home with the ambition of helping other members in their villages and cells.</p>	
<p>6.</p>		<p>Activity 6: Provision of education at the point of testing for HIV/AIDS. Assistance to widows living with HIV/AIDS.</p>	<p>835 participants have received education at the point of HIV testing. 250 members living with HIV/AIDS have received financial support.</p>	<p>835 participants have received education on the nature of HIV; Grants provided to Widows living with HIV/AIDS</p>	<p>HIV+ widows who have the lowest CD4 counts are not able to walk to</p>

				helped them to follow their course of ARV correctly, which is the best way to increase their CD4 count. Their wellbeing improved as a result.	the Avega offices to obtain assistance. This requires the staff to conduct field visits to their homes; but this was not anticipated.
7.	SOCIAL	<i>Activity 1:</i> Follow up by WSEP of 1000 baseline survey questionnaires in the 3 regions concerned.	1024 Questionnaires were collected from AWR, ANR, and ASR. This task was facilitated by regional training where a combined team from SURF Rwanda and AVEGA explained to data volunteers who were in charge of data collection how to conduct a survey and what its impact is. 	The volunteers have been taught techniques of data collection. This was a new system of providing a snapshot of the current situation of AVEGA members. The results have been presented to Regional coordinators and used as a tool to design a new log frame for the WSEP Project.	A high number of members that require a lot of attention; it was not possible to cover some areas within the time frame. The use of a sample involves some errors; to conduct a census would be better.

					
<p>8</p>		<p>Activity 2: social acts and representation</p>	<p>Restoration of 16 houses across AWR, ANR, ASR, of which 14 are for genocide widows and 2 for orphans; built in Northern Rwanda in partnership with the Police, GAERG and AVEGA.</p> 	<p>Shelter circumstances of widows and orphans have been improved: they no longer get wet during the rainy seasons and they have a greater degree of personal security.</p>	<p>There is a high number of widows in precarious circumstances.</p>






Picture 5: Restoration of AVEGA beneficiaries' homes by Ndora/Avega with other partners.



A coalition was especially formed to repair widows' houses during the Commemoration period. Ndora sector/ASR.

6 widows have been helped to obtain a cow, of which five (5) are from the North where they expect to receive 15 more; to total 20 cows as offered by the Gicumbi District.



			<p><i>Picture 6: A widow caring for a cow provided by the project</i></p> <p>115 vulnerable widows have received support for agricultural activities. Consultation with other partners: Red Cross, Women for Development, JADF and local authorities and other NGOs as well.</p>	<p>Living conditions of those who obtained cows is improving: malnutrition issues will be reduced thanks to the consumption of milk, fertilizers for farms, etc.</p>	
9		<p>Activity 3: Assistance to older widows via Hardship Grants and nutritional assistance</p>	<p>169 vulnerable older members have received nutritional support. This support was provided by means of materials that enable the beneficiaries to live and maintain hope for the future.</p>  <p><i>Picture 7. Hardship deliverance AWR CDW distributes nutritional support .</i></p>	<p>The nutritional assistance was of great value to the beneficiaries, as the rate of starvation has reduced.</p> <p>Social assistance of various kinds offered to members has served as a way to educate people to evaluate needs, problem solve and play an active part in finding solutions.</p> <p>Hardship grants helped beneficiaries to obtain seeds, household goods, clothes, mattresses. Their living conditions improved as a result.</p>	<p>High number of elderly widows who are need a high level of support.</p>

			 <p><i>Picture 8: Elderly widow signs for allowance received</i></p>		
		<p>Activity 4: Home Visits</p>	<p>672 home visits took place in order to provide assistance, as well as to identify the poorest beneficiaries and thereby prioritise the allocation of resources.</p>  <p><i>Picture 9: Field visit carried out by CDW, IGA Assistant, counsellor and legal officer in Muko sector in order to identify & introduce WSEP.</i></p> <p>The AVEGA members have appreciated WSEP and on the pattern of IGA, they considered it to be key to their development.</p>	<p>Beneficiaries were encouraged that AVEGA is contributing to their life by searching for new funders and directly engaging with them in order to experience their living conditions.</p>	<p>Limited capacity for field visits to engage with AVEGA's beneficiaries.</p>
		<p>Activity 1: Project</p>	<p>Coordinators, IGA officers, all CDWs, have attended the</p>	<p>All WSEP staff from all</p>	<p>There has not</p>

ECONOMICS & LIVELIHOOD	Introduction & Familiarisation	workshop at AVEGA headquarter, prepared by SURF Rwanda. Participation in a workshop on WSEP project from 16 th to 18 th April 2012.	  <p><i>Picture 11: MUGABO Alex, PM of SURF during workshop on WSEP project took place at AVEGA Headquarters from 16th to 18th April 2012 was explaining the main goals of the project.</i></p>	regions have good working knowledge in so far as they are aware of the most essentials for making a project successful. Currently all WSEP implementers are able to facilitate the achievement of WSEP goals and objectives.	been time for more enhanced familiarisation with the project.
	Activity2: IGAs	1019 recipients were identified and introduced into cooperatives.	They know the meaning of a Group (Itsinda) and market		

			<p><i>Picture 12: Skills sharing in a Cooperative.</i></p>	<p>(isoko). 21 groups are ready to start IGA activities but only 15 of them will start by quarter one of WSEP.</p>	
	<p>Activity3: Group creation, consolidation and development training</p>		<p>Workshops and training on IGA entrepreneurship were organized, comprising 61 groups and 8 Zones in areas where participants are dispersed.</p>	<p>To date 21 groups are ready to start training.</p>	<p>Time available for training was limited.</p>
	<p>Activity4: Training and workshops on well being for the beneficiaries.</p>			<p>Small projects will be undertaken and livestock reared as participants are now aware of the benefits of entrepreneurship.</p>	




Picture 13: 23 Educational sessions on the ethos of Cooperatives have been conducted by CDWs, IGA Assistants.

Members are educated on how to start up small scale activities that lead to poverty reduction, such as raising small livestock and growing vegetable gardens.



Picture 14: Well being starts at home with kitchens and gardens

Each house of beneficiaries must have a kitchen and garden to avoid diseases caused by malnutrition and to reduce the cost of basic needs such as vegetables, etc.

	EDUCATION	Activity 1: Assist children born of rape	28 children of primary age and 70 children of secondary age have received scholarships from AWR and their studies are progressing well.	Their quality of life has improved via access to education; they are supervised and they perform well in their studies.	
		Activity 2: Vocational training	Orphans: 4 Orphans received sponsorships for 6 months of vocational school at Gacuriro in the Northern region.	They undertake various professional courses and their level of hope has increased.	
		Activity 1: Identification of legal cases	1081 legal cases of AVEGA members were identified and treated accordingly.  <i>Picture 15: Family members explain the problem in front of an AVEGA legal officer and Local Leaders of Ruvune Sector/ANR.</i>	Home visits, office visits to identify cases that need assistance. AVEGA's services have engendered a high level of trust among beneficiaries. Collaboration with local authorities has improved in the resolution of AVEGA members' problems.	
	JUSTICE, ADVOCACY	Activity 2: Legal assistance	92 AVEGA members benefited from legal support in various situations such as courts, Gacaca, and local authorities.	Increased knowledge sharing about the end of Gacaca courts and their contribution to building peace and reconciliation in Rwandan society. Most of the cases were fully	



Picture 16: Legal assistance with Avega's members



Picture 17: Legal advice assisting AVEGA's beneficiaries.

handled via mediation committees, 18 cases involved administrative authorities, 5 were transferred to the high courts and are now making good progress.



Picture 18: Legal officer/ANR gives an explanation to AVEGA members about the closing of Gacaca courts.

Activity 3:
Training/Workshop for paralegals.

101 paralegals from ASR have been trained on land law and property rights.




Picture 19: Training of palalegals in ASR

A redeployment of 101 paralegals was undertaken to establish the new project, evaluate the activities carried out by the paralegals and provide information about the status of Gacaca jurisdiction.

Paralegals intervene in a timely fashion and with confidence and knowledge of the laws when identifying cases in the field.

Limited number of trained paralegals in ASR only. No trained paralegals in AWR and ANR.

		<p>Activity 4: Consolidate knowledge of laws and rights of members.</p>	<p>1010 members participated in various sessions and learnt their rights on property, succession and liberality.</p>  <p><i>Picture 20: Gatari Germain, a legal officer /ASR highlighting laws and rights of members.</i></p>	<p>1010 members have been trained on land laws in collaboration with R.N.C. Justice and Democracy.</p>	
		<p>Activity 5: preparation of and participation in the commemorative activities of 18th anniversary of the genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda.</p>	<p>During the commemoration period that lasted three months i.e. April to June, various activities were carried out. In the Northern province various organisations collaborated with local government and districts to raise funds in favour of genocide survivors, including Avega members.</p>	<p>Genocide survivors were supported in general. AVEGA's board has specifically planned a schedule of visits to mentor all beneficiaries in their homes, providing moral, financial and material support.</p>	

STATEMENTS

Trauma cases are still high but most of the cases relate to women, as the table below demonstrates that 4% of the population who experienced trauma crisis were men whereas 96% were women. This is to say 55 out of 1362 against 1307 out of 1362.

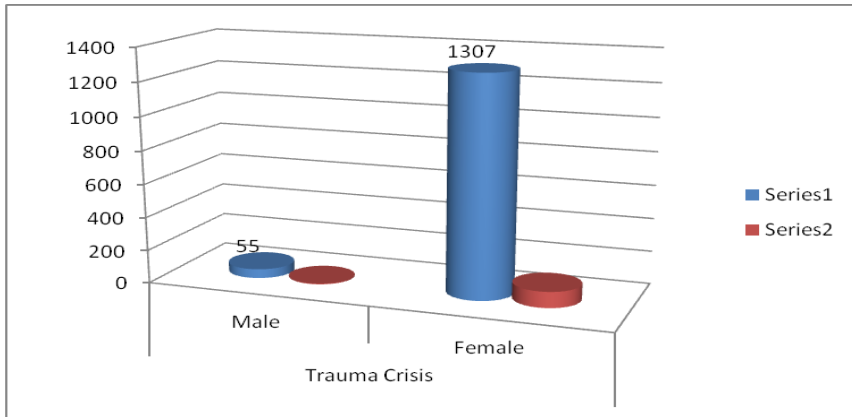


Figure1: Trauma Crisis. Source: AVEGA Regional Report

Figure 2 below shows how the data collection was carried out and its impact on the sampled population. The sampled size was up to 1000 while the collected data reached up to 1024. This will provide more significant information, which will in no way change the basis of the calculations.

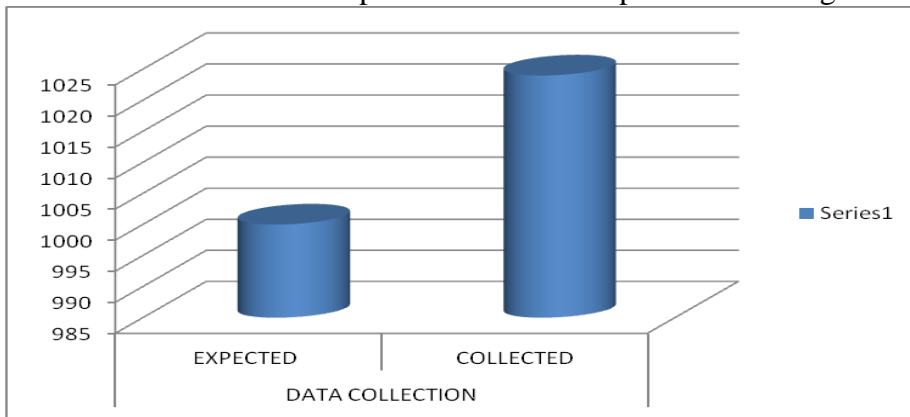


Figure 2: Data Collection in AWR, ASR, ANR regions. Source , Field Visit from AVEGA.

The table below demonstrates the attendance of both males and females; some events are organised for the entire community to provide education on Trauma and HIV.

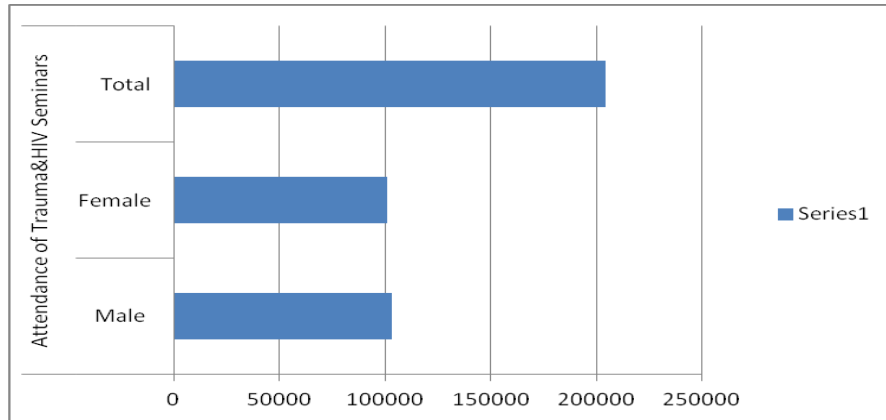


Figure 3: Attendance at Seminars on Trauma & HIV. Source: AVEGA regional reports

LINKS TO OTHER PROJECTS

To better achieve the realisation of the WSEP project, there are both direct and indirect projects taking place which conduct activities in favour of AVEGA's beneficiaries as well as their dependants. Examples are: EDUCATION supported by the Rwanda Foundation, AWR is a benefit to AVEGA's members their dependants, LAF legal assistance in the Southern province, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

AVEGA will continue to establish new projects and attract funders to support them in order to complement the WSEP project activities that are in place, and to ensure the sustainability of the beneficiaries' activities.

CONCLUSION

In General, quarter one of WSEP went well, which demonstrates that if all efforts are maintained and intensified all the project goals will be met by the project end.

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