



6940 Burgess St., Houston, TX 77021 | admin@assetuganda.org | www.assetuganda.org

A. Organization Information

Organization Name: Allied Solutions for Sustainable Education & Trust, Inc (ASSET)

Contact Name: Chris Lukolyo

Contact Title: President

Contact Email and Phone number: Email: admin@assetuganda.org Phone: +1(608) 620-3564 / +1(608) 338-6015

Organization's Mission Statement: To provide higher education scholarships and mentoring to college-level students in Uganda from disadvantaged backgrounds who demonstrate real potential for success, while creating economic opportunities for impoverished women artisans with low levels of educational attainment.

Organization Website: www.assetuganda.org

Program Title for grant request: Women in Higher Education

B. Funded Program objectives

1. To identify and support 20 promising women to complete higher education at a Ugandan institution (university or vocational training).
2. To provide supplementary mentoring, workplace training, and workshops to help these women improve their interpersonal, communication and leadership skills.
3. To enhance the **Bead 2 Read** program with workshops to improve the business and marketing skills of the artisans.

C. Progress Report

During the first six months of implementation of its "Women in Higher Education" program, ASSET received over 200 applications from a diverse group of young women from all over Uganda. The ASSET selection committee, made up of ASSET staff, Mother's Union members, other community partners, and past ASSET graduates selected 20 students based on their past academic performance, demonstrated need, and ability to articulate future goals.

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The fields of study of the applicants chosen for this program include project planning, business management, nursing, accounting and finance, as well as development studies, to mention just a few.



Some of ASSET's newly recruited students into the "Women in Higher Education" Program

Secondly, during this period ASSET held two leadership symposia and during these events, women who are leaders in the Ugandan business and public sectors were invited to mentor ASSET's new and existing beneficiaries. They provided career guidance and helped chair participatory sessions on leadership and confidence building.

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ASSET Beneficiaries listen to a speaker during one of the leadership symposia held in the first 6-months of the "Women in Higher Education" Program.



I want to thank ASSET and its partners for giving me a chance to realize my dreams and to contribute to my family's future. – Nabaweesi Dinah (New ASSET Beneficiary)

Additionally, ASSET held two training sessions with women who make traditional jewelry from recycled paper beads as part of ASSET's bead-2-read program. Training sessions were

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held in financial record keeping and in sales skills. The women appreciated the training very much as these skills often get in the way of them getting good prices for their products or keeping track of production.



Some of the female artisans who ASSET works with – they make traditional jewelry out of recycled paper beads in order to earn money to send their children to school

As far as the program goals and objectives are concerned, nothing has changed from the original program as it was approved. All activities are being implemented as originally intended. Similarly, the program budget has remained the same as originally proposed and approved.

During the implementation of the program, we at ASSET have experienced the following major challenges and have addressed them in the following ways:

Challenge	Solution
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limited Internet access within the population targeted for recruitment into the “Women in Higher Education” program. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. This meant that ASSET had to be creative in the way it spread the word in order to attract applicants. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To address this challenge, ASSET staff reached out head teachers in different institutions of higher learning (both rural and urban) and asked them to encourage promising female students in need to apply. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. This was done to ensure that ASSET received applications from a diverse group of students from all over the country.

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<p>2. Some of the students recruited into the program had to travel long distances to attend the training and mentoring sessions.</p>	<p>2. To address this challenge ASSET provided a transport allowance to the students to help pay their bus fare to and from training sessions.</p>
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Even with these challenges, the timeline for the program has not changed from the original funding application.

Additionally, the funding for the program has not changed and ASSET has not received any additional funds from any other source for this program.

Of the original \$22,500 DFW restricted funds received for Year 1 of ASSET's program, \$16,000 has been disbursed and \$6,300 remains. The majority of the funds were earmarked for tuition and these payments have been made to the respective institutions.

Conclusion:

ASSET, the organization is the same as it was when it was first presented to DFW in the approved funding proposal. The staff, board members and partners are the same. The only change is that the family is now bigger – boasting 20 new female students who now have the chance at a brighter future for themselves and their families, thanks to the the support of Dining for Women.



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THANK YOU!!

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