

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Alliance for African Assistance (Alliance) is a Non-Governmental Organization registered in Uganda in April 2002 with a vision of a Country at peace with itself and in harmony with its neighbors. Its mission is to promote social development, education, provision of psychosocial support and healthy living through community participation with essence of promotion of basic life skills for the poor and underprivileged through advocacy, training, research and effective management. Alliance's programs target refugees, orphans and other vulnerable children (OVCs), health, widows, the elderly and other less fortunate members of the community through Community development. The organization values Transparency, Accountability, Honesty and Participatory Approach.

Alliance has nine-member staff provides and the Organization's areas of intervention are basic literacy and education, economic empowerment and development, water and sanitation, disease prevention and treatment.

Under basic education and literacy, Alliance is implementing a Child Sponsorship Program in which it connects needy children in northern Uganda to sponsors from America and Italy and makes arrangement for payment of their school fees and provision of scholastic and personal materials needed to support learning. This program has been running for over eighteen years and over seven hundred and sixty children have benefitted from it.



Distribution scholastic and personal materials



Alliance is also implementing a Career Readiness Program in which it partners with a team of career guidance experts, visit selected schools and conduct career guidance and counseling to students with focus on the techniques of reading, choosing a career and excelling in school. Over four thousand five hundred children in Amuru and Gulu District have already benefitted from this program and it has generally boosted performance of children.



With Funding from Rotary International and



other donors, Alliance has built a 200 bed's hospital at Tebeyo, in Pupwonya Parish, Atiak Sub-county. The hospital arose from a needs assessment conducted by Alliance for African Assistance in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Gulu, Ker Kwaro Atiak (Office of the King/Cultural Chief of Atiak) and other community leaders, in an effort to rebuild northern Uganda after 20 devastating years of war. Methods used for the consultation included eight focus group discussions, observation and interviews with key stakeholders. Through ranking by prioritization, they identified lack of appropriate, accessible and affordable healthcare services as a major problem. To demonstrate the community's commitment to improving health care services, the community of Atiak donated twenty three acres of land for constructing the hospital, with the offer of more land for expansion when required. Community youth also voluntarily cleared the proposed hospital site. The hospital has employed over 100 local construction workers for over three years on the construction site. Construction is fully completed, medical equipment installed and in its first phase, the new hospital will provide direct medical services for a population of 100,000 ranging from surgery and anesthesiology to maternity and child health for the community. It is important to note that this is the only in Amuru District and it is strategically located between the two refugee settlement camps of Palabek and Pagirinya





In the line of economic empowerment and development, Alliance for African Assistance is working with the active poor in Gulu and Amuru District through the platform of Table Banking Groups services for social-economic empowerment. A Table Banking Group is a cluster of people who save together and take small loans from those savings. The purpose of this is to provide simple savings and loan facilities in a community that does not have easy access to formal financial institutions and services. Most of the groups have about 20-60 members who meet once every week on a day selected by members in a general group meeting. Groups hold annual elections for the five office positions (Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity/Mobilizer) with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. These groups are very simple but their result has yielded very powerful outcomes for the local community. Alliance supports these groups with revolving credit to expand their businesses and boost their savings. They also train the groups on income generating activities and business management skills to boost better performance. Key activities are geared towards boosting production skills and business management. The most common businesses among these people are selling produce (unprocessed items from the garden like beans, maize, simsim and others), animal rearing and poultry keeping. Some people are growing food items for sale (Like okra, green paper, cabbages and others) or buying other items (like bananas, fishes) from the known producing districts and selling it profitably at the home market or border. Others are running shops/kiosks in which they sell general merchandise while others save to buy a bull/oxen which they train to ox-plough other people's garden for money. Through this project Alliance is supporting 16 village savings groups and 32 groups have already benefitted. This project is playing a key role in community empowerment and development of Gulu and Amuru District. .



On a similar ground, Alliance is supports a group of paper bead makers teamed under a common umbrella of Lacan Pe Kun Bead Makers. The organization supports this team by providing them with the materials they need for making the beads, training, marketing their products in the US and the money is wired back to them. This program is a source of live to over twenty people, most of whom are widows, child mothers and the disabled.



To boost access to clean water and sanitation, Alliance has drilled four community boreholes (deep wells) in Atiak. The Organization has also partnered with the Rotary Club of Gulu to drill ten more boreholes in selected areas with limited access to clean water in Amuru District. This is boosting access to safe drinking water and it is playing a key role in disease prevention especially with the prevailing Covid19 pandemic.





In conjunction with the Rotary Club of Gulu and the Rotary Club 33 of San Diego California, AAA is implementing a solar cooking project which has benefited over 700 households in northern Uganda.



Forty widows who benefitted from Koro village, Omoro County receives their cookers after being trained.



Fifty elders from Unyama village, Gulu District receives their cookers.



Fifty Beneficiary Mothers from Cwero village, Gulu District



Forty solar cookers distributed to the disable people of Attiak teamed under a common umbrella of Rubanga Mamiyo Ngolo disable group (Loosely translated as disability is a God given)



Representative of Ker Kwaro Attiak receives fifty Haines cookers on behalf of the clan leaders of Ker Kwaro Attiak



In 2019, Alliance Partnered with the Rotary Clubs of San Diego, California, USA and Gulu, Uganda, African Refugee Education Project and Solar Connect Association and implemented a very successful solar cooking festival in Palabek. 33 women were trained in solar cooking and over 100 households benefitted from the project.

