

2014-2015

Annual Report



Charity No: 1081769

2014-2015

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ABOUT TRANSFORM AFRICA

Transform Africa (TA) is a UK registered charity based in London which seeks to empower local communities and organisations in Africa to tackle poverty and its root causes through sustainable and transformative approaches.

It is an African/Diaspora-led organisation (a majority of our trustees are of African origin), guided by clear values and with an emphasis on equal partnerships. This helps us to:

- Draw on our linkages, local expertise and experience;
- Find good local partners who are rooted in their communities;
- Tackle sensitive issues (e.g. local partner governance and leadership);
- Reach the most disadvantaged;
- Be innovative in adapting existing approaches (e.g. in micro-finance and PLA)

MISSION

To Increasing the effectiveness of communities and local organisations in fighting poverty and its causes in Africa, particularly women and other disadvantaged groups through community-led processes that involve bringing together key groups in participatory analysis, tackling negative cultural beliefs, constructive advocacy and improving power relations between men and women.

OUR VISION

A poverty free Africa where social injustice mainly caused by bad leadership, embedded beliefs and attitudes which are reinforced by negative aspects of culture and religion are redressed by effectively harnessing available resources for social, educational and economic advancement.

1. Self-determination:

Transform Africa recognises the right of people and organisations to self-determination and thus making decisions on matters that affect them as a group without undue external influence. It therefore believes such a right is fundamental for the effectiveness of NGOs both in the south and the north and most importantly for marginalised people and communities that it works with.

2. Social justice:

Transform Africa seeks to ensure that all Transform programmes promote fair and equitable treatment of all people irrespective of sex, age, race, class and religion.

3. Learning and sharing:

Transform Africa recognises the importance of promoting processes that encourage our partners and other actors in the development sector to share and learn from each other's experiences so as to improve programme effectiveness. It therefore strives to create an atmosphere that encourages transparency and mutual respect.

4. Making a difference/impact:

Transform Africa believes in working in ways that strive to bring about positive social and economic change (impact) and ensuring monitoring systems that verify the effects of our work in order to learn from them.

5. Gender equity and diversity:

Transform Africa acknowledges and respects the differences between women and men whilst at the same time it values and realises that those differences are also an asset. As such, it recognises the importance of respecting both women and men and ensuring that every individual involved with it is treated fairly and equitably.

6. Partnership:

Transform Africa believes in adopting ways of working that recognises equality and involving partners in all processes that lead to decision that affect them.

Transform Africa's work focuses on the following three key areas:

Capacity building

We work with members of the Transform Network to offer technical services to local organisations in Africa to enable them to improve their effectiveness and thus better serve the communities they work with.

Community support

We raise funds and work with the partner organisations to support communities to find lasting solutions to poverty.

Specific areas we have been involved in include HIV prevention and management, Water and Sanitation including the construction of wells, (Microcredit and training in wealth creation for self-sufficiency and sustainable livelihoods), Apprenticeship and Vocational Training and Youth Employment.

Research and advocacy

We carry out research, lobbying and advocacy work on gender and North–South partnerships with a view to bring in African perspectives to transform gender, improve North–South partnerships and challenge some of the development paradigms on fighting poverty in Africa.

SIERRA LEONE

Social & Economic Reintegration of Northern Sierra Leone

The four-year Comic Relief-funded project for Northern Sierra Leone communities ended during the year and evaluated by an independent consultant. Over 10,000 people, mostly women, young people and people living with disabilities, benefited from it through access to affordable loans and training in business management and wealth creation for small-scale enterprise development, vocational and apprenticeship training and Ebola awareness and prevention. Many of the beneficiary women have become successful small-scale entrepreneurs, gained greater economic independence. They are able to meet basic needs, such as food, clothing, healthcare for themselves and their families. Young men and women have gained marketable and business skills and become gainfully employed. This has increased their incomes, improved their livelihoods and enabled them to become respected participants in their communities. We are planning to apply for a follow-on funding in order to provide greater financial and business support to those groups of entrepreneurs who have been most successful.

Freetown Urban Slums Transformation Initiative

The five-year Comic Relief-funded Freetown Slums Transformation Initiative is now in its third year and is expected to benefit over 40,000 slum community members in the Western Area through provision of affordable loans to set up businesses, supporting them to improve roads and increasing access to vocational and apprenticeship training and safe drinking water. So far, slum dwellers who have benefited from the project have reported significant increases in their incomes and improved health and livelihoods despite the Ebola outbreak which seriously affected the country.

Access to clean water:

To achieve this objective, CBOs agreed with the Government owned Guma Valley Water Company to extend piped water to, where possible, the slum communities which had been awarded the small grants for that purpose. Where this was not possible, communities used the grants to pay for technical support to construct concrete dams around underground springs whose water had been tested and proved to be safe for human consumption. Outlet pipes were connected to the dams and laid to extend water to the people in the slum communities using stand pipes.

For sustainability, water user committees are elected by the beneficiary communities. These are charged with the responsibility of looking after the water dams and pipes. They collect water-user fees, which are set and agreed by their communities, for the repair and maintenance of the pipes and dams.

Testimony from a beneficiary of improved access to clean water – Marie

Marie, one of the beneficiaries of improved access to clean water, was interviewed by project staff the following is what she had to say:

"We used to cross the main highway and walk for more than 30 minutes to collect drinking water. Apart from the risk of accidents, this used to adversely affect my work and my children's performance at school as we used to wake up very early and often be late at work and school."

However, in March 2015, with financial support from YDM, our CBO worked in collaboration with the National Guma Valley water company which connected our Bottom Oku slum area to the city piped water supply. As a result, we no longer have to wake up early in the morning and cross the risky highway to access clean water. We are all happy in our community, especially as women and mothers, since our productivity has increased and our children’s performance at school is beginning to improve”



**Celebrating a newly constructed safe water point
(Marie with red head tie)**

Land ownership:

The formation of the Inter-Slum Advocacy Association has meant that the Freetown City Council is not currently implementing plans to evict slum-dwellers. For example, families had received eviction notices from the Freetown City Council, the Ministry of Lands and Sierra Leone Environmental Agency. An “X” mark was put on all structures which were considered illegal and environmentally unacceptable. YDM and CBO representatives from those slums had a meeting with the Mayor of Freetown, following which the eviction order was put on hold with an understanding that the ongoing project to improve those areas with YDM support would continue and improve the conditions in two slums.

Certificates of ownership:

Securing a land ownership certificate requires a substantial amount of funds which most slum dwellers cannot easily find through the small loans the project provides. Such loans have been criticised for perpetuating a subsistence business model which does not allow beneficiaries to generate enough profits for meaningful development. Consideration should be given in future to supporting meaningful social enterprise initiatives through giving bigger affordable loans to poor people who can demonstrate the ability to improve their businesses and re-pay the loan.

Testimony from an affordable small loan beneficiary – Adama

Adama was one of those who received their certificates; this is what she had to say:

"I acquired my plot 10 years ago and, as I was regarded as a squatter, I built a small temporary house which we have lived in for the past 10 years. Following the eviction notice, YDM supported our community to lobby the Government and Freetown City Council against the removal of people from the affected areas and that those who had plots should be issued with certificates of ownership.

We were very excited to hear that, in the end, the decision to evict us had been suspended. Finally the site plan was signed by the National Director of Surveys I was handed the certificate of ownership of the land in June 2014. I immediately started improving my zinc-wall to a permanent four-bedroom house where I now live comfortably with my family."



Adama displaying the certificate at her renovated house

Empowering Fishing Communities in Uganda to Fight HIV/AIDS and its Impact

The project ended in February 2016 and has been empowering fishing communities on Lake Victoria in Uganda to fight HIV and AIDS. The aim has been to support an estimated 8,630 poor and vulnerable people in Kalangala district Uganda so as to increase their access to HIV services and address social and economic challenges in order for them to enjoy a better quality of life. A mid-term review was conducted during the year and according to the findings, 9,500 people had benefited from HIV awareness raising and knowledge, resulting in increased uptake of HIV testing, Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) and other HIV-related services. In addition, 540 women had been supported with affordable loans to engage in income generating activities in order to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection due to dependence on men for their economic survival.

Success stories:

Case Study - Lutaaya

Lutaaya is a male member of Buzingo cattle keeper STAR Circle in Bukasa, 43 years old; he is single and a farmer. He joined the STAR Circle in 2013 after being persuaded by his close friend Kaggwa who was by then a STAR facilitator. He often complained of persistent fever, but he had refused to go for blood testing fearing consequences that would happen if he tested positive, his friends still insisted that he goes for HTC. Members continued mounting pressure on him to go for testing; he eventually went to a nearby health unit for HTC. When HTC results were revealed to him, he was positive. He looked fearful, but his friends comforted him; saying that they were also positive. They advised him to start active involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS since he was already a victim. He heeded to the advice and immediately enrolled on ARVs. His health improved and became a very active member of the Star circle.

Towards end of 2013, Kaggwa was elected BIDA board member representing Kyamuswa Sub County and Circle members started looking for who would replace Kaggwa. They held elections and Lutaaya was unanimously voted as their new Star facilitator. Today he is a role model in terms of positive living and he is serving the community in various capacities, as a star facilitator, community counsellor, a member of the Village health team and a model farmer.

Bufumira rice growers get their own machine

Bufumira Island Development Association provides improved seeds of crop and livestock to member community groups to enable small holder farmers improve food security and house hold incomes. Some of the beneficiaries under this project are Lulindi rice growers, a village located on Bufumira Island. Realizing that rice does well in their locality, the farmers requested BIDA to provide them with improved seeds of rice.

BIDA responded by giving them 1000 kg of seeds to which they added more supplies from Government through their local councillors.

Owing to the favourable climatic conditions, rice did very well and farmers started wondering how they would process their rice, because the rice huller at Kalangala District headquarters breaks the rice into small pieces which cannot attract buyers.

Realising that the District had plans to secure a rice huller for farmers, the Farmers with support from BIDA requested the local government to allow BIDA host the machine. Similar requests were made by other farmers, but lulindi farmers presented stronger grounds.

The District procured the rice huller and delivered it to BIDA. During the launching faction presided over by the District Chairperson, farmers realised that the huller had similar characteristics with that of Kalangala. They rejected it. The chairperson promised to replace it with one of their choice. Towards end of July 2015, the District delivered a rice huller with all specifications required by the farmers. BIDA constructed the shelter for housing the rice huller and put it into operation towards end August 2015. The locals are very happy with functionality of the machine. It processes quality rice as well as by- products for feeding animals.

Life has changed because today farmers' process rice for food and the balance is sold. A kilogram of unprocessed rice which used to cost 700/= now goes for 1000/=. Processed rice which they used to sell 1600/=with transport costs to Masaka now sells at 1900/= without transport costs.

Main beneficiaries of this project are women, whose role is to ensure food security at household level and school children who now feed on rice at lunch. BIDA will also gain from hulling charges.



A beneficiary of land advocacy drying his rice

Unlawful land occupants in Bufumira Island face brighter future.

For more than 10 years, people who unlawfully settled on mailo land formerly owned by the late Namuyimba, could not formalise their land occupancy, because of uncertainties on who has powers over that followed after the death of the former landlord in 1990. It is alleged that somebody entrusted in the execution of Late Namuyimba's will, instead connived with land officials to change the land titles into his names. A land wrangle ensued between the descendants and the new landlord. Residents failed to know who the rightful owner is. Aware of the origin of these land disputes, BIDA working in close collaboration with descendants mobilised communities to raise funds from both sides to pursue Administrator General's moderation into this matter. The process took a long period and the new land lord frequently threatened to sue settlers on his purported land, he even threatened to sell it.

After a long consultation period, the Administrator general wrote a letter to the high court confirming that late Namuyimba left no will and therefore his office had no objection to passing over the estate to the family members still alive. In July 2015 the high court made a ruling and granted powers of administration of the disputed land to the descendants, Jubilation on sides of the residents and descendants who had worked together to know the rightful owner filled the island.

The residents, who were facing displacement dialogued with new land Administrators to secure lawful land occupancy, settle permanently and have now embarked on sustainable agriculture and their livelihoods have greatly changed.

Fishing communities in small and isolated landing sites have high risks of HIV/AIDS transmissions.

Case Study - Kyankolokolo landing site

Kyankolokolo is small fish landing site located on Bugaba Island, Bufumira Sub county with a small population of about 85(53M&32F). The landing site is one of those small isolated locations. Residents of this landing site miss out on many Government programs, because it is not one of the gazetted fish landing sites, and there are no functional Government structures. Whereas residents in gazetted landings can access HTC services during monthly ART Clinic outreaches, BIDA and Health unit team planned to extend these services to Kyankolokolo and other isolated landing site on a quarterly basis.

According to health unit records, when the health team visited the area for HTC services, out of 40 who turned up for, 15 tested positive and majority were migrant youth who had spent less than three months in the area. This figure represents 42% prevalence, when compared to District rate of between 18-25%. Comparisons of other similar landings were made, and it was discovered that all small landings have the same characteristics.

Further investigations revealed that women sharing or swapping, alcoholism, drug abuse and absence role models contributed a lot to this appalling situation. Majority of the population are male youth who share a few women who purposely went there to earn a living through sexual transactions. Likewise the males also settled on these landing sites following fish movements. These are scenarios that had not been anticipated, but they affect the entire target population because they keep on rotating over other landings. The health policy has no boundaries for service delivery, we need to serve all of them while at the same time advocating for extended government services.



A health worker attending to clients in one of the outreaches ART clinic

Women loan beneficiaries engaged in agricultural production shoulder family and community responsibilities.

Case Study - Zayinabu

Zayinabu is a member Lulindi STAR circle. She is married to a fisherman who often transients from one island to another following fish movements. They have four children. The oldest child is 10 years and youngest is four months. Zayinabu cares for the family most of the time and she is in reality the head of the family. Her husband is HIV/AIDS positive, but fortunately Zayinabu is negative.

When Zayinabu learnt that her husband was positive, she felt like divorcing the man and she stopped sharing a bed with him. She got advice from her fellow members and health unit staff and later she agreed to stay with the husband on condition that they use condoms. The husband complied with conditions and their relationship was restored, but he continued to stay away most of the days.

Realising that she shouldered more responsibility, Zayinabu acquired a loan of UGX4,000,000 = (£100) from BIDA to boost her rice growing activities, and planted one acre of rice. She also got more involved in project work as a woman community counsellor and member of village health team.



Zayinabu in her rice farm



Women beneficiaries at the milling site

She is also a member of the community public expenditure tracking committee which provides feedback to communities on public expenditures on Government programs. After four months, she harvested over 8 bags and realised UGX800,000 = (£200) and was able to pay back the loan and retain some rice for feeding her family. Today, she testifies to be the main contributor to her family needs since she feeds the family and she can even pay school fees for her children.

Manual borehole water supply Mityana and Mubende Districts, Uganda

The three-year Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission-funded safe drinking water project was in its second year. A total of 16 boreholes had been completed, thus increasing access to clean water for an estimated 20,600 beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries expressed their relief as this support came at a time when it has not rained for a long time and access to safe drinking water had become more difficult than before, resulting in many cases of waterborne diseases due to drinking water from ponds and other available unsafe sources.



Testimonies from beneficiaries of the safe drinking water project

11 year old Sebunza says that the construction of the borehole has helped the community to provide clean and safe water.

Alice an office attendant at Namungo sub-county also commented that the borehole helped their community in the whole sub-county only that maintenance of them is a challenge.

PLANNED PROJECTS

Transform Africa's application to the GOAC for a follow-on grant for a 1-year project for a Valley Dam to expand the water project in Uganda was successful. Implementation of the project started on the 01st of January 2016.

As stated above, Transform Africa applied to Comic Relief for the Northern Sierra Leone project for Cassava Processing Enterprises in the Northern Province of Makeni, and it was successful. Implementation of the project will start on the 01st of May 2016.

Transform Africa further applied to Chalker foundation for the PMTCT project in Uganda for the Prevention of Mother-To-Child transmission and it was successful. Implementation of the project started on the 01st of November 2015 and it is a 1 year project to help with the transmission from Mother-To-Child for the people of Bufumira Island and the surrounding islands.

**TRANSFORM AFRICA
BALANCE SHEET
30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

		2014		2013
	Note	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	11		2,433	2,028
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	12	128,671		175,524
Cash at bank and in hand		52,049		76,866
		180,720		252,390
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(7,265)		(75,724)
NET CURRENT ASSETS			173,455	176,666
NET ASSETS			175,888	178,694
FUNDS				
Restricted funds	14		108,510	124,705
Unrestricted income funds	15		67,378	53,989
TOTAL FUNDS			175,888	178,694

These financial statements were approved, and authorised for issue, by the members of the Board of Trustees on the 12/06/2015 and are signed on their behalf by:

TAHERA AANCHAWAN

Trustee

Company Registration Number: 03828445

We would like to say a big thank you to our supporters including:

