



Women in Higher Education



Background

- ASSET was founded by Chris and Heather Lukolyo in 2008.
- Chris was born, raised and educated in Uganda. He has worked with several organizations in Uganda and has witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by Ugandan women.
- Heather has lived and worked in Uganda for many years. Her work has focused on the public health issues affecting women and children in Uganda.
- Together they wanted to contribute to the empowerment of Ugandan women to achieve educational and economic success and independence.



Mission

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.



Population Served

- This program targets Ugandan women – they face disproportionately higher levels of poverty and illiteracy and therefore fewer opportunities for economic advancement compared to men.
- Uganda has a universal (free) education system for primary-level education but university enrollment levels remain low—especially for female students.
- This is partly because of widespread poverty within the country.
- Even when resources exist, males are often given more opportunities to achieve higher education while female family members are held back to help with chores and begin domestic life.
- At the higher education level, there are few government scholarships and private loans are difficult to come by. Thus, it is especially hard for lower and middle class females to attend college.



Population Served

- One alarming trend has been an increase in number of female students turning to "sugar daddies" to finance their university education in exchange for sexual favors, thus increasing their vulnerability to sexually transmitted infections.
- Among college-educated young women in Uganda, many women struggle to find employment upon graduation, due to a variety of factors, including gender-based discrimination in the workplace and lack of career guidance and mentorship opportunities for young women.



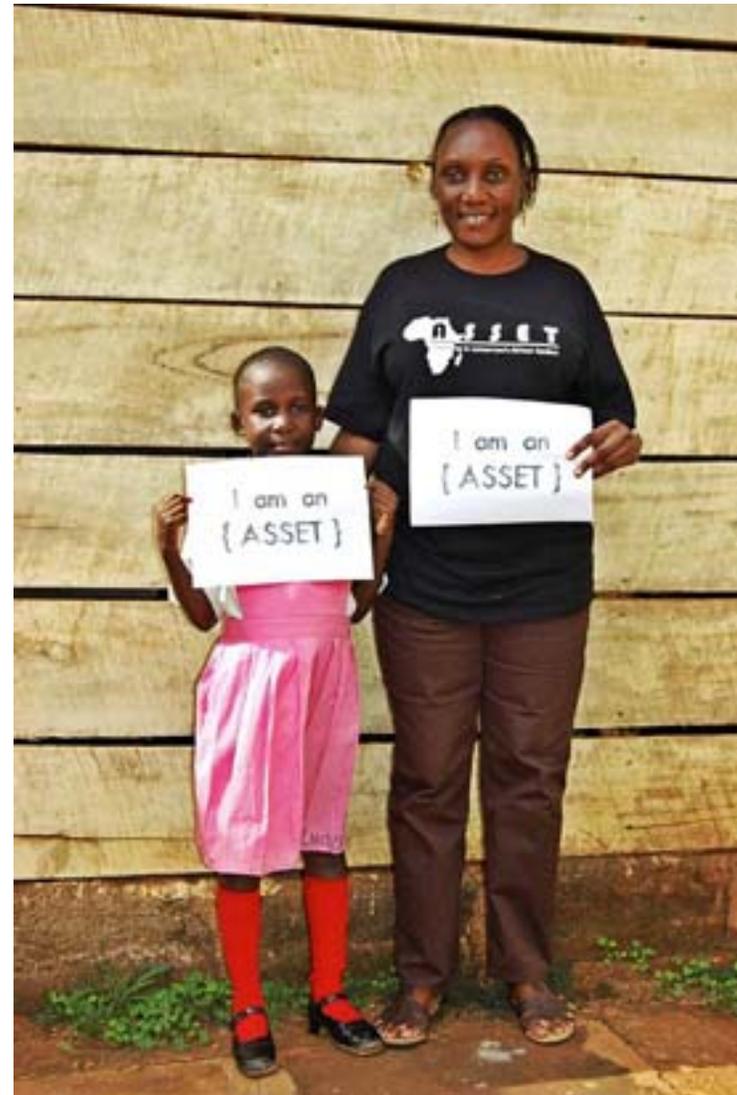
Population Served (Continued)

- ASSET seeks to address the challenges faced by Ugandan women through education and mentorship. ASSET supports mainly female students and focuses on college education; primarily in health sciences and business administration.
- In collaboration with community partners, applicants are reviewed carefully to select the most promising, hardworking individuals to support with our limited resources.
- When women in a community are educated, they are more likely to stay in that community, to work in that community and to contribute to its wellbeing; in other words, to become an **asset** to that community (World Bank (2010). Gender Equality as Smart Economics).



Population Served (Continued)

- The challenges of Ugandan women facing disproportionately higher levels of poverty, illiteracy and low economic opportunities are likely to persist for decades. However, there is an increased national and global awareness of the importance of educating women.
- Our mission is in line with Millennium Development Goal #3 – “Promote Gender Equality and empower women”, and indirectly aligns with MDG #1 as well.
- See <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/> and <http://www.girlup.org/assets/splash-pages/sign-up-form.html>



Program Description

- ASSET will recruit and support 20 Ugandan women to attend universities through this new program called “Women in Higher Education”.
- ASSET will partner with communities and universities to select, enroll and support promising women to complete higher education.
- ASSET will partner with local organizations to provide supplementary training, mentoring and career counseling to enhance each woman’s potential to become a successful student, worker, role model, and future leader.



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.



Impact

- Our program will directly benefit 20 female students and will provide them with skills to become self-sufficient, financially productive and leaders for life.
- It will also impact 20 different families and at least that many communities. Because family and community sizes will vary quite widely from one student to the next, ASSET is unable to make a reasonable estimate of the number of people who will be indirectly impacted by the program. However, we estimate that for each student that completes the program, at least 10 other people will benefit.
- For the women who receive support from ASSET, we promote self-sufficiency through the additional training and mentoring we provide outside their formal programs of study. By focusing on such topics as leadership, teamwork and entrepreneurship, we are equipping our beneficiaries with the skills they need to compete in the workplace and to provide for themselves and their communities in different circumstances.



Thank you!!

