A. Organization Information

Organization Name: Allied Solutions for Sustainable Education & Trust, Inc (ASSET)
Contact Name: Chris Lukolyo
Contact Title: President
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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 second six months of implementation of its “Women in Higher Education” program, ASSET has focused most of its efforts on continuing to provide mentoring and supplementary training.

The supplementary training has been provided in women-owned business or in organizations a woman held a position of leadership. Given the diversity of the fields of study among the women in this program, ASSET has had to identify an equally diverse group of partner institutions to provide workplace training.

ASSET is a registered 501(c)3 organization working to provide scholarships and mentorship to disadvantaged individuals in Uganda who demonstrate real potential for success
Results Achieved:

1. Two ASSET staff travelled to the **nine institutions** of higher education attended by the 20 beneficiaries of the program to visit the students, to listen to the challenges they face in school and to provide advice and guidance as needed.

2. ASSET successfully partnered with **11 local businesses** to place all twenty students in short term internships or of workplace training sessions lasting at least 12 days
   
   a. The organizations included: Two technology start-ups, a hospital, three non-profit organizations and several retail shops.

3. ASSET held **two joint training workshops** on “women’s rights in the workplace” provided in partnership with the “Mother’s Union” – a local community-based organization. These workshops combined both the students and the women artisans in the ASSET “bead 2 read” program.
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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 **second** 6-months of the program, we at ASSET have experienced the following major challenges and have addressed them in the following ways:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Solution</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. So far, ASSET has only identified a small number of organizations willing to take on interns during the school holidays.</td>
<td>1. To address this challenge, ASSET has placed some of the students at partner institutions in pairs; always ensuring that there is a fit between the field of study of the student and the training received at the partner institution.</td>
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<td>2. As with the first six months; some of the students had to travel great distances in order to get to the premises of the partner organizations providing work place training.</td>
<td>2. To address this challenge ASSET provided a transport allowance to the students to help pay their bus fare to and from training sessions.</td>
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During the second six-month implementation period, the timeline for the program has not changed from the original funding application.

Additionally, during this second six-month period, the funding for the program has not changed and ASSET has not received any additional funds from any other source for this program.

All of the original $22,500 DFW restricted funds received for Year 1 of ASSET’s program have been disbursed.

**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 beneficiaries recruited in the first six months of the program continue to thrive and ASSET has not had any beneficiaries drop out of the program.

**THANK YOU!!**

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