

# TAO FACTSHEET 1: HOW WE WORK

Sefton House, 2 Molesey Road  
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## **Background**

In Uganda one in six children is an orphan. They have lost their parents through war or HIV/AIDS. This terrible statistic led Janet Museveni, the President's wife, to set up Uganda Women's Efforts to Save Orphans (UWESO) to help them and inspired people who had lived in Africa and were now living in the UK to set up a UK charity in 1993 to support UWESO and other African organizations dealing with similar tragedies. The working name of this UK charity is Trust for Africa's Orphans.

## **The issues**

- Effective charities need to understand the culture in which they operate
- Effective charities keep their overhead costs to a minimum
- Effective charities carry out transparent monitoring and evaluation
- Effective charities must be seen to be delivering real benefits to identified beneficiaries and the communities in which they live so their help reaches the people who need it.

## **How TAO operates**

### Principles

TAO is committed to three key principles:

- We work with African communities, understanding their heritage, values and customs, and do not seek to impose European or Western styles of charitable assistance where this might cause long term cultural conflict.
- We work only on projects which allow orphans and the families who care for them, to remain in their local communities. We understand the basic African spirit of community and family land ownership and do not seek to displace children or villages.
- We do not start any project until we have held extensive discussions with local communities in order to incorporate fully their needs, rather than imposing projects in the UK on them.

While our projects are run as separate and distinct programmes with clearly defined objectives and timescales to enable us to measure the impact we make, they are also designed to be sustainable once we have left. And yes, we also follow that up.

UK Registered Charity No. 1069208  
Trust for Africa's Orphans is a working name of the UK registered charity UWESO UK Trust

A Company limited by guarantee registered in England  
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## **Donors**

Our donors include the Australian Aid Agency, The Baring Foundation with the John Ellerman Foundation, The Big Lottery Fund, la Chiesa Valdese (Italy), Comic Relief, the Department for International Development, the Elton John Aids Foundation, the European Commission, the Hilden Charitable Fund, the Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee, the Norwegian Aid Agency (NORAD), Scott Bader Commonwealth Ltd and the States of Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission as well as church groups and individuals who have heard about our work.

## **Administration**

We keep overheads to a minimum: the trained Ugandan agricultural extension workers working on the projects travel by motorcycle and bicycle, not 4 x 4s. They use solar-power charged mobiles. At the local grass-roots level the charity works with UWESO branches in the villages and towns where our projects are being run. Operations in Africa are coordinated through a voluntary committee based in Kampala supported by a small, dedicated staff.

In the UK we have a small office in Hersham, Surrey staffed by two people. The affairs of TAO are in the hands of its volunteer Directors/Trustees, most of whom have strong connections with the project areas and/or other parts of Africa.

## **Programmes**

Many of the extended families are headed by women, an elderly relative (one of our grandparent beneficiaries looks after 17 children so we count him as two beneficiaries) or the eldest sibling (our youngest such head of the family was 13 years old).

We support identified beneficiaries in farming sustainably a wide variety of crops for both consumption and sale, because crops are key to improving people's lives. Such crops not only provide food but the surplus raises money for shelter, medicine, school fees and transport. We have programmes for crop production and the raising of pigs and goats, water and sanitation, vocational training, capacity building and advocacy, HIV/AIDS education and other related problems such as malaria, gastro-enteritis, malnutrition, water-borne diseases and tuberculosis. And we build houses and goat pens, restore boreholes and provide water storage tanks.

TAO has completed 14 projects so far and is currently implementing a project in northern Uganda to help resettle displaced people (see Factsheet 2). In addition we are carrying out an integrated development project funded by The Big Lottery Fund for poor rural communities. It will provide safe water, proper sanitation and agricultural expertise in an area adversely affected by

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environmental degradation, and ensure women who are heads of families, orphans and other vulnerable children have equal access to land use.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Trust for Africa's Orphans like other reputable NGOs carries out strict monitoring and evaluation of all its programmes. TAO has established an excellent reputation for delivering aid within budget and in accordance with agreed project requirements. Our main donors visit the projects: most recently four representatives from The Baring and John Ellerman Foundations visited the project to resettle displaced people in northern Uganda and confirmed they were pleased with how TAO was spending their grant.

## **What your donations fund**

£10	3 hand hoes or spades – basic equipment for sustainable farming
£15	1 Beehive (5 – 10 beehives will enable a poor family to start a business in beekeeping for life)
£30	1 Wheelbarrow
£50 - £100	Seeds and seedlings for a family to grow sustainable crops
£100	To establish a small Woodlot for agro-forestry / environment purposes
£80	3 female goats – for a family to start a goat farming business
£130	To provide materials for a goat pen – including metal roofing sheets for rainwater collection
£170	1 male goat (improved breed)
£360	To provide for the construction of a 5,000 litre ferro-cement tank for a family for the collection and storage of rainwater
£2,000	The annual salary for a trained Ugandan Extension Worker
£2,500	Construction of a brick built house for an orphan family headed by a child or elderly relative

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