

CONTENTS

	Page
Acronyms and Abbreviations	iii
Chapter One	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.2 Background	2
1.4 Objectives of the Evaluation Exercise	4
Chapter Two	5
Study Methodology	5
2.1 Study Subjects (Support Groups and Associations)	5
2.2 Data Collection	5
2.3 Data Analysis	5
Chapter Three	6
Findings of the Evaluation Exercise	6
3.1 Membership of the Support Groups and Associations	6
3.2 Activities of Support Groups and Associations	7
3.3 Support Extended to Support Groups and Associations	7
3.3.1 Assistance in Cash	7
3.3.2 Support In-Kind Extended to Support	8
Chapter Four	11
Utilization of Support Extended to Support Groups/Associations	11
4.0 Introduction	11
4.1 Yuliamuganzi AIDS Prevention Education Support Group in Nabweru, Wakiso District	11
4.2 Tokamalirawo AIDS Support and Awareness Group in Nabweru, Wakiso district	12
4.3 Have Mercy Orphan School in Kampala District	13
4.4 Byekwaso Charles (Individual Traditional Healer)	14
4.5 Mpaawo Atalikaaba AIDS Support Group (MAAS) in Mukono District	14
4.6 Munaku Kaama AIDS Family and Orphan Support in Mukono District	14
4.7 Kawoomya Tweekembe AIDS Support Group in Mukono district	15
4.8 Kunihira AIDS Support Group in Hoima District	15
4.9 Kitembeeyi Agali Awamu AIDS Support Group in Kiboga District	16
4.10 Bulamogi Traditional Healers Association in Kamuli district	16

4.11.	Nakifuma Modern Traditional Healers Association in Mukono District	16
4.12	Kony Maruzi Traditional Healers Association in Apac District	16
4.13	Buhaguzi Traditional Healers AIDS Counseling Association in Hoima District	17
4.14	Kashari Traditional Healers Initiative against AIDS in Mbarara District	17

Chapter Five **18**

Effects of Seed Funding on the Livelihoods of Members of Support Groups/Associations **18**

5.1	Economic Empowerment/Reduced Dependency (Increased Income Levels)	18
5.2	Improved Food Security	19
5.3	Improvement in Health	20
5.4	Increased Access to Education	20

Chapter Six **22**

Challenges, Lessons Learnt, and Recommendations **22**

6.1	Challenges Faced by Support Groups/Associations in Utilization of Seed Funding	22
6.2	Lessons Learnt	23
6.3	Recommendations by Support Groups and Associations	24

Chapter Seven **26**

7.1	Constraints Faced During the Evaluation Exercise	26
7.2	Way Forward	26

Conclusion **27**

APPENDICES **28**

APPENDIX I: **28**

Support Groups and Associations Covered in the Evaluation Exercise

APPENDIX II: **29**

Activities of Individual Groups/Associations Involved in the Evaluation Exercise

APPENDIX III: **31**

A Case Study of Byekwaso Charles (Traditional Healer) in Mukono

Appendix IV: **32**

Interview Schedule For Conducting Evaluation Exercise for THETA Funded Support Groups

Appendix V: **33**

Proposed application form for TH Initiatives

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
AJWS	American Jewish World Service
BUTHA	Bulamogi Traditional Healers Association
BUTHACA	Buhaguzi Traditional Healers AIDS Counseling Association
CBO	Community Based Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HBC	Home Based Care
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KATHA	Katakwi Traditional Healers Association
KATHIAA	Kashari Traditional Healers
KATHIAA	Kashari Traditional Healers Initiative against AIDS
KITHETA	Kiboga Traditional Healers Together Against AIDS
KOMATHA	Kony kwo Maruzi traditional Healers Association
MAAS	Mpaawo Atalikaaba AIDS Support Group
NAMOTHA	Nakifuma Modern Traditional Healers Association
NGO	Non Government Organization
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PLHA	Person Living with HIV/AIDS
ROSCA	Rotating Savings and Credit Association
TASAAGA	Tokammalirawo AIDS Support and Action Group Awareness
TH	Traditional Healer
THETA	Traditional and Modern Health Practitioners Together against AIDS and other diseases
TM	Traditional Medicine
TOT	Training Of Trainers
YAPESG	Yuliamuganzi AIDS Prevention Education Support Group

Chapter One

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Twenty three years after AIDS was discovered, it has continued its relentless spread and devastation. By end of 2000, the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) reported 36.1 million men, women and children were living with HIV around the globe and 21.8 million had died. Though AIDS is now a global pandemic, it has mostly affected Sub Saharan Africa whereby 70% of all adults and 80% of children living with HIV are in Africa yet it is the continent with the fewest medical resources in the world.

Besides Malaria, AIDS is now the primary cause of death in Africa and it has had a devastating impact on villages, communities and families. In many African countries, the numbers of new infections are increasing at a high rate; life expectancies are decreasing rapidly as a result of AIDS-related illnesses and socio-economic hardships. Of the 13.2 million children orphaned by HIV/AIDS around the globe, 12.1 million are in Africa.

Today, the interventions to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS worldwide are quite numerous. This makes prevention very complex. In addition, care for people infected with HIV depends not only on local health infrastructure in the communities but on social and family structures, beliefs, values and use of traditional resources at the disposal of community members.

1.1 Traditional Medicine and AIDS in Africa

It is a known fact that globally traditional healing systems existed long before the advent of conventional medicine. Traditional medicine offered and continues to offer a possibility of cure as well as a national heritage and means of linking the land and its people.

In Sub-Saharan Africa today, traditional healers (THs) far outnumber the modern health practitioners, and the majority of the populations use traditional medicine. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 80% of people in low and middle income countries like Uganda rely primarily on traditional medicine for their primary health care needs.

Although the actual numbers of THs are not known in most countries, such healers constitute a significantly large group of practitioners who are recognized, trusted and respected by their respective communities. THs provide client-centered, personalized health care that is tailored to meet the needs and expectations of their patients. This makes them strong communication agents for health. They have greater credibility compared to village health workers, especially with regard to social and spiritual matters.

In resource limited settings, traditional medicine provides access to treatment where expensive imported pharmaceuticals cannot. Moreover, in some contexts, traditional medicine has been found to be as effective as biomedical treatment and more so in treating HIV associated illnesses such as Herpes Zoster and Chronic Diarrhea (Homsy 1999).

THs and traditional medicine have contributed a great deal in prevention of HIV and care for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. In the Sub Saharan region and Uganda in particular, THs have been involved in a number of initiatives to mitigate and care for those affected. THETA started a program involving its trained THs in caring for the people in communities infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

1.2 THETA BACKGROUND

Traditional and Modern Health Practitioners Together against AIDS and other diseases (THETA) is an indigenous non-governmental organization, which has been involved in HIV/AIDS/STI prevention and care activities for the last 13 years. THETA aims at promoting health through the development of a collaborative effort among traditional health care systems, biomedicine and the entire community. This is done through research, training, documentation and sharing of information with different stakeholders.

At the peak of HIV prevalence in Uganda in 1992, health workers, families and communities were overwhelmed by the enormous tide of health-care and prevention challenges, yet, this emergency sparked a flood of new ideas in response, including the founding of THETA. With support of the National AIDS Control Programme, The AIDS Support Organization (TASO) and Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), THETA's work started in 1992 with two pilot projects based in Kampala. The first project aimed at evaluating traditional herbal treatments for some specific AIDS symptoms. The second project tested the effects of empowering traditional healers as STI/AIDS educators and counselors through training. Overall, these two projects, which lasted three years, yielded very encouraging results.

Consequently, THETA set out to train traditional healers in AIDS care, counseling and education in 1993 with a pilot training program for 25 healers in Kampala. The aim of the training was to share ideas and information between the traditional and modern health practitioners. In 1995, THETA was requested by the Uganda AIDS Commission to extend its training program to other districts with a broad objective of empowering THs with information on AIDS and STIs which would enable them give good quality education and counseling to community members. The outcome is that today THETA operates in 12 districts in Uganda. However, due to resource limitations the coverage is still minimal.

1.2.1 THETA Vision and Mission

Vision

“A world where people enjoy good health and prosperity as a result of access to quality biomedical, traditional and complementary health services”

Mission

“Enable access to improved health care services through partnerships with traditional, biomedical and complementary health care systems and the larger community”

1.2.2 Goal

To improve and expand access to HIV/AIDS prevention, education and care for disadvantaged populations, such as women and children, through mobilization and training of traditional healers in Uganda.

1.2.3 Objectives

- To train traditional healers in rural districts of Uganda in HIV/AIDS care, counseling and education
- To support THs HIV/AIDS initiatives in their own communities
- To improve knowledge, access and quality of selected herbal remedies for opportunistic infections
- To build the capacity of other NGOs and CBOs to enable them to work with traditional healers in HIV/AIDS prevention and care
- To collect, organize and disseminate information on traditional medicine and HIV/AIDS in East and Southern Africa

1.3 Traditional Healers Initiative Program

Over the last 13 years, THETA has comprehensively trained more than 2000 THs in HIV/AIDS education, counseling and care in 12 districts of Uganda. After undergoing this training, THs with support from THETA have often initiated sustainable client support groups or associations to improve and increase access to HIV/AIDS prevention and care services for the unprivileged rural communities. To coordinate these initiatives, THETA put in place Traditional Healers Initiative Program.

Through the above program, THETA helps trained THs in support groups and associations to support those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to sustain prevention and care activities. The groups involve the THs, their clients and families/dependants to carry out a number of activities to meet psychosocial, medical and economic needs of the members. The following are some of the activities the associations and support groups undertake:

- Orphan care and education
- Home visits (Home Based Care)
- Treatment and counseling for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs)
- Income generating activities for small business projects
- Herbal gardening and conservation
- Community sensitization on HIV/AIDS/STIs

THETA is currently supporting 11 associations and 20 support groups (Appendix I) by building their capacity through providing them with technical and financial support through training, support supervision visits, meetings, fund-raising drives and study tours to various institutions. The initiatives have formed sustainable community based groups that contribute to a reduction in HIV transmission as well as mitigating the effects of HIV/AIDS in rural communities.

The overall goal of the TH Initiatives program is to build self sustaining groups of TH associations and support groups that can mobilize resources for community based HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities. Specific objectives of initiatives include;

- To strengthen the capacity of TH associations and support groups to mobilize resources for carrying out community based HIV/AIDS prevention and care initiatives
- To document and disseminate replicable TH models that are appropriate in resource constrained countries
- To monitor and strengthen activities of all the associations and support groups that have been supported by THETA in TH initiatives programme.

1.4 Objectives of the Evaluation Exercise

THETA has been receiving seed funding for the community based initiatives since 2002. In order to gauge the impact of the programme, an evaluation exercise was undertaken. The objectives of the evaluation include but are not limited to the following:

1. To measure the effects/outcomes of seed funding on the livelihoods of the members of the support groups and/or associations
2. To identify the challenges faced by the intended/targeted beneficiaries

Chapter Two

2.0 STUDY METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Subjects (Support Groups and Associations)

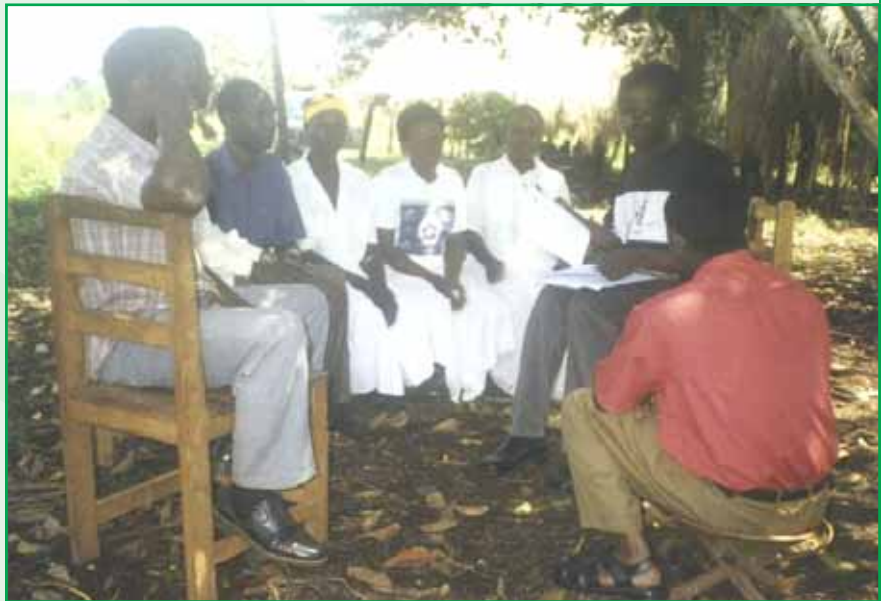
The study covered 14 TH initiatives which included 8 support groups and 6 TH associations. These were distributed as follows: Kampala -1; Wakiso -2; Mukono -4; Hoima -2; Kiboga 1, Apac -1; Mbarara -1; Katakwi -1; and Kamuli -1.

The study also included two THs: Charles Byekwaso and Henry Kasule who accessed seed funding as individuals.

2.2 Data Collection

The study used a qualitative data collection technique known as "After Action Review (AAR)" It is a simple technique used to capture lessons learnt from past successes and failures with a view of improving future performance.

Five members from each initiative were selected randomly and interviewed separately using an interview schedule (See Appendix IV). Five other members from the same



Members of Kunihira Support group in an FGD with Evaluation team

group were involved in focus group discussions using the same interview schedule. The members who participated in the focus group discussions (FGDs) included either the Chairperson, General Secretary or the Treasurer of the group and any other members. Verbatim recording and tape recording were used during the interview process.

2.3 Data Analysis

Data generated in the study was transcribed, collated and analyzed using thematic and content analysis technique. Verbatim recording and case study illustrations have been, where necessary, incorporated in this report.

Chapter Three

FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION EXERCISE

3.1 Membership of the Support Groups and Associations

The membership of associations and support groups was mainly composed of THs, their clients, community leaders, widows and PLHAs. Children formed an integral part of membership in some support groups. Some of these support groups, however, were looking after orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) but without clear guidelines on how to look after such children.

Table 1: Membership of the Initiatives Indicating Men, Women, Children and PLHAs in Each Initiative

Name of Support Group /Association	Number of members				Total
	MEN	WOMEN	CHILDREN	HIV +ve	
A. TH Associations					
BUTHA	32	14			46
BUTHACA	11	12		84 ¹	23
KOMATHA	31	32			63
NAMOTHA					
KATHIAA					100
Sub-Total for Associations	74	58			132
B. Support Groups					
KITEMBEYI AGALI AWAMU	10	19	40	9	78
MAAS	13	13	34		60
HAVE MERCY ORPHAN SCHOOL	9	7	300		316
TASAAGA	10	20		25	55
KUNIHIRA	7	18	20		45
MUNAKU KAAMA	2	1	6		9
YAPESG	5	21	15		41
OKEES				34	
Sub-Total for Support Groups	56	99	415	34	604
Total	130	157	415	34	836

3.2 Activities of Support Groups and Associations

The evaluation findings revealed that 3 groups (YAPESG, TASAAGA & BUTHACA) were involved in Rotating Savings and Credit Scheme (ROSCA), 5 groups were engaged in provision of Home Based Care (HBC) with MAAS having the strongest HBC program that supports 15 households. Three groups have herbal gardens with KOMATHA and KATHIAA operating large scale gardens. Four support groups have vegetable crop gardens and provide nutrition support to their members to enhance their nutritional status.

On the other hand, 4 groups are involved in animal husbandry (3 groups have cows and 1 group has a piggery project). Seven groups are involved in conducting music, dance and drama in communities. YAPESG has a nursery bed and 2 groups (Kawoomya and BUTHA) are involved in brick making. With the exception of Have Mercy Orphan School and Munakukaama Support Group, the rest (11) of the groups conduct community education.

3.3 Support Extended to the Support Groups and Associations

Through seed funding, THETA extended aid to 8 support groups, 6 TH associations and 2 individual THs. The assistance was extended to support groups either in-kind or cash form.

3.3.1 Assistance in Cash

A total of 10,392,000 (Ten million three hundred and ninety two thousand) shillings was reported by members to have been received by various individuals, groups and associations as indicated in the table below:

Table 3: Assistance In-cash Extended to Support Groups/Associations and Individuals

Name of Association/ Support Group	Amount (U Shs)
Byekwaso Charles	60,000
Kasule Henry	
Kunihira AIDS Support group	1,500,000
KATHIAA	200,000
Mpawo Atalikaba AIDS Support Group (MAAS)	2,096,000
Kawoomya Tweekembe	260,000
Kitembeeyi Agali Awamu AIDS support group	1,430,000
YAPESG	750,000
TASAAGA	750,000
OKEES	400,000
BUTHACA	2,196,000
BUTHA	Not known
KOMATHA	1,300,000

3.3.2 Support in-kind Extended to Support Groups and Associations

THETA extended support in-kind to support groups and associations. Three (3) groups namely TASAAGA, Kawoomya and Have Mercy Orphan School received musical instruments which included drums, 'engalabi', skins for dancing, 'ensege', 'bikooyi' and pairs of uniforms.



Music instruments used by Kawoomya Twekembe Support Group for community education events

A water stand pipe was installed at Have Mercy Orphan School and YAPESG to ease water supply and also generate some income through sale of water to neighbouring residents. Besides, YAPESG received stationery for use during community education. The stationery included pens, flip charts, pencils and books.

THETA provided scholastic materials to Have Mercy Orphan School. The materials included 200 text books, 30 pairs of sports uniforms, 6 balls, furniture (50 desks), one book shelf and 35 pairs of shoes. In addition, THETA also provided the school with 600 kgs of maize flour and 600kgs of sugar to enable pupils get at least a meal while at school. To ensure proper preparation of the meals, the school also received 2 big sauce pans, 2 buckets and fire wood worth 450,000 shillings.

THETA also extended support to individual trained THs living with HIV/AIDS whose conditions were deteriorating due to lack of support. The two THs namely Byekwaso Charles and Kasule Henry were supported in that regard. Mr. Byekwaso Charles received items for boosting his retail shop. The items received included 2 bags of maize flour, 2 bags of cassava flour, 1 bag of sugar, 2 jerry cans of paraffin and 1 jerry can of cooking oil.

Munakukaama and Kawoomya support groups were given farm implements which included hoes, pangas, rakes, watering cans, knapsack sprayers, water drums, wheel barrows and jerry-cans for use in their crop gardens.

NAMOTHA was given prizes like gloves, wall clocks, jerry cans, basins and other smaller prizes after the Home Improvement Campaign in Nakifuma, Mukono. THETA also organized an exhibition that exposed THs to different stakeholders.

Table 4: Support in-kind Extended to Support Groups/Associations and Individuals

Name of Association/ Support Group	Support Extended to Support Group/ Association
YAPESG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training materials (flip charts, pencils, pens and books) ➤ Stand water pipe ➤ 12 T-shirts from THETA ➤ Food stuffs like posho, beans, sugar, cooking oil and clothes
TASAAGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Musical instruments ➤ Maize flour, cooking oil, milk and rice ➤ Chairman benefited from THETA training and workshops
Have Mercy Orphan School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 600 kgs of maize flour for porridge ➤ 600 kgs of sugar ➤ Fire-wood (worth 210,000 shillings) ➤ 50 desks ➤ 200 text books ➤ 1 book shelf ➤ Stand water pipe ➤ 1 set of musical instruments (worth 450,000 shillings) ➤ 35 pairs of shoes ➤ 30 pairs of sports wear (16 pairs for boys and 14 pairs for girls) ➤ 6 balls (4 for football and 2 for netball) ➤ 2 saucepans ➤ 2 buckets

Byekwaso Charles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 bags of cassava flour ➤ 2 bags of maize flour ➤ 1 bag of sugar ➤ 2 jerrycans of paraffin ➤ 1 Jerrycan of cooking oil
Mpaawo Atalikaaba AIDS Support Group (MAAS)	No assistance in kind
Munakukaama AIDS Family and Orphan Support Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 5 pangas ➤ 5 hoes ➤ 5 rakes ➤ 5 watering cans ➤ 2 wheel barrows ➤ 2 knapsack sprayers ➤ 2.5 liters of pesticides ➤ 2.5 liters of liquid fertilizers ➤ Training
Kawoomya Tweekembe AIDS Support Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 3 drums ➤ 1 engalabi (long drum) ➤ 8 skins for dancing ➤ 4 nseege (shakers) ➤ 8 bikooyi ➤ 33 pairs of uniforms ➤ 2 wheel barrows ➤ 1 bicycle ➤ 10 jerry cans ➤ 10 hoes
Kunihira Support Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 4 cows ➤ Capacity building and counseling skills from THETA.
Kitembeeyi Agali Awamu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 cows
BUTHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 4 wheelbarrow ➤ 2 spades ➤ 1 water drum ➤ 4 hoes ➤ Jerry-cans
NAMOTHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Group members were given prizes like gloves, wall clocks, jerrycans, basins and other smaller prizes after the home improvement campaign. ➤ THETA also organized an exhibition that exposed THs to different stakeholders
KOMATHA	No assistance in kind received
BUTHACA	No assistance in kind received
KATHIAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Farm implements included: hoes, pangas, filters, wheel barrow, and barbed wire.

Chapter Four

UTILIZATION OF SUPPORT EXTENDED TO SUPPORT GROUPS/ASSOCIATIONS

4.0 Introduction

Members of the initiatives got assistance in cash and/or in-kind from THETA for purposes of carrying out various projects with a view of improving their livelihood. Below are details of how the initiatives utilized the support they got from THETA.

4.1 Yuliamuganzi AIDS Prevention Education Support Group (YAPESG)

Members of YAPESG, got 750,000 (Seven hundred fifty thousands Uganda) shillings from THETA and decided to administer a revolving fund for members to start up their individual small businesses and/or improve on those that were already in existence. Money was divided into three categories: 20,000 - 30,000; 50,000 - 70,000; and 70,000 -100,000 shillings.

Ten members first got the money and brought it back after making some profit and then it was given to other 10 members. Unfortunately 3 members died before bringing back the money for others to benefit and yet others fell sick and used the money on treatment. Below are some of the details of how individual members utilized the support given to them:

Andrew Kasattiro got 100,000 shillings which he used to buy improved seedlings for the nursery bed. The seedlings included mangoes, oranges, avocado, vegetables, jackfruit and others.

The nursery bed has been expanded to include more species of seedlings. Plants are now grafted at the site with assistance from experts from Kawanda Agricultural Research Station. Some money from sale of seedlings is used to improve the nursery bed and some is distributed to members to meet their basic needs.

Fatuma Nalubwama got 25,000 shillings which she used to start a small business (a stall). She managed to buy items like bananas, charcoal, tomatoes, vegetables and other fruits for her small business. The business has since grown in size to the extent that Fatuma is now able to buy household requirements for her family, pay rent and school fees for her children which was not the case before.

Mariam Namulime, a traditional birth attendant (TBA) got 25,000 shillings as a loan. Her original plan was to trade in second hand clothes but the money was very little and she decided to buy polythene sheets and gloves for use in her work as a TBA. She has benefited by taking back to school one of her children.

Irene Mujabi received 30,000 shillings from the revolving fund. She used this money to buy a sewing machine for tailoring. She has been able to expand her business because she is now getting more orders from her customers and hence making a profit. Her income has also improved and she is now able to look after her ailing mother as well.

Hadija Niskayuna got 30,000 shillings from the revolving fund and used it to start a small stall for selling charcoal, food stuffs like bananas, potatoes and vegetables. Hadija is now able to feed her children and meet basic household requirements that she was not able to meet before the money was given to her.

The group also got a stand water pipe which was used for irrigating the nursery bed and also for selling water to neighboring residents to raise some funds which the initiative uses to sustain itself.

The group used some of the support to conduct HIV/AIDS community education sessions using its music, dance and drama group, and the training materials bought using money from THETA. Due to lack of records it was difficult to tell the number of community education sessions held by the group.

Members of the group also provide home based care to fellow members and to some community people using some of the resources obtained from THETA. The number of members who have been visited could not be established since there were no records.

4.2 Tokammalirawo AIDS Support and Action Group Awareness (TASAAGA)

The group obtained 750,000 (Seven hundred and fifty thousand) shillings from THETA. Members decided to start a revolving fund. The original plan was that five group members utilize the money at a time, each receiving 150,000 shillings which would be invested in any income generating activity of the member's choice. Every member would return 16,500 shillings per month including a small interest for a period of one year. Members who benefited utilized the funds as follows: -

Nakubulwa Victoria used the 150,000 shillings to start a business of selling cold drinks, namely passion fruit juice and cold water, in St Balikuddembe market. As such, she bought a deep freezer, passion fruits, sugar, and packaging materials for running her business. Nakubulwa complains of little returns from the business because of the small capital injected in the business.

However, from the proceeds got from the sale of cold drinks, she has managed to pay school fees for her children and also pay rent for the place where she is operating from.

The money was however not enough to run her business without constraints because it was little. Electricity is constantly cut off and the landlord threatens her with evictions every time she delays to pay rent.

Nandita Daisy used the 150,000 shillings to buy a sewing machine. Daisy uses the machine to sew new clothes and mend old ones and she is now able to provide for her family from the profits she earns from her business.

Nakintu Jane used the 150,000 shillings to start a business of selling clothes for women. She reported that she earns between 3,000 and 5,000 shillings every week and she uses the money to cater for her family.

Mutebi Musa Tokamalirawo, Chairperson of TASAAGA, reported that the group obtained 750,000/ shillings from THETA which was used to start a revolving fund for members. However, Musa pointed out that some of the members who got the money never paid back for other members' benefit from the fund. He says "Some of the members are just stubborn and they only come to the group when they need help and thereafter they disappear."

The group is actively involved in community education. They use music, dance and drama instruments provided by THETA to conduct community education sessions on HIV/AIDS within communities.

Members of the initiatives also provided home based care to fellow group members and to some of the community members using resources generated from THETA support. Again the number of members who have benefited could not be independently established due to lack of records.

4.3 Have Mercy Orphan School in Kampala District

The support extended to Have Mercy Orphan School by THETA was utilized in three forms to help the 300 pupils in the school.

Table 5: Summary of how support to Have Mercy Orphan School was utilized

Food Stuffs	Scholastic Materials	Capital Items/Investments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 600 kgs of maize flour for porridge ➤ 600 kgs of sugar ➤ Firewood (worth 210,000 shillings) for preparation of food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 200 text books ➤ 1 book shelf ➤ 35 pairs of shoes ➤ 3 pairs of sports wear (16 for boys and 14 for girls) ➤ 6 balls (4 for football and 2 for netball) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 stand water pipe for water supply to the school ➤ 1 set of musical instruments worth 450,000 shillings ➤ 50 desks ➤ 2 saucepans ➤ 2 buckets

4.4 Byekwaso Charles (Individual Traditional Healer)

Byekwaso received 60,000 shillings from THETA which he used to buy firewood to burn 10,000 bricks that were in turn used to construct another commercial building for shops. Part of the building will be used to generate some rental income that will improve his income levels. The building is ready for roofing.

THETA also extended in-kind support to Byekwaso to boost his retail shop and these items included ; cassava flour (2 bags), maize flour (2 bags), sugar (1 bag), paraffin (2 jerrycans) and cooking oil (1 Jerrycan).

After boosting his retail shop using the above items, he managed to save money and he bought another plot of land at 600,000 shillings as a result of accumulated profits from the retail shop.

4.5 Mpaawo Atalikaaba AIDS Support Group (MAAS) in Mukono District

The group received 2,096,000 (Two million ninety six thousands only) shillings from THETA which was used to start a piggery project. Specifically, the group used the money to buy the following items for the project:

- Timber for setting up a shade
- Feeds for piglets
- Medicine for treating the pigs
- 1 Spade
- Nails
- Iron sheets
- 1 Hoe
- 10 piglets (bought for the beginning)

The group is also conducting community education and sensitization on HIV/ AIDS using music, dance and drama, counseling community members with different problems using resources generated from support extended by THETA.

4.6 Munakukaama AIDS Family and Orphan Support in Mukono District

The group got in-kind assistance from THETA in form of the following items for their maize and tomatoes gardens:

- 5 Pangs
- 5 Hoes
- 5 Rakes
- 5 Watering cans
- 2 Wheel barrows
- 2 Knapsack sprayers
- 2.5 liters pesticides
- 2.5 liters liquid fertilizers

Members of the group especially women have been empowered by way of getting farming skills and members are now occupied full time because they are working on the gardens.

The group is also involved in community sensitization on HIV/AIDS using music dance and drama. The group also performs music, dance and drama for a fee and is generating some money out of it.

4.7 Kawoomya Twekembe AIDS Support Group in Mukono District

The group got cash amounting to 260,000 (Two hundred and sixty thousand) shillings which was used to buy seedlings for planting and hire manpower for their garden. They also got in-kind material assistance which was in two categories as shown in the table below:

Musical Instruments	Number	Farm Implement	Number
Drums	3	Wheel barrows	1
Engaalabi (Long-drum)	1	Bicycle	2
Skins for dancing		Jerry cans	10
Nseege	4	Hoes	10
Bikooyi	8		
Uniforms	33		

The group uses the musical instruments to conduct community education and sensitization on HIV/AIDS through music, dance and drama performances.

With farm implements, members especially the youth used them for brick making and crop farming in the group garden. As a result, the youths who used to spend most of the time gambling have changed and are spending time in gardens, making bricks (10,000 bricks made so far) or practicing music, dance and drama.

4.8 Kunihira AIDS Support Group in Hoima District

The group got 1,500,000 (one million and five hundred thousand) shillings and used part of it to buy 4 cows, bought barbed wires for the farm on which cows are kept and banked some of the money for treatment of the animals.

The group members have also used the resources generated from the THETA support to provide home based care to the group and surrounding community members.



Some of the cows owned by Kunihira AIDS Support Group

4.9 Kitembeeyi Agali Awamu AIDS Support Group in Kiboga District

The group got 1,430,000 (one million four hundred and thirty thousand) shillings from THETA and used it to buy items for their agricultural projects on nine acres of land namely; maize seeds, hand spray, jerry cans, water drums (2), hire man-power (group members worked on the gardens and would get paid).

The group is planning to utilize the cows to improve the nutritional status of the members. Out of their savings, members have also started their individual projects like rearing goats, cattle keeping, poultry and piggery.

The group has a balance of 600,000 (six hundred thousand) shillings on their bank account which they are planning to use in the next planting season.



Poultry Project for Kitembeeyi Support Group with about 200 birds

4.10 Bulamogi Traditional Healers Association in Kamuli District

The group was given money (not disclosed) intended to buy moulds to make bricks, pompey and ventilators to be used to construct a building that would act as a hall, office, clinic and training wing for second generation THs. Besides, the group members reportedly did not know how the money was used by the group leadership.

The group never utilized the money fully as they had planned it due to leadership wrangles. They constructed a shade for bricks and made a few bricks which were later destroyed by rain. And as such they have not achieved much.

4.11 Nakifuma Modern Traditional Healers Association in Mukono District

Group members participated in a 'home improvement campaign' supported by THETA to improve their work places, their practices and their medicines as well as making contacts for themselves through participation in exhibitions for their medicines.

4.12 Kony Maruzi Traditional Healers Association in Apac District

The group received 1,300,000 shillings and utilized it to establish a herbal garden where they are propagating and conserving different species of medicinal plants.

4.13 Buhaguzi Traditional Healers AIDS Counseling Association in Hoima

The group received 2,196,000 shillings in two installments of 750,000 and 1,446,000 respectively. The money was used to start a Rotating Savings and Credit Association (ROSCA). Members agreed and distributed the money evenly to the 5 sub counties. Initially each sub county got 150,000 shillings and later got 289,200 shillings. Below is a detailed account of how some members who benefited utilized the money:

Nakayiza Antwanita got 150,000 shillings and used it to buy a cow at 120,000 shillings. The balance was used to buy millet and posho for sale at a profit. She has benefited from this money by being able to pay school fees for her children; bought building materials namely iron sheets, bricks and poles for finishing her house. She also buys some household requirements for the home from her savings.

Aseera Kevina got 75,000 shillings at first and also got 289,200 shillings the second time. She used the money to enlarge her shop and traded in produce like beans and maize. She also started a poultry project but the shed was not big enough and the chicks died. She later embarked on growing maize, beans, rice, ground nuts and vegetables. Last season, for instance, she harvested 8 bags of rice (800kgs) which she sold and also saved.

Lydia Byarubanga got 239,200 shillings and started trading in old clothes. Her business in clothes has enlarged, she sells clothes in several markets around the sub county and she is now able to assist in payment of school fees for their children. She says

“Before I got this money it used to be only my husband who would struggle with the school fees but now we pay the fees together”

Barugahara Pascal got 150,000 shillings which he invested in boosting his bar. He specifically bought a music system for the bar to woo more customers, invested part of the money in growing tea and tobacco and he has also bought a goat. However, he lost all the money he had invested in tobacco growing when the tobacco he had taken to a BAT store was burnt by unknown people along with that of other farmers.

4.14 Kashari Traditional Healers Initiative against AIDS in Mbarara District

The group received 200,000 shillings for their herbal garden. The money was used to buy poles, pay for labour for digging holes, fixing poles and fencing the herbal garden. The group also received tools from THETA which they used to plant new herbs and also conserve the old ones.

EFFECTS OF SEED FUNDING ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF MEMBERS OF SUPPORT GROUPS/ASSOCIATIONS

5.0 Introduction

Support offered by THETA to various initiatives has helped members and their dependants in various ways. The support has economically empowered several members and consequently reduced their dependency on others for survival and meeting basic needs in life. The assistance to initiatives has typically reduced members' vulnerability and has restored hope in their lives and the lives of their guardians and/or caretakers.

Specifically, members especially PLHAs in various initiatives who were previously vulnerable to diseases due to poor health, poverty, dropping out of school or lack of basic school requirements and those who had psychological problems are now able to access all forms of support from the initiatives especially those that have been assisted by THETA with different interventions.

In this respect, four domains of change were identified by the evaluation team as areas in which impact has occurred with the assistance from THETA. The domains of change included economic empowerment/reduction in dependency, improved food security/production, increased access to education, and improvement in health.

5.1 Economic Empowerment/Reduced Dependency

Members of support groups and associations have been empowered economically through seed funding. Members who accessed money from the revolving funds have been able to engage in income generating projects like selling clothes, retail shops, dealing in produce and other small businesses that have enabled them to uplift their income levels.

"Before I got this funding my business was very small and I could sell at a very low profit. But now after getting this funding that increased my capital, the business expanded and I started selling at a larger profit. (Old married lady in Kampala)"

Dependency of some members of the initiatives on other people has greatly reduced as a result of being economically empowered. This is illustrated by experience of one of the members of BUTHACA who was able to start a business dealing in agricultural produce. She buys produce from farmers and then sells it to the produce dealers from Kampala.

She has generated income out of it and has expanded her shop, started commercial farming in maize, beans, ground nuts and rice. All these activities

have boosted her income significantly. Before she got the funding, her husband was meeting all the household expenses alone. However, now she contributes substantially towards the expenses and this has reduced her dependency on the husband as indicated in the following illustration by a 40 year old married member of BUTHACA;

“Before I got this money it used to be only him [the husband] who would struggle with the household expenses and school fees but now we meet these expenses together” a 40 year old widow and mother of 4 children said,

“...Sometimes I used to go and beg some money from Musawo Kasattiro to feed my children...although I cannot manage to take the children to school, now I can at least afford to feed them...”

5.2 Improved Food Security

Two initiatives have distinctively come out in the area of food security. Kitembeeyi and Munakukaama support groups in the districts of Kiboga and Mukono respectively have spearheaded this effort.

Kitembeeyi harvested 1,200 kgs of maize last season which is about to be sold and money used to support the members. This season the group has grown maize on a nine-acre piece of land and the members expect a much improved harvest than that of the previous year. Using the experience gained from the initiative, individual members of the support group have also been able to start their individual projects like rearing goats, cattle keeping and piggery which have boosted their food security. This effort has helped the group members improve their food situation.

“My group members were initially lazy and did not want to grow their own food. However, [after getting assistance from THETA], we started a group garden and members learnt how to cultivate and now the group members are able to grow a lot of food both in our group gardens and in their personal home gardens. It gives me a lot of hope when I see people who used to have



Part of 9 acres of Maize Garden for Kitebeeyi support group in Kiboga District

one meal a day now have enough food to feed their families and even have surplus. I am very happy to see this” 72 year old married TH and founder of Kitembeeyi Agali Awamu AIDS Support Group.

In Mukono District, Munakukaama support group has been able to grow food stuffs like maize, cassava, beans, rice and vegetables for nutritional purposes of group members. The group has made great contribution to boost the nutrition of members.

“I have benefited in using these items because I have expanded my projects of farming and I can now rent land and indeed I have a big garden of maize. I am also planning to start up another garden for tomatoes. I managed to get training and am grateful... since THETA gave us these items I do not find problems with food.” A 36 year old married man, member of Munakukaama support group

5.3 Improvement in Health

Many members of support groups and associations have started health care initiatives by helping fellow members and some of the community members around them. In Hoima, Kunihira Support Group has a vibrant home based care (HBC) program for its members. The members are offered treatment, counseling, food stuffs and other self help activities in form of cultivating in each others gardens.

“Before [getting assistance], we had no self help projects. But now we have projects to support our lives such as cattle keeping, poultry keeping, piggery and food production from which we have obtained nutritious produce that have improved our health. Our children no longer fall sick frequently” 54 year old married member of Kunihira support group

Members of the support groups get supplies from the outputs of these various projects and as a result their health status and that of their dependants have greatly improved.

“We had no knowledge on good health [until we got assistance from THETA]. We started food production, [growing] greens and poultry keeping. Now our children are supplied with milk and eggs from the group’s projects. This has improved our family members’ health status.” 29 year old member of Kunihira support group.

5.4 Increased Access to Education

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has left many children orphaned and vulnerable due to lack of support. Through their initiatives, THs support some of the orphans in various ways:

Have Mercy Orphan School supports 300 children of whom 110 are orphans, Kitembeyi looks after 40 orphans, Kunihira supports 20 orphans, MAAS cares for 34 orphans and YAPESG supports 15 orphans. Besides, poor and unemployed members of support groups and associations could not meet school requirements for their children to the extent that some of the children dropped out of school and others did not attend school at all.

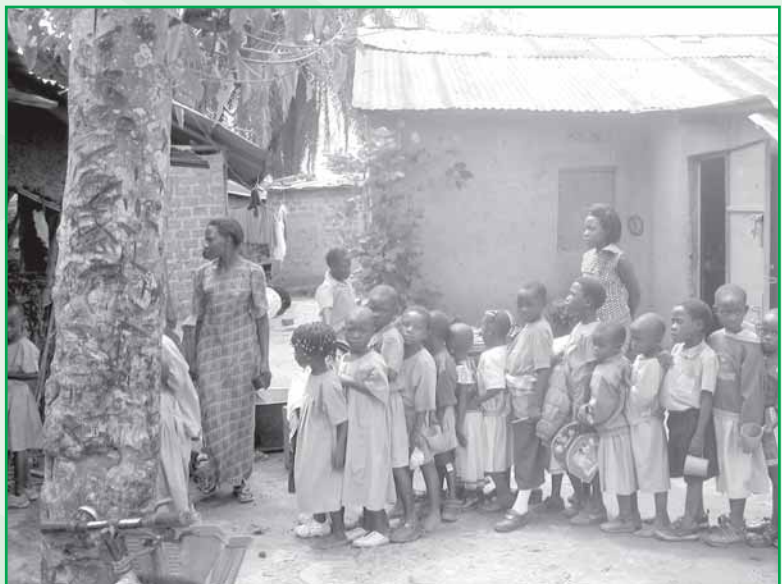
A great majority of members of initiatives, who have benefited from financial and material support, have reported increased capability to pay school fees and other requirements for their children and many of them have taken them to various schools in and out of their localities.

"The association members can now use these items [received from THETA] to produce things like vegetable that they sell and take their children to school something that used not to happen before." FGD member of Munakukaama Support Group

"I was not committed to the association before THETA gave us the money. In my work I was a bit weak but when the money came, I started to actively participate ... I got.239,20 shillings and started trading in old clothes ... My clothes business has since expanded... And I used the profits from the business to take back my 5 children to school." a 41-year old and married mother of the same support group

Trained THs like Hajji Sematimba started a school to give opportunities to orphans to access education. However, such schools lacked resources for their normal daily operation and consequently it affected school enrolment. But with assistance from THETA, especially provision of desks and food stuffs, the enrolment in Have Mercy Orphan School, increased tremendously from less than 20 pupils to over 300 pupils currently who attend classes regularly.

"At first, children [in our community] never used to go to school especially after their parents had died. And the [few] children [who would come to school] also did not have anything to eat while at school. They would be hungry the whole day... So they would not attend school regularly... When we received that assistance we were



Pupils of Have Mercy Primary School lining up for a porridge meal

able to enroll all these children [in the community who were not attending school] in [our] school... The children now get at least a meal a day and attend school regularly." Founder of Have Mercy Orphan School

Chapter Six

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Challenges Faced by Support Groups/Associations in Utilization of Seed Funding

a) Poor Leadership

Leadership in some associations and support groups is still poor, weak and corrupt. This has created rifts and conflicts in the groups that are threatening to tear them apart and hinder their progress. TH associations are the most affected by poor leadership, intrigue and malicious tendencies. The hardest hit associations by leadership conflicts were BUTHA and KOMATHA.

“The major problem was the executive for this association. It was not benefiting the members. The chairman was the over all and he could not consult other members and this forced us to remove him and put a new chairman. So far the challenges have been bad leadership.” a 45 year old TH and member of BUTHA.

“According to how we were before getting this money [from THETA], the conditions are worsening instead [due to power struggle] because we lost a lot of money, they used to ask for money from us and we continued to contribute but at the end of the day we lost instead.” A 50 year old married lady member of BUTHA

“These leaders have tried to organize meetings but since the members do not see any significant change they don't have even the morale to come for these meetings... When somebody hears that we received some money and they don't see any change in the project, really that person gets demoralized.” 46 year old married lady member of BUTHA noted.

b) Lack of Openness and Communication

Members in the groups reported lack of openness and poor communication within their ranks to the extent that some of them did not know the amount of money they received as groups because it was never disclosed to them.

“When they brought this money, they gave it to the Chairperson and he continued to use this money for our project but later the project collapsed”. 32 year old married member of BUTHA.

“.... the executive planned for the use of the money but I do not know what the entire amount of money was used for...” A married TH and member of KOMATHA observed.

c) Different Individual Interests

Some group members were expecting support in terms of essential items like food stuffs, clothing and other material items but not money for projects. This has negatively affected their participation in the group activities.

d) Inadequacy of Extended Support

The money could not cover a sizeable number of members in an initiative and secondly, it could not make a big impact on the part of those who got it. The majority of those who benefited, got less than 100,000 shillings and were unable to engage in meaningful small businesses even by village standards. This meant that some members of initiatives really had nothing to show for the money they got.

The issue of small funds was made worse by group members who defaulted on paying back the money and as such denied their colleagues the opportunity of utilizing the same money.

6.2 Lessons Learnt

Associations and support groups especially in rural communities have gained valuable importance and significance as sustainable community based groups that are contributing to the reduction of HIV transmission, provision of care and support to the HIV/AIDS affected and infected persons in rural communities.

Leadership is a very pertinent issue among the groups that receive funding from THETA for projects because it determines success or failure of the projects. In MAAS and NAMOTHA, the leadership helped to keep members together, provided them with psychosocial support, composed songs for the drama group and most importantly, referred sick members and PLHAs to health facilities where they obtained counseling, treatment and care;

“They [Leaders] have assisted us so much since it is very difficult to lead people. They have been able to mobilize us as members, uniting us, organizing training... contacting people in the various sub counties.” A 39 year old Male TH and member of NAMOTHA noted.

“... Leaders used to ask for money from members and do nothing. After a short time, they would come back for more money... Members felt the association was becoming weak. The problem was our Chairperson who took all the responsibility of all funds ... and he could not tell us how the money was being used until the project collapsed. The bricks that we had made were all destroyed. So this funding did not help me at all because it passed through wrong hands.” A 32 year old male member of BUTHA reported

For the support groups or associations to succeed, a few people sacrifice their time and put in more effort in the activities of the group. This is reflected in the success witnessed in KUNIHIRA, NAMOTHA, KITEMBEEYI and MAAS which was due to mainly a few individuals' commitment as indicated in this illustration:

“Most members are not cooperating when it comes to collecting food for the piggery, very few respond like four or five ...” A 30 year old male member of MAAS.

This was further supported by; “... Some members were not willing to come out and participate in activities fully.” 72 year old male TH, a member of Kitembeeyi Support Group observed.

6.3 Recommendations by Support Groups and Associations

For the assistance, especially funds, to benefit support groups, members recommended that it should be communicated to all members to avoid issues of mistrust, conflicts and misunderstandings as has been the case in some of the groups like BUTHA in Kamuli.

“... So when the money comes, we need to meet as a group and the executive reports the money to all members and how the expenditure is going to be.[We agree on the plan as a team]” A 45 year old TH and member in BUTHA

Members of some associations such as BUTHA recommended that activities of associations should be decentralized to sub county levels because the county level is quite distant and some members cannot afford transport costs in order to participate in the activities. Project activities for most groups are based at the county headquarters and yet the majority of the members can't regularly go there, leaving a few individuals to implement the activities.

“... every sub-county should handle its own project... THETA [funds] should go to [each] sub county because it is nearer... every sub-county should get its funding for the various projects in that particular sub county.” A 46 year, female member of BUTHA

However, other associations currently operating at sub-county level want to re-integrate and phase out sub-counties so that they operate at county level as illustrated below;

“BUTHACA is divided along sub County levels. The BUTHACA of Bugambe is different from other BUTHACAs. I wish we could eliminate these sub county divisions. “ a member of BUTHACA

There is need for more sensitization, training and other forms of capacity building in areas like book keeping and financial management for members of the support groups especially the leaders in order to become more transparent and also streamline accountability in their activities so as to benefit the community.

“...when the money comes, the leaders must be trained [on] how to handle the money because the chairperson may think he is going to handle everything [and] he may take the project as if it is his alone. They [leaders] need to get trainings and know ... the responsibility of chairman... the responsibility of the secretary and so on and so on.” A 45 year old member of BUTHA

Besides support extended for group projects, members recommended that seed funding and support targeting projects for individual members should also be introduced.

“.... I would like members to start their own gardens [projects] to benefit them individually [in their homes] on top of the group gardens [projects]. So THETA should consider helping us in this approach. ...” said a 72 year old, male member of Agali Awamu Kitembeeyi AIDS Support Group

THETA should also start providing members of support groups with material support like food items, clothing and beddings, just like TASO does, since most members are PLHAs

Some members recommended that the groups should start to engage in some income generating activities like motor cycle transport business (locally known as boda-boda) which can earn money, on a daily basis, that can be used to provide material/food support and medication to members infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

“...THETA can give us funding to purchase say boda boda which can bring daily income [enable us buy food stuff] or send us assistance in form of body building food, mosquito nets and other things related to our health....” a 46 year old; single-female member of MAAS pointed out.

Since some support groups are looking after many orphans without school fees, members recommended that THETA should assist the groups with school fees payment for some of these orphans and probably assist in starting orphanage schools for the growing numbers of orphans.

“...we have cultivated and we wanted to build an orphanage school because we get a lot of hardship paying school fees for the orphans and I don't have any other source of assistance to help them because I have around 19 orphans to pay fees for. So I would like to request THETA to help me with some fees for those orphans.” A 41 year old, female TH and member of Kawoomya Tweekembe support group.

CONSTRAINTS FACED DURING THE EVALUATION EXERCISE AND WAY-FORWARD

7.1 Constraints Encountered During the Evaluation Exercise

There was no documentation indicating background to the TH Initiatives Program, assistance given to each initiative and the purpose for giving that assistance. This information could have formed a basis for effective evaluation of the program. Thus the team relied on the reports given by members of initiatives and information as re-called by implementers of seed funding.

The time for conducting the evaluation exercise was not adequate for the team to be able to cover all the initiatives in two days. The initiatives are scattered all over the country and members also come from different sub counties. Therefore, reaching all of them in two days was rather a difficult task yet a necessary thing to do in order to get a clear picture. This is why even some beneficiaries of seed funding could not be located in that period.

In some instances, members of some initiatives were very skeptical about answering particular questions concerning money. Many of them wanted to first consult 'second and third parties' before giving answers to such questions.

Some members of the support groups and associations who benefited from the revolving funds could not be traced during the evaluation exercise because some of them had moved to distant places at the time of evaluation.

7.2 Way Forward

- It is recommended that proper documentation concerning healers' initiatives should be compiled. The documentation should clearly outline background, justification for funding the project, objectives, activities conducted and indicators for monitoring and evaluation purposes.
- It is important to streamline the implementation of seed funding by developing a system and criteria of extending assistance to support groups. It is also imperative to design a monitoring and evaluation system of the initiatives. An effective system that keeps track of assistance extended to different initiatives should be established. For instance, initiatives that need assistance from THETA should provide basic information which can be used as basis for decision making. The information may include justification for the assistance spelling out the problem at hand, proposed solution and intended beneficiaries; indicate the proposed amount of assistance needed,

expected output and expected outcomes/effects of the outputs. Tools should be designed for this purpose.

- For a start, it is proposed that information about each initiative and its members should be immediately collected using the existing monitoring and evaluation tools. Besides it is important to evaluate and appraise each initiative through a structured method (See Appendix V for proposed application form). The information provided in this application form will provide a basis for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the initiative. In addition, each initiative should start an effective record keeping system of all issues related to the assistance obtained from THETA to facilitate effective monitoring system.
- THETA should arrange training session for leaders of the initiatives especially associations in order to address leadership wrangles prevailing in most associations. Those already trained should be re-trained to update their leadership capacities.

7.3 Conclusion

In conclusion, seed funding has generally benefited and impacted on the livelihood of members of support groups and associations. In particular, the support has benefited the group members in areas such as:

- a) Enabling their children to have access to education through raising school fees and other requirements,
- b) Improved food security and nutrition
- c) Economic empowerment that reduced their dependency on others.

However, the groups continue to face challenges in terms of bad leadership, people failing to return revolving group funds to enable other members benefit and lastly some group members expect to obtain instant benefits from their activities - an attitude that has affected the operations of the groups and their cohesion.

It is therefore important to establish an effective needs assessment system for the support groups before any assistance is extended as well as designing and implementing an efficient monitoring and evaluation system for the programme. It may be necessary to re-think the design and implementation of the whole project.

It is also significant to point out that other ways of sustaining initiatives be explored. This is especially for initiatives that are not involved in any kind of income generation. More benefactors that can provide seed funding should be contacted by THETA.

THETA is however grateful for the philanthropic support so far received and extended to support groups and associations.

APPENDICES

Appendix I:

Support Groups and Associations Covered In The Evaluation Exercise

Location	Support group and association
Mukono District Nakifuma County, Nagojje Sub-County, Kyanja Parish	Munakukaama Support Group
Mukono District, Nakifuma County, Kimenyedde Sub-County, Bukasa Parish	Mpaawo Atalikaaba AIDS Support Group (MAAS)
Mukono District, Nakifuma County, Nabbale Sub-County, Makukuba Parish	Kawoomya Tweekembe Support Group
Mukono District, Nakifuma County, Kimenyedde Sub-County, Kawuku Parish	Nakifuma Modern Traditional Healer Association (NAMOTHA)
Mukono District, Buikwe County, Nyenga Sub-County, Nyenga Parish	Mr. Charles Byekwaso, Mr. Henry Kasule
Kampala city, Rubaga Division, Kabowa Parish	Have Mercy Orphanage School
Wakiso District, Nabweru Sub-County Maganjo Parish	Tokamalirawo AIDS Support And Action Group Awareness (TAASAGA)
	Yuliamuganzi AIDS Patient Educational Support Group (YAPESG)
Hoima District, Buhaguzi County	Buhaguzi Traditional Healers and Counselors Association (BUTHACA)
Hoima District, Buhaguzi County Kiziranfumbi Sub-County, Bulinya Parish	KUNIHIIRA AIDS Support Group
Kiboga District, Kiboga County Lwamata Sub-County, Kyekumbya Parish	KITEMBEYI Agali Awamu Association
Apac District, Maruzi County, Ibuje Sub-County	Kony Kwo Maruzi Traditional Healers Association (KOMATHA)
Kamuli District, Bulamogi county, Nawaikoke Sub-County, Bulamogi Parish	Bulamogi Traditional Healers Association (BUTHA)
Katakwi District	OKEES Support Group
Mbarara District, Kashari County, Kashare-Nakariza Parish	Kashari Traditional Healers Initiative against AIDS (KATHIA)

Appendix II:

Activities of Individual Groups/Associations Involved in the Evaluation Exercise

Support group	Activities
YAPESG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Runs a ROSCA ➤ Owns a nursery bed for mangoes, oranges and paw-paws from which seedlings are sold to the general public. A percentage of the returns is distributed to the members for their ➤ Conducts HIV/AIDS community education sessions using its music, dance and drama group ➤ Members are involved in home based care
TASAAGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Runs a ROSCA ➤ Actively involved in community education ➤ Has a music, dance and drama group ➤ Members carry out home based care
Have Mercy Orphan School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Runs a primary school with enrolment of 300 pupils of whom 110 are orphans who are supported with different scholastic needs including a meal per day. ➤ Has a music, dance and drama group involved of largely the pupils.
Mpaawo Atalikaaba AIDS Support Group (MAAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Members are involved in community education conducted mostly by the music, dance and drama group ➤ Have a strong home based care program which has enabled them reach 15 homes. ➤ Has a piggery project
Munakukaama AIDS Family and Orphan Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nutrition and food security ➤ Have a vegetable garden.
Kawoomya Tweekembe AIDS Support Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Group is involved in community education ➤ Community education is done through Music, Dance and drama ➤ Brick making is another activity for the support group ➤ Crop farming (Gardening)

<p>Kunihira Support Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Involved in animal husbandry. Has 4 cows and a poultry farm ➤ Have crop gardens for food security (vegetables and local food). ➤ Conduct community education using lively musical performances by members of the music, dance and drama group ➤ THs work closely with a clinical officer to provide treatment of opportunistic infections.
<p>Kitembeeyi Agali Awamu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Involved in agriculture to ensure nutrition and food security, specifically growing maize on 9 acre piece of land ➤ Rear 2 cross breed cows ➤ Conducts HBC for members and community at large. Have two drama groups (one for children & one for adults) ➤ Individual members have bought piglets, goats and cows
<p>BUTHA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Carry out community health sensitization ➤ Brick making to construct an office building and also raise funds through the sale of bricks
<p>KOMATHA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ KOMATHA is involved in community education. Members also provide orphans and PLHAs with care and support ➤ Herbal conservation, KOMATHA has a herbal garden where the conservation is done. A district based Botanist who works with the district forestry department has been identified to provide them with technical assistance.
<p>BUTHACA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Runs a ROSCA ➤ Members conduct community education. ➤ Training for second generation THs ➤ One member has bought a cow from her savings
<p>KATHIAA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community education ➤ Herbal garden
<p>NAMOTHA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They have a herbal garden and have also been training fellow healers in HIV/AIDS prevention and care. ➤ Conduct community education
<p>OKEES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They have a garden for fruits

Appendix III:

A case study of Byekwaso Charles (Traditional Healer) in Mukono

Byekwaso Charles a traditional healer living with HIV, was operating a small shop. His family with more than 16 children was depending on small profits from the shop and they were staying in a small residential house. His health was deteriorating at high speed due to economical pressures. He got assistance from THETA of 60,000 shillings and materials assistance in form of cassava flour (2 bags), maize flour (2 bags), sugar (1 bag), paraffin (2 jerrycans), and cooking oil (1 Jerrycan) for enlarging his retail shop. He used the money (60,000 shillings) to buy firewood to burn 10,000 bricks which he used to construct another commercial building for shops and part of it will be used to generate some rental income to improving his finances. The building is ready for roofing. After boosting his retail shop he managed to save some money and bought a piece of land at 600,000 shillings. He has purchased construction materials (7,000 bricks and sand) for another residential house to be constructed in that land. He has managed to keep sixteen of his children in school. He uses some of the profits from the shop to buy daily essential household requirements for his relatively large family.



A cross section of Byekwaso's retail shop showing some of the merchandise he sells

Appendix IV:

Interview Schedule for Conducting Evaluation Exercise for THETA Funded Support Groups

Introduction:

THETA would like to capture stories of significant change that may have resulted from assistance extended to your support group/association by seed funding.

This will help THETA to improve the services provided, celebrate the successes as well as being accountable to donors.

The stories and information collected from these interviews will be used for a number of purposes including;

- To explore the achievements and challenges registered by the support group/association members
- To measure the impact of seed grants to individual members
- To improve seed funding implementation design

Section A:

1. Name of person recording the story
2. Date of recording, time for the interview started and ended
3. District, county, sub-county, parish, village
4. Name of the association/support group
5. Name, age, sex, marital status and education level of the story teller

Section B:

1. Tell me how you (story teller) first became involved with the support group/association.
2. What is your current involvement in the support group/association?
3. How much support (cash and/or in kind) did you receive as a support group/association from THETA? State items/cash you received and number of times you have received the support.
4. How did you use the funds extended to your support group/Association?
5. (a) Was this the original plan of using these funds? (b) If no, what was your original plan?
6. If the plan changed, why did it change from the original plan?
7. From your point of view, describe a story that reflects significant change in the quality of your and family members' lives that resulted from support extended to your support group/association by THETA. Interviewer: probe for (a) situation before the support (b) inputs, process /activities and outputs (c) effects and impact change
8. Of the changes mentioned, what was the most significant one? Why do you consider it significant to you?
9. How (if at all) has work of leaders of the support group/association contributed to this significant change?
10. What challenges have you encountered while utilizing funding from THETA?
11. How have you attempted to address these challenges mentioned above?
12. What do you recommend for future improvement in funding provision?
13. Any other comment.

Appendix V:

Proposed Application Form for TH Initiatives Requesting for Assistance

**Assistance Extended To TH Initiatives
Needs Assessment for Support/Assistance**

Date: _____

District: _____ County: _____

Sub-County: _____ Parish: _____

Name of the Initiative: _____

If assistance is extended to an individual, Name: _____

NB: Outline all the problems and indicate proposed solutions as told by the members

1. Problem One _____

i Proposed solution (activities) _____

ii Primary beneficiaries _____

iii Secondary beneficiaries _____

What is required to implement the proposed solution (services, money and/or materials)? Indicate all the details _____

What are the expected outputs from the activities? Indicate each item with the quantity _____

State the expected outcomes/effects from the output _____

2. Problem Two _____

i Proposed solution (activities) _____

ii Primary beneficiaries _____

iii Secondary beneficiaries _____

What is required to implement the proposed solution (services, money and/or materials)? Indicate all the details _____

What are the expected outputs from the activities? Indicate each item with the quantity _____

State the expected outcomes/effects from the output _____

¹ BUTHACA has 23 members of the association and 84 PLHAs looked after by the association

Healthier Initiatives Evaluation