

## 2005 BeadforLife Bearer Survey

### Executive Summary

BeadforLife conducted an extensive survey of its members over the summer of 2005 with the dual purposes of evaluating our impact, and guiding program decisions. Overall, 126 of our 140 members were interviewed. Interviews took place in the bearers' homes and generally were conducted in their native language.

While the evaluation of the data and what it tells us is ongoing and will continue to inform our program development in the next 12 months, there are clear results that are both interesting and sometimes surprising.

As an evaluation tool, the results clearly show us that members are benefiting in many different ways from BFL. High percentages report better health status, nutrition, and housing status since joining BFL, and the ability to send their children to school. We can also begin to calculate the number of people that BFL reaches indirectly as the bearers provide support to children or other family members, hire others to help them roll beads, or sell beads for others.

As a program development tool, the results have provided us with clear data that we can use now and in the future to make programmatic decisions. Examples of areas where the survey outlines needs are mosquito nets for other family members, the savings program, HIV testing for children, access to family planning, and provision of business development skills, among others. We also got feedback in current program directions on things such as the number of bearers who already own a home, fairly good access to health care among bearers and a high level of student enrollment in school.

Finally, the survey gives us a better picture of who our bearers are, including the fact that they represent 16 different tribes, 52% are married, and 47% are refugees from the conflict in the north.

#### *Biographical Data*

- BFL members come from 16 different tribes, but the majority are Acholi or Muganda.
- 52% of the bearers are married, 30% are widows, 13% are divorced and only 4% are single.
- 36 members report being in a polygamous marriage.
- The average number of children per bearer is 4 and between the 126 bearers surveyed, they have 461 children.
- Only 52% of the bearers have all of their children living with them.
- 77% of the children who live with the bearers are enrolled in school.
- Only 16% of the children of bearers have been tested for HIV.

#### *Housing*

- The homes of the 126 bearers surveyed house 790 people total with a median number of 6 per house.
- 32% of the members own their own homes, 13% own land somewhere, and 24% own a quarry lease (in the rock quarry in the Acholi Quarter).

### *Education*

- 70% of the beaders have the equivalent of a grade school education or less. Of those who did not complete grade school, 64% report they left because their family could not afford the school fees.
- 98 beaders reported that they would like to get additional education.
- 55% of the beaders report that their parents were farmers.

### *Health*

- Almost all of the beaders now sleep under mosquito nets, however, 40% of the people in their house do not have nets, increasing their chances of getting malaria and spreading it to the beader.
- 42% (53) of the beaders are HIV+.
- 72% of beaders have used some form of modern family planning at some point in their lives.
- 67% of beaders report that they don't want more children. Yet 70% are not on any form of family planning. 23 married beaders who don't want more children are not on any form of family planning.
- 27% of beaders report they would like to use family planning.
- 59 beaders get food distribution from some organization.

### *Income*

- Beaders report they mostly spend their income from BFL on school fees, food, rent, and medicines.
- 95% of beaders report that their lives have improved since starting with BFL;
  - 73% now have a child in school who was not enrolled before
  - 89% report increased food intake
  - 68% report their health status has improved
  - 22% have started other small businesses with their earnings
  - 76% of women in the Acholi Quarter report they no longer work in the quarry.

### *Future Plans*

- 47% of members left their original homes because of conflict. Others moved to Kampala to follow economic opportunities or came with their husbands.
- Only 23% would like to return to their home village someday.
- 104 beaders say building a home is one of their most important goals, and 102 say educating their children is.

### *Bead Making*

- 78 beaders employ others to help them make beads, benefiting a total of 174 other people.
- 66 beaders sell beads for other people, supporting a total of 180 others.