



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

Member of the  
**actalliance**

# Uganda

Issue 1, April, 2017



Quarterly  
Newsletter

## ... table of contents

- News.....Pg. 3 -5
- Shelter.....Pg. 6-7
- Livelihoods.....Pg. 8-11
- Events and a pictorial.....Pg. 12-17
- Environment.....Pg. 18-19
- Emergency.....Pg. 20-23
- Innovation.....Pg.24
- Food security.....Pg. 25-26
- Donors.....Pg. 27
- WASH/ cover page.....Pg. 28



Jesse Kamstra, LWF Country Representative congratulates the winners at the Talent Show in Rwamwanja settlement.

### Magazine team

#### Chief Editor

Shamim Nalubega

#### Contributors

Alex Odongo

Peter Eceru

Naomi Acara

Pius Kikomeko

Henry Mukijibi

Betty Lamunu

Musa Wamala

Brian Walugembe

#### Communications Team

Cornelia Kaestner

Shamim Nalubega

# Editorial



Dear all,

We are back! I know it has been quite a while since we published our last newsletter. But well, here we bring you the latest version with so many interesting features. Don't miss them out!

Enjoy what we have served you, with a special edition of the various events that have taken place in our organization countrywide. In this section, we bring you the massive Youth Talent shows that we hosted for the first time in Rwamwanja and Adjumani as well as the Regional meeting in Kampala. Don't forget to check out the interesting pictorial too. Hear! Hear!

We have also brought you various success stories from all the subprograms as well as a diamond appreciation letter from the LWF global headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

We would like to specially thank all those who have played a part in making this issue possible.

Shamim Nalubega,  
Communications Officer.

# Our Offices

#### LWF Headquarters-Kampala

P.O Box 5827, Kampala Uganda  
+256 393 264 006/7/8

#### Kamwenge Office

40 km from Kamwenge Town  
+256 772 721 330/ +256 772 721 329

#### Kitgum Office

P.O Box 84, Kitgum  
+256 392 175 240/ +256 776 721 300

#### Adjumani Office

P.O Box 7, Gulu-Moyo Road.  
+256 392 175 240/ +256 776 721 300

#### Pader Office

P.O Box 74, Pader  
+256 392 777 236/ +256 772 721 327

#### Luuka Office

Iganga Kayunga Road, Luuka  
+256 392 777 872/ +256 772 721 326

#### Lamwo Office

Lamwo District  
+256 392 175 240/ +256 772 721 330

#### Moyo Office

Moyo District  
+256 771 893 870

# NEWS

## *LWF Twelfth Assembly, Windhoek, Namibia*

**May 10-16, 2017**



LIBERATED  
BY GOD'S  
GRACE

The twelfth Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Assembly will be hosted from 10th to 16th May, 2017 in Windhoek, Namibia to determine the future direction of the Lutheran World Federation, share experiences about issues facing our churches and worship together to celebrate cultural diversity.

The long awaited event will be hosted by three member churches: Evangelical Lutheran Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Assembly will be attended by representatives delegated by the LWF member churches.

During the assembly, the communion will also commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation at a global level.

The Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the LWF. First hosted in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, the Assembly occurs every six to seven years with a different theme. This year's theme is "Liberated by God's Grace," with three sub-themes: Salvation – Not for Sale, Human Beings – Not for Sale, Creation – Not for Sale. The theme tells us that the gracious love of God, through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, opens up opportunities for us as faithful Christians to reach out as healers and as people able to reconcile to a world torn apart by strife and inequality.

The twelfth Assembly's theme correlates with LWF's commitment towards upholding the rights of the oppressed as well as the needy and poor like the refugees. With this, the Assembly brings an opportunity for fund raising, exhibition and sales of products like crafts made by refugees in Uganda and other countries.

Compiled by,  
Communications Team.



# Uganda to Implement Universal Periodic Review Recommendations

The government of Uganda has adopted 148 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. These are part of the 226 recommendations made by state parties to Uganda during the Review Session for Uganda in November, 3rd 2016 at the Human Rights Council, Geneva.

An instrument under United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC), the UPR process is attended by several local and international organizations to review the human rights' records of member states. Based on the review, member states are given recommendations aimed at improving such rights.

At the 34th UPR session, proposals in relation to improving health and education, enhancing justice, within the marginalized groups like refugees as well as combating sexual and gender based violence among them were raised and have been adopted.

During the same session, the Director of International Corporation at the Ministry of Foreign affairs David Etuket commended the instrumental support of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in the review process; explaining that their involvement in the consultative process enriched the Government of Uganda State report on the human rights status. "Your contribution to the UPR process is tremendous. Continue working with the government of Uganda on this, especially in implementing the recommendations," Christopher Onyanga the Uganda Permanent Representative at the Human Rights Council in Geneva told CSO members.

Etuket assured delegates that Uganda is committed to a full implementation of the recommendations made in their totality, including those that had been rejected. "We rejected some recommendations but that does not mean we have totally shut the door as discussions on them will continue." He continued to explain that the government rejected some recommendations for further consultations and legal reforms.

Etuket acknowledged that the review process enabled government to identify gaps that hinder the fulfilment of

Human rights. He further called for international support to enable government achieve the recommendations adopted by the Human Rights Council.

While expressing his concern about the increasing cases of torture by the Uganda Police Force, Chairperson of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Medi Kaggwa commended the government of Uganda for taking steps to establish a national action plan for human rights that will aid in combating the vice.

Just like Kaggwa, Ghana applauded Uganda for Her enormous effort in taking care of refugees and strengthening the principle of supporting them to become self-reliant. Haiti however expressed regrets about Uganda's rejection towards setting up sufficient courts and legal aid centres to cater for refugees seeking justice. It re-echoed the importance of the government to own up the responsibility of providing Legal Aid to its citizens.

In a statement presented to the Human Rights Council, the Lutheran World Federation Advocacy Officer Peter Eceru applauded the government of Uganda for establishing refugee friendly policies that have enhanced its interventions in the refugee host communities. On behalf of the organization, Eceru pledged to continue working with the government of Uganda in ensuring the implementation of the adopted recommendations. The CSOs also committed to participating in the monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.

## **An insight on the Universal Periodic Review**

Established by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolution 60/251, UPR is a unique process that involves periodic assessments of the human rights record of the UN 193 member countries. Through this significant innovation, member countries are reviewed every after 5 years to assess progress made in the Human Rights conditions in each respective country.

Compiled by,  
Peter Eceru  
Advocacy Officer.



## LWF-Uganda hosts the regional meeting on South Sudan refugee crisis

LWF-Uganda hosts the annual regional meeting on the South Sudan crisis. This was held on 13th February, 2017 in Kampala and attended by LWF Country Representatives from the East Africa region and the head office in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss the refugee situation and the way forward in terms of humanitarian aid provision. The meeting was also attended by delegates from other organizations like United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Church of Sweden, Government of Canada, Canadian Lutheran World Relief as well ACTAlliance member organizations.

The meeting's agenda was about the implications of the South Sudan crisis and its impact on the countries in the region. Challenges, advocacy issues as well as identified gaps and needs with focus on the South Sudan refugee crisis were also discussed.

“Plan for refugee interventions focusing on both emergency/ lifesaving

and sustainable livelihoods,” Bornwell Katende, UNHCR Country Representative for Uganda told the meeting participants. He continued to challenge the meeting participants by asking them to make the development arm stronger while addressing the plight of South Sudanese refugees.

During the meeting, participants came up with various action points to consider towards the South Sudan crisis including; considering university education for refugees, creating market for refugees' products, as well as focusing on leadership training for women. Participants also decided that the ACT forum coordinates advocacy for the South Sudan crisis using religious leaders in South Sudan, East Africa region and globally.

Compiled by,  
Pius Kikomeko  
PMER Focal Person.

## GIS in LWF

LWF has integrated Geographical Information System (GIS) in all project activities. Through GIS, all projects are mapped by capturing, analyzing and storing spatial or geographic data of all LWF interventions in the refugee settlements.

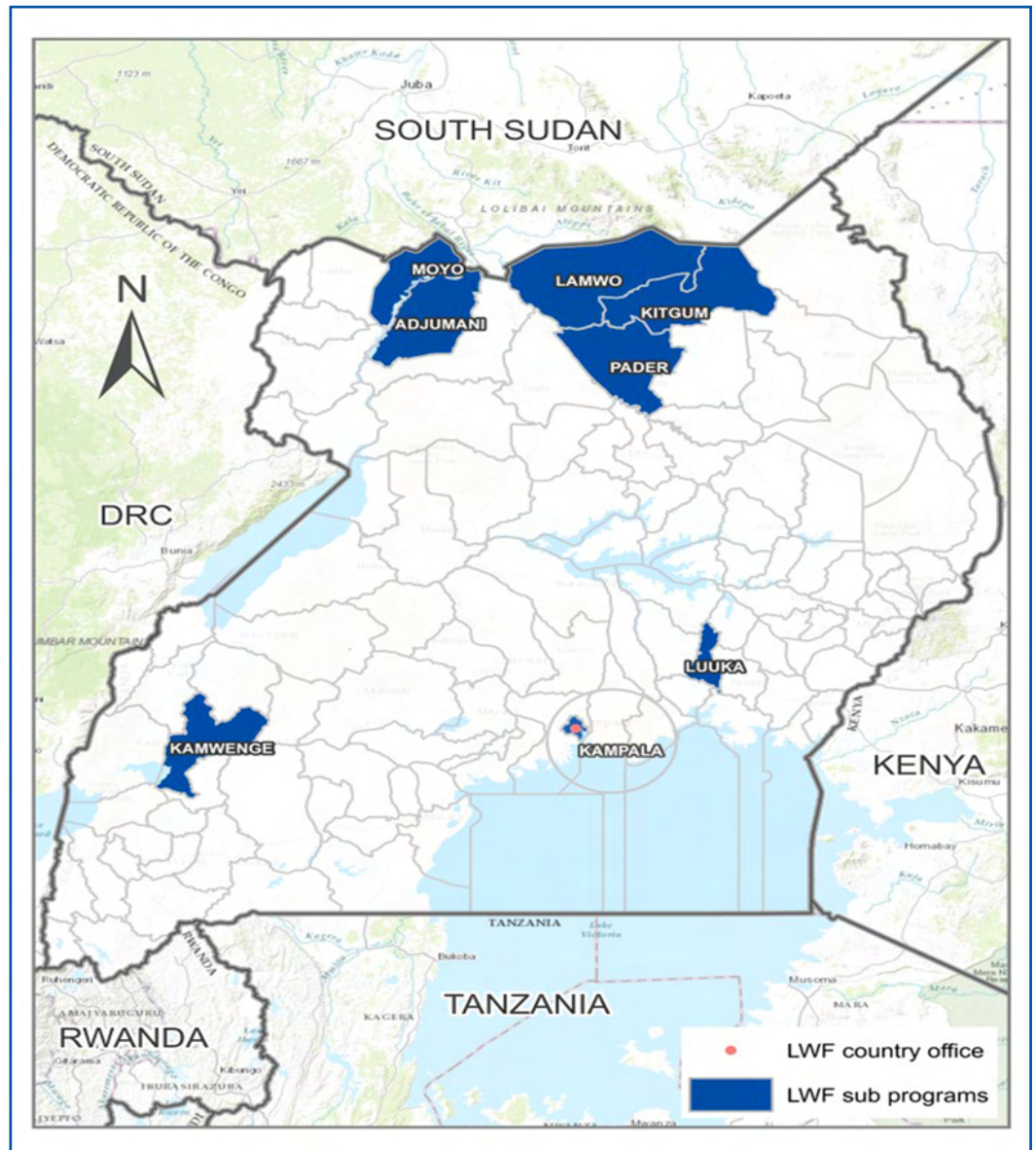
With GIS, LWF is gradually shifting from paper to mobile data collection through the use of ArcGIS data collection tools. This saves time spent on data entries into the database.

The system also plays a vital role in project planning, monitoring and evaluation

Anyone can see and interact with LWF's work with the organization's web maps on the website; Link: <http://arcgis/2kDVN7r>

Compiled by,  
Faith Kirungi  
GIS Focal Person.

## A map showing LWF's project areas in Uganda



# From a goats' barn to a warm house



Deng and Atem next to the goats barn where they lived before in Nyumanzi settlement.

With tears in his eyes and a wide grin, Daniel Deng dropped to his knees to celebrate their new home: a round hut with thatched roof (tukul) and a private latrine, fenced in their own little compound. For several months, Daniel Deng, 18, and his younger brother Jacob Atem had lived either out in the cold or in a goats' barn. This was before they were identified by Joseph Anyama, an extension worker with Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Nyumanzi settlement. Now, the brothers finally have a warm home.

Without the skills to set up their own shelter, Daniel had tried asking neighbors for shelter in vain. "They said they didn't have space to accommodate us," Daniel says. He and Jacob spent nights in the cold by themselves in Block II, Nyumanzi settlement.

"I would light a fire, cover my little brother with all our clothes and watch over him as he slept," Daniel narrates. "We spent a whole week out in the cold until one of our neighbors offered her goats' barn for our shelter," he adds. The boys slept with the old lady's goats in the same barn.

Jacob explains that they had to endure tick bites as well as the stench from the goats' excrement. "The awful sharp stench would pierce through my stomach. Their loud bleats and kicks would hardly let us get some sleep at night," he adds. Life became unbearable for the brothers, and Daniel often longed for his dead parents and their home back in South Sudan.

"They should have been living in a temporary shelter, not that smelly place," Anyama recalls. Working for LWF, Anyama provided shelter to the brothers at the Nyumanzi reception



Atem washes his hands in their compound.

“

The awful sharp stench would pierce through my stomach, their loud bleats and kicks would hardly let us get some sleep at night. But all that is gone. And, I can never stop thanking God, LWF and BPRM for this beautiful peaceful place we now call home.

centre for a week while LWF constructed their home using funds from the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM).





Deng and Atem revise their books inside their new house in Nyumanzi settlement.



Deng and Atem next to their new private latrine.

Thanks to LWF and BPRM, the brothers now have a safe, clean home. “We received mattresses, blankets, clothes, kitchen sets, jerrycans and basins from LWF and can now enjoy our sleep and privacy. We feel securer here,” Jacob tells. “I sometimes touch the walls just to be sure I am not dreaming. And, I can never stop thanking God, LWF and BPRM for this beautiful peaceful place we call home because it’s almost all we longed for,” a grinning Daniel describes.

Orphaned, Daniel and Jacob flee war-torn South Sudan

Their parents dead and without relatives to care for them, Daniel and Jacob fled the violence in South Sudan and crossed the border into Uganda in February 2016. Then 17-year-old Daniel trekked with his young brother Jacob for three days without food and water to reach northern Uganda.

“We were received with a hot meal, each given a pair of T-shirts for each, registered and given blue wristbands by LWF staff at Elegu collection point,” Daniel remembers. He explains that their arrival to Uganda revived their hope for survival, as it seemed safer and with better access to food.

“My fatigue disappeared, I hugged my little brother and promised him that we were finally going to be okay and get a place to live and food to eat,” Daniel adds. The brothers narrate that they could not believe

they had finally arrived in a peaceful place, without the sounds of gunshots and human screams. “Elegu was full of peace but very busy and crowded as there were so many of us, yet people continued flooding in,” Daniel describes.

Life at the Nyumanzi reception centre

After registration, the brothers were relocated to Nyumanzi reception centre, where they stayed before they were transferred to Block II in Nyumanzi settlement. As vulnerable unaccompanied children, the brothers had access to shelter and psychological counseling.

“After watching their parents being murdered by the ruthless fighters, the boys were psychologically tortured. Jacob was always angry. He rarely spoke or smiled,” says Jenifer Adong, an LWF project manager for the BPRM-funded “Protecting Lives and Building Livelihoods” project in Nyumanzi settlement. Through counselling, Adong explains that the brothers are healing.

“They interact, laugh and play with their peers, which is a sign of tremendous progress,” Adong adds. “I spend my days studying for school and playing soccer with friends,” Jacob says.

The brothers are only two of the over 39,800 refugees in Nyumanzi settlement, one of 19 settlements for South Sudanese refugees in Adjumani district. LWF provides refugees

with support in livelihoods, water and sanitary services, protection, community service as well as non-food items. However, the resources are limited and insufficient for all refugees.

Back to school

Daniel used to worry about not attending school. “How will I become a doctor if I don’t go to school? How will we survive in future if we don’t get good jobs? Shall we be dependents forever?” These were the questions that echoed in Daniel’s head whenever he went to sleep.

The brothers are now back to school. Daniel is in P7 and Jacob in P5 at Nyumanzi primary school. Daniel says he no longer worries about not attending school. The brothers hope to eventually join a boarding school. “We have to walk long distances every morning and evening to and from school which is very exhausting,” Daniel explains. “We get home tired and hungry yet we have to prepare our dinner. We can’t find time to study or read our books,” Jacob adds.

“I want to save people’s lives, especially those affected by war,” Daniel says.

Compiled by ,  
Communications Team.



# Otto builds a house from rice farming

Otto spends at least seven hours every day on his rice farm. With his family, he plants, weeds and harvests the long grain rice that has pulled them from poverty. Before venturing into commercial farming, Otto was jobless, and his family lacked basic needs such as food, clothes, school fees, and health services. The family spent nights in total darkness as they did not have electricity and could not afford paraffin for their lantern. The father of two then decided to try commercial rice farming in 2012.

He started small, with only 447,000 shillings cash. Fortunately, he didn't have to buy farmland as he had three acres of wetland that were suitable for rice farming. Today, his business is a success. "I had acquired knowledge on commercial farming, had some little resources at large and thought it was time for me to start earning. My deep desire to provide for my family drove my zeal to get started," Otto says.

Otto had acquired information and knowledge on commercial farming from a series of trainings organized by Lutheran World Federation, with funding from Finn Church Aid. Naomi Acara, the LWF Pader Subprogram Manager explains that the Pader Farmers Empowerment project trained participants in farming as a business, post harvesting handling techniques, collective bulking, marketing, and soil and water conservation.

"From the training, I learned that I could earn big from small investments in commercial farming," says Otto, who was a subsistence farmer before the training. "I only considered agriculture a source of food for my family but not a source of income," he adds.

With his two children and wife, Otto tilled his land in Ogan Ayila village, Pader district, and as the rice budded, his children spent several hours in the garden chasing away birds with catapults. "I feared for low harvests as birds continuously dined on my rice," he adds. This was not the case, as he harvested over three tons of rice that he sold to produce buyers at 3,773,000 shillings. In a period of five months, Otto had accumulated



Otto (left) at his house that is under construction.

a profit of 3,326,000 shillings. This inspired him to continue practicing commercial farming.

Otto gets electricity and a house from rice farming profits

With his profits, Otto wanted to do something that would make his family happy and also inspire them to continue with their hard work. Since the family did not have a house, Otto thought it was time to build one. "We had land but no house and my wife yearned for one and electricity too," he adds.

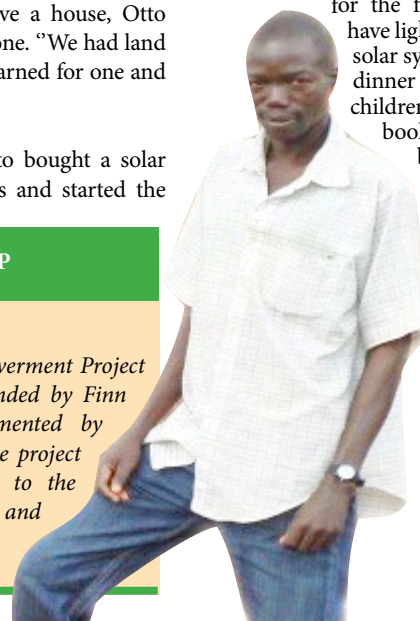
To fulfill his wife's wish, Otto bought a solar panel set at 500,000 shillings and started the

construction of his three-bedroom house. He also bought 35 pieces of iron sheets at 1,677,500 shillings for roofing. With profits from three harvest seasons, Otto continues to construct his house. "We shall be living in our house by June."

"I also fenced my garden with two barbed wire rolls to prevent trespass and theft of my produce." The dark nights are history for the family, as they now have light at night from their solar system. "We enjoy our dinner as a family and our children get to read their books before going to bed," says Jaquiline Achan, Otto's wife.

## About PFEP

*The Pader Farmers Empowerment Project is a three-year project funded by Finn Church Aid and implemented by LWF in Pader district. The project is aimed at contributing to the sustain ability of livelihood and economic activities.*



**Compiled by,  
Naomi Acara,  
Pader  
Subprogram  
Manager.**



# Finding solace in hair dressing

Like many youth in urban slums, Jane Nabasitu, 24, lived a destitute life. When she was 17 years old, she dropped out of school as she could no longer pay her school fees after both her parents died. The teenage Nabasitu then spent her days in bad company and became increasingly reliant on her boyfriend. Just when she thought she was building a normal life, she became pregnant and was abandoned by her boyfriend. Life became harder as Nabasitu struggled to fend for herself and her unborn child.

“I used to wash people’s clothes in exchange for food and money,” Nabasitu says. She continues to explain that she struggled without a stable income until she learned of the free vocational training by Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in partnership with Iceland Church Aid (ICA) and Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL).

Attaining vocational training in hairdressing “My friend Gloria, who is a hairdresser, told me about the opportunity. She told me she had been trained by the same people and had got a job in a salon,” Nabasitu says. Interested in the opportunity, Nabasitu registered for the nine months’ course. Now she is enrolled in practical and theoretical training in hair dressing at the UYDEL office in Natete, Kampala.

Prosy Naluggo, a hairdressing artisan with UYDEL, explains that students are trained in different modules, including hair plaiting, styling, treatment and retouch, coloring, salon business management and customer care. “Nabasitu has a strong passion for hair styling and that’s her specialty. She is also good at hair plaiting,” Naluggo says of her student.

Using her skills, Nabasitu has already started earning a living from hairdressing. She sees two to four clients and earns a minimum of 30,000 shillings every weekend. “I go to school during weekdays and then plait and style people’s hair over weekends. From the living, I can meet both my and my daughter’s needs,” she adds.

Just like Nabasitu, 16-year-old Joan Mukisa earns a living from hairdressing. She too is a beneficiary of the vocational training in hair dressing under the Urban Youth Empowerment Project. Mukisa co-owns a small hairdressing salon with her mother and earns a minimum of 50,000 shillings per week. “I treat and retouch clients’ hair at God’s Faith Salon in Ndeeba, Kampala, every weekend,”



Nabasitu practices her skills at the UYDEL offices in Rubaga division.

## About the Urban Youth Empowerment Project

*It’s a three-year project (2017 to 2019) funded by ICA through LWF and implemented by LWF in partnership with UYDEL.*

*The project targets young people between 13 to 25 years and is aimed at building strong, stable, engaged and organized communities of slum dwelling youth in Rubaga, Nakawa and Makindye municipalities, Kampala Uganda.*

Mukisa says.

In March 2017, both Mukisa and Nabasitu graduated and received certificates from UYDEL and the Directorate of Industrial Training. “Becoming a certified hairdresser is like a dream come true because hairdressing is my passion,” Nabasitu says. On acquiring her certificates, Nabasitu envisions getting a stable job in a salon, then investing in opening a bridal salon with savings she will have accumulated over time.

“As soon as I get a stable job, I will start saving up for my bridal salon and offer a free training

opportunity to vulnerable young people like me,” Nabasita adds.

Other project activities and vocational training opportunities

Other than hair dressing, the project offers a wide range of opportunities for poor urban youth to develop skills, such as electronics repair, sports, music, dance and drama, and sexual reproductive health counselling.

Rashidah Namirembe, a social worker with UYDEL, says that after identifying interested poor urban youth, they counsel and guide them on what courses to study. “We consider their abilities, passions and talents,” Namirembe says. Through vocational skills training and talent development, Namirembe explains that vulnerable youth attain lifelong skills to support themselves and their dependents.

“By empowering the youth, we are improving the economy of our country, Uganda, and the world at large since they [youth] make up the largest portion of the national and global population. On them, our country’s economy largely depends,” says Paul Onyait, LWF Grants Manager for the Urban Poor projects.

Compiled by,  
Communications Team.



## *In Nyumanzi, refugees and the host community are one family*

Since July 2016, over 2,000 South Sudanese refugees are arriving in Uganda every day, joining the over 800,000 South Sudanese refugees in settlements in northern Uganda. One of these settlements is Nyumanzi, one of 18 settlements in Adjumani district. Unlike many settlements, in Nyumanzi refugees live in the same community as local Ugandans. The host community residents have been welcoming to the refugees, offering them land to stay.

"I have given several acres of my land to have our migrant brothers resettled," James Anyama, an Ugandan local and volunteer with Lutheran World Federation (LWF) says. Anyama gave up his agriculture farm in 2014 to create space for the new arrivals. "They are our brothers, and we have to help them because they never wished for war to befall on their country. The same could happen to us, and we know that we would be welcome to their place," adds Charles Mulamungu, another Ugandan local in Nyumanzi.

Anyama and Mulamungu are just some of the many Ugandans who have opened up their doors to South Sudanese refugees. The local Ugandans have been instrumental in resettling refugees, says Jenifer Adong, an LWF Project Manager for the "Protecting Lives and Building Livelihoods" project. "We were uncertain about the host community's reaction towards refugees, but we were surprised by their kindness,"

she says. Refugees and the host community interact, work, and live in harmony in Nyumanzi settlement.

### Shared opportunities

LWF works to preserve peace in the community through projects like the "Protecting Lives and Building Livelihoods," funded by the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM). For example, the project gives equal opportunities and scholarships to both refugees and local Ugandans to gain vocational skills training.

Twenty-eight-year-old Limio Agnes, a local Ugandan and beneficiary of the project, received a scholarship to attend St. Monica Girls Tailoring Centre in Gulu for a nine months' professional tailoring program. "I am my own boss now and I earn at least 100,000 shillings (approx. 27 USD) per week. With my earnings, I can afford almost everything I need," Limio says. A grinning Limio adds that she has enrolled her two-year-old daughter in school and also pays her two siblings' school fees.

With the same scholarship, 29-year-old Charles Mulamungu acquired expertise in motorcycle and vehicle repair after a one-year vocational skills training. He currently owns a mechanic store Kazi Motors, where he has two employees, Patrick and Innocent. To give back to the community, Mulamungu trains young people, including refugees, in



## Refugees and the host community partner in business

*Just like Ugandans in Nyumanzi, refugees have ventured in several businesses like food vending, tailoring, mechanics and farming. Rose Asiajo, a 26-year-old refugee and restaurant proprietor says that Ugandans are the majority of her clientele. "I am neither a stranger nor a refugee in their eyes but a sister, a mother, a business woman and an employer," she says of the host community's kindness. Just like Asiajo, other refugee business proprietors describe that they feel welcomed in Uganda by the people who trade with them.*

motor repair at no cost.

"I want to train at least 10 refugees and help them set up their own mechanic stores," Mulamungu says. He explains that he believes that the arrival of refugees brought many opportunities like the BPRM project that offered him the opportunity to acquire vocational skills training and certificate.

The project also provides Ugandans and refugees in Nyumanzi with capital and resources to start up their own businesses. Joyce Aziku received 1,500,000 shillings as a small business grant from LWF. She invested the money into building her business in Nyumanzi market. "I sell vegetables and maize flour during the day then brew and sell local beer in the evening. This I do to earn a living for my children," she says. Aziku earns at least 15,000 shillings every day.

Under the same project, Rebecca Aker, owner of Peace Hotel, acquired kitchen sets comprising saucepans, cutlery, utensils and other resources for her restaurant. Dinka refugees, traditionally pastoralist tribal people, have also been supported with goats to begin in commercial goat farming. Kuei Lual, part of one of the groups funded by BPRM, explains that the group owns 12 goats that they expect to multiply with time. "We expect to have more than 20 goats by next year," Lual says. "We want to have the biggest goat farm in Nyumanzi," says Bol Makuach, a member of another group that has begun goat-rearing with funds from the same project.

Refugees also earn income by constructing shelters. Adong describes that refugees are integrated with Ugandan construction groups and work with them for a living. "When we



Asiajo (right) with her employee at the entrance of her restaurant in Nyumanzi.



Patrick, an employee at Kazi Motors repairs a motorcycle at the workshop.

need to construct shelters for refugees, we hire local construction groups to get the work done. Refugees are part of such groups and earn a living by providing their services," she adds. Alfred Amale, the leader of construction Group A1 explains that builders can earn about 20,000

shillings on a busy day and around 200,000 shillings a month.

Compiled by:  
Communications Team



# Talent show

brings out  
the best  
in young  
Congolese  
refugees



James Rafiki pulls off an act at the settlement.

For months, young Congolese refugees in Rwamwanja settlement in western Uganda had been practising their singing, drama, dance, art and fashion routines. On 1 February, 2017, many reaped the reward of their hard work as contestants and winners in the talent show “Rwamwanja’s Got Talent,” organized by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) with funding from the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM).

The contest showcased a wide selection of artistic performance, from Michael Jackson dance moves, beautiful singing and stand-up comedy. Fashion, music, dance, drama and art were the language of the day.

**“What my people need is someone to make them smile”**

“I love to dance, which motivates me to practise daily so that I get even better,” says Felix Elie, an 18-year-old refugee and talent show contestant. Elie often performs for



other refugees in the settlement and says he enjoys putting a smile on the faces of his audience.

Rwamwanja refugee settlement hosts approximately 63,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. “We have found a home in Rwamwanja,” Elie says. “We have grown together like a family and get what we need for everyday life from LWF. However, this place gets boring sometimes. What my people need is someone to make them smile and forget about the worries of being away from our home land,” says Elie, who fled the Congo three years ago.

“Rwamwanja’s Got Talent” aims to encourage young people to nurture their skills and talents, to channel their energy into creativity, and to take responsibility for their own lives even though they are in a refugee camp.

“The talent search and competition was established to keep the youth occupied





at the talent show in Rwamwanja



A contestant performs his reggae music.

with positive activities and to also counter the post-primary education gap," says Simon Drilozia, the LWF project manager for the project. Only seven percent of the refugees in Uganda are enrolled in post-primary education, partly because only one secondary school is available for the students in Rwamwanja. "The rest remain idle, which puts them at a high risk of drug and alcohol abuse as well as early pregnancies," Drilozia explains.

The 10 finalists were identified from various pre-competitions. Out of these 10, the best six will receive further artistic training. "They will travel to Kampala for more talent development by Utu Africa, a talent and skills' development firm in Ntinda, Kampala," says William Onen, LWF Rwamwanja Sub-program Manager.

**"You can make it to the top"**

A very special recognition was offered by Eddy Kenzo, the award winning Ugandan dance hall and African popular musician. After performing all his songs, the legendary

BET (Black Entertainment Television) Award nominated artist offered to record and produce the music for Rambo, one of the contestants.

"To you people, I can give my all," said Kenzo, who grew up as a street child. He encouraged the young people to be creative, seek knowledge and work towards developing their talents, saying that from these gifts, they might earn a living and even become celebrities.

"From the street I have managed to rise and win countless national and international awards from my music talent," he said. "Don't lose hope, you can still make it to the top."

Just like Kenzo, LWF Country Representative Jesse Kamstra advised the young people in Rwamwanja to keep working on developing their talents. "In partnership with UNHCR LWF will continue organizing and funding the talent search and competition," Kamstra promised.

The talent search was attended by guests

from the local government, humanitarian agencies, refugees and host community. The guest of honor was the Member of Parliament of the district, Dorothy Nshaija, and the Kamwenge Residential District Commissioner Elijah Biryabarema, the local council chair, and the Youth Minister of the Tooro Kingdom.

LWF plans to introduce similar contests also in Adjumani refugee settlements in northern Uganda, where the organization supports South Sudanese refugees.

Compiled by,  
Communications Team.



# Talent Show

## Pictorial

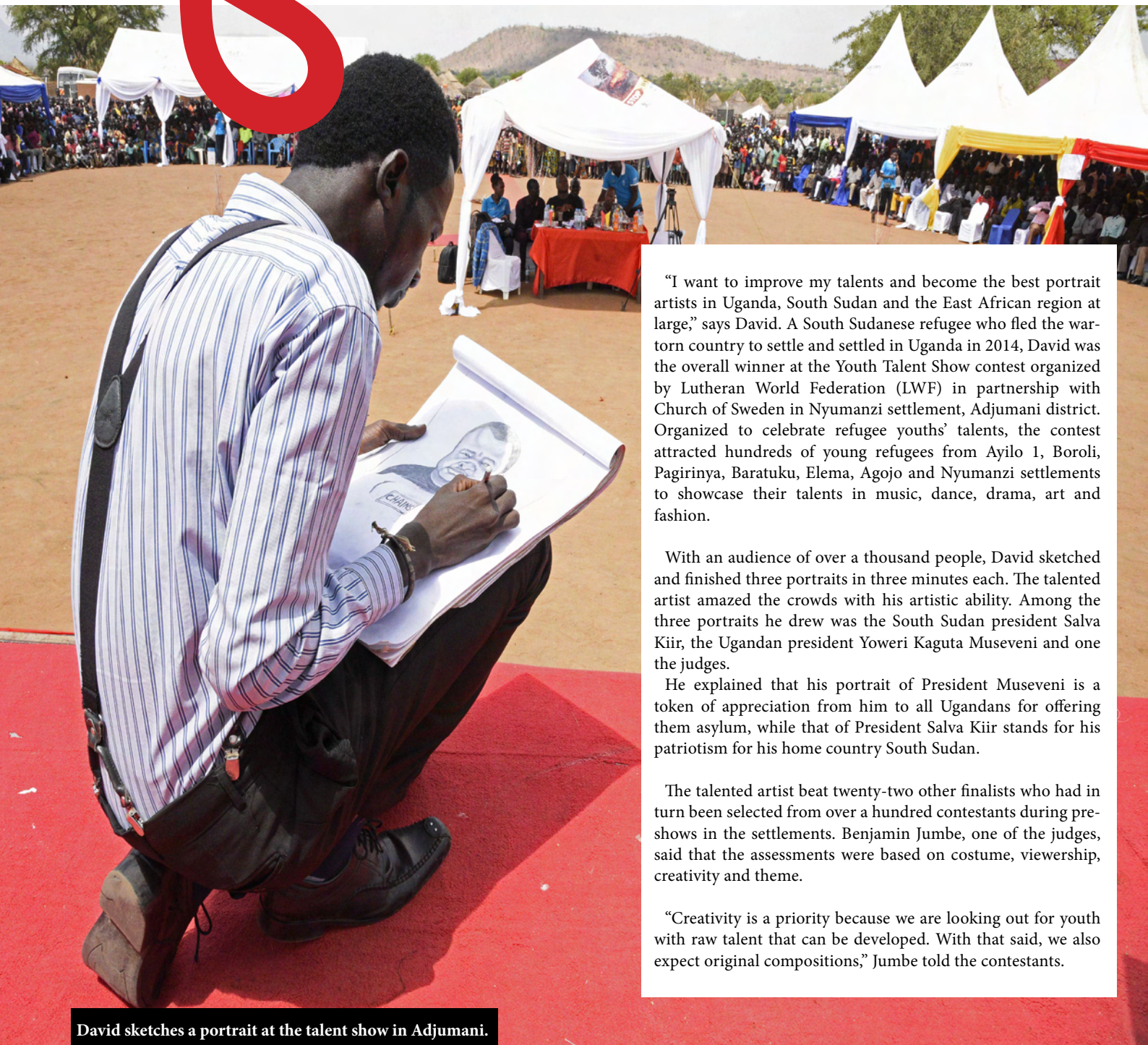








# **Art** beats all talents in *Adjumani settlements*



“I want to improve my talents and become the best portrait artists in Uganda, South Sudan and the East African region at large,” says David. A South Sudanese refugee who fled the war-torn country to settle and settled in Uganda in 2014, David was the overall winner at the Youth Talent Show contest organized by Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in partnership with Church of Sweden in Nyumanzi settlement, Adjumani district. Organized to celebrate refugee youths’ talents, the contest attracted hundreds of young refugees from Ayilo 1, Boroli, Pagirinya, Baratuku, Elema, Agojo and Nyumanzi settlements to showcase their talents in music, dance, drama, art and fashion.

With an audience of over a thousand people, David sketched and finished three portraits in three minutes each. The talented artist amazed the crowds with his artistic ability. Among the three portraits he drew was the South Sudan president Salva Kiir, the Ugandan president Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and one the judges.

He explained that his portrait of President Museveni is a token of appreciation from him to all Ugandans for offering them asylum, while that of President Salva Kiir stands for his patriotism for his home country South Sudan.

The talented artist beat twenty-two other finalists who had in turn been selected from over a hundred contestants during pre-shows in the settlements. Benjamin Jumbe, one of the judges, said that the assessments were based on costume, viewership, creativity and theme.

“Creativity is a priority because we are looking out for youth with raw talent that can be developed. With that said, we also expect original compositions,” Jumbe told the contestants.

David sketches a portrait at the talent show in Adjumani.





David reveals one of his art pieces to the crowds.

**Music, dance fashion and cat walk part of the show**

16-year-old Tonny Denga enchanted the crowds with music he played from a guitar he created from a saucepan, wires and wooden sticks. JJ Rapper delighted hip-hop lovers, as Ayak's artistic paper costume cat walk left revelers astonished by her creativity. The LWF staff team also entertained the crowds with choreography.

Also participating were Congolese refugees from Rwamwanja settlement in western Uganda. Rambo, Rafiki and Zubert graced the event with their music, dance and fashion. Rafiki pulled off his breakdance strokes, while Rambo energized the crowd into singing to his lyrics and shouting "Onasema Rambo" (translation: "Say Rambo") during his stage performance.

Zubert, an African theme designer showcased some of his pieces and advised his peers to be creative and love the African culture.

"I love my heritage, that's why I specialize in African wear," he told the crowd. The proud

**Contestants appraised and rewarded**

*Amazed by the array of talents, LWF Adjumani Team Leader Geremew Yadessa encouraged the contestants to continue developing their talents.*

*"Celebrated people like Bob Marley, Gloria Estefan and Albert Einstein were once refugees. They started small like you, worked tirelessly and have achieved a lot in life.*

*Like them, you too can make it to the top," Yadessa told the crowds. On behalf of LWF, Yadessa pledged that the organization will continue developing talents and supporting youth to achieve their goals.*

*He rewarded all finalists with presents. The best group received 1,000,000 shillings, and the second group received 5,000,000.*

designer said that through creativity, he manages to tailor different stylish pieces for people from which he earns a living.

Young Komason, a contestant, explains that for the youth the competition was an opportunity to develop their talents, have fun and showcase their potential. "Our families and friends are here. We have finally come together as one to have fun irrespective of our tribal and religious differences," Komason said.

LWF assists over 113,000 South Sudanese refugees in seven settlements in Adjumani district with interventions in livelihoods, water and sanitation, protection, shelter/construction, community services, and environment. The talent show was organized as part of a peacebuilding and youth livelihood project. Of the twenty-two finalists, LWF will support the best six in receiving further training in Kampala from Utu Africa, a talent and skills' development firm in Ntinda.

Compiled by,  
Communications Team



# *Obita: The gambler who ventured in tree planting*



Obita's woodlot farm in Tecwa village, Kitgum district.



Raised in a poor family, Brian Obita dropped out of school after his father's death in 2014. The oldest of the children, then 22-year-old Obita was now the family's sole breadwinner. To fend for his family, Obita ventured in fish farming along other casual jobs like house painting. "I was desperate and willing to engage in any kind of job and as many as I could to put food on my siblings' table," Obita says.

However, the money from fish farming and house painting was not enough to enroll his six siblings back in school, as it was barely enough for food. Then, a drought in Tecwa village, Kitgum district dried up all the fish ponds.

"We were hit by a long dry spell that dried up the water in my fish pond. Animals also encroached on my pond for water and drunk the little that was left," Within three months, Obita explains that the aquaculture business he had inherited from his father was in ashes.

Worried about where and how to get his family's daily bread, depressed Obita resorted to gambling and alcohol abuse. "I gambled my last pennies away in hope of getting more and whenever I lost the gamble, I drunk myself to sleep," he adds.

#### From gambling to the tree nursery business

While at an environment sensitization campaign by Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Amida sub-county, Obita developed an interest in tree nursery operations. "They informed us about the returns on tree planting for a living and for environmental conservation. I liked the idea of both. I needed to start earning again and also wanted to do something about improving the climate and environment to avoid dry spells that had shattered my pond," he says.

Passionate about learning about tree planting, Obita registered for training with Lilian Apio, an LWF Field Extension Worker at the Central Tree Nursery in Lamwo district in 2015. Under the European Union funded Teko Wa project, Obita received 120,000 shillings from LWF to cover his accommodation during the six-day training. He saved 60,000 shillings and then invested this in the tree nursery

business.

The Teko Wa project aims at environment conservation, energy security and improving livelihoods. After the training, each participant receives a start-up kit, comprising a wheel barrow, slasher, soil sieves, 100kg of assorted seeds, two watering cans, and 30kg of potting. LWF also supports the tree farmers in creating markets for their products by creating linkages between them and other groups in the forestry sector like the National Tree Seed Centre.

"I was fascinated when I found a nursery bed with 7,000 *Tectona grandis* seedlings at Obita's home," Odongo Alex, the LWF Project Officer for Teko Wa project. No other training participant had yet taken the initiative to start planning seedlings or develop a nursery, as they had not yet received start up kits from LWF. Yet Obita had ventured into the business with his own savings.

#### Obita yields big profits from the tree nursery

From the tree nursery business, Obita earns a monthly average of 800,000 shillings (approximately 200 USD). With the income, he can pay school fees for his siblings and provides for his family's needs. Obita has also saved up to 9,000,000 shillings from tree farming, expanded his nursery site from 100m<sup>2</sup> to 400m<sup>2</sup>, planted a hectare of eucalyptus, and bought two plots of land in Kitgum Municipality, each worth 4,000,000 shillings. With the profits, he has also ventured into livestock farming and piggery and owns two oxen and four pigs. "I earned handsomely from the nursery, and that's why I want to expand it even more and have the biggest in northern Uganda by 2018," he adds.

"God created mankind and unlimited resources for wealth creation on Earth. The youth should explore these resources and transform them in to wealth," Obita advises his fellow youth.

Mukiibi Henry  
Project Manager - EU,  
Kitgum / Pader Sub-Programs

Obita attends to his tree nursery in Tecwa village, Kitgum district.





# Searching for safety

New South Sudanese arrivals trek through the Ngomoromo border to Uganda.

## Resources stretched

“We flee during the night because then it’s dark, and we can hide from the blood-thirsty fighters,” says Lawrence Lumugun, a South Sudanese refugee in Palorinya refugee camp, northern Uganda. “With our children, we walk through warzones, seeking a safer place we can call home.”

Lumugun is one of the thousands of South Sudanese refugees who are received by The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in northern Uganda every day. As the war in South Sudan intensifies, they leave their country for the safety in Uganda and other neighboring states.

At the same time, in neighboring countries the response to the refugee influx falls far short of minimum humanitarian standards, due to the overwhelming numbers. On 1 February the number of daily arrivals reached a new peak with 3,537 people being registered at Palorinya settlement, Moyo district. A total of 17,640 arrived in the first week of February, according to LWF staff and there currently over 146,752 refugees.

### Human rights violations

While United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) transports most of the refugees at the Uganda - South Sudan border, some trek to the collection centers where they are registered. Hungry and tired, needy South Sudanese refugees are received, screened and given hot meals.

*LWF provides core relief items, such as blankets, basins, plastic sheets, clothes, sanitary pads and soap, to the refugees as they wait for the Ugandan Office of the Prime Minister to assign them plots of land. In the Palorinya settlement, LWF is one of the largest organizations on the ground, implementing water and sanitation services, protection, shelter construction, livelihoods, and community services interventions.*

*More support is needed to meet refugees’ basic needs, such as shelter, water, food and sanitation. LWF Program Coordinator Paul Orikushaba is asking partners and churches to advocate for the South Sudanese refugees and to support the work of LWF-Uganda.*

*As the number of new arrivals is increasing, LWF and other humanitarian actors struggle to meet minimum humanitarian standards in assistance, explains Orikushaba.*

*“Resources are inadequate, compared to the immense number of refugees,” he says. “Our staff are working tirelessly to catch up with the needs of the new arrivals. The refugees are crowded in specific areas. Currently their number surpasses the facilities.” The relocation process has equally slowed down, leaving large numbers of people waiting in crowded reception centres.*

Thousands of South Sudanese refugees report atrocities and human rights violations in South Sudan on arrival to northern Uganda.

“We are among the few lucky ones that have arrived safely at the settlement. Some of our family members and friends were killed on the journey,” Lumugun says.

Women and girls are especially at risk. “Our relatives and friends are killed in our presence, our sisters are raped in the open, abductions are also common” says Edita Lae, an expecting mother explains. “Our children, sisters and mothers are carrying children borne out of rape,” Lae adds.

### Competition for resources

Even acquiring basic resources by lining up in the queues can be a struggle, says Lae. “I am often thirsty because I am pregnant and not strong enough to stay in the water queue for long,” she says. She also worries for her children, who spend the day exposed to the scorching heat while the family waits to be allocated food or shelter.

Compiled by,  
Communications Team.



# Responding to the Refugee Emergency in Northern Uganda

“This is the largest refugee crisis in Africa, and the third largest in the world,” says Jesse Kamstra, the Country Representative of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Uganda. “How many thousands have to come; how many people have to die until the international community wakes up?”

Since July 2016, the LWF and partner organizations have been responding to the influx of South Sudanese refugees into Northern Uganda, at peak times up to 8,000 people a day.

“The numbers are overwhelming. It is a challenge for any humanitarian organization to meet the minimum humanitarian standards, but we are not willing to compromise on that,” Kamstra says. “More resources are needed to provide the necessary shelter, water, sanitation and protection to those fleeing the violence in South Sudan.”

Out of the over 800,000 South Sudanese who have fled to Uganda, LWF is supporting over 350,000. The new refugee settlement, Palorinya settlement in Moyo district, was originally designed for 100,000 people. The settlement reached full capacity two months after opening and currently holds more than 146,752 refugees. New refugee settlements are being opened in Arua district and Lamwo district to accommodate the continuing influx.

With the sudden mass influx, water supply is the greatest challenge. To meet the needs of thousands arriving every day, LWF is temporarily using water tankers to truck in water to the settlements in addition to drilling boreholes. The biggest worry of Kamstra and his team, however, is the rainy season. “We need to get people settled before the rains get worse, otherwise it will be a disaster,” he says.

At the Lefori collection point near the border, women, children and elderly stand in lines for registration with the local authorities, who grant every new arrival a refugee status.

“We have been walking for five days,” a mother says. She arrived with three children, all younger than six years, including her baby strapped on her back. Bundles of cooking equipment and clothing are nearby.

Like the other refugees this week, the family comes from the South Sudanese town of Kajo-Keji, a strategic point to control Juba road. In the past weeks, this area has seen heavy fighting. Refugees tell of atrocities they have witnessed and cite fear or threats as the reason they left the country. Others flee the food insecurity and developing famine in South Sudan, as the fighting has reached the Equatorial region, known as the breadbasket of



Out of the 816,041 people **who have fled from South Sudan to Uganda, more than 350,000** are being supported by LWF. The newest refugee camp, Palorinya, originally designed for 100,000 people, currently holds more than 146,752. New refugee camps are being opened all across **Northern Uganda.**

the country.

The refugees have moved their entire households – on bicycles, motorcycles and their heads they carry mattresses, blankets, cooking pots, chicken and goats across the border.

“There is nobody left in Kajo-Keji,” an old man says. “Everyone who was able to has fled.”

At Lefori, after registration, the refugees are vaccinated and given emergency food rations. LWF staff identify people with vulnerabilities: elderly, pregnant women, families, survivors of gender-based violence and children who are travelling alone. A blue wrist band marks them as persons with specific needs (PSN). They will receive relief goods and a follow up visit from the LWF Protection team. Afterwards, all refugees are transferred to Palorinya refugee settlement, where they will be allocated a plot of land.

LWF staff have been working without a break in response to the emergency. “They are incredible, I am so grateful for their hard work and dedication,” says Julius Kibet, LWF team leader in the Moyo field office that oversees the LWF operation in Palorinya. “But the number of staff is limited, the supply of core relief items is delayed and we need more water supply systems and sanitation facilities,” Kibet adds.

Compiled by,  
Communications Team





New South Sudanese refugees at Ngomoromo collection point.

# LWF shall not wait!

Apiriti is a border point between South Sudan and Uganda in Madi Opei, Lamwo district. South Sudanese refugees, mainly of the Acholi and Lutuku tribe have found a safe route into Uganda through Apiriti.

When LWF first visited the border point in January 2017, refugees were sleeping under trees, as there were no proper shelter or latrines. LWF, with support from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) quickly constructed shelters for accommodation and communal latrines. An Emergency Response Program was initiated with support from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to support multi-sectoral interventions in water and sanitation (WASH) and shelter construction as well as community services to provide life-saving response to the refugees

LWF has been designated UNHCR's



New South Sudanese refugees next to a shelter provided by LWF at the Ngomoromo collection point, Lamwo district.

main implementing partner for the Lamwo humanitarian response in WASH, nonfood items, shelter and infrastructure, livelihoods and environment. LWF has set up a sub office in Palakek Kal sub county, Lamwo district to coordinate the refugee humanitarian response. Work on WASH has begun by doing hydro-geological survey in four sites at Palakek. Similarly, LWF has started the process of constructing Reception Centers and latrines in Zones 1 and 2.

proud to work in partnership with UNHCR and all the funding and related agencies that has always supported faster and effective response to the humanitarian needs of refugee in Uganda. LWF pledges not to wait but to always be first at the scene of refugee humanitarian needs.

Compiled by,  
Betty Lamunu

M&E Manager – LWF Uganda Program

The LWF Uganda Program is very





THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

World Service

member of **actalliance**

[lutheranworld.org](http://lutheranworld.org)

For the attention of the LWF Team in Moyo, Uganda

Geneva, Wednesday 22 February 2017

**Re: Uganda Team in the Moyo District**

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from Geneva! I have been following the recent events in South Sudan and how the crisis is affecting the neighbouring countries closely, with a special view to our programme in Uganda, and the tremendous response and expansion of our activities in Northern Uganda.

Your enduring efforts and the extraordinary work that you have been doing in the Moyo District not only give credit to our program, but also to the LWF as a whole. Your ability to receive and settle thousands of South Sudanese refugees in a dignified manner on a daily basis is such a daunting task which we know stretches you to the limit. As a result of your determination, it is impressive to see how much has been done in such a short period of time.

We realise that you have gone well beyond what is required of you in normal circumstances. We very sincerely thank you for your involvement and commitment, and be assured that our thoughts and prayers are with you all as you serve on behalf of the Communion. We pray for your continued health and well being.

I personally want to thank each of you for all the work you are doing in accomplishing the LWF vision. Who we are as LWF and what we do as LWF is important and critical, it matters so much. You are now sowing the seeds of life and hope to many. You can all be very proud of the work which has been undertaken by the whole of the Uganda Program, and especially our front line staff, who have worked tirelessly for the past months.

Dr. Rev. Martin Junge, LWF General Secretary is joining me and the entire World Service team to thank you for your work in those most challenging, complex circumstances. YOU make the change happen.

Warmest regards,

Maria Immonen  
Director  
World Service  
The Lutheran World Federation



# Sugarcane farming

## Brings 'sweet hunger' in Luuka district

One of Uganda's newest districts, Luuka has a total population of 245,000, of which 62% are youth and 80% peasants. On average, households survive on less than two acres of land for production; however, 70% of this land is hired out to investors for sugarcane production, leaving households with limited land for food production hence food insecurity.

Luuka has four sugarcane factories, including Kakira sugar factory, Kaliro sugar company, GM Sugar, despite the National Sugar Policy which recommends that a sugar factory should not be established within less than 25 kilo metres of an existing one.

These factories employ district residents as cheap labor. A result of low wages, poverty levels in Luuka have increased from 68% in 2006 to 84% in 2013. Lutheran World Federation (LWF) estimates that 53% of households survive on only one meal a day.

The sugarcane farming ordinance

To combat unregulated sugarcane growing, Busoga region district councils established a sugarcane farming ordinance in 2012 that requires households to at least have five acres of land to engage in sugarcane farming. Two of the five acres should be used for food crop farming. However, Aggrey Musene the District Sugarcane Production Officer explains that people have completely failed to adhere to the decree sending the district in food security shambles.

Through continued dialogues on land rights with district officials and other stakeholders, LWF has established that with an acre of land, one can produce over 40 tons of sugarcane within a minimum period of 18 months and sell each ton at a factory price of 160,000 shillings. People also lease out land to sugarcane out growers, for instance an acre is leased out at only Ush 800,000 for a minimum of 5 years which can hardly feed a family of four for a three months' period.

"Lease holders at times sell off the land to third parties, depriving land owners the right to access their land," Musene says. This remains one of the major causes of land shortage for food production by households.

Ignorance about land laws and leasing play a big role in the increasing land grabbing in Luuka explains Rosent Akubo, LWF Luuka Subprogram Manager. Many of the land owners are illiterate and uninformed about the legal leasing process and how to acquire land titles. "Fraudulent lease holders increase the lease period because it's not formally highlighted in the agreement. They always say it verbally but never put it on record" Akubo adds.

Patriarchal dominance of land has also increased land grabbing as women lack ownership of their family land. "When they lose their husbands or parents to death,



women are chased away from their land, which is sold off by their brothers and in-laws respectively," Musene adds.

LWF establishes a food and income security project in Luuka

With support from Bread for the World (BftW), established a Food Security Initiative project aimed at improving food security and nutrition through increased food crop production, increasing household incomes, and increasing environmental conservation through tree planting.

LWF is working with the district council,





A lady weeds her sugarcane farm in Irongo sub county, Luuka district.

residents and other stakeholders towards finding solutions to issues limiting food crop production. “We have structured a team of experts to review the sugarcane ordinance developed by the District Council to include issues of land use rights and also establish how best we can achieve its (ordinance) goal of boosting food production in the Busoga region,” Akubo says.

The team includes the District Land Officer, Environment Officer, Chief Administrative Officer, Resident District Commissioner, Probation officer, Police Liaison Officer and

the LWF advocacy officer.

To enable households access land titles at a subsidized cost, LWF looks forward to partnering with Caritas, an international nonprofit that specializes in issues of land use rights and protection and provides their services to the residents of Luuka district. In partnership with the District Land Officer and Probation Officers, LWF has developed a guideline template for land sell and leasing to avoid land grabbing and also continues to organize land use rights dialogues, sensitization meetings on land rights and use.

“We have reached over 600 people through three community dialogues on land rights and use in Nawampiti, Irongo and Bulongo sub counties,” Akubo says.

**Compiled by,  
Wamala Musa  
Business Development Officer, Luuka  
Subprogram**



# Data digitisation meets Monitoring and Evaluation

## The Teko Wa Project Pilots Mobile Data Collection

**W**hen Joyce Adokorach started to consider using Kobo Collect, it seemed simple but unrealistic. A field extension officer with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) for the Teko Wa project, Adokorach had been using the paper forms to collect data on acreage and maintenance of seven woodlots and orchards in Layamo sub-county, Kitgum district. Everyday, she had to carry several forms to fill in the field. Then, she shared them with her team members at the end of the day for data entry.

“I wasn’t comfortable about sharing my data files because they were full of errors and always dirty from the dust and mud in the field,” says Adokorach, a field extension officer with The Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

Despite the discomfort, Adokorach was apprehensive about using Kobo Collect, a digital data collection software. “How is it possible to replace twenty papers with a mere software? Is it user friendly? Will my hard earned data be safe? What if the software crashes?” These were some of the questions that echoed in Adokorach’s head, increasing her reluctance.

Transition from the paper monitoring tool to Kobo Collect  
Fortunately, Kobo Collect, a cloud based android app was initiated by the Teko Wa Project Team in September 2016. The software facilitates data collection, recording, archiving and sharing. In September 2016, Adokorach and the entire Teko wa project team were trained on the software by Ace Aaron, the LWF Information Technology Manager. The training focused on designing tools and gathering data using the software.

“I am off the analogue grid,” a smiling Adokorach now says. “I don’t need to walk around with heavy files anymore. All I need is my tablet and Internet connection to collect and upload my data. Now I can edit, make additions and share it instantly.”

“80% of the paper monitoring tool is manual. For instance I had to carry eight different monitoring tools every day. Data capturing was difficult, the entries were time consuming yet bound to have errors that we couldn’t edit instantly,” narrates Sunday Odong, an LWF Extension worker in Palabek Kal, Sub-county.

“Now I can submit my field data in real time because all my entries are exported directly into a centralized online database accessible by anyone anywhere in the world,” a gratified Odong says. The electronic data is managed through an automated excel generated database and access. “The online system is very efficient and credible that we can confidently

track the progress on each indicator at any time.” Brian Walugembe, a monitoring and evaluation officer in Kitgum adds.

The software also allows for project management and tracks all staff performance in terms of timely interventions. “Through Kobo Collect, I am updated about the work of all the field staff and how often they monitor their beneficiaries,” says Patrick Barasa, the LWF Sub-Program Manager in Kitgum district.

According to the project management, this pilot initiative has started yielding benefits and could serve as a pilot for other projects. With Kobo Collect, mapping of project sites is integrated in the data collection as global positioning system (GPS) coordinates are also recorded, allowing for staff to generate evidence-based reports with maps and geo-analysis. Mobile data collection has also increased the speed, accuracy, and efficiency of data collection, editing, analysis, reporting and delivery. This has been coupled with reduced errors. The Teko Wa Project intends to integrate technology and make data collection the mainstay of its M&E system.

### About the Teko wa project

The Teko wa project is a four-year energy facility project (2014 to 2018) funded by the European Union, Church of Sweden and implemented by LWF in Kitgum, Lamwo, Pader and Agago district. The project aims at contributing to energy security in rural households for social and economic development in an environmentally sustainable manner. To achieve this, LWF is working towards increased tree planting, use of solar power, and use of energy efficient stoves.

Compiled by,

**Brian Walugembe – M&E Officer, Kitgum Sub-program**  
**Alex Odongo – Project Officer EU, Kitgum Sub-program**  
**Mukiibi Henry – Project Manager EU, Kitgum / Pader Sub-program**



Thank you to all our Donor Partners, whose contributions make our important work possible.

Church of Sweden 

**actalliance**



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief



**Brot**  
für die Welt







LWF extends clean water to refugees in Uganda's settlements.

Plot 1401, Ggaba Road, Nsambya. P.O Box 5827, Kampala - Uganda

Tel: +256 (0) 393 264 006/7/8 Email: lwfkampala@lwf.or.ug

Website: [uganda.lutheranworld.org](http://uganda.lutheranworld.org)

 @LWF\_Uganda

 LWF-Uganda