

Quarterly *Newsletter*

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THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

World Service

member of **actalliance**

Welcome



It is my great pleasure and honour to edit this newsletter.

First of all, I extend my sincere thanks to our staff in the field sourcing stories amid the COVID-19 threat. You are doing a great job!

It is my first issue as Editor of the LWF Uganda newsletter, and I would like to inform our dear readers that the newsletter is back and will be published quarterly.

It contains all the good news about LWF as well as stories from our projects.

Enjoy reading, and stay safe!

Lilian Namagembe

Communications Officer

LWF ramps up COVID-19 prevention

As countries around the globe continue to assess the spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) staff strive to prevent infections in refugee settlements and host communities.

Given the continuing humanitarian crisis in South Sudan and the minimal capacity of medical facilities, LWF is concerned about preventing any spread of the virus, especially in refugee settlements.

LWF Uganda works with over 450,000 refugees, providing life-saving and sustaining support to those who have fled conflicts in neighbouring South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

LWF's Country Representative in Uganda, Jesse Kamstra, says COVID-19 represents "an unprecedented challenge" as staff seek to ramp up prevention measures and "retool many of our activities to ensure that we are keeping social distances, and this is not easy."

Despite a nationwide lockdown that was put in place in March to slow the spread of infections, LWF was among the few organisations that were given clearance by the Ministry of Health to continue providing essential services.

In the different areas of operation, LWF staff are still collaborating with other humanitarian agencies in a District Task Force to implement government directives and share best practices.

Installation of handwashing facilities, temperature screening at the entrance to the office, home-to-home awareness campaigning, radio talk shows, and road drives to broadcast information are the principal ways in which LWF sensitises communities about COVID-19 preventative measures.

All vehicles used to broadcast information



Jesse Kamstra – Country Representative

“**COVID-19 represents an unprecedented challenge as staff seek to ramp up prevention measures and retool many of our activities to ensure that we are keeping social distances, and this is not easy.**”

in the settlements are equipped with face masks and hand sanitisers and cleaned thoroughly after each field visit.

The Tippy tap (jerry cans for handwashing) have been delivered to all public places including police checkpoints, detention facilities and youth centres.

LWF has worked together with the local health departments to create messaging for radio stations and road drives through the Settlements.

Staff have continued to carry out awareness campaigns, distributing educational material and hygiene supplies in community centres, cooperatives and other places where people can receive accurate information on COVID-19 prevention.

LWF remains active during the COVID-19 period

Despite the challenges of the lockdown, LWF did not stop its operations. With the authorisation from the government, we continued to work with vulnerable communities in Uganda.

Some activities were instead modified to cater for community sensitisation about Covid-19.

One of the members of the Lamwo district task force displays the medical cover coat as part of the PPE support offered by LWF



A sticker that was given to LWF authorising the organisation to continue with its operations: LWF was one of the few organisations which were authorised by government to continue with its activities despite the lockdown



LWF conducting a road awareness drive on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Palabek settlement (Lamwo district)



Bishop of Kajo-Keji joins LWF in COVID-19 awareness creation

The bishop of the Kajo-Keji diocese in South Sudan, the Right Reverend Emmanuel Murye, in May joined LWF on an awareness-raising campaign on COVID-19 in Palorinya refugee settlement in Northern Uganda. During the road drive, he spoke about the risk of unofficial cross-border movement.

Some refugees have gone back to check on houses and family members who stayed. In addition to risking losing their refugee status, food rations and the other help in Uganda, they

“The voice of faith leaders has a lot of authority among the refugees. They know him, they are his people, so his advice on how to protect themselves is likely to be followed by many

now also risk spreading the COVID-19 infection in the highly vulnerable refugee settlement.

“We very much appreciate the bishop’s cooperation in these campaigns. The voice of faith leaders has a lot of authority among the refugees.

They know him, they are his people, so his advice on how to protect themselves is likely to be followed by many,” Jesse Kamstra, LWF Uganda country representative, said.

Safety practices to prote

As the coronavirus pandemic surge globally, infecting and killing thousands of people, Uganda has not been spared. The country has so far registered over 5000 infections with 58 deaths as of September.

To curb further spread of the disease that first presents with flu-like signs such as fever, cough, sneezing and breathing difficulties, the government of Uganda previously announced a two-months lockdown, as one of the measures aimed at stopping the spread of the virus.

The announcement also affected the operations of most workplaces, requiring employees and employers to adjust their working modalities.

LWF-Uganda took the following measures not only to protect her staff against contracting COVID-19 but also to minimise the disease impact on the overall operations of the organisation.

- LWF procured and distributed sanitisers, masks, gloves, and infrared thermometers to offices across the country with every staff furnished with a hand sanitiser to reinforce hygiene.
- LWF enforces hand washing and temperature check at the entry to the organisation's offices.
- To follow the social distancing measures, red tape demarcates every office and reception space, and LWF staff worked on a rotational basis from home to ease congestion at the office.
- LWF provides both internal

While mass gatherings and contact activities were suspended, sensitization activities continue through radio, road drives and house to house visits by community based facilitators



A staff washing his hands at one of the facilities erected at LWF headquarters in Kampala

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

In light of the Covid-19 outbreak, LWF-Uganda put in place various measures not only to protect staff against contracting COVID-19 but also minimise the disease impacts on the overall operations of the organisation.

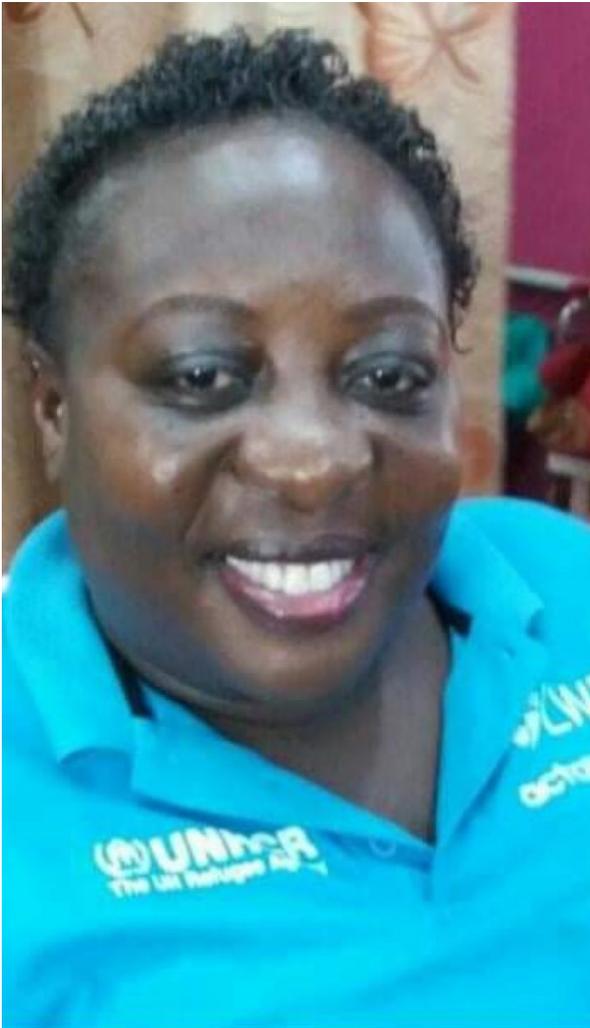
and external updates on progress and situational analysis for improved risk communication.

- For efficiency, there was a systematic way of giving timely updates on one's work progress through the ranks.
- While some activity delivery modalities were adjusted to respect social distancing, LWF

ramped up its sensitisation efforts and maintained operational in the field to protect the most vulnerable.

While mass gatherings and contact activities were suspended, sensitization activities continue through radio, road drives and house to house visits by community based facilitators

Honouring the memory of Mable Nabunya



On June 30 this year, the staff at LWF Uganda woke-up-to the sad news of the passing of their long-time colleague, Ms Mable Nabunya.

Mable was our senior accountant based at the head office in Kampala before she passed away on the night of June 29, 2020, at Kampala Hospital. She had worked with LWF Uganda for 15 years and was a valued member of the finance team.

Mable joined LWF Uganda in December 2005 as an Accounts Assistant, was promoted to Assistant Accountant, then advanced to an accountant in 2014 and again promoted to Senior Accountant in 2018.

Colleagues showered glowing tribute: “Mable was an embodiment of resilience, humility, professionalism and courage in the face of adversity. We shall dearly miss her!” Apollo Nangumya, the Human Resource Manager, said during a special prayer held to honour her memory.

“She was hardworking, a good friend and supervisor,” Maureen Adoch, also an accountant at LWF, said.

We shall miss you, Mable!

Jesus said to her,
“I am the resurrection and the life.
The one who believes in me will live,
even though they die; and whoever lives by
believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11:25-26



Staff donned African fabrics to celebrate **Women's Day**

LWF staff celebrated this year's International Women's Day. To commemorate the Day, the staff came to work donned in African fabrics, also known as Kitenge. This year's theme was "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights.", specifically

Theme:
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 Rights."

tackling sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation as part of the LWF Code of Conduct, which all staff commit to. There was also, a workout dance session and concluded with a cocktail.

Using public campaigns to commemorate annual days



LWF commemorated this year's World Breastfeeding Week with several activities including; tree planting, community dialogues, radio and television talk shows.

The LWF Nutrition Officers Henry Turinawe and Grace Rukanda were hosted on Tembo FM and NTVmedia houses to create awareness about the importance of breastfeeding on both the baby and the mother. On World Humanitarian Day

“
There are many misconceptions about aid workers. They are always perceived agents of certain Governments which is never the case
- Kamstra

marked every August 19, the country representative, Mr Jesse Kamstra appeared on NTV's morning show where he discussed the role played and challenges faced by humanitarian workers.

"There are many misconceptions about aid workers. They are always perceived agents of certain Governments which is never the case," Mr Kamstra said.





Implementing partners displaying a banner with the MIRP logo during the project launch in Kikuube district

LWF, Partners launch new aid programme in Kyangwali refugee settlement

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), in collaboration with Church of Sweden, Norwegian Refugee Council and Action Against Hunger, in February launched a project meant to ensure self-reliance, wellbeing and peaceful coexistence among the refugees and host communities in Kikuube and Hoima districts.

Mutual Inter-related resilience Programme (MIRP), the four-year project is a combination of humanitarian, peacebuilding and development perspectives.

The partners will work together in the four sectors including; Livelihoods, skills development, Environment, WASH (water supply, hygiene and sanitation) and protection.

LWF handles protection, WASH, environment and energy. The protection part of the programme covers the promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights. (SRHR), promotion of gender justice

as well as prevention and response to Gender-Based Violence. The partners also work in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, Kikuube and Hoima districts, UNHCR, and the project donor- the Embassy of Sweden/Sida.

Speaking at the official launch on February 26, 2020, Jesse Kamstra LWF Uganda's Country Representative, lauded the Swedish Embassy for accepting to fund the project for such a long period which is not common among most funders.

"I know it was a long process to get here and we are finally here...most of the funding we have been getting in Uganda has been for one year. Every year you are reinventing, but the Swedish government agreed to fund an NGO consortium for four years," said Mr Kamstra.

"This is unique, and for us to be able to have an impact, we have always been saying we need something that lasts more than one year, and you have agreed to fund this. So, we are very highly indebted and also grateful

to the Swedish government and the people of Sweden who are the taxpayers." Kamstra added.

Ola Hallgren, the Head of Corporation, Embassy of Sweden observed that Uganda currently hosts over 1,411,098 million refugees with a total of 120, 626 found in Kyangwali settlement and that Uganda deserves praise for its open-door policy.

"I think it has to do with Ugandans having been refugees themselves. We also spoke to the refugees, and they said the people across the borders are brothers and sisters, and it showed the spirit of people receiving refugees to Uganda," Hallgren noted.

That receiving such a massive influx of refugees is of course, not without challenges, we have seen it in other countries, and Uganda is no exception. I think the conflict perception of no harm is an essential aspect of this whole problem, Hallgren added.

“I didn’t only witness their death, I carry the scars”



Peace and one of her children at their home in Kyangwali settlement

On 13th January 2018, Peace (not real name) arrived in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement from Congo.

The population of 35,000 in the settlement soared after inter-ethnic violence between Lendu and Hema communities in Ituri, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in December 2017 forced close to 60,000 civilians to cross the Lake Albert into Hoima District Uganda, seeking for refuge.

Despite efforts by humanitarian agencies to provide necessary services, the Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) remained underserved without targeted interventions.

LWF, with funding from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), identified Peace among the most vulnerable, who need

tailored support to enable them access to critical services, such as health care and other basic needs.

LWF also works in partnership with medical service providers and referral agencies, such as Medical Team International (MTI).

While referral hospitals offer services free of charge, humanitarian organizations support in terms of transport, meals, caretakers, medication, psychosocial support, among others to ensure access to life-saving services.

“I am 41 years, a mother of 5 children living in Mombasa, in Kyangwali Settlement. Rebels in Congo attacked us and, killed my husband and my firstborn in my presence, then after they gang-raped me. I was rescued by the government army that took me to the hospital when I was in a coma.

After the doctors discharged me, I travelled to Uganda for safety with the remaining five children. Not until I developed complications such as severe back and abdominal pain, and bleeding, did I know I was pregnant. The doctors in one of the health centres where I went for treatment discovered that I had damages to my womb. They treated me and removed the fetus as it had died.

They said that I needed to go for specialized treatment. I went back home worried, as I had no money to go for further treatment. In May 2019, I was referred to LWF by community volunteer who knew my story.

The following day, I went to LWF, and I was assessed and supported with UGX 300,000 to meet expenses, such as meals during admission to Hoima regional referral Hospital together with my caretaker. Ever since my life has improved, I can manage to do some simple work like gardening, and other house chores supported by my children. And we even constructed our temporary house.

In addition to medical and rehabilitative care, LWF will support Peace with a shelter for improved living conditions, together with her children.

With funding from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), the LWF protection team can reach hundreds of survivors like Peace with individually tailored support to assists them to recover, to live in more dignified settings and to cover their basic needs.

Construction, sale and use of Energy efficient stoves have been not only climate change mitigation approaches but also a Livelihood improvement techniques in Northern Uganda. Simon Peter Olanya, a vibrant 24-year-old local stove artisan, is one testimony who has benefitted from the initiative.

From his craftsmanship, the resident of Anyika Village, in Kitgum district, says he earns more money compared to the time when he was dependent on income from farming and doing casual work to fend for his family. Then, he made an average income of Uganda Shs75,000 (seventy-five Thousand only) per month to cater for his wife and two children.

“Being an orphan and an elder in the family, I had to provide basic needs to the entire family with this little earning,” says Olanya

Breakthrough

However, Olanya’s luck came in 2016 during one of the sensitization meetings where he was selected by The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) program, under the Teko Wa Project funded by the European Union and the Church of Sweden to participate in a training on construction of energy-efficient cook-stove.

Olanya then became a Local Stove Artisan and started the construction of fire shielded stoves where he constructs and sells at least 15 of them in a month to earn Shs150,000.

“I can now afford to take care of my family, including my siblings with ease. From the money earned, I have bought goats and opened up a poultry farm, which is purely managed by my wife as I construct stoves,” he says.

His long-term plan is to start a factory-made stove store in Kitgum and continue sensitizing the community to conserve the environment.

Earning from environmental conservation

Olanya feeding some of the chicken and goats he bought using the money earned from stove sales



One of the restaurants cooking with energy saving stoves made by Olanya



SALIMA project offers economic empowerment to refugees

“We are not only surviving but also steadily developing,” says Vestina, a 25-year-old Congolese single mother, expressing her gratitude towards the Lutheran World Federation and partners for the support.

Vestina is living in Western Uganda’s Kyangwali refugee settlement, after fleeing the tribal clashes in The Democratic Republic of Congo in February 2019.

When she arrived in Uganda with her 3-year-old daughter, they had left behind all their belongings, with no income, depending on the monthly food ration. LWF with funding from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), identified her as one of the most vulnerable people, and she was supported with Enterprise Development Cash Grant to establish a business of her choice.

The project intervention is aligned with the Settlement Transformation Agenda (STA), which focuses on promoting Self-Reliance and Resilience among Refugees and Host Communities.

“I saw an advert by LWF in October 2019, and I picked interest to apply since it was my dream to start a business that would help me generate daily income that would support me and the child,” Vestina recollects.

“Having succeeded, other colleagues and I were trained in business management for one week where we learnt about enterprise selection which helped me to gain business management skills. From the training, I picked interest in operating the mobile money business since it doesn’t require ample space.

The project officers asked us to provide

Vestina attending to a customer at her mobile money business in Kyangwali refugee settlement

About SALIMA project

The Safeguarding Lives with Integrated Multi Sector-Sector Assistance (SALIMA) is a two-year (2018-2020) project funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), and implemented in Adjumani, Obongi, Kyangwali and Lamwo refugee settlements. The project’s overall goal is safeguarding the lives and reducing the vulnerability of Congolese and South Sudanese refugees and host communities.



our mobile money numbers through which LWF would transfer cash for us to start businesses. I was very excited when I received a transaction message of UGX 1,000,000 (about \$270) on my phone in April 2020.

Despite the current challenge of fraudsters who try to cheat the business operators and reduced business due to COVID-19, Vestina is still optimistic.

I invested in the mobile money business. Since then, my business has grown to UGX 1,763,000 (about \$476) with an average profit earning of UGX 70,000 every week.

The boost in the business has not only enabled us to access basic needs but also diversified our diet because we can supplement the food rations given to us every month with other foods”.

PHOTO GALLERY



THANK YOU OUR DONORS

