

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2
Issue 1

March, 2022



WELCOME

Rev Anne Burghardt
New LWF General
Secretary



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

World Service

member of **actalliance**

UGANDA PROGRAM

Vision

Communities in Uganda, living in just societies in peace and dignity, united in diversity, are able to meet their basic needs, achieve their full potential, and claim their universal rights in order to improve their quality of life individually and collectively.

Mission

Inspired by God's love for all of humanity, LWF Uganda is dedicated to challenging and addressing the causes and effects of human suffering and poverty, linking local responses to national and international advocacy.

Values

Dignity, Human Rights, and Justice

Compassion and Commitment

Inclusion and Diversity

Meaningful Participation

Transparency and Accountability

Humanitarian Principles

Gender Justice

Climate Justice

We can be more productive with limited resources

As we all know, the COVID 19 pandemic has destabilised entire sectors of the economies, including those of our donors.

However, more violence, persecution and civil conflict continue to displace millions, hence the need for an emergency response more than ever.

While most underfunding instances are due to the COVID-19 effects, others pre-date the pandemic and create the need for a more sustainable plan.

The people of concern need support that best suits their needs. They need clean water, medical appliances, maternal and newborn care, food relief and other protection and humanitarian services.

Yet, many organisations have responded by reducing the human resource size and downgrading their operation areas.

Yet, many organizations have downsized their operations, while others, like LWF, have stayed and delivered.

So, what measures can we take as humanitarian workers if we have to get more work done with less?

Like humanitarian organisations, this is an ideal way to be creative and innovative in our approach.

This will allow ongoing activities and strict implementation to meet the funding challenges head-on.

As LWF Uganda, we have gained valuable lessons from this funding



Jesse Kamstra – Country Representative

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Thanks
to our
donors

crisis and strengthened further our integration and cost-effective project management techniques. For example, we can assign one staff on various projects and work more with community resource persons rather than creating new positions which call for a bigger salary and other benefits.

This means the people of concern can still receive quality services uninterrupted. We have also doubled our efforts in project development and participatory planning. Thanks to our donors and the new ones who have come on board to fund our activities amid the harsh economic times!

EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear Reader,

This is our first newsletter edition of 2022, and we are glad to have you back.

We need to look back and reflect on the past year's events before making predictions about the trends that might emerge this year.

Thank God for the successes and learn lessons from the failures. It will make you a better person and achieve more this year.

One trend that has dominated the previous year is reduced funding from our donors. Many employees have lost their jobs, but we thank God for those who are still there.

But we need to plan better, do more and talk less. Let's diversify our skills to increase our chances of job retention and many other opportunities.

Meanwhile, whatever tomorrow brings, we need to remain strong and happy as long as we are alive and healthy. Till next time...

Jilian Namagenbe
Communications Officer

Welcome the new LWF General Secretary to Uganda

Rev Anne Burghardt, the new LWF General Secretary, will come to the Uganda country program in March this year as part of her African visit.

The first woman to hold this leadership position, the 45-year-old theologian and pastor from the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (EELC), took up her new role on November 1. The LWF Council elected Rev. Burghardt on June 17 to lead the global communion of 148 member churches. She succeeds Rev. Dr Martin Junge, who served as LWF General Secretary from 2010 to 2021.

The General Secretary in the company of other Lutheran church leaders will arrive in Kampala on March 30.

Rev. Burghardt will travel to Northern Uganda to visit Palorinya and Adjumani refugee settlements, where LWF implements humanitarian activities. She will also hold meetings with government officials and church partners in the field and Kampala.

"I thank the leadership in the LWF Communion Office for considering Uganda and later on be among the first country programs to host her in Africa," Jesse Kamstra the Country Representative said with joy.

Reflecting on her task, Rev. Burghardt said shortly after the election that the life of the LWF is a life of communion, of churches witnessing and working together for justice, peace and dignity for all people.

"I pray that my work can contribute to the growing together of these churches as they gather around Jesus Christ, the one who unites us all in our mission in the world." She prayed.



Rev Anne Burghardt- the new LWF General Secretary



The life of the LWF is a life of communion, of churches witnessing and working together for justice, peace and dignity for all people

The General Secretary's week-long visit will be concluded by several meetings with LWF staff, the actalliance members, and other diplomats.

ABOUT THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Chief Ecumenical Officer for the LWF. Together with the President, the General Secretary is a public representative and chief spokesperson for the LWF. The General Secretary carries out the decisions of the Assembly and Council and reports to them on activities of the Communion Office. The term of service is seven.

Thank you, our volunteers!

Dear Jaana and Pirkka,
LWF Uganda was so glad to see you join us at the volunteer program.

For the last five months, you gave a hand in Human Resource Management and Information Technology.

You were friendly, and we were happy to have you at the headquarters in Kampala. We cannot thank you enough for your service!



Ms JOKINEN JAANA
Human Resource Volunteer

It has been a time we will always remember with delight; everyone has been very friendly and kind, thank you all for that. May God bless all of you and the work you are doing



Mr PIRKKA MIKKOLA
Information Technology Volunteer

Work has been very interesting. Visiting subprograms has been a great addition – to get a feel for what is being done with the people of concern

Minister commissions the largest piped water system constructed by LWF



State Minister for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Esther Anyakun commissioning the Orinya piped water system

Last month, State Minister for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Esther Anyakun commissioned the Orinya piped water supply system built by LWF with funding from UNHCR.

The most extensive piped water supply system in the Palorinya Settlement supplies water to over 10,000 refugees in the Palorinya settlement in Northern Uganda’s district of Obongi.

“This has restored adequate safe

water supply to the persons of concern in the settlement,” Mr James Drichi, the LWF Wash Manager, said, adding,

“This modification presumably is the first of its kind in the country.” Mr Joel Boutroue, the Country Representative of UNHCR Uganda, accompanied by other government officials from Kampala, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), and Obongi district leadership, witnessed the event. The minister lauded LWF for facili-

tating the water users’ committees in maintaining water points and contributing money towards minor repairs.

“Community-owned water facilities is a commendable way of promoting sustainable water access,” Ms Anyakun noted. A piped water system is a range of pipes transporting treated water from the reservoir tanks to the consumer service point.

Compiled by: Drichi James,
Wash Manager

LWF reactivates emergency response in Rwamwanja refugee settlement



LWF staff and other partners address some of the new arrivals at the reception center in Rwamwanja settlement

A total of 7,537 refugees from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo arrived at the Ugandan border point of Bubukangwa in South Western Uganda's Bundibugyo district between February and March this year.

The UN refugee agency has resettled the said refugees in Rwamwanja settlement, also located in south-western Uganda.

Mostly women and children, the visibly hungry and tired refugees carried some of their belongings on the back for hundreds of kilometers as they escaped deadly attacks imposed by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebel groups in their home country.

To address their needs, LWF is drilling a total of five boreholes in locations where they have settled because the current water supply

there cannot meet their demands

LWF will also provide Multi-Purpose Cash Grant assistance to the most vulnerable households identified among the new arrivals between February and March 2022.

Thanks to the donors who have provided funds to make the emergency response possible.

To enhance sanitation and hygiene, the constructions of 50 pit latrines for the vulnerable groups who cannot build by themselves are also ongoing amid the distribution of agricultural input like seeds of faster-growing crops like beans and vegetables to supplement the food relief.

Owing to the torture and loss of their loved ones back home, LWF has identified and strengthened the capacity of community-based facilitators to provide psychosocial support for the distressed people of

concern

ABOUT RWAMWANJA SETTLEMENT

Rwamwanja settlement was established in 1964 to host refugees from Rwanda and closed in 1995 when many were repatriated.

It reopened in 2012 to host refugees fleeing insecurity in DRC due to violence in North and South Kivu.

Rwamwanja currently hosts 72,663 refugees and asylum seekers, 37,888 (52%) being females.

This population is 5% of the 1,425,040 refugee and asylum seekers population in Uganda as of June 2020.

Compiled by Victo Nyakecho, Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant

LWF drills 84 new boreholes and rehabilitates 56 others to increase water access



One of the beneficiaries sips water from a newly rehabilitated borehole in Pader district

In the last 12 months, LWF with funding from Charity: water has constructed 84 boreholes in the water stretched districts of Kitghum and Pader in Northern Uganda.

Charity: water is a non-profit organization based in the USA that provides drinking water to people in developing nations.

Under the Pii En Kwo (Water is Life) project 56 other nonfunctional boreholes were rehabilitated to increase sustainable access to safe and clean water supply as well as improve sanitation at both household and institutional level.

“We also conducted a water point survey in the neighbouring Agago district to ascertain the boreholes’ functionality status,” Ms Prudence Tumukwase, the project Manager stated.

“Part of the work in year two will be rehabilitating those [boreholes] that were found nonfunctional,”

Ms Tumukwase assured. The district Water Reports put functionality of water systems in the three districts at; 59 percent in Kitghum, 61.7percent in Agago and 76.3 percent Pader districts.

The project also targets strengthening the capacity of local structures like water user Committees to sustainably manage the water facilities and reduce the distance covered by individuals while fetching water.

Each water point in the target communities will serve at least 200 daily users not counting the unique users. It is anticipated that at each borehole, persons will spend utmost 30 minutes both in travels.

Through community structures like the Village Health Teams (VHTs), the project promotes sanitation and hygiene campaigns targeting households.

Charity: water funding directly contributes to realization of SDG

6 contributing to increased access and sustainable management of water and sanitation for rural communities in Northern Uganda.



Until last year when LWF built for us the first borehole, I had used dirty water from the pond since I was born in 1971

Rose Akello a resident of Oluke village in Pader district

Compiled by Lilian Namagembe, Communications Officer

House construction with plastic reduces solid waste in settlements



LEFT: Esther Agal shows off a toilet she constructed with plastic bottles RIGHT: A demonstration block at the LWF office

With over a 1.5-million refugees hosted in Uganda, there is increased degradation of soils, water, and tree cover, leading to several irreparable damages.

This takes the form of waste, such as plastics littered in gardens, water points, and homesteads, thus affecting crop yields, water flow, and dirty environments.

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) estimates 600 tons of plastic are disposed of in Uganda daily, including refugee settlements. Under the approach, Ms Gertrude Laker, a Project Assistant in Palabek settlement, says, "Plastic bottles are treated as building block materials similar to bricks."

Ms Laker explains that the plastic bottles for sodas and mineral water of the same size are collected from different areas in the community like marketplaces and reception centres before they are manually compacted with dry sand as

a filler material. "We identify members who are interested in volunteering on the solid waste management committees and train them to separate the plastic bottles from other decomposing waste," Ms Laker adds, saying, "these transfer the knowledge to other people of concern in the same communities."

LWF staff then identifies local masons in the settlements and trains them to make and build plastic bricks. The latter has gained a livelihood as communities hire them to build their houses with plastic bricks. Community members who have used the plastic bricks acknowledged that they have secondary economic gains, making it more feasible than the ordinary semi-structured shelters built with bamboo, mud bricks, and plastic sheets, which are highly flammable. "The toilet built with bottles is cheaper than the one made with cement and bricks. For example, the bag of cement costs Shs30,000 (about \$8), yet these bottles are free," Mr Elineo Oduor, a refugee in Palabek settlement, states. "The bricks are also expensive, yet in case

of rain, the risk of damage or destruction is higher," Mr Oduor adds. "The plastic bricks also don't attract flies in her toilet and make it look neat," Ms Esther Agal, another refugee in Palabek settlement, notes. "Whenever I saw the wall bottles, I wished it was in my home. I am so happy to have one," Ms Agal adds.

Like the Palabek settlement case, LWF constructed a demonstration block in the Kyangwali settlement to train more refugees in utilising the generated Plastics into construction materials.

The initiative has proved effective in reducing plastic waste and encouraging recycling for resilience and livelihoods. "Market places, food distribution and reception centres were the most affected places, but you can hardly get any plastic bottles of late," Mr Spiridon Atukunda, the Wash Officer, confirms.

Compiled by: Gertrude Laker, Project Assistant and Spiridon Atukunda, WASH Engineer.



Ms Fatuma Namaliiri interacts with a Village Health Team member during a home visit

Community-based interventions reduce malaria cases in selected sub-counties

For the past five years, the cases of Malaria reported at Itakalbolu Health centre II have reduced more than thrice.

The health centre located in Eastern Uganda's Luuka district is one of the governments funded that have benefitted from the Luuka Community Development project.

Implemented by LWF with funding from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the project aims to reduce mortality and morbidity associated with Malaria among vulnerable groups.

These include children under five years, pregnant women, persons living with HIV/AIDs.

Before the project implementation, the facility would register ten infant cases of Malaria average unlike now when they have fallen drastically even in the adult, according to Ms Jane Namukombi, the nursing assistant at the facility.

"Of late, you can only get three children out of ten with malaria and others its bacterial infections, not malaria", Ms Namukombi notes. Through radio talk shows, mu-

sic, dance and drama and Village Health Teams (VHTs), among other interventions, the project targets 14,339 households in the two selected sub-counties of Waibuga and Ikumbya in Luuka district to create malaria awareness and promote health-seeking behaviour.

To identify cases in communities, VHTs were taught about symptoms like temperature, headache and fever and referred them to health facilities as soon as possible for early diagnosis and confirmation.

The VHTs also share the knowledge and debunk the myths through door-to-door visits and community outreaches, especially among the communities who visited traditional healers for treatment.

It was not long before the awareness gospel sunk, changed the community mindset, and the VHTs gained public trust.

"The community started reaching out to the VHTs in case of symptoms," Ms Barbara Babirye a VHT states.

LWF also provides free mosquito nets to increase access and use as

malaria preventive measures, especially to vulnerable homes. Beneficiaries attest that reduced cases of Malaria have improved their productivity, household income and food security.

"I can do my work uninterrupted because we sleep under mosquito nets, and we hardly get any cases," Ms Fatuma Namaliiri, a mother of four notes.

The intervention doesn't stop at awareness creation, but VHTs also continue with routine visits to monitor and ensure the proper use of mosquito nets.

Despite being preventable, Malaria continues to claim people's lives in Uganda, and Luuka is one of the most affected districts.

According to Health Ministry, Uganda registers at least 16 malaria deaths per day with 25,000 cases. The majority of the infections and deaths are children under five years.

Compiled by: Lilian Namagembe, Communications Officer

The community service approach restores hope among vulnerable refugees



Ms Betty Ariye standing in front of the house constructed for her by LWF

In Northern Uganda's Pagirinya settlement in Adjumani district, Abelino Wali, aged 60 years, lies on his wooden bed as he reflects on his journey from South Sudan to Uganda.

His wooden bed has a ragged, thin mattress and a brand new one. On arrival in Uganda in 2016, Wali had the tattered mattress, and its hardness caused him body pains when LWF intervened with the brand-new mattress. Despite the food items and land allocated to him, Wali lived a miserable life because he could hardly do manual work to supplement the support and provide basic needs for himself.

"The black ants would bite me, and I would wake up with a swollen body," says Wali. "With this new mosquito net, the story has changed, and I don't have to worry much," he adds as he shows off the mosquito net that LWF donated to him. Wali is one of the elderly refugees that LWF supports to meet their special needs without their caretakers and family.

Wali separated from his wife and children as he fled the war in South Sudan. With whom they reunited in Uganda, his daughter can hardly support him as she has children she takes care of single-handedly.

"LWF came as a saviour, and I appreciate. I am living a better life despite my vulnerability," the 60-year-old appreciates the LWF Uganda's community service approach. Under the community service approach, LWF, with funding from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), identifies and makes home visits to persons with specific needs (PSNs), including survivors of violence, disabled persons, unaccompanied minors and the elderly like Wali.

Field staff also make follow up for identified cases and support PSNs with other nonfood items and supplementary foods through the community structures like refugee welfare committees, Ms Clare Anzoo, the LWF Project Assistant in Adjumani district, says.

"We use community structures which already have skills like building, and we support them with materials to support the PSNs to construct decent houses," Ms Anzoo explains. 17 years older than Wali, 77-year-old Betty Ariye is another beneficiary living with disabilities who had benefitted from the community approach since 2015 when she arrived in Adjumani district's Boroli settlement. Despite her double vulnerability, Ms Ariye takes care of 15 children, including orphans and separated children.

With the routine food rations proportionate to the family size, the dependents would not be a significant burden but the fact that she could not construct a decent shelter and provide other nonfood items to the family. Until LWF intervened, the family slept in a small tent on a hard mat, and Ms Ariye lacked a walking aid to enable her to do the essential work at home. "Life has changed since the LWF gave us two mattresses, two blankets, bedsheets, soap, buckets, basins and my elbow crutches," Mr Ariye affirms.

For sustainability, LWF gave Ms Ariye threads to make table clothes to sell and get some little money to take care of the young dependents. "I have since started a small business which sells some merchandise," she notes. With the support, the mother of five, who lost her husband 30 years ago and separated with her two surviving children during the war in South Sudan, feels secure again as the LWF team monitors her condition during home visits.

For PSNs who can take care of themselves, the structures support taking them through the distribution lines and bringing them back outside.

Compiled by: Lilian Namagembe, Communications Officer

The Care group approach improves child health and nutrition in host communities

In Northern Uganda's Obogubu village is Aishya Baako, one of the trained volunteers who teach essential practices for good hygiene and infant care in her community. Subsequently, the initiative has improved healthcare-seeking behaviours decreased malnourished children and hygiene-related diseases.

Health promotion messages focus primarily on nutrition in exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, appropriate complementary feeding, water treatment, sanitation and hygiene. Others are; danger signs during pregnancy and among children, preventative care, and safe birth practices.

Using a combination of group meetings and home visits, the 35-year-old shares information on nutrition and

family planning with her cohort of five beneficiary mothers. Each of the five mothers from households with a young child or pregnant woman within a target community are also tasked to persuade five others in their social networks and neighbourhood to adopt new health behaviours and make a group of 30 caregivers.

The goal is to connect with every pregnant and lactating mother in the target region to promote health behaviours and those who influence her, like relatives and friends. "In our teachings, we talk of complementary feeding for children six months to 2 years," Ms Baako says. "At that age, the breast milk is not enough anymore, "the mother of five adds. To ensure that the mothers feed their babies in food rich in all nutrients, Ms Baako explains that they add eggs groundnut paste and mix it to become soluble in the child and prevent malnourishment.

Ms Baako is one of the local health promoters trained by the Livelihoods



Ms Aishya Baako conducting a care group session in Obogubu village

Enhancement for West Nile and Acholi (LEWA) consortium led by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to promote Improved Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition in Acholi and West Nile regions. The consortium under Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) program is composed of Dunchurch Aid (DCA), the Uganda Pentecostal Medical Bureau (UPMB), both non-government organisations and Mukwano Group of Industries, a private company. The European Union funds the two-year project running 2020-2022 in collaboration with the government of Uganda through the Office of the Prime Minister.

Over 46 per cent and 37 per cent of children are stunted in Acholi and West Nile regions, respectively, according to the DINU scoping study Report 2017. In response, the care group approach is one of the interventions to improve nutrition, household income, and food security in the sub-regions in the ten districts of Adjumani, Obongi, Moyo, Yumbe, Maracha, Koboko, Arua, Terego, Madi-Okollo and Lamwo

where the project is implemented.

"I also learnt how to prepare nutritious and thicker porridge for my children," says the 35-year-old mother. "They look healthier than before and no longer fall sick".

For effectiveness and easy access, LWF supports Orange fresh sweet potato vines among other green vegetable seeds to vulnerable households for multiplication through backyard gardening.

Orange fleshed sweet potatoes are rich in Vitamin A, which contribute to the nutritional needs of young children and pregnant and breastfeeding women as a component of a balanced diet.

"It is [orange fleshed] sweet potatoes are delicious," 23-year-old Patricia Acan, a mother of two in Lamwo districts, says. "Even without sauce, the children can eat it," she approves.

Compiled by: Henry Turinawe-Nutrition Officer, Sandra Nakibuuka-Project Assis-

Dignity kits guarantee safe delivery for refugee mothers in Rwamwanja

Bahati Hayabusa, a 43-year-old Congolese refugee, lives in southwestern Uganda's Rwamwanja settlement with her husband and eleven children. While still in her country and the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, Hayabusa delivered all her first five children by herself from the bush.

"I would just need to tear my kitenge[African print fabric] to wrap the baby," she says, noting, "This was not easy to do, but I had no choice."

Habyasa risked the dangers of out-of-hospital births, including post-partum haemorrhage, infections and other complications for both the baby and herself because the rampant civil wars left her country with a fragile health system.

The mother of eleven was always worried during pregnancy until she arrived in Rwamwanja settlement's Mahani village in 2012.

"There are health facilities all over, and the Village Health Teams encouraged mothers to go for antenatal care and safe delivery," recalls Habyasa, noting though, "I needed money to buy a set of materials utilized during the delivery process."

Also known as mama kit, the set includes sterile gloves, surgical blades, gauze, cotton, polythene papers, ligatures, and baby soap.

Habyasa, who continued childbirth even after settling in Uganda, now had access to free delivery in health centres but lacked the money to buy a dignity kit. The couple depended on the host government's direct support and its partners.

"I would struggle and sometimes borrow money to buy the items because the health facilities couldn't provide them to all the mothers," Habyasa narrates.

Her struggles ended with a faint knock on her door one morning in April 2021. It was a member of the village health team appointed by LWF to

ABOUT THE INTERVENTION

The intervention is a sexual reproductive component under the Food, Agro-Enterprise and Rural Markets (FARM) project implemented in the Rwamwanja settlement with funding from Bread for the World to increase safe hospitals delivery.



A health worker hands over a dignity kit to one of the mothers

register and distribute dignity kits to vulnerable mothers in the settlement and host community. The dignity kits include Cotton wool, surgical gloves, Plastic mats, surgical blades and clips, soap, baby receiver and knickers.

"I was so happy when I received these items because they saved me an expenditure of Shs60,000[about \$17]," Habyasa says. "I started counting down on the day I would deliver," she adds in jubilation. At the time, Habyasa's 11th delivery and those of over 600 mothers were secured with the support. Thanks to our donors, the mothers were also assured of a dignified delivery.

The project also supports community pregnancy mapping and make referrals to the health facility for ante-natal, delivery at a health facility, post-natal care through community structures like Village Health Teams.

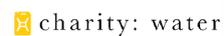
The target beneficiaries are sensitized to create awareness and access to sexual reproductive health services through project staff.

Compiled by: Peninah Akomolot, Project Assistant

PHOTO GALLERY

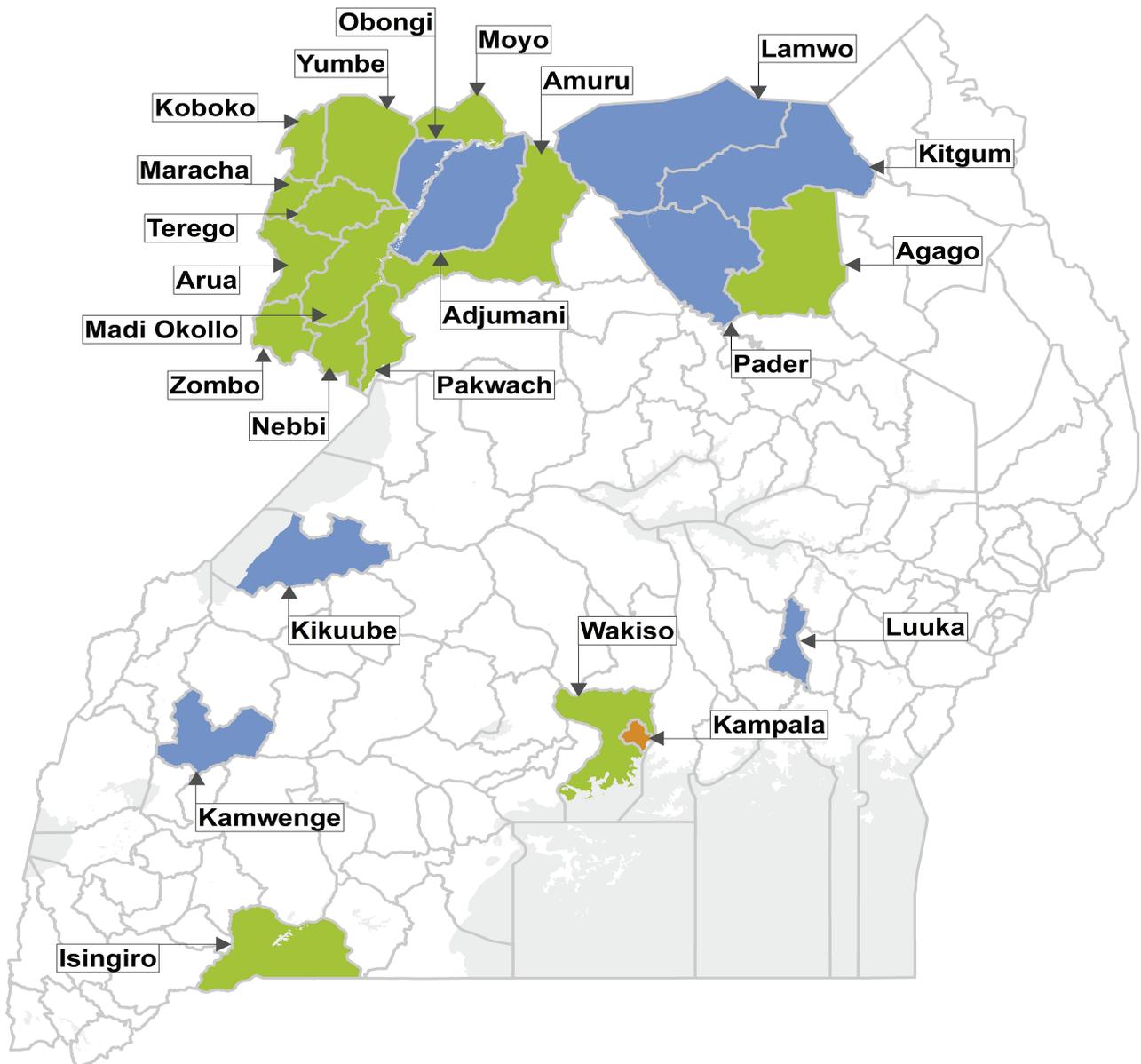


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