

LWF Uganda



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

Department for World Service

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Cover photo caption:

Daniel Habineza. а Congolese refugee from Rwamwanja settlement tells a refugees' migration story through sculptures at the national refugee celebrations that were held at the Nsambya play grounds, Kampala on 20/06/2017.

Edited and designed by the Communications Officer.

Reviewed by the Program Team.

A Note from the Country Representative

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) continues to contribute to national and global developments aimed at improving people's lives in terms of sustainable livelihoods, environment protection, justice and peaceful coexistence between different groups of people as well as responding to the refugee emergency crisis.

With this, LWF aims at achieving five strategic objectives in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) including;

Refugee emergency response

Uganda is facing an influx of South Sudanese refugees and is home to over 1,006,779 of them. According to UNHCR, Uganda, as of 20/8/2017 had 1,338,887 refugees and asylum seekers. This has increased LWF's engagement in the refugee emergency response in the north and West Nile regions of Uganda. LWF continues to provide support in 10 refugee settlements. Even with LWF's commitment, resources required for the lifesaving response remain inadequate hence the need for more support.

Sustainable livelihoods

In both refugee zones and development programmes, LWF aims at creating sustainable solutions towards poverty. With support from donors and partners, LWF provides livelihood support to people in terms of business and vocational skills training, start-up kits and market linkages, as well as support in agriculture and livestock farming. These are aimed at achieving zero poverty, the first SDG.

Advocacy, peace and community led action

LWF is a major player on the national stake holders' forum of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The forum brings together 252 member organizations across Uganda and, LWF leads the refugee cluster of the forum. Arising from LWF's advocacy engagements, key issues affecting refugees feature to which recommendations are made by member organizations. LWF follows up such recommendations through constructive engagements with the Government of Uganda to improve the standards of living for refugees.

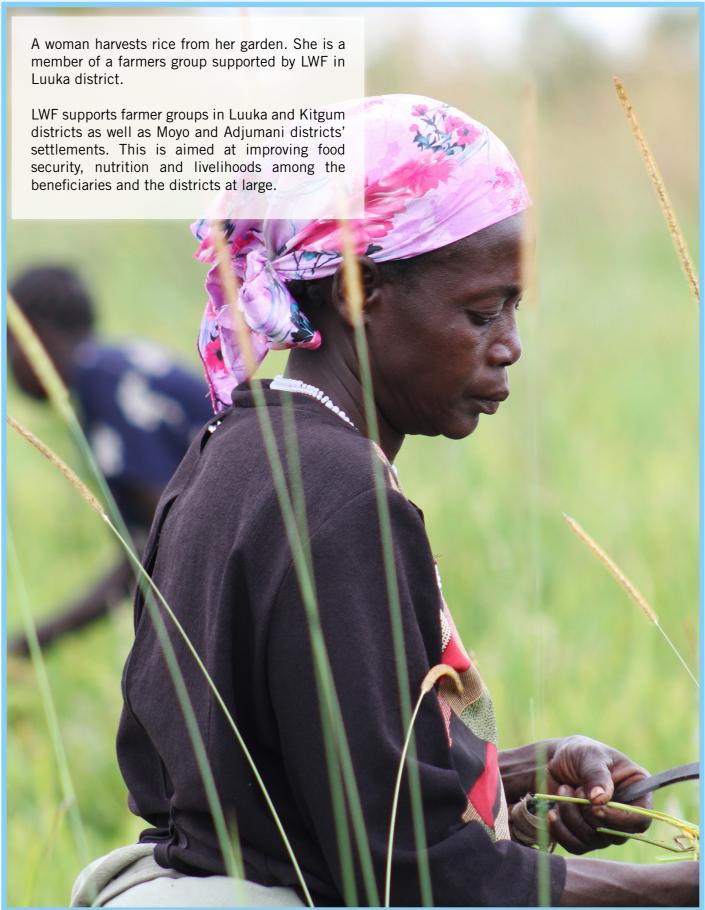
Environment protection

With the current refugee influx, hundreds of trees have been cut to create space for refugee shelter. This is a worrying trend as the environment and climate are affected. The protection of the environment remains one of LWF's priorities in the districts of Lamwo, Adjumani and Moyo. Through various campaigns, LWF has planted trees, marked others to prevent careless deforestation.

LWF has championed the cause of using solar energy in the settlements. This is aimed at influencing the use of affordable clean energy (SDG:7) and combating climate change and its effects (SDG:17).

Join us in creating change in people's lives.

Jesse Kamstra, LWF Country Representative for Uganda and Burundi Country Programs.





Long snake-like lines of yellow jerry cans filled every water point, with hundreds of people scattered all over the place, waiting to get a drop of life; water.

They waited for hours in queues. The queues were there 20 hours a day, every day. This was the water situation at the opening of Palorinya settlement in December, 2016 according to James Drichi, the Lutheran World Federation's (LWF) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Officer, who was on ground supervising the provision of water.

At the opening of the settlement, there were only 8 boreholes to serve both the host and refugee community, and they needed to be rehabilitated.

Thousands of people depended on the 8 boreholes, yet more refugees in thousands continued to arrive at the settlement everyday.

"New refugee arrivals needed water most as they often arrived thirsty, but getting a drop in the ocean also seemed impossible," says Drichi.

Water tanks installed, water trucked, boreholes drilled and motorised

"To make water accessible to all, we installed 10,000-litre water tanks in places far away from the boreholes," said Drichi.

The LWF team would collect and truck water from Obongi water point to water tanks in the settlement, which is a 27-kilometre journey.

"Médecins Sans Frontières would draw and treat water from River Nile, which we would supply to refugees," he added.

"We branded water tanks with our telephone numbers to get information if water had run out," he added.

Even with the regular water tank refills and available boreholes, people lived on a few litres of water, compared to LWF's goal of each person having access to the sphere standard of 15 water litres per day.

To boost the water supply, LWF, with support from UNHCR, executed geological surveys to unearth rich wells for borehole drilling.

"We aimed at getting more high yielding boreholes to extend more water to people," Drichi said.

Within a period of 7 months since the opening of the settlement, LWF had drilled 112 boreholes, pumping over 17,000 litres of water per hour.

"With the high yields, each borehole has a capacity to supply 9,600 people per day, with at least 15 litres, if motorized," Drichi said. (Motorization is when a generator is used to pump water from a borehole well to water tanks through pipes).

Safe water reaches thousands of refugees in Palorinya

However, only 3 of these have been motorized due to limited funds. Richard Wakholi, LWF's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Advisor, says it requires USD 73,611 to motorise a borehole.

"Within a period of 7 months since the opening of the settlement, LWF had drilled 112 boreholes, with over 17,000 litres of water per hour," says James Drichi, LWF Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Officer.



A child collects water from a water source installed by LWF in northern Uganda.

Water extension efforts pay off

With 3 motorized boreholes, 107 functional hand pump boreholes and water trucking, each person in Palorinya settlement gets an average of 16 litres of water as of UNHCR WASH report 06/2017.

With the increased water supply, people's hygiene has improved, long queues at water points are now rare and people are also engaging in livelihood activities that require water, such as agriculture.

"My home is clean, my children and I wear clean clothes because a borehole is a few steps from our home," said 22-year-old Florence who collects at least eight 20 litre jerry cans of water every day for her 10-member family.

Celina Konga, another South Sudanese refugee in Palorinya, says the hygiene in her home has improved because of availability of water. Wilson Orube, a father of 8, uses the water to irrigate his vegetable garden.

A sustainable solution for water supply in Palorinya

Despite the current improved situation, the water supply largely depends on water trucking, an expensive and unsustainable method, according to UNHCR's WASH Co-ordinator, Jane Maonga.

Drichi echoes Maonga's statement, saying water supplied through trucking accounts for 55% and only 45% is got from sustainable systems.

Wakholi, explains that each 1,000 litres of water supplied through trucking costs over 20 USD. In order to make water supply more sustainable, this would require connecting the existing water treatment plant via pipes to a water supply system.

"Palorinya is next to River Nile, which makes the surface water supply a perfect solution," Wakholi added.

LWF's water supply efforts in Palorinya settlement are funded by the European Union, UNHCR, the Canadian Lutheran World Relief and ActAlliance.

South Sudanese refugees find safety in Palabek settlement



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Refugees talk about militia filling South Sudan with sounds of bullets, cries, smell of ash and bodies. "The militia shoot at anybody not part of them, leaving most of our loved ones lifeless; we have lost mothers, fathers, siblings and children to their attacks," said 35-year-old Watson Odaga, a South Sudanese refugee in Palabek settlement.

"They rape women on the streets, break into people's houses, steal everything and set them on fire. They shoot at people's legs and leave them helpless, that they choose to take their own lives before God chooses to. This, I have witnessed," Odaga adds.

Those who have made it to Uganda feel grateful and hopeful about life as they had slim chances of survival in South Sudan. They endured sleepless, hungry days and nights for 72 hours as they trekked 42 kilometres from Pajok, Ayagi and other subcounties in the Central and Eastern Equatorial region of South Sudan to Uganda, for safety.

Some of these are orphans who have lost their parents to war or even lost contact during the chaos of fleeing. Many of them are women, expecting mothers inclusive, the elderly, young adults and a few of them adult men. Most of the men chose to stay back home, with the hope of protecting their belongings, while many join the war; some willingly and others are forced into it. Refugees are welcomed by the government and the host communities in Uganda as described by William Onen, the LWF team leader in Palabek settlement.

"Men are abducted and forcefully initiated into the different militia groups," said 20-year-old Vicky Apalo, a migrant mother of one who left her husband, James Ochan, in South Sudan.

On arrival at Ngomoromo border collection point, which is managed by LWF, South Sudanese are received and registered by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), with support from the UNHCR, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), as well as other humanitarian organisations.

From Ngomoromo collection point, they are transferred to Palabek reception centre, also managed by LWF, where they are provided with three hot meals a day, shelter for accommodation, clean water to quench their thirst and also to improve their hygiene, as well as sanitary facilities. "We also provide them with core relief items, such as blankets, mats, kitchen sets, basins, jerry cans, soap and many more," Onen says.

At Palabek reception centre, refugees spend at-least 72 hours before acquiring plots of land from OPM for settlement in the Palabek settlement.

They are transferred to the settlement to create room for others as the influx continues in thousands. 2,000 were received on 12/04/2017, the day the reception centre was opened, 2,000 more were hosted the next day, the reception centre continues to receive more.



These thousands of refugees are the 'ones making up the over million refugee bundle' in Uganda. And, 350,000 of these are supported by LWF.

While OPM provides a 30x30 ft plot of land to each of them, LWF, with support from UNHCR, provides a hoe, sickle, tarpaulin, a carpet and a solar lamp to each of them, to ease their shelter construction process. "Getting a home at no cost in a foreign land is unbelievable. I thought we would seek shelter under trees because I didn't think we could get all these," said Simon Okeny.

LWF emergency response team of valour

Led by William Onen, the response team on ground work tirelessly to provide assistance and settle the drilled. This is aimed at improving hygiene among the refugee community to prevent disease outbreaks. needy new arrivals at the Reception and Collection Over 27,850 refugees have received core relief items centres as well as Zones 1, 2, 5 and 7 of Palabek. and shelter construction kits distributed by LWF, with The LWF team hits the road as early as 5:00am, to support from UNHCR. the reception centre, from where they dispatch to the settlement. The team is grouped in three; water LWF staff continue to manage the collection centre at and sanitary facility responders, core relief item Ngomoromo and the reception centre at Palabek. In distribution responders and the reception centre Ngomoromo, LWF has previously offered communal management team. shelter, sanitary facilities and clean water to new arrivals before they are referred to the reception The water and sanitary responders ensure that all centre.

The water and sanitary responders ensure that all the refugees at the reception centre and in the settlement have access to clean water. This they do by co-ordinating water trucking to the four tanks installed by LWF, the 1,000 litre-capacity tanks are filled thrice a day, as well as making sure that the two water bladders on ground are always full. The team also ensures boreholes are drilled in the area to boost water supply. The core relief item responders transport the items to strategic locations in the settlement for distribution to refugees while the reception centre management team registers new arrivals, ensures they get three hot meals a day, are screened medically, as well as overnight shelter, access to water and sanitary facilities.

LWF's achievements in Palabek so far

Forty-seven communal shelters have been constructed at the reception centre for overnight accommodation for new refugees. A cumulative total of over 120 communal latrines have been set up in Palabekreception centre and settlement. Four water tanks have been installed, while three boreholes are being drilled. This is aimed at improving hygiene among the refugee community to prevent disease outbreaks.

However, the humanitarian assistance in Palabek settlement is constrained by limited resources.

We specially thank all the ACTAlliance member organisations, UNHCR, Church of Sweden, DFID and UNICEF for making our humanitarian work possible in Lamwo district.

LWF-Uganda Newsletter, August 2017



Uganda has been praised globally as one of the countries with the best refugee policies in the whole world. Uganda currently hosts over 1,338,887 refugees with the largest number from South Sudan - 1,006,779. While many of the refugee hosting countries keep them boxed in camps, Uganda offers them freedom and the same human rights accorded to Her nationals.

In Uganda's refugee settlements, each family is offered a 30x30m plot of land by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), where they construct permanent huts for shelter. The walls are built from mud, bricks and wood, while the roofs are made from grass collected from the surrounding shrubs. Some lucky migrant residents who can afford iron sheet roofs have opted for that.

Refugees also have the right to movement and work for a living in Uganda, which is unlike the case elsewhere in the world.

In some settlements like, Nyumanzi in Adjumani, refugees live in the same geographical area with the host community. They share resources, such as water sources, clinics and schools, yet still engage in businesses and jobs together.

This is attributed to the efforts of Uganda's government in partnership with humanitarian organisations, such as the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and United Nations Human Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

While OPM receives and provides land for refugee settlement, humanitarian organizations provide materials, psycho-social and financial support to refugees.

Uganda settlements : a safe

Refugees get shelter, food and core relief items Most of Uganda's settlements are filled with huts called tukuls meaning round houses. Some of the children play in their compounds while others on the roads.

"We are living happily in our new plots and homes because it is peaceful and safe here," Akungu Bol, a South Sudanese refugee at Nyumanzi settlement, says.

By providing them with land in a safe place, Bol explains that the government of Uganda, through the OPM, gives them hope of living happily again.

LWF and other humanitarian organisations support OPM's refugee settling obligations by providing shelter to those with special needs and shelter construction materials to the rest.

"We provide shelter for the refugees with special needs, such as the elderly and those with physical and mental disabilities," Livingstone Nabimanya, a Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) Project Manager with LWF, says.

He adds that the rest are given shelter construction kits, consisting of a tarpaulin, ropes, a spade and an axe, to use for their shelter construction.



Yar Bior, crafts beaded hand bags for a living in Nyumanzi settlement.

Haven for refugees

"I am happy that I got a warm hut for accommodation for myself, my sister and cousins too," says Patrick Ajok (not his real name), a 9-year-old shelter beneficiary of the WASH, NFIs, Livelihoods and Shelter Support for South Sudanese Refugees and Host Communities project by LWF, with funding from CLWR in Nyumanzi settlement. Ajok is under the care of his sister who is an adult.

Refugees also receive food, medical supplies and sanitary resources, as well as core relief items.

"We get jerry-cans, blankets, kitchen sets, basins and utensils from UNHCR and LWF," says Mary Akong (not her real name), a 16-year-old South Sudanese refugee while pumping water from a borehole donated by CLWR, through LWF in Boroli settlement.

"I am happy that I got a warm hut for accommodation for myself, my sister and cousins," says Patrick Ajok, a 9-year-old child in Nyumanzi settlement.

Refugees in business

For many, like Viola Kiden, the settlements have not only become a home, but also a hub of business opportunities. "I didn't have a job back home, but now I have a business and I have learned to make money," Kiden, a member of the Evergreen-a cosmetic and candle making group in Boroli settlement, says. With other 14 group members, Kiden has sold more than a thousand candles at UGX 200 each since November. 2016. With the profits, the 15 women provide for their families.

"We can at least earn a living, provide food for our children and also enrol them in school," Jane Dropia, a member of Evergreen, says. Evergreen is just one of the many business groups in Uganda's refugee settlements. Some like Rose Asiajo, a restaurant Proprietor in Nyumanzi settlement have chosen to venture in business individually.

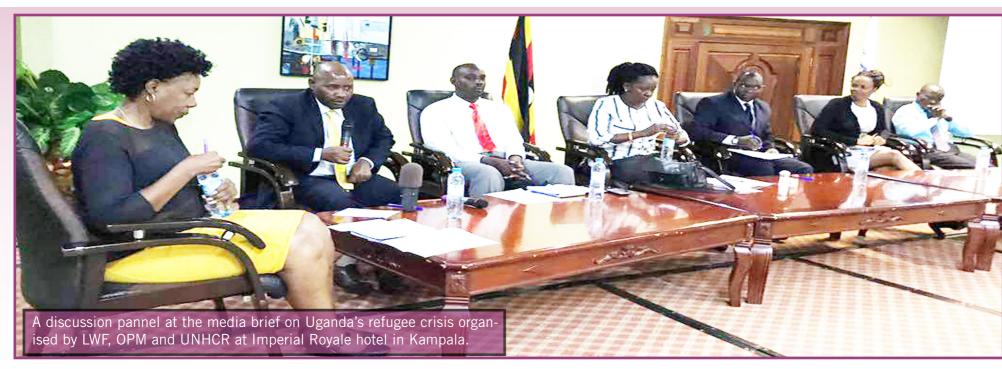
Since most of the refugees come to Uganda without skills and money to invest in livelihood activities, they are empowered through business skills' trainings and cash grants by humanitarian organisations, with LWF at the fore front. "We have trained and continue to train thousands of refugees and the host community residents in business skills.

With funding from other organisations, such as CLWR, we also offer cash grants, as well as start-up kits to those trained in business skills," Nabimanya says. "The members of my group and I were practically trained for three days in soap making, packaging and marketing in May 2016 under the Empowering the Youth in Adjumani, a Solution Oriented Approach project," Sara Nyamuc, a secretary of Kuny-derot soap making group in Nyumanzi settlement, says. "After the training, we were given all the soap making chemicals, such as sodium hydroxide, among others and 128 liquid soap containers by LWF, with funding from CLWR," she adds.

Business activities in groups play a major role in unifying refugees with tribal conflicts as Nabimanya explains that people of different tribes like the Dinkas and Nuers get to work and live together in peace and harmony.

Thanks to the partnership between CLWR and LWF, the refugee and host communities' social welfare as well as livelihoods are continuously improving in Adjumani district's settlements.

Compiled by; Shamim Nalubega Communications Officer.



While many countries would close their doors to refugees, Uganda would welcome them with open arms. "Uganda is committed to maintaining an open door policy to refugees fleeing from conflict in their home countries if resources to support their stay are available," said Charles Bafaki, the Principal Settlement Officer in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) during a media briefing on Uganda's refugee crisis hosted by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), OPM and UNHCR at Imperial Royale hotel in Kampala.

Speaking on behalf of OPM, Bafaki noted that despite the continuous refugee influx to Uganda and constraints faced by Her government, Uganda will not turn Her back on them (refugees).

In a statement issued to the media, Jesse Kamstra, LWF's Country Representative echoed Bafaki's statement "Uganda made commitments during the Universal Periodic Review process towards the refugee crisis, we need to jointly work towards achieving them. "This responsibility is not just for the Republic of Uganda; it is a joint burden that we all need to own up"

Kamstra explained that an open door policy to refugees without providing their basic needs as well as training, skills and business start-up kits for sustainable development and self-reliance is not enough. "To achieve reliance in the refugee community, we need to prioritise quality education for refugees" the statement read in part.

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Refugee Crisis: Uganda at breaking

Education for all is needed

Windle Trust's Emmanuel Curuma explained that through education, Uganda can create a resourceful generation of refugees with viable skills through which they can earn a living.

"Through education, we are not only making them knowledgeable but also passing on skills they can use to earn a living in future," "We are preparing a generation that will manage and develop South Sudan when it regains peace," Curuma added.

He however raised his dismay saying that only 8% of secondary school going refugee children aged between 14 -17 years have access to secondary education and only 1% of those between 18-36 years have access to tertiary education. Curuma blamed the low rates to limited funding saying that the demand for education higher than the available resources.

"We don't have access to secondary and university education and I worry about our future" echoed Yanick Ndamu, a Congolese refugee from Rwamwanja settlement.

Other than education, healthcare, protection and access to water remain some of the major demands of refugees that are still lacking.

point, support needed-OPM

A sustainable solution to water supply is needed

UNHCR's Jane Maonga raised her concern about refugees not accessing the global water standard sphere of 15 litres.

Maonga who is UNHCR's water, sanitation and hygiene coordinator said that Uganda's refugee settlements need a daily water supply of 20 million litres which can hardly be attained due to limited resources.

She explained that water supply in settlements is largely dependent on water trucking, which is an expensive and unsustainable alternative.

Maonga emphasised that sustainable solutions for adequate water supply in Uganda's refugee settlements are needed as access to water is a fundamental right to everybody. She however added that sustainable solutions call for funds which are currently inadequate.

"We don't have access to secondary and university education which makes me worry about our future" said Yanick Ndamu, a Congolese refugee from Rwamwanja settlement.

Protection

Sexual gender based violence (SGBV) and tribal conflicts remain some of the major protections threats in Uganda's settlements .

"Gender Based Violence cases are prevalent in settlements as violence against women is still endemic and they face heightened risks of GBV, including sexual assault, early as well as forced marriage and exploitation," echoed Betty Lamunu, LWF's Protection Advisor.

An SGBV survivor, Emmanuella Achan (not her real name), a South Sudanese refugee based in Adjumani testified about how she was continuously sexually abused by her husband at the media brief.

In an emotional testimony Achan said as a result of continuous forceful sexual acts by her husband, she suffered from emotional and physical complications. "Life became meaningless for me and I thought of committing suicide...I lived in a state of hopelessness," Achan said.

Lamunu explained that such pervasive violence tremendously affects individual women, their families, and communities.

Achan.

Compiled by; Peter Eceru Advocacy Officer.



Even away from war stricken home-South Sudan, refugees still face protection issues in Uganda's settlements.

The government through OPM with support from humanitarian organizations like LWF provide protection to them (refugees).

Eivo continued to say that with psychosocial counselling from LWF, her emotional complications are becoming history. "The counselling is restoring my humanity and self-dignity," lauded

LWF gets new fellow from Princeton in Africa

WF welcomes Katie Thomas Canfield, newly graduated from University of California at Berkeley in the United States. Canfield joins as the new Princeton in Africa Fellow (PiAf) at the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) where she will be working closely with the Monitoring and Evaluation team in Adjumani Sub-Program.

"I'm excited to learn from the expertise of the staff on ground and to join the LWF team in Uganda," says Canfield, the fifth PiAf in LWF's Uganda country program. "I hope to learn more about refugee protection, gender-based violence, and livelihoods for refugees,"

Katie studied International Development and Economics and has experience working in the development sector in Haiti, Cameroon, and Uganda.

She previously also interned at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Washington DC where she worked in the Resettlement Division on cases in the Caribbean.

Canfield is replacing Carla Sung Ah Yoon, the previous PiAf fellow, whose last day was 7th July 2017.

During her time at LWF, Yoon worked in the Adjumani Sub-Program and Kampala Office, mainly in grants writing and project management.

Yoon supported with writing new proposals for the Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), and the Department for International Development (DfID) grants and supported the reporting and management of the PRM and CLWR projects in the settlements.

"Working at LWF has given me more nuanced perspectives and experiences in humanitarian relief," says Yoon. "It's been amazing to see the incredible work of LWF field staff in the refugee settlements."

Yoon graduated from Dartmouth College in the US in 2015 and worked in a refugee resettlement in Egypt's capital Cairo prior to joining LWF. After her fellowship, she will begin her post graduate studies in the US.



Katie Thomas Canfield (right) and Carla Sung Ah Yoon (LWF) at the LWF headquarters in Kampala.

About PiAf and its partnership with LWF-Uganda and Burundi

Founded in 1999, PiAf is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that connects talented and passionate college graduates with organizations across Africa for a one-year fellowship.

LWF's country programs in Uganda and Burundi have a history of partnership with the Princeton in Africa Fellowship program in the United States.

"Our partnership with PiAf dates back to when I was a Refugee Programme Coordinator in the Burundi refugee operation in the early 2000s," says Jesse Kamstra, LWF Uganda and Burundi Country Representative. "LWF develops these enthusiastic graduates' practical skills and benefits from the results especially in report writing and project management.

Kamstra explains that with experience gained by the fellows, they continue on to careers in refugee law, humanitarian aid, international development among others.

The partnership between LWF and PiAf is aimed at offering passionate talented graduates hands-on skills and expertise in their different fields of education.

Uphold The Rights Of Refugees

hrough the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) aims at a process of ensuring that international advocacy creates change to the lives of refugees and ordinary citizens of Uganda. The UPR process involves a consultative process ensuring that community concerns are reflected in recommendations made to a state under review.

LWF has again made remarkable strides to take the refugee agenda to the international fora. In accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights(ACHPR), the government of Uganda is due to prepare a report on the status of Human Rights in Uganda.

To add value to the national process of consultation, a panel discussion was co-organized by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with Human Rights Network-Uganda (HURINET-U) to assess Uganda's progress in implementing the ACHPR provisions recommended by other states during its 2013-2014 reporting period.

As a key player in this process, LWF was invited to engage in the national process by preparing, submitting and presenting a paper detailing a situational analysis of the state of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Uganda for the period between 2013 -2016.

"Key among the achievements noted were the inclusion of the refugees in Uganda's second National Development Plan (NDP II) and the open door policy towards refugees,"

In a presentation on behalf of LWF, Peter Eceru the organization's Advocacy Officer observed that Uganda has made commendable strides in enhancing the rights of refugees. "Within NDP II, the Office of the Prime Minister manages the Settlement Transformation Agenda, a 5-year initiative to support self-reliance, local settlement for refugees and to support social development in refugee hosting communities as a durable solution to refugee problems," added Eceru.

Eceru noted that the adoption of the New York Declaration has also led to positive results as it reaffirmed that protection principles and standards remain a priority for international response to the refugee crises. "It also reiterated that responsibility-sharing and international solidarity are critical to securing protection in practice," said Eceru.

On the flip side, LWF noted that there is need for legislative review to align national laws to international legal instruments to which Uganda is a signatory. Of specific concern is Article 29 (2) (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda which guarantees freedom of movement within Uganda to only Her citizens.

"Article 29 (2) (a) needs to be aligned to the 1951 Convention on the status of refugees as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and ACHPR. If not reviewed, it constitutes a violation of the right of movement to refugees," "Section 14 of the Citizen Immigration and Control Act should also be revised. It provides that children born to refugees or whose grandparents were refugees cannot acquire Ugandan citizenship by registration," Eceru recommended.

The State report on human rights is prepared in fulfilment of Article 62 of the ACHPR. Every State party to ACHRP is obligated to present a report every after two years to the oversight mechanism of ACHPR on various measures it has taken in the period under review to ensure that the state of human rights is improved.

World Refugee Day

World Environment Day





Pupils taking the lead in environment conservation

"Uganda is from end to end a beautiful garden, where staple food of the people grows almost without labour. Does it not sound like a paradise on earth? It is the Pearl of Africa," wrote former UK Prime Minister Sir Churchill Winston in his 1908 book titled 'My African Journey'.

It is this beautiful garden that Benson Okello, a P.7 pupil from Baratiba Primary School in Agago, says they want to keep green. Okello, with other primary school pupils from Kitgum, Agago, Lamwo and Pader districts are on a mission to conserve the environment and avert the effects of climate change.

With support from the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and school administrations, pupils in the four districts have formed eco clubs, under which they engage in environment conservation activities. "We plant trees not only at school, but our homes and neighbouring communities too" said Okello.

He continued to say that his home district is very hot and on the verge of facing a heatwave as it rarely receives rains. Okello this blames on charcoal producers who continuously clear the greenery. Okello explains that with more trees planted, they hope to get more rains.

Okello says that rain/water is life and without it, no living thing can exist. "The warm weather comes with too much dust, hence diseases such as flu and cough. We miss to play in the rain too," he added.

Environment conservation through Eco club activities

While tree planting remains one of the major activities in eco clubs, pupils also engage in raising issues of environmental awareness, both at school and in their neighbourhoods. Scovia Kyampire, a teacher and the eco club patron at Opete Primary School in Kitgum, says that the club members are equipped with environment information and skills that they pass on to their peers, families and communities.

"Eco club members educate people in their circles on how to keep the environment green. They, for instance, inform them of the dangers of deforestation, teach them how to plant and manage wood-lots as well as medicinal plants," Kyampire added. "Each one of



LWF nurturing a green generation

us was previously given 15 seedlings to plant with our families at home and in our neighbourhood by LWF," added Atimango Prisca Novinsha, a pupil at Opete Primary School.

Members also engage in environment-themed debate, poetry and quiz competitions at both school and district levels, organised by LWF, in partnership with school administrations.

Through debates and quizzes, Kyampire explains that they are nurturing future parliamentarians and citizens who will be confident, eloquent and informed enough to lobby for environment-related by-laws. "Poetry, debates and quizzes also offer us a platform to sensitise our audiences about the environment, the current global warming and its effects," added Atimango.

Through eco clubs, Denish Opira, an eco-club patron and a teacher at Pagen Primary School in Lamwo district, says pupils maintain compost pits and environment bins, construct water harvesting structures in school and also maintain public places, like; gardens, within and outside the school campus.

"Eco club members also mobilise action-like awareness sessions against environmentally unsound practices, like; deforestation for charcoal, bush burning in unauthorized places," Opira added.



Tree seedlings for planting at LWF's tree nursery in Kitgum. Some of these are distributed to schools.



environment themed event organised by LWF in northern Uganda.

LWF's contribution towards environment conservation

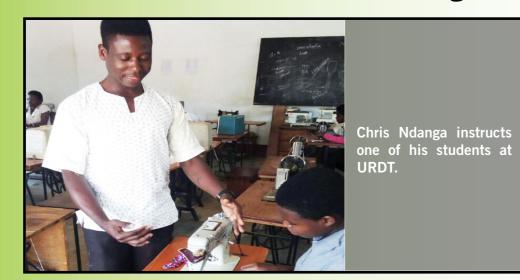
Every country is facing drastic effects of global warming due to environmental degradation as explained by Henry Mukiibi, LWF's Environment and Energy Project Manager. Mukiibi says human activities, such as bush burning, air and water pollution as well as deforestation remain some of the major activities that aggressively deteriorate the climate.

Mukiibi continues to say that LWF is working with people of all age groups, especially the young in different communities towards combating environment degradation by creating awareness, distributing tree seedlings for planting, tree marking, as well as providing start-up kits for green businesses.

"Pupils are prioritised in our environment conservation campaigns because they are the future generation who are capable of playing a major role in achieving the 13th sustainable development goal of Climate Action by 2030. Pupils can become good advocates for climate action, as well as the best teaching and communication mediums to their communities," Mukiibi added.

Compiled by; Shamim Nalubega Communications Officer.

Refugees graduate after six months of training *"I can't ask for more" - Chris Ndanga*



"I will train as many as I can so that they can start up small businesses or even get employed and earn a living like me," Ndanga said.

A 28-year-old Congolese refugee, Chris Ndanga is now a Tutor at the Uganda Rural Development Training Centre (URDT) in Kagadi district. He trained in Tailoring, Computer Repair and Maintenance before graduating with a certificate in September 2016 at the same institute.

Like other refugee graduates at the institute, Ndanga was sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to achieve his dreams of gaining professional skills and gainful employment.

With a diploma in Electrical Engineering from Mulima Institute in Democratic Republic of Congo, Ndanga applied for a scholarship with LWF in 2015, hoping to acquire more skills a job in Uganda. "I have a strong passion for designing and tailoring that's why I opted to include it on my six month's training," says Ndanga who explains that the courses were tailored to fit their needs.

Through the training, Ndanga excelled in tailoring most, something that got his tutors' eye. "He was too good and had the capacity to train other student," said Mwalimu Musheshe, URDT's Chief Executive Officer.

After graduation, Ndanga was awarded a six month's tutoring contract. With this, the well-groomed young brilliant man would train students in tailoring and design. He would also earn a monthly salary of UGX 200,000 (approximately 56 USD).

"I was extremely happy about my education and certificate, and while I was still celebrating, I got news that I was going to be a Tutor," "It was unbelievable, I couldn't laugh but just cry about it, a decent job in Uganda was a dream come true. From a casual builder, I had become a Tutor," Ndanga added.

He continued to explain that a decent job would mean a decent lifestyle for his family of ten (8 siblings and his parents) in Rwamwanja settlement. "With my salary, my siblings would go back to school and enjoy good food," said the oldest of 8 siblings.

Ndanga continued to say that with a job, he would live independently and also be respected not only in the refugee and host community but also in other parts of the country like Kagadi where he was now a Tutor. All this, Ndanga has achieved ever since he started working. "I have had and taken the biggest opportunities in my life, I am so grateful to Uganda for hosting us, organizations like LWF for the support. I can't ask for more," a grinning Ndanga added.

A grateful Ndanga says that he looks forward to paying it forward by saving some of his monthly salary to establish a training facility in different skills for his fellow refugees in the settlement.

"I will train as many as I can so that they can start up small businesses or even get employed and earn a living like me," he added.



More refugees and host community residents graduate from URDT

26 refugees and 16 host community residents graduated from URDT with skills in tailoring, fashion and design, carpentry, mechanics, construction, hairdressing, value addition et al. All these are youth from Rwamwanja settlement who expressed their interest for the training to LWF which sponsors the program.

20-year-old Ismael Amani has trained in Building, Construction, Carpentry and Business Management for six months. He explains that other than crafting visual architectural expressions he can now interpret architectural plans.

"I can do more than architectural expressions, I can design a plan, and implement it. With the skills I have acquired, I can construct a house right from the foundation to the roof and also furnish it," a proud Amani who expects to acquire more skills and construct storied buildings added.

Ali Rashid says that he is living URDT as a professional hairdresser. "I have always loved to be a professional hairdresser but I didn't have the skills. I am finally one, I can treat, plait, cut and style people's hair no matter their sex. I am going to earn from my passion," Rashid added. Stephen. M. Byaruhanga, LCV Chairperson for Kagadi district echoed Kitaka's statement saying that the future of every country depends on the youth. "Education is the propeller for any country's development. The more educated the country, the more stable and developed it can be," Byaruhanga added.

Simon Drileonzia, Project Officer for Protecting lives and building livelihoods says that through

the same project, LWF with support from the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) supports young people in Rwamwanja settlement and host community residents by providing scholarships to develop their skills and talents.

"By offering training opportunities to young people, LWF equips them with skills for descent and gainful employment as well as job creation opportunities. By this, LWF improves livelihoods among youth and also helps in raising a responsible skilled generation to serve our country," Drileonzia added.

Timothy Kitaka the Assistant Commandant for Rwamwanja settlement in the Office of the Prime Minister lauded LWF for the training and education support to the youth in the settlement and host communities. He however added that more support is needed in the sector as the settlement is home to over 70,000 refugees, majority of whom are youth in need of education and training services.

Compiled by; Shamim Nalubega Communications Officer.

lights Atuyambe's vision An electrical engineering lamp



Atuyambe practices his electronics repairing skills at the UYDEL Training Centre in Makindye.

He walks over 11 kilometres everyday on an empty stomach, but his happy and has no regrets. "The distance and fatigue don't matter, all that counts for me is to get to school in time, acquire electrical engineering skills and be part of something big in future," says Saul Atuyambe a 19-year-old young man chasing his dream of becoming a professional Electrical Engineer.

Atuyambe walks from Kibuli where he stays with his paternal aunt to the Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) training centre in Makindye where he attains his training. Both Kibuli and Makindye are suburbs in Kampala, Uganda's capital.

Atuyambe's day starts at 5:00am with house chores like; fetching water, cleaning his aunt's home, utensils, and also her hair salon. "After my house chores, I run to school so that I am not late for my classes which begin at 8:00am," adds Atuyambe who dropped out of school in 2016 at the end of his ordinary secondary education when he lost both his parents.

With his passion for education and a dream to be a better person, Atuyambe tirelessly sought for a place where he would acquire free education. However, his search was futile as he explains that there were no such opportunities in rural Ibanda where he stayed with his younger siblings.

He moved to Uganda's City-Kampala where he expected to find more opportunities, both in education and employment. "I was willing to move miles away from home and even leave my little siblings back, just to chase my dream," "If I hadn't, they (siblings) too would be doomed to live in poverty forever as they had also dropped out of school," He adds.

In Kampala, Atuyambe was and is hosted by his aunt who joined him in his search for free education and employment. His aunt requested all local leaders to tip her in case they heard of any job openings and free education opportunities.

"Our efforts seemed fruitless, I felt cursed, depressed and hopeless. Just when I was about to give up, I saw a silver lining in the dark clouds and that lining was the news from our village Councillor," says Atuyambe who explains that the Councillor visited their home to deliver news of a free education slot in Electrical Installation he had secured for him (Atuyambe) at UYDEL Training Centre in Makindve.

A grinning Atuyambe says that this was the best news of his life as he felt he had moved a step closer to attaining his dream of becoming an Electrical Engineer.



Atuyambe repairs a TV motherboard at the UYDEL Training Centre in Makindye.

Atuyambe's life in school

Since March, 2016, Atuyambe has been training in Electrical Installation, together with 62 other youth. The group will graduate in April, 2017 with certificates from Uganda's Directorate of Industrial Training.

Atuyambe is acquiring skills in electrical installation, phone, radio, television repair as well as computer software and hardware.

One of the most committed student's in his class, Atuyambe practices his skills regularly, trains his fellow students and has good grades as his Tutor Frank Kimuli explains that he is a fast learner and consults for his knowledge whenever he fails to do his assignments right.

"Saul is doing his learning time justice as he endeavours to acquire a new skill whenever he comes to school. He is one of my best students for the year 2016/2017," says Kimuli.

Just like Kimuli, Atuyambe says that he spends every minute at school wisely as it all counts in achieving his dream of becoming a professional Electrical Engineer. "I want the whole world to know about me, not as a person but an innovative and brilliant Electrical Engineer," Atuyambe adds.

Kimuli continues to presume that once placed for intern-ship, Atuyambe will be retained due to his hard work, skills and integrity.

"I have heard students like him in the past, 4 of them were retained by the MTN Telecom company while 1 was retained by Africana Hotel, all in the Electrical installation departments," Kimuli adds.

Meanwhile, Atuyambe is as happy as ever as he explains that depression and hopelessness are not part of him anymore.

"When I listen to other students' stories, I realise that some of them have been through worse situations than mine but, they remain strong. This keeps me stronger and hopeful too," "And when we are here at the learning centre, we forget about our problems, and focus on learning and having fun together like one big family." Atuyambe adds.

Atuyambe has also started earning from his electrical engineering skills as he repairs phones and TV sets from referred customers.

"I earn some little money, I use this to buy 'kikomando' (a mixture of chapatti and beans) for lunch and also save some to send back home to my siblings,"

Free Vocational Training for youth in Kampala by UYDEL with support from LWF and the Icelandic Church Aid

Through the Youth Empowerment Project, urban youth between 13 and 25 years are offered free access to vocational skills training in hairdressing, fashion and design mechanics, electrical installation and engineering among others.

The initiative is aimed at equipping youth with skills for dignified paid employment, and job creation opportunities.

The Youth Empowerment Project is also focused on building strong, stable, engaged and organized communities of slum dwelling youth in Rubaga, Nakawa and Makindye divisions of Kampala.



Youth practice their tailoring skills at the UYDEL Training Centre in Makindye.

Vincent Ojera's dreams achieved from a pair of oxen

He lived a lavish life for years. His children went to good schools and dined on the best meals. Vincent Ojera, a 58-year-old lead farmer in Pader district owned 38 herds of cattle and traded in cattle products like milk and beef for a living. This was before a guerilla war broke out between the Government of Uganda and the Lord Resistance Army in 1986 in northern Uganda where Ojera lived with his family.

When war struck, Ojera lost everything as his cattle and property were looted by merciless militants. From hundreds of cows, a home and a farm, Ojera was left nothing. The lad who lived like a bourgeoisie had to live like a pauper.

His children dropped out of school, starved and spent nights on the sun baked soil as they didn't own beddings.

However, Ojera never lost hope as he says that he believed he would work hard and regain his wealth after the war. His loathe for poverty and commitment to provide for his family got him devoted to work even harder for a living.

Ojera receives support from LWF

As a survivor of the war, Ojera was identified by Lutheran World Federation (LWF) staff who selected groups of marginalized people and communities for

Ojera's hardwork



Ojera (in a green t-shirt) weeds his maize and rice farm in Pader.

support in livelihoods through the Pader Farmers Empowerment Project (PAFEP) funded by the Finn Church Aid (FCA).

"I identified Ojera for the support because he neither had farming land nor any other asset yet he yearned to work for a living. He lived in poverty with his family," said Hope Abalo, an LWF Field Extension Worker in Pader sub program.

A member of Par Pi Anyim Farmers Group with 27 members, Ojera was offered agricultural support from December 2015 to date in form of training, an agribusiness startup kit including; a pair of oxen, an ox-plough and rice seeds. The group was also linked to agriculture input traders and bulk produce buyers.

Ojera and family work tirelessly to regain their wealth

With a dream of regaining his lavish lifestyle, Ojera worked tireless on his farm, planting rice from season to season. Him together with his wife, 52-year-old Viola Adong and their 7 children provided full time labour with the support of the pair of oxen. "We always spent at least 8 hours labouring in our rice farm and covered half an acre each day," Ojera added.

pays off



Pader.

The family's commitment paid off as they had a tremendous harvest from their first season in 2015 with over 2,025 tons of rice which they sold off told to Gulu Traders Association, a company they were linked to by LWF staff during the marketing trainings. From the sales, Ojera earned a profit of UGX 3,400,000 (approximately 945 USD).

Unlike the enthusiasm Ojera had to spend the family's profits on attaining a good social lifestyle, he sacrificed it by reinvesting it in their agriculture business.

"My family and I wished to spend the money on our social needs but knew that reinvesting it in the farm was better as we would get more profits in future. We chose our best option which was to reinvest our profit," lauded Ojera. "I didn't think twice on buying another pair of oxen and two ox-ploughs because I wanted to develop our farm, make it bigger and also increase on the quantity we planted and harvested," said Ojera who also acquired more three acres hence increasing his farmland from two to five acres.

Ojera and family raise to glory

With more farming land and labor, Ojera's rice production increased from 2,025 tons to 3, 025 over a period of two years.

"A higher production meant more profits on our side and these, we would buy cattle as we yearned to own a cattle farm again," Ojera said.

Ojera managed to acquire 18 cows including 2 pairs of oxen. He also constructed a decent two-bedroom house where he shifted his family from a grass thatched single bedroom shelter.

The family's lifestyle has changed as they have three meals a day, afford health care, decent clothing and the children are back to school acquiring quality education in private schools. "Two of my children are acquiring university education, one is done with advanced secondary school while the rest are still acquiring secondary education," a proud Ojera added.

Challenges haunting the agriculturalist family Despite the market linkage support from LWF, the family still struggles to find market for all their produce. "Selling off all our harvests seems impossible hence limiting our production," said Ojera who explains that his family has the capacity to produce more than their current production rate.

He continues to say that they need more training support in professional cleaning and packaging of their produce so that they can sell it fits the international trade standards so that they can enlarge their market and profit base.

"Farmer groups need more agricultural, marketing and packaging training," said Okello Vincent, an LWF Field Extension Worker in Pader sub program.

Compiled by;

Olum Andrew Livingstone (Project Officer PAVCDP) with contributions from Owiny Ronald (FEW).



Life anew for Mabila and family

She was raped by militants during Congo's civil war. Anita Mabila (not her real name) became a pariah to her in-laws and community at large. Mabira narrates that being a rape survivor did not only leave her physical but emotional distress too as she became socially unwanted by her in-laws.

With unbearable pressure from her husband's family to nullify their marriage, Simon Kambere (not his real name), Mabira's husband suggested that they flee Congo to Rwanda where they would leave happily which they eventually did.

However, all did not happen as planned as the family never lived happily after. Kambere's family haunted them to their new home.

"My in-laws traced and followed us to our new home where we had started life afresh," narrates Mabila.

The 27-year-old mother continues to say that her husband suggested fleeing from their new home to a place unknown by his relatives which she agreed to.

"All we wanted was a place where we would be accepted, love each other like a couple and also live happily like a family. We were committed to achieving this no matter the circumstances," Mabila said. As the couple looked for their next destination, Mabila's new friend and neighbour Maria told her of a place where they would be received, hosted, settled and treated with dignity. Maria had also sought refuge in Uganda where she lived in Nakivale settlement for a while.

The couple's new destination would be Rwamwanja, a settlement in Kamwenge district located in the south western part of Uganda which hosts over 64,256 Congolese refugees.

A week's journey to Uganda

Even with an 8 months' pregnancy, Mabila braced herself for the journey and trekked together with her husband and three children south west from North Kivu in Congo where they had returned to Kisoro, Uganda-Congo boarder.

"We were hungry and thirsty, but mummy told us to continue walking with them even after days and nights," said Susan Kabira (not her real name), the couple's 12-year-old daughter.

"Our feet swell but mummy's feet were bigger and cracked than ours," she added.

In May 2012, the family arrived in Rwamwanja

where they were received by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and settled at the Base camp, Zone 1.

The family got a few things they yearned for, as Mabila narrates that they acquired a plot, built a house, didn't starve and found countless people from their country with whom they thought they would become close friends.

However, these discriminated against her and her family because they (fellow Congolese refugees) believed she and her family were Tutsi, a tribe they blame for killings in Congo.

This meant an emotional breakdown for the expecting mother who narrates that she was diagnosed with a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) by a psychiatric medical practitioner at Rwamwanja Health Centre III.

"I was tired of rejection and being treated like an outcast and yearned for my family to be accepted and loved by the new community which did not happen," said Mabila.

Mabila had recurring PTSD relapses over time. Despite her persistent emotional troubles, Mabira says that the psychiatrists and social workers never gave up on her.

With psychosocial counselling and livelihood support, Mabila pulls through

Through self-referral, Mabila came to the attention of George Aguze, a Social Worker with LWF in Rwamwanja.

She recounts his warm welcome and prayer before listening to her troubles and her first therapy session.

"George listens to my worries and never tires of encouraging me. This makes me emotionally stronger hence overcoming my depression and problems" said Mabila.

She was also supported with a cash grant of UGX 1,500,000 (approximately 417 USD) by LWF with funds from Church of Sweden in March 2017.

"Mabila was severely stressed and partly because her family was living in poverty and didn't have a source of income," said Aguze.

"With the cash grant, Mabila would improve her family's livelihoods which would decrease the stress and facilitate her healing process,"

He continues to explain that with the income, the family would leave a dignified life and also integrate with the community through her business. This would eliminate discrimination.

With the cash grant, together with her husband, Mabila decided to set up a retail shop where she would sell items like sugar, salt, tomatoes, cooking oil, rice and soft drinks for a living.

"I ventured in a retail shop and I earn a living," said a grinning Mabila. She continued to narrate that with her earnings, she has managed to pay off the family's debts, provide meals for her family and school requirements for their children.

"We are healthy and we live a decent life here because we afford a balanced diet and good clothes for ourselves and children," lauded Mabila who added that they now get to eat meat once in a while which they couldn't afford since their arrival to Rwamwanja settlement.

"Thank you for the support LWF, may God bless you," she added.

Complied by: Flavia Acom M&E Assistant, Rwamwanja sub-program.

A member of an eco stove club displays stoves for sale at the World Environment Day celebrations coorganised by LWF in Lamwo district.

LWF supports eco-stove clubs with funds from the European Union in Pader, Lamwo and Kitgum districts.

The initiative is aimed at improving livelihoods for youth and to protect the environment through green businesses.

Our Donors and Partners whose contributions make our important work possible





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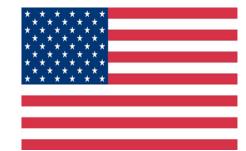
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A member of an apiary group in a bee yard. LWF supports apiary groups in Adjumani district's refugee settlements and host communities. This is aimed at improving people's livelihoods.

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