



Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 1, April 2018



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

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Dear Friends of LWF,

Throughout its history, LWF Uganda has worked towards Refugee Emergency Response and Development programs to uphold the rights and dignity of the poor and needy.

In this issue, we examine how LWF has expanded in the Refugee Emergency Response sector by extending its boundaries to Kyangwali settlement in Western Uganda to respond to the new DRC refugee influx to Uganda.

Other articles in this issue highlight LWF's humanitarian activities in improving Sustainable Livelihoods, Health, Environment Protection, Food Security and Nutrition, Vocational Skills among youth, Improved Access to Water, better Sanitation and Hygiene as well as Protection for vulnerable groups of people.

We are also delighted to share with you how LWF is identifying and developing talent among young refugees through a Talent Search and Competition which has attracted hundreds of participants. The initiative is aimed at facilitating them to earn a living from their natural gifts.

With your continued support and partnerships, LWF is improving lives and upholding rights of the poor and oppressed!

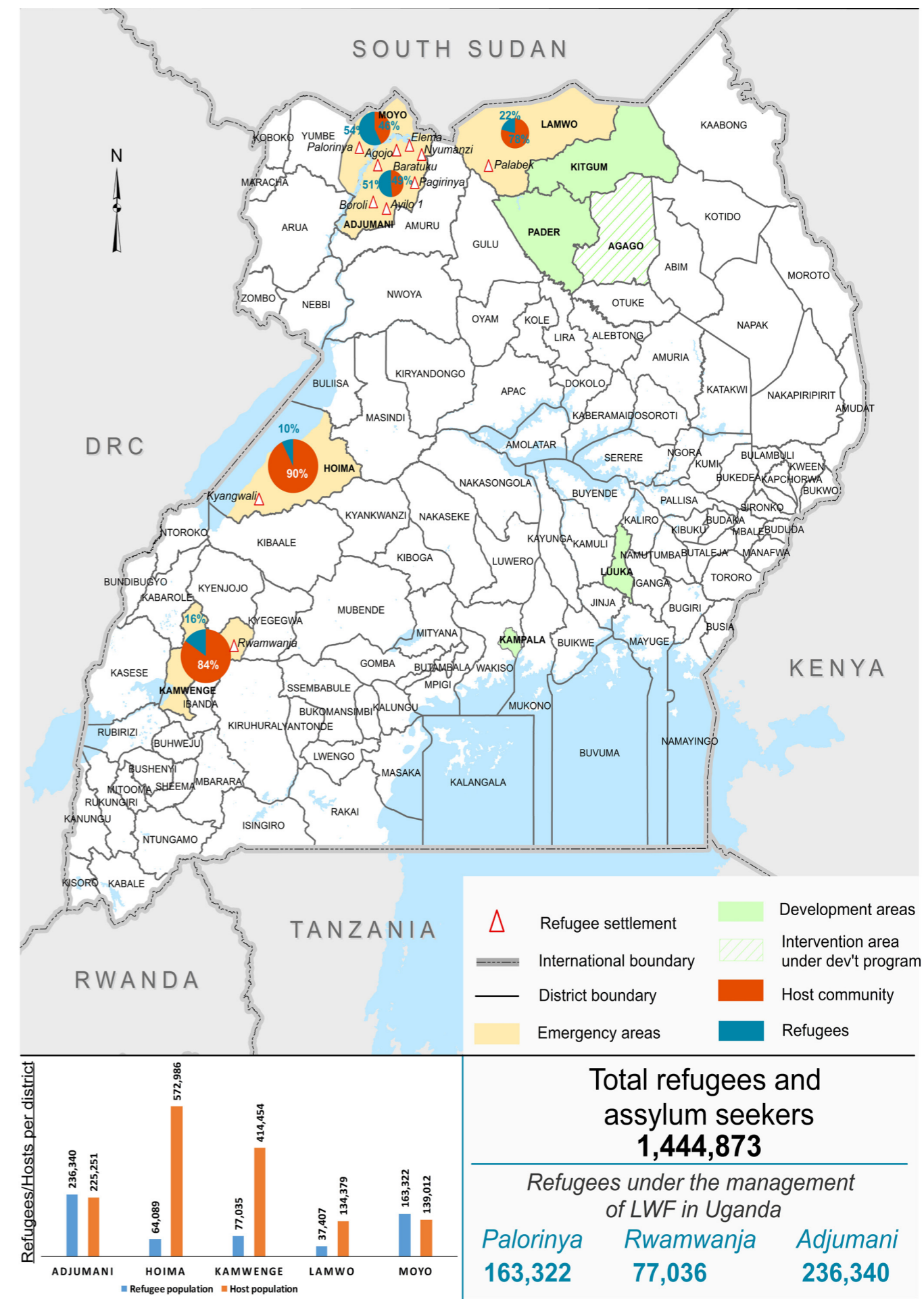
Thank you and enjoy reading it!

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

The Newsletter was edited and designed by LWF's Communications Officer.

It was reviewed by LWF's Program Team.

Project areas where LWF implements Refugee Emergency Response



Cover photo caption: A migrant child revises her book in a classroom block constructed by LWF in Lamwo district. In 2017, LWF constructed 21 classroom blocks in the districts of Lamwo, Adjumani and Moyo to improve access to education among refugee children.

Over 75,000 new DRC refugees have crossed



New Congolese refugee arrivals at Kagoma Reception Centre in Kyangwali settlement. They have been transferred from Sebagoro landing site on the shores of Lake Albert to Kagoma Reception Centre in Hoima district.

DRC refugee crisis in figures

276,570

Congolese refugees in Uganda

- 65% Children
- 77,429 New DRC refugees have arrived since December, 2017

Source: OPM
As of April, 2018

Over 78,000 new DRC refugees have arrived in Uganda since December, 2017. This follows fresh ethnic violence in DRC. Other than tribal conflicts, some new refugee arrivals fled to Uganda from areas where Uganda People's Defence Force soldiers were fighting Allied Democratic Forces.

Majority of the new arrivals are of the Bagegere tribe and report violence against them by people of the Lendu tribe. "Lendus have been given arms and money to exterminate all the Bagegele." "They slaughter, set our villages ablaze, loot our property and rape our women and girls before butchering them." Said Kangu Muvalamu, a Mugegere by tribe and a new arrival at Sebagoro landing site.

A sharp increase in refugee numbers has seen up to 2000 people crossing the border a day, most on overcrowded fishing boats making the 7 to 8 hours' voyage across Lake Albert. On the Congolese side, families fleeing villages like Tchoma, Kasenyi, Joo, Bulambira, Nyamwamba and Varamo in Ituri province of DRC are scrambling to get places on the boats.

The new arrivals arrive at various landing sites in Western Uganda including; Sebagoro which is the major transit centre, Kaisotonya, Nsonga and Bugoma from where they are relocated to either Kyaka or Kyangwali settlement, both in Uganda's Western region.

"I couldn't save my brothers and friends, I watched them drown as I swam away with my boy tied on my back. ... "I failed my boy, he slipped off my back and I didn't see him again," said a distraught Gambo who swam for four hours before reaching the shore at Sebagoro.

the border to Uganda

LWF is extending humanitarian support to new DRC refugees

LWF was one of the first responders to the new DRC refugee crisis and is poised to manage three points hosting new DRC refugees including; Sebagoro landing site, Kagoma Reception Centre and Maratatu zone of Kyangwali settlement, all in Hoima district. LWF is extending safe water and sanitary facilities, emergency shelter and Protection services to new refugee arrivals at the three locations.

Since LWF arrived at Sebagoro landing site, Kagoma Reception Centre and Maratatu zone in Kyangwali settlement, LWF has installed 8 water tanks, each with a capacity of 10,000 litres in Maratatu zone of Kyangwali settlement to extend clean water to new DRC refugees settlement there. LWF also manages Kinyekeitaka water production well which provides on average 180m3 of water required by approximately 60% of the water needs in Kyangwali settlement.

To improve sanitation and hygiene, LWF has constructed 209 latrines with bathing shelters, 197 in Maratatu, 7 at Kagoma Reception Centre and 5 at Sebagoro landing site. Two hand washing facilities are attached to each latrine to facilitate hand washing after latrine use. LWF has also recruited and trained 43 people to promote good hygiene at the three locations.

New arrivals also have access to decent overnight accommodation under 16 shelters constructed by LWF at Kagoma Reception and Sebagoro transit centres. Each shelter has a capacity to accommodate 100 people at a time.

"Under protection, the LWF team manages child protection, identifies, registers and provides material and psychosocial assistance to persons with special needs. The team has also installed solar lights in dark spots to prevent possible SGV cases." Said Marvin Wasswa, LWF's Programme Support Officer. "Refugees not only deserve to be welcomed, but to also live in dignity, with access to all basics of life and within humanitarian standards."



Children haven't been displaced by the ongoing violence in DRC.

"Refugees not only deserve to be welcomed, but to also live in dignity, with access to all basics of life and within humanitarian standards." Said Marvin Wasswa, LWF's Programme Support Officer.

Tragedy on the lake crossing

Timothy Gambo fled his home in Kaafa village, DRC, with his 3-year-old son aboard his fishing canoe. He was joined by two brothers and friends on what was supposed to be a journey to peace and safety in Uganda.

However, after sailing for five hours on Lake Albert, Gambo's boat capsized, drowning five of the six passengers. "I couldn't save my brothers and friends, I watched them drown as I swam away with my boy tied on my back."

"I failed my boy, he slipped off my back and I didn't see him again," said a distraught Gambo who swam for four hours before reaching the shore at Sebagoro.

New arrivals at Sebagoro are ferried to the Kagoma reception centre in Kyangwali settlement aboard busses.

At Kagoma, they are registered before being allocated plots in Malembo, Mombasa and Maratatu areas within the Kyangwali refugee resettlement.

LWF's humanitarian activities towards new DRC refugees are funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency through Church of Sweden.

Clean water for all in Palabek settlement



A South Sudanese child drinks clean water from a borehole drilled by LWF in Palabek settlement.



54-year-old Margaret Poni's household uses an average of 120 litres of water every day. The mother of 5 fetches the water from a borehole only a few steps from her house in zone 1, Palabek settlement.

"The weather here is too hot and calls for much drinking water, we also use water for cooking and cleaning." "With access to unlimited water, we also have a chance to bathe at least twice a day." says Poni a South Sudanese refugee.

Poni is just one of the thousands of South Sudanese refugees and host community residents with access to clean water from boreholes drilled by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Palabek.

LWF's WASH Officer Vickie Tumwebaze explains that LWF has drilled 39 boreholes and motorized 5 in Palabek settlement and host community to extend clean water to the targeted audiences.

"Access to clean water is a basic human need and the main reason as to why we are drilling and motorizing boreholes in Palabek. We want each refugee to have access to at least 20 litres of water a day for drinking, cooking and keeping themselves clean." Says Tumwebaze who explains that a standard borehole can support 500 individuals with clean water and a motorized one reaches up to 5,000 people.



A person of concern collects water from tap stands installed by LWF in a settlement.



A borehole installed by LWF in Palabek settlement.

Clean and safe water prevents disease outbreaks

Access to clean water facilitates proper hygiene and sanitation hence preventing disease outbreaks. Contaminated water is deadly; it causes diseases that result in to death.

According to a report from the World Health Organization, 3.4 million people, mostly children, die annually from water-related diseases like diarrhoeal and cholera while tens of millions are seriously sickened by a host of water-related ailments majority of which are preventable.

LWF's WASH Advisor Richard Wakholi explains that upholding sanitation and hygiene in refugee settlements is a major objective for LWF's efforts of extending clean water to refugee communities since poor sanitation breeds diseases and death.

Michael Ochaya is a South Sudanese refugee in Palabek who is pleased to have access to clean water. "Water borne diseases are rear in our community, our children are healthy because we use clean water from boreholes and water taps for drinking, regular cleaning of ourselves, homes and surroundings." Says Ochaya who is a member of a Water User Committee (WUC).

To prevent water contamination at water access points, Ochaya says that WUCs clean them at least once every day. "We also fence the sites to thwart animals from accessing and dirtying them because clean is safe, good and healthy."

Clean water for good health; good health for wealth

Good health comes with an active mind and strong body which traits are essential for economic development. Access to clean water facilitates proper sanitation and hygiene hence good health.

"Strong and healthy people can engage in productive work and help in both poverty alleviation and sustainable development not only in their households but also in their communities." Says Alex Ssenyondo, LWF's Livelihoods Advisor who adds that "the young generation is Uganda's future labor force."

3.4 million people, mostly children, die annually from water-related diseases like diarrhoeal and cholera while tens of millions are seriously sickened by a host of water-related ailments majority of which are preventable.

More funds needed towards clean water for persons of concern

In addition to two zones in Palabek to which LWF is extending clean water, it has been added three extra zones including zone 3, 4 and 7 which host over 25,000 persons of concern. A lack of adequate water breeds poor sanitation, health and also robs people of their basic human dignity.

This calls for immediate borehole drilling and motorization to provide the targeted populace their right to clean water. However, LWF's efforts to establish the water points is held back by limited resources.

"Refugees in zone 3, 4 and 7 don't have access to adequate water as each person gets less than 20 litres of water a day. This is due to a small number of water access points at the sites." "Refugees endure long hours of queuing to get some little water to use, children and women bear the brunt of this burden." Wakholi.

Mukyipiou business group in Nyumanzi settlement. In 2017, the group ventured in commercial baking with UGX 4,000,000 in capital that it acquired from LWF with funds from PRM.



The growing power of refugee women in business

Majority of South Sudanese refugee women till land for food and income, some have ventured in goat farming while others have established small businesses for the same reason in Adjumani district's refugee settlements.

Amou Ajak Atek, a South Sudanese woman in business attributes this to the fact that majority of South Sudanese refugee women remain breadwinners for their families. "Some are widows, others left their husbands in South Sudan while the rest have husbands who never provide."

Amour Gak is another refugee in business who explains that women have to provide for food, health care and education for their children, a reason for their hard work. "Majority of men here don't have jobs while others have resorted to alcoholism to suppress their depression, leaving household responsibilities to us."

Refugee women are supported to venture in business for a living

Since women and children are the majority in refugee settlement, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) focusses on empowering women in trade and commerce by training them in business skills and offering them cash grants.

LWF's Jenifer Adong explains that these efforts are geared towards contributing to women's financial independence and their ability to provide for

their families as well as enhancing sustainable development in their communities and the country at large.

Atek is one of the hundreds of women who have been supported by LWF with funds from the United States' Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). Together with a group of 9 women, Atek ventured in a baking business in 2017 with UGX 4,000,000 they received from LWF and PRM. Mukyipiou business group bakes and supplies bread and cake in Nyumanzi settlement for a living.

"We earn an average of UGX 1,100,000 very month which we use for our families' financial demands. We also save 50% of the profits in our group VSLA where all members can acquire loans to establish individual businesses." Says Amour Deng, Chairperson for Kukiypiou business group.

Amatura business group in Pagirinya Settlement is another that was supported by LWF and PRM. The group of 14 women and a man has bagged UGX 3,000,000 from trading food produce since its founding in 2017.

Adong explains that hundreds of people in groups have been supported with the same. The groups have established businesses, are earning a living and enjoying improved standards of living. "An improvement in their livelihoods not only benefit them but Uganda at large as it increases the country's economic base."



Grace at her vegetable kiosk in Nyumanzi settlement. She is one of the women that have been supported with a cash grant for business by LWF and PRM.

“We earn an average of UGX 1,100,000 very month which we use for our families' financial demands. We also save 50% of the profits in our group VSLA where all members can acquire loans to establish individual businesses.” Amour Deng, Chairperson for Kukiypiou business group.



A business multiplier effect

Women save a percentage of their group business profits in a VSLA where each of them can acquire a loan for business. Florence Among, Chairperson for Amatura explains that one of the group's goals is to assist each member create a side business for more income.

Among adds that 10 out of the 14 members of Amatura have established side businesses. Agnes Moriko, a member of Amatura is one of those that have established a side business. She acquired a loan of UGX 200,000 and started a mini food produce business, trading in beans and maize.

Among acquired UGX 150,000 from the group's VSLA, she now trades in fish and earns an average of UGX 100,000 in monthly profits. "With my earnings, I never worry about my household financial demands." says Among a mother of 6.

Moriko, a mother of 9 ventured in business to feed and maintain a roof over her children's heads. "My children now go to school and enjoy three meals a day." She adds that she earns an average income of UGX 80,000 a month and with it her children never lack basics of life.

While Mukyipiou business group has established a restaurant as a second group business, it also supports its members establish individual businesses. Atek says 9 out of 10 members have established side businesses with loans from the group's VSLA.

Impact

There is certainly a rising number of successful business women in Adjumani's refugee settlements which is good as they are attaining financial independence.

"We can afford our basic needs like food for a balanced diet, education for our children, healthcare among other household needs." Says Atek. Among adds that homes are peaceful as violence over finances is fading.

Photo caption: Amou Ajak Atek prepares a meal for a customer at Mukyipiou business group's restaurant in Nyumanzi settlement. She is a member of Mukyipiou that was supported by LWF and PRM with a training in business management and a cash grant.

Married off at 16 in exchange



Margaret Tisa knits a table cloth during a tailoring and knitting class at the Community Centre in Nyumanzi settlement.

Margaret Tisa (not real name) is a South Sudanese refugee in Nyumanzi settlement, Adjumani district. She was 16 years old in 2015 when her father gave her hand in marriage to Bior (not real name) in exchange for 50 cows.

Denied education and living in rural South Sudan, the early marriage shattered Tisa's desire to move to the country's capital city - Juba to live a better life.

"I had wanted to make long days in the garden history by acquiring formal training in either hair dressing or tailoring, from which I would then hopefully earn a decent living," she says.

Tisa is just one of the many girls married off when they are still children as indicated by the 2010 Sudan Household Health Survey (SHHS). The SHHS report states that 40% of the girls in South Sudan are married off before reaching 18 years of age.

A mother at 17

A year into her marriage, Tisa became a mother.

"I hated my home village and I did not want to raise my child there. I knew that she would not get an

opportunity to go to school and once she became a teenager, she would also be 'sold' off like I was," she says.

Tisa had almost lost her life during a complicated delivery. She eventually did succeed with the help of a local midwife.

Both uneducated and in a remote place, Tisa and her husband afforded basics such as food from their farm, water from a village dam and milk from the 20 cows Bior was left with.

"I had to cultivate our garden and graze the cows everyday just to get food and milk for my family." Says the teenage mother.

"I did all this alone, without help from my husband, yet I also had to cook, wash and clean the house." Tisa says her husband treated her like a "slave" and reminded her that he had paid her father cows to marry her.

"Bior told me he could use me for anything and that I had to work hard for him and our children," she adds.

for 50 cows



One of the trainees displays a dress she tailored for her daughter during one of the tailoring classes at the Community Centre in Nyumanzi settlement.

“

"I am going to give my baby the best future. I will take her to school for the best education. I want her to become a doctor, who will serve the poor – one that will be a light and hope to the sick," Tisa says.

”

Civil war saves Tisa

While the latest South Sudan civil war is perceived as the worst thing to ever happen to the world's youngest nation, to Tisa, it was a blessing in disguise. The conflict helped her escape her undesired marriage.

Together with her baby girl, Tisa was among the thousands that fled the civil war to neighbouring Uganda. However, she was later dragged back by her husband. She escaped a week later – back to Uganda, where she received and supported by the Office of the Prime Minister with humanitarian organisations, such as UN refugee agency UNHCR and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

"For the first time in a long time, I felt free, at peace, safe and happy. Finally, I could smile and laugh," Tisa beams. "I was starting my life afresh – a happy life and, not the sad one I had lived in the past."

A training in tailoring

When Tisa heard about youth acquiring scholarships from LWF with funds from the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), for training in vocational skills, such as tailoring, hairdressing and welding, she immediately applied online.

She had longed to do tailoring and hairdressing right from her childhood. In June this year, Tisa enrolled for a six-month-long training in tailoring at Nyumanzi Community Centre. Determined, she never misses any class.

"I have mastered the art of making all kinds of clothes and I will graduate with a certificate in December. An uneducated village girl is now a professional tailor," she delightedly says.

Jennifer Adong, a PRM Project Officer with LWF says, come graduation day, each graduand will receive a business start-up kit, including a tailoring machine and fabric.

"I am going to give my baby the best future. I will take her to school for the best education. I want her to become a doctor, who will serve the poor – one that will be a light and hope to the sick," Tisa says.

Tisa is one of the 100 youth in Adjumani's refugee settlements, who have attained vocational training with support from PRM and LWF. These efforts are aimed at providing youth income earning skills to improve their livelihoods and self-sustenance.

LWF appreciates PRM's support towards its humanitarian activities aimed at protecting lives and improving people's livelihoods in Adjumani district's settlements.



A single-burner Matawi eco-stove.



A single-burner Matawi eco-stove is used to prepare a meal. Its smoke free, a fast cooker and requires little charcoal.

Matawi: an eco-stove that cooks and PROTECTS

Matawi is a trending new type of stove in Kitgum and Pader districts in Uganda's Northern region. The eco-stove was introduced in a region where the three stone stove is predominantly used for cooking. Unlike the three stone cooking stove, Matawi is environment friendly; its smoke free, requires less fuel and is sustainable.

Jiko Matawi satisfies users' needs

Nyero Dreake a Biomass Energy Technology expert with LWF explains that the Matawi stove not only serves the environment but also meets the social, health, economic and technological needs of users.

Molded to perfection, Jiko Matawi was created by a duo of local stove Artisans trained by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) under the Teko wa project funded by the European Union (EU).

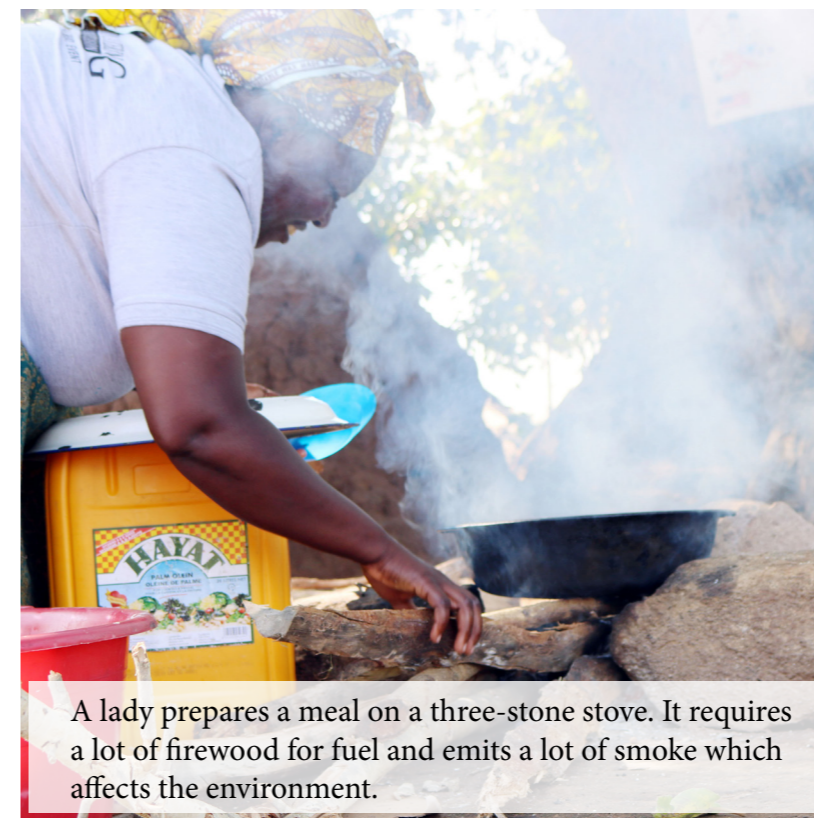
"We developed the stove to protect the environment by reducing the amount of fuel used for cooking thereby reducing tree cutting and carbon footprint emitted as smoke from the cooking fuel used in three stone cooking stoves." Says Raymond Kalokwera, one of the Matawi stove Artisans.

Kalokwera explains that Matawi stove is molded from fermented clay which is dried through high temperatures in a kiln to reinforce its properties including; a high thermo efficiency of over 40%; light weight of 5 kilograms and durability of approximately 8-15 years.

The Matawi stove is manufactured in 2 portable sizes to meet different cooking needs like; a single burner, and a double with an oven style. Both the sizes are affordable as they cost between 15,000 UGX and 42,000 UGX.



"The stove is smoke free which protects us from eye and respiratory infections and also uses little charcoal compared to the bundles of firewood required by the three stone open stove." Says Paul Okema whose household uses a Jiko Matawi stove.



A lady prepares a meal on a three-stone stove. It requires a lot of firewood for fuel and emits a lot of smoke which affects the environment.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Dreake explains that the eco-stove is portable, inexpensive yet technologically advanced and durable and doesn't pose health social and health risks like the three stone open stove.

People using the Matawi stove speak highly about it. Irene Ayo is a resident of Kitgum district who uses the stove for cooking. She describes it as safe and a fast cooker. "Unlike the three open stove that risks fire outbreaks in homes, Jiko Matawi doesn't have an open flame which makes it safer."

Caroline Adee from Palabek Gem sub county in Lamwo district says the Matawi stove doesn't pose health risks to her family unlike the three stone stove her household was previously using for cooking.

While using the Matawi cooking stove, Paul Okema from Pader district says they save up to 75% of the fuel they had to use while using the three stone open stove.

"The stove is smoke free which protects us from eye and respiratory infections and also uses little charcoal compared to the bundles of firewood required by the three stone open stove." Adds Okema.

Okema's children don't have to go to bushes to cut trees for firewood. "We now use charcoal instead of firewood which makes me worry less about my children's safety because they don't go to bushes anymore."

An eco-stove improving livelihoods

Other than cooking and protecting the environment, the Matawi stove is currently a source of income for many and the industry continues to employ more.

The pair of Artisans who created the stove have earned UGX millions from stove sales and continue to earn more.

"We have so far sold over 100 Matawi stoves to people in Lamwo, Pader and Kitgum districts through trade exhibitions and house to house sales." Says Stephen Okot who adds that they are using the income to expand their small stove enterprise and to improve their lifestyle.

The Matawi stove is highly wanted by the people of Lamwo, Kitgum and Pader. This has enticed commercial enterprise middlemen to buy the stove in bulk from Artisans for reselling.

"We have partnered and supplied 60 stoves to 4 retailers in Kitgum town." Says a beaming Kalokwera.

To influence environmental protection through the use of eco-stoves and to facilitate more people to earn from crafting eco-stoves, LWF with funds from EU projects plans to equip more people with skills of making eco-stoves and installing commercial kilns for mass production.

LWF's environment protection activities in Uganda are funded by the European Union and Bread for the World.

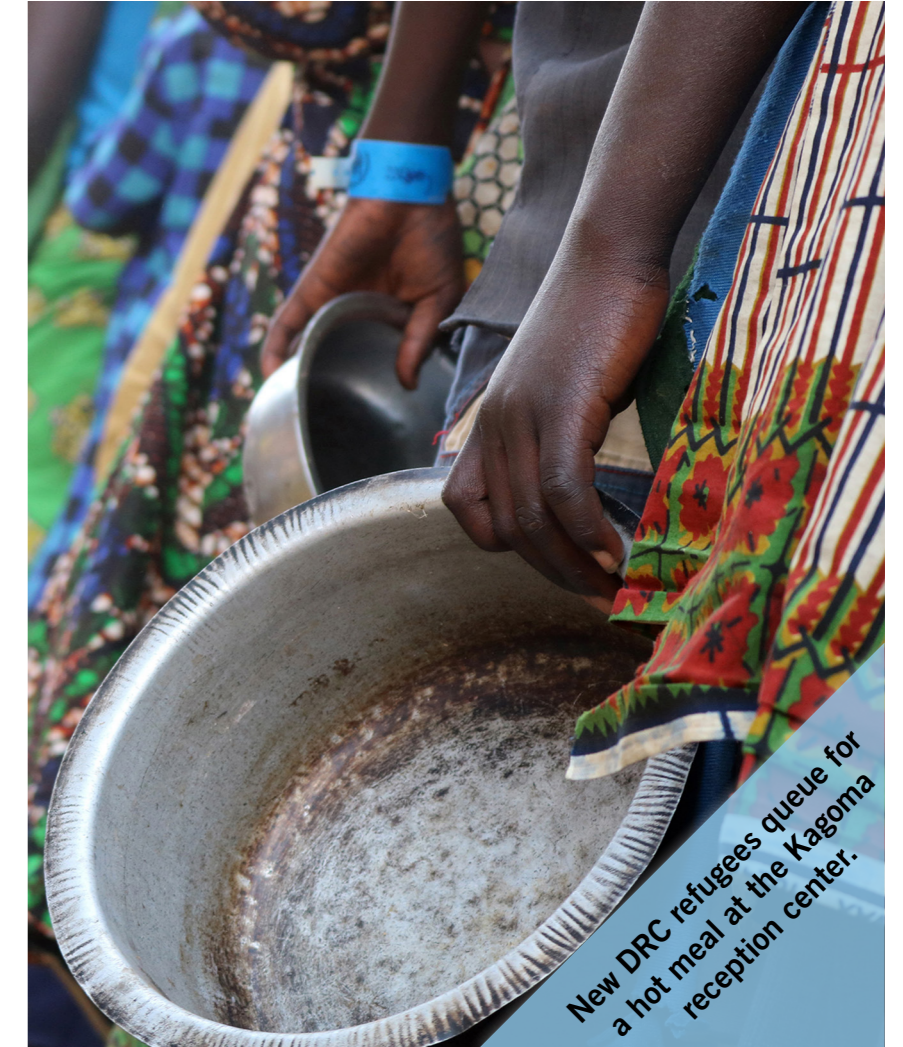
Compiled by;
Odongo Sunday
Project Officer – Energy Facility project,
Kitgum Sub-program



New DRC refugees at the Kagoma reception center wear bracelets indicating they have been registered and are eligible for meal cards.



One of the 10,000 litre water tanks installed by LWF in Kyangwali settlement to extend clean water to new DRC refugees.



New DRC refugees queue for a hot meal at the Kagoma reception center.

New DRC Refugee Crisis



A new DRC refugee walks away with non food items from UNHCR. With funds from Church of Sweden, LWF is also providing non food items to new arrivals like sanitary materials.



New DRC refugees in an emergency temporary shelter at Kagoma reception centre. LWF has constructed 16 semi-permanent shelters at the site.



The LWF General Secretary Martin Junge extends gratitude to Jesse Kamstra, LWF Uganda's Country Representative for his team's diligent efforts towards the Refugee Emergency Response in Uganda.

My talent, my break through: Youth showcase



Elvis performs his music at the Youth Talent Search and semi-final competitions in Rwamwanja settlement.

It's 7:00 am on a Wednesday bright morning here in Rwamwanja settlement. The Youth Centre is noisy and crowded with young people. But, this is for a good cause because the youth are practicing their vocals and drama, others are playing music instruments while some are sketching art pieces as they get ready for today's Youth Talent Search semi-final competitions organised by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the United States' Bureau of Population, refugees and Migration (PRM).

Elvis is seated in one of the music room corners, despite the noise in the room, he's focused to his guitar, playing it while he sings along. Elvis is rehearsing for the competitions which he describes as his potential breakthrough to Uganda's music industry.

"If I win this, I'll be trained by professional vocal trainers and instrumentalists, and then I'll present my talent to Uganda's music industry." Says a hopeful Elvis who specialises in the pop music genre.

Elvis is just one of the many contestants at the Youth Talent Search semi-final competitions in Rwamwanja settlement.

At the competitions, youth showcase and compete in their skills/talent in Fashion and Design, Music,

Dance and Drama, Art and Sculpture as well as Sports. The best 2 in every talent component are set to compete with finalists from Adjumani district's refugee settlements at the final competition scheduled for 16/05/2018 in Rwamwanja settlement.

Evans Mubangizi, a PRM Project Manager with LWF says the winners will be rewarded with exciting prizes and also get an opportunity for professional training and mentor-ship in their specific talents.



An Art and Sculpture contestant showcases his art piece.

creativity at a talent show in Rwamwanja settlement



A pair of youth showcase their drama skills at the Youth Talent Search and semi-final competitions in Rwamwanja settlement.

“Music is food to my soul, it keeps me happy and helps me forget about my problems and worries.” “Through music, I also get to preach love and peace as well as hard work and resilience to my audiences.” Says Espoir Rugajo a music contestant.

An event to remember

Attended by hundreds of people, the event which occurred on 28/03/2018 was started with national anthems for Uganda and Congo as well as the East African anthem. This was followed with Ugandan and Congolese cultural dances before the talent competitions were unwrapped.

The contest showcased various performances from street and free-style dance moves, melodious original composed music, stylish cloth designs, stand-up comedy as well as Art and Sculpture. Spectacular presentations from all the contestants left event attendees regaled.

“Their creative talents are unquestionably incredible. These young people can achieve their dreams through talent if well guided and supported.” Said David Mugenyi the Rwamwanja settlement Commandant who officiated the event that was attended by guests from the local government, humanitarian agencies, refugees and host community.

Happiness and a feeling of eminence filled Rwamwanja settlement when the judges selected the best 12 participants who were informed that they will contest in the second edition of the final Youth Talent Search Competitions. They were also rewarded with gift hampers including; mattresses, beddings and sanitary materials.

A talent competition for a deserving cause

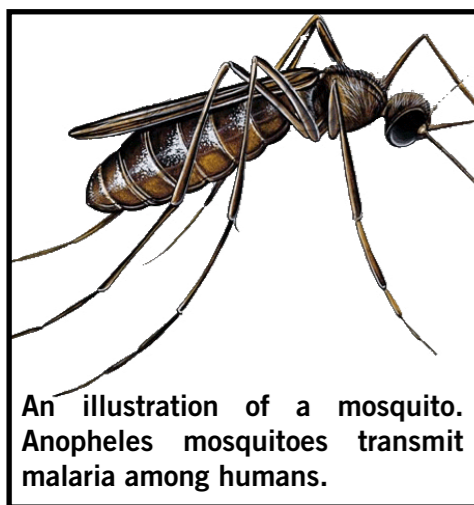
Mubangizi explains that the talent search, competition and mentorship is aimed at identifying and nurturing talent among refugees to enable them earn a living from it. “The activity also facilitates peaceful living among refugees and host community residents, its entertainment to them and also helps in keeping youth engaged in meaningful activities and away from trouble.”

20-year-old Espoir Rugajo is a music contestant who describes the competition as an entertainment platform on which he practices his passion for hip-hop music.

“Music is food to my soul, it keeps me happy and helps me forget about my problems and worries.” “Through music, I also get to preach love and peace as well as hard work and resilience to my audiences.” Says Rugajo who is glad to have a bigger audience at the Youth Talent Search competitions.

Esther Akeza is a Comedian who says the competition is like a ray of hope to achieving her dream of becoming one of Africa's best Comedians who earn a living from the art. “I want to start earning from my passion and talent so that I can provide my family a better life in Uganda.”

Graal Bukombo is a professional Fashion Designer who acquired a scholarship for vocational training in the art from LWF with funds from PRM. He is participating in the competitions to showcase his skills and designs. “With my skills and designs, I can easily be retained or recommended for a job in Uganda's big Fashion Houses. But, I can only achieve this if I win and get the opportunity to be trained by the big-shots in Uganda's Fashion and Design industry.”



An illustration of a mosquito. Anopheles mosquitoes transmit malaria among humans.



Florence Mirembe demonstrates the use of a mosquito net. She received 6 mosquito nets from LWF for her household in Luuka district.

Malaria, a leading threat to human

Malaria remains a leading cause of death in Uganda. 2016 Statistics from the Ministry of Health indicate that malaria accounts for over 27% of the deaths in Uganda.

Community sensitizations on malaria, a stitch in time

Steven Waigonda a 67-year-old Coordinator of Irongo sub county in Luuka district recalls a high malaria prevalence rate in Luuka district in 2015. "We were ignorant about how the disease is transmitted and its prevention," said Waigonda. "Our houses were surrounded with sugar cane plantations which are breeding grounds for mosquitoes which transmit malaria."

However, through various community outreaches conducted by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in partnership with the Local Government, people have acquired sufficient knowledge on malaria prevention.

"LWF's Village Health Teams (VHTs) advised us to keep the sugar cane shambas at least 15 metres away from our houses, to clear the bushes and rubbish in our household proximity and, to fill/cover empty pits that are potential mosquito breeding grounds." Said Allen Naigaga from Irongo sub county. She continues to say that VHTs instructed them to sleep under treated mosquito nets and perform indoor residual spraying whenever necessary.

The communities were also recommended to test regularly for malaria especially whenever symptoms arise. "If positive, we were told to get malaria medication from professional medical personnel instead of self-medicating, a dangerous practice that was common in our communities." Added Naigaga.

With sufficient knowledge about malaria among the people of Luuka, Waigonda describes a decrease in the disease's prevalence.

The same statistics indicate Uganda has the world's highest malaria incidence with a rate of 478 cases per 1,000 populations per year and also ranks 6th among African countries with high malaria-related motility rates.

50% of the malaria related deaths are of children below 5 years.

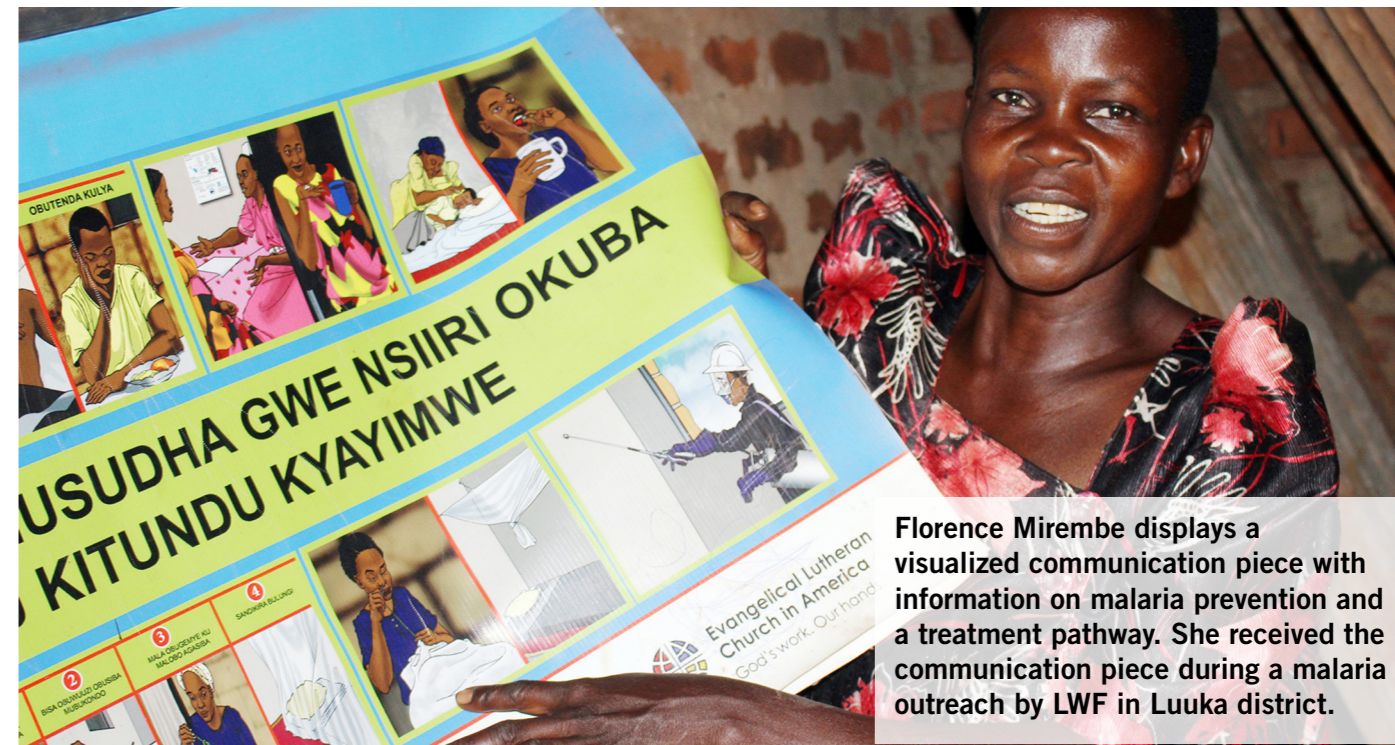
Northern Uganda remains the most affected area by malaria. However, the disease is also affecting other districts/regions countrywide.

Luuka district is one of the many districts affected by the disease. Located in Uganda's Eastern region, Luuka's malaria prevalence rate is at 43%.

Despite being preventable, malaria continues to claim people's lives in Luuka.

To prevent and manage malaria prevalence, the Government of Uganda in partnership with the private sector is implementing various interventions among which include;

sensitizing communities about the disease, distributing free treated mosquito nets, indoor residual spraying as well as extending free testing and medication services for malaria to various communities.



Florence Mirembe displays a visualized communication piece with information on malaria prevention and a treatment pathway. She received the communication piece during a malaria outreach by LWF in Luuka district.

life in Uganda

Mosquito nets a sigh of relief for the residents of Luuka

Joined by partners like LWF, the Government of Uganda has and continues to distribute treated mosquito nets to families in Luuka district. LWF has taken the initiative to distribute mosquito nets to three of the eight sub counties of Luuka and these are; Irongo, Nawampiti and Burongo.

"We distributed mosquito nets to 16,824 persons in Irongo, Nawampiti and Burongo sub counties and also taught them how to use, clean and treat them with insecticides." Said Proscovia Alitwaala, a VHT member.

Florence Mirembe is a 45-year-old mother of 9 in Nawampiti sub county who received 6 mosquito nets for her household from LWF. She says that sleeping under mosquito nets has kept her family away from hospital. "It is now 8 months since any of my family members was diagnosed with malaria because we sleep under mosquito nets. Not spending on hospital bills has allowed me save more money to meet my household needs."

Malaria prevalence drops from 47% to 43%, more interventions needed

Dr. Mathias Wabwire, the District Health Officer in Luuka district explains that malaria prevalence has dropped from 47% to 43%, which reflects to 9,640 people free from malaria in Luuka. This follows interventions against the disease.

“
In a period of 12 months with interventions against malaria, its prevalence has dropped from 47% to 43%, which reflects to 9,640 people free from malaria in Luuka district.
”

Despite the decrease and current interventions, there's a lot more that needs to be done to eradicate malaria in Luuka.

Dr. Wabwire says that enforced indoor residual spraying would play a vital role in eliminating mosquitoes and malaria if it's done together with continuous community sensitizations, mosquito net distribution, regular testing and treatment as well as clearing bushes next to individual households. He continued to say that people also need to take precautions like; taking prescribed medication to keep malaria at bay, using insect repellents and wearing long sleeved clothes whenever outdoors at night.

Rosent Akubo, LWF's Sub Program Manager in Luuka affirms that LWF will continue to work with the Local Government to implement interventions to eradicate malaria in Luuka district.

LWF appreciates Evangelical Lutheran Church in America support towards its humanitarian activities aimed at improving health and eradicating malaria in Luuka district.

Vocational training for youth employment

223 youth graduate after a yearlong training in various vocational courses at the Uganda Youth Development Link-UYDEL Youth Centre in Makindye division, Kampala district.

With scholarships from Icelandic Church Aid (ICA) through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), graduates from urban slums have acquired skills and certificates in Hairdressing and Cosmetology; Fashion and Design; Electrical Engineering and Catering.

21-year-old Robert Katungi is one of the graduates with a certificate in Fashion and Design. A hopeless erstwhile school dropout, Katungi is now an employed graduate who earns a living from designing clothes.

“With my earnings and skills, my siblings never lack basics of life and, they have enough to cloth their bodies.” Says a beaming Katungi who dropped out of school in S.2 after the death of his parents.

Getrude Nasimbwa was a street vendor whose dream was to establish a beauty parlour but she neither had skills nor financial capital.

After a yearlong practical training in Hairdressing and Cosmetology, Nasimbwa is now employed at a beauty salon in Kampala and is saving some of her income to establish a beauty parlour in the near future.

“I have learned to braid, cut, colour and lighten hair. I can also wash, treat, retouch and style hair. It’s from these skills that I earn UGX 200,000 a month.” Says Nasimbwa who explains that the training has raised her confidence and esteem.

“The skills I have attained are a ray of hope for a brighter future ahead of me. I am going to use them to establish a business for myself and to offer employment and free training opportunities to other hopeless young people out there.” Adds Nasimbwa.

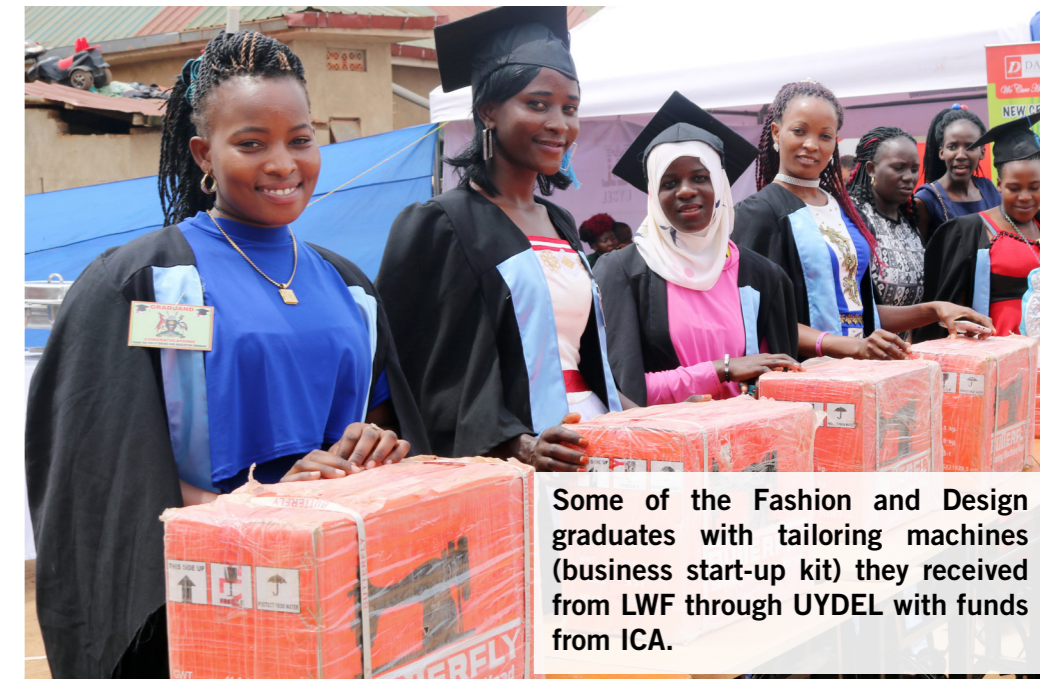
Establish medium-size enterprises for a living

While delivering a speech at the graduation event, Rogers Kasirye, the Executive Director of UYDEL urged graduates to use the knowledge, skills and start-up kits they acquired from LWF with funds from ICA to establish businesses and contribute to transforming their societies from poverty.

Fashion and Design graduates received tailoring machines; Hairdressing and Cosmetology graduates



Some of the graduates celebrate while raising their caps to the sky during the graduation celebration at the UYDEL Youth Centre in Makindye division, Kampala.



Some of the Fashion and Design graduates with tailoring machines (business start-up kit) they received from LWF through UYDEL with funds from ICA.

223 youth graduate

with certificates in vocational skills



Photo caption: Some of the graduates celebrate during the graduation ceremony at the UYDEL Youth Centre in Makindye division, Kampala.

were offered salon equipment and styling tools; while Catering graduates took home kitchen equipment.

“I implore you to establish medium-sized enterprises to employ yourselves and others too.” Kasirye told the new graduates.

“If they can get jobs or establish businesses, they can be rest assured of sustainable income. Sustainable income can that facilitate their self-sustenance and poverty eradication in not only their communities but in Uganda at large.” Says LWF’s Pius Kikomeko

Why the support towards urban youth?

Uganda is ranked the youngest population in the world with 77% of its population under 30 years of age. Being a young population, it faces a number of challenges especially, unemployment. According to statistics from the Uganda Bureau of statistics (UBOS), only 113,000 out 400,000 young Ugandans who enter the labour market each year get absorbed in formal employment, leaving the rest to settle for jobs in the informal sector.

Available data shows that youth unemployment is worse in urban areas. In the slum areas of Makindye division, youth unemployment is recorded at over 90%. Lack of employment and income pushes youth to engage in organized crime like robbery and prostitution.

To tackle unemployment, LWF with funds from ICA and in partnership with UYDEL is extending vocational training to youth from Kampala’s slums to equip them with the right skills to meet the labour market needs and to facilitate them establish businesses.

“If they can get jobs or establish businesses, they can be rest assured of sustainable income. Sustainable income can that facilitate their self-sustenance and poverty eradication in not only their communities but in Uganda at large.” Says LWF’s Pius Kikomeko who adds that jobs and income can also keep youth busy and away from wrongdoings.

LWF appreciates Icelandic Church Aid’s (ICA) support towards its humanitarian activities in Kampala district aimed at improving livelihoods among urban youth.

Counting success in farming:



Paskwale Olok (on the right) briefs LWF staff about his agribusiness during a monitoring and evaluations field visit.

Before Paskwale Olok discovered that passion alone does not transform one into a successful farmer; he had remained a peasant.

Like his father whose farmland he inherited over two decades ago, Olok grew mainly food crops for home consumption. Yet as early as 1997, he had begun nursing passion for becoming a commercial farmer.

However, he says no amount of effort he invested in his garden had led him closer to the dream.

It was until 2015 that he began transforming into a serious farmer. The transformation happened very fast that by 2017, he was already a lead commercial farmer in his area having been selected by Agribusiness and Value Chain Development Project run by LWF.

How it started

In 2014 Olok became a member of Pader Farmers Empowerment Project (PAFEP). The project trained local farmers in handling produce and marketing them.

Farmers also got funding to boost productivity on their farms. Olok says during workshops organized by PAFEP, they acquired skills in practicing farming as a business model. "Participants were also made

to draw a business development plan and a post harvest strategy," he recalls. PAFEP was supported by LWF through Finn Church Aid.

When Olok mastered the business model which they were taught, PAFEP supported him with 40 beehives in 2014, turning him into a prominent bee farmer.

"During the first season in March, 2014 out of 16 colonized hives, I harvested 39kgs and sold each at UGX 10,000 realizing UGX 390,000," he recalls. "In the second season in September, I obtained 70kgs each kg at UGX 10,000 and realised UGX 700,000."

It was due to the success Olok registered in the different agribusinesses areas in 2017 that he was nominated as a lead farmer.

In the same year, he registered as a member of Lapul Cooperative Society supported by the project and was given 560 suckers of bananas for multiplication.

His luck continued that later in the same year, he received 40kgs of rice he planted and harvested 39bags of 130kgs each.

He sold to a produce buyer from Lira and realised UGX 5,840,000.

How LWF modelled Olok

A Farmer at heart

Olok says he has been a farmer at heart since his tender age. "I love land and seeing the rewards of what I put into the ground to grow," he says. "I started farming at an early age, helping my farther on our 06-hectare farm in Golo Parish near Pajule mission."

Today as a commercial farmer, Olok is involved in both farming and administration in local and national agriculture bodies.

He says hard-work and commitment are some of the values that have made him a valuable person in the agricultural sector.

Olok attributes his ability to manage the several roles in the sector to his modest up-brining and intuitive passion for farming.



Grains of rice on a fresh plant. Paskwale Olok plants, harvests and sells rice for an income.

Journey to commercial farming

He affectionately recalls waking up at 4:00am daily as a boy to work on his father's fields, with an old-fashioned ox-driven plough, before heading to school. Olok says farming later became naturally the only thing he wanted to do.

"After finishing school, in 1991, I did a farm management course at Amugo Agro Technical Institute. My first Job was at Mission farm Pajule catholic parish, where I got the opportunity to interact with commercial farmers."

He says that background is what led him to start-up a small-scale farming business. "Today, I am proud that I am both a commercial farmer and a leader in agriculture sector", he said.

At his farm, Olok says, he has got 280 acres in the swampland and 1,000 acres on a dry land. "In the swamp, I plant rice and maize, and also practice bee keeping, and grazing livestock."

Meanwhile on the dry land, he plants cotton. "Overall, I produce about 150 tons of different vegetables per season and 50 to 70 tons of cotton per season. The cotton is supplied to the Ginneries across the country," he said. Olok added that he employs 10 people on the farm where he also cultivates bananas and Simsim.

Challenges in farming

The challenges are many but Olok says the biggest has been lack of finances to invest more into farming. "I also didn't inherit a lot of land yet I need it to expand. The communal land that I grew up on did not have a land title or any other legal documents and was difficult to use. Land insecurity is a big issue," he said.

Lessons learned

I have learned the importance of title deeds and land documentation as well as to prioritize finding market for my produce. "I have also learned that resilience, continuous learning and hard work are key in the agribusiness." Adds Olok.

Compiled by;
Vincent Okello
Project Assistant for Agribusiness and Value Chain Development Project, Pader Sub-program

Palorinya settlement registers improvement

in latrine coverage



Mismilia Tabu washes her hands at a hand washing facility offered by LWF. Behind her is her household latrine in Ibakwe village, Palorinya settlement.

8,279 out of 11,331 migrant families have household latrines in Palorinya settlement

8,279 out of 11,331 families have household latrines in Palorinya settlement located in Uganda's Northern region. This is unlike December 2016 when none of the migrant families had a household latrine in the settlement that hosts South Sudanese refugees.

Some of the families without household latrines would use communal latrines constructed by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) while the rest engaged in the unhygienic practice of open defecation.

However, this has changed as over 7,762 households had constructed their own latrines by January, 2018. This follows continuous sensitizations of the populaces in Palorinya about sanitation and hygiene by LWF's Hygiene Promoters.

"To influence people to construct household latrines, we not only sensitize them but also provide latrine construction kits and materials." Says LWF's Richard Akena. "Each household receives a plastic slab, treated poles, nails they can use to construct a standard latrine."

LWF also constructs and offers people with special needs (PSNs) in Palorinya fully constructed latrines and hand washing facilities.

20-year-old Mismilia Tabu in Ibakwe zone of Palorinya settlement is one of the people who constructed a household latrine after receiving a latrine construction kit from LWF.

"I couldn't afford materials required to construct a latrine, and my family turned to shrubs for defecation." "But when I received materials from LWF, I constructed a latrine in just two weeks to protect my family from diarrhoea diseases." Tabu explains.

35-year-old Rose Keji is a mother of 5 who got a fully constructed latrine from LWF after being identified as a vulnerable person who couldn't engage in any construction work.

"Keji suffered gunshots in her limbs and stomach that left her with physical disabilities that she could neither walk nor build her own latrine." "We offered her a latrine and a hand washing facility so that her household can enjoy as much proper sanitation and hygiene as others." Says Akena.

Keji is just one of the 517 people with special needs who have received fully constructed latrines from LWF.

"7,762 migrant families in Palorinya have constructed household latrines after receiving latrine construction kits from LWF." Adds James Drichi a Water and Sanitation Manager with LWF.

“ We have constructed 517 household latrines for PSN families, and also facilitated the construction of 7,762 household latrines in Palorinya settlement.” Says James Drichi a Water and Sanitation Manager with LWF. ”

A tippy tap for every household to facilitate hand washing

While it has become mandatory for every household to own a latrine, families are also advised to own a hand washing facility to facilitate regular hand washing for proper hygiene and sanitation as well as good health.

LWF's Hygiene Promoters are playing the role of sensitizing Palorinya settlement's populaces about the benefits of regular hand washing.

"Regular and proper hand washing protects people from infections especially respiratory and diarrhoea diseases." Adds Carlos Abure, a Hygiene Promoter with LWF in Ibakwe village.

To influence Palorinya settlement's populaces to adapt the hand washing culture, Abure says that LWF provides tippy taps to all households with latrines.

"We also provide them with soap and teach them how to use ash as a disinfectant whenever they don't have access to soap." Abure adds.

Why household latrines?

Open defecation was rampant in Palorinya settlement from December, 2016 to the early months of 2017. This was attributed to the absence of household latrines. This came with adverse effects to residents of Palorinya settlement as described below.

"We couldn't breathe fresh air as the environment smelt like faecal matter and the buzz of flies was the music of the day." Says Flora Amma who describes the experience as disturbing, unhygienic and unhealthy.

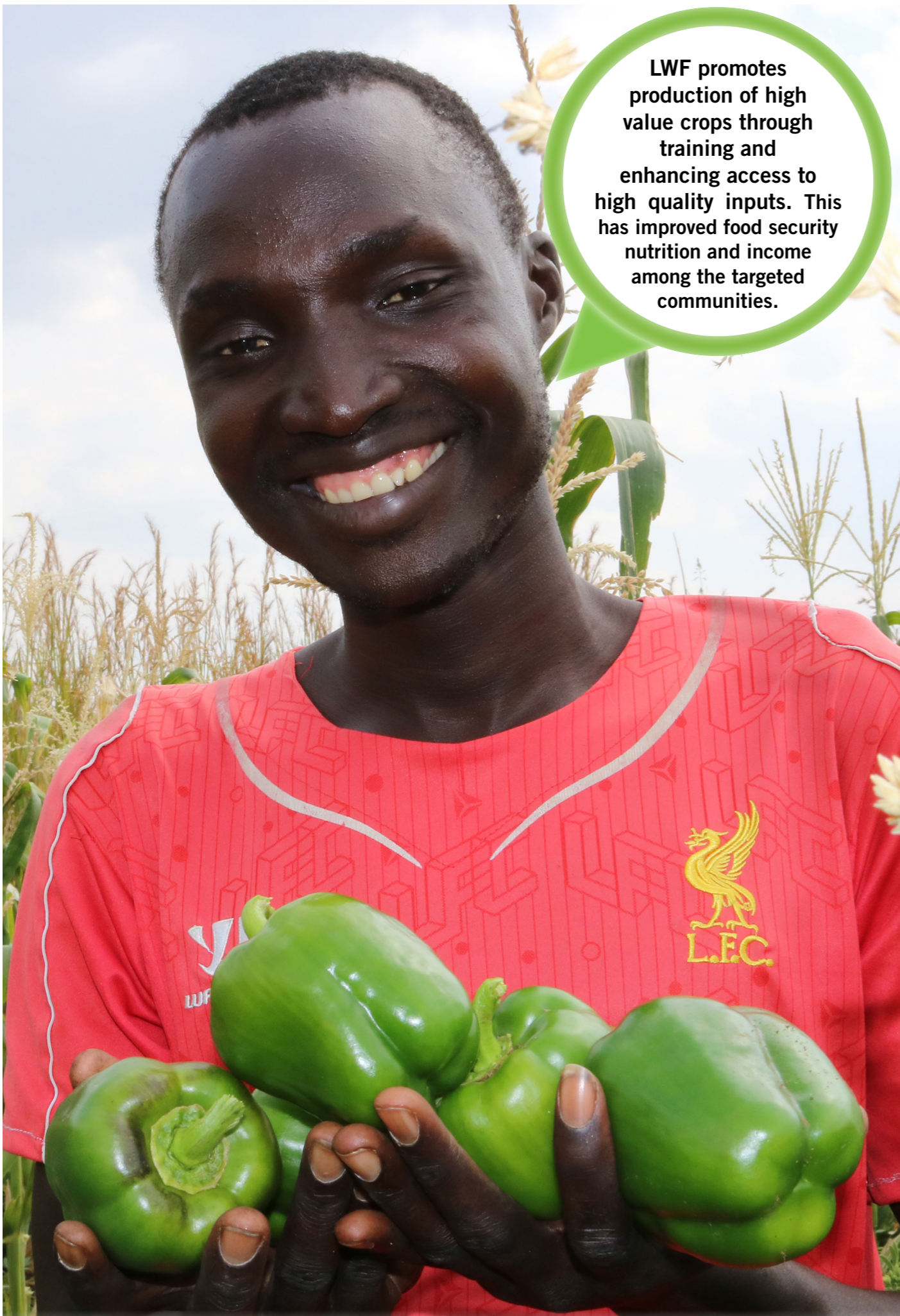
Jaleda Awuzuru explains that her family especially the children would complain on regular diarrhoea infections before they constructed a household latrine and would engage in open defecation.

"We chose to defecate in the open even when we had a communal latrine in our proximity because it was never clean, it had a sharp stench and I was afraid that my children would catch urinary tract infections from the communal latrines." With a household latrine, Awuzuru explains that her household enjoys improved hygiene and health.

Awuzuru continues to say that with their household latrine, her family especially the adults now enjoy privacy unlike before. "It was embarrassing whenever people walked by while you were defecating."

Amma adds that she doesn't have to worry about her children's safety unlike before when they had to go to bushes at night to answer nature's call.

Note: LWF works towards increasing the latrine coverage in Palorinya settlement to eradicate open defecation by the end of 2018, to increase the use of latrines and encourage the adoption of good hygiene practices among the migrant populaces in Palorinya settlement.



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