



THE
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“Uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed”



Canadian Bishop visits Adjumani refugee camp

From the 18th to the 21st of January, LWF-Uganda hosted the 2016 Canadian Lutheran World Relief Global Encounter Tour. The program takes Canadian Lutherans all over the world to visit communities supported by Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). This year, the group which included the National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, visited Adjumani Refugee Settlement in Northern Uganda which has been supported by CWLR since March 2015.

“Someone told me: statistics are human beings with the tears dried off,” Bishop Susan Johnson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada says. “Having the chance to meet refugees reminds us of the individuals who make up those statistics.”

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CLWR visitors meeting some LWF staff in Adjumani

Meeting the individuals at the base of statistics

"Someone told me: statistics are human beings with the tears dried off," Bishop Susan Johnson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada says. "Having the chance to meet refugees reminds us of the individuals who make up those statistics."

120,000 refugees, numbers rising

Adjumani District has a long history of hosting refugees from South Sudan. Everytime conflict breaks out, people flee to safety across the border, to return when things calm down. Currently Adjumani is experiencing one of those peak times again: 120,181 South Sudanese refugees have come here since the outbreak of violence in December 2013. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is providing support to 60% of the refugees in Adjumani.

The journey of the Canadian delegation also marked the first landing at the new airstrip in Adjumani, which was built by LWF to ease staff travel and the transport of relief goods to the camp. The airstrip was just completed in December 2015.

The group, which also consisted of Robert Granke, Executive Director of CLWR, and board member David Schulze, began their tour in

Kampala where they visited one of Kampala's slums; Bwaise 3 in the Kawempe division of Kampala. Under the ACTogether, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) works towards increasing access to secure tenure, adequate shelter, basic services and many other building blocks required for healthy communities. In Bwaise 3, the groups demonstrated how LWF income generating activities and saving schemes were improving their livelihoods. They also highlighted how negotiation and partnership skills have been instrumental in allowing them to communicate with authorities, preventing forced evictions. In his concluding remarks, CLWR Executive Director, Robert voiced that "we are deeply impressed by the creativity and hard work especially by women and moved by the courage and hope of the LWF."

Scope of work expanded

In Adjumani, the delegation visited the Nyumanzi Transit Centre where recent arrivals spend 2 to 4 weeks as they await land allocations within the settlements. The rest of the afternoon was spent in Nyumanzi Settlement where the group witnessed the distribution of NFIs to unaccompanied minors and separated children and visited women's groups who have benefited from CLWR-supported

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agricultural trainings. "The scope of the work has expanded, you can see that," Bishop Johnson said. "While interacting with people in the settlements, there was a sign of contentment which suggests to me that basic services are being provided." There was also a visit to the host community, which had been provided with CLWR-supported boreholes.

“I am most impressed by the dedication of the staff. People work in really difficult conditions but their commitment to the work and the people they serve is exemplary and it makes me really proud to be part of the Lutheran World Federation, ” Bishop Johnson said.

Address gap areas

The most powerful component of their trip came in form of a visit to Elegu Border Point. Managed by LWF, the Elegu border point serves as the point of entry for majority of South Sudanese refugees into Uganda. At Elegu, the group gained insightful knowledge on how new arrivals are processed upon arrival, including registration, the identification of vulnerable individuals and psycho-social support.

On the day of the visit, LWF processed 205 new arrivals, the majority of whom were women and

children. While speaking with recent arrivals, the group received a firsthand account of the situation in South Sudan, with many citing hunger, violence and fear as reasons for leaving their homes.

One of the refugees who shared her story was a 14 year old girl who had lost her parents and her grandmother. She had just made the journey from Bor County all by herself and arrived the previous evening. Most likely she will be registered as an unaccompanied minor and will be cared for in a shelter if none of her relatives are found or are willing to take her in.

"At CLWR we keep thinking on how to challenge our government to respond to the South Sudanese influx and through the good work of our team," CLWR-director Robert Granke said. "It is my hope that this is just the beginning of more support for LWF-Uganda. We continue to look for ways in which CLWR can help address gap areas like psycho-social and agricultural extension work. My general feeling is that this is the beginning of a longterm relationship."

Contribution Cornelia Kaestner and LWF Adjumani

Airstrip for Adjumani

Transporting humanitarian staff and relief goods to the camp is an eight-hour drive from the Ugandan capital Kampala, or a two-hour drive on dirt roads from the closest airport in Gulu. LWF with funding from UNHCR built an airstrip so planes could land in Adjumani directly.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), a humanitarian air service which is supporting Adjumani, was the first agency to land a plane at the new airstrip. Their passengers were a Canadian Lutheran World Relief delegation, including National Bishop Susan Johnson and director Robert Granke.



LWF staff welcomes CLWR visitors in Adjumani © Dave Forney

“ENERGY EFFICIENT STOVES - MY WEALTH”

Mrs. Akot Margret is a mother of seven children who lives in Baroput Village, Patongo Sub-County in Agago District. She is married to a polygamous man who has two wives, with more than seven children. This means that each wife has to work hard to feed and educate the children, since the man alone cannot handle more than 21 children.

41 year old struggled to send her children to school largely because she depended on small-scale agriculture and charcoal burning to raise money and yet in some seasons, crop yields were poor. “I used to find it very difficult sending my children to school because of seasonal yield fluctuations and above all received little support from the husband,” said Margret.

One fateful day, Margret was coming from her garden and found no one home but the children. She asked where they have gone but the children told her they had gone for a meeting. Even though she never understood what the meeting was all about she felt the need to go attend it.

It’s at this time that LWF Staff were sensitizing community members on the benefits of energy efficient practices. During the meeting, community members were told to select among themselves people (based on stated criteria) who could be trained as Local Artisans to engage in commercial stove production.



Akot shows some of her completed stoves

Six names of different women were nominated and none of them accepted for reasons best known to them”. However, when it came to Margret, she did not hesitate to accept to take up the opportunity of attaining training. On 15th September 2015, Margret together with 79 other community members were invited to Pader T/C to attend a five days training on commercial stove construction organized by LWF and conducted by GiZ. Margret gained the necessary skills required to construct and market energy efficient stoves.

Upon her return to Baroput, she started constructing and marketing the stoves to households within her village and beyond. Margret has so far produced and sold 137 energy efficient stoves in the last four month. Margret now sells the stoves in cash and in the form of barter trade. In one of such sales, Margret realized 5 bags of sorghum from the exchange of 30 stoves. “I sold each bag at UGX 120,000/= earning a total of UGX 600,000”. Margret joyfully revealed!

The income earned from stove sales greatly enhanced her ability to pay the school fees of her children. “This school term (1st term, 2016), I used UGX 90,000 to pay the school fees of my son in P.4 studying in Morolem P.7 School,” Margret says.

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With one of her sons studying Medicine at Mbarara University of Science & Technology, she needs to provide transport and money for his accommodation every semester. "I provided him with UGX 700,000 to take care of pocket money, transport and accommodation," Margret adds.

As a result, Margret trained two other women on how to construct the stoves and they are now constructing the stoves using local invention, jar as combustion chamber moulds.

"I am extremely happy to share this knowledge with two other ladies and am grateful to serve households of Otuke District," says Margret.

Margret also appreciates LWF and its donors (EU & CoS) for training and making her realize enormous income from a source she never expected would considerably change her life.

Margaret's story is one in many; she is a beneficiary of the Teko Wa Project.

Teko Wa Project is a four year (2015-18) project implemented in four districts of Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, and Pader in Northern Uganda. The projects aim at increasing modern, affordable and sustainable energy services to the rural poor by focusing on renewable energy solutions and energy efficiency measures to improve energy-security sustainably.

Equally, it builds on environmental sustainability, which is being addressed through tree planting and energy saving stoves and supply of quality and affordable solar systems. To achieve these, the project has established lasting structures for reforestation such as private tree nurseries, LECs, Clan/Cultural Leaders and capacity building of local artisans to construct energy efficient stoves for commercial. Also private persons have been brought on board to supply quality solar systems.

By Teko-Wa Project Team

A Homemaker and Breadwinner

Walking along the narrow alleys, I have to maneuver carefully in order to avoid the rusty, sharp edges of makeshift roofing. My footing is unsure. There seems to be a stream of foul-smelling sewage running right under my feet. I have to cautiously be on the lookout in all directions, just to make forward progress. One misstep and I could either end up in the waste that runs through this entire neighborhood, or worse, end up with a large gash across my forehead from the jagged scraps of old metal hanging from the shacks that the slum dwellers call home. Bwaise is one of those famous slums in Kampa-

la city with a population of over 35,000 people living there.

Meeting Nakigobya Sophia

In Bugalani zone, Bwaise 3, we finally meet Nakigobya Sophia a mother of three children, busy washing clothes as she told us to stay where we were because of the water logging in her compound, this did not give us a chance to reach her house where she carries out her business. Sophia the chairperson of Tweekembe group and married woman, refused to just be a house wife but rather decided to join the group and as a group they chose to start poultry. The profits they got were

saved for future loans to individual members. Sophia got a loan of UGX 1,000,000 from her group and bought a fridge where she started selling cold drinking water and munanansi (juice made out of pineapple peelings) as her side business. With time she added in more drinks like soda, mineral water and milk.

Tweekembe is a group that is made up of 30 members, 4 males and 26 females, which decided to concentrate on poultry farming as a way of getting money. The group members meet every Friday and discuss how their business is doing and the profits got from the business is saved for

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future loans to group members to start up side businesses for each individual.

From this side business, Sophia is paying her children's fees and providing the basic and her personal needs. She goes on to encourage women to have a small business at home rather than just seat at home. "I didn't know that even saving 200sh would make a difference" Sophia did not just get started with her business but also got friends that help her be a better person each single day. She says, she thanks her friends for helping her understand the relevance of saving. "Words can't explain how thankful I am, and appreciate each moment I'm living just because of LWF and Act together " She says

Meeting Namatovu Jane

Sophia is not the only woman with a home based business, so is her neighbor and friend Namatovu Jane, a 48 year old grandmother with three grandchildren to look after. We found Jane cut-

ting onions preparing lunch for her customers. Sophia offers to help Jane so that she can talk to us. Standing in her compound covered with mud caused by the previous heavy rainfall.

“getting a loan or money from even a family member is impossible, they always think the worst from poor people, they think we cannot pay back or we are not business oriented”

Jane one of the beneficiaries got a loan of UGX 700,000 and started up a home restaurant, alcohol selling and poultry which is carried out by every member in her group, although most of her chickens died, Jane has not given up on her goal. The live chickens are healthy and bigger. "if it

wasn't for the heavy rain fall that left many of my chicken weak and sick I would be better than before. However I'm hoping to get more chicken out of the few that I'm remaining with and expand my poultry farm God willing" she narrates. She continues to tell us that she used the loan to buy necessities for her business like, the fridge where she stores her alcohol and other drinks like water and sodas.

Besides all the negative force that tried to ruin her business and goal, Jane is grateful to LWF and ACTogether Uganda for thinking about the poor and trying to help them. "She says. One of Jane's grandchildren is soon starting school. A great achievement she has made for herself. She even bought the Buganda land title certificate and has hired another lady to help her out.

"getting a loan or money from even a family member is impossible, they always think the worst from poor people, they think we cannot pay back or we are not business oriented." she concludes

Many of the people we met were not really well off but at least can now manage to get the basic needs; food, education, shelter clothes and a few of some personal needs. I hope that one day their hard work pays off well.

Contribution by Niona Agasha



Sophia poses for a photo at her home in Bwaise.

Other News

- EU Teko-Wa Project: LWF begins a Public Private Partnership with social enterprise Barefoot Power Uganda to supply Solar products.



- LWF Uganda hosted the Church of Sweden Refugee Programme workshop from 13th-18th March 2016. The workshop provided opportunity for participants to share good practices and experiences on refugee programming.
- LWF officially starts operations in Luuka district.

Picking up the Pieces:

Farida is now a little bit better

It was at fifteen years that Farida's (Not real names) life took a different turn. From the tribal group of Mongo, Farida lived in the Equateur province of Congo with 12 of her family members both her parents inclusive. At the age of 15, the Babemba community attacked Farida's community. They burnt down people's houses, destroyed property, snarled at little innocent children. Fed on the human flesh of the Mongo and killed them. People screamed for their lives. The constant whining of bullets and screaming of clod-thumping bombs made their legs carry them faster for safety, Farida's fam-

ily was among, it's at this moment that Farida's family ran in different directions, except Farida and her pregnant mother. After two weeks of walking, Farida and her mother finally settled in Bukavu town, south Kivu province where her mother gave birth to a baby boy.

Despite all this, Farida, a young and very attractive woman with a light skin complexion still had hope to live a normal life. She still believed in falling love and one day having her own family. She believed to live happily ever after. Little did she know that that time is as close as her heart's yearning? At the age of 17, two years after their settlement in Bukavu, Farida fell in love and got married

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to a business man. She lived to see her dream. However, she was always on the move because of the husband's career, they had to move to Kalemie in Katanga province where the husband had a business workshop. Within nine years of their stay, Farida lived a decent life with her family and gave birth to four children.

They had to go back to South Kivu again because of the husband's career. Here she gave birth to 2 more children.

After four years of stay in South Kivu a militia group called FDLR attacked the community and killed hundreds of people. The sound of the guns was deafening. One could not even hear themselves think. It was only their reflex actions that determined their survival. The community was covered in blood and carbolic smell with sounds of groaning injured people in need of help. "These smells brought in feelings of anxiousness and nervousness, my upper left thigh was cut almost to the bone. Blood was oozing out, I wouldn't move, I slowly slithered for safety as I had no idea if I'm the next." she says.

Little did she know that her husband and mother's lives were next. "Life became hard for me, I was depending on my husband for everything. And had left me pregnant with my seventh son" Farida was left with no choice but to take care of her 7 children and her brother alone. She moved to North Kivu in a small town of Bilele hoping for the best.

Unfortunately her hopes did not come to reality. Life was harder in Bilele than before. This forced Farida to move to Uganda and settled in Nyakabande.

Life in Nyakabande Transit Centre

For the first time in a long time, Farida felt peaceful. However, she didn't just settle but rather still looked for greener pastures. In Nyakabande, Farida made friends. One of them was a gentleman who told her about his single brother in Rwamwanja settlement.

And told her that he would help her connect with him as long as she is willing to be a wife to his brother. That the brother in Rwamwanja will take care of her and her children. Farida was excited to meet this other man. In a short period of Farida and her children moved to Rwamwanja and arrived at Mahane reception centre.

Meeting her "awaited Man"

At the reception, Farida registered as a wife to John (names changed), the man who she was told about. And was added to his card as his wife and her kids too. "I lived better life, I got food every day, I had a shelter for me and my family" her life was good for only four weeks, John didn't want anything to do with Farida's children. He wanted them out of his house, he didn't want anything to do with them since they were not his kids. This happened after John tried to sleep with the two of Farida's older daughters and when they refused he chased them all away. John didn't not only stop at that but also wanted to forcefully have sex with Farida. Whenever she refused to sleep with him, he would try and do it forcefully.

"Even when I willingly slept with him I wasn't whole heartedly there because I was worried about my children, he even started beating me whenever I refused to sleep with him" she says. It's at this point that Farida took the matters to another level. She went to LWF and reported the entire story to them.



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Experience with LWF

Farida now has a place to stay, her house is next to the Protection house and Police post so that she is well protected from John who always beat her and threatened to cut off her breasts and kill her whenever they bump into each other. She also got a cash grant of UGX 300,000 from LWF and invested it in a small business of selling fish, cooking oil and silver fish. She set up a market stall. Later with time, she added ducks and chicken to her business.

Farida is now able to provide for her family" I can now buy specific food for my sick child who was diagnosed with a rare disease, pay off his medical bills and also provide for myself." She says. Farida has been blessed twice, her two older children were identified and recommended to take part in the vocational skills training for the youth

Future Plans

She plans to take her kid out of Uganda for further treatment since the doctors here failed to cure the disease.

"I will go to any country as long as they promise to help my child." she says.

Farida is neither thinking of going back to her home country nor is she planning on ever getting married again. "I'm not planning on going back to Congo ever again. There is nothing left there for me apart from sorrowful memories of my life. My family was destroyed. I've now grown old, and besides I need to settle on my children and young brother" she says. She thanks LWF for changing her life and her children.

"I'm so grateful and I appreciate everything I have got from here."

By Niona Agasha & Pius Kikomeko

How a REFUGEE GIRL becomes a leader

I came to Adjumani with only the clothes on my back and just one Sudanese pound. I was 12-years-old, alone and afraid, 14-year-old Gift Minzi says.

Today, the young girl lives in a foster family, has become head girl of her school in the refugee camp and is leading her school's Child Rights Club.

Gift is one of many children who arrived at the refugee camp on their own. Registered as separated children - those who have lost their families during flight, or as unaccompanied minors (children who came without parents) - they are especially vulnerable to exploitation and neglect. Providing for them, finding and monitoring a suitable foster arrangement is part of The Lutheran World Federation work in the Adjumani refugee camp in Northern Uganda.

Gift's life was not easy even before she was forced to leave her home. Born in the town of Nimule in the County of East Equatoria, South Sudan, she lost her mother at the age of seven. "When one loses a mother the only hope is to have a father," she says.

But the girl was neglected by her father and she never enrolled in school. From a very early age she learnt how to survive on her own.

The sight of killing something she will never forget

When violence erupted in South Sudan, Gift decided to make the harrowing journey from Nimule to Adjumani on her own. While at home she feared for her life, she was uncertain of what to expect across the border in Uganda.

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Gift leading the Child Rights Club at Boroli Primary School

As she fled with hundreds of other unaccompanied children, she witnessed the shooting of another young girl. Gift says she will never forget that moment.

In Adjumani, Gift was reunited with an aunt who enrolled her in school for the first time. The girl received support for school materials. Her well-being is monitored by LWF case workers and field extension staff, who regularly visit to see if she is taken care of and well-treated. Although she was traumatized, she was able to embrace education. In a short period of time, she became one of the brightest students in Boroli Primary School and was selected as head girl. In this position, Gift takes on the role of peer educator, stressing the importance of education and urging girls to stay in school.

“Even before crisis strikes, girls tend to be the most vulnerable, a situation only exacerbated by disaster and conflict,” LWF Uganda program officer, Pius Kikomeko, says. “Despite the challenges of trauma, violence and abuse, each day, we are struck by their resilience and enthusiasm.”

Taking their future in their own hands

Gift’s story reminds us that even in the most dire circumstances, girls around the world are initiating change, Kikomeko says.

Early this year LWF introduced Child Rights Clubs to several schools in the refugee settlements, such as Adjumani. Gift was quickly appointed chairperson of Boroli Primary’s Child Rights Club. Through drama and song, the club conveys fundamental messages relating to early marriage, child abuse, education and health.

Gift is particularly concerned about the falling number of girls at her school, many of whom she believes have been forced into marriage.

She encourages her female peers to exercise their right to make informed choices and tries to create a safe environment for them to learn about sexual reproductive health and important life skills.

According to September 2014 statistics by the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, about 96,000 refugees have been settled in Adjumani District,

Northern Uganda. Two thirds are children. At least three percent of these children were registered as unaccompanied or separated from their families. More than other young refugees, these children are vulnerable to exploitation, recruitment into armed forces and forced labour. Girls are especially in danger of being married off at a young age.

As Gift leads her group in song it is difficult to ignore her strong sense of presence, founded on her own experiences as a child. “I was not lucky to know my rights as a girl child, but this club can help others,” she explains. Gift feels that the club is helping her heal the wounds of a traumatic childhood. She hopes that by raising awareness other girls understand when their rights are being denied. Most importantly, they will know the right channels to report their grievances.

Gift’s leadership has not gone unnoticed. Dennis Andruma, a teacher in Boroli Primary School and patron of the Child Rights Club stresses the impact Gift has had on her fellow peers. “Not only is she a strong performer in the classroom, she is also a role model for the rest of the students, especially the girls. It will be my pride when she succeeds.”

What is next for Gift? “Nursing school,” she says. Even though she still has a few years of primary and secondary schooling left, she is confident that nursing is her passion. “I want to be able to help others. Hospitals here often do not offer the best care. So in the future I hope to be part of the solution.”

By Charnelle Etti

Zero Tolerance Village Alliance:

Meet Terrence the De'zone of Kyempango, he is determined to change his Community



Terrence emphasizing a point during the interview

“ though it is harder to spread the awareness to these villages, some have tried to change their lives. I will be happy when LWF comes back and we spread the word to these other villages. The society needs change. But besides that I'm so grateful to LWF for opening my eyes and the rest of the society,”

Driving down a very dusty road. Dry like it didn't rain the previous night. Dusty everywhere, on the leaves, branches, my eyebrows and lashes. Thick bushes that painted the uplands, along the road were young trees little more than twice a man's height. Thick grass that carpeted the grounds gave boundaries to the road. Branching off to a big landscape, making many turns, I'm confused it's like we are moving in circles. Houses look the same before my eyes. All built out of mud and papyrus with plastic roofing. Children wearing oversized old tone dirty clothes, some of them are half dressed. Putting on only a shirt or bottoms. Playing in the road, by passing them, "how are you" they said with bright smiles waving at us. Innocent as they are. The community is full of different activities, poultry, maize growing, and local shops. We finally reach the De'zone's home.

We are welcomed by a tall dark skinny man who invited us into the house. Clean from sweeping dust still settling down with a bench and 4 plastic chairs, is the uncemented sitting room of De'zone.

You may be wondering what De'zone means, it was my first time to hear about it. Is that person who is the head of the Zone.

Nsenga Terrence a 38 year old, is a father of six, husband and also the De'zone of Kyempango A zone which is composed of five villages, A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5 Terrence participated in Zero Tolerance Village Alliance (ZTVA) pilot project that was implemented in A1 and A3 zones.

The community was living a different life before the project commenced. Rape was a minor case that did not need police intervention, men would beat up their wives, sleep with them forcefully. Defilement was a normal thing, children stayed at home and helped in farms and house work, going to school was wastage of time. It was a mess.

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Terence also had his flaws as a person, "I wasn't an angel, I had my mistakes and ignorance but at least I was better than many other people when it came to laws. I thought it was okay for an eighteen year old boy to get married to a fifteen year old girl as long as both agree to the marriage. I did not find any fault in it. As long as they were in love with each other" he recalls. He even found it okay for an old teenager to sleep with any girl.

He didn't not know any crime like defilement existed. He thought he would sleep with his wife anytime he felt like. Even without her consent. He found crimes of rape, and any other sexual harassments minors and would handle them himself without involving the police. "I used to abuse my powers as De'zone in any way as long as I was gaining somewhere. I would favor men more "he says. his wife wasn't really happy with her husband's behavior but had nothing to do. She felt that what Terrence was doing wasn't right but she too didn't know any laws to prove her theory.

"After the training, my life changed, I was reborn, my eyes opened up and I realized how selfish and evil I was to my family and community. I started to treat my wife with uphold respect, took my children to school. I shared with other community members what I had learnt, though it wasn't easy. Thankfully there was a second training for the entire community which helped many people realize their mistakes.

"There is a huge change in the community, there is a 75% decrease of alcoholism, men respected their wives, and they considered them important in society and good decision makers unlike before. The education level hiked drastically, 90% of primary kids are in school now.

Sexual harassments and domestic violence are recognized as a crime, and also started reporting crimes to police. Women know their rights and report any violence to the police. They feel protected and important in the community" he adds.

He further added that, a few people however did not embrace the ZTVA awareness messages well especially the elderly and men. They think they have been stolen of their rights as men in the community. Before, family matters were solved in silence and now there is no privacy, everything is in open.

It was thrilling to hear that the De' zone did not just sit after the project ended, but went ahead and visited different households to find out how they are doing and if there is any change in their lives. Motivate them where they are losing control. He went an extra mile and preached to other zones that were not covered by the project like A2, A4, and A5 about Zero Tolerance Village Alliance approach.

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The society needs change. But besides that I'm so grateful to LWF for opening my eyes and the rest of the society" he concludes.

'Zero Tolerance Village Alliance' (ZTVA) model is designed to inspire communities to brand their settings as 'zero tolerance' zones for Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Once created, this desire is meant to propel communities to make an effort to meet a series of criteria which grants them entry into a special 'alliance' of villages that have all taken a stand against SGBV. The intervention activities under this model involve educational workshops, dialogues, and campaigns within communities, culminating in a traditional pledge-taking ceremony (against SGBV) by traditional rulers and other male members of the community. Fostering such a 'zero tolerance' zone is designed to change social norms around violence in the communities concerned.

The ZTVA model was developed, refined, and evaluated by Population Council partner, Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme (TVEP), in rural South Africa with promising results in regard to knowledge of where to obtain SGBV service, individual reports of SGBV experiences, and gender beliefs.

Contribution by Pius Kikomoko & Niona Agasha

Rehema can now see light at the end of the tunnel



Rehema putting things in order at her stall

Measuring charcoal to a customer, her fingers crooked and misshaped, showing a story of survival. Her face is timeworn and wrinkled, is 63 year old Uwimana Rehema. With an amiable smile, she greets us in Kinyarwanda. Luckily one of her people we found her with knew English and translated for us. After making introductions to each other she tells her story.

Rehema lived with her family of eight in Bulungo village, Masisi province, 6 children, her husband who pass on later. In just a blink of an eye, Rehema was left with only one child. During the 2012 war that broke out in Congo, is when Rehema lost her family, rebels destroyed

her property, businesses and took her four children. Rehema becomes fragile from these memories, her voice trembles, from trying to hold tears from washing her face, unable to, she goes silent, tears rolling down her cheeks, wiping them away with shaky hands using her floral Kitenge wrapped around her low body.

Raising her head, Rehema continues with her story. Crowds of people running, women hiding in bushes screaming their children's names: children, naked and lost. Sounds of guns competing with the rest of the world. Rehema describes cars packed with dead people covered in blood as she runs for her life. She remembers carrying both her children when she was running, no sooner had she put down the older girl, than she lost her in the crowd. She never saw her again.

Two weeks of running, finally Rehema and her one remaining child both injured during the escape, entered Uganda in place called Bunagana in Kisoro. They walked on feet to Nyakabande, where they were received. Injured, confused and weak from the long journey of survival, Rehema and her daughter were rushed to hospital for checkup and treatment. "I remember staying in Bunagana for less than a month. But during this period, we were briefed by UNHCR and OPM on where we were to be transferred" she says.

To Rwamwanja, Rehema and her child came by bus to the camp reception center. Where they got settlement in a few days and was registered under Persons with Special Needs (PSN) group by LWF. She was built a house where she and the daughter now stay in. Despite her safety, Rehema never felt at peace, "I cried a lot day and night. The thought of never seeing my children again covered my heart with sadness. What hurt most was the fact I didn't know what had really happened to them: are they dead or alive?" she says.

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One day, the chairperson of Base camp 3 came to her and told her that she was needed at the LWF offices. Her heart pounded not knowing what was the call for, "had they found my children, am I in trouble" she thought. Different thoughts came to her head as she walked to the office only to find out that she was to join a group called Songa Mbere (Go forward). The group had a three days training on livelihood and at the end of the training, each member was given 30,000sh to cover for their transport and feeding. Rehema can't describe her feelings when she held the money in her hands. "It felt like thousands of dollars, I used 20,000sh to buy a sack of charcoal to start as my business and 10,000 to feed myself and daughter. I bought meat milk and other food, I ate like a white" she says with an angelic smile.

From the profits I got from the charcoal business I bought some irish potatoes and added to my business, however Rehema's business was not that boastful. She lacked capital. During one of her work days, a friend told her about cash grant that LWF

gives out to people with promising businesses. " That very day I walked to LWF offices and met with a gentleman called Alex, who listened and promised to help me. He introduced me to a certain lady and told me she would come and see my business take photos and later try to get a solution for me. This was all done as Alex had said. I was taught about business and how to manage my business" she says. Rehema was given UGX 300,000 cash grant in October 2015 by LWF livelihood sector. A friend gave her a small piece of land where she built her store that took up UGX120,000 for construction. Used UGX 95,000 to buy her products, a sack of Irish potatoes, ugali, (cassava floor) onions, and bought another sack of charcoal.

Her business is growing and profitable, she was able to pay her daughter's tuition, now she is in S.6 vacation. "I can now afford a litre of milk everyday I am now happy" she says. She thanks LWF for being there for her since day one till now. Her only wish is that they should provide more medicine in hospitals around especially for malaria treatment.

By Niona Agasha

Water supply and Sanitation:

Meet Adhieu Choul



Adhieu Choul poses for a photo in Nyumanzi

Adhieu Choul, aged 41 lives in Nyumanzi settlement, Block B cluster 1 together with her 6 children. The eldest is 17 years of age while the youngest is only 4.

Speaking about when she first came to Uganda, Choul says, "I arrived in Nyumanzi settlement in December 2013. On arrival, my family was provided with basic items including; water jerrycans, saucepans, polythene sheets and blankets.

"It was at that very same settlement where I came to know of Lutheran World Federation, popularly known as LWF amongst the refugees," she adds. In Nyumanzi settlement, LWF is in

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charge of water supply, hygiene and sanitation. Often times, LWF and incentive workers involve residents in meetings, through which they discuss on how to improve their hygiene and sanitation conditions.

“Among the countless events that my family has participated in are, Jerrycan washing campaigns, as well as the Hand washing campaigns.”

The Jerrycan washing campaigns teach that a dirty jerrycan is a source of diseases. Washing all the dirt (germs) from the inside of the jerrycan can stop diseases.

“My children have now learnt how to effectively wash their hands with soap, and it is now a practice they carry out regularly” Choul supplements.

Adhieu Choul proudly shows off her collection of 15 jerrycans of varying sizes that are now all well covered. She pierced the lids of her jerrycans. She further explains that the lids are tied to prevent them from getting misplaced.

“The caps prevent the children from dropping stones into the jerrycans and also crowing insects from entering into the water container,” Adhieu comments.

In addition, LWF has promoted house-to-house visits so as to work with households in promoting their hygiene and sanitation conditions.

The knowledge and skills acquired have been adopted to make tippy taps, drying racks and constructing latrines.

In schools teachers have been trained on CHAST, an approach that employs fun and games with the intention of promoting learning in selected schools, St. Luke Primary School inclusive.

Following the various sessions of hygiene and sanitation within the settlement, the various children helped dig their first pit latrine which unfortunately later collapsed due to unstable ground.

Adhieu clarifies that she is now saving money to construct another latrine as soon as the current is getting full. She adds, “Without a latrine, we cannot stay in this home. So am already planning for that”.

She credits LWF for her home’s improved hygiene and sanitation, as well as that of Nyumanzi settlement. And adds that a neighbours’ status can affect one’s own. So now she inspires her neighbours.

By Adjumani WASH team

Bye Bye to Katakwi and Welcome to Luuka Sub Program



Chief Administrative Officer of Luuka giving a speech during the district stakeholder meeting.

On 31st January 2016, LWF closed Katakwi Sub program in Katakwi District in Teso sub region and opened Luuka sub program in Luuka district in Busoga sub program on 4th February 2016.

Luuka is the newest sub program started in LWF Uganda Program. The sub program office is located 24km from Iganga along Iganga Kamuli road in Kiyunga town council. With 4 core staff, 3 temporary and 18 Community Based Facilitators (CBFs), we have been able to start sub program interventions.

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The Sub Program has 2 projects- Luuka Food Security Initiative (LFSI) project and Luuka Rural Community Malaria (LUCOMA) project.

These projects are implemented in 3 sub counties – Bulongo, Irongo and Nawampiti. LFSI targets 2700 households in 90 farmer field schools and LUCOMA works with 83 Village health teams targeting 14,000 households.

“Over the years, farmers with less than 2 acres of land continue to fetch low prices for raw sugar sold to out growers or processors and sugar cane being a plantation crop requires land at least 15 acres to make profits. With the current situation, sale of raw sugar cane alone has not helped us to fight wide spread poverty, hunger and climate change,” said a farmer in Bulongo.

At community and household level; the following effects are common and include;

- Family breakdown due to failure to meet or provide basic needs;
- Food insecurity, rationing meals, lack of balanced diet, malnutrition, poor feeding habits; withdraw of children from schools due to inability to pay fees;
- Preferential treatment among children by the parents especially considering gender, disability and intelligence;
- Hopelessness, resignation, dependency on providence, mental confusion, bitterness, negative attitudes, feelings about progressive people, jealously, witchcraft.
- Anti-social behaviours e.g. theft, domestic violence, self-alienation, withdraw from society, lack of focus, suicidal attempts, running away from responsibility;
- Corruption, infidelity suppression and repression of one's problems due to inability to handle them;

Meanwhile at district level, the effects are wide range and include;

- Low district local government financial resource base to support service delivery from district to

sub county level, hence community needs continue to remain unmet. Staff, infrastructure and funds to provide services are inadequate and constrained.

- Low level of education; linked to low attitudes due to socio cultural practices and big family sizes.
- High prevalence of households with small lands holdings; some use the small land as out growers. This leads to inadequate proportion of the household land used to produce food and income amidst high population thus increasing fragility to food and income insecurity, malnutrition among children.
- High crop and animal diseases that affect the commonly grown crops at household level. High prevalence of striga weed that grows common in land with high acidity and low fertility.
- Inadequate farmer institution organization and development.
- Negative socio cultural practices and beliefs affecting health, production and livelihood interventions. The practice of polygamy and having many children is common.

Informed by the District assessments done by LWF, the LWF Core Management and members took a decision to intervene in Luuka district. LWF Luuka sub program shall work with the people of Luuka to respond to poverty, hunger and climate change; LWF Uganda opened Luuka Sub Program starting with 2 community based project (s) in the district to respond to the above. More projects shall be developed to move in this path with the key duty bearers in the district and sub counties.

By LWF Luuka Team

About LWF

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Uganda Program is part of the Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service

(LWF-DWS), an international humanitarian and development agency. LWF works to reduce people's vulnerability, supporting them to realize their potential, to build on their assets, and to respond to their own problems and needs.

Since operations first began in 1979, LWF Uganda has both expanded and adapted its program to the changing contexts in Uganda. LWF has provided support to communities devastated by civil war, villages destroyed by tribal conflict, families affected by drought and flooding and individuals struggling to reach self sufficiency. Despite enduring many hardships, the people of Uganda have responded to such difficulties with strength and resilience, determined to uphold their dignity.

VISION

People of Uganda, living in just societies in peace and dignity, united in diversity and empowered to achieve their full potential, claim their universal rights, meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life.

MISSION

Inspired by God's love for humanity, LWF Uganda responds to and challenges the causes and effects of human suffering and poverty.

CORE VALUES

Dignity and Justice

Compassion and Commitment

Respect for Diversity

Inclusion and Participation

Transparency and Accountability

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

Church of Sweden 

actalliance





Sub Program Offices

Kamwenge Office

40 km from Kamwenge Town
 Rwamwanja, Kamwenge
 (+) 256 772 721 330 or (+) 256 772 721 329

Kitgum Office

Next to Kitgum Church of Uganda
 Diocesan Headquarters
 Paleki Road
 Kitgum Town, Kitgum
 (+) 256 392 767 297

Pader Office

4.5 km from Pader Town
 Pader Kilak, Pader
 (+) 256 392 777 236 or (+) 256 772 721 327

Luuka Sub Program

Iganga Kiyunga Road, Luuka
 Luuka Town Council
 (+) 256 392 777 872 / (+) 256 772 721 326

Adjumani Office

Pekele Centre, opposite UNHCR Offices
 Gulu- Moyo high way.
 (+) 256 392 175 240 / (+) 256 776 721 300

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(Cover Photo)

*National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada,
 Susan Johnson (right) and a delegation of CLWR.*