



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Department
for World Service

member of **actalliance**

Quarterly Newsletter



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Dear Friends of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF),

Each and every one of us can make a significant contribution to society. There is an important 'opportunity cost' whenever we leave part of the population unempowered and dependant. The globe misses out on the potential revenue, talent, expertise, skills and change that could have been generated.

LWF Uganda is dedicated to working against poverty, promoting justice and defending human rights. We are working to encourage community empowerment and self-reliance - empowering the 'less' empowered like refugees and other vulnerable members of the community.

Within the framework of its refugee response, LWF ensures that over 450,000 refugees in settlements receive not only life-saving assistance coupled with interventions aimed at building people's capacity and competence to positively change their lives through both cash and non-cash programming.

To achieve this, LWF is growing its development component by rolling out more projects in the livelihood hosting areas. The livelihood projects are aimed at increasing self-reliance and food security as well as improving nutrition outcomes. This provides the target audience with an opportunity to achieve greater resilience and self-reliance – an opportunity for more sustainable livelihoods and to earn from the work of their hands as well as talents and skills.

In particular, LWF has led training on entrepreneurship, management, vocational skills and other initiatives to nurture talent among youth.

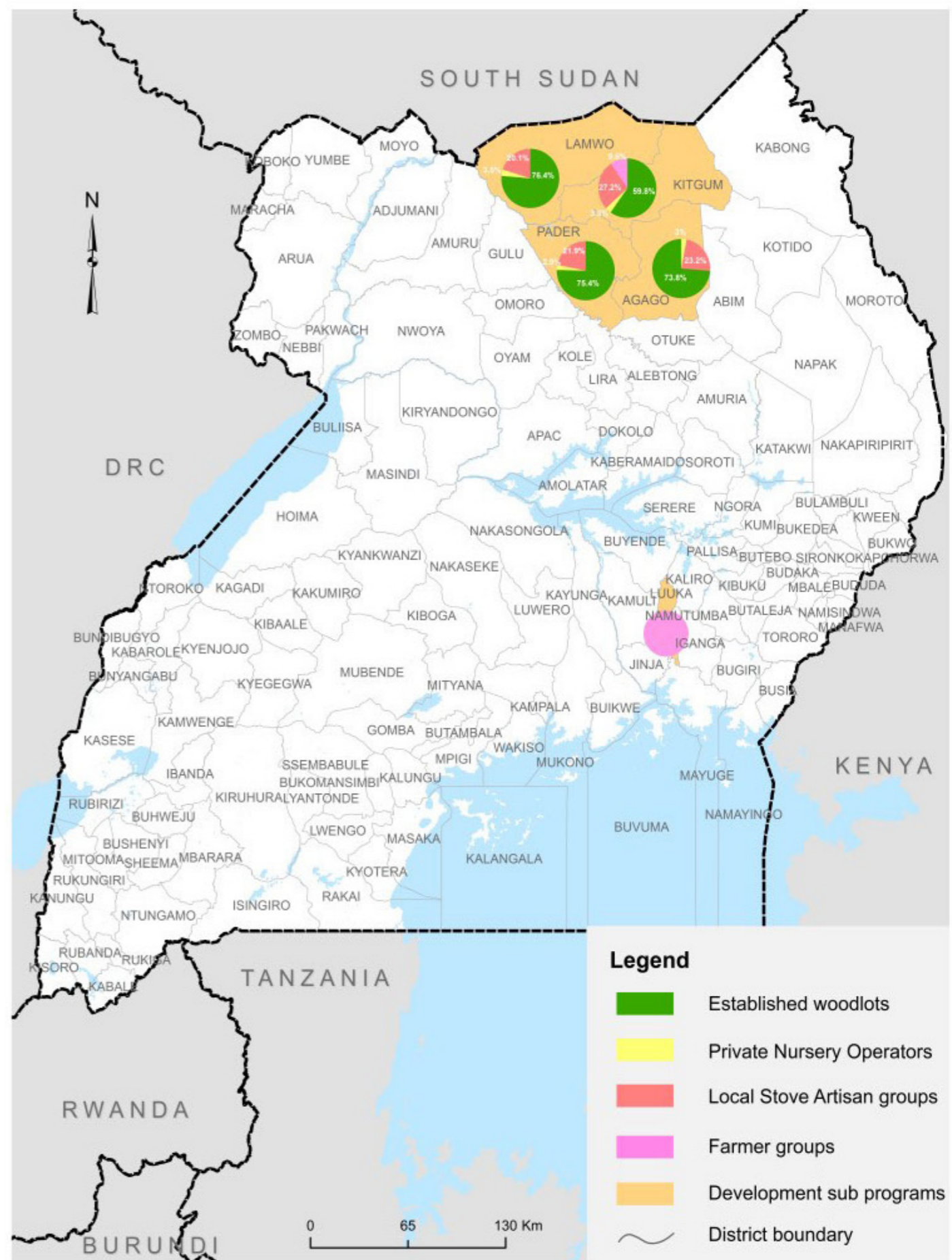
I feel honoured to inform you that with the support we have extended to our target beneficiaries, thousands of them have become financially independent as they earn income from sustainable businesses, their talents and other employment activities. This positive impact inspires us to continue and scale up this work!

On another note, LWF continues to play its role protecting the environment. LWF ensures that trees are marked to prevent careless cutting, tree seedlings are provided to refugees for planting, and that solar energy and energy-efficient stoves are promoted in Uganda's refugee settlements as well as in the host communities. Furthermore, LWF advocates for the adoption of environmental protection and preservation bylaws in the districts where we implement environmental projects such as Lamwo, Kitgum, Adjumani, Agago and Moyo.

On behalf of LWF, I would like to extend our gratitude to our donors and partners whose contributions make this work possible. Finally, I also wish to recognise the dedication and commitment of the LWF Uganda team to helping communities achieve their full potential and advocate for their universal rights!

Jesse Kamstra
LWF Country Representative

A map showing LWF's livelihood interventions in its development sub programs



The Newsletter was compiled and edited by LWF's Communications Officer, and, reviewed by the Program Team.

Adult literacy: *A ray of hope for refugees*



50-year-old Ipio Juliet attends an adult literacy session at Duba Functional Adult Learning Centre in Adjumani district.

Education is not a privilege; it is a human right. However, millions of people around the world have been denied this essential right.

According to a 2017 report from The United Nations the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 264 million children don't go to school around the world. This has resulted in to the enormous growing poverty rate worldwide.

Since education is key in improving people's livelihoods, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) with funds from the EU Humanitarian Aid established and rolled out a unique education program in Palorinya and Adjumani district's refugee settlements.

The Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) education program is uniquely tailored to meet the basic education needs of adult illiterates. Students in the FAL program learn the basic literacy and numeracy.

"Thirty people converge here thrice a week to learn how to read, write and calculate figures." Says Paul Sunday Odriga a FAL Instructor at Duba Functional Literacy School in Duba village, Adjumani district that was established by LWF with funds from the EU Humanitarian Aid.

Education for better livelihoods

With basic knowledge in literacy and numeracy, the education program beneficiaries can manage group and individual businesses as well as saving associations.

James Erama owns a retail shop for a business, he explains that his business used to register high losses every month. Erama blames this on his ignorance in numeracy and literacy. He explains that he couldn't balance his finances or track his investments, sales and profits.

He however adds that ever since he learned how to read, write and to calculate money from Duba FAL Centre, the losses have almost become history. "I now have a cash book where I record all the goods in my shop, the sales and profits." 50-year-old Ipio Juliet, another member of Duba FAL Centre and Kadabaara business group says that she has learned how to read and write. "With my knowledge in reading and writing, I can track of my business through records."

Over 30 people acquiring knowledge at Duba FAL Centre are looking forward to establishing a group and individual businesses after the six months' course.

"We have been supported with a cash grant worth UGX 6,000,000 by LWF and the EU Humanitarian Aid and we have established a retail business to earn a sustainable income and make poverty history." Ipio adds.

towards better livelihoods

The group hopes to save profits from the group business in a VSLA where all individuals will have access to loans to establish personal/individual businesses.

LWF has supported 80 groups (20 in Adjumani 60 in Moyo) with cash grants, with 415 beneficiaries attending the education program. The groups have established income generating activities to earn a collective income. "We have supported the groups to ensure that they rebuild their livelihoods for self-sustenance." Says LWF's Jean Martin Olego.



A student attends a literacy class at a Functional Adult Learning Centre.

Education influences savings and loan structures

While beneficiaries from the education program establish and manage businesses, they have also established village savings and loan associations (VSLAs). "LWF introduced the idea to us and trained us on the basics of collecting saving and loan acquisition." Says Erama, explaining that after the training, LWF provided the group with a VSLA kit that includes; a cash box, cash books, a calculator and savings books.

Through the VSLA, members save between UGX 1,000 and 5,000 per week and can acquire quick loans at any time with the least interest charged.

"Saving is now part of our lives, and with our savings, we can plan for our futures, take our children to school and also establish businesses for sustainable incomes." Ipio adds.

All the sixteen FAL centres established by LWF in Palorinya and Adjumani settlements have VSLAs through which they save and acquire loans for development.

Adult literacy activities in Palorinya and Adjumani district's settlements are funded by the EU Humanitarian Aid.



Paul Sunday Odriga teaches students at at Duba Functional Adult Learning Centre in Adjumani district.

WATER is LIFE:

LWF phases out water trucking in Palorinya settlement



Photo credit: A Solar system that powers a borehole motorized system in Palorinya settlement.

Why the sustainable borehole hand pumps and motorized systems?

“We used to truck over 1,742,000 litres of water every day to 10,000 litre water tanks all around the settlement.” Says Spiridon Atukunda, a Water Engineer with LWF. He continues to explain that this was way too expensive and unsustainable as the whole process required over UGX 15 billion per year.

However, with 93 functional boreholes drilled and 6 motorized, Atukunda confirms that each person in Palorinya gets at least 18 litres of water every day. Currently, only UGX 288 millions is spent on constructing a motorized borehole system unlike the UGX 15 billion that used to be spent per year on water trucking.

Unlike a standard water tank that serves less than 500 people, a borehole hand pump serves a standard of 500 people while a motorized system can serve an average of 8,600 people a day for water.

Richard Wakholi, a WASH Advisor with LWF says that borehole hand pumps and motorized systems are sustainable and have an average lifespan of 25 years as compared to the temporary water tanks. He continues to say that boreholes provide water all around the clock because the pump is installed at the water source while tanks are constantly refilled through water trucking.

With motorized systems, Wakholi says that even places with low or no water yield can have access to clean safe water pumped from borehole water wells and piped to dry locations.

Thousands of South Sudanese refugees in Palorinya settlement now have access to adequate clean and safe water. Since the refugees’ most basic means of survival is clean safe water, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) prioritizes extending it to them in Uganda’s settlements.

Since the opening of Palorinya settlement in December, 2016, one of LWF’s major goals there was to establish sustainable water sources from where refugees can access enough clean safe water all around the clock. To achieve this, LWF resorted to drilling and motorizing boreholes in the settlement.

During the emergency phase when refugees were arriving in Palorinya in thousands, LWF placed water tanks in the various zones of Palorinya and at the Reception Centre where water was trucked every day. Refugees would then queue for long hours to get water.

establishes adequate sustainable water sources

Facts and Figures

93 Boreholes have been drilled by LWF in Palorinya settlement

06 Motorized borehole systems have been established by LWF in Palorinya settlement

01 Motorised borehole system serves an average of 8,600 people with clean water

01 Borehole hand pump serves a standard of 500 people with clean water.

Adequate sustainable water sources have improved people’s lifestyle in Palorinya

Unlike before when majority of the people in Palorinya had to walk very long distances to the scarce water points, today they don’t walk for more than 500 metres as borehole hand pumps and motorized systems are in their proximity.

Lilian Kojo a South Sudanese refugee in Zone 3 of Palorinya describes her ordeal of trekking long distances for water: “Before getting a borehole in our community, we would wake up at 6:00am and walk for over 30 minutes to the water source in Zone 2, where we would spend long hours in the long queue just to get some little of it.”

Kojo adds that they would end up in fights at the water source over who comes first and who takes how much water. This situation left many like Kojo with little time to rest, take care of their families and also engage in livelihood activities.

David Castro a South Sudanese refugee in Zone 2, and a father of 5 explains that children were always late for school and sometimes missed because of

the long hours they spend at the water source. “Our children and wives are also safer as they don’t have to go to the water sources during the early morning hours or nights when its dark and unsafe.”

However, the ordeal of no access to clean water has become history as residents say they get enough to drink, cook, keep themselves clean and to engage in livelihood activities like agriculture.

“Sanitation and hygiene here has greatly improved because we have enough water to bathe more than once a day, to wash our clothes, utensils and generally keep our households clean.” Says Castro who adds that their children never miss school anymore due to water issues.

Martin Mana a resident of Zone 3 In Palorinya adds that their communities are more peaceful now that fights over water are history and that their wives have enough time to take care of them and also cultivate the land for both food and income.

LWF’s humanitarian WASH activities in Palorinya settlement are funded by UNHCR, EU Humanitarian Aid and the Government of Canada through the Canadian Lutheran World Relief.



Clean water from a tap connected to a motorized borehole system.



“... Knitting has kept me away from pondering about my worries, problems. It has also helped me stay away from my peers with whom I used to engage in alcohol abuse. Knitting has brought me back to soberness.” Says Junior Wani, a Sudanese refugee in Boroli settlement.



A South Sudanese refugee acquires more skills in knitting and tailoring at a training facility at Nyumanzi Base Camp managed by LWF with funds from PRM.

“I make sweaters for school children, shawls and woven clothes to be worn by people of all ages during cold seasons.” Bukombo explains.

Knitting fetches Wani at least UGX 400,000 a month which is enough to meet his family’s basic needs. “My family gets enough food, my boy goes to a private school and we rent accommodation in a decent neighbourhood in the host community.”

He is also saving some of his income to establish a Fashion House in the settlement that will produce fine woven clothes for people of all ages, and also plans to train those who wish to learn the skill.

With an income, Wani, Bukombo and their families live better and happier lives as they can afford basic needs and more. This is unlike before when they had just arrived in the refugee settlements, left with nothing and had to exclusively depend on aid.

South Sudanese refugees are forced out of their countries by various reasons like; conflict and violence, fear for persecution, famine and hunger among others. Majority of these arrive in Uganda with nothing.

To ensure that they rebuild their lives, the Government of Uganda allows them a right to work for a living. Humanitarian organizations like LWF support them with trainings in business skills, management and also offer them business start-up kits to ensure that they work and earn money for self-sustenance.

Knitting: A therapy and a source of

Did you know that knitting is therapeutic? Yes, it is! The craft is helping in healing emotional distress for some Congolese and South Sudanese refugees in Uganda’s settlements. Refugees engaging in the craft claim that it helps them calm their anxiety and forget about their problems, thus improving their mental health.

According to their testimonies, knitting enhances relaxing, meditative qualities, and helps them live healthier and, happier lives.

How knitting helps refugees relieve stress and anxiety

21-year-old Junior Wani is a South Sudanese refugee in Boroli Settlement. He suffered from an alcohol addiction for almost a year after he lost all his property to the war in South Sudan, and had to seek refuge in Uganda.

“Alcohol became my stress reliever, I found comfort in it and resorted to binge drinking. It always gave me relief but destroyed my life in turn.” Wani spent his days drunk and as a result, he neglected his wife and son. This was the life Wani lived until he was enrolled for vocational training in knitting, an activity implemented by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) with funds from USA’s Bureau of

Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).

Enrolling for knitting classes was a milestone for Wani as it has greatly improved his state of mind, emotions and also help him get sober.

“When I enrolled for knitting, I got busy spending my time engaging in a productive activity. The craft has kept me away from pondering about my worries, problems and also helped me stay away from my peers with whom I used to engage in alcohol abuse. Knitting has brought me back to soberness.” Says Wani.

Wani explains that knitting involves creating patterns which require utmost focus. “The focus required to create patterns is a mental exercise that helps one forget about everything else and prioritize creating a perfect cloth piece.”

He explains that knitting involves following and identifying patterns, learning new stitches and using both hands. The craft also requires one’s efforts to improve fine motor skills while keeping the mind active and engaged in the activity.

According to the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind-Body Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, the repetitious movements in knitting stimulate the relaxation response, the body’s counterbalance to

income for refugees

stress and a state in which the heart rate and blood pressure fall, breathing slows and levels of stress hormones drop.

Graal Bukombo is a Congolese refugee in Rwamwanja settlement who explains that knitting has helped him alleviate depression, anxiety and also boredom as it keeps him busy. “I never feel lonely or isolated because am always busy.” Bukombo continues to say that the craft provides him a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment when pieces are perfectly done and appreciated by people in addition to fetching him an income.

Knitting is a source of income

Knitting is a source of income. Knitters craft cloth pieces that they sell for a living. A number of refugees and host community residents have enrolled for vocational training in knitting implemented by LWF with funds from PRM. Jennifer Adong, a Project Manager with LWF explains that trainees are taught to knit and are given free access to knitting supplies.

“The support is aimed at equipping them with a life skill through which they can earn a living for self-sustenance.” Adong adds.



Junior Wani displays a sweater he has knitted. He is a Sudanese refugee in Boroli Settlement who has gained back his soberness and earns from knitting.

Teenage pregnancies: A growing vice in Uganda

Uganda has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Sub-Saharan Africa with over 25% of its teenage girls getting pregnant every year. The 2014 Uganda Population Census faults this on the immense sexual reproductive health problems.

The biological onset of adolescence brings not only changes to teenage girls' bodies but also new vulnerabilities particularly in the areas of sexuality, marriage, and childbearing. Child pregnancies increased to 25% as reflected in the 2016 Uganda Demographic Health Survey report. The report states that 24% of female teenagers are either pregnant or have given birth.

The question remains: who is responsible for this negative trend among teenagers? Are they defiled/abused, is it due to parental neglect or erosion of social values? Well, let's get the answers from teenage mothers.



Betty Namyalo breastfeeds her son at the UYDEL training centre in Makindye division.



A teenage mother practices hair dressing at the UYDEL training centre in Makindye division.

Testimonies from teenage mothers

Betty Namyalo's (not her real name) story is relatable to her peers, she narrates that at 15 years, she was getting endless advances from men. This made her feel like the only beauty queen in Katwe slum, hence giving in to sexual advances from a 22-year-old man who disappeared after impregnating her.

Afraid of the repercussions from her mother, Namyalo fled home and joined a group of girls who later introduced her to a better "survival method"- transactional sex! The pregnant teenager engaged in sex trade for five months until she was physically assaulted and thrown out by her hostesses for 'stealing their clients.'

"I became homeless and depressed. I stayed and ate from the streets until I was badly beaten by a rapist." Namyalo explains that this is when she decided to return home from where she eventually had her baby boy.

Unlike Namyalo, Regina Akankwasa (not her real name) was raped at 16 years by an older man who frequently visited her aunt's retail shop where she attended to clients. "He claimed my aunt owed him a lot of money and had delayed to pay back, he said

“ Child pregnancies increased to 25% as reflected in the 2016 Uganda Demographic Health Survey report. ”

he was paying himself by raping me.” When Akankwasa realized she was pregnant, she sought help from the man who raped her, but only ripped threats of being killed. Her peers advised her to abort the baby which she tried and failed. Akankwasa was nursed by her aunt and in 2017 she birthed two beautiful babies although one passed away after 9 months due to lack of support and medical care.

Like Namyalo and Akankwasa, there are thousands of teenage girls who get pregnant, drop out of school and lead a hard life in Uganda. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in partnership with Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) is working towards preventing teenage pregnancies and averting its outcomes among young people.

LWF and UYDEL are addressing the teenage pregnancy vice in Kampala's slums

To address the vice of teenage pregnancies, LWF and UYDEL are rolling out a project titled Urban Youth Empowerment Project to prevent and mitigate the effects of teenage pregnancies among the urban youth in Kampala district's seven divisions including; Makindye, Nateete, Banda, Kamwokya, Nakulabye, Bwaise and Masooli.

Through the project, sensitization campaigns on sexual and reproductive health are implemented to inform people especially teenagers about the dangers of early sex, early unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and cross-generational sex. The sensitizations are also aimed at empowering young people to say no to early and unsafe sex.

To achieve financial independence among teenage mothers and mitigate their troubles, with funds from the Icelandic Church Aid, LWF through UYDEL offers teenage mothers training opportunities in vocational skills like; tailoring, electronics repair, catering, hairdressing, jewellery making. Beneficiaries are also equipped with life skills for self-reliance and recovery from depression as

well as talent development in sports, music, Dance, and Drama. At the end of their 9 months' courses, young mothers are offered business startup kits to start executing their skills for income.

"When I graduated, I received a hairdressing startup kit with which I established my small business." "I now earn at least UGX 100,000 a month which I use to cater for my family's financial needs." Says Ritah A mother of two.

"In 2017, 650 young people enrolled and acquired vocational training in various skills from UYDEL centres. 70% of these have acquired jobs while 30% have established small businesses for income." Says Annet Namaja, a Social Worker with UYDEL. She adds that 800 urban youth enrolled for the same training early this year and will graduate soon.

Compiled by:
Joanne Lunkuse
A Social Worker at UYDEL

Sugarcane farming threatens food security and livelihoods in Luuka district



Members of Buwaisa Farmer Field School weed their cabbage garden in Luuka district.

Luuka district is located in Uganda's Eastern region and is widely known for sugarcane growing. Sugarcane farming is the district's main source of revenue as over 75% of its population engages in the livelihood activity for income. Covering 625 sqkm, 281.25 sqkm of the district's land is covered by sugarcane plantations.

Despite fetching the district revenue, the populace remain constrained by inadequate food and low economic viability.

The people in Luuka remain without a sustainable supply of food and alternative gainful employment opportunities since almost all the land is dedicated to sugarcane growing.

To solve the increasing problem of food insecurity in Luuka district, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) with support from Bread for the World is implementing a three-year project aimed at increasing access to food and improving the nutrition status of its target groups.

The project named, 'Luuka Food Security Initiative' also empowers the target audiences to engage in various economic activities for self-sustainability.

Project beneficiaries establish agribusiness for food and income

Mirabu Nabirye, one of the hundreds of people who received support through the project is a member of Buwaisa Farmer Field School. The group is made up of 30 people and received a farming start-up including vegetable seedlings and pigs from LWF. With the support received, the group started engaging in growing food crops and piggery.

"We have managed to establish a 2 acre garden of vegetables like cabbage, onions and maize. We plant, harvest and get enough food for our families. We supply the rest to our community for an income." Says Nabirye who adds that the group earns an average of UGX 150,000 per season which they invest in a Village Saving and Loan Association to accumulate more money.

With the income, the farmers can now afford their families' financial demands. "Our children go to school and we can also afford the health care services." Says Alex Kamali, a member of Buwaisa farmer field school in Bulongo sub county. Other than meeting their financial demands, the group also reinvests part of their profits in their business ventures.

While the group engages in food crop farming, they also involve in animal husbandry to supplement their food basket, income and also diversify their economic activities.

With diversified economic activities, Buwaisa FFS group earns from agriculture during the wet seasons from April to June and August to November. They focus on piggery for income during the dry seasons when crop growing is constrained by climate change.

VSLAs are established with profits from group business entities

The supported groups earn a sustainable income that they use to meet their financial needs, reinvest in the group entities and also save in a Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA). With VSLAs, members save and acquire quick loans with low interest rates to establish individual businesses as well as meet their financial demands.

Buwaisa group saves an average of UGX 300,000 and earns at least UGX 100,000 a month from the loans given to the group members.

"I got a loan worth UGX 200,000 from our VSLA, with which I have used to establish a small retail shop. I now earn at least UGX 15,000 week." Says Kamali who adds that she is financially independent and doesn't rely on her husband for her and her children's needs.

Buwaisa FFS group is among the 93 FFS that have been supported through the 'Luuka Food Security Initiative' Project. Each FFS comprises of 30 members therefore the project has reached over 2,790 households since 2016 up-to-date. All the FFS groups have established food crop gardens, they plant a variety of food crops and harvest enough food for their families. The groups supply the harvest surplus to their communities for income hence increasing food security as well as improving nutrition and livelihoods.

Compiled by:
Jane Frances Nakanwangi
M&E Officer

What are Farmer Field Schools?

The Farmer field school is a group-based learning process. Groups are formed and trained in proper agronomic practices. Members continue training each other with guidance from an agro-community based facilitators to improve their agriculture knowledge and skills for increased productivity.

With support from LWF, community based facilitators in Luuka district train FFS group members on various agronomic practices like mixed farming, water, soil, crop, pest and disease management practices.

Sectors implemented by LWF in its project sites



LWF extends Shelter services and Construction materials to persons of concern in Uganda's refugee settlements.



LWF supports improved hygiene sanitation in Uganda's refugee settlements. LWF also works to improve solid waste management, excreta disposal and vector control.



LWF extends clean safe water to persons of concern in Uganda's refugee settlements by drilling and motorising boreholes in the targeted locations.



LWF extends Protection services to vulnerable people. The services LWF offers include; Child Protection, Legal Assistance, Psycho-Social Support, preventive and mitigative measures for SGBV.



To promote self-reliance among vulnerable communities, LWF empowers targeted beneficiaries especially the youth to access improved income through vocational skilling in fashion and design, motor repair, hairdressing, carpentry, among others.



LWF provides cash and on-cash support to vulnerable people to facilitate them establish income generating activities for self-sustenance.



LWF trains its target audiences on financial disciplines like saving and loaning. The groups are also supported to establish village savings and loan associations to acquire financial services.



LWF upholds Environment Protection especially in districts that host refugees. LWF ensures that trees are marked to prevent careless cutting, tree seedlings are provided to refugees for planting, the use of solar energy and energy-efficient stoves is promoted within Uganda's refugee settlements and host communities.

Give him an African fabric, Zubert Masuku will give you a ready-to-wear fine cloth, beautifully made by the hands of a skilled and experienced Fashion Designer. He spends his days making fine clothes for the young and old which has made him a distinguished Fashion Designer in Rwamwanja settlement.

Masuku is a 21-year-old DRC refugee who arrived in Uganda with a few belongings in hand including a tailoring machine he got from his grandfather. "I had my first tailoring classes using this machine and I knew it would be my source of income in Uganda." Says Masuku who comes from a lineage of prominent Fashion Designers in DRC.

In 2017, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) with funds from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) organized a youth talent search and competition gala in Rwamwanja settlement. "I joined the competition as a talented Fashion Designer and emerged one of the seven finalists." Narrates Masuku.

"This was my breakthrough. My victory came with exposure of my skills. I also got an opportunity from LWF for further training by one of Uganda's finest Fashion Designers." Masuku describes the training as fruitful as he learned more about fashion sketching and how to explore various methods of designing high-quality aesthetic products.

Masuku offers free training to fellow refugee youth

Masuku is a fine Fashion Designer who has fortunately acquired all the skills at a zero monetary expense. He chooses to bless others with the same opportunity at no cost. Masuku invites those interested in fashion to join him every day from 8:00am to 11:00am for a practical training in tailoring before he starts working on his cloth pieces for a living.

"All the young people in the settlement need skills to earn a living." Says Masuku. Alex Fiston Baseme is one of Masuku's trainees and coworker. He joined Masuku after acquiring a four months training in Fashion and Design at Nakivaale Vocational Institute in 2017 which was funded by LWF and PRM.

Baseme joined Masuku to practice and master the art of Fashion and Design. "He also gave me

Meet the young refugee Fashion



Zubert Masuku makes a dress out of African fabric outside his house in Rwamwanja settlement. Masuku is a distinguished Fashion Designer who trains fellow youth in couture at free of charge.

an opportunity to work with him in return for an income." Adds Baseme who earns at least UGX 80,000 a month from the business. Baseme is now a confident Fashion Designer who satisfies his customers' needs and has also started developing a clientele list.

Esther Kwira is another of Masuku's trainees and a beneficiary of LWF and PRM's vocation training sponsorship program. Kwira is acquiring further training from Masuku to perfect her fashion draping skills. "I want to learn how to wrap various types of fabric over differently shaped forms like satin over a human shape torso."

"I am learning pattern drafting skills so that I can be able to create, draw and cut patterns while creating garments." Adds Rebecca Iragena another of Masuku's trainees and a beneficiary of LWF and PRM's education sponsorship program.

Once his students master the art, Masuku sends them off to start couture businesses. He then takes in a new batch which he also trains for utmost two months before taking in another. "I mostly give opportunities to Fashion and Design graduates who haven't mastered the skills." "I don't want this to be a reason for them to continue being unemployed." Masuku.

Designer inspiring others to join the industry



Alex Fiston Baseme makes a dress out of African fabric outside Masuku's house in Rwamwanja settlement. Baseme is one of Masuku's trainees and a beneficiary of LWF and PRM's vocation training sponsorship program.



All the young people in refugee settlements need skills to earn a living." says Zubert Masuku, a Congolese refugee and Designer in Rwamwanja settlement.

Vocational training opportunities for refugees

With funds from PRM, LWF offers vocational training opportunities to youth refugees and host community residents to equip them with skills they can use to earn a living. "We want youth to be financially independent and aid sustainable development not only in Rwamwanja but, in Uganda at large." Says LWF's Evans Mubangizi.

Trainees are offered a list of courses from which to choose including; Tailoring, Building and Concrete Practice, Carpentry, Hair dressing and Saloon, Driving and Mechanics as well as Electrical Installation, Wiring and Welding.

In 2017 alone, 155 out of school youth in Rwamwanja settlement acquired vocational training from Nakivaale Vocational Institute with support from LWF and PRM.

After the training, graduates were offered business startup kits to start small businesses in their specific fields of study. Majority of these have established businesses and are earning a living.

Conserving the Environment through tree planting



Did you know that one large mature tree can supply oxygen to four people everyday?

People in Northern Uganda are planting trees to conserve the environment.

Photo caption: One of George Abwola's woodlots in Lamwo district.

He plants trees on a large scale for both environmental conservation and for income.

There is struggle for land for different activities such as cultivation, shelter, livestock among others. The influx of refugees in the hosting communities added on the already high pressure on land.

The scramble for land to accommodate the different activities exerts pressure on forests and natural resources and has often led to deforestation. The high demand for timber and fuel wood exacerbates deforestation. Deforestation results in a number of calamities including soil degradation, food insecurity resulting from prolonged draught, climate change and loss of biodiversity.

The Lutheran World Federation(LWF) with funding from the European Union and Church of Sweden is implementing environment conservation projects, and strengthening ecofriendly livelihood activities in Northern Uganda.

The projects promote environmental conservation activities such as tree planting, tree marking to prevent careless tree cutting, communal environmental sensitizations, advocating for environment conservation bylaws and influencing and promoting the use of solar energy and eco-friendly stoves by the targeted communities.

LWF promotes Environmental conservation initiatives in both refugees and host communities. "We offer refugees, and host communities including school children tree seedlings to plant so that they replace the greenery that is destroyed while they are settling in." Odong Sunday, Teko-Wa Project Officer.

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“Trees create habitats for wildlife, they protect watersheds from erosion and eutrophication through stabilizing the upstream areas. Trees emit vapor which is responsible for forming rainfall.” Says Joyce Adokorach an Agroforestry professional working with LWF.

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How do trees facilitate environmental conservation?

Odong explains that tree planting is vital in environmental conservation since trees play various roles like; preventing the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, cleaning the air by absorbing pollutant gasses, and supplying oxygen to all living creatures hence sustaining life on earth.

He continues to say that trees stabilize the soil and prevent erosion, they break the intensity of wind hence protecting both the built and natural environment from destruction.

“Trees create habitats for wildlife, they protect watersheds from erosion and eutrophication through stabilizing the upstream areas. Trees emit vapor which is responsible for forming rainfall.” Adds Joyce Adokorach an Agroforestry professional working with LWF.

Tree planting for income

Not only is tree planting good for conservation of the environment, but plays a vital role in improving livelihoods too.

For 37-year-old George Abwola tree farming is his major source of livelihood. Abwola who was supported by LWF with tree seedlings, owns 3 hectares of teak tree woodlots in Lamwo district which were planted in 2016.

Currently, they are worth millions. “I have received four potential buyers, each offering over UGX 50,000,000 for my woodlots.” Says Abwola who further explains that he hasn't sold the trees yet because their value increases each passing day. “I intend to sell them in 2040. When they are 25 years old so that I can earn as much as UGX 800 million.”

Stephen Kilama from Palabek Gem Sub County in Lamwo district was also supported by LWF with tree seedlings. He has reaped big from tree farming. “In 2017, when Palabek refugee settlement was being opened, I fetched UGX 80,000,000 from my 5-year-old eucalyptus woodlot when I sold 5,000 eucalyptus poles for construction” narrates Stephen. I have used the money to build my residential house and start up a hardware business”

In agroforestry, where trees are inter-planted with other crops, increase in yield of the crops is observed. This is mostly due to the fact that some

trees fix nutrients into the soil, help in retaining soil moisture, prevent erosion of soil nutrients and also help in rainfall formation. “Intercropping trees with other types of crops fetches good results for not only the trees but food crops too if appropriate tree spacing is observed.” Says Adokorach.

Abwola recalls fetching 32 bags of ground-nuts and 26 bags of maize from the plants he planted in his woodlot in 2017. This is unlike 2016 when he harvested only 17 bags of ground-nuts and 8 bags of maize after his food crop garden was affected by a prolonged dry spell.

“Trees have so many times protected my food crops from floods and too much heat during dry spells.” Adds Abwola.

Abwola is one of over 3,000 beneficiaries who received training, tree seedlings, support in woodlot establishment and management by LWF.

Over 2,700 hectares of woodlots have been established by the beneficiaries under the Teko Wa project being implemented in Uganda's Northern region in the Districts of Kitgum, Lamwo, Pader and Agago.

The project funded by the European Union and Church of Sweden is aimed at environmental conservation to prevent and counter the effects of climate change.

Compiled by;
Odong Sunday, Project Officer and,
Auma Rose Project Assistant
Teko wa Project, Kitgum Sub Program



George Abwola in one of his woodlots in Lamwo district.

A call for peace: *Meet the South Sudanese*



An LWF staff interacts with a South Sudanese refugee in Nyumanzi settlement, Adjumani district.

Refugees flee their home countries due to conflict, and, with shattered dreams. Majority of these come to Uganda, a peaceful country that offers them hope for a better tomorrow. “We fled for our lives, in search for peace and safety and we have been privileged to find these in Uganda.” Says Moses Nyang, a South Sudanese refugee and Peace Promoter in Nyumanzi settlement.

South Sudanese refugees have lost some of the most important things in their lives like; their homes, relatives, friends, and property due to war. The lack of peace in their country has become a lifetime reminder to them of how important peace is. With this, making and maintaining peace has become a priority for South Sudanese refugees living in Uganda’s settlements, for peace blossoms stronger communities and healthier families.

To promote peaceful coexistence among refugees and between the refugee and host communities, refugees identify and select Peace Promoters supposed to promote initiatives that enhance peaceful co-existence among refugees and between the refugee and host communities. They are tasked with supporting and promoting avenues for preventing and mitigating conflict through community led initiatives like music, dance, drama and sports gallas.

“They sensitize the public about peaceful coexistence, how to peacefully manage and solve conflict as well as where to report such issues.” Says Edwin Odur-Luru, a Project Officer responsible for peace building and conflict management in Adjumani district’s refugee settlements. “We also suggest community activities that can enhance peaceful coexistence like games, for instance football leagues. These unite people and also provide a platform for us to deliver peace message.” Adds Nyang.



“We fled South Sudan for our lives, in search for peace and safety and we have been privileged to find these in Uganda.” Says Moses Nyang, a South Sudanese refugee and Peace Promoter in Nyumanzi settlement.

refugees upholding peace in Nyumanzi settlement

Peace promoters: The conflict fixers

With Peace Promoters in the settlement, refugees have people to listen and fix their worries, conflicts peacefully.

“We receive reports from complainants, schedule meetings where we invite conflicting parties and hold dialogues through which they suggest solutions.” “Where there is conflict, we restore peace which is the best interest for all conflicting parties.” Adds Mabior Akuei, a Peace Promoter in Nyumanzi settlement.

After solving a conflict, an agreement is drafted by Peace Promoters and is signed by the conflicting parties, agreeing to never conflict again about the same subject.

In case of conflict between the refugee and host community, refugee Peace Promoters liaise with host local leaders like village chairpersons to peacefully come to a mutual solution.

“In case of complex issues, we invite representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister responsible for refugee affairs and Police to manage the situation.” Says Akuei.

Peace Promoters refer complex issues to responsible authorities

Well as Peace Promoters aim at providing solutions to conflict with in communities, there are some issues they refer to responsible authorities like the Uganda Police Force, Village Elders and Humanitarian Organizations like the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) with which they work.

Criminal offences are some of the major issues referred to police, for instance rape, defilement, aggravated violence among others. “Some cases are above our management because they are gross, against Uganda’s law and therefor, it’s the responsibility of the Police and Uganda’s Judiciary System to adjudicate on such.” Says Nyang.

While responsible authorities take on some cases, Peace Promoters follow up and support them whenever necessary.

Peace Promoters offer assistance to both complainants and the defendants

On receiving complaints, Peace Promoters assess the situation and where necessary, identify physical and emotional damages which they refer to Police and Health Centres.

While authorities take on the cases, Peace Promoters support both the complainants and defendants with emotional support through counselling, home or police cell visits.

“We encourage survivors receiving medical assistance to take their drugs as prescribed by medical personnel and monitor perpetrators to make sure they don’t cause more harm to survivors.” Says Akuei.

“While we follow up with Police and the Judiciary system to ensure that justice is served, we also reach out to defendants/perpetrators through counselling to ensure they become good people to the community at large.” Adds Nyang.

In Adjumani district’s settlements, Peace Promoters are trained by LWF to ensure peaceful coexistence among refugees as well as between the refugee and host communities. They work with other committees like Child Protection, Refugee Welfare and Youth Pyramids to uphold peace in their communities.



Strengthening Child Protection through Advocacy

During the review of Uganda’s Human Rights record before the UN human rights council, one of the key Human Rights issues identified was the detention of juveniles with adults and the need to strengthen diversion of cases of juveniles in conflict with the law.

Detention of juveniles with adults causes more harm to juveniles. In most cases they leave detention facilities more hardened as criminals than they were before their incarceration. Child rights’ advocates argue that diverting cases of juveniles in conflict with the law through community based structures is a more durable solution compared to detention of juveniles.

In circumstances where detention is prescribed by law, juveniles in conflict with law ought to be detained in “juvenile only” facilities.

In Pader and Kamwenge districts, there was no juvenile detention facilities. District stakeholders acknowledge the fact that juveniles have previously been detained in the same facilities as adults. David Oketch Odwong, the Senior Probation and Social Welfare Officer of Pader District Local Government, faults this situation on the limited resources for supporting the diversion of cases involving juveniles and the preparation of social inquiry reports.

The Children’s Act requires that a Probation Officer compiles a social welfare report to support solutions to cases against juveniles. It helps court in determining the best action to take in relation to a juvenile offender.

Speaking during a district coordination meeting in Kamwenge district, His Worship Said Barigye the Magistrate for the Grade 1 court, noted that in the absence of a social inquiries report, court is greatly constrained in providing speedy justice to juvenile offenders.

He further noted that access to justice for juvenile offenders in Kamwenge District was constrained by the absence of a probation officer whose mandate it is to prepare social inquiry reports for the purpose of court.

The revival of the District Coordination Committee in Pader and Kamwenge districts points further to positive results in the quest for implementation of recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review more so on the notion of juvenile justice in the implementing districts.

To address the challenges relating to access to justice for juveniles, the district coordination committees have taken bold actions to promote access to justice for juveniles and children. In Kamwenge district

a resolution was taken to ensure that the district recruits a probation officer and that partners contribute to the construction of a juvenile detention facility.

In Pader district, it was agreed that the district would make contributions to the Gulu remand home and that a budgetary allocation be made by the district to support child protection. In the financial year 2018/19, Pader District approved a quarterly allocation of UGX 600,000 as contribution to Gulu remand home and an additional UGX 3,000,000 to support access to justice for juveniles.

Following commitment from the Chief Administrative Officer of Kamwenge, the district has since recruited a probation officer who is responsible for preparation of social inquiry reports. During the follow up meeting with the Magistrate, he noted that the recruitment of a probation officer had substantially improved access to justice for juveniles in the district.

The District is also in advance stages for the construction of a juvenile detention facility in Kamwenge Police Station. Once completed the facility will have separate self-contained cells for boys and girls. “... this facility will make Kamwenge district one of those that will commit never ever again detain juveniles with adults.” Said Lilian

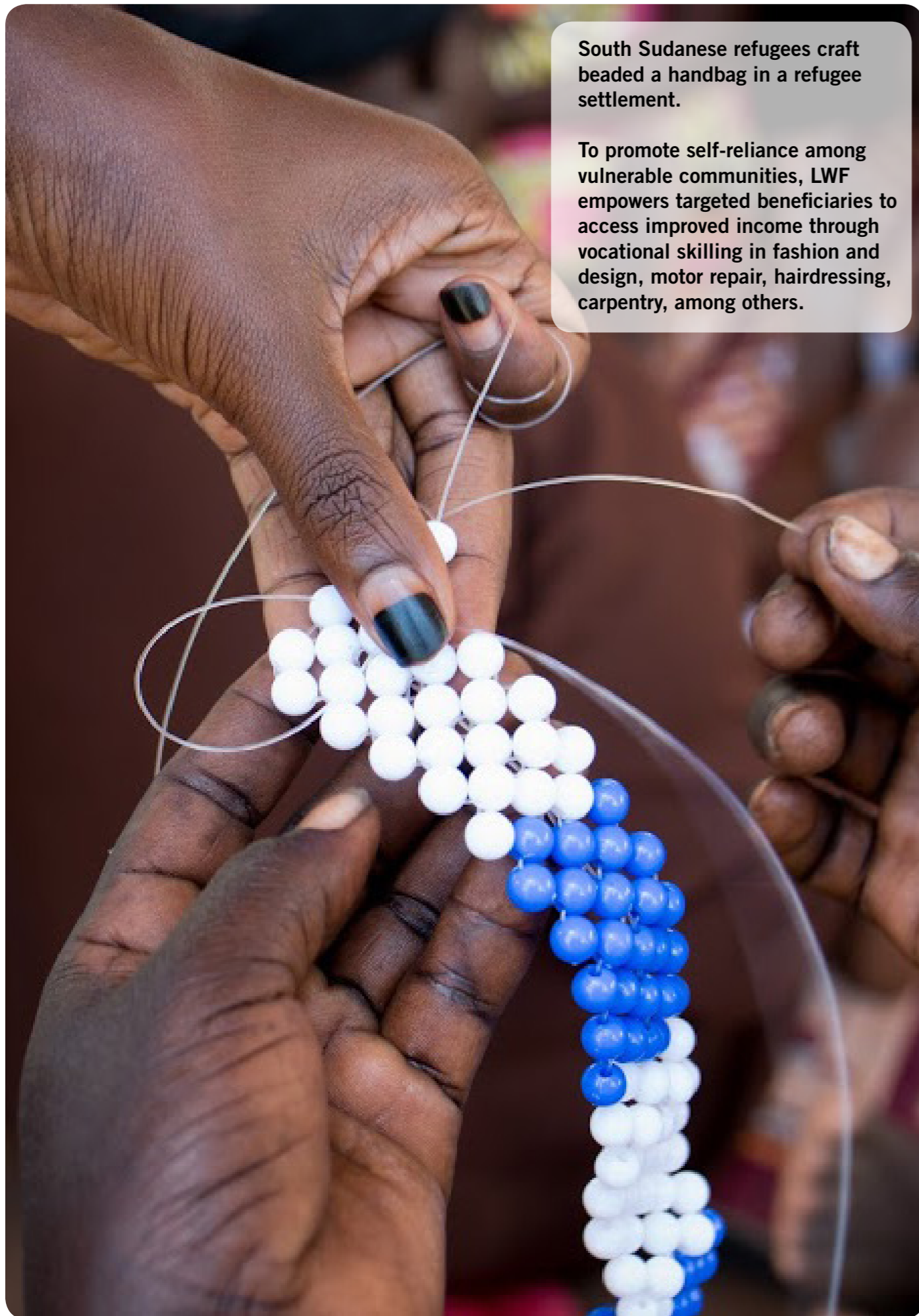
Kikobye an Assistant Inspector of Police and the Officer in charge of Kamwenge Police Station. With support from LWF, Pader District has prepared a timely social inquiries report for juveniles in conflict with the law, follow up on the cases of juveniles detained in Gulu and Naguru remand homes.

Compiled by;
Peter Eceru
Advocacy Officer

“... Kamwenge district commits to never again detain juveniles with adults.” Said Lilian Kikobye, the Assistant Inspector of Police and the Officer in charge of Kamwenge Police Station.

LWF works towards Child Protection in Uganda’s refugee settlements by; advocating for their rights, fair treatment, providing their basic needs and creating a child friendly environment for their peaceful and decent stay.





South Sudanese refugees craft beaded a handbag in a refugee settlement.

To promote self-reliance among vulnerable communities, LWF empowers targeted beneficiaries to access improved income through vocational skilling in fashion and design, motor repair, hairdressing, carpentry, among others.

LWF upholds Child Safeguarding in Uganda's refugee settlements



Pupils of Agojo South Primary school attend a focus group discussion on child safeguarding.

Activities implemented by LWF to ensure child safety in Uganda's refugee settlements

Child Safeguarding remains a priority for the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). The organization ensures that all its staff, humanitarian and development programme operations do not risk or cause harm to children in any way.

LWF is also committed to ensuring that any concerns about child safety are reported and addressed.

To fulfil its commitment to Child Safeguarding, LWF commissioned an organization assessment in June 2018 by children who have come into direct or indirect contact with the organisation's staff in Palorinya and Adjumani district's refugee settlements.

The assessment was implemented through focus group discussions attended by 345 girls, boys and LWF staff. It's during the discussions that children aired their opinions/feedback about LWF's actions, while implementing programmes that affect the safety of children.

Findings from the discussions indicated that Child Safeguarding efforts were recognisable by children. Children confirmed that they are aware of some of their rights especially against abuse, exploitation or harm. They said that LWF's child protection activities played a significant role in informing and sensitizing them about their rights.

Engage with local governments to strengthen links between refugee operations and national child protection systems

Identify children at risk and those with specific needs, assess their situation and provide the necessary assistance

Ensure that child-specific and friendly information on durable solutions is readily available to all partners supporting children within settlements

Create child-friendly environment in all areas of LWF's service provision

Establish and manage child protection desks in settlements. Also, to manage and maintain the feedback and complaints mechanisms to enhance adequate child safeguarding

Support Community structures within settlements and host communities to conduct child protection monitoring in consultation with local leaders to monitor child violations, discrimination, exclusion, coping mechanisms, and access to services, analyze the findings, refer urgent protection cases and share child protection monitoring reports with LWF, UNHCR and OPM to inform advocacy and adjustments to programming.

Compiled by the Child Protection Teams in Adjumani and Moyo Sub Programs.



A man washes his hands using soap and water in a refugee settlement.

LWF supports improved hygiene sanitation in Uganda's refugee settlements. LWF also works to improve solid waste management, excreta disposal and vector control.

Thanks to our Donors and Partners whose contributions make our humanitarian work possible.





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