

Quarterly Newsletter

"Uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed"



More support needed for refugees in Uganda

Six weeks after an outbreak of violence in South Sudan forced tens of thousands to flee, the situation of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda is still critical. More than 70,000 have fled to Adjumani, Northern Uganda, where The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and with other Partners is responding to the ongoing influx from the neighboring country.

According to UNHCR, more than 100,000 people have fled from South Sudan to Northern Uganda since 7 July 2016. "Refugees cite the fragile security situation, fighting, torture, looting of properties and hunger as reasons for fleeing. Women and children constitute 90 percent of new arrivals, while the low number of males further testifies to the forceful recruitment of men and youth by armed forces," says Jesse Kamstra, LWF Country Representative in Uganda.



THE
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Department for
World Service

Uganda

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South Sudanese refugee women pose for a photo together with their children in Pagirinya settlement, Adjumani.

Focus on water and sanitation

The majority of the new arrivals have been moved to Pagirinya, a new refugee settlement opened by the UN refugee agency and managed by the LWF. The camp's capacity for 17,000 people has exceeded with the latest count of almost 21,000 inhabitants.

In the settlement's reception centers the high number of new arrivals has made it difficult to provide adequate shelter, water and sanitation for all. A cholera outbreak was confirmed in mid-August, with 85 cases to date. With great effort, LWF together with national actors and the UNHCR have managed to contain the outbreak and to decongest the center.

Many of these measures aim at preventing the disease from spreading further. LWF plans to install one latrine per household. "Personal latrines are better maintained, they are closer to the people and therefore encourage good hygiene much more than communal latrines," explains LWF staff Adrian Denyer. The task however is daunting: To provide for all households, LWF needs to construct 4,000 outhouses. Denyer sees the latrines as crucial to contain any diarrhoeal diseases. "If a borehole is further away, people have to walk. But if a latrine is further away, they will just defecate in the open," he says.

LWF is also constructing additional boreholes, and

doing sanitation campaigns among the refugees and in the host communities to make sure the disease does not spread to the local villages. "The imminent rainy season is another reason to re-double our efforts," adds Denyer.

Food, relief goods, protection

In Uganda, refugees are registered and allocated a plot of land to support themselves by the local government. Most refugees build their own houses with the items provided by UNHCR and others found in the area. Over 19,000 individuals have been allocated land while the reminders still live in temporary shelters constructed by LWF.

In the registration center in Pagirinya, LWF provides food, relief goods and protection services. "We have constructed 24 community shelters for 150 people each, built 176 latrines, constructed 17 water points, given out more than 40,000 packages of relief goods and sanitary kits for women and girls and put up solar security lights," LWF Country Representative Kamstra illustrates the extent of the operation. 70 community shelters are currently under construction.

Special attention is given to the identification and care for people with special needs, such as small children, the elderly, new mothers and people liv-

ing with disabilities. 2,848 have been identified so far. Persons with special needs do not have to build their own houses. They, as well as large families, are also given priority in the allocation of land in the Pagirinya settlements.

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Ease tensions with host community

LWF Environment teams also facilitate the planting of tree seedlings in order to protect the environment and to prevent conflict with the host communities when the refugees cut down trees for shelter and firewood. The number of refugees in the district has now exceeded the local population, who have been accepting and integrating large refugee movements from South Sudan in previous years as well.

"We are very grateful for the support of our partners," LWF Uganda Country Representative Kamstra says. "Still more efforts are needed to be able to meet at least the basic demands of those who came here looking for peace and safety." Among the needs that urgently have to be addressed are those of children who have been orphaned or separated from their parents. Other needs include safety measures such as more solar lights and guards, as well as environmental action and garbage collection.

According to UNHCR estimates, an additional 110,000 refugees from South Sudan are expected in Northern Uganda until the end of the year.

The LWF refugee response in Adjumani is supported by UNHCR, ACT Alliance, Bread for the World, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Church of Sweden, DanChurch Aid, USAID and UNICEF.

Contribution by: Adjumani Team and Kaestner Cornelia

Defying the odds to become a role model

Rape survivor tirelessly works for refugee women's rights in Uganda

Shantal M is a refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The mother of three arrived in Uganda in 2012 where The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) received her in Rwamwanja, in the south west.

A year later she had become a community social worker.

Shantal had fled eastern DRC after enduring the painful ordeal of repeated rape, from which she contracted HIV. Rape is used extensively as a weapon of war in eastern DRC.

With an innate ability as a social worker, Shantal soon set about voluntarily helping other women, who identified her as someone skilled at helping them solve problems, especially related to domestic violence.

"Several mothers have named their new born daughters Shantal because I helped to mediate between the women and their husbands, she said.

"When we enrolled her as an incentive worker, Shantal stood out from many. She was quick to learn and did her work as if she had been doing it for years. She is so passionate about the issues concerning refugees that she gives herself totally to work for them," said Prosmolly, LWF officer for the focus on gender-based violence (GBV) in Rwamwanja.

Sees herself in every survivor

Shantal often speaks out against gender violence. "She sees herself in every GBV survivor," says Prosmolly.

Rape often leaves a woman with not only an unwanted pregnancy or HIV but rejection by her husband. "Shantal has been a powerful whistle blower in terms of reporting GBV cases in the face of a lot of intimidation by perpetrators and their families," Prosmolly says.

Defender of women's rights

Shantal says her greatest challenge is dealing with the Congolese cultural stereotype that men are superior to women, and she is sometimes scorned for breaching her culture. "My biggest frustration comes from seeing how our women constantly feel inferior and look up to men for everything, even simple things. That is why some of them fall victim to violence or abuse.

"Women are important, men are important, we are all important and we must work together to change the negative things in our society. Some men think I am making a lot of money from this work and yet that is not true. I am paid the same amount as all other social workers," she says.

Representing women on the national stage

Shantal provides post-test counseling to HIV positive patients who cannot cope with the condition. In 2014, she took in an 18-year-old mother of two who was diagnosed positive as a consequence of rape. She helped her overcome stigma through counselling, and ensured she kept taking her medication. She is now attending a vocational training course, supported by LWF.

"Being a social worker has opened my eyes to many things. I have been able to represent refugee women in the national UNHCR women's empowerment seminars and take feed back to the community. I joined a HIV post-test club in 2014 and I am able to advocate for HIV prevention and positive living to those infected and affected," Shantal says with pride.

Creating economic growth

LWF monitoring and evaluation assistant Flavia says Shantal is driven not by the stipend she receives but the desire to improve the lives of her fellow refugees. "She has no boundaries. She supports children, women and even men who are affected."

She has managed to help to build a number of houses for single mothers without external support. "I have encouraged women to form groups and one of the groups save 25,000 shillings per month (USD 7.40), which they later borrow to start business and support their families. I encourage

women to be positive in life and work hard," she says. She also makes bags, which she sells to support her family.

Working with LWF was the best decision she ever made, Shantal says. It has changed her life.. "If I did not have this job I would be dead by now. LWF has brought me a long way and I am very grateful for I have learnt a lot from the trainings and guidance."

Contribution by: Betty Lamunu and Flavia Acom



Shantal displays her finished bags which she sells to support her family



Keeping the environment - and the peace

Courses on fuel-efficiency foster peace between refugees and hosts in Uganda

"By the end of the day, we expect to complete four stoves," says Drichi Godfrey, a 26-year-old refugee from South Sudan. He, his wife and the two children now live in Boroli, a refugee settlement in Adjumani district, Uganda.

Godfrey is in the first day of training 30 fellow refugees in the construction of energy-efficient stoves. "There was a lot of enthusiasm," Godfrey says. "Not all [the people] that I have informed have come, but the 18 women and 12 men present were really eager."

He said they actually demanded the training since he learnt the technique early this year. A workshop is a practical way of learning.

Godfrey is one of about 250,000 South Sudanese refugees in north Uganda. More than 100,000 have arrived in the last two months after an outbreak of violence in South Sudan. The large refugee settlements in Adjumani have grown and new sites have been set up. The refugees cut down trees for the construction of tukul clay and wood houses and for firewood. Both refugees and locals, cook on open fires.

Limited Resources

In large refugee settlements there are not enough resources for everyone. This leads to tension between refugees and host communities. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is one amongst the many humanitarian organizations helping mitigate the exhaustion of local natural resources.

Planting trees in refugee settlements and host communities is one strategy being used by LWF to support both the host communities and the refugees to reserve the environment in Adjumani District. Another is offering training in using of energy efficient technologies and practices. The training is conducted in a mixed group consisting of both the refugees from South Sudan and the host communities.

We have seen a change of attitude towards environmental protection and conservation. A great number of the people do want to plant trees and preserve the environment. Many times, all the host communities and the refugees ask for is technical and moral support.— Edwin Odur-Luru, LWF Project Officer for Peace building and Conflict Management in Adjumani

The five day course covers topics like environmental management, the benefits of energy saving/efficient stoves, and finally the actual construction of energy-saving stoves. As the participants greatly benefit from practical instructions in their own language, the LWF approach is to train 30 people who will become trainers and share their knowledge with 30 people each in the communities. One of them is Godfrey, the South Sudanese refugee who is now starting his first workshop as a trainer.

Many benefits

To the participants on Godfrey's course, being able to build energy efficient stoves does not only help their immediate families. "We have many benefits, some of which we will only realize after this training," Ojaba Jackline, a 21-year-old married woman says.

"The food is ready faster than before, most of the women in my community have reduced the frequency of fetching firewood from the bush, the girls can go to school earlier. It has also lessened my work as a house wife, something not only I but many women here have observed. We are also planning to sell some of the stoves to have additional income for our family."

LWF Project Officer for Peace building and Conflict Management in Adjumani, Edwin Odur-Luru, said staff have seen a change of attitude towards environmental protection and conservation.

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The project Fuel Efficient Energy Technologies and Training is supported by the United States Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration

Contribution by Edwin Odur-Luru





Molly plays with her dog during the interview.

Aringo Molly proves that HIV/AIDS is not a death Sentence

There are very many stigmas and discriminations attached to people living with HIV in Uganda. HIV-related stigma and discrimination refers to prejudice, negative attitudes and abuse directed at people living with HIV and AIDS. In the 1990s as well as some people today falsely believe that HIV is associated with behaviors that some people disapprove of like homosexuality, drug use, sex work or infidelity. This manner was found in schools, work places and so much saddening among fellow family members and health care centers where one expected to get help. Such stigmas and discriminations left very many people resort to secrecy about their status. However amidst all the beliefs, the discrimination that reviled and the cowardliness of people stood one strong group of ladies who openly told the world that they were HIV positive and hoped to make a difference.

Married with five children, Aringo Molly 48 years is one of the few strong people who came out and shared her story with the world.

Molly lived a normal life with her husband and children in Kitgum district and didn't not even think of ever having HIV and AIDS. She was in good condition just like her family apart from the husband who would get sickly on several occasions. "Later he passed on and it was just me and my kids. In 2003, I started becoming sickly but it was only flu cough and a little temperature. This happened on several occasions but took herbs and felt better. In 2004 I fell sick for a long period of time, I lost weight my skin complexion changed I was too weak to do anything, it's when I decided to go for a blood checkup and get treatment. In my mind I thought it was malaria or typhoid and that's the blood checkup I was expecting to take. However

the doctor ran an HIV test. During that time technology was low and the results would take long to come out so I had to go back at the health center the next day. I was worried the whole night above the results I didn't get enough sleep imagining what I would do in case the results came out positive. The next day I went very early to hospital and I was heartbroken when the results came out HIV-AIDS positive. My heart sank in to sorrow. The world became silent and it felt like I was the only one in it. I had never cheated on my husband. The after midnight journeys he made back home claiming that work was too much, the nights he never slept home because he was out with fellow men discussing life on a pot of malwa (sorghum), I remembered when he used to fall sick and would have sleepless nights taking care of him all flashed before my eyes. I was blind in his trust. At this time I compared the signs and symptoms of my latte husband and my current situation and it were a match. I wanted to rip off my skin. I felt dirty and poisonous. Worst of all I was betrayed by the love of my life.

Life after the news

The doctor told me all was well but I would not understand what he meant. Yet I was going to die-is all I was thinking about. He advised me to open a file to start treatment but I refused. I was in denial. I went back home and told my mother that very day, it was the hardest news to deliver in my entire life she refused to take in the news. She choked on sobs, she was more hurt than I was. Later I told my children and neighbors. After a week I went back to hospital I was not feeling ok and the pain killers were working no more. I had to open a file in order to get treatment however it was very hard to open a file because of the long line. It took me a week to get my file and started treatment." she narrates. Molly was given septrin as her first treatment and later in 2008 she started taking ARVs. "It was hard for me at first, the constant taking pills I wasn't used to it. And once my social community got to know about my diagnosis I was shut down. When I would go out socially at the market or any other public place people would whisper and finger point at me. No one would come up to me and ask me how I was doing. It was hurtful to the core deeply wounded by social ostracism.

"My life made a sharp turn when i went for counseling that LWF was providing and listening to many other people in my situation made me realize I was not alone." She says. From then Molly became strong the words flying around the community never bothered her again. All the talks they had in counseling and the education that they received on HIV/AIDS made Molly understand how very many people are so much ignorant about the disease. "I realized that very many people in my society didn't even know the ways in which you can contract HIV/AIDS. I had to take action and help the innocent and the naïve" she says.

Forming Amida drama group

Molly wanted to bring awareness, education and information about the prevention of HIV and other STDs. She wanted to help other women so that they didn't have to go through the pain of alienation and self-imposed shame that she went through. "I wanted to preach to the public that people with HIV are still human beings, they need to be loved and treated well and isolating them is wrong, I wanted them to learn how to live with a person diagnosed with HIV." She says. Molly's intentions pushed her to create a drama group called Amida HIV drama group so that she can put her intentions to practice. The group has been on very many events in Kitgum district. It is recognized by the elders in society. They have gone to schools to educate children; they have been on social events educating married people and young youth. Right now the group is even much known as Amida HIV drama group than Parwa VSLA. "The drama group has helped so many people around here, people now can normally live with people with HIV." She says. I asked Molly what gave her hope in all this and her answer was "being fearless gave me hope and I want to thank LWF and the partners like Act alliance for changing my life. I would be dead if it were not for them."

Molly has paid off her children's tuition and the eldest is done with campus. She is now building a bungalow house so that she can shift from the hut to the new one when it's complete.

Contribution by: Niona Agasha & Pius Kikomeko

Child Marriage!

A social evil that robbed of Violet's childhood

Child marriage is a global problem that cuts across countries, cultures, religions, and ethnicities. It is found in every region in the world and Violet's basic rights- this evil act robs of every girl's childhood as they are the most affected victims. 52% of women in South Sudan between ages 15-19 are married and others as little as 12 years. I have always heard about prevalence of child and forced marriages in Sudan, but Alwel Violet 26 years old now personalized the institution to me.

Married at eight years.

At 8 years when children establish their individual interests and preferences, develop skills in what they love to do either sports or drama, and all that they care about is playing house with their age mates, Violet was married to her husband, 24 years. As other parents around the world were teaching their children to do chores, and modeling them into having good behavior, Violet's parents were busy arranging for their 8 year old daughter to get married. The man's family paid the required bride price to Violet's parents and the deal was sealed, Violet, became a wife to a 24 year old man.

"I did not have a say to whatever was arranged, in fact the only times I saw the man I was to get married to, was at family functions and I thought he was

one of those distant family members and we never talked apart from greeting him." Violet recalls. After the ceremony, Violet was taken to Kenya by her husband for further education. During this time violet was a student at the same time a wife. She would do all the house chores before going to school and when she came back from school she had to cook for her husband and also perform other duties as a wife. As time went on Violet got pregnant while in her senior four (high school) at the age of 15, they had to travel to Torit in eastern equatorial in south Sudan (husband's village) where she gave birth to her baby girl (now 6 years). In 2014, violet's husband fell sick and could not take care of his wife anymore. The elder brother to Violet's husband took violet and her child to her mother-in-law where she would be well catered for. In this same year, the husband passed on. This was when life turned into a night mare for violet.

Terror from the in-laws

"After the burial ceremony of my late husband, the brothers never even waited for me to mourn for my husband and started appointing who will take over his family including me. The older brother then suggested that he will take over and since then, every night he forced me to sleep with him" she says. It's a tradition in South Sudan, if one's husband died after paying bride price, the brothers to the late would take over the family including the wife. They



Violet gestures as she speaks during the interview.

believed that since the bride price was already paid they had a right to take over the wife. With time all the five brothers forcefully slept with Violet. She tried to fight them but resolved to drug her and use her when unconscious. "I had nowhere to go with my baby" she remarked. It became worse when the brothers would only appear when they wanted to sleep with her and yet never helped her in anything like money or food for her and the child. "I had to survive I needed my child to survive I have a life to live, a child to support, it's then when I went quietly to a friend who I used to confine in and asked for help. It's when he suggested I flee from the country and go to Uganda otherwise the brothers will not stop looking for me. He helped me with some money that I used for transportation up to Elegu" she said. In March 2014, Violet registered as a refugee and was transferred to Nyumanzi settlement.

Life in Uganda

"I felt I was safe when I registered as a refugee. I tried to live a nor-

mal life for a month but I would get fears of someone watching me-the brothers coming for me", It did not take long when Violet had to face her fears again. The brothers' in-law had tracked her down to where she was staying and wanted to take her and the child back to South Sudan. She tried so much to hide from them but all in vain. It's at this point that Violet decided to seek help from other people. "I went to LWF offices and met a certain gentle man called Patrick who I translated the whole story he promised to help me out. This is when I was transferred to Borroli where they can't find me". Patrick helped her join counseling with Juko William (former staff LWF) as his counselor. However the two brothers in-law never stopped looking for Violet. They found her in her new home and wanted to rape her but she reported to Patrick again who started following them up with the help of the police; since then these two men never disturbed Violet again and went back to their country.

Violet later joined a female group called Amamzora, with 19 members. She decided to carry out village saving and loan association (VSLA), started up personal businesses most of them dealing in retail. Her life became worth living and from this time on she then became an incentive counselor on 4th June 2014 working under psycho-social department. She started helping other women who were undergoing similar situation she passed through. "I'm living a better life, and I am happily married to a man I love and soon my daughter will be a big sister. The counseling really helped me move on with my life. I'm where I belong surrounded by people who love me and wish me well. Words only can't express how LWF helped me restore my life, but my acts and deeds will prove my thanks to LWF" Violet says with a smile.

Contribution by: Niona Agasha

Amamzora group members getting ready to start their VSLA activities. Violet is a member of the group.



Not Giving Up Made Jacob A Strong Business Man

After the group business had collapsed, Jacob was left alone, his friends left for South Sudan in hopes of starting a new life. What Jacob did not know, him being left alone was a blessing in disguise. But did his friends achieve their goals?

Back to square one

Jacob Yuot Achiek 36 years of age with a big family of two wives and 8 children, had the skies of his future darkened when the group he had joined back in 2014 had lost their business to thieves. Jacob and other nine members started up a group called Zung-Wut in December 2014 and in February 2015 the group was given a cash grant of 2 million shillings by LWF and started up a small retail business. However, bad luck visited the group in May same year (2015) and their shop was robbed. The business was doing pretty well given the time duration of just four months into business. Well, after the theft, the group held a meeting and came to a conclusion with majority voting the business to be closed since there was not enough capital to build it again. Jacob however never gave up, he re-opened the business, he had to go back at the drawing table starting with the 400,000 shillings that had been saved.

Facing tomorrow without fear

He bought small retail products and reopened the retail shop in Nyumanzi Settlement. Small profits or no profits, he never gave up. "The small courageous voice deep with me that told me to try again tomorrow maybe things will be better is the one that made me continue working" Jacob answered when he was asked why he kept on working even without profits.

Later in July, Jacob was able to start up another business, this time in carpentry and luckily for him, he secured a contract with LWF distributing building materials like bamboo, ropes, used to construct toilets and houses for the PSN (Persons with Special Needs).



Jacob standing in his timber shop

The profits he made from the sales were used to get more stock for his shop. With time his distribution increased from just ropes to making doors and windows that he too sold to LWF. Jacob reached a point when he had many orders and yet had two businesses to run and resorted to hiring people to help him make the doors and windows while he worked at his shop. A pair that is one window and door would be sold at 150,000 and would pay his workers 25000 for each pair they made this enabled his workers make more products since that would make them get more money. "I even recently supplied 5000 poles to Pagirinya settlement at cost of 5500 per pole" he said.

Reaping the golden fruits

Jacob's businesses continued to grow and expand "I can now go and buy products from south Sudan like tea spices, powdered milk and many more that my customers demand, most of them being refugees. I am glad to provide products that my customers demand" he says. We African have a proverb that says "By crawling, a child learns to stand" and he never gave up, Jacob is now able to take care of his family, all his children are in school including his siblings' children. His the Lion of the clan. Much as his getting good money, Jacob decided to go for further education in 2016 doing an evening program at Northern institute of business studies doing a certificate in business studies, and has so far finished the first semester. "I went for further studies for the passion I have for business and so that I find ways of extending my businesses on a larger scale." He says. Power is one of the biggest challenges Jacob is facing, the electricity costs are very high, he pays 6000 a day to connect only a refrigerator. "It really hinders my work since the place is hot and people need to have cold drinks. I hope I will be able to get my own generator or solar when my business grows into a wholesale" he says. Jacob also plans to set up a hardware shop. He is so great full to LWF for not giving up on him even when times got rough. "However long the night, the dawn will break" he says with a smile.

So you might be wondering what happened to Jacob's other group members, well as we speak now, some of them are back to Uganda, seeking refuge after the renewed fighting in South Sudan in July 2016.

Contribution by: Niona Agasha

Teko Wa Sustainable Energy Fair 2016

In an effort to sustainably increase access and use of renewable energy technologies in Northern Uganda, the Lutheran World Federation decided to approach the communities in a fun, interactive and educative way by organizing the energy fairs. The Energy fair is considered as one of the tools to create public awareness about the need to conserve the environment specifically bio-energy resources through demonstrating modern, sustainable and energy efficient technologies.

Two (2) Energy Fairs were organized by LWF in partnership with Energy Explorerz between 20th -23rd and 27th-30th April 2016 at Bomah grounds (Kitgum District) and Mayors' gardens (Pader District) respectively. The fairs which attracted over 4,200 community members, 16 energy companies, 10 Local Stove Artisans, 5 Private Nursery Operators, 32 eco-club pupils from 7 schools, and over 20 key stakeholders from Kitgum, Pader, Agago, and Lamwo district, were held under the theme "sustainable energy for social and economic development". The event aimed at increasing awareness and access to energy efficient products (including Energy Efficient stoves and solar PV). Specifically, the event aimed at achieving the following outcomes:

- Increased awareness on energy efficient technologies and solutions
- Increased sale and utilization of energy efficient technologies
- Improved market linkages between energy companies and local businesses.

Photo Gallery for Teko Wa Sustainable Energy Fair 2016



Conserving Bio-Energy Resources Through Sustainable Charcoal Production



The inefficient traditional earth kiln (5% efficiency)

The charcoal trade, referred to as "black gold" by Kampala traders, has become more profitable than the forests where trees are being indiscriminately cut down for charcoal production. For the rural population, charcoal trade is an opportunity to earn an income. According to the National Forest Authority (NFA), more than 73,000 hectares of private forest are cleared every year across the country and over 7,000ha of protected forest reserves are destroyed annually for timber and charcoal. This excessive demand for biomass based fuels most especially charcoal is attributed to the rapid population increase that has increased the energy needs. This is coupled with high levels of poverty among the rural populace which limits them from engaging in environmentally friendly practices.

The processes and practices involved in the entire charcoal value chain have remained largely inefficient in a number of ways: the production is unsustainable, relying mainly on indiscriminate felling of live trees. Wood to charcoal conversion technologies have remained inefficient relying mainly on the traditional earth mound kilns which are associated with wastage of biomass resources. This problem is aggravated by poor attendance to the kiln and using wet wood to produce charcoal.

In an effort to ensure sustainable charcoal production and reduce wastage of biomass resources along the charcoal value chain, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) through the Teko Wa (Energy Facility) project funded by the EU with funding contributions from Church of Sweden, initiated the

casamance technology to increase the charcoal production efficiency in Northern Uganda. Casamance kilns reduce wastage of biomass during the charcoal production process and consequently increase the production efficiency by over 30%. The project is currently working with 12 groups of charcoal producers from the different sub-counties to promote sustainable charcoal production and reduce pressure on the biomass energy resources. These Charcoal producers' Associations have been registered with the respective district authorities and drafted constitutions to govern their operations. Besides supporting these groups in sustainable charcoal production, LWF has also sensitized these people on the various intrinsic values of the environment including protection of watersheds, contributing to the hydrological cycle, resource base, and assimilation of waste and toxic gases. So far 5 group members (charcoal producers) have diversified their income sources through adopting sustainable livelihood enterprises like energy efficient stove construction, and tree nursery raising to reduce over reliance on biomass resources. Furthermore, 20 charcoal producers have established bio-energy plantations on a total of 15 Hectares to replenish the biomass lost due to charcoal production.

This idea of increasing the charcoal production efficiency, supplements other project energy conservation interventions such as afforestation and reforestation aimed at increasing the biomass resources, working with Local Private Tree Nursery Operators to increase access to quality tree seedlings, supporting Local Stove Artisans to increase access and use of efficient Energy Stoves that conserve biomass resources, and massive sensitization of community members to change their attitude and embrace sustainable and renewable energy sources. The livelihoods of Community members who embraced these environmentally sound practices has since improved.

Contribution by: Mukiibi Henry

Casamance kiln with (30% efficiency rate)



“A Lucrative business which requires almost no capital!”



Raymond finishing his stove as his colleague Bosco looks on

The sound of customers consulting and whispering to each other goes on and on! They continuously contemplate on which stove is better than the other because all the stoves are molded; similar in beauty and design. They however, differ in size and the fuels they use (charcoal and firewood or both). The customers are lost for choice! These distinctive narrative has become common in and around Raymond's stove workshop in Palabek Gem.

Kalokwera Raymond, 23 years, a youthful Local Stove Artisan (LSA) married with 1 child is a resident of Arusha Village, Moroto parish in Palabek Gem Sub County,

Lamwo District. Previously, he used to largely depend on agriculture for income to sustain his family before diversifying his economic output through stove construction and marketing. The agricultural products' business earned him substantially low returns coupled with unreliable weather patterns which further affected production. Moreover, most products were sold at the farm gate price further affecting the income earned from the activity. The resident of Arusha village felt he needed to explore something different to support his family and consequently improve his livelihood. This predicament inspired him to participate in an inception workshop for the Teko Wa Project which was con-

ducted in his Sub County in April, 2015. He appreciated the project and was interested in becoming a Local Stove Artisan (LSA). He registered then with a project staff and later in August, 2015 the project facilitated him to participate in a 5-day- residential training on construction of energy saving stoves and basic skills in marketing. After completion of the training, the project also supported Raymond and others with startup kits (set of moulds and record books).

After Raymond returned home, he engaged himself in the improved cookstove business. On interaction with the project staff during one of the monitoring and support visits, Raymond shared this: “The stove business is very lucrative and



Raymond sells his stoves in front of the main market in Kitgum Town

requires little capital. What one needs is the skills and moulds for curving out the stove's shape because other construction materials (the soil, grass and water) are locally available and free of charge. The only major inputs are labour and vanish/ oxides to design the stoves he continued"

One year on, August, 2015 to August, 2016 he has managed to sell 120 energy efficient cook stoves to over 110 households earning UGX. 2,006,000 (approx. Euro: 557). The kind of money which he said he had never accumulated before the stove business. Raymond further shared that he is now able to support his family and pay his siblings in school with earnings from the stove business. The business has taken me places he further shares "I have been able to participate in 2 Energy fairs in Kitgum and a World Environment Day commemoration in Gulu."

In order to sustain his business, Raymond intends to work with marketers in Kitgum Town to market and sale his stoves. This will enable him concentrate on stove construction, design and product development.

"In the near future, i see myself employing and creating more jobs for young people in Palabek Gem." Raymond Kalokwera, LSA Palabek Gem laments.

Raymond urges all his fellow youth to engage themselves in such kind of businesses that generates income swiftly as well as conserving the environment.

Contribution by: Odongo Alex



Raymond helping a customer to load his stoves on a cart

Transforming Lives through VSLA

Santa Adoch and Irene Okello are both members of Gen Bedi Village Saving and Loan Association in Pader. Just a few years ago, they now thank LWF for promoting the Village Saving and Loans Association methodology, their future is bright.

Santa Adoch

Santa Adoch, 40 years old lives in Abunga village, Koyo parish, Lapul sub-county in Pader district. She among many people in who have benefited significantly from their VSLA. According to her, VSLA has written history that will never be forgotten.

In 2013 a friend advised her to join a VSLA group called Gen Bedi. Before joining a VSLA, her income was so low that she could not send her children to school and provide basic needs for her household.

"After joining VSLA my income is now stable and I can provide a balanced diet for my family, support my children's education and purchase other basic needs." With a smile Adoch further remarks

Using her personal savings and a small loan that she took from her VSLA, Santa was able to buy a pair of oxen for farming sorghum.

In December 2014, VSLA group members shared out individual savings plus interest earned during the course of the saving cycle. Adoch shared that she used her savings of Ugx 900,000 to buy a plot of land. She also earned UGX 300,000 from sale of sorghum. Because VSLAs encourage its members to think creatively, Adoch branched out further and started a retail shop in addition to her sorghum. She can now easily get loans from her VSLA and easily makes loan repayments from earnings of her enterprise.

She says "I earn between 20,000shs-50,000shs on daily basis from my shop and I see myself progress-

ing and my dreams will come true! I can afford to buy food, clothes, pay transport for my merchandise, among others. I borrowed 250,000shs this year and bought a bicycle which has made it easy for me to travel unlike those days when I would move on foot"



Santa poses for a photo with her Ox



Irene demonstrates how her milling machine works.

Irene Okello, a mother of 04 children and a resident of Abunga village, Koyo parish, Lapul sub-county in Pader district is another VSLA group member. She prides herself on the gains she has made from being a member of VSLA.

Before joining Gen Bedi group in 2012, Irene's source of livelihood was providing cheap casual labor within her community earning approximately 15,000UGX weekly. It was not until January 2012 when one of her friends who was already in a VSLA advised her to also join a group and she decided to join the nearest group (Gen Bedi) where she started saving. But because their constitution compels them to save weekly or else one is fined, she was motivated to start Rice farming for food and sale.

During their most recent VSLA share-out in January 2016, Irene emerged with the highest saving value of 820,000UGX against the group total saving of 8,070,000UGX. Immediately after their share-out she got additional 3,680,000UGX from the sales of her rice harvest of 50 bags and bought a grinding mill.

"I see myself achieving my vision of becoming a serious entrepreneur in Lapul sub-county. From the day LWF staff trained us in 2012 on value addition where we did some calculations of profit margin, I had a dream of buying

a maize mill to support our people and I couldn't waste any more minute upon realizing the money after share-out. My mill is working well as you can see, and I now earn 30,000UGX on a daily basis. I want to encourage fellow ladies out there to be determined, have vision, work hard to achieving it no matter the challenges, not even your husband should stand in your path of success. Finally, I thank LWF for their empowering interventions and also encourage them to scale up to other groups, villages, sub-counties and districts, God's blessings upon you

LWF Uganda facilitates the formation of VSLA groups by the poor in the target communities in Pader to provide sustainable and profitable micro-finance services. VSLAs are self-managed groups that provide members with a safe place to save their money acquire small loans and obtain emergency insurance. They focus on building savings and assets; provide credit proportionate to the needs and repayment capacities of borrowers.

Contribution by: Naomi Acara

One on One with Paul Onyait

Paul Onyait has had an illustrious working career with LWF for 10 years. He shared with us about this long journey, life and future goals

Who is Paul Onyait?

Paul was born in Soroti in the eastern region of the country, that is 40 years ago and had my education from that side from Teso College, St Peters Tororo and Islamic university in Uganda. And later at Makerere university. I joined LWF in 2006 as a field extension worker.

Tell us about your marriage life?

mmmmmm okay... I...have a long ... long winding story of marriage. Yes I am married, I have three children, my first child is now 12 she leaves with her mum that marriage did work so we went different ways. So.... That's my first daughter. So I got married to my wife and my traditional wedding took place way back in 2011 and the church wedding was in 2014. So it depends if when you believe in traditional marriage its 2011 if you believe in church marriage its 2014

What is your position in LWF?

I am the Grants Manager that means I am in charge of the slums projects; oversee implementation of project with Partners in slums in mainly Kampala now. I have been doing this since 2014

Which part of your job do you like best?

The visits to the community where I get to see and hear the changes that have happened, the reflection meetings that we have every quarter with those who implement and beneficiaries as well, I also like reporting because it's an opportunity to make accountability to the funding partners, so those are the parts of my job I like most.



You mentioned earlier that you joined LWF as a field extension worker, tell us more about this journey?

Yes, I started working with LWF on the 10th of July 2006 in Katakwi Sub program. The first ten months of my career in LWF was field and early on my eleventh month I was promoted to Project Officer Position.

What is the worst job you have ever done?

Employed by those who make bricks. It was my worst because I was exploited, the money was less compared to the amount of work I was doing.

Which living person do u admire and why?

(With so much thinking) Pastor Gary of Watoto church I don't even know why I was thinking so much.

What inspires you?

The urge to make a difference that's why people like Pastor Gary inspire me. So I use the best knowledge and skills I have to make a difference. The process to make them a better person especially the young people.

What is your talent?

(He laughs). I think my definition of talent is something I do without learning. So I think something I would consider as my talent is writing I like writing and reading so much I think it's the reason why I have grown and got promotions.

If someone was to make you a good meal, what would it have?

Anything vegetable like tomatoes carrots all put together and its .. Just sort of boiled and if you must do anything different it has to be pasted and I like it with sweet potatoes mostly, rice and pumpkin.

What is your best Bible verse?

Isaiah 40:31
But those who wait on the Lord
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

What is the secret to your success?

My secret of success has been.... Has been the fact that I have been focused on building my information base. I have been reading to understand everything.

Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

I will be out of employment, I will be not retired but doing much more than what I'm doing now probably not earning more but do what I like; world of business and farming.



Paul Onyait (middle) and his wife Della Onyait (left) and their children

International Day of Peace

“Sustainable Development Goals;
Building Blocks for Peace”



The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Peace is celebrated on September 21 each year to recognize the efforts of those who have worked hard to end conflict and promote peace. The International Day of Peace is also a day of ceasefire – personal or political.

A UN resolution established the International Day of Peace in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the UN General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in 1982 and was held on the third Tuesday of September each year until 2002, when September 21 became the permanent date for the International Day of Peace. The assembly decided in 2001 that the International Day of Peace should be annually observed on September 21 starting from 2002. By setting a fixed date for the International Day of Peace, the assembly declared that the day should be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence.

By creating the International Day of Peace, the UN devoted itself to worldwide peace and encouraged people to work in cooperation for this goal. Since its inception, Peace Day has marked personal and planetary progress toward peace. It has grown to include millions of people worldwide and many events are organized each year to commemorate and celebrate this day.

The International Day for Peace was celebrated on the 21st September 2016, for Adjumani District, the Leadership of the District took full control of the day and they were supported by the Development Agencies working in Adjumani, Boroli Settlement, Pakele Sub-County.

On the International Day of Peace, also known as Peace Day, people around the world take part in various activities and organize events centered on the theme "peace". Events vary from private gatherings to public concerts and forums involving large audiences.

In Boroli settlement, both the host communities and the refugees came together and celebrated the International Day of Peace, it is a settlement of over 37 tribes and over many times, conflicts have risen amongst tribes hence the district selected it as a venue for the Peace function. Lutheran World Federation is one of the agencies implementing in Adjumani, facilitated the preparations of the day.

As the theme of the day was, we were looking at all the possible strategies of building blocks for peace in the lives of the children, youth and elders in both the settlements and the communities of Adjumani District. It is still a memorable day in the lives of the children and the district at large, District leaders, Sub-County leaders, Settlement leaders were able to communicate and advocate for more peace programs in the district, other leaders re-echoed for peace in South Sudan.

Contribution by: Edwin Odur-Luru

Other News

- LWF Uganda successfully conducted a self assessment on CHS standards.
- Secretary General of Actaliance visited LWF work in Adjumani



Empowering small farmers in Luuka through Farmers Field Schools

It's approximately 10 months since our youngest sub-program came to existence. In just a short period of time, one might think Luuka sub-program is as young as a breast feeding baby but that's not the case. It has grown too fast with overwhelming results.

Luuka communities face a challenge of low economic viability due to limited presence and access to alternative gainful employment opportunities (small businesses - both agricultural related and non-agricultural related) and financial illiteracy among the communities. The Poverty Status Report (PSR) 2014 shows that youth unemployment is at 13.9%. Up to 54.1% of communities in Luuka district are engaged in subsistence agriculture. They are predominantly engaged in small scale agriculture, animal husbandry and produce buying; scanty fishing is also carried out contributing to income and nutrition of the people. Over 85% of crop production that farmers are engaged in is entirely rain based. 38% of farmers are involved in mixed farming and a negligible percentage in livestock keeping and fishing. The main participants in these low income-high labour activities are women yet they lack the skills to enhance their productivity. Literacy levels among women are low thus most of them are dependent on the informal sector without a sound capital base to enhance their activities in agriculture or petty business.

Due to lack of relevant laws, regulations and effective framework for controlling the sugar industry in Busoga sub region and Uganda as a whole dictate that rather than producing the required sugarcane commercially, on a large scale by landowners who have hundreds of unutilized acreage of land, very poor, small households with 0.5 to 2.0 acres of land are heavily involved in sugarcane production at the cost of household food production which results in famine, extremely poor living conditions occasioning death particularly of children, the elderly and pregnant women¹.

It is against this background that LWF Uganda Program with support from Bread for the World (BftW), Protestant Development Services is implementing a three (3) year project entitled Luuka Food Security Initiative.

One of the main approaches promoted by the Project is the Farmer Field School Methodology (FFS). As part of the methodology, a communal plot is made available to teach farmers proven agricultural practices, by which they can increase their yield and production and protect their crops. Farmers adopt new techniques which they apply on their own farm. Once the techniques are well mastered, they can also teach other farmers, thus multiplying the positive effects of the methodology.

Although the adoption rate of FFS practices is not as high, some group members who have applied what they learnt have managed to increase production and productivity of their enterprises.

Bwaiswa Farmer Field School

The group started farmer field activities in April this year (2016) with 30 members of which 29 are females. The group is engaged in farming of vegetable crops like tomatoes, cabbages onions, and amaranths among others. It also carries out savings under the village savings and loans association. The group is supported by a technically competent facilitator who was trained by LWF and leads members through hand on exercises. By combining their farming experience, newly acquired knowledge, and hands-on experimentation, farmers identify and adopt the most suitable practices for their farming systems.

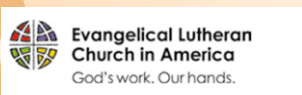
"LWF provided us with facilitators that taught us more about farming and agriculture than what we knew before. They taught us how to mix soil with fertilizers to make it more fertile, the technology that would help us yield more productions. Ruth Batuli a member of Buwaiswa farm field school narrates.

Group members are proud of their progress toward learning more productive and resilient farming, and are excited to share that knowledge. As they do so, they will be helping their friends, family and neighbors to move beyond subsistence farming and achieve a better future for themselves.

Contribution by: Niona Agasha & Pius Kikomeko



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





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(Cover Photo)

Children from both refugee settlements and host community make a circle during the celebration of international day of Peace in Boroli settlement in Adjumani