

THE LWF UPR ADVOCACY STORY-FROM GENEVA TO KAMPALA AND BEYOND;

Translating Human Rights Commitments Into Reality

Photos:

Stephen Okello
Clement Aluma
Daily Monitor Archives (used with permission)
Royalty Free images from Pixaby Images.

This publication may be cited as;

Lutheran World Federation, 'The LWF UPR Advocacy Story-From
Geneva To Kampala And Beyond: Translating Human Rights Commitments
into Reality,' 2018



Harnessing the Universal Peer Review Mechanism to Transform Refugee and Host Communities in Uganda



ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CMW	Committee on Migrant Workers (UN)
UPR	Universal Peer Review
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations

FOREWORD

In this report, we take a retreat, a step backwards, to take a keen look into the past, trace the journey of the project and its aspirations to inform the future. It is a challenge to ourselves characterized by one question: Did we deliver on our quest for transformation of peoples' lives for the better?

The report demonstrates as practically as possible, through select case stories the impact of the project highlighting along the way, the diverse working strategies used to achieve them. The project highlighted the loopholes in the modes of delivery of LWF services which are largely approached in humanitarian angle devoid of an infusion with basic aspects of human rights. 'The project reveals that LWF's heart for humanity is not in contestation, the same spirit could be leveraged to transform work methods by infusing therein various notions of human rights.

Beyond listing activities undertaken and a description of who attended them, this synthesized project story line sought to probe and provide a fairer image of what differences were caused or commenced to take shape in transformation of peoples' lives. This project story line is based on various sources including project documentation such as activity reports etc. and purposively selected respondents for interviews. LWF recognizes, nevertheless, that limited time of the project could curtail a meaningful appreciation of impact assessment. It is however, not entirely impossible, at least to begin the discussion.

SELECT MILESTONES OF THE PROJECT:

- Through the media campaigns and sensitization, the project reached over 60,000 people and contributed to building their knowledge on human rights generally with particular attention on gender based violence, land rights and children rights.
- Using the Community sensitization sessions, an interface platform was provided between the communities and their leaders under the DCC arrangement. These platforms contributed to enhancing accountability of the leadership to citizens on their use of power and mended bridges that were blocking collective collaborative and mutual trust amongst the communities and their leaders in the quest to finding solutions to the problems that affect the communities.
- The reports generated from the regional consultations in the project areas provided information that shaped the cluster report that was eventually submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the Stakeholders' report. This was the first report ever in Uganda's UPR processes to focus exclusively on refugees. The consultative report produced as an output of the Project formed part of the key documents used by the members of the UN Human Rights Council during the UPR of Uganda in the interactive dialogue segment.
- Through the project, the Cluster influenced the recommendations that came through to Uganda for implementation specifically those touching on refugee rights-juvenile justice and gender based violence.
- It led to the revival of local government structures more specifically the District Coordination Committees (DCC) in the project areas. The DCCs have since been very active, meeting regularly to deliberate on the social justice and human rights concerns emerging from their committees.
- As a result of the project, human rights aspects concerning refugees were mainstreamed and gained ground on the agenda of the wider national CSOs forum under the UPR. Before, these were issues deemed a preserve for humanitarian agencies and less of human rights attention. Indeed the project enabled a platform of inter-face and synergy between humanitarian based organizations and human rights NGOs to share best practices including debunking the widely held belief that the two were mutually exclusive.
- Closely tied to the above, the project opened doors for LWF to other national and international human rights platforms and processes that are central to the realization of social justice for refugee communities. Following its success in influencing recommendations in refugee aspects under the UPR, LWF has since been called upon to develop and submit shadow reports with particular attention to the State of refugees in Uganda to inform deliberations in the upcoming review of Uganda by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; the United Nations Committee on the Rights of a Child; the Committee on Migrant Workers and their Families; Human Rights Committee as established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and UPR mid-term assessment reporting. This is a great opportunity to further influence the discourse on those platforms to augment for the betterment of lives of refugees and IDPs in Uganda.

- The project contributed to the establishment and strengthening of a dedicated expertise cluster of organizations dealing in refugees, IDPs and post-conflict community issues under the National Stakeholders' Forum for the UPR. This became a permanent channel through which refugees using both refugee serving and refugee led organizations shall have voices heard during the UPR and other human rights reporting processes.
- Construction of a Juvenile detention facility in Kamwenge district to ensure that children in conflict with the law are not detained with adult offenders in the same center which offends children's justice rights and freedoms. This goes to the core of transformation of the Juvenile justice system that is reformist in nature to the young offenders some of which are refugee children.
- Enhanced the capacity of the select staff of LWF working in the areas of the project implementation on human rights based approach to humanitarian work and generally human rights and freedoms and its centrality to humanitarian work. This is poised to change the operations of the sub-programmes with the inculcation of fundamental human rights principles of gender equality, equity and equality and beneficiary participation in the programming of their works.



Mr. Okullu Francis from the Uganda Law Society Legal Aid Project receiving documents from one of the walk in clients during the Legal Aid Clinic. In the background, other clients wait for their opportunity to talk to a lawyer. The Legal Aid Camps were some of the activities of the project.



INTRODUCTION:

The UPR Mechanism and the Quest for Human Rights Promotion and Protection in Uganda

The Universal Peer Review (UPR) is a unique State led mechanism of human rights promotion and protection housed under the UN Human Rights Council. Like its acronyms connote, the process is UNIVERSAL in as far as all the 192/3 countries that make up the globe are subjects of this mechanism for review. It is PEER led and run connoting its central feature that States talk to each other as peers regardless of their might economically and political supremacy.

As such, it is a departure from the traditional Charter and treaty based mechanisms that capitalize on 'experts' to examine State progression in the implementation of the various treaty obligations there under. It is a REVIEW in the practical sense since it is tailored around peer States critically examining the status of human rights promotion and protection in a particular country. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

“The Universal Periodic Review is a significant innovation of the Human Rights Council which is based on equal treatment for all countries. It provides an opportunity for all States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. The UPR also includes a sharing of best human rights practices around the globe. Currently, no other mechanism of this kind exists.”

This review is extensive and robust lasting over 3 hours tackling various aspects of human rights from economic, social and cultural rights to civil and political rights including special interest groups such as indigenous peoples. This review is thus based on information in possession of the UN Human Rights Council Member States. This information includes a report provided by the State under review (in this case, Uganda submitted a report)- a 'national report'; it also entails information contained in the reports of independent human rights experts and groups, known as the Special Procedures, human rights treaty bodies, and other UN entities;

and lastly information compiled collectively from other stakeholders such as the national human rights institutions-in this case the Uganda Human Rights Commission submitted a report and non-governmental organizations including LWF which submitted both human rights thematic cluster specific report on refugees and a national stakeholders' report in collaboration with over 300 other organizations.

This review also periodic, the typical cycle consisting of every after 4.5-5 years within which the reviewed country is given time to implement the recommendations it has accepted to promote human rights.

— ENTER UGANDA —

In 2011, Uganda underwent its first Universal Peer Review cycle in Geneva. It received various recommendations touching on a diverse range of human rights issues including economic, social and cultural rights, civil and political rights, and rights of Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWDs), transitional justice among others. As it is the procedure of the UPR, Uganda was again subjected to another review-dubbed the 2nd Cycle.

The 2nd Cycle took place in November, 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland during the United Nations Human Rights Council Session. The final Working Group Report on Uganda was adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in March, 2017 at the UN Human Rights Council. From then on, the

process of UPR lets the States in partnership with the various players within their countries-CSOs and development partners to embark on a 5 year agenda of implementation of the recommendations until the next review.

As such, Uganda's 3rd Cycle review shall take place in 2021. In essence, between 2017-2021, is the period of concerted efforts at implementation. It should be noted at this point that UPR is not an event but rather a continuous process that seeks to keep the conversation of improvement, promotion and protection of human rights on the agenda of every Member State of the United Nations.

Ensuing from the UPR process, were many the recommendations from different States to Uganda including specific three geared towards enhancing the livelihood of refugees. These are:

1. Take active measures to eliminate gender-based violence against women, specifically refugee women, and take immediate appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
2. Separate juveniles from adults in detention and rehabilitation centers.'
3. Seek necessary assistance for its efforts to improve human rights in its territory, particularly the rights of migrants and asylum seekers.

THE REFUGEES, IDPS AND POST CONFLICT COMMUNITIES QUESTION

Of particular importance to LWF, in this cycle of UPR on Uganda was the issue of refugees, IDPs and post conflict communities situate in various parts of the country but more notably in Northern Uganda. LWF sought to advocate for recommendations to Uganda that would assist her in fulfilling her international human rights obligations to the vulnerable groups mainly refugees fleeing political turmoil in neighbouring countries of Democratic Republic of Congo, Somali and Southern Sudan.

Uganda is host to one of the largest refugee populations in the world estimated at 1.3 million people. Majority of these are from the civil war besieged Southern Sudan where the struggle for power has continued to cause a humanitarian crisis characterised by grave violence including sexual violence, wanton extra judicial killings and enforced disappearances among other vices. According to Amnesty International, over 64% of these refugees are children under the age of

18. This number when added to women constitutes 86% of the total number of Southern Sudan refugee population hosted in Uganda. Uganda has progressively continued to operate a self-reliant agenda approach to the refugee communities it hosts. This approach debunks the re-known camp phenomenon of restricting movement among other humane aspects of refugees. Instead Uganda offers refugees pieces of land within refugee settlement with the hope that they can start-up businesses, grow their own food and reclaim their self-determination rights and reduce dependency on humanitarian aid.

There is also efforts to provide these refugees with health care while school going children are enrolled into primary education institutions. The above progress notwithstanding, there remains numerous challenges including gender based violence and juvenile justice short falls among others, which LWF brought to the attention of international discourse under the UPR processes.



Some of the refugees reaching Dzaipi Refugee camp in Adjumani district, in Northern Uganda.

THE LWF UPR

PROJECT:

**NAVIGATING AND MAKING
IMPACT IN UNCHARTERED
TERRITORY**

A. Overall Objective

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Uganda Program as part of the Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service (LWF-DWS), an international Humanitarian and Development agency, works to reduce people's vulnerability, supporting them to realize their potential, to build on their assets, and to respond to their own problems and needs. Human rights are at the core of all that LWF Uganda stands for, its actions and operations.

The respect for human rights is fundamental to people being able to move out of poverty, to bring about justice and peace and for development to be sustainable. Aligned in this spirit, the project was motivated by the need to see that Key target groups are able to access their fundamental Human Rights. Its main objective was to contribute to an environment where duty bearers are taking measures to implement UPR recommendations in the priority thematic areas and in target localities, thereby giving strengthened access to fundamental Human Rights.

B. Specific Objectives;

Specifically, the Project sought to achieve the following as a precursor towards attainment of the main objective discussed above.

1. Empowered coalitions or alliances reflecting LWF priorities are working at national level;
2. Recommendations in the final UPR working report on Uganda reflecting LWF thematic priorities, have been accepted by government of Uganda;
3. Project activities have reinforced delivery of concrete impact at local level through existing programmes.

C. Geographical Scope

The project had a global, national and regional dimension during implementation. It was partly implemented in Geneva, Switzerland mainly through the project staff attendance of the pre-session, main session and adoption session of the UPR Human Rights Council Working Group. Additionally, some advocacy work was undertaken targeting permanent missions of various States situate in Geneva on the eve of Uganda's review. The other platform was the national-advocacy and strategic meetings with government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) within Kampala-the capital. The project has reach to Northern Uganda-post conflict communities in mainly Kitgum, Pader and Adjumani. Additional geographical project spheres included Western Uganda-in Kamwenge District in and around the refugee settlement of Rwamwanja.

PROJECT GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE




PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT STORIES

LWF crafted various activities on own volition to fulfill the above mentioned objectivities. In the same vein, LWF also participated in other activities, on invitation, organized /by other partner NGOs and platforms on UPR as a measure of contributing to the achievement of the objectives. In the latter activities, LWF sought to influence other partners into inculcating aspects of post-conflict, IDPs and refugees in their advocacy or post-UPR implementation agendas. LWF implemented the project in a three dimensional approach tailored around the phases of the UPR in alignment with the Project Objectives. This included activities that targeted the:

- Pre-UPR Review Period-mainly Stakeholder report preparation from the diverse actors of the CSO fraternity;
- Actual Session of the UPR at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. And thirdly,
- Post-UPR Agenda which involved the final working Group Report adoption and the more fundamental question of monitoring, documentation and reporting on the implementation of the accepted recommendations including their dissemination to a the populace.

The implemented activities that were tagged to the aforementioned time road map based on the UN Human Rights Council Working Group on UPR were constructed on three pillars as summarized below;

- Building capacity of and ensuring effective participation of refugee rights related actors in all the stages of the UPR process (refugee led and refugee serving organizations as a priority);
- Awareness raising and dissemination of the recommendations from UPR touching specifically on issues of refugees, IDPs and post-conflict communities;
- Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting on implementation on the refugee, IDP and post-conflict cluster specific UPR recommendations.



“The project was anchored on the basic realization that at the center of humanitarian action, which is the heart of LWF’s operations, **THERE IS HUMAN RIGHTS**. Invariably, where there is a humanitarian crisis such as the refugee influx in Uganda, there are human rights concerns.

By this project, using the UPR mechanism, LWF is **GROWING** steadily and strengthening the systematic and strategic consideration of human rights protection and promotion in its humanitarian emergency response agenda as a shared responsibility in restoration of dignity to the violated populaces.”

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING FOR REFUGEE RIGHTS PROMOTION AND PROTECTION

A. Establishment of the Refugee/IDPs and Post-Conflict Communities Cluster.

LWF being a new entrant in the field of human rights advocacy around UPR, sought out strategic partnerships from various stakeholders. It sought for membership and was welcomed into the National Stakeholders' Forum for the UPR, a loose coalition of over 300 NGOs operating across parts of the country.

The Coalition seeks to harness the UPR mechanism to enhance protection and promotion of human rights in Uganda. The Coalition works through thematic human rights clusters bringing together expertise organizations for collective advocacy. These Clusters, 13 in number include Civil and Political Rights; Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Persons Living With Disabilities (PLWDs); Women and Children's Rights among others. At the time of joining the Coalition, LWF found that there was no cluster dealing with Refugees despite the fact that Uganda was hosting an estimated 1.2m refugees at the time. As such, there was no refugees related human rights issues discourse within the work of the CSOs Coalition on UPR at the time.

LWF successfully lobbied for the establishment of a Special Cluster to bring together various actors on refugees and post-conflict communities' issues to undertake advocacy around the UPR under the auspices of the Coalition. The cluster consists of 30 organizations both local and international, with some refugee led or/and refugee founded and continues to jointly undertake advocacy and monitoring initiatives aimed at assessing and complementing the efforts of government of Uganda in the implementation of the UPR recommendations that affect the refugee and post conflict communities.

B. Campaign Against Gender Based Violence

LWF further partnered with other leading actors in the campaign against Gender Based Violence

in line with the recommendation on elimination of GBV among refugees. LWF participated in 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence purposing to raise awareness about the dangers of GBV and how it can be countered especially in the refugee settlements.

C. Alliances for Implementation of UPR recommendations.

LWF further cemented its quest for alliance building in the UPR by co-organizing the Post-UPR Strategy Building Symposium on 12th December, 2017 in Kampala, Uganda. LWF teamed up with Uganda Human Rights Commission, together with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Rights Network-Uganda (Representing the CSOs National Stakeholders' Forum) to facilitate this national discussion on the UPR2 outcomes and enhance complementarity in the implementation process from the various stakeholders across the sphere involving both civil society organisations and government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). The platform provided an opportunity to CSOs to provide their action strategy proposals for their complementary role in the implementation process of the recommendations, share plans for implementation, share experiences, and also seek input from different Ministries on how they plan to implement UPR recommendations that plunge directly within their mandates.

In its quest to enhance peer learning, LWF-Uganda welcomed the UPR-best practices learning team from LWF-Southern Sudan. The delegation took part in the deliberations in Uganda on the post-UPR National Stakeholders' Forum Symposium in December, 2017. Taking part in co-organizational activities with national institutions and government Ministries and Agencies buttressed LWF's agenda to elevate its human rights advocacy for its constituents to the national fora through national-level alliances.

D. LWF's ascendancy to the National Steering Committee of the CSO UPR Platform


As a result of the project, LWF was appointed on the National Steering Committee of the CSO National Stakeholders' Forum where it represents the refugees, internally displaced and post-conflict communities or/and NGOs that service them. This loose Coalition consists of over 300 members organisations operating across the country harnessing the UPR Mechanism as a conduit of State accountability and responsiveness to human rights promotion and protection.

As a collective, this Forum is made of different clusters, thematic in nature each being a host of organisations that profess expertise in different human rights spheres. This Committee shall also direct the framework of monitoring, documenting and reporting on the recommendations of the UPR 2nd Cycle. Previously, in the 1st Cycle of Uganda's review, there was not any particular organisation advocating for the is-

sues of refugees at such an important fora.

LWF continues to use its opportunity as a member of the Steering Committee to infuse within the membership the wider discourse on various aspects concerning refugees and their host communities. In the same vein, LWF, using this forum has become a central participant in the discourse on the development and implementation of the forthcoming National Action Plan on Human Rights, the first of its kind in Uganda as a framework for implementation of the UPR and other recommendations from human rights bodies of United Nations and African Union.

The NAP is also allied to the National Development Plan II. The NAP, will have clear targets and timeframes for implementation. Recommendations relating to refugees, internally displaced persons and Asylum seekers were all captured in the draft resubmitted to the Government. Going forward, the NAP will be submitted to Cabinet for approval and thereafter a concerted process of implementation will start.



“LWF, using this forum has become a central participant in the discourse on the development and implementation of the forthcoming National Action Plan on Human Rights, the first of its kind in Uganda as a framework for implementation of the UPR and other recommendations from human rights bodies of United Nations and African Union.”

TRAINING, EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SHARING:

As a modicum of delivering on the project objectives, LWF adopted training, education and information sharing as a central pillar.

We sought to reach those not reached yet with knowledge on the mechanism of UPR, how it works and how if harnessed and implemented effectively, can contribute to the transformation of peoples' lives through promotion and protection of their rights and freedoms.

To our partners already in the know of UPR, LWF shared information; to those with obligations to implement these recommendations from UPR, we provided training and to the wider public we disseminated the information to enhance citizenry knowledge power. The trainings conducted sought to build the capacity of three groups namely;

- The staff within the LWF sub-programmes especially those situate in the project implementation areas.
- Organizations within wider refugee rights spectrum within the cluster under the National Stakeholders' Forum on the UPR and thirdly.
- Other partners deemed key in the implementation process of the UPR recommendations.

“As a modicum of delivering on the project objectives, LWF adopted training, education and information sharing as a central pillar. We sought to reach those not reached yet with knowledge on the mechanism of UPR, how it works and how it can contribute to the transformation of peoples' lives.”

A. Training on Monitoring, documenting and reporting on implementation of the UPR recommendations

LWF provided 4 trainings to representative organization members of the Cluster on refugees situate in the project areas of Adjumani, Pader, Kampala, Kitgum and Rwamwanja, Kamwenge district. In addition to CSOs, district local leaders and community opinion leaders were also part of the trainings and development of the district based implementation matrixes. Facilitation of these trainings was undertaken by the Directorate of Inspections, Monitoring and Documentation of the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the Regional and International Human Rights Mechanisms Programme of Human Rights Network-Uganda which also hosts the CSO National Stakeholders' Forum on the UPR with support from the LWF-advocacy Officer.

Additionally, the trainings expanded to building skills of joint monitoring, documentation and reporting on government implementation of human rights recommendations from the UPR mechanism specifically and other United Nations and African Union human rights mechanisms and Special Procedures in general.

Further, LWF also separately conducted capacity building trainings for its staff and partners' organizations staff on advocacy, monitoring, documenting and reporting on the recommendations handed to Uganda. The training was aimed at imparting practical skills on how to monitor, document and report on the implementation of recommendations made to Uganda. In total 20 staff from Kampala, Pader, Kitgum and Adjumani Sub Programmes were trained.

An additional 32 partner institutions staff from Rwamwanja were also trained. During these trainings, monitoring matrixes of the emerging issues pertaining to the recommendations were developed and adopted to become the guiding framework for monitoring and complimenting State progress at the implementation of the UPR recommendations.

B. Capacity Building for Medical Personnel on Clinical Management of GBV survivors.

In the same vein, as a direct intervention aimed at contributing to the implementation of one of the recommendations, LWF with support from UNHCR organized and oversaw a training for medical personnel in clinical management of GBV survivors. The training was attended by 32 participants of which, 12 were Female. Medical staff trained in Clinical management of GBV survivors will be better placed to support in strengthening the referral pathway for survivors of GBV, providing the much needed recovery treatment and effective documentation of these cases successful prosecution of perpetrators.

Limited capacity of Health staff was one of the key issues raised during the district GBV breakfast meeting. This had been one of the gigantic blockades to access to services by GBV survivors when they go to report these cases at police and seeking medical examination from the health centers.

C. RBA L2G Global Workshop; Business and Human Rights Forum advocacy initiatives

In September, 2017, LWF UPR project staff participated in the RBA Local to Global Workshop in Geneva, Switzerland. This workshop was organized with the aim of building an internal organizational competence in LWF especially in advocating for the Local to-Global and Rights Based Approaches in the realization of human rights through the UPR supported proj-


ects. Project managers of each of the 9 countries with an RBA L2G project attended and had the opportunity to share lessons learnt and work on the proposal for the next project cycle. The workshop was timely considering that the UPR Project in Uganda is on this similar quest of infusing humanitarian work with a human rights based approach mode of delivery.

In November 2017, LWF Uganda Advocacy Officer participated in the Business and Human Rights Forum and a side event jointly organized by Act alliance and LWF in Geneva, Switzerland. This Forum offered an opportunity to the officer to understand better the interrelation of business and land rights especially in contemporary where land rights especially of the vulnerable groups are under serious violations.

The meeting provided the officer with various best practices from other countries on how they are handling business and related human rights conflicts and challenges. It should be noted that the LWF Uganda UPR project was at the time, being implemented in the Northern part of Uganda which, following the 20 year civil war, has been plunged in to grave land wrangles within the communities and large scale acquisitions by business entities.

The influx of refugees and host communities perceptual connotations of land being taken over by the refugees has not helped matters. LWF Local Staff was able to network at global level, share experiences and learn from international advocacy best practices to replicate home.

“The influx of refugees and host communities perceptual connotations of land being taken over by the refugees has not helped matters. LWF Local Staff was able to network at global level, share experiences and learn from international advocacy best practices to replicate home.”



“ UPR training has enhanced my advocacy skills...the project has become a brick and concrete to build a bridge between stakeholders in implementation of the UPR recommendations from all corners. ”

*Perez Malinzi, Legal Officer,
Adjumani Sub-Programme.*

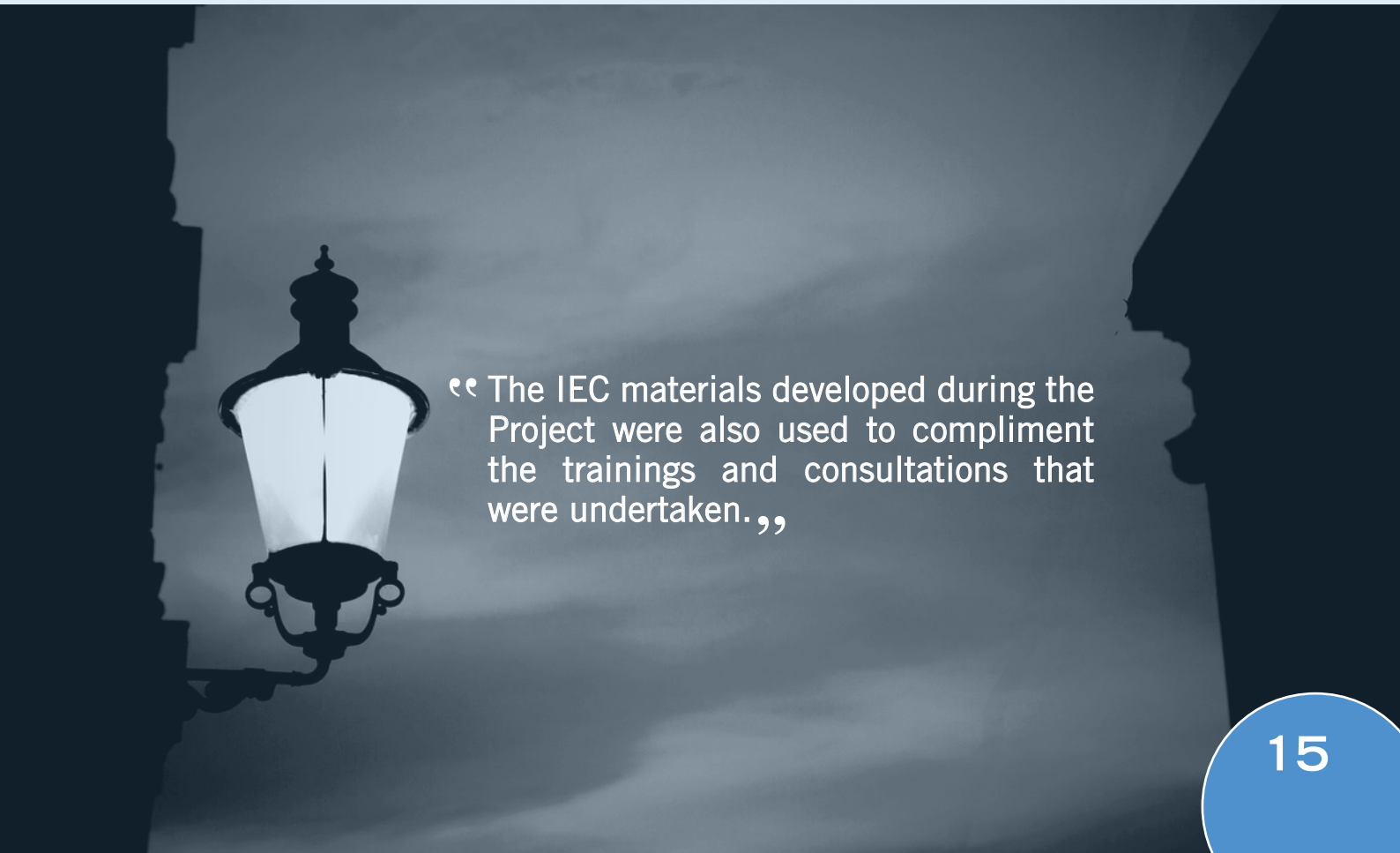
“ The Project on UPR has strengthened coordination and partnership between LWF and the District especially with the District Coordination Committee that we never had direct links with. ”

*Naomi Acara, Sub Programme Manager-
Pader Sub-Programme*

C. Development and publication of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and advocacy material on UPR

LWF's UPR journey also involved the conceptualization, development, publication and dissemination of strategic literature aimed at informing, educating and communicating about various aspects of the UPR to members of the cluster, general citizenry. The IEC materials were also used in complementary to the trainings and consultations that were undertaken. These publications included the following:

- a) **CSO Handbook on implementation of UPR Recommendations** on Refugees. This publication details the UPR mechanism and CSOs' role especially at monitoring and documentation of the progress of government implementation. It covers various practical issues step by step approaches in undertaking such monitoring.
- b) **Lobby/Advocacy Documentation:** This was crafted to target specifically the 2nd Stage of the process-to aid LWF in its lobby and advocacy activities of the various diplomatic missions both within Uganda and Geneva in a quest to influence them make recommendations that positively, when implemented, shall transform the lives of the refugee communities in Uganda. These were short 4 pager assorted documents, their design, influenced by the nature of the populations that were targeted for advocacy-the diverse interests of the permanent representatives of the different countries in Geneva during the session.
- c) **An advocacy Strategy** for Uganda Country Programme towards realization of the UPR recommendations that speak to the Project objectives-refugees, post-conflict communities and IDPs to guide members of the cluster during the ongoing implementation period.



“The IEC materials developed during the Project were also used to compliment the trainings and consultations that were undertaken.”

COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION AND EMPOWERMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS & UPR: Building Resilience



The Project rested fundamentally on the realization and deliberate focus on the beneficiary communities as part of the implementing agents. To be impactful and sustainable, monitoring/oversight over the government implementation of the Uganda's recommendations from the UPR process has to involve the communities to the lowest level of governance. However, only empowered and knowledge possessing communities can impactfully engage with the duty bearers.

Consequently, one of the central pillars of the project was to enhance knowledge of the communities on various human rights aspects more so revolving around gender based violence and juvenile justice. LWF believes that an empowered community is key to transformation since it enhances accountable governance in the community. To achieve this, LWF undertook sensitisation engagements with communities in Pader district on dispute resolution mechanisms, children's rights, land rights and procedures in land transactions, criminal justice systems, marriage and

divorce, the law of inheritance, and general basics of the law and conflict resolution. Some of the fundamental issues of concern raised within these platforms included corruption in the police force which paralyses trust and mutual relations with the community.

Not only were these sensitisation meetings vital to build an informed citizenry, they were also platforms of exposition of what remains outstanding in relation to improvement of lives of the communities for the government to act upon. **Such avenues of community discourse with their leaders help to diffuse potential conflictual tendencies that have often found comfort and growth in situations where there is blocked communication between the communities and their leaders.**

Indeed, these meetings also informed the potential future intervention areas of LWF in its quest to contribute to the implementation of the UPR recommendations in the spheres of access to justice and land dispute management in such communities hosting large numbers of refugees.

“The Community sensitization both on the UPR process, its outcomes and the wider human rights aspects was also extended to the radio talks shows held in the different project areas using largely the community radios that speak to the lived realities of the communities within which they are situate more over using the local language hence enhancing inclusivity in this discourse.”



The project also used Television and radio spot messages including DJ (radio presenters') mentions to communicate various aspects on human rights including land rights, gender based violence and juvenile justice among others. These community sensitization programmes were key in countering the rampant state of ignorance amongst the populace of rights and how to claim them from the duty bearers. The community sensitization also dwelt on the responsibilities that come with rights to emphasize and demystify the notion that communities have no role to play in making their communities better guarantors of human rights for all. Equipped with this information and rights and responsibilities, these communities can henceforth be active participants in the collective process of building a society that respects human rights and freedoms as a precursor to improvement of lives.



Ms. Naomi Acara, the head of the LWF-Pader district Sub-programme engages the community members during a talk show. The community sensitization campaign was executed through holding 19 Radio Talk shows; 3 TV talk shows, 180 DJ (radio presenters') mentions and 360 spot messages. Community Sensitization and call-in radio talk shows gave community members of all walks of life voice.



Members of the DCC dialogue with the community during one of the Community sensitization meetings in Pader district. The DCC is part of Justice Law and Order Sector approach of bringing together all agencies involved in administration of Justice and maintenance of Law and Order so as to foster coordination, cooperation and communication. Through the LWF project, the DCC executed community sensitization meetings and legal aid provision in 10, Ogom, Pader TC, Puranga, Pader Sub County and Pajule Sub counties that include Awere, Angagura, Atanga, Acholibur and Latanya.



One of the elderly female participants contributing during of the community sensitization/ legal aid dialogues. As a central methodological aspect during the project implementation, LWF took special interest in the participation of different gender, age groups and other marginalized groups generally.

During participant sieving and invitation, focus was accorded to 50/50 participation of men and women. To further accommodate the women across the divide, as participants during project implementation, LWF executed community activities within or near the community environs, an aspect, key to the participation of women. The same attention was extended to other marginalized groups such as the youth and the persons living with disabilities.

TRACING THE IMPACT AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT



🔵 Navigating New Territory of human rights inclusion in Humanitarian Works

The project was successful in commencing the much neglected discourse on the need for provision of humanitarian services from a human rights based approach. It challenged the long standing traditional mode of operations amongst refugees' service providers which places human rights at the peripheral levels in the implementation of their work. The mode of work that conceptualizes a refugee as a mere statistic-ready to receive survival packages in a typical up to down approach devoid of refugee communities participation.

🔵 Collectivism advocacy

One of the lessons LWF learned through the implementation of this project is the need to deliberately establish and strengthen partnerships with main stream human rights NGOs not visible in the humanitarian sphere. This partnership is necessary to facilitate the infusion of human rights within the humanitarian operating entities/fraternity. This is critical considering that beyond settling refugees in a humanitarian modus, more daunting issues arise in relation to human rights issues as these communities began to relate. It limits the traditional dichotomy between these two entities of NGOs to allow filtering of refugees issues into the main stream NGOs and vice versa.

🔵 Building Bridges with Government

LWF liaised largely with the local government governance structure as a modicum of follow up and ensuring the dissemination of the recommendations from the UPR to the possible lowest level of administrative unit. At this district level exists potentially formidable platforms that can be exploited to mainstream the implementation of these recommendations in their work. LWF's choice of co-operating with the local governance structures is informed by a deliberate strategy of recruiting administrative units that boast of local contextual knowledge-politics, social and economic dynamics and can drive and sustain localized change. LWF facilitated five meetings with the D.C.C. from the districts of Pader, Adjumani, Kamwenge and Kitgum. Despite their importance at bringing together various actors in the sphere of justice, law and order sector, DCC in all these districts had stalled without any substantive work being undertaken by them let alone meetings.

🔵 Beneficiary Centered Project Implementation

At all stages of the UPR, LWF sought and implemented a 'beneficiary-speak-for-yourself' approach. This was manifest in encouraging refugee led organizations to be part of the Cluster at the compilation of the report level. These organizations had an opportunity to speak out on issues that were prevalent at the time in their various spheres of operation. These were inculcated in the main cluster report that was submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Refugees from across the divide- urban and non-urban, were given a platform to voice their concerns. This is a departure from the traditional mechanism of 'speaking for them' by people other than themselves however well-meaning they may be.

The project provided a platform for 30 NGOs working on issues of refugees, internal-

By displaced persons in Uganda to effectively engage with the entire UPR process.

This strategic collective participation opened the door for recommendations specific to the plight of refugee children and women in Uganda to be adopted for implementation. This was the first time recommendations on refugees were making their debut in Uganda’s UPR cycle reviews. A pertinent question worth posing is: How if in any way, did LWF participation in UPR 2 add value? The following table is a summary of the manifest answer.

UPR I: 2010


UPR II: 2016

1.	Presence and Number of Organizations advocating for Refugee related issues	None.	1.	Presence and Number of Organizations advocating for refugees related aspects	28
2.	Cluster on Refugees, IDPs and post-conflict communities	None.	2.	Cluster on Refugees, IDPs and post-conflict communities	1
3.	No of recommendations on refugees and IDPs	None.	3.	Number of recommendations issued and accepted by government of Uganda on refugees related aspects.	3

Unintended Project Consequences: From UPR to advocacy in the African Human Rights System of the African Union

Uganda is slated to report before the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights in fulfillment of its State reporting obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights. Part of the requirements of the State process during the compilation of its report is the involvement of CSOs among other stakeholders to inform the report. CSOs also use the available mechanism of Shadow reporting to provide further complementary information to the Commission to facilitate its discussion with the State delegation during the interface. Using its newly acquired experience in international advocacy under the UPR, LWF also seized the opportunity of Uganda’s pending human rights review before the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights to front refugee rights related issues.

LWF lobbied for and was invited in a panel discussion organized by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (African Union Department) in collaboration with Human Rights Network-Uganda (HURINET-U) to assess State progress in implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights provisions in Uganda. LWF prepared, submitted and presented a paper detailing a situational analysis of the State of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Uganda [2013-2016]. The event took place on Tuesday, the 6th/June/2017.



“ The Project was run on and benefited greatly from the values of diversity. It brought together diverse NGOs working on diverse issues concerning refugees and host communities. It employed diverse mechanisms of implementation thereby maximizing impact.

The Project engaged and provided an opportunity to diverse beneficiaries including the old and young, urban and settlement based refugees without discrimination. It engaged diverse government agencies key in the implementation of the UPR project specific recommendations both at the local and national government levels.”

REJUVENATION OF DISTRICT COORDINATION COMMITTEES (DCC) STRUCTURE:

Enhancing Access To Justice To Juveniles


As a result of the DCC meeting resolution in Kamwenge district, at the writing of this report, a separate detention facility was being constructed at the police headquarters of the district. This will deal with cases of juveniles detained together with adults. The district has also recruited a probation officer to ensure that cases of children in conflict with the law are expeditiously disposed by the judicial system.

In the same vein, to facilitate Court disposal of cases involving juveniles, LWF provided support to the Child and Family Protection Unit of Uganda Police Force and the Probation offices in Kitgum and Pader Districts. The two entities are obligated to prepare social welfare reports and forward them to the judiciary to aid the judicial officials in adjudication of these cases to ensure these Juveniles access justice as fast as possible. The support rendered to the probation officer enabled the office to handle 25 cases involving abuse of rights of children. It prepared and submitted to Court 15 social inquiries reports for juveniles in conflict with the law (1 before the High Court, 10 before Magistrates Courts).

The revival of the DCC meetings triggered further positive results in the quest for the implementation of the recommendations from the UPR-more so on the notion of Juvenile justice improvement in the Project implementation area. One of the key recommendations received by Uganda was to end the detention of juveniles alongside adults. Whereas the recommendation is in line with the law in Constitution of Uganda and the Children's Act, the District Leadership in the districts of Pader and Kitgum acknowledged cases of detention of juveniles with adults during the District Coordination Committee Meetings in Pader and Kitgum Districts.

It was resolved that to halt this practice, the DCC under the Leadership of Uganda Human Rights Commission, would carry out impromptu inspections with the view of ensuring that there are no cases of juveniles detained with adults and cases of juveniles detained beyond the mandatory 48 hours. In Pader district, inspection of Police detention centers and Kineeni prison were conducted in November, 2017 leading to the uncovering of over congestion, cases of detention without trial, cases of HIV Positive inmates without access to anti-retro viral Drugs among other challenges.

“The revival of the DCC meetings triggered further positive results in the quest for the implementation of the recommendations from the UPR-more so on the notion of Juvenile justice improvement in the Project implementation area.”



The urgency of inspection of places of detention for juveniles, triggered off by the project, led to a string of reactions from the duty bearers aimed at transforming the situation;

- Uganda Human Rights Commission has since instituted investigations in the detention facilities where violations of rights were reported with the aim of prosecuting the perpetrators of this violence;
- In Pader District, uncovered cases of HIV positive inmates who had no access to ARV, who were in illegal detention have since attracted the attention of the District Health Officer who instituted a committee to regularly visit the detention facility to provide medication;
- In Pader still, the number of inmates in Kineeni Prison was reduced from 212 to 197 inmates in a period of 2 weeks as a result of prison inspections. This reduction is a result of release of inmates who were in illegal detention, and those who were granted bail among others. Inspections have also ensured that no juveniles are detained together with adults.
- One of the inmate in Kinene who had been in pre-trial detention for over 3 years was released in the immediate aftermath of the inspection after the Officer-In-Charge of the Prison took over the matter. It was established that his continuous stay on remand was unlawful.
- During the inspection of the prison, it was established that there were no mosquito nets to protect the resident 02 infants at female cell, risking them to contracting malaria. A few days after this visit, after engagement with the District Health Officer, Mosquito nets were delivered in the female cell.



“The relevance of a juvenile detention cell is one that I cannot over-emphasize. In this era, juvenile injustice including joint detention with adults has no place globally and this facility will make Kamwenge District one of those districts that will commit never ever again to detain juveniles with adults.”

*Assistant Superintendent of Police ASP Lilian Kikobyе Officer- In -Charge
Kamwenge District Police Station*



- Resulting from the project interventions, a juvenile detention cell is under construction in Kamwenge district to ensure that juveniles are not detained together with adults. The juvenile detention facility will serve both the host and refugee communities within the district and its environs.
- Additionally, a probation officer was recruited in Kamwenge district to ensure that cases of juvenile justice are disposed expeditiously by the judiciary and to enhance the implementation of diversion of children in conflict with the law. In the long run the qualified Probation Officer will be able to manage the diversion of children in conflict with the law and carry out social welfare reports for court purposes.
- This will bolster diversion and quick disposal of cases in conflict with the law. Additionally, LWF, Uganda Police Force and the DCC working with the District Probation Office in Pader district led to the re-union of 15 children previously in conflict with the law with their families through the diversion process.

SPOT ON

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

16 Days of Activism against GBV

LWF strengthened its advocacy around the 16 days of activism against GBV at both national and sub programme level. The 16 days of activism is an International Campaign aimed at raising awareness about GBV and calling on duty bearers to take action to end Gender Based violence. In the run up to the commencement of 16 days of activism, LWF together with Civil Society organizations and UN agencies participated in various activities at both national and local government level.

In Adjumani district, LWF organized a planning meeting with partners to align activities to the UPR recommendations. LWF also held community engagements in the settlements of Boroli, Barutuku, Nyumanzi, Elema, Agojo and Pagirinya. In Kamwenge District, community engagements were held in Kyempango A, Mikole, Kyempango C, Mahega and Base Camp 4 zones of Rwamwanja settlement. In all these engagements, the discourse was taken to the people, to have their say, to craft home grown, community impacting solutions towards the elimination of gender based violence both within the host and refugee communities.

Organizing these dialogues within the Community speaks to LWF's value and core belief that primary beneficiaries of the project-the host and refugee communities should be the leaders in initiating, executing and owning up transformational action for their betterment of the communities through self-help and local contextualized initiative. The intervention directly reached 4650 persons of which 2644 were Female.

In 2017, the Campaign marked the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence under the overarching International theme, "leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls"- reflecting the core principle of the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. "Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls" reinforces the LWF's commitment to a world free from violence for all women and girls around the world, while reaching the most underserved and marginalized, including refugees and populations affected by conflict and natural disasters, amongst others.

LWF and partners used GBV marathons and Music Dance and Drama to speak out against GBV and seek to address cause and consequences of GBV and the need to bring perpetrators to book. In both Kamwenge and Adjumani, GBV marathon were used to call on the communities to break silence against GBV, report cases of GBV. LWF and partner staff provided the necessary technical backstopping during the community engagements.



A lady makes her submission during a community Dialogue in Nyumanzi Settlement Adjumani



(L-R) The Advocacy Officer of the UPR Project of LWF-Mr. Peter Eceru at the extreme right together the Ugandan team, part of the National Stakeholders' Forum on UPR in Geneva where they attended the adoption session of the UN Human Rights Council working group report on Uganda in March 2017. The Uganda delegation also held meetings with the staff at Uganda's Mission in Geneva to discuss the Human Rights Situation in Uganda and future engagements. LWF led the discourse on the State of refugee communities, IDPs in Uganda as the head of the Refugees, IDPs and Post-Conflict Communities Cluster within the CSOs. LWF together with other members of the Stakeholders forum attended and made statements during the Council meeting-a preserve for organisations that have ECOSOC observer status with the UN Human Rights Council. The Working Group Report can be accessed on LWF Website: <https://uganda.lutheranworld.org/content/reports-working-group-universal-periodic-review-10> And the Video can be accessed at: <http://s.upr-info.org/2oy10VO>



Members of the Cluster on Refugees, IDPs and Post-Conflict Communities under the CSO National Stakeholders' Forum engage in a group discussion to refine their cluster issues on the eve of the advocacy interface with the diplomatic community in Uganda at Fairway Hotel, Kampala, 2016.



Delegates of the Diplomatic Community resident in Uganda engage with members of the CSO National Stakeholders' Forum on the UPR at Fairway Hotel, Kampala, 2016. LWF led and presented the emerging human rights issues within the Refugee Community on behalf of the Cluster.



THE PROJECT OUT PUTS AND OUTCOMES AT A GLANCE

19

Radio talk shows held in Pader, Kitgum and Adjumani Districts.

2

T.V Documentaries aired.

360

Spot messages aired.

4

Talk shows on National Television;

1

Press Conference in Pader district to highlight UPR engagements with the district

450,000

Estimated persons were reached through the spot messages.

2

Capacity building trainings.

32

Medical personnel trained in clinical management of Gender Based Violence Survivors.

4

District Coordination Committee meetings held

2

Gender Based Violence meeting,

10

Legal Aid Clinics conducted

3

Detention facilities inspected including that for Juveniles.

5062

Estimated persons were directly reached by the legal aid clinics team;

192

Persons received direct one on one legal counselling from the team of lawyers.

15

Children previously in conflict with the law reunited with their families through the diversion process.

180

DJ/Radio Presenters' mentions

PROJECT Timeline

Below a summary of the journey of the project highlighting the milestones and other activities that were reached/undertaken along the way

Nov. 2015

National Stakeholders' Forum convenes at Fairway Hotel, Kampala. Cluster on Refugees, IDPs and Post Conflict Communities is created to be headed by LWF and Co-chaired by Refugee Law Project.

Nov. 2015

LWF effectively now in charge of the cluster adopts the National Stakeholders' Forum on UPR road map to UPR 2.

First Half of 2016

LWF holds consultative meetings with various stakeholders both within Kampala and Northern Uganda to Compile the cluster report.

March 2016

LWF submits Cluster Report to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as is procedure.

June 2016

LWF participates in the half day development partners debrief Meeting on Emerging issues from the refugee cluster.

August 2016

LWF attends and presents at the 3 day In-country Pre-Session meeting with development partners on potential recommendations from the cluster on refugees.

PROJECT Timeline

Sept 2016

LWF undertakes lobbying and advocacy meetings with the Permanent Mission State Representatives at the UN Human Rights Council in the Pre-session organized by UPR-Info.

Nov. 2016

LWF attends the actual review of Uganda for UPR 2 in the UN Human Rights Council Working Group.

Dec 2016

LWF participates in the Post-UPR 2 Strategic Meeting Under the National Stakeholders' Forum. Action strategy plans for cluster are adopted.

March 2017

LWF participates in the UPR Working Group Report on Uganda adoption process.

March 2017

LWF Geneva Office hosts the CSO delegation from Kampala and UPR-Info on a strategic agenda setting meeting for post-UPR activities of monitoring and implementation..

2018

LWF working with other strategic players embarks on capacity building and dissemination of recommendations from the UPR touching on refugees, IDPs and post-conflict communities.



The Journey of
Implementation of the UPR
recommendations
continues.....