

**ADRA** 30 YEARS OF  
CHANGING LIVES IN THE  
PEARL OF AFRICA



Dr Matze Daniel, ADRA Uganda Board Chairman (centre) with the ADRA Board Members

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◀  
**Dr Matte Daniel**

Chairman of the Board, ADRA Uganda and  
Archbishop Seventh-day Adventist Church  
Uganda Union

## ADRA UGANDA at 30 YEARS AN OVERVIEW

Uganda serves all people equally regardless of their sex, gender, faith or political affiliation.

ADRA Uganda does its work in collaboration with donor agencies as its partners, the government of Uganda and local government leaders in areas of operation.

### Governance

ADRA Uganda operations are superintended over by a governance board composed of various professionals who bring into the organisation a wealth of experience, skills and background. The board is further broken into various technical sub-committees to look into the various aspects of the organisation to ensure that operations are on course and ensure that the various program managers manage finances and program priorities very well.

The organisation management and project committees ensure the coordination of the various internal operations of the organisation. Quality assurance is further ensured through specific program donor evaluation and auditing, peer review evaluations and overall administration annual audits. The organisation observes a strict code of conduct and operational values which inform its organizational culture and behaviour.

### The Future of ADRA Uganda

As long as the need for humanitarian work and social development exists in Uganda, the services of ADRA Uganda will remain relevant and needed. What ADRA Uganda must build in its operations is the capacity to adjust to the ever-changing social political and economic dynamics both at national and international

levels.

The need to strengthen internal self-support is an area which needs to be carefully studied, explored and systematically pursued now that government is opening up to allow NGO to engage in income generation.

### Appreciation and Acknowledgements

It is my honour and joy to appreciate and acknowledge the support our donors and partners have given to ADRA Uganda through the past 30 years. Thank you for standing with us. I recognise the leadership of all the various country directors and all the members of the management teams throughout the past years.

I acknowledge the commendable and selfless services of our staff throughout the 30 years of ADRA Uganda service to the people of Uganda.

I extend my congratulations to the current Country Director, the current members the management team and current staff for being the current flag bears of ADRA Uganda.

Last but not least my congratulations go to the former and current board members. Let us all join hands to steer ADRA Uganda to greater heights.

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**A**DRADRA Uganda is a Seventh-day Adventist Church national registered NGO. It was registered with the government of Uganda on 24th July 1986 and effectively started working with the communities in 1987. Even though ADRA Uganda is an independent national NGO, it is part of an international ADRA Network which was established in 1956 by the Seventh-day Adventist Church now operating in more than 130 countries.

ADRA Uganda receives inspiration and motivation from this international network with its rich history and capacity in humanitarian development. The organisation helps people without regard to age, ethnicity and race, political or religious association.

Over the years the activities of ADRA Uganda have been carried out in response to the felt and identified community needs. Our mandate and mission is to work with people in poverty and distress to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible action.

### Areas of Intervention

For the past 30, ADRA Uganda has implemented humanitarian, disaster relief and development interventions in various communities. Key sectors include: livelihoods and agriculture, disaster and relief interventions, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH), community health, economic and financial empowerment, hunger and nutrition interventions, programs helping children, gender equality and social justice.

ADRA Uganda has helped construct decent homes for the poor. In the area of education, it has built more than 141 schools with 1128 classrooms, 420 school pit latrines, 250 teachers houses, 30 school administrative blocks, among other things. ADRA



## ADRA PROFILE

▲ Current Country Director, Charles Ed II Aguilor, looking at the picture of the ADRA Uganda staff

**T**he Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) UGANDA is a humanitarian organisation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that demonstrates God's love and compassion.

ADRA UGANDA is a professional, learning and efficient network that embodies integrity and transparency.

ADRA reaches across boundaries, empowering and speaking out for the at-risk and forgotten, to achieve measurable, documented, and durable changes in lives and society.

Since 1987, ADRA Uganda has been actively implementing Programs in Education, Livelihood/Food Security, Economic Development, Primary

Health-HIV/AIDS, Water and Sanitation, Humanitarian Aid and Disaster and Emergency Responses.

At present, Food Security and Livelihoods, Education, and Disaster Relief/Resilience building are ADRA Uganda's largest portfolios with a presence in Karamoja, Acholi sub-region, West Nile and Western Uganda (Kisoro and Kamwenge districts).

ADRA Uganda is active in interventions supporting South Sudanese refugees in West Nile including in Bidibidi settlement considered the largest in the world.

## Longest Serving Staff



▲ Ruth Nsibambi who joined ADRA at the age of 20

## WORKING WITH **ADRA** IS A DREAM COME TRUE **RUTH NSIBAMBI**

**I** joined ADRA Uganda at the age of 20 as a receptionist after completing my studies in secretarial studies at Nkumba College of Commerce. At that time, this office had about 40 men and one lady Rachel Babiry.

The organisation has nurtured me, professionally, spiritually and fulfilled my inner person. The place was full of men because we had a wood workshop that was used to make furniture that we donated to schools.

We had only one manual typewriter and two old-fashioned laptops: one was used by the country director, and the director of finance used the other.

As time went by, the organisation kept on growing. I love working with ADRA because I feel at home and we are one big family, the solidarity, devotion, sisterhood and brotherhood has kept me around for this entire long.

And besides, ADRA's mission aligned with my personal interest and passion. Caring for the needy and giving a helping hand.

It was not about the money and huge salary but helping those in need that has made me stay around.

I have no regrets for having spent my entire careers at ADRA and seeing our work making a positive impact and changing people's lives gives me satisfaction.

My memorable experience is when I visited Mabyemeru in Kisoro 1994. As we were going to Kisoro, I had never seen such corners, and I was terrified.

In fact, I said my last prayers and I told myself that I would never go back and indeed I have never gone back to Kisoro because of that experience.

President Yoweri Museveni greeting Booker, one of the longest serving staff of ADRA Uganda



## THE RESILIENT BOOKER

**B**ooker Ajuoga is a living witness and testament to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) evolution and revolution in Uganda.

*"I have seen it all. I have seen ADRA grow from a small agency in Uganda to the big organisation that it has become today", he says.*

Born on November 28, 1947, in neighbouring Kenya, Booker started working for ADRA Uganda since 1985 as a volunteer but rose through the ranks to a household name and the face of ADRA Uganda in many aspects.

He has been a regular employee since 1992 until his recent retirement. He is easily the longest-serving employee at the organisation.

He has a story to tell, espe-

cially regarding the several interventions that ADRA has undertaken since its inception in the country. He has been a part of almost all the crucial interventions the organisation has made in the last over 30 years.

His unique character and sense of humour made him a darling to the people of Kamwenge to the extent of naming two villages after him, and if one goes to the office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Gender, name it, Booker, does not need an introduction.

Booker has been very instrumental in relief work, logistics work, communication and public relations of the organisation.

In periods he has been managing development projects, attended meetings and any other duties where an extra hand was needed.

Booker Ajuoga has excelled particularly in logistics, especially in the clearing, handling and forwarding.

In this, he is a specialist often called on by various partners, as this is not a simple job given the complicated nature of the African environment, especially in responding to the different catastrophes experienced in this part of the world.

He particularly coordinates with the immigration office, which is under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in passport renewal, work-permit renewal and other documents and paperwork needed by volunteers and ADRA's expatriate workers.

ADRA has a close working partnership and relationship with several government offices, and Booker always handled these partnerships and represented the organisation on various occasions.

It is because of this kind of personality, with a willing and patient attitude that Booker Ajuoga has a flair for penetrating the government offices and bureaucratic settings.

His stable and persistent nature, coupled with a Christian mind, makes him a great and reliable friend of the people he does come across. He is always interested in learning and improving his skills for better performance.

Booker's great attitude explains why he has been in the position to work in ADRA from its inception through the years. Although the 70-year-old has retired from active service from ADRA, he is still contracted from time to time to do what he knows best. He is the true storyteller to what ADRA has achieved in the last 30 years.

SUCCESS STORIES

## KARAMOJA



▲ Many parents in Karamoja preferred their children to graze instead of education



## MEET PAUL LOMOE

**A ROLE MODEL FOR THE KARAMOJONG  
WHO HAS BEATEN ALL ODDS TO ATTRACT,  
MOTIVATE AND RETAIN CHILDREN IN SCHOOL**



**A**narrow, muddy meandering road; punctuated with deep slopes and beautiful deserted hills, leads you to Lomokocho Primary school in Lobalangit sub-county, Kaabong district.

This is Paul Lomoe a role model for the Dodoth people the inhabitants of northern Karamoja, who has beaten all odds to become a successful head teacher.

Born on August 25th, 1982, to poor and peasant parents, Lomoe went to Karenga Primary School.

He later joined Kaabong Secondary School in 1997 where he emerged the best student in the entire Kaabong district in the 2001 UCE after scoring 28 aggregates for the best six subjects. His is a tale of perseverance and joy.

*"After my O level, my father declared to me that I had finished my education and expected me to get a job". Lomoe recalls.*

Left with no option, he went home and started herding sheep and goats with faded hopes of continuing with further studies.

As fate was on his side, Kakswanga, a primary school in the neighbouring village had lacked teachers as most staff had fled in fear for their dear lives due to intensified attacks from heavily armed warriors.

*"The school's headteacher, John Bosco approached me to volunteer as a part-time*

*teacher, for science and math subjects. This was an offer I unconditionally accepted", he narrates.*

### Turning Point

The turning point in his life later in 2003 is still fresh in his mind when ADRA, under its program code named Karamoja Integrated Education Programme (KITENEP 2) advertised for 200 scholarships for Karamojong students who were willing to be trained as grade 3 teachers.

*"This was a golden opportunity for me. I applied and was subsequently admitted to Kotido Core Primary Teachers College", Lomoe proudly recalls. He hastens to add: "ADRA gave us everything right for scholastic materials like books, pens, rubbers. They even donated 200 beds and mattresses to Kotido PTC just for our sake. This raised the number of Karamojong students in the teaching profession who later got jobs".*

He says ADRA used to slaughter for them a bull each weekend which significantly boosted their morale. He graduated in 2005 as a Grade III teacher after garnering 23 aggregates.

Lomoe was later appointed a classroom teacher in Komkuny Girls near Kaabong town in 2007. His quest for Education made him join National Teachers College Unyama in 2012 in Gulu where he graduated with a diploma in Primary Education majoring in Maths and Science.

## SUCCESS STORIES

### KARAMOJA

This earned him a promotion to as deputy headteacher at Lomodoch Primary School in 2013. His enthusiasm and hard work two years down the road promoted him as a full head teacher.

Having assumed office, Lomoe also the patron of the advocacy club supported by ADRA embarked on community mobilisation known as back to school, stay in school which saw enrollment shoot from 577 to now over 1000 pupils.

*"Our campaigns yielded fruits because, for the first time in the history of Lomodoch, we got 6 in Division 1 and 12 in Division II",* boasts Lomoe.

Sisto Akol, A member of School Management Committee, has praises for Lomoe. *"He has exceptional leadership and music skills which has attracted many children to school".* She says.

Despite all the achievements, this is coupled with challenges.

Veronica Awar, the SMC secretary, says parents have a negative attitude towards Education, especially for the girl child.

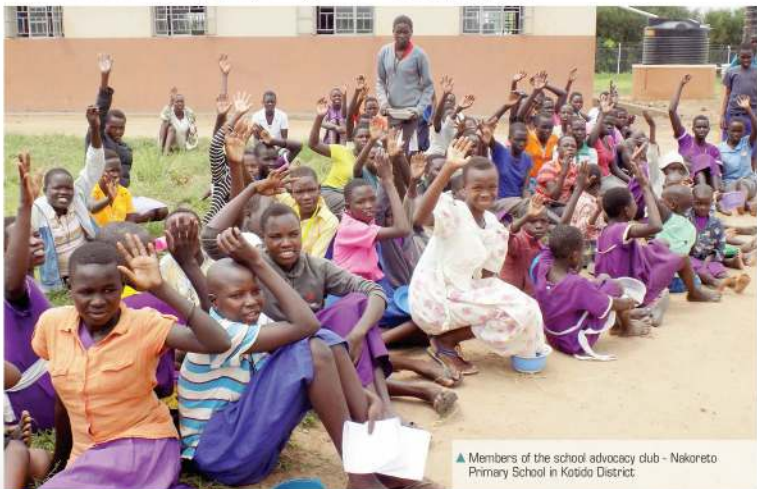


▲ Dickens Owiny; the Abim district Inspector of schools

*"Can you imagine we now have only seven girls in Primary 7 yet we registered 207 of them in Primary 1 in 2010. Where have the 200 gone? They are now married",* he sarcastically says.

He adds: *"When there is hunger, and World Food Program is giving food, the classes are full, but as soon as there is no food or when harvest time comes, parents withdraw their children",* He says.

Despite this the children's advocacy club have embarked on a door to door campaign to have children back to school, stay in school and complete a full cycle of primary education. With Lomoe at the steering wheel, the sky will be the limit. The club has registered success stories of some of the pupils who had dropped out of school but came back after the school advocacy clubs.



▲ Members of the school advocacy club - Nakoreto Primary School in Kotido District.

# IKIMORIKIS NGICAN WOMENS GROUP SAVES ORPHANS IN KARAMOJA

The insecurity exacerbated by armed conflict that rocked Karamoja for decades in the 19th and early 20th century did not only rob them of decent livelihoods but also left them counting losses. Many young and productive women were rendered widows and dozens of children orphaned.

Anna Mary Atyanga, who is the group's chairperson, says many male youths lost lives in the conflict characterised by cattle rustling that left just married girls widowed. She adds that this led many girls into polygamous marriages through wife inheritance.

*"Due to the shortage of men, one man could have between five to 12 women who put this ladies at high risk of contracting incurable diseases such as HIV/AIDS",* Atyanga recalls.

The similarities in their tribulations, therefore, brought them together in 2014. With the capacity building in income generation and a humble donation of 500,000UGX by ADRA triggered the development paradigm in them.

This is Ikimorikis Ngican (loosely translated as Poverty Has United Us) women's group in Lopotha Village, Napumpum Parish in Panyangara sub-county, Kotido District who have championed Education of children especially orphans. They have also diversified their livelihoods to obligate a decent and healthy living.

Formed in 2014, after peace returned to Karamoja, their togetherness has dramatically raised the enrolment of children in their communities and also enabled them to pay school fees for orphans in boarding school. *"Whenever our children reached Primary 7, they could come back home due to lack of school fees and others could repeat Primary 7 two to three times even after passing with the hope of getting a*

*scholarship",* says Lotimong Wori, one of the member.

*"However, this is now history after learning from ADRA that we are change agents and we now sponsor 10 of our children especially orphans in Napumpum Primary School, Panyngara and Kotido Secondary School in boarding section, using part of the profits of the group income-generating activities",* Lotimong boasts.

She says the group sometimes liaises with local authorities to mount operations on parents keeping children at home which has made enrolment in Primary schools to shoot up.

Grace Akulo, says with the seed money donated to them by ADRA, the group began buying millet and sorghum within Kotido and transported them to Lira and Soroti District for sale.

*"Within two months, our money rose from 500,000UGX to 1.5million UGX and now we have a capital of 7.5million UGX part of which we used to pay for five orphans in Napumpum Primary School whom we picked from the kraals. We also offer scholastic materials such as books, pens and pencils to disadvantaged children",* Akulo narrates.

She says ADRA's training in agriculture has also enabled them to have various gardens for vegetables, onions, tomatoes, maize and cereal fields plus staple food that has improved the nutrition of their families especially for children and pregnant mothers. She adds that as per now they have 20 bags of grain in their community store as a measure of food security.

Moses Orwao, the ADRA Community Support Officer for Kotido says that Action for Social Change Programme is focused on empowering communities rather than giving handouts has yielded results.

*"Communities in Karamoja have been used to handouts, but because of our interventions they have changed their mindsets and now demand for services and skills from duty bearers",* Orwao says.

Hon. Freicho Lotimong, the District Councilor representing Panyangara sub-county is all praises for ADRA for empowering communities in Karamoja.

*"I thank God for ADRA because it has supported Karamoja for long from the time of insecurity where no NGO could step in Karamoja, but they stood with us. They have built the capacity of our communities through training and women empowerment. They are really true friends of the Karamojong and God bless ADRA",* Lotimong said.

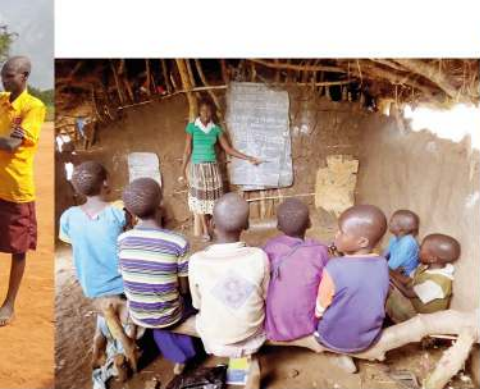
▶  
Ikimori kis Ngican women's Group harvesting maize from their garden.



*Pictorial*

# ADRA has Promoted Education in the Country





▲ Daniel Ntegyreimeana, one of the Batwa graduates



▲ Turkana women water donkeys at Kobebe dam in Moroto district.





▲ Karamojong women carry traditional food for elders during a cultural gala



## BY ADRA TO FORM A SACCO

**N**akaseke Community Empowerment Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Limited is one of the best performing SACCO in Nakaseke District.

The group started as a FAL (Functional Adult Literacy) Instructors Association and later Community Based Organisation (CBO) in 2008.

*"We dealt in sensitising people to live a healthy lifestyle, prevent HIV/AIDS/malaria and take children to school and other community engagements",* says Jimmy Migadde, the chairman of the board.

It was in 2010 when the CBO transformed into a SACCO and has since seen its membership grow from 46 members to over 800 now.

Migadde says they have savings amounting to 78 million UGX having grown from less than 200,000UGX in 2010.

The group members also have over 32 million UGX in shares. Every share costs 10,000UGX.

*"As FAL instructors, ADRA gave us bicycles and trained us on income-generating activities, like mixed farming, entrepreneurship, and skills development. We have used these skills to transform our lives",* he says.

Peruth Nabilyo, the SACCO manager, says, *"The SACCO has enabled members to come together and save their money and invest in productive enterprises. We have bought two pieces of land for the SACCO, one is a plot located in town where we shall build our offices, and another piece of land is where we want to do various activities like farming",*

Currently, the members are reaping big from the SACCO, and many have been able to raise money to send their children to school, build houses, startup enterprises like cattle rearing among others.

*"Personally, from the SACCO trainings, I have learnt to save and invest appropriately. I get advice from the SACCO and a lot of my financial support",* Migadde says.

Because of being a well-managed SACCO, the members were able to secure a loan of 34 million UGX from ADRA to

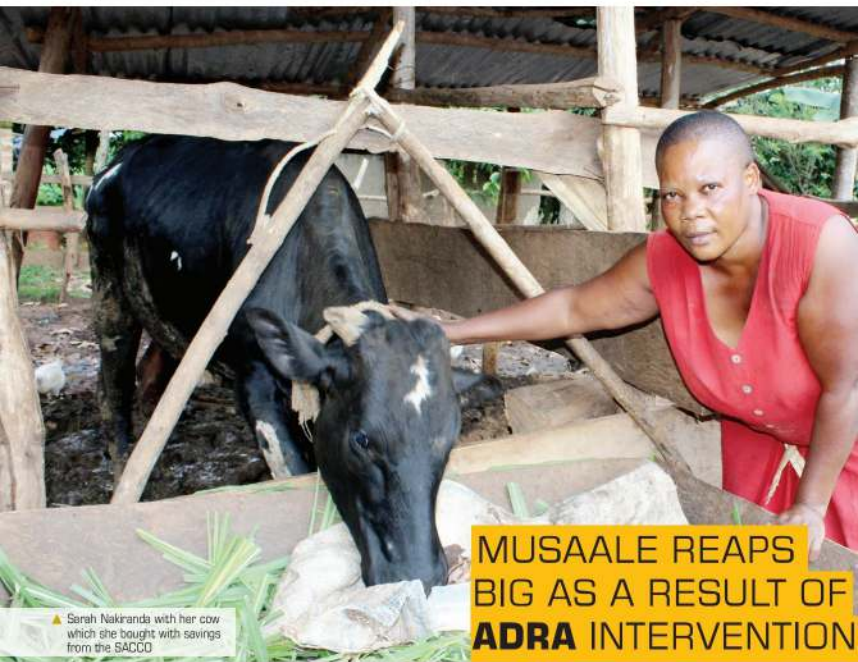
▲ Julius Owori in his coffee plantation where expects to get shs 3million UGX when he harvests. He got the farming techniques from ADRA

boost the SACCO operations.

*"ADRA first gave us a grant of 15million UGX which we used very well. They later gave us a loan, and we are paying back very well. ADRA has aided us very much, and we are excited to celebrate with them these 30 years",* Migadde says.

Lilian Namaganda, urges more people in Nakaseke to join the SACCO and be able to develop economically.

She notes that as members of the SACCO, they command respect in the community because of the productive things they are doing.



**MUSAALE REAPS BIG AS A RESULT OF ADRA INTERVENTION**

▲ Sarah Nakiranda with her cow which she bought with savings from the SACCO

**S**arah Nakiranda is a resident of Musale village in Luwero District she rears cattle and on her small piece of land to enhance her income.

Despite her old age, she can earn a living from milk. She is also knowledgeable about farming especially vegetables which she grows behind her house.

*"I no longer need to worry about where to get money to buy medicine, and scholastic materials for my children because I get*

*money from the milk sale. I'm now looking forward to enlarging the project", Nakiranda says.*

Like her fellow members from Musale Farmers Development Group, in Lukoge sub-county, Luwero district, Nakiranda believes her life has changed since she joined the group.

The group was formed with support and guidance from ADRA, and the members were trained in income-generating activities.

*"As members, we were trained on how to keep animals like cattle, growing crops, Village and Savings and Loans Association which has united us as a group", Nakiranda said.*

*"I saved money and bought this cow. I know how to keep books of accounts after being trained by ADRA. I was also trained in vegetable farming, and now I have planted some which enabled me to sell in the market and also feed my family", Nakiranda says.*



According to Julius Owori, the chairman of Musale Farmers Group, they have been in partnership with the ADRA from 2006 to date.

*"They sensitised us on health and sanitation and in this village majority of the people sleep under mosquito nets, drink boiled water and keep their houses clean. We all have latrines because of ADRA's sensitisation", Owori says.*

As an individual, Owori has been able to learn the best farming practices and is involved in coffee, maize, tomato and fruit farming to enhance his income.

*"My life has changed since ADRA trained us, you can see my coffee field has improved, my matooke is looking good. I am getting good money which I use to send my children to school and cater for my family needs", Owori says.*

The members of the group have also invested in tents and chairs which they rent out to the locals and the money is kept on the group account for other income-generating activities. The group has 50 members.

*"It is not about the numbers of people in the group but what we are doing. All our members are involved in income-generating activities and living an exemplary life, some have started a business, and others are engaged in farming. At least everyone is doing something productive", says Ronald Kafecero, a group secretary.*

He notes that the skills acquired from the training by ADRA have helped him draw work plans and proposal writing. *"We have been able to write proposals to get money, and our group is growing. Lasting over ten years is not simple".*

The group has an office where members meet to discuss and give guidance to each other.



► Margaret Nalwogo beside her old mud house.



▼ Margaret Nalwogo beside her newly constructed brick house.

Margret Nalwoga, 62, lives in a small village of Nakaseke sub-county. Together with her three grandchildren, they live in a mud and wattle iron-sheet roofed house.

She has been residing in this house for over 20 years, struggling to make her life and that of her family better. Although the old woman's house is rickety, she has hope that by next

year she will be moving into a new house.

*"Some people don't believe that I am using my own money to construct this house. They think the government has sponsored me or sponsored. But the fact is, I use loans and part of my savings from my saving group", Nalwoga says.*

She has already roofed her house, installed doors and

windows. Nalwoga is a member of the Nakaseke Community Empowerment Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Limited where she has been a member for the last seven years.

Not only has Nalwoga used the money from her savings to build her house, but she has also been able to educate her grandchildren who are all in school.

## ADRA Strategic Framework 2017-2022

**A**DRAs Strategic Framework serves as a guide to help ADRA respond to major external and internal challenges that impact on the lives of people living in poverty or vulnerable to disasters and injustice.

The Strategic Framework 2017-2022 includes several adjustment in our vision, mission, identified values, our definition of well-being and five change goals.

**Vision:** A just and sustainable world where people can attain well-being and live life to the full, physically, psychologically and spiritually.

**Mission:** ADRA acts a catalyst for change, inspiring, engaging and empowering people to strive together to overcome poverty and injustice, and managing the risks and impacts of disasters.

**Identity:** The Adventist Development and Relief Agency is a global humanitarian organization that demonstrates God's love and compassion.

**Values:** *Connected - Courageous - Compassionate*

### ADRA's Well-being Triangle

ADRA's approach to programs, humanitarian response and advocacy is holistic. For ADRA, 'holistic' refers to *spiritual, social and physical dimensions*, addressing the multi-faceted causes of poverty, and to the emergency relief – reform dimension of our work.

ADRA exists to enable people to live life to the full, physically, socially and spiritually. We associate this fullness with the concept of *well-being*. ADRA's long-term over-arching aim. In its most tangible forms individual *well-being* derives from access and opportunities in relation to *education, health and sustainable livelihoods*. They shape what is described as ADRA's *Well-being Triangle*.

ADRA believes that a life lived to the full is marked by an active concern for others. A life lived to the full is one where our abundance – to whatever extent that may be – of health, knowledge, resources, relationships, and spirituality, is exercised through generosity towards others.

ADRA's holistic integrated approach to programming is consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals.

### ADRA's 5 Change Goals

#### Change Goal 1

Greater *well-being* in the lives of women, men and children living in poverty and

distress by increasing collective focus on holistic health and education programs, underpinned by programs for secure and sustainable livelihoods.

*Focus on well-being:* ADRA will promote well-being through integrated and complementary interventions that bring together and strengthen the foundations of good development; *education, health and sustainable livelihoods*. This approach reflects the current global shift towards more holistic responses to poverty and injustice, particularly through the adoption in 2015 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It builds on ADRA's unique development expertise and integrated ways of programming, which at its heart, is about enabling people and communities to gain access to resources and to solve their own problems. ADRA's role is to help open-up the space for such change to occur.

*Well-being* frames development programs in terms of changes in real people's lives, the felt experience of women and men and their children, whom ADRA seeks to serve. *It puts people at the centre of programs and advocacy, not at the end of a technical process.*

The Change Goal 1 programming will focus on SDGs 1, 2, 3 & 4

#### Change Goal 2

Greater capacity to prevent, mitigate and respond to humanitarian emergencies; i.e., programming for greater resilience of people and communities vulnerable to conflict and natural disasters, including forced migration and the impact of climate-related weather events.

ADRA has its global network and access to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and associated institutions, which includes human and other resources. This means that ADRA and the Church are often present *before, during and after* a humanitarian crisis and can have deep roots into affected communities. The same applies to slow onset emergencies. *ADRA has technical capacity in food, WASH, protection, gender-based needs, education, psycho-social support and shelter.*

Change Goal 2 will focus on SDGs 2, 3, 4, & 6

#### Change Goal 3

Rejuvenation of ADRA as a contemporary and effective faith-based organization, as a catalyst for social justice, drawing upon its Biblical mandate and maximizing the synergies in the relationships between ADRA, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church,



▲ Charles Ed II Aguilar  
Country Director

ADRA aspires to be a contemporary and effective faith-based organization, relevant to a wider range of people, not just within the Church and ... *should see Jesus in every person* ... ADRA strives to appear particularly to younger people, to upcoming generations who are attracted to the values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ADRA and the Church need a bottom-up community-based approach to the partnership.

#### Change Goal 4

Transforming ADRA International's governance, country-level partnerships, membership, and structure to increase impact.

ADRA needs to transform itself into a more effective organization with a tighter operating model to achieve greater focus for greater impact.

#### Change Goal 5

Achieve greater collective independence and organizational sustainability by investing and innovating to change the business model for financing ADRA's work; develop a coordinated and targeted approach to leveraging funds and other resources through strategic partnerships.

ADRA needs to change its business model to be truly independent; i.e. for an innovative programming approach, an effective advocacy agenda and the ability to be flexible. To diversify income sources is ambitious but possible and requires a long-term commitment by each ADRA office of resources and time, plus a willingness to take risk. It also requires new skills and capabilities among our staff.



▲ Hon. Rosemary Seninde  
Woman Member of Parliament Wakiso District, poses with students

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

I would like to congratulate ADRA Uganda for making 30 years of service in Uganda. I came to learn of ADRA through their activities especially in the education and health sectors. They have not only promoted literacy levels in Wakiso but in other parts of the country.

ADRA has been supporting a rural education project in Karamoja, in which they renovated some primary schools, constructed dormitories, built houses for teachers and staff, in addition to providing water harvesting systems.

They have also trained communities in areas of food and nutrition security through demonstration gardens. To further promote inclusive education, they further supported adults to learn through the Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) programs.

At the time of their intervention, literacy levels in the region were too low, that is why ADRA intervened to reduce the high levels of illiteracy, improve educational facilities, and provide access to clean drinking water. By the time ADRA Uganda intervened, the illiteracy rate in Karamoja was at 88.5 percent.

As a ministry, we cannot support all the education needs in all parts of the country. When such organizations come in to help, we are grateful.

I was particularly impressed when I visited Karamoja and found parents involved in the education of their children that was very impressive. That has been possible through their structures that have been rooted in the community.

That is why as a ministry we have always support their activities when called

upon and pledge our continued support towards their service in Uganda.

I recently launched an education crusade and declaration was signed by all stakeholders present. This was to show their commitment to address the factors that affect children education as was presented by students in school clubs working with ADRA.

I congratulate them upon making 30 years in Uganda, on behalf of the ministry, I pledge our continued support.

**Hon. Rosemary Seninde**  
Woman Member of Parliament

## ADRA IN HISTORY



Bunya project in Mayuge



Bugema Vocation School students in class



After making gas



Cake making in Butanza in entrepreneurship training



Kobele Adventist Parents School



Biogas made by community members



Kitovu dispensary maternity in Mayuge



Mwerelwe Primary School in Matuga



Ntandi Secondary School in Bundibugye

## ADRA IN HISTORY



Niel Rasmussen a former Country Director handing over bicycles to instructors



Officials from ADRA touring Bugema Vocational School



Karamajong youth empowered in business



Hajusi poses with her calf



Village health team of Bunya undergoing training



One of the FAL classes in Bussi





Members of the Byabasambu group in Kehunge sub-county with some of the projects supported by ADRA.



Members of the Byabasambu group in Kehunge sub-county with some of the projects supported by ADRA.



Miyooro Group and some of their projects.

## Now We Have Food!

**H**unger and malnutrition are killing more people each year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. With nearly one billion people in the world facing starvation, ADRA Uganda partnered with farmers to promote agriculture with the aim of ending hunger and malnutrition in Kamwenge district.

Kamwenge District suffers from widespread chronic food insecurity. A study of chronic food insecurity in Uganda

in 2015 found that in Mid-Western sub-region, where Kamwenge District is located, almost two-thirds (62%) of the population suffers from mild (28%), moderate (17%), or severe (17%) chronic food insecurity (FAO Uganda 2015).

Margret Kakyo, a community coordinator, said since 2007 several families have benefited from various project interventions.

Demonstration gardens were established

in communities of Kahunge sub-county and other areas in the district to impart knowledge and skills.

ADRA Uganda also spearheaded the campaign of distributing seedlings to individual farmers as a measure to promote food security and fight malnutrition.

*"We were given seedlings to plant, and ADRA encouraged us to have small gardens for vegetables to have food and feed our children on a balanced diet to mitigate the*

challenge of malnutrition", Kakyo said.

Kakyo and other members that were sensitised by ADRA Uganda then mobilised over 4000 people in Kahunge sub-county also to get involved in commercial farming to improve on their income at a household level.

*"People had land most of which was not in use. Many families had malnourished children while others were going without. The situation has now changed. We have food", Kakyo says.*

Nariseriyo Byarugaba, a resident of Kakinga, also appreciates ADRA's intervention.

According to Byarugaba, ADRA also linked them with other organisations and the district which provided them with assistance in agriculture especially inputs and tools.

*"We were mobilised in groups, and each group was given goats which have multiplied, and each member has more than ten goats", Byarugaba testified.*

Molly Kwesiga, another resident of Kakinga, could not hide her joy because of 40 members in her group that took part in setting up demonstration sites and learn good farming practices.

Kwesiga said some of ADRA's biggest tools to fight poverty and hunger come in packages of chicks, goats, or lambs from an animal bank, as well as seeds and agricultural training.

According to Kwesiga, ADRA Uganda also played a big part in the disaster risk reduction programmes that assisted households set up farms up and revived the traditional way of stocking food for the hard times in granaries.

*"Many people had abandoned granaries which were essential in sharing food for future consumption. With the help of ADRA Uganda, we now keep food to avoid hunger in times of drought and famine", she said.*

According to Gertrude Tuhairwe the Kamwenge District Community Development Officer, ADRA helped the district in reducing the number of children who were stunted.

Tuhairwe also said ADRA focused farmers on increasing food supply, income and savings for food purchasing.

*"ADRA helps women and children identify, prevent, and treat malnutrition before it impacts their long-term health. At the community-level they promote nutrition awareness using strategies that help households achieve diverse and nutrient-rich diets", she said.*

## Communities **United** for Development

Residents of Kahunge in Kamwenge district were empowered and formed Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) which have transformed their socio-economic lives.

In Mpanga Parish, Kahunge sub-county over 80 members has been mobilised and formed Byabasambu Twimukye association.

*"We were mobilised by ADRA which trained us on the importance of savings and financial literacy, and we were given startup funds", Godfrey Moni the group's advisor said.*

Moni said the group which started with only 16 members in 2004 currently has a



membership of over 80 active members.

*"The group has been able to encourage coffee farming as a cash crop and bananas for food, we are advocating for the rights of the children and supporting the orphans as well as conserving the environment through tree planting with the tree seedlings which we got from ADRA", Moni said.*

He says that with the training they got

from ADRA they have been able to raise funds to the level of constructing a permanent house in the trading centre of Kyakanyemera which houses their office.

*"ADRA opened for us the way to other different non-government organisations which have also provided us with a lot of support such as a solar dryer for drying*



▲ Kakyo Mergenst the Coordinator

▶ *cassava and sweet potatoes, and money for advocacy activities”, Moni says.*

Moses Kamugisha, the secretary of the group, said they are now able to pay school fees for their children as well as contribute some money for some needy students within their community.

*“We have six students for whom we are paying tuition at the university. We also support many other community engagements with the assistance from ADRA”, Kamugisha says.*

Edward Musingye, a former District Chairperson said, ADRA did not only promote Village Savings and Loans Association in the district but also did a lot of work in education and health. *“ADRA constructed schools in some of the areas we used to know are hard to reach and taught adults how to read and write”, he said.*

### **Men were often in police cells for battering their wives**

According to Musingye, this had a great and positive impact in fighting ignorance and prevention of domestic violence.

*“An ignorant community is hard to manage. However, the situation changed when people were enlightened. It changed their mindsets, and they started getting involved in income-generating activities.*

*It is amazing to see men who were often in police cells for battering their wives as a result of alcohol and domestic violence, but now are productive. This is not a small achievement, and I want to thank ADRA for giving us a hand in this regard”.*

## **ADRA, A Key Player in Uganda's Resettlement Exercises**

**C**losely working with Ministry Office of the Prime Minister, ADRA is one of the first responders to emergencies in Uganda. Since April 2003, ADRA has reintegrated over 7500 homesteads in Kamwenge district mainly Ugandans who were expelled from Tanzania. This was a special assignment the government of Uganda entrusted to ADRA with the involvement of other humanitarian and development partners.

The people were reintegrated in Kahunge and Kamwenge sub-counties where returnee families were given supplies such as tents, cooking utensils, and farm tools as startup materials.

Phionah Kwesiga, one of the beneficiaries, said when she was settled by ADRA a lot has changed in her life.

*“I have seven children, and I did not have any source of income because I lost all that I had when I was coming back to Uganda, but when ADRA came in they supported us in very many ways, and I have managed to buy land and start up a small business and currently am paying fees for my children”, Kwesiga says.*

Francis Byakatonda another resident of Kahunge said they were taught about the land rights and that acquiring land in Kamwenge was a very big problem.

In general, Kamwenge District has a total area of 254.5km<sup>2</sup> of tropical high forest cover representing 10% of the area.

However, about 8% of this area falls in the protected area of Kibaale National Park. The Savanna woodland covers an area of 271.2km<sup>2</sup> that is about 11% of the area of the district.

These woodlands, unfortunately, are disappearing at a very fast rate due to population increase and expansion of land for agriculture purposes.

*“As leaders, we appreciate the intervention of ADRA Uganda in the economic empowerment and resettlement of*



▲ ICT Minister Frank Tumwebaze

*refugees in Uganda. Most of them came when they had no hope of living but they are now happily living, and their children are in school”.* Sunday Ayebazibwe a community leader said. Frank Tumwebaze, the Member of Parliament for Kibaale East County, said ADRA was very instrumental in the resettlement of Ugandans who were displaced from Tanzania.

*“They helped a lot in the early days of the resettlement where people needed much of humanitarian assistance. They also supported a number of community projects in the resettled area of Kyakanyemera and Mpanga”, Tumwebaze who also doubles as the Minister of Information, Communication, Technology and National Guidance said.*

Tumwebaze also said the many projects ADRA Uganda supported in communities changed people's lives and also supplemented on government intervention to fight poverty at household level.

*“We celebrate the transformation that ADRA Uganda has been able to achieve, and I also want to salute ADRA for the community projects they have implemented towards improving the lives of people. There is no doubt ADRA has touched many lives and continued to do so”, he said.*



# Batwa Livelihoods Improve

SUCCESS STORIES

KISORO



**T**he livelihood of Batwa communities is steadily improving following their resettlement in Kisoro district.

The Batwa were originally forest dwellers in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. In Uganda, the Batwa are said to have migrated from Ituri forest in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In 1991, they were evicted following the establishment of Mgahinga and Bwindi Impenetrable National Parks. They thus became squatters living on the edges of other communities.

ADRA is one of those NGOs that have contributed to the improved livelihood of Batwa communities in Kisoro district. According to Abel Bizimana, the Kisoro District Chairperson, ADRA bought land in, Kanaba, Bukimbiti, Busanza and Nyabwishenya sub-counties where some Batwa have settled.

*"With the new settlements, the Batwa have started adapting to modern ways of living, and they are now seen and recognised in the community like any other human being".*

said Bizimana. Bizimana credits ADRA for helping the Batwa in learning some important life skills that have improved their welfare and standards of living.

*"The Batwa are now earning a living from some of the skills they were trained in by ADRA like Music, Dance and Drama, modern farming, art and craft, tour guidance among others",* says Bizimana. ADRA has also helped some of the Batwa to rent land for agriculture.

Muyove village, Buhozi parish in Busanza Sub-County is one of the villages that have the Batwa settling on it.

Antelli Gasambi, the Moyove village LC1 chairperson said Batwa have contributed to the development of the area due to the various activities they carry out.

*"When ADRA hired land for them to cultivate, they planted crops that helped in feeding our communities and also bringing some money in the area",* said Gasambi. Gasambi also credits ADRA for improving the tourism potential of the Batwa in the district. *"ADRA has been bringing a lot of visitors to the Batwa in this area to appreci-*

*ate some of the works they are doing. This has improved the tourism potential of this village. When tourists come they buy some of the things Batwa are producing thus improving their lives",* said Gasambi.

*"If you go to any community that has Batwa in Kisoro district and talk about ADRA everyone will tell you that these people have saved them",* he noted.

Godfrey Turinawe, one of the successful Batwa agriculturalists, says that ADRA's agricultural training helped him to get a job at the Mutolele Hospital Food and Nutrition project.

*"When I applied for training in the project, I displayed enormous skills that led to my employment immediately after my training. I attribute all this excellence to the good guidance and mentorship I got from ADRA",* said Turinawe.

Pascasia Nyiraburonde said: *"I am proud to say that I can now manage to eat a balanced diet and also live in an iron-roofed house like other people because of ADRA's efforts".*

# ADRA Helps Batwa to Access Health Services



▲ Solomon Katerega the ADRA Programs Director looking at the Batwa settlement

## BATWA COMMUNITY ASKS GOVERNMENT FOR LAND

**T**he Batwa communities living in Kisoro district asked the government to give them land for settlement.

The Kisoro Batwa community chairman Francis Sembagari said when the government evicted them from their natural habitat in the forests of Mazinga, Echuya and Bwindi in 1990, they were left homeless.

Sembagari stated that they depended on honey, medicine and game meat from forests and since they were evicted, life has become hell, they are starving and dying of diseases.

He accused the government of treasuring the gorillas living a better and cared for life than the Batwa.

*"They chased us from our homes (forests) where we had peace, food, shelter and good health. The government has made us vulnerable, and all the prestige is now given to gorillas"*, he said.

He said that due to lack of land for settlement and cultivation, they had been left out on the government programmes like Operation Wealth Creation (OWC).

*"If the government cannot give us land, then they should take us back to the forests so that we live our normal lives as we used to be*

*before eviction"*, he said.

According to ADRA's Programs Director, Solomon Katerega, the agency will continue to advocate for the rights of people living in poverty and distress and uplift the standards of living of Batwa.

*"Batwa should be integrated into government programs, and the issue of Batwa being landless should be solved"*, said.

The Kisoro Municipality MP Sam Byibesho decried the number of Batwa dying of HIV and malnutrition-related complications.

However, the Kisoro LC5 chairperson Abel Bizimana said the district would ensure that Batwa are settled and benefit from all the development programs of the government like any other community.

*"They are human being who should be treated with dignity, and their rights should not be abused because of their ethnic background"*, he said.



▲ Francis Sembagari

**G**ood health is a prerequisite to healthy living. This is undoubtedly an important reality for every mankind.

To the Batwa communities in Kisoro district, good health became visible after the intervention of ADRA.

Having realised a great need to have more Batwa people embrace health facilities, ADRA introduced a Health Priority card for the Batwa.

With this card, the Batwa were able to receive quick attention from the health workers whenever they visited their facilities.

Doreen Dushmana, the Busanza Health Centre IV in charge said when the Health priority cards were introduced; more Batwa started appreciating the special attention they got from health workers. This made them embrace health facilities whenever they needed medical attention.

*"They used not to like getting medical services from health centres. They believed in traditional medicine, but after the introduction of Health priority cards by ADRA we started giving them special care. This has led to more Batwa visiting our centres for medical attention"*, said Dushmana.

Dushmana also hailed ADRA for the introduction of the Motorbike ambulance which saw more Batwa with emergencies get health care quickly.

*"The motorbike ambulance was always available to respond to any emergencies reported in the Batwa communities. These would be automatically rushed to health centres as soon as it was reported without any charges"*, said Dushmana. Annet Dusabe, the Kisoro Deputy District Health Officer, said interventions by ADRA in improving the Batwa health standards have not been in vain.

## Batwa to benefit from MasterCard scholarship

**T**he Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) in partnership with The MasterCard Foundation, Gulu University and Egerton University, Kenya set to sponsor vulnerable and marginalised students to attain higher education.

The forum which works with 65 universities in 25 countries identified Batwa as one of the indigenous minority groups to access education through their sponsorship programs.

Reacting to the New Vision published on November 2, 2016 regarding ADRA's education works with Batwa which highlight the plight, struggle, dilemma and decimation the landless Batwa go through to acquire education, the Regional Programmes Coordinator of RUFORUM Dr Anthony Egeru said they would ensure that Batwa students who have completed their studies from secondary onwards attain higher education.

*"I almost cried when I read the story of Alice Nyamihanda and other Batwa who are stigmatised due to limited education. This story came at the right time when RUFORUM has funds to help such communities",* he said.

He added that *"the scholarship will also offer the beneficiaries a special orientation aimed at changing their mindset about the real life"*.

*"We shall work with organisations like ADRA and people like Nyamihanda to identify the beneficiaries for the scholarship",* he said.

Francis Munyarubanza, the Kisoro District Education Officer, commended ADRA for not only supporting the education of Batwa children but for also ensuring the improvement of literacy of adults through the Functional Adult Literacy Education programme.

*"The Functional Adult Literacy programme has greatly equipped the Batwa communities with skills of good living especially in areas of agriculture and life skills",* said Munyarubanza.

Munyarubanza said that the education department of Kisoro District feels proud of ADRA's support which has seen more Batwa people get educated.

With support from various partners including, ADRA International, Danish Children Fund, International Business Machine (Sweden), The City of Vienna and the entire ADRA Network membership, Batwa people; one of the most marginalised communities in the world, have received various forms of support for improvement of their lives.

While Batwa still needs a lot of support to realise full transformation, a foundation has been made upon which further development shall be hinged.



Pascasia Nyiraburonde displaying her health card

*"We have received reports of increasing number of Batwa visiting health centres to access treatment and to have deliveries in hospitals.*

*There are also more Batwa getting immunised. We credit this to efforts of organisations like ADRA that did a lot of sensitisation among the Batwa",* said Dusabe.

89 years old Modest Nyirabantondo recalls how she survived acute malaria when the Motorbike ambulance was called to her rescue.

*"I was sick and unable to get out of bed. My neighbours called the Motorbike ambulance which rushed me to Mutolere hospital where I was able to get the best health care from. I think if it were not for this Motorbike ambulance, I would have died already",* said Nyirabantondo.

*"I usually visit Busanza Health Centre IV for my medical care. This has kept me strong, and the advice I get from there helps me to live a healthy life. Thanks to ADRA for encouraging us to use health centres",* said Nyirabantondo.

Pascasia Nyiraburonde praised the ambulance saying: *"If it weren't the motorbike ambulance, my daughter would have died. Getting her to the health centre was impossible for us without quick transport means. When we sought the intervention of the motorbike ambulance, it was made fast and reliable. We are grateful to ADRA for this ambulance",* said Nyiraburonde.



Alice Nyamihanda



▲ Mabayemeru Primary School, constructed by ADRA to promote Batwa education

## Giving **Batwa** children an education

Since their eviction from the forests, ADRA has helped Batwa in Kisoro district to access education. Like other Ugandans, the Batwa communities were expected to attain formal education. The challenge to avail this kind of education to the Batwa was not an easy one since most of them still had the "bush feeling".

The ADRA Public Relations Officer James Bisheko Byaruhanga said they have been working with Batwa to improve on the quality and enrollment of education for Batwa.

*"When they were evicted from the forests, they did not know the value of education, but now over 1200 Batwa children can have access to education", he said.*

He pointed out that one Alice Nyamihanda, the first Ugandan Mutwa graduate with support from ADRA.

According to Nyamihanda, ADRA's intervention saw her becoming the first Mutwa to reach University level.

Nyamihanda is a graduate of Diploma in Development Studies from Bugema University. She is currently the Education Officer at the United Organization for Batwa

Development in Uganda (OUBDU).

Nyamihanda's success is majorly attributed to ADRA's education support for the Batwa. *"ADRA took care of my education right from Primary level to University. I don't think I would have made it without them",* said Nyamihanda.

Nyamihanda hails ADRA for not only supporting her education but also for helping other Batwa children in attaining various forms of education.

*"ADRA has equipped some Batwa with vocational skills and also startup capital to help them in running their businesses",* said Nyamihanda.

ADRA is also hailed for constructing Mabayemeru primary school where Batwa pupils have attended their primary education from.

**ADRA made me feel so special while at school**

Daniel Jomana, 21 is a student of Kihikihi Polytechnic institute in Kanungu district. He was supported by ADRA right from Primary one to the end of the Ordinary Level.

He attained his Primary education at Mabayemeru primary school before joining Kisoro High School where he completed Ordinary level from.

In his academic life, Jomana said that ADRA contributed 100% to his education.

*"I would get my school fees and other scholastic materials like stationery, beddings and others in time. ADRA made me feel so special while at school",* said Jomana.

Jomana said that the guidance and mentorship that ADRA accorded him has given the green light to his life and he feels more determined to achieve a lot in life.

**As a special school dedicated to us made us comfortable and determined**

23 years Old Godfrey Turinawe is an agriculturalist working with Mutolere Hospital Food and Nutrition Project. His success in life has been greatly attributed to the good academic background set by ADRA.

He attained his Primary Education from Mabayemeru Primary School before joining Kisoro Vision Secondary School for Ordinary Level.

At Mabayemeru, Turinawe felt at home studying with his fellow Batwa in the same class which made them survive the would be teasers.

*"Our school was dominated by Batwa, and thus we would not be bullied by other pupils since we were many. When I joined the secondary school, my comfort was so realised after finding my fellow Batwa in the same school",* said Turinawe.

Turinawe who initially had intentions of becoming a tour guide developed the love for agriculture after undergoing training from the Mutolere Hospital Food and Nutrition Project.

He has since then worked on the project and does not regret joining the agricultural field.

Turinawe's current interest is to upgrade his studies in agriculture to become a fully-fledged agricultural officer.

## ADRA psychosocial programme in Agago

**S**ustainable Change and Livelihood Enhancement (SCALE) Program is being implemented by ADRA UGANDA to best promote sustainable livelihoods for impoverished communities through advocacy and capacity building.

ADRA Uganda is working closely with local leaders, community-based groups, and civil society organisations.

Alfred Ayor, the programme coordinator in Agago, said following the extended period of insurgency, many people in the region are traumatised and lost hope.

To address this, ADRA trained reflect facilitators - religious leaders, cultural leaders, civil leaders and groups to give psychosocial support.

Ayor said following their intervention; the situation has significantly improved. He mentioned Wol sub-county which was prone to suicide with about three cases reported per month now has eleven cases reported since June last year.

Edward Okwir, the LCIII chairperson of Omot sub-county, said the people trained by ADRA are now very instrumental in conflict management among the community. *"Many youths were redundant and engaged in over drinking, but through advocacy, many have changed their way of life and are involved in productive activities"*, Okwir said.

Okwir said some youths had formed drama groups to sensitise the community. Peter Oola, 52, Head Catechist, Geregere Chapel is a trained facilitator. Oola is doing psychosocial to some people.

He also noted that parents tend to quarrel with their girls when they get pregnant from school forcing the girls to commit suicide.

The last term, seven girls dropped out of school at Geregere Primary School, three of them got pregnant while four were married off.

Oola said they are talking to the parents to treat their girls who erred politely instead of shouting and quarrelling with them.

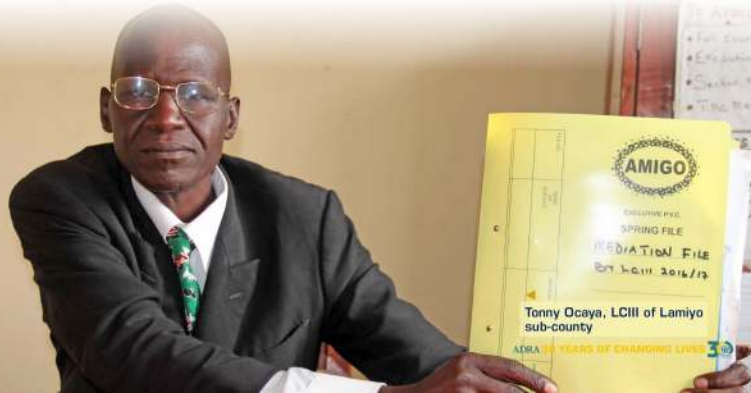
He said he helped a woman who had a misunderstanding with her husband and had planned to kill him. The mother of six had crushed bottles which she intended to mix with the food of her husband and children and later she would commit suicide. After getting this information, he counselled the woman, and now the couple is living happily together.

Oola said there is much to be done in the region but few counsellors in place. *"In this community, when someone tells you that I will kill you, don't take it for a joke"*, he said.

### Cause of Conflict

The leaders attribute most of the causes of conflicts in the area to land disputes and over drinking which has contributed to domestic violence, child abuse, separation, murders, and divorce.

Tonny Ocaya, the LCIII of Lamiyo sub-county said the situation is improving after intervention by ADRA. *"The rate of drinking has reduced, and people are now more engaged in farming and active participation in group activities"*, he said.





## SUCCESS STORY FROM CBO ADVOCACY INITIATIVE

**T**he poor health service delivery in Kaabong District Hospital was an advocacy issue identified by two CBOs (Biafra Atousutu and Kapilan bar Atasioma) in Kaabong town council that are supported by the ASC Program.

The hospital hygiene and sanitation had deteriorated significantly as it was bushy thus breeding mosquitoes, dirty inside and this led to other issues like bedbugs.

*"In fact, one time we had to go to the hospital to clear the bush"* says Nakong Rose, the chairperson of Atasioma Kapilan bar Women's Group.

Besides hygiene and sanitation, the hospital also had corruption scandals, poor attendance to duty, the sale of medicines and other medical accessories, sexual harassment, especially to the female staff and patients.

The CBOs through their campaigns raised awareness to the communities in the town council and a Baraza facilitated by ADRA Uganda early 2016, Biafra Atousutu mobilised communities and engaged authorities including the Members of Parliament.

This Baraza went on up to 8:00 pm in the night where all the rot in the hospital was unearthed. *"This Baraza is something that brought us enmity with the Hospital administrators that some people started threatening to*

*set the house of the chairperson ablaze"*, says one of the members of Atousutu. *"I lived in fear as every time they scared me that they were going to burn me so that my lips can shout no more and then be quiet forever"*, says Nakoi-ma Cecilia the Chairperson Atousutu.

These issues coincided with the election period, and the very issue of Kaabong hospital was politicised. For instance, the chairperson of Kapilan bar stood for district councillorship and promised the public to bring those issues of the hospital to the floor of the council and succeeded. She is now an honourable member of the district council.

Results of the above advocacy initiatives: The District Council instituted a committee to investigate all the allegations concerning the hospital including conducting a forensic audit of the transactions.

The committee was tasked to submit a report to the District Executive Committee. The committee has laid its report on the administration and the audit report is yet to be released.

Pending that, so far a new Hospital Management Committee has been established, a new hospital in-charge has been appointed, the Village Health Teams (VHTs) who had not been paid for the 2015 and 2016 have been paid, the hospital that had one doctor has now got two more so they are three doctors.

The hygiene and sanitation have drastically improved as the Chairperson of Biafra Atousutu won the tender to be cleaning the hospital, and the issue bedbugs have drastically subsided. The lights in the wards have been reinstalled, and the hospital is relatively well lit.

Although the hospital still has some challenges, the advocacy has yielded fruits and especially the use of Barazas and media houses. The hospital is now attracting assistance from different partners since there is improved mutual trust for the Hospital administration.

For example, Baylor Uganda last year in September, donated medical equipment worth Shs400m which included; 40 beds, 40 cupboards for patients, 10 packets surgical gloves, 12 dozens of dressing bandages, ten packets of dish/silver wear, 40 Adults diapers, orthopedic items among others.

Mercy Corps also is facilitating medical students to come to Kaabong for their internship to reduce the manpower gaps in the hospital.

A staff house has also been constructed this year to accommodate student nurses and doctors on internship. Apparently, the hospital has 16 student nurses on the internship sponsored by Mercy Corps.



▲ A student smiles after receiving lunch under ADRA's feeding programme.



▲ Mungula Primary School students wash hands from the tap provided by ADRA

## ADRA supported feeding programme improving school attendance

Locally initiated school feeding programme in Adjumani is changing the face of academic performance in Adjumani district.

The feeding programme launched through a partnership with ADRA and district local government is implemented in five schools in refugee-hosting areas.

Robert Dima, the Adjumani district education officer, said the project that involves schools growing their food is locally sustainable.

*"If you give them food and they have participated in the production, they will always want to produce more".* Dima said

Just like Dima, most of the stakeholders in the district believe that the project is sustainable since the land is available and what is needed is a change of attitude.

The project has taken off in Miniki, Mungula, Alere, Aliwara and Boroli primary schools, where the community donates land on which the schools cultivate their crops.

Started in 2014 to curb rampant absenteeism in the area, the project is credited for increased enrollment in the five pilot schools of operation.

World Food Programme (WFP) at the time only gives food to households leaving out institutions such as schools.

Continued on page 34 ▶

# ADRA PROJECTS IN PICTURES



Members of Byebasambu group in Kshinge subcounty with some of the projects supported by ADRA



Godfrey Tunnewe attending to one of the animals at the Mutolere Project

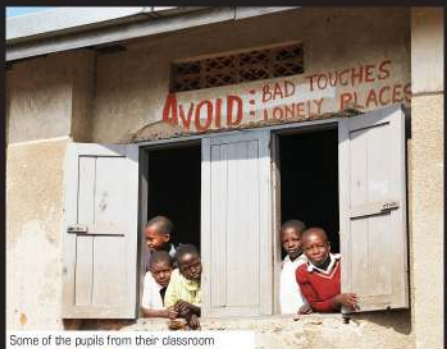


Karamojong children mining



Some of the youth from Karamoja region who turned up for the training organised by ADRA





Some of the pupils from their classroom



Miyoro Group



Children looking after animals



Miyoro Group and some of their projects



▲ Pupils of Miriki Primary School transporting the harvested Maize from school garden

From page 31

In response, ADRA partnered with school management committee and parents-teachers associations to start this project.

*"Initially, we were only helping in opening up the fields, but later as the need arose, we also thought it wise to supply the planting material",* an official from ADRA said.

The feeding programme which had been running for three years has increased school attendance, mainly among the refugee community in the district.

ADRA has also constructed modern storage and kitchen facilities in the five pilot schools to support the programme.

Martine Amaza, the head teacher of Miniki Primary Schools in Adjumani district, says the intervention supported by ADRA is behind the good performance of his school in last year's PLE.

Silas Gogo, a parent of two children in Mungula Primary School, says the feeding programme kept the children in school even when rations had been cut.

*"It has always motivated them to stay in school rather than coming home to look for what to eat",* Gogo says.

Through the project, parents and the students are expected to provide part of the labour required to grow the crops as ADRA hire labour for tilling the land.

Gogo says this has sometimes become hard to manage as the planting period can be hectic and fears could scare children out of School.

Adjumani DEO Dima said it is important that the children are involved in the cultivation as they practice what they also learn in class. It gives them the practical aspect of the subject of agriculture, according to Dima ADRA has also intervened in the areas of water by installing solar-powered wells with a mini-pipe system.

The organisation also implemented sanitation through school sanitation clubs.

## REFUGEES ADAPT ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY SOURCE OF ENERGY

Concerns have been emerging over environmental depletion due to population pressure, owing to arrival of Refugees in the West Nile region. However in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe District, refugees are embracing the use of energy saving stoves to curb environmental depletion.

Trained by ADRA, the stove is turning out to be a lucrative business venture for the youth groups. The refugees say upon arrival, wood fuel was a challenge, and they had to sell part of their food rations for buying Charcoal as they were not allowed to collect firewood by locals.

Lilly Kujang, 19, says they used to move long distances for firewood, but could not get firewood since the population is overwhelming.

*"I missed classes to look for firewood with my Mother. The stove has transformed our lives significantly",* Kujang said.

The refugees also use the knowledge they have acquired for making the energy stoves in large quantities for sale. A medium-size energy stove is sold at 5,000UGX while the big size is sold at 10,000UGX at the current prevailing market price in the area.

According to the members, each of them at least makes ten stoves in a day, out of which, five will be sold for the group and the other five for individuals. UN agencies are one of their biggest clients. Alex Towongo, 25 and a father of two, says his wife cooks using the energy saving stoves and he helps her to make the briquettes.

Towongo says it is easy to get fuel as the briquettes are made out of readily available material. *"We collect rubbish, mainly dry grass and burn them to make the briquettes which men can also do to help their wives",* Towongo said.



▲ A woman in Bidibidi settlement drying briquettes

According to Florence Ropani, one of the members of the group, they make at least two basins of briquettes daily and sell them alongside the stoves.

The arrival of refugee, especially from South Sudan, has significantly impacted on the vegetation cover in the region. Therefore, this intervention by ADRA has helped in addressing the fuel crisis. The Project of making the energy saving stoves has also created cohesion among the refugee community.



▲ Lokeris Samson - Dodoth East County, Kaabong (NRM)

I want in a special way congratulate the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) on their 30 years of operations in Uganda.

I wish you many more years of prosperity and ability to empower more communities in Uganda and Karamoja in particular.

I thank you for prioritizing my area in terms of both social and economic interventions. As someone from the northern half of Karamoja, our region has not been at the forefront of social interventions as has been the case in the southern half of the sub-region. However, one blessing that has consistently been there for us is ADRA.

The organization has stood with us in the areas of agriculture, especially food security, education, rights of the girl-child and water.

ADRA has been the most reliable and dependable organization in the education sector in Kaabong area. I recall very well that during the difficult times of food scarcity, ADRA came into the region and started distributing food.

It enabled our people to survive during a period which they could have perished. Shortly after that, they started on capacity building,

## ADRA has changed attitudes towards education and the girl-child

They sponsored over 100 students to enroll at the primary teachers college to meet the need of scarcity of teachers.

ADRA also constructed several classrooms in the area to help meet the acute shortage of learning space. This greatly helped in changing attitudes towards education in our area. School enrollment has now shot up by large percentage and parents are more responsive to educating their children.

In addition, many organizations such as IrishAid have been inspired by the boldness ADRA took to invest in the social well-being of the people of Karamoja. They have now also followed suit and together with many others are spearheading the redemption of the region.

I also want to applaud ADRA for their water programme in Kaabong. The project has seen several boreholes drilled and a wind pump installed in the area, and they have had a big impact on the lives of the population. This has particularly been a profound impact because Karamoja is a pastoral region and watering of livestock is a major economic activity.

The water programme has seen many people flock to the area to benefit from the services. I think going forward; this is a programme that should be emphasized to impact livelihoods even more.

We have come a long way with ADRA, and I don't want to forget what they have done in agriculture and food security for my people.

They have helped put in place model gardens to help our people learn from so that they replicate their own.

This has profoundly increased their understanding of farming methodologies and hence food security.

This has also involved training on how to store cereal, grow and eat vegetables. My people are now better nourished as opposed to the past where malnutrition had become a chronic problem.

In conclusion, I am grateful regarding what ADRA has done in the area of empowering the girl child. Their advocacy programme has been able to change attitudes towards girl child education.

In the past, many parents looked at girls as a conduit for cows, but things are quickly changing, though much remains to be done in this area.

There have also been many scholarships given out to this effect.

**Thank you very much and congratulations on your milestone.**

# ADRA SAVES PADER RESIDENTS OF TRAUMA



▲ Oola attending to his cows that he bought through farming.



▲ Rivot Oweka has initiated Iketo Wa Kwenie where the majority are women. After saving their money, he addresses them on issues that affect society.

**M**y brother's son just committed suicide yesterday after his uncle declined to give him the money he was saving for him.

He had wanted to go and see eye surgeons at the hospital. After the uncle's decision, he said he was going to kill himself. Everybody at home thought it was a mere joke.

It only took a few hours from morning to evening to hear that he had died". This was the first statement Rose Aneno, 42 years said.

Asked whether there is a suicidal tendency in their clan, she quickly responded yes adding that at least five people have committed suicide in the last 40 years.

Aneno, a mother of eight children, was also planning at one time to kill her co-wife who is accused of reporting her to the Lord's Resistance Army rebels in 1995 leading to her gruesome torture.

After the torture, Aneno who is a resident of Wiraa West village, Otong parish, Ongom sub-county in Pader district was hospitalised for three months at Kitgum hospital.

When she was discharged, her mind kept telling her to revenge. *"All along I always thought of how to get rid of my co-wife) because all I had gone through was because of her"*, the former primary teacher added.

## Change of Mind

However, her mind started changing when Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) introduced her to psychosocial training in 2015.

She explained that from then, her attitude changed and felt a free woman not until her co-wife just died a natural death in 2016.

She is now a community counsellor and a member of Tem Gumi drama group that has 33 members.

They aim to reach out to those with trauma as a result of land wrangles and gender violence.

## Cultural Leaders Trained

Rwot Dermoii Oweka Ajao II, the cultural leader of



▲ Areno with her daughter attending to their garden.

Paibwor clan in Dure parish, Latanya sub-county said through ADRA's intervention; all cultural leaders were trained to handle issues that require psychosocial help.

Oweka adds that they have formed Iketo Wa Kwene group (which is translated as "Where do you put us?") that brings together over 460 families whose relatives are still missing due to the war insurgency.

*"People have a lot of questions on whether they will see their relatives coming back. The situation worsens when they see the remains of bullets and human bones",* he added.

The group is now registered as a community-based organisation, have developed a saving culture of which they congregate every Wednesday, and after that, they share amongst themselves the problems they are facing.

Ray Olweny, the Community Devel-

opment Officer (CDO) of Latanya sub-county where the psychosocial project is being implemented commended the intervention adding that suicide cases have drastically reduced since 2015.

Olweny attributed this to the collective efforts by the cultural, religious and political leaders who were trained by ADRA to sensitise the masses and identify the survivors who are equipped with startup capital as part of livelihood support.

*"From 2015, at least ten people would be reported to have committed suicide every month which has now reduced to two since the beginning of the year",* he added.

Fearless Kilama Wod-Acholi, the LC III chairperson Pader town council acknowledged that as leaders they lacked enough skills to mediate on critical issues within the community.

Kilama cited a backlog of 39 land-cases that had been registered by his office in

2016, and he had achieved less in mediating them.

*"I am happy that since ADRA trained us, these cases have now reduced to only two. Of those mediated, none went to the court an indicator that they were satisfied with our advice",* he added.

Pastor Peca Boniface of Seventh Day Adventist church in Acoro parish, Pader town council asked for the extension of the operation areas so that more people benefit.

The project implementation falls under the Social Change and Livelihood Enhancement program of nine years supported by ADRA Sweden with funding from Swedish Mission Council.

Enock Byafaki, the ADRA area coordinator Pader district said at the start of the program in 2013, the psychosocial component was silent and yet most of the people they dealt with, manifested a high level of trauma.

# Programs Director's Message

**A** DRA Uganda was registered as a national Non-Governmental Organization on 24th July 1986, at the time of national rehabilitation and recovery soon after the National Resistance Army (NRA) took charge of governing Uganda. From 1987, ADRA Uganda embarked on relief, recovery and development programs throughout Uganda working in partnership with UN agencies, International donors, the government of Uganda, the SDA church, and other NGOs and faith-based organisations. As we celebrate 30 years ADRA Uganda development and humanitarian work in Uganda, we are glad to inform you that millions of Ugandan, refugees and other people living in Uganda have benefited through ADRA's interventions a few highlights of which include:

- In Education, ADRA Uganda has: constructed, rehabilitated and furnished over 740 classrooms; 240 teachers' houses; trained 2,723 teachers and school managers; sponsored pupils and students and trained thousands of adult literacy participants countrywide.

- In food security and livelihoods, ADRA Uganda has organised and empowered over 1,000 community-based organisations with literacy, knowledge, skills and

start-up capital to engage in agriculture, business, value addition, VSLA and savings and credit cooperatives. They have also been empowered to form networks to advance their interests through advocacy and other means.

- In health, over 300 community health workers and counsellors have been trained and equipped to offer service; health centres have been constructed/ rehabilitated, and medical equipment supplied to health units; MCH, HIV and AIDS, and malaria control projects have been implemented in various parts of central and eastern Uganda benefiting thousands of people.

ADRA Uganda has for the last 30 years been a very active player in responding to emergencies and disasters throughout the country ranging from landslides, floods, refugees and IDPs. In such situations, the organisation has always intervened with food and non-food items, WASH, protection, and resettlement of affected communities depending on the needs.

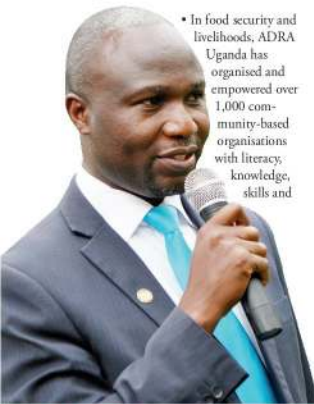
- WASH and environment protection have always been integral parts of ADRA Uganda's interventions, and through these, shallow wells, boreholes and solar wells have been constructed for schools, communities and refugee settlements; hygiene kits have been supplied to schools and communities; hygiene promotion campaigns continue to be done; tree planting and other environmental protection technologies and activities are a key feature of ADRA Uganda's projects and programs.

Looking forward, ADRA Uganda's strategic focus is on improved secure and sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities for all vulnerable people and communities – especially the youth and women - with better and fairer access to quality inputs, markets or employment.

Increased access to quality and equitable primary health care services for vulnerable people and communities.  
Increased access to quality and equitable formal and non-formal education for vulnerable children and youth and strengthened the capacity of households and communities to be more resilient to natural and human-made disaster shocks and stresses.

ADRA Uganda extends her gratitude to the local and international partners that have supported her work for the last 30 years, these include: Government of Uganda, district local governments wherever ADRA Uganda has operated, individual local and international Private donors, the SDA Church, the world-wide ADRA Network, European Union, DANIDA, SIDA, CIDA, USAID, City of Vienna (Austria), Lakarmissionen, Foods Resource Bank (USA), WFP; FAO, UNHCR, IBM (Sweden), Mennonite Central Committee, LDS Development Services to mention but a few.

You have been such a blessing to ADRA Uganda and her constituency, and our prayers are that you may receive abundant grace and blessings from the God Almighty.



▲ Solomon Kateregga; ADRA Uganda, Programs Director addressing Betwa Graduates in Kisoro



Booker Ajuga handing relief items

# ADRA changing lives in Wakiso District

According to Frank Sekagiri (Wakiso District Community Officer), the first activity was to mobilise the community in Sisa sub-county and Kajansi town council, Kasangye and Bussi Islands. Through this kind of mobilisation, many groups were created which were later used as a means of delivering ADRA's messages. Through those groups, many underwent Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) sessions.

## Before FAL was implemented

*"The situation in the district was bad, according to Sekagiri. You may think you have 100% literate people in Wakiso but you will be surprised to find someone in a market in an urban centre who cannot read and write,"* said Sekagiri.

To promote FAL, this was done through an integrated management approach, where adult classes were integrated with skills in financial literacy, resource mobilisation, savings and advocacy programs among others.

## Under Health

They promoted HIV/Aids awareness campaigns by, sensitising the community about the dangers of HIV/AIDS, also, to encourage them to go for voluntary counselling and testing.

They have gone ahead to support some health centres with some equipment. That time, there was a challenge, in particular on the Bussi islands. That time the population at Bussi was mobile, but the trend has changed with more people settling down.

## In Kajansi town council

ADRA has been carrying out community mobilisation through the PREP and SCALE project. PREP came first, also into community mobilisation to driving, the same message of change and improving the welfare of the communities.

## SCALE Project

This is the most recent project supported by ADRA to empower communities so that when ADRA pulls out the district can own the project and continue with its administration. At the end of such projects, groups were

formed and are still operating. One such program is in Nakawuka, where communities are encouraged to save and borrow, and this has inculcated a culture of saving among the local communities.

In all their projects, ADRA has not been giving out handouts but have been supporting the steering committee which I have been chairing to reach to the grass root communities. But the most significant impact is the establishment of a financial institution called Advance Microfinance, operating in Nansana and neighbouring areas.

## About Advance Microfinance

Advance Uganda Microfinance Ltd (AUMF) is a faith-based microfinance institution (MFI) based in Nansana near Kampala.

AUMF was set up by ADRA Uganda. The aim was to support disadvantaged rural entrepreneurs to reduce poverty and improve self-reliance, particularly among women.

Through its branch in Entebbe, on Lake Victoria, AUMF is the only Ugandan MFI to offer financial services to the residents of Bussi, Kojja and Zinga islands, where 70% of its clients are women, most of whom are involved in farming and fishing.

AUMF is an established and competitive MFI, with a varied product portfolio, excellent growth potential and a strong presence among female entrepreneurs.

They are expected to benefit AUMF's 2,850 current borrowers, more than 2,500 new clients and 36 staff.

## Message to ADRA

We as Wakiso district want to appreciate their services in the district. Through their

▶ Frank Sekagiri

initiatives, there is a positive change. This has been noticed through improved health, education, financial literacy where communities have been empowered to save but also to find solutions to their problems.





Student practicing hair dressing at Kireka home for the handicapped



Tailoring sessions in class

## ADRA helping disabled children to secure their future

The saying that disability is not inability is one of the statements that keep persons with disability going. Much of the majority would like to get skills that will enable them to be self-reliant, yet few get access to institutions like ADRA that are willing to lend a hand, to make those people's lives better.

Those that have been lucky to benefit from ADRA include Kireka Home for the Handicapped children, which gave birth to a similar place in Lweza, Kigo road. The organisation is currently training about 50 disabled children

In these facilities, children with disabilities are trained in various practical sessions to equip them with skills, in addition to those being offered by the government.

Under the ministry of education, disabled children are supported to acquire skills in carpentry and joinery for boys while girls are taken through tailoring.

### How ADRA started supporting disabled children

To supplement on government's program, ADRA Uganda introduced other topics

mainly through agriculture, to give alternatives on what to choose as a sustainable income generating activity.

The main activities under agriculture include vegetable growing in a small space and this is being promoted mainly in Kireka, where there is less space.

The other bigger farming projects including banana growing, sweet potatoes, maize, cassava, including vegetables are being done at the Lweza School, which has more space. This has been supplemented with marketing skills. *"The idea is that when students complete their one-year training and are going home, they have an idea on how to start a life of their own"*, explained David Kiyingi, the coordinator of the project.

The aim of all the above activities as per ADRA's vision is to ensure that disabled children and adults acquire a long-term skill. At the end of their training sessions, graduating students into agriculture are given some seeds as capital to continue practising from home.

These are later followed up by the instructors and the project coordinator, to help them succeed with whatever project they would have started with.

### How students get the skills

At Lweza, Kiyingi explained that students are taken through theory in class and later taken

to the field to put into practice what they have learnt.

Practical sessions are carried out twice a week with experts from the National Agriculture Research Organisation in a particular area, like Mushroom growing, vegetables, and bananas.

Sometimes experts in the financial sector are called in to teach them how to manage their finances after selling what they will have harvested from the farm.

### What happens to all the food produced at school?

Some of the food that is generated by the school is eaten to supplement the rice, potato and beans offered by the government, some of it is sold, and other is given to instructors.

### Future plans

To further provide an alternative source of employment, Kiyingi added that they had secured some 49 million UGX through ADRA to include other courses like hairdressing, and facilitating experts who are called on different projects to skill students.

This will not only equip students with skills but will act as another income, generating activity. Part of the money is to provide the saloon with some machines like dryers, chairs, basins some starting chemicals among others.



# ADRA GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Over 1270 residents of Kiganda-Kasokoso turned for a free health camp. ADRA organised the Health Camp ahead of her 30 years celebrations.

The ADRA Uganda Public Relations and Resource Mobilisation Officer, James Bisheko Byaruhanga said they would have annual health camp across the country to fulfil the organisation's mission of helping the needy.

*"We are giving back to our community because a healthy community is what the country needs to develop. There is no way one can work, improve on his/her livelihood when one is not healthy",* he said. The health camp attracted residence from Kasokoso, Kiganda, Kireka and the surroundings.

Medical personnel from Mulago Hospital treated the health camp's beneficiaries of malaria, infectious diseases, dental check-ups, Hepatitis B, HIV among others.

The Kira Division Mayor Julius Mutebi Nsubuga said there is a need for a government hospital in the areas, saying that the majority of the people there cannot afford medical services.



Annette Nabawanuka, a resident of Kiganda Zone interacting with the Mayor and ADRA Country Director





### UN urges countries to adopt Uganda SDG model

Bates commends Ugandan government for its leadership in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ahead of the rest of the world.

The UN has commended the Ugandan government for its leadership in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ahead of the rest of the world. The report, released in New York, says the country has made significant progress in various areas, including poverty reduction, gender equality, and climate action.

**Key highlights from the report:**

- Uganda has achieved 100% of the targets for SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).
- Significant progress has been made in SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).
- The country has also made notable gains in SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for Development).

### Kaabong parents forcing girls into early marriage

Parents in Kaabong district are reportedly forcing their daughters into early marriages, a practice that is causing concern among the community.

Parents in Kaabong district are reportedly forcing their daughters into early marriages, a practice that is causing concern among the community. The report highlights the cultural and economic pressures driving this trend, and the impact on the girls' health and education.

**Key findings:**

- Over 50% of girls in the district are married before the age of 18.
- Early marriages are often arranged by parents for economic reasons.
- The practice is leading to a decline in school enrollment for girls.

### South Sudan refugees receive sanitary pads worth sh150m

South Sudanese refugees in Uganda have received a large shipment of sanitary pads, valued at 150 million shillings.

South Sudanese refugees in Uganda have received a large shipment of sanitary pads, valued at 150 million shillings. The shipment is part of a larger effort to provide essential supplies to the refugee population.

**Details of the shipment:**

- The shipment includes 1,000,000 sanitary pads.
- The pads are distributed to refugee camps across the country.
- The distribution is being coordinated by ADRA and other partners.

### The Batwa STRUGGLE to get an EDUCATION

The Batwa community in Uganda continues to face significant challenges in accessing education, despite their efforts to improve their situation.

The Batwa community in Uganda continues to face significant challenges in accessing education, despite their efforts to improve their situation. The report discusses the historical and ongoing discrimination against the community and the impact on their children's education.

**Key issues:**

- Discrimination in school enrollment and completion.
- Lack of access to quality educational resources.
- Barriers to higher education and vocational training.

**What Batwa pupils at Nanyangwe Primary School say:**

Interviews with Batwa pupils at Nanyangwe Primary School reveal their struggles and aspirations. Many students face difficulties in attending school and completing their education.

### Nyamihanda: The first graduate

Nyamihanda, a young woman from the Batwa community, has become the first graduate from her school, marking a significant milestone.

Nyamihanda, a young woman from the Batwa community, has become the first graduate from her school, marking a significant milestone. Her achievement is a testament to her hard work and the support of her community.

**Key details:**

- Nyamihanda graduated from Nanyangwe Primary School.
- She is the first Batwa student to graduate from the school.
- Her success is being celebrated by her family and the community.

### Karimojong embrace agriculture

The Karimojong community is embracing agriculture as a means of livelihood, with many people starting their own farms.

The Karimojong community is embracing agriculture as a means of livelihood, with many people starting their own farms. This shift is helping to improve their economic situation and food security.

**Key points:**

- Increased participation in agricultural activities.
- Use of modern farming techniques and tools.
- Improved access to agricultural inputs and services.

### S. Sudan hands over 16 Karimojong warriors

South Sudan has handed over 16 Karimojong warriors to the Ugandan authorities, who are being held in custody.

South Sudan has handed over 16 Karimojong warriors to the Ugandan authorities, who are being held in custody. The warriors were captured during a conflict in South Sudan.

**Details:**

- The warriors are being held in a secure facility in Uganda.
- The Ugandan government is working to ensure their safety and well-being.
- There are ongoing discussions about the future of the warriors.

### Girl resists P7 to avoid early MARRIAGE

A young girl in Uganda has resisted a payment of 7 million shillings to avoid an early marriage, a move that has drawn attention.

A young girl in Uganda has resisted a payment of 7 million shillings to avoid an early marriage, a move that has drawn attention. The girl's decision is seen as a step towards protecting her rights and future.

**Key details:**

- The girl is being held in custody by the authorities.
- There are ongoing efforts to ensure her safety and well-being.
- The incident has sparked a national conversation about child marriage.

### Heavy rains cut off Karamoja

Heavy rains in the Karamoja region have cut off access to the area, causing significant disruption and hardship.

Heavy rains in the Karamoja region have cut off access to the area, causing significant disruption and hardship. The flooding has affected the lives of many people in the region.

**Impact:**

- Isolation of communities and lack of access to services.
- Damage to infrastructure and crops.
- Increased risk of disease and food insecurity.

### 1,200 get adult literacy skills

Over 1,200 people in the Karamoja region have acquired adult literacy skills, a significant achievement.

Over 1,200 people in the Karamoja region have acquired adult literacy skills, a significant achievement. This program has helped to improve the literacy rates and economic opportunities in the region.

**Key details:**

- The program was implemented by ADRA and other partners.
- Participants have gained valuable skills for employment and entrepreneurship.
- The program is being expanded to reach more people.

### Disarmament in Karamoja

Successful disarmament in Karamoja has replaced peace committees, marking a significant step towards stability.

Successful disarmament in Karamoja has replaced peace committees, marking a significant step towards stability. The disarmament process has been a complex and challenging one, but it has resulted in a more peaceful environment.

**Key points:**

- Disarmament of armed groups in the region.
- Establishment of peace committees to monitor the situation.
- Improved security and access to services.

### Ugandans expelled from Tanzania given food relief

Ugandans who have been expelled from Tanzania are receiving food relief, helping to address their immediate needs.

Ugandans who have been expelled from Tanzania are receiving food relief, helping to address their immediate needs. The relief is being provided by ADRA and other partners.

**Details:**

- The relief includes food, clothing, and other essential supplies.
- The distribution is being coordinated by local authorities and partners.
- The relief is helping to improve the living conditions of the affected people.

### Peace replaces arms in Karamoja

Peace has replaced arms in Karamoja, a significant milestone in the region's history.

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