

Magazine | August 2014 | Issue 1.



Northern

MIRROR



Updates, successes, best practices.
October 2009 – September 2013



- 4 | Vision
- 4 | Mission
- 4 | Call and Aspiration
- 4 | Strategic Goal

9 | World Vision Intervenes in the South Sudan refugee crisis

- Child friendly spaces providing safety to children affected by the South Sudan Crisis
- World Vision re-unites yet another formerly abducted person with family in Amuria district

14 | Contribution to improved health & nutrition status of children & women in Northern Uganda

- Positive deviance Hearth reversing malnutrition situation among under fives
- SPEAR Scales up HIV Services Utilization among public sector workers
- World Vision Pilots low cost pumps in Northern Uganda

21 | Fostering food security & community resilience

- Increased production and income for post IDP communities in Wol Agago district
- Orange Sweet potato changes the life of Odongo Lameck in Barr Sub County
- Busy bees reaping big from honey in Offaka ADP.
- In the eyes of the less privileged through Vision Fund!

26 | Enhancing equitable access to quality education for boys and girls

- World Vision Saves St. Thomas Moore S.S from Collapse
- Sam's Hope in life saved by World Vision; now on a steady rise to success

30 | Increased protection, care and nurture of girls and boys

- Working with community structures to promote Child Protection in koro-Bobi
- Citizens Voice and Action scales up Health advocacy in Amuru district
- Q&A – Longest Serving staff in World Vision Northern Uganda

34 | Statistics of Investment in The Region

Contents



About Us

World Vision®

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to the well being of girls and boys. It is committed to working with girls and boys, families, and their communities worldwide to overcome poverty and injustice.

Vision

Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness; Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so

Mission

World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.

Call and Aspiration

As a Christian organization WV Uganda heeds the call to facilitate empowerment of communities, work with partners, the government and other actors to contribute to children's wellbeing.

WV Uganda aspires to a Uganda in which girls and boys are empowered to enjoy life, advance their wellbeing and realize their full potential, in their families and communities.

Strategic Goal

World Vision Uganda will contribute to improved and sustained wellbeing of 1,300,000 most vulnerable girls and boys in Uganda by 2015.

Foreword

from the Integrated Programs Division Director



Tom Robert Mugabi
Integrated Programs Division Director

World Vision has over the years supplemented government efforts aimed at achieving household sustainable growth and development in targeted districts of Uganda.

Specific to Northern Region, that experienced decades of insecurity, it's delighting to note the positive changes continually happening among vulnerable populations through recovery and development programs implemented in the region.

As a child focused organization, we appreciate the significant improvements in the child wellbeing indicators through targeted campaigns and interventions ranging from infrastructural development to household livelihood improvements.

The functionality of community structure such as VHTs, CPCs, SMCs through engagements with the local government is worth celebrating as a critical milestone for achieving sustainable development in the region.

I thank WV staff in the region for their active engagement to achieve evidence based programming as well as maintain good collaboration with the relevant partners at districts and national levels. The untiring support from our donors, both local and international, will always be celebrated as we continue on the journey of community transformation.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of children!

we appreciate the significant improvements in the child wellbeing indicators through targeted campaigns and interventions ranging from infrastructural development to household livelihood improvements.



Freddie Opoka
Regional Operations Manager Northern

Special appreciation and recognition go to all our donors, partners and government of Uganda who have provided the financial support and an enabling environment for transformational development

Regional Operations Manager's message

World Vision has supported social and economic development of communities in Northern Uganda since 1998. The organization's commitment in transforming the lives of children, their families and communities, thereby supporting the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP), has continued unabated to date in the districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Agago, Amuru, Arua, Kole, Oyam, Lira, Otuke, Alebtong and Adjumani.

Focus has been on the sectors of health, education, livelihoods, water and sanitation. In addition, child protection advocacy, peace building and psychosocial treatment have been fostered. This has seen the improvement in wellbeing of more than two million people.

Contribution to quality service delivery has seen huge investments by the organization in infrastructure development in education and health sectors between 2009 and 2013. In education sector, a total of 167 classrooms have been built and equipped with 11,765 desks. In addition, 81 teachers' houses and 217 latrine blocks were constructed.

All these were done with the aim of improving the enrolment, retention and completion of girls and boys in primary school. The health sector has on the other hand been supported with the construction of 7 maternity wards and/or Outpatient blocks, 25 staff houses, 9 incinerators and 10 latrine blocks. These have significantly improved access to quality health services and also realized the rehabilitation of over 800 malnourished children

World Vision has also invested heavily in providing support to the WASH sector. Between 2010 to 2013, 294 deep and 43 shallow wells as well as 61 spring wells have been constructed, with another 52 deep wells repaired. 548 water user committees and 34 pump mechanics were trained and equipped in order to ensure the efficient operation and maintenance of the wells. This has provided access to clean and safe water to over 100,000 people.

An innovative and cheap alternative to a borehole was also introduced by World Vision in the form of a rope pump in Gulu. This is a deep well, drilled up to a depth of 30 meters that costs as little as UGX2m. This technology, initially piloted in Koro sub-county, Gulu district, has enabled up to 30 households in Gulu get their own water. It is now being rolled out to other parts of Northern Uganda.

Support to the livelihoods sector has seen the training of up to 90,000 farmers across the region. Capital has been provided to these farmers in form of livestock and other farm implements such as 1,756 oxen, 384 heifers, 1,232 goats, 8,000 cassava and banana cuttings and over 200,000 kilograms of a variety of seeds.

Over 15,000 formerly abducted children have been received and rehabilitated at the children of war rehabilitation center up to 34,000 people, including 21,000 children have been reached with child protection initiatives (child friendly spaces and child protection awareness raising and incident management) in Adjumani through the South Sudan Refugee influx project.

World Vision will continue to contribute to recovery and development with focus on the following:

- Improved health and nutrition status of children under five & women in the reproductive age
- Improved food security and community resilience among the most vulnerable populations
- Improved equitable access to and quality education for girls and boys
- Increased protection, care and nurture of girls and boys

Special appreciation and recognition go to all our donors, partners and government of Uganda who have provided the financial support and an enabling environment for transformational development.

We also acknowledge the contribution of SLT in providing guidance and direction to the team and staff for the commitment and desire to contribute to Child wellbeing.

God bless you all





Peter Claver Kalule
Regional Advocacy Coordinator.

A lot of good things are done in this region and yet pass un-noticed. In January this year, World Vision Northern region formed a six man committee to enhance documentation. This was done to bring to light successes, promising practices and most significant changes within the region resulting from World Vision Interventions.

Chair person Documentation Committee's word

Welcome to this first edition of *The Northern Mirror*. As chairperson of the Northern region documentation committee, I am glad to be a part of Northern region family in World Vision Uganda; a family dedicated to creating transformation and change among the most vulnerable communities in the region. During this season, the region has continuously invested in a number of initiatives which have not only resulted into remarkable contribution to the wellbeing of boys and girls but also yielded positive results of impact in the communities and households where they live.

A lot of good things are done in this region and yet pass un-noticed. In January this year, World Vision Northern region formed a six man committee to enhance documentation. This was done to bring to light successes, promising practices and most significant changes within the region resulting from World Vision Interventions. Further still to provide evidence for future engagements such as advocacy and fundraising. The committee's efforts seem to have paid off as a result of tireless contributions made by the different staff right from the area development programs, across clusters and projects.

This publication is living evidence of efforts by teams and individuals in northern region. This volume takes stock of cases and testimonies of world vision interventions for the past five years including our response in the south Sudan reffuguee crisis. This magazine will be published twice every year. I hereby congratulate and thank you all and special thanks to Freddie Opoka, Stella Aber, Anita Komukama, Brian Twesigye and Bomax Otim who all sit on this honorable coordinating committee and Flavia Lanyero for supporting the editorial team. In this first issue, the committee brings to you various exciting cases of success in relation to investment in the region for the last two years. ***Ever worked with a bullet in your head? Well Francis Onono has.*** Don't miss out on the Q&A with Francis who happens to be the longest serving staff of the region.

Enjoy your reading.

World Vision Intervenes in the South Sudan refugee crisis

Child friendly spaces providing safety to children affected by the South Sudan Crisis

 James Kamira – Child Protection Facilitator, Adjumani

Being a responsive organization, World Vision was one of the first partners to respond in Adjumani district to the South Sudanese Refugee influx which began in December 2013 to date. The goal of this response project is to improve the psychosocial and safety situation of Sudanese refugees in Adjumani district.

Being a single mother is already bad a situation and taking care of several abandoned children is a challenge many can hardly imagine and yet such is the life of 26 year old Nyadeng in Nyumanzi refugee settlement in Adjumani district. Nyandeng is pregnant and taking care of 12 children in the refugee settlement. Her family was caught up in the conflict in South Sudan and she had to flee with three of her children together with those of her relatives whose parents got lost. It took them two days to travel from Torit via Nimule to Dzaipi transit camp, until they were resettled in Nyumanzi.

“The new settlement had many snakes around from the bushes being cleared and also my children were not used to the new environment and new people around them. There wasn’t any safe place where I could leave

my children to play and interact as I went to get food or antenatal services,” says Nyadeng adding: “I used to restrict the children from moving anywhere because there were snakes and children would get lost since there are many people here making it difficult for a child to easily tell where he/she left the family. Being nine months pregnant I could not walk long distances to look for them.”

Nyadeng is certainly not the only person faced with such challenges. The conflict in South Sudan has left many families torn apart. Many women fled with their children together with those that are abandoned. Families are headed by single mothers who have also fostered many separated and un-accompanied children of which some are relatives.

Among these women are pregnant mothers who strive to ensure their children are protected, have a house where to sleep, food, clothes, medication and are psychologically well, given the traumatizing exodus from South Sudan to Uganda. According to James Kamira World Vision, Children are the most affected in the South Sudanese conflict.

Children make up 66 percent of the total population of refugees in Adjumani district. Many of them have lost their families, relatives, and friends. They are struggling to cope with the traumatizing journey from South Sudan to Uganda so as to find safety. The sound of guns, dead bodies on the way as well as witnessing their siblings being abducted has left them with significant scars and many un-answered questions.

As a result, World Vision Uganda engaged in community meetings together with partners to identify land to set up the child friendly spaces where children can have a safe environment to play, have structured learning, psychosocial support and life skills as their parents are given space to engage in other domestic chores, house work, collecting food, core relief items and also go for services like antenatal for pregnant mothers. At the child friendly spaces, parents bring their children in the morning to participate in the Child Friendly Space (CFS) activities. Parents are sure of the protection of their children and also have time and space to construct their houses, go for distribution of relief care items, food as well as antenatal services.

The project has made significant progress toward protecting children by setting up four Child Friendly Spaces to ensure children receive psychosocial support

and have safe place to play and socialize within the settlement. Up to 4,500 children are currently accessing the play, protection and educational activities from the friendly spaces, with daily attendances standing at a huge average of 2,500. Working in collaboration with partners such as Red Cross, Lutheran World Federation, Save the Children and UNCHR, World Vision has also met the basic needs of the refugee community by distributing basic items that included blankets for both the children and the adults, clothes for children and adults, soap as well as medical supplies. This has supported some of the families that were already hopeless and restored their instincts for having sought refuge to stay safe.

Currently, children have a safe place to play, they are healing from trauma and are getting an education.



One of the child friendly spaces with activity implementation in Nyumazi refugee settlement



James Kamira
Child Protection Facilitator, Adjumani

she was just waiting for the child to die because she had no food and breast milk. We rescued the child and the mother and referred them to Medical Teams International.

A home torn apart by war “A letter from Adjumani”

When you look at your family happy, complete and together, does it ever cross your mind that it can be torn apart in a short period of time and your children begin to ask whether they will see you again or whether they will ever get a chance to meet any of their loved ones that was separated from them by war? Do you ever find yourself thinking about how your wife and children can survive in an environment away from home without you?

How about if your wife was 6 months pregnant and you were abducted yet she had to run to the neighbouring country thousands of kilometres away from your home raged by war? Don't you think if she managed to run with the children, they may have to survive without food for weeks or even months before reaching their safe destination? Well no one wants to ever think such scenarios can ever happen to their loved ones but let me tell you this; we all don't know what tomorrow holds however much we may prepare for it. This is exactly what happened to many South Sudanese mothers and children.

My first day in Dzaipi refugee reception centre painted with lots of emotional memories. Children and women made the highest number of the total refugee population and because the established shelters were congested, many families camped under trees and old rugged buildings so as to get shed. Children wondered along the road sides, played next to burning rubbish while others squeezed themselves to play between cooking points all because there was no space to play.

My worst memory is when I came across a mother under a tree with her malnourished child aged 1 and a half years, she was just waiting for the child to die because she had no food and breast milk. We rescued the child and the mother and referred them to Medical Teams International. Mothers would give birth under trees. In partnership with Uganda Red Cross, UNHCR community service and office of the Prime Minister, we moved under these trees to sensitise them on the available healthy services and the need to get closer than staying in bushes.

All this indicated that there was need to establish an information Desk where separated children, Un-accompanied minors, people with special needs (PSNs) and all children would come and seek guidance as well as referral. This was the second achievement in the first week much as we were still in the assessment phase. We set up a tent and the refugee community selected community volunteers who would seat under this tent to guide and refer whoever came there. Children also selected 3 girls and 2 boys to help on silent issues affecting children. It's upon consultation with children and community that world Vision established child friendly spaces and Early Childhood development centres in the settlements.

These provide a safe place and environment for children to play, psychosocial support and early development.

While in our tent, I almost failed to give an answer to one girl who asked me; **“James Kamira! Do you think I will ever meet my mother again? I came here alone and I don't have any one to stay with now”**. This child was referred to Uganda Red Cross who were already handling tracing and thank God the tracing manager was a colleague I worked with while in the previous response in Bundibugyo for the Congolese refugees.

You will now agree with me that children and women are the most affected people in any environment ruined by conflict, ethnic distrusts or any other disaster. We ought to unit and plot a brave and steady way of protecting both boys and girls even when the family line is broken due to these disasters.



James shares a light moment with the children in Dzaipi Refugee reception centre

World Vision re-unites yet another formerly abducted person with family in Amuria district

✂ Bornmax Otim – Hygiene and Sanitation Officer, Gulu cluster

The statement “Long walk to freedom” is only synonymous to Nelson Madiba Mandela’s release from prison after 27 years in jail. However, for Ecodu George William, who was abducted by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) rebels in June 2003 at the age of 12, and escaped from captivity in November 2013 at the age of 22, he had spent half of his life in captivity by the time he escaped; the statement long walk to freedom weighs the same as Mandela’s.

On the fateful day of his abduction, William together with his family members were rushing out of home for the safety of the nearby bush after hearing that LRA rebel had invaded their village. Little did he know that he was heading straight in the direction of the rebels who had already surrounded their home. He was captured together with other abductees and forced to carry heavy loads of items that the rebels had looted.

While in captivity, walking long distances, enduring thirst and hunger was the order of the day. As captives, they were forced to loot property, beat innocent civilians and at times kill them. To make matters worse, there were constant attacks by the Uganda Peoples Defense Force (UPDF) on LRA locations. “My worst moment in captivity was on October 2012 when I was short on the chest during cross fire with UPDF Central African Republic (CAR); I thought my final hour had come.” William recalls with a teary look in his eyes.

This ordeal ended in 2013 when his unit together with their commander surrendered to the UPDF soldiers in Obo, CAR. They were detained there for two weeks before being flown to Arua, then to the Child Protect Unit (CPU) in Gulu military barracks and later 5 of them were handed to the World Vision Children of War Rehabilitation Centre in Gulu. World Vision traced their families and facilitated the reunion.

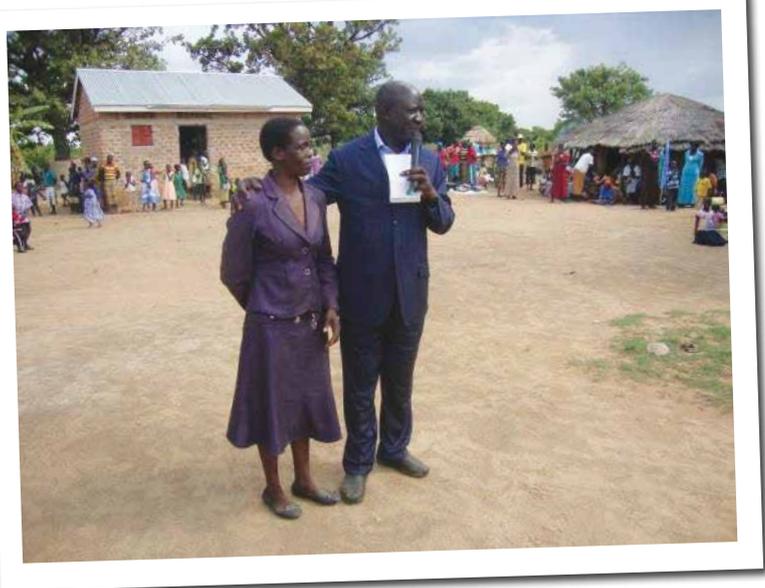
It was all ululations, flag waving, singing and dancing among villagers of Ateuso village, Morungatuny Sub County in Amuria District on 28th March 2014 as their “lost son” (William) alighted from a World Vision car and made the last 100 meters back to his ancestral home on foot. His first home visit was flanked by the Minister of State for Disaster and Member of Parliament for Amuria County, Hon. Musa

Ecweru, the World Vision Programme Managers of Gulu and Soroti Clusters, district and sub county leaders of Amuria and Morungatuny respectively.

The Minister in his speech applauded World Vision for the great work they are doing in rehabilitating and re-uniting Formerly Abducted Persons with their families. William’s story is but just one of the stories of over 15000 FAPs whom world vision has re-united with their families.

World Vision through the Children of War Rehabilitation Programme receives FAPs, provides necessary medical attention, personal effects, food and accommodation and conducts psycho-social counseling. In addition to this, the programme conducts family trainings with support of local leaders before re-uniting them. Upon reunion, World Vision provides startup capital, educational support (formal and informal); conduct follow ups to assess how FAPs are coping in their communities and links them to other available opportunities in their localities.

Over the 2013/14 programming, World Vision is partnering with Invisible Children to carry out this process. In the partnership, Invisible Children provides financial resources while World Vision provides its time tested and inherent technical expertise.



www.wvi.org



Contribution to improved health & nutrition status of children & women in Northern Uganda

World Vision's support to health sector in Northern Uganda centers on improvement of access to quality health services through enhancement of health infrastructure and building the capacity of health structures. The health sector has accordingly so far been supported with construction of 7 maternity wards and/or OPD blocks, 25 staff houses, 9 incinerators and 10

latrine blocks. These have significantly improved access to quality health services in the districts of Gulu, Oyam, Kole, Pader and Kitgum. Health innovations such as use of mobile technology are applied as well as rehabilitation models.

m-health technology for maternal newborn and child health packages in mucwini and lagoro, kitgum district

 Anita Komukama Project Officer Operations research and documentation.

Mobile Health is a technology model being used by World Vision Uganda (WVU) as a prerequisite in ensuring the successful implementation of East African Maternal Newborn and Child Health (EAMNCH). In concordance with the Ministry of Health e-road map and WVU National Office strategy that focuses on MNCH and innovations as an enabler, WVU embarked on strengthening health systems on maternal and child health by devising on efficient and effective health data management systems to capacitate the delivery of health services through the use of mobile health technology.

The mobile applications currently used are based on Timely and Targeted Counseling (ttC) and ICCM registers thus enabling real time collection of data and providing alerts to Village Health Teams (VHTs) on particular tasks and responsibilities. The technology is used when a particular mother is due for Antenatal care visits to the health centre, when a child of a given mother should be due for immunization and also provides right messaging in the first 1000 days from when a mother conceives to when the child is two years as some of the functionalities. The VHTs play an important role of acting as stakeholders in achieving the objectives of the EAMNCH project.

During the time when there were no mobile phones, the Village Health Teams (VHTs) were using a Timely and Targeted Counseling (ttC) paper based register and wrote everything therein but needed a lot of care to keep the results for future review at a particular date. Connecting with the mHealth implementers at WVU and Kitgum District office level was also a big challenge because the VHTs could walk long distances to access the offices to have data collected and entered into a database.

For William Ochan's (VHT Yepa Parish, Mucwini sub-county) current situation, unlike in the past no longer

struggles with paper and pen, which was hard to keep and maintain records of the work he was supposed to do. He attributes all the simplification of the work by his phone that was provided to him by World Vision Uganda (WVU). "It makes work very easy for me to get reminders and alerts of which mother or family is due for counseling and am able to store their data for future reference" says William. William's biggest challenge is keeping the phone charged and he pays 500 UGX to charge the phone. "Sometimes we don't have money to buy airtime; and without airtime, it becomes hard to keep track of information" William further says.



Figure 1: VHT member and WVU moderator William executing his role in a health session with Brenda Aciro while on the left, his phone showing some of the information he received from WVU regional office.



It always is a very difficult moment when adopting new ways of fulfilling responsibilities especially with mobile technology. Fortunately the VHTs were first trained on how to use phones to implement mHealth. The training was easy because the package entails the voice translation component which localizes the language (to Luo) and made it understandable to the local people who couldn't comprehend English.

Having conceived at the age of eighteen, Brenda Aciro (carrying baby in figure 1 in picture above), whose major source of income is basket weaving, attributes the successful birth of her child to Immaculate, one of the mHealth VHTs in Yepa parish who helped her in every endeavor during the time she was still pregnant.

"Immaculate put so much emphasis on the number of times (4) I should go for antenatal care and also not to give birth from home but rather a healthy facility," retorts Brenda. All this information had been stored by Immaculate on her phone and she did the needful to deliver it to the people in need, case in point the pregnant mothers.

Real-time data is available at a click of the finger for most of the households that VHTs are responsible for – each VHT has a catchment of 25-30 households that are solely their responsibility. So the database on the phone has made it possible for the VHTs to keep all this information on the pregnant and lactating women.

Increased motivation by the VHTs since the mobile data collection tool makes it easy to follow-up on community members and this has built the confidence of the VHTs in supporting the provision of basic primary health services at community level.

Real-time data is available at a click of the finger for most of the households that VHTs are responsible for – each VHT has a catchment of 25-30 households that are solely their responsibility.

Positive deviance Hearth reversing malnutrition situation among under fives

 **Maureen Banura – CSDF Aboke ADP**

Minakulu Sub county statistics of 2010 indicated 14 percent of the children less than five years were malnourished. The main cause is mainly attributed to inadequate knowledge among caregivers to practice appropriate child nutrition practices, prepare nutritious food and storage. The poor nutrition moved stakeholders to concentrate efforts towards empowering caregivers and mothers to prepare nutritious foods and adopt appropriate feeding practices to reverse the trends of nutrition especially among children less than 5 years.

With support from World Vision Uganda, the community adopted a “community-led initiative” to improve nutritional status through positive deviance/PD hearth. World Vision Uganda trained 24 Village Health Teams (VHTs), four per parish on PD hearth. Under the PD hearth, malnourished children are taken through twelve days of rehabilitation. During the period malnourished children are fed on locally available foods contributed by the care givers and mothers. After the 12 day rehabilitation, the children are expected to have improved and are discharged.

Their caregivers are advised to continue feeding the same way learned during the admission. Those that have not improved are referred to the health center supplementary feeding programs. From the day they completed training, every month, the VHTs visit households to identify and support rehabilitation of malnourished children. Furthermore, the VHTs also conduct follow up visits to households with children

discharges and under rehabilitation for five days. During the visits, the VHTs monitor the mothers/caregivers and support them to practice the recommended rehabilitation feeding practices.

Oscar, for instance, was neglected by his mother who did not have time for the baby. Oscar became very weak because his nutrition needs were not adequately met hence resulted into stunted growth. Oscar is one of the many children who were rehabilitated by the VHTs. According to Christine Ajok a VHT from Oyoro parish who followed up Oscar, it took 12 days of intense rehabilitation and constant follow-up. Today, Oscar is living like any other healthy child. “If it was not for the PD hearth intervention, Oscar would have probably died,” says Christine.

Last year, the VHTs conducted 36 PD hearths/rehabilitation sessions and successfully rehabilitated 745 children. In addition, the VHTs referred 20 cases for supplementary feeding to the health centers. Currently from October 2011 to date 745 PD hearth sessions have been held and a total of 3,564 children have been rehabilitated successfully and 25 were referred to the health centre for supplementary feeding whose lives could have been lost. Besides that the VHTs and Care givers groups and individuals are supported with orange fresh sweet potato veins that are rich in Vitamin A to supplement on the food varieties given to children at household level. Value addition has also been introduced by supporting 21 VHTs with 6 maize grinding mills currently adding value to soya bean and orange fresh sweet potatoes produced.



Oscar before and after rehabilitation.

SPEAR Scales up HIV Services Utilization among public sector workers

 **Robert Obbo – Regional Coordinator,
SPEAR Northern Region**

World Vision is continues to support the public sector to scale up its fight against HIV/AIDS through the SPEAR project. The SPEAR project is a 5 year project implemented by World vision and Research Triangle International in 80 districts of Uganda. It is a project funded by USAID, under PEPFAR. The project seeks to enhance HIV & AIDS Prevention through Expanded Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care for staff and their families in the ministries of Education and Sports, Local government and Internal Affairs.

According to the 2011 Uganda AIDS Indicator Survey, 8.5% of women in Northern Uganda live with HIV and AIDS. To promote disclosure as a bridge into care and treatment, World Vision's project-SPEAR, in partnership with USAID is contributing towards efforts to scale up HIV services utilization. The partnership educates armed forces about HIV/AIDS; supports prevention forums; provides testing, counseling and referral services and linkages into treatment and care services.

Thirty-six year Old Olanya Leah is a prison wardress of Gulu prison. She is a mother of two who has been living with HIV for about 20 years. In 1997, Leah tested for HIV after a deteriorated health caused by subsequent bouts of prolonged illness. She registered a positive result. By then, access to care and treatment was only limited to Gulu Referral Hospital. From 1999 to 2009, over 10 years, Leah secretly lived with HIV and received ARVs without ever disclosing to anyone because of fear and discrimination. For the record, Leah is the first HIV and AIDS client to ever be enrolled in the hospital.

From 2009 when she started collaborating with SPEAR on HIV and AIDS awareness, her perception has changed. She has opened up and disclosed her HIV status to her supervisor, family members and friends. She has been an advocate to all her colleagues to test for HIV and disclose their results. In addition, Leah spearheaded formation of a People Living with HIV (PLHIV) group which provides spiritual and psycho-social support; follow up treatment adherence and members meet regularly to promote positive living. "All our members look healthy because we support one another to adhere to treatment" says Leah.

In addition, disclosure enables them enjoy uninterrupted care and treatment. "Whenever we seek permission to go for care and treatment, the Officer-In-Charge of Station, accepts without hesitating because we disclosed our HIV status".

Overall, SPEAR has supported close to 1,500 forces and their families in 15 prisons across Northern Uganda to access comprehensive HIV services. The project hopes that as more forces know and disclose their HIV status, the more they increase opportunities to enroll into early treatment and care.

“Overall, SPEAR has supported close to 1,500 forces and their families in 15 prisons across Northern Uganda to access comprehensive HIV services.

Water, hygiene and sanitation

To address the endemic health and social encumbrances caused by limited access to safe water supply in northern region, World Vision has implemented Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programmes in the districts of Amuru, Arua, Gulu, Oyam and Agago districts since 2007. This was significantly scaled up with the launch of the Uganda Water Hygiene and Sanitation Project (U-WASH) in 2010 with the goal of significantly improving child wellbeing through enabling families and communities gain sustainable access to safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation. The UWASH project is being implemented in Northern and Western Regions of Uganda, with Amuru, Gulu and Oyam being the Northern region project

areas. To date, 294 boreholes, 43 shallow wells and 61 spring wells were constructed providing access to safe and clean water to over 11,000 people.

To supplement the outputs of the WASH projects and further scale access to clean water, World Vision has from 2011 partnered with and built the capacity of private sector entrepreneurs (artisans) in Gulu district to pilot and later run the low cost self supply innovations project. The low cost well is a simple, cheap manual drilling technology that uses locally available materials in the market to drill boreholes at a cost as low as Shs2m. Up to 33 of such wells have so far been drilled in Northern Uganda

World Vision Pilots low cost pumps in Northern Uganda

 **Kissa Charles -Engineering Assistant U-Wash**

World Vision initiated the Low cost pumps Pilot Project (2011 to September 2013) to address the challenge of high costs of safe water provision and the low levels of sustainability of the water sources due to unaffordable hand pump spare parts. The project addresses this through a simple, cheap manual drilling technology that uses locally available materials in the market to drill boreholes and also uses local privately practicing artisans to fabricate cheap and easy to maintain rope pumps.

The goal of the pilot project was to significantly increase coverage of safe water in target communities in northern Uganda through, 1) advocacy for sustainable, market-based water supply and 2) strengthening the capacity of the private-sector to deliver low cost water supply facilities.

The market-based solution was chosen because it relies on the ability of the private sector enterprise to continue providing the desired service on its own profit without need for external support such as donor funds and therefore being more sustainable. Sustainability of the private sector enterprise through profit is critical to optimizing the long-term and widespread water supply and its potential social impact.

Through the project, world vision identified and selected existing small scale enterprises that were motivated towards innovations, had the necessary technical capacity and were willing to diversify their business. Enterprises with experience on drilling wells and fabrication were considered. The selected enterprises were then trained in technical and business management skills. The technical skills training included hydro-geology for manual drilling, well construction, drilling tool manufacture, hand pump manufacture and fabrication, hand pump installation and repair and fabrication of water filters, among others.

As a result of these trainings, several models of the rope pumps and drilling equipment have locally been made and have dramatically reduced costs as shown below.

The project addresses this through a simple, cheap manual drilling technology that uses locally available materials in the market to drill boreholes and also uses local privately practicing artisans to fabricate cheap and easy to maintain rope pumps.



Manual drilling in process



A completed low cost well fitted with a rope pump

To date 33 wells have been drilled, at an average depth of 25m (4" casing) at a cost of 2 million Uganda Shillings compared to a machined drilled well at 11.2 million Uganda shillings. Up to 6850 people from about 967 households are benefitting from these wells in Gulu district. In addition to the lower cost, the low cost self supply technology has several other technology attributes such as low cost of maintenance, limited external support required in operation and maintenance, equipment for installation is easy to transport and therefore the technology can access very remote communities where poor roads, rivers/streams etc makes it impossible for heavy drilling equipment to reach.

The locally-made rope pumps and drilling equipments are manufactured in Gulu town and can now be produced from any trading centre with a mobile welding set. Nylon (polypropylene) ropes are in the village markets at as low as UGX 500 (USD 0.2) per meter of the nylon rope. The pistons are cut out of the worn out disposed car or

truck tyre that are can be found all-over trading centres, markets. Generally all spare parts and skills are available at Sub County level. Because many private-sector players and potential consumers require start-up capital to invest in the low-cost self supply technology, WVU has established linkages between Vision Fund and the trained Small scale enterprises as well as households to access micro loans for financing the technology.

There is an increase in demand and hence a subsequent increase in the numbers of private sector enterprises joining the low cost water supply service provision. World Vision believes that competition will result in a reduction of the costs of the services making it even more accessible to the very poor. World Vision also believes that this is a more sustainable approach and with time will meet the needs of families and communities leading to sustainable water supply for both domestic and agricultural uses.

Fostering food security & community resilience

World Vision has made tremendous strides in ensuring availability and utilization of food at household levels for food and nutrition security in the districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Oyam, Agago, Lira and Alebtong since 2008. This was done through the training of over 90,000 farmers in better farming methods. Farmers were also provided with 1,756 oxen for animal traction with the aim of improving agriculture production. Adoption of animal traction in districts such as Agago saw significant increase in agricultural production. In Wol sub-county for instance average cultivated household acreage increased from one to two acres. Through the Developing and Disseminating Bio-fortified crops Project, Harvest plus

and PD Hearth intervention, the region has contributed towards improved quality and diversity of food consumed by children such as high iron beans and the orange fleshed sweet potatoes rich in Vitamin A. Models such as the Farmer Managed Natural regeneration (FMNR) are used to protect the environment through agro forestry and apiculture for stability. Alternative means of microfinance through village saving, farmer field schools have been applied to the farming communities for improved local value chain development and value addition. Some of the cases are elaborated below:

Increased production and income for post IDP communities in Wol Agago district

Mr. Okot Donasiano is a member of *Gwok Odi* ('keep your home') Farmers Group in Kalaki in Atut parish, Wol sub-county. He is married with 7 children (2 boys and 5 girls). Donasiano and family spent up to 8 years in the IDP camp in Kalongo from 1999 to 2006. Life was unbearable for him immediately after leaving the IDP camp as it got increasingly difficult to feed the family of 9 members without the food supplement from world food program.

"In 2006 when I came back home I started digging but things were not coming the way I wanted because the food that I was growing was never enough for feeding my family and even the rations from the relief distributed by World Food Program went down. Things became very hard," narrates Donasiano. With time, Donasiano and his friends decided to form a group and practice collective farming to overcome the hard post camp life. They later registered the group as a community based organization at the sub-county.

In 2011 the group was identified and supported by World Vision Uganda through Wol Area Recovery Project. The group was, after undergoing training in modern farming methods, provided with high yielding and drought tolerant crop seed varieties such as Beans, Groundnuts and Maize.

The Area Recovery Project also set up demonstration plots for the group, in addition to further trainings in recommended agronomic practices such as post harvest handling, animal traction, VSLA and entrepreneurship skills. "World Vision also supported our group with 2 pairs of oxen and an ox-plough", adds Donasiano.

Donasiano opened a piece of farmland as per the trainings and planted the seeds he had received. "Using the knowledge gained, and from the 6.5kg of beans seeds, I harvested 8 bags of beans" States Donasiano. This was a good beginning for Donasiano and at the same time he also opted to join a Village Savings and Loans Association



Mr. Okot Donasiano, standing with 2 his gigantic bulls that he acquired with support from World Vision-Wol ARP (Photo taken by Rose Atto, Kalaki Village, Atut Parish, Wol Sub-county on 14th December 2012)

(VSLA) group at his village and started making weekly contributions from which he managed to raise 550,000 UGX, enough to buy him one Bull.

Donasiano later sold part of his farm produce in November 2012 and used the money to buy one more bull to make a complete pair, which he now uses for ploughing his farm and those of his friends and relatives at a low rate of UGX 30,000 per acre.

“My appreciation goes to World Vision Wol ARP for their support to me and to other members of my community. This has enabled us feed, clothe, educate and meet medical needs of our families. God Bless World Vision”, he concludes.

Orange Sweet potato improves the life of Odongo Lameck and the people of Barr Sub County

Simpson Biryabaho –Project Manager World Vision Uganda

In the past, Lameck Odongo, a teacher by profession used to grow sunflower to supplement his income. But for a long time, the price was too low to generate any profits that he needed which prompted him to abandon the project. Odongo also claims that the sunflower exhausted the land which resulted into poor yields for other crops as well. But thanks to the World Vision Developing and Delivering Biofortified crops (DDBC) project, Odongo and his colleagues in Barr Sub County in Lira district are happy farmers with a multitude of profits.

In this project, World Vision with support from HarvestPlus supports farmers with clean orange sweet potato vines and high iron bean seeds, training on crop production, nutrition and marketing, and monitor implementation. The varieties commonly distributed include Kakamega, Ejumula, Vitaa, Kabode, Naspot12 and 13 and Robal beans. Odongo joined the project in May 2012 gathering handful quantities of vines from neighbors that eventually enabled him plant 1.5 acres of Orange sweet potatoes.

Today, Odongo is a proud owner of a nursery and primary school expanded through savings he got from sweet potato growing. “I cultivated sunflower for over 20 years but orange sweet potatoes are giving me a lot more profits,” Mr Odongo says, adding: “The benefits of growing sweet potato have elevated me in developing my school to help children in my village and support my family and the community as a whole. I introduced the orange sweet potato feeding at Bishop’s school and children love it a lot. This has also added market,”

In 2013, Odongo sold over 300 bags of vines and 200 bags of sweet potato roots in Lango from 9 acres. In fact he says the potato growing has become his mainstay than teaching. ‘I earned Shs. 12,500,000 (Twelve million and five hundred thousand shillings) which I had never touched in one year. I have made friendships with sweet potato sellers and usually, I sort and separate small from medium and big roots that are sold differently. Most of the roots are sold within Barr community, markets in Lira town and Acholi sub-region”, explains Odongo.

The farmer is also proud to have supported the community in improving their well-being. "I was taught by the World Vision Extension worker on most of the practices. I work with the Community Resource Person (CRP) the CRP also expanded to 3 acres and sold a lot of roots. I have given vines freely to over 50 households within Barr and taught farmers on production practices of orange sweet potatoes and marketing aspects with a view of reducing household poverty. As I supply the roots to Bishop's nursery and primary school, children are well nourished and I am sure they are able to talk about Vitamin A in their respective homes. During the vine and roots harvesting period, I employ over 20 women and they earn income." Odongo explains.



Children at Bishop's school in Barr eat Orange sweet potato roots regularly supplied by Lamech

The project aims at reducing vitamin A and iron malnutrition among boys and girls from 105,000 households by 2016 in four districts of Northern Uganda. The project promotes production and consumption of Vitamin A-rich orange sweet potatoes and high iron beans, to contribute to healthy development among children below five and women of reproductive age.

Dorcas Alum, Senior District Agricultural Officer Lira says that such progressive farmers should however be supported with irrigation equipment to enable them plant throughout the year even in the dry seasons.

Busy bees boost the economy of Offaka.

Stevenson Ssevume – Program Coordinator, West Nile cluster

Bee keeping as an income generating enterprise is steadily growing in Anyiribu and Offaka Sub-Counties in Arua district, north-western Uganda. Majority of the bee keeping farmers use local beehives that are difficult to inspect and the harvesting method of using fire as opposed to smokers have often lowered the quality of honey. World Vision Uganda – Offaka Area Development Programme in Partnership with Adraa Agriculture College built capacity and capability of farmers in bee keeping as a viable enterprise. This has been achieved through training farmers and providing the farmers with top-bar beehives.

Aware of the opportunity that Adraa Agriculture College offers services in Bee keeping – a farmer shares experiences in bee keeping with a staff of the College.

Issues raised by the farmer include failure to inspect his local hives which results in total loss of honey from hives as harvesting is often done late, hive infestation by pests is not timely released thus not controlled. This affects quality of honey. Wild bush burning especially during dry season has contributed loss of beehives and honey through burning. The environment is as well destroyed thus affecting production of honey. The farmer has participated in level I bee keeping course and follow-up will be made by staff of Adraa Agriculture college to provide 'hands-on' technical assistance to practicing farmers,



Harvesting



Weighing after harvest



Quality testing

Regular inspection is key in bee keeping. This helps in assessing maturity of honey, incidence pests in a hive, and the surrounding environment. Timely harvesting when the honey is ready will contribute to quality production while delay in harvesting may result in loss of honey from a hive. Regular inspection contributes towards ensuring the surrounding environment is well maintained and guard against hive loss through burning.

Adraa Agriculture College provides a ready market for bee keepers in Anyiribu and Offaka sub-Counties. Upon harvesting the farmer brings combed honey to the College where quality testing is carried out and the product is weighed as the farmer looks on. As from January 2014 to date, Adraa Agriculture College has purchased 647.5kg of combed honey from farmers in Anyiribu and Offaka Sub-Counties worth approximately **2,266,250/=**. The honey has been harvested from both local and top-bar hives giving an average yield of 5.1kg per hive.

One farmer Avutia Gasper has harvested **67.5kg from 9 top-bar hives** giving an average of **7.5kg** of combed honey per hive. He was paid **236,250/=** from the combed honey. Gasper says, ***“I’ve been able to pay school fees for my Child in secondary school as a result of this income.”*** Adraa agricultural College is training the same farmers in processing combed honey into pure honey for consumption. Other contributing factors according to the farmer include ensuring the surrounding vegetation is not burned, carrying out regular inspection, regular consultation with the technical staff in Adraa Agriculture College and indeed valuing bee keeping as a viable business thus reducing on free consumption by relations and friends.

While bee keeping in the past was viewed an enterprise for men, this situation is fast changing in Anyiribu and Offaka Sub-Counties. The capacity and capability trainings have built confidence in women who are engaging in bee keeping enterprise. Very few women have received support from their spouses allowing them to undertake and own bee keeping enterprises. Inzikuru Mary is yet another farmer supported by World Vision looks on as her honey is being weighed. She harvested 26 Kgs of semi refined honey. Each Kilogram was purchased at 5000 giving her 130,000/=.

Adraa Agriculture College in partnership with World Vision Uganda – Offaka Area Development Programme has more to do in building capacity of women in bee keeping and honey processing. A liter of fully processed honey goes at 12,000/= while half a litre is 6000/= Adraa agricultural college also buys bees wax from the farmers at a cost of 5000 a kilo. The bees wax is used for manufacturing of candles at the college and body cream.

Pana piri one of the farmers supported by World Vision Uganda – Offaka Area Development Programme and trained by Adraa Agriculture College goes beyond honey as a bee product. He extracts beeswax from empty combs. He was able to sell 16 kilograms of semi refined honey at a cost of 5000, which earned him 80,000/= and 2.5 Kilograms of beeswax worth 5000 each. He was able to earn 12,500/=. *“I feels proud that all my family members are part of the business which I use to earn income for my children’s tuition fees and other household requirements”* says Pana piri.

Lessons learned from the apiculture is that Farmers in Anyiribu and Offaka Sub-Counties are increasingly picking interest in bee keeping as the enterprise is less labour demanding once a hive is colonised. Moreover the local bee hives are still in large numbers as the farmers can’t afford the top-bar hives. Creative farmers however are improving on the local hives to improve their harvesting abilities and proper inspection.

Women bee keepers are as well on increasingly growing in number. The top-bar hives that are placed at low level

and easy to manage as it doesn’t require climbing trees which favour women since culturally, women are not supposed to climb trees. Thus with Knowledge from Farmer Managed Natural Resource(FMNR), farmers are increasingly attaching more value to maintaining the natural vegetation as it provides food for the bees to make honey which honey is a source of household income.

Challenges includes inadequate knowledge and skills in bee keeping that makes production of quality honey somehow difficult and often in small quantities though the potential of producing huge amount of honey in Anyiribu and Offaka sub-Counties exists. Bee equipment and tools are not readily available at household level. This makes it difficult for bee farmers to produce quality honey. Attitude of men towards women and the women themselves in bee keeping is generally negative at this point in time in Anyiribu and Offaka Sub-Counties. Finances to procure the top-bar hives and bee equipment is very low at household level. Bee hives infestation by pests which has a negative bearing on the honey production

In the eyes of the less privileged through Vision Fund!

Samuel Pepela – Vision Fund Branch Manager, Kamdini

When Esther Okello just returned from the resettlement camp, she needed money to start up a business. Okello is a disabled person and had never accumulated any capital to start up a business. Okello was diagnosed with a spine defect. She has three holes in her spine and cannot stand for long. She cannot stand by herself, she uses a walking stick. This is the disability she says that sometimes affects her effectiveness.

Okello lives in Palenga Village is located about 6 hours drive away from Kampala along Oyam- Gulu highway. Many women living in this community are widows. Their husbands did not survive the Kony and LRA attacks that intensified and claimed many lives of people in Northern Uganda. Most survivors had been placed in different resettlement camps and as the situation became calm, most people opted to go and start life again. Okello is among the survivors of this war and very determined to see success in her old age. She has borrowed money from Vision Fund for three years now and has seen a great difference in her life and that of her family members.

But thanks to Vision Fund, Okello was able to acquire a loan of 3 million shillings which she would pay back in three years.

“Vision fund gave me three millions and I started picking beans and maize. I supply this to the schools around and I am assured of an income to sustain my family. I am also constructing my own house where I will be in my old age. I am sure I will die a happy woman.” Okello is excited.

Her business has grown and now employs other people. She has a group of three ladies who pick the beans as she supervises. She has also introduced them to Vision fund and they too borrow money to improve their welfare.

Okello dreams big, she has extended her wings and ventured in agriculture too. She grows oranges on a large scale and believes this is another way of generating more income to help her complete her house and support the orphans in her home.



Enhancing equitable access to quality education for boys and girls

World Vision Uganda has continued to support improvement of equitable access to quality primary and vocational education for boys and girls in the districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Oyam, Kole and Arua in Northern Uganda. In collaboration with the community and district local governments, World Vision has contributed significantly to the improvement in learning environment in the above districts. This has been done through the construction of **167 classrooms, 81 teachers' houses and 217 latrines between 2009 and 2013**. The classrooms have been equipped with a total of **11,765 classroom desks**. Further still, the education enabling structures such as the PTA and SMCs have been supported to enhance the quality of education

in the region. The improved learning environment has resulted into increase in enrolment and improvement in performance of boys and girls in both termly and national examinations. Taking the case of Oyam/Kole as evidence, enrolment in schools in Minakulu ADP has increased from 11,529 in 2011 to 13,400 in 2013 representing up to 9% increase in just two years. Aber ADP on the other hand has seen a massive improvement in performance of pupils in PLE, with Aber sub-county getting 45 first grades in 2013 PLE results and leading in number of children passing in division one in Oyam district for the last 3 years. Through support towards infrastructure development World Vision has saved some schools from total collapse.

World Vision Saves St. Thomas Moore S.S from Collapse

 **Freddie Opoka – Regional Operations Manager**

Located 30km south of Gulu Town, St. Thomas Moore now stands as a landmark along Gulu Kampala highway. Established in 1983 with the purpose of providing secondary education to the children of Palwo Parish in Bobi Sub County, this purpose would have been lost if it was not for the intervention of World Vision and other development partners like World Bank.

Left without renovation or expansion since its establishment due to the Northern insurgency, most of the buildings at St. Thomas Moore S.S. had, by 2006, collapsed due to dilapidation.

The deputy Head Teacher Ms. Hellen Auma recounts that by 2006, the school had been reduced to only 3 blocks of 2 classrooms each. Of these blocks, only one served as a classroom. At that time, most students studied in a mud and wattle structure which also later collapsed. With the collapse of the mud and wattle structure, the situation became so bad that lower classes would be sent home during examinations for upper classes.



Figure 2: St. Thomas Moore S.S. dilapidated classroom block.

At the height of this problem, the management of the school requested and was offered a nearby catholic church as a classroom for senior one students. This offer was however withdrawn by the catholic church to open up a nursery school. The lack of classrooms also meant that teachers consistently failed to finish the syllabus which subsequently resulted in poor academic performance of students.

The sorry state of the school coupled with lack of teachers' houses acted as a push factor, scaring away teachers and students from joining the school. By the start of academic year 2007, there were only 26 students. Only 7 teachers instead of the standard 21 could still tolerate this dire situation. The seven teachers shared the burden of different subjects among themselves.

"I took up the task of teaching language though I am a history teacher because it was seen as similar to History" Helen narrates. But at this point, even the hardcore Helen had begun to think otherwise, "I decided to enroll for long distance studies because I was certain that the school had already collapsed and was only awaiting official closure by the Ministry of Education" she confessed.

Teachers and students make a school. The absence of teachers and students could have certainly led to the closure of the school. The closure of St. Thomas Moore S.S could have had the adverse effect of exacerbating ignorance and poverty within Koro and Bobi ADP and neighboring areas.

This was however not to be, thanks to the timely intervention of World Vision through Koro-Bobi ADP with support from the UCC Medfield church from the US. The interventions focused on infrastructural development with the aim of improving the students'

learning environment. "World Vision interventions in St. Thomas Moore started in 2007 with the construction of a girls' dormitory furnished with 30 beds. This was shortly followed with 2 latrines of 6 stances for girls and another 6 for boys", Helen recounts. In subsequent years, World Vision constructed an Examinations

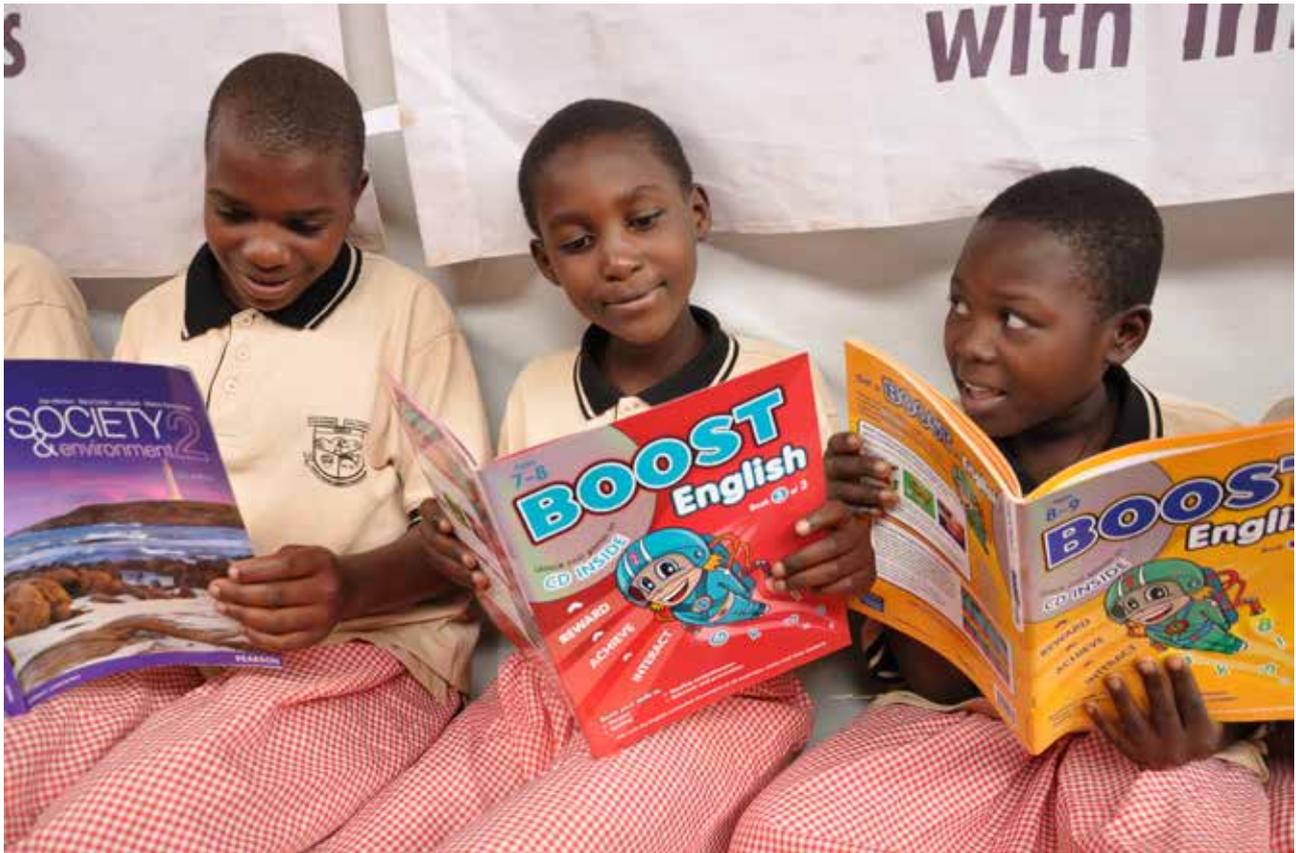


Figure 3: Two classroom blocks constructed by World Vision

hall fitted with a table and 72 lecture chairs. In 2010 and in 2011 a 2 classroom block and one teachers' housing unit complete with its staff latrine block of 4 stances were constructed. A boys' hostel was afterwards constructed in 2012, complete with a latrine of 5 stances for boys in the hostel. By the end of 2013, World Vision completed yet other 2 blocks of teachers' houses one containing 2 units and the other 4 units.

The immediate result of the infrastructural development in St. Thomas Moore S.S was an upsurge in the enrolment of students particularly girls. The population of girls in the school currently stands at 102, up from 9 in 2007. The total population is 391. With the improvement of staff accommodation facilities, the school is now more capable of attracting and retaining sustaining teachers. Currently there are 16 teachers on the payroll. "It is amazing what the Lord has done for our school in such a short period of time", Helen recounts with a sigh of relief.

The improvement in the learning environment and the attraction of more teachers has subsequently led to a significant improvement in students' performance, more so the performance of girls. In the last two years, girls have performed better than boys in the Uganda Certificate of Education examinations. "The best student in UNEB examinations in 2012 was a girl with 33 aggregates. She also featured in the Monitor newspaper among the best candidates in the region" boasts Helen.



Pupils in a classroom constructed by World Vision

With continued advocacy on child education, World Vision has also acted as a 'pull partner' for more support from other partners St. Thomas Moore S.S. The district local government, under PRDP, has constructed one classroom block and two teachers' houses. The increased enrolment has also led to increase in science kits received periodically from the district education

department. World Bank too has built an administration block and two classrooms. A science block is also under construction on the same block. With the remarkable change that St. Thomas Moore S.S has experienced within the last six years, the school now admits students from as far as Arua district in West Nile and Kaberamaido district in Eastern Uganda. The sky is surely the limit for this school.

Sam's Hope in life saved by World Vision; now on a steady rise to success

My name is Sam Eyna. I come from Apatayiki village, Apach parish in Aboke Sub-County. I am 26 years old. In 2001 when I was in primary six, I almost dropped out of school after the death of my father. I had no hope of continuing with my studies but due to advice I got from elders, I continued and sat for my PLE (Primary Leaving examination) and I passed quite well. I however had no one to pay fees for my secondary school education.

At that point my ambitions of becoming a medical doctor were shuttered.

One day, after I had stayed home for three years without going to school due to lack of fees, I was pleasantly surprised when the Chair person Parish Development Committee of my parish Mr Julius Peter Odongo came home and told me that I had been selected to join a group of youth who were to undertake vocational skills

skills training sponsored by World Vision. This news came to me like a dream because I could not easily believe that I could be selected from among the many youth in Aboke who are orphans like me, some with even worse problems than mine.

When we reported to the vocational school in Lira town, my first month was not easy. I realized that the course I had been admitted for was very difficult. I failed my initial tests in practical and my classmates laughed at me but I stayed calm and focused. In a bid to overcome my challenge and improve, I approached my instructor and I explained to her all my problems. I was delighted that she appreciated and understood them all. She started staying close to me during time for practical. This encouraged me to work harder. World Vision also sent community leaders who visited us at school and encouraged us to work harder. At the end of my course, I had improved and was surprised that I emerged the best student in my department of Brick Laying and Concrete Practice.

After completion, World Vision supported us with tool kits. I immediately started looking for opportunities to construct houses for people. At first, many of people neglected me saying that I was just from school and could not construct a quality house. To show what I was capable of and gain confidence from the community, I decided to construct a house for myself which is now at window level. After people saw that, they believed and I started getting contracts to construct houses for people in the community. Since then, I have constructed five houses for people in the community.

I use the money to take care of myself, my two siblings and also to buy building materials for my house which is under construction. My life has drastically improved, I am very happy with what I do. I have identified some youth in my village that I train on job as they help me in the construction projects. I share with them the little money I get, but importantly they are getting knowledge and skills. My ambition is now to work hard and continue with my training until I become an engineer in future.



Sam (in blue overall) busy at one of the construction sites he supervises

I have no words enough to appreciate world Vision for giving me this opportunity. I feel my life has been put on a straight road. I request world Vision to continue to

support more youth so that they can get better life in future like me now

Increased protection, care and nurture of girls and boys

World Vision is committed to working with girls and boys, families, and their communities in Northern Uganda to overcome poverty and injustice. Cognizant of vulnerability among boys and girls in Northern region, world Vision has focused on advocacy and child protection systems strengthening to create safe spaces for women and children to be protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation. *District leadership dialogue meetings have been used to engage with and influence leaders of Oyam and Gulu districts to come up with district statements of commitment and district action plans on child protection. Plans are underway in both districts to come up with ordinances on child protection. Also, empowered community based structures and networks where world*

Vision operates are now increasingly getting engaged in promoting child rights in communities across the region. This has resulted into enhanced reporting and referral of child abuse, neglect and exploitation cases to the relevant authorities for redress.

The children of war rehabilitation center, set up by World Vision in 2004 to receive, rehabilitated and reintegrate former LRA soldiers has to date far rehabilitated 15,050 formerly abducted persons (FAPs). The center continues to restore hope among the returnee soldiers, with upto 20 rehabilitated from October 2013 to May 2014 Working with community structures to promote Child Protection in koro-Bobi

Working with community structures to promote Child Protection in koro-Bobi

 **Godfrey Barasa, CDF Koro-Bobi ADP**

The communities of Koro Bobi sub counties as a result of effects the 20 years of LRA used to register a high number of child abuse cases and these hindered children from achieving their potential. This resulted from cases of rape, early marriages, pregnancies, school dropout were rampant. The structures meant to protect children were inactive, non-functional and lacked capacity to prevent report and follow up with such cases.

Owing to this, Koro Bobi ADP in partnership with Gulu District Probation Office built the capacity of community Based Child Protection structures and the Sub County OVC Committees (SOVCC). With such empowerment, these structures (including OC Police Post at S/C, as member of SOVCC) are now promoting child protection awareness raising in the community through community sensitisations and mass education. The structures are now adequately handling child abuse

cases in the community and timely reporting on them. The community structures have improved the level of Child Protection awareness in the community. The cases reported in the community have reduced. For example according to the Gulu District probation records, in 2012, cases reported were 43, but this reduced to 20 by October 2013 and all these were adequately resolved.

The Area Development Position has continuously facilitated the SOVCC Committees at the sub counties of Koro and Bobi to champion Child Protection awareness raising, and these committees together with the LC1s and CPCs (Child Protection Committees), have reached all the 11 parishes communicating to the local communities on dangers of domestic violence, drug abuse, child trafficking, amongst other related cases that put children at risks of abuse.

Citizen Voice and Action scales up Health advocacy in Amuru district.

 **Peter Claver Kalule, Regional Advocacy Coordinator**

Amuru CVA working team was established in August 2013 comprising of fifteen members of CBOs and other community members to enhance community empowerment and policy advocacy in Amuru Subcounty in the area of health. 29 year old Ayaa Evelyne a VHT member of Amoyokuma village taking care of 30 households is a member of the CVA working group, Hailing from a community with a number of health challenges, Evelyne together with the other members of the CVA working team were able to empower the community of Amuru to realize the power within them to demand for improved health service delivery from the duty bearers.

Prior the activation of the CVA team, Amuru health center II which serves a population of about 10,000 people lacked a nursing assistant for more than three years against the government expected stand of two. The facility had a health center incharge who was always drunk, the health facility had a five year land ownership conflict . Mothers and children were not able to comfortably share health issues with male health workers. Boys, girls and other community members were not adequately accessing and utilizing the health services. The land conflict hindered expansion of the health facility.

In September 2013, with the help of the CVA working group. 250 community members of Amuru sub county had a community gathering in which the status of service delivery at the health center was discussed. Among many others, the three issues were prioritized by the community for policy action at the sub county to the district. Community representatives presented the issues to the sub-county leadership at a sub-county policy dialogue in November 2014. The sub county council took up the land matter and formed a task force of 3 councilors, LCII, the S/C land committee, 3 members of CVA group, and two community representatives. The task force had separate consultations and lobby meetings with the land owner who later agreed to have the two acre land mapped and demarcated with the District Land office.

The issues of the lack of female health worker and the drunken incharge were pushed from the sub county. After a District health dialogue in December 2013 with the community representatives, the district leadership

committed to addressing the issues and in February 2014, the drunken health worker was transferred from Amuru HCII to Akongedi. He has seized to drink and is a transformed health worker. The DHO with support of the district council transferred one nursing assistant to the Health Center. Women and girls are now free to express their health concerns to the female nursing assistant.

“CVA is a new thing in Amuru. The approach is systematic empowering and informs people in the community about policies. I am now able to talk to high level leaders like the LCV whom I never imagined I would ever talk to. The district leadership is demanding for scale up of CVA approach in the entire district because of the improvement realized in such a short time in Amuru HC I I. The leaders appreciate that the approach helps the community to monitor with them for improved health service delivery in the district.”
Says Evelyne

Q & A

Longest Serving staff in World Vision Northern Uganda

▶ **Who is Francis Onono?**

I am a family man; am married with 8 children. I practice taekwondo and love to do exercises during my free time. I am a mechanic by profession and this makes me love and excel at my current job as a Transport Officer. I also run small mechanic work for vehicles that break down when I get called on now and again.



▶ **When did you join world vision and how long have you served?**

I joined WV in November, 1991, during the insurgency; under the HOMEPAC program. We were responsible then for building huts for widows and orphans in Gulu. I have served diligently for 21 years

▶ **What has motivated you to continue working for the organization**

I am an orphan. My father died when I was 3 years and my mother died when I was in P4. Life has not been easy at all. I grew up in Kitgum (now Lamwo). The first project I worked with in WV was building huts; I was touched when we built homes for child-headed families. In all WV has given me a place to fit in a system where I can give back to the disadvantaged.

▶ **What has been your most significant experience in working with World Vision moreover all these years in northern Uganda?**

My most significant experience was while working with Children of War Program in Gulu. I got an injury in 1995 while on assignment to The Sudan. My colleague and I were on our way to receive 128 children from the UPDF that had been abducted and entered an ambush – where we were shot at.

During the ruckus, I felt a cold flow on my head and back and when I touched it, I realized it was blood and I

had been shot. I started bleeding profusely and then slowly started feeling paralysis on my hand. My colleague then comforted me and after getting us out of harm's way, tied my wounds with his shirt; but I insisted that we continue to Sudan.

On arrival I was asked if I could drive back to Uganda and I accepted. I gathered the courage to drive back to Gulu because my concern was the return of the children. We arrived back with the children, and then I immediately went to Lacor Hospital where Dr. Lukwiya (RIP) took care of me. One bullet was lodged near my liver and the other in my head; a space between the brain and the skull. The decision was made not to take the bullets out lest I get permanent paralysis and brain damage. To-date, I have a bullet in my head and in my chest.

▶ **What are your opinions about WV interventions in northern Uganda in relation to WV strategy**

The interventions make me feel and realize that we have done a lot of good and significant work in northern Uganda. Most of the returnees we have worked with have made it in life as doctors, engineers, nurses and many other professions. I personally meet some of them on random occasions and we have reflective conversations. Infact one of them is a thriving Lawyer in Amuru.

More than 17,000 children have passed through the programs and have made it in life years later. I am happy to testify that one of the beneficiaries paid my rent for 3 months when I was transferred to Kitgum. He bought me a mattress and interacting with him on various occasions has made my work and stay in Kitgum good. Also, one of the girls in Karamoja was working as a road controller and one seeing me as I was sent on an assignment there – she was excited and offered me a goat that has since multiplied and helped sustain my family. I am happy that the interventions have made a significant difference in the beneficiaries' lives.

▶ **Could you share with us the changes you have experienced and witnessed since joining the organization**

I have seen a lot of changes to date. Then if you were sick, you were given only 30,000 per month even for the time I was shot. It was moved to 50,000 but as we speak – I and my family are insured for health. Nowadays we have a free platform where we table our issues; The HR-Clinic. Those days, it was your boss that made all the decisions

▶ **Where do you see WV in the next 5 years?**

I know that Northern Uganda will take atleast another 20 years to fully recover from the war trauma. People are now going back to their communities and WV needs to be gear activities towards community empowerment. This is for them to be able to eventually stand out on their own rather than rely on NGOs.

▶ **What have you achieved as a result of being a world vision employee, materially? What do you hope to achieve if you continue working for the organization?**

My daughter is pursuing a degree in Law at Gulu University all from the benefits I have got in my so many years of working with WV. I am very happy and proud of her.

▶ **Being a transport officer, you have served for over 20 years with no accident records, what is the secret?**

To be a driver is a gift from God and since I joined WV, I have not killed anyone. You need to have value and love for everything both the environment and human beings. You need to respect the mad, alcoholic, pedestrians generally and children. In the car you are in control. What you feel when you are walking or as a pedestrian as cars bypass you is what you should empathize with when you are behind the wheel.

I enjoy my work and am always in consultation for any clarification

▶ **What is your advice to the motor operators, and other road users?**

Being a Driver is like a doctor in operation room. Don't enter the car when your brain is mixed up. The brain set up will cause you not to do work perfectly.

Love your job because it's professional. One car cost almost 15,000,000- in maintenance fees. I feel this way that I also contribute to budget spends and so do it diligently. We need to love people we are working with and road users on a whole.

▶ **Your favorite bible verse/favorite hymn for the daily devotion?**

I love the whole book of Psalm. Most of the Psalms speak to me. I like the hymn "Amazing Grace" it makes me meditate on the blood of Jesus and how it makes my life

▶ **What is your dream car, one that you would love to drive at your old age/retirement?**

If all goes well, I need to buy a Land Cruiser - Balloon; white in colour.

▶ **What do you have to say about TEECAP?**

To me it signifies togetherness and that we join hands as a team and are one both in the field and in offices. It means a culture of Unity in the system to me.

Upcoming events:

1. Launch of smart centre
2. Regional action research
3. Child Protection Campaign

In the next issue:
Q&A with former RC

Statistics of Investment in the Region

Increasing access to quality basic education-2012-2013								
District	No. of Classroom	No of Teachers Houses	No. of Desks	No of Latrines	No of PTAs & SMC trained	No of children Supported with Tuition	No of Children Supported with Scholastic Materials	No of persons Benefiting From FAL
Gulu	9	32	740	58	135	45	7,500	-
Kitgum	8	6	120	20	196	117	1900	-
Oyam	104	31	8,304	59	2,153	242	13,760	120
Kole	20	0	2,153	50	176	70	2695	250
Arua	8	4	160	14	191	9	2500	-
Pader	10	2	180	6	10			
Agago	8	7	108	10	170	0	2361	0
Total	167	82	1,765	217	3,031	483	30,716	370

Pupils support with GIK textbooks/Scholastic materials in Agago

Improving health for boys ,girls ,households and communities-2012-2013

District	No. of Health Centers Constructed	No of Staff Houses constructed	No. of (ITN) Mosquito Nets provided	No of VHTs Trained	No Of Health Centers provided with Drugs / equipment	No. of Incinerators constructed	No Of Health Centers provided with Mama kits	# of malnourished Children rehabilitated	Latrines constructed
Gulu	2	8	3,774	270	15	9	490	-	10
Kitgum	1	5	305						
Oyam	2	10	7,152	713	4	-	1540	809	
Kole	2	2	3,012	40	3				
Arua				128	4				
Agago									
Lamwo									
Total	7	25	13,938	1,456	26	9	2,030	809	10

100(Nodding Syndrome Cases) Other s 62 in Kitgum

Increasing productivity, production and economic empowerment in Northern Uganda-2012-2013											
District	No. of Farmers Trained	No of Oxen distributed	No. of Local and improved heifers distributed	No of cassava/ banana cutting sacks	No. of local Goats	No. of chicks distributed (rabbits for kitgum)	No Of Kgs of seeds e.g. beans ,maize ,Ginuts ,Soghum etc	No of pineapple suckers distributed	No. of Beehives distributed	Orange sweet potato vines distributed	High Iron beans distributed
Gulu	1,868	36	23	822	2,100	5,300	748	4978			
Kitgum	2,060	100	11	200	11,800						
Oyam	77,989	540	210	8,000	410	1,200	2,500	45,000	710	4876	
Kole	1,304	40	120			5,000		1524	8194		
Arua						4,471	88				
Lira	2,484	224				47,813		717	4966		
Otuke	1,798	304				53,250					
Alebrong	2,382	372				79,688					
Agago	868	140	20			8,848					
Total	90,753	1,756	384	8,000	1,232	3,500	218,670	45,000	88	3699	23014

WORLD VISION CULTURE



Team Work

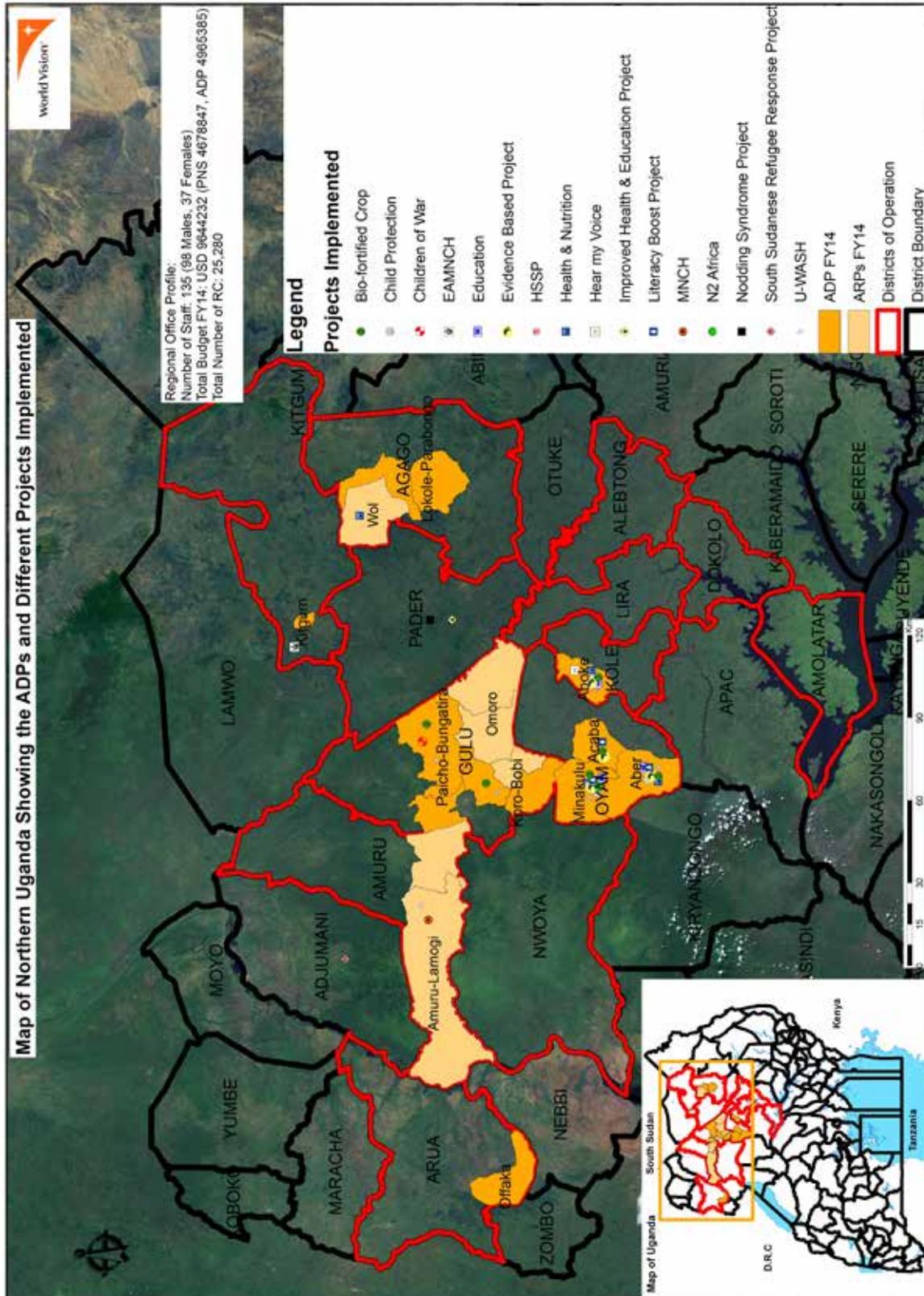
Excellence

Execution

Accountability

Commitment

Passion





Children in Northern Uganda participating in school debates to raise issues around their right to education for presentation at the National children's forum 2014.

Boys and girls from Northern Uganda contributing to development of the National children's memorandum during the Children's Forum at National level.



The selected girls from Northern Uganda reading the Children's memorandum on behalf of other children during the Day of the African child in Lira June 2014.



State Minister for Children and youth affairs Hon. Ronald Kibule signing the commitment board in support of a child friendly, free, quality and compulsory education for all children in Uganda



Cabinet minister for Gender Labour and social affairs Hon. Mary Karoro Okurut taking a picture with the presenters of the Memorandum. Lira Woman MP Hon. Joy Ongom and LCV Chairman Mr. Alex Okot watch-on in appreciation



World Vision Uganda

National Office: Plot 15B Nakasero Road

P.O. box 5319 Kampala - Uganda

Tel: +256 417114000/312264690/4141345758

Fax: +256 414 253587

Email: uganda@wvi.org

Website: wvi.org/uganda