

Inside this issue

SPECIAL EDITION Rights-Based Approach	1, 6-7
Agroforestry	1-2
Country Representative Change	2
Income Generating Activities	3
Boreholes	4
Sub-programme Spotlight: Sembabule	5
A Successful Urban Poor Fund Loan	8

SPECIAL EDITION:

Rights-Based Approach: Moving from Theory to Practice

August marked the final month of LWF Uganda's Rights-Based Approach (RBA) trainings. Over the past two years, Eva Palmqvist, seconded by Church of Sweden, has lead LWF Uganda in its efforts to strengthen its implementation of RBA. LWF Uganda's RBA implementation started with an assessment conducted in August 2009, which included focus group discussions and interviews with LWF staff, communities and local authorities.

The assessment resulted in the report entitled: "Rights-Based Approach – Moving from Theory to Practice". It includes a number of recommendations on the way forward. One recommendation was capacity building and therefore, LWF Uganda prioritized staff trainings. All LWF Uganda staff, including guards and drivers, programme and finance, head office and sub-programme staff partook in two RBA workshops. *(Continues on page 6 and 7)*



Eva leading a mock radio talk show debate about gender equality.

About LWF Uganda

Mission

Inspired by God's love, LWF Uganda challenges and responds to the causes and consequences of human suffering and poverty.

Vision

A harmonious and just Uganda where people are empowered to maximize their potential to achieve an improved quality of life.

Agroforestry and the Joy it Brings to Families



Anabo showing off the compost making process

Smiling throughout the conversation, Anabo Christine (36 yrs), wife of Omoket Joseph, shared her experiences using a rocket loren stove. This family lives in dry belt of Ocelakeny village in Kapujan Sub County. This opportunity was presented to her when LWF began its agroforestry project in her village in 2009.

"My husband was interested in tree planting but lacked knowledge on how to raise seedlings, maintain and protect them from pests and diseases. He planted some citrus trees but had serious challenges of pests and diseases, poor yields from the mangos and citrus. Although he used agrochemicals bought from the local markets, this was not producing the results he expected. This intervention was timely to help him diversify his activities and income sources."

(Continues on page 2)

A Wind of Change

On July 1, LWF-Uganda said goodbye to Lennart Herlander and welcomed Jesse Kamstra as the new Country Representative.

During his two and half year tenure, Lennart helped in the transformation of LWF-Uganda from a primarily emergency-response program to now, a program focused on reconstruction, recovery and early development activities. He mentioned one of his greatest successes was the strengthening of the Rights Based Approach in all parts of LWF-Uganda's programming, involving all staff. Herlander reflected on his time in Uganda by saying, *"What makes the Uganda program great is the staff. We have excellent, committed and dedicated staff – and it has always been a pleasure to go to the office every morning. I wished I would have had time to be more in the field than I was."*

Lennart accepted a new position as LWF Country Representative of Kenya-Djibouti. He plans on building on the strengths of the current program while improving the program's response to emergencies throughout the region and strengthening its community based emergency preparedness activities. *"The start here has been intense, to say the least, with the Somali crisis. As LWF manages*

all the camps in Dadaab, we have all been working double shifts, and we have been going like that for two months plus now," said Lennart.

As LWF-Uganda said goodbye to Lennart, they welcomed Jesse from his previous post as LWF Country Representative of Burundi. Jesse will now be the joint Uganda-Burundi Country Representative.

In his welcome address to the Uganda staff, Jesse thanked Lennart for handing over a smooth-running country program with a good reputation. Jesse similarly expressed his gratefulness to the staff for making him feel at home.

Jesse stated that his goals included *"working with the team to improve the effectiveness of the program."* As the program continues to transition from emergency relief to a greater focus on sustainable development initiatives, Jesse would like to continue to build donor relationships and ensure good stewardship of donor funds.

Overall, Jesse emphasized his belief that *"humanitarianism starts in the workplace. It is important for us to work together, but every individual also has to be responsible for his or her own duties as well."*



Lennart and LWF staff at his farewell lunch

Agroforestry and the Joy it Brings to Families cont.

(continued from page 1). The above challenges inspired the family to participate in all the trainings, demonstrations and the sensitization meetings organized by the project staff to provide the required knowledge and skills to promote the practices.

"Many of my neighbors had a lot of reservation about the information that was shared in the village meeting about this particular project such as tree planting, compost, use of local pesticides and improved energy saving stoves. Their expectations were centered on the usual business distributions of food and non food items."

Unlike their neighbors, adoption of all the promoted practices was not a challenge in this household due to their desire to improve the livelihood of their family through the project interventions introduced in the village by various NGOs and government.



Anabo pointing to her wood trees

"Remarkable changes have been realized after we adopted use of rocket lorena stoves, tree planting, use of local pesticides and compost," Anabo said.

"I no longer experience eye problems. I have ample time for garden work and to maintain the trees since I started using rocket lorena stoves in 2009. I have no intention of going back to the local three-stone stove as this used to make the children and I have frequent eye problems and cough. My husband is soon beginning to sell poles from his woodlot of

about 200 trees planted through support from the LWF agro forestry intervention."

The fruit trees they received from NAADS initially performed poorly but picked up with the pest and disease control and compost use knowledge. The yield improved drastically from just 50 fruits to now about 100 per citrus tree. The family has about 70 citrus that are fruiting and they sell five fruits (oranges) at 1,000 Ushs a share. *"We expect to raise more than 1,000,000 Ushs from the citrus alone. Thanks to Lutheran World Federation with funding from Bread for the World for choosing to implement this project in my village. This will improve the living condition of my family from now onwards. I now have the knowledge and skills to sustain these practices,"* were the words from a smiling Anabo.

Saving A Dream through Income Generating Activities

Adio Agnes (29) is married to Abongo Geoffrey with three children (Akwero Fiona, Kinyera Denis and Atim Gloria). All her children are primary school going age. The family lives in Obito Village, Pungole Parish, Angagura Sub-county, Pader. While shaking her head, Agnes said she cannot believe that she can now afford many of her family needs:

“Life used to be as hard as splitting a stone using an axe” she recalls. “Food was never enough for my family, and sometimes we (adults) would go on a hungry stomach and surrender the little food to the children.” The situation was worsened by rampant cases of diarrhea due to open defecation. As much as they tried to plant crops, the yield was very poor due to poor seed and high incidences of pests and disease. *“We were deep in our traditional way of farming,”* she reflects. *“I and my husband felt we were going to die of poverty and hunger. Thank God that my husband did not abandon me for other women. We kept working together as a family.”*

Agnes said her future started when the chairperson of her village group informed her of LWF intended activities in the village.



Agnes and husband weeding their pineapple garden



Their group was selected and subsequent trainings were done in areas of agronomy, farming as a business, health and nutrition, and savings and credit. Agnes said she got more interested in training of initiation of income generating activities and made sure that she attended all the trainings organized by LWF. From the trainings she learned that for one to generate income they must save.

“I started saving with 200 shillings which I got from weeding in my neighbors garden. Later I shared the idea with my husband who started contributing 1000 shillings every week to my savings with the

group. As my savings accumulated, I thought of selling silver fish as my income generating activity. I borrowed 40,000 shillings from group savings as my starting capital and generated 285,000 shillings after one month. I then realized it was a good business and in the next borrowing, I got 100,000 shillings and within two months, I was able to realize 400,000 profit.

This money has helped my family to begin a number of income generating activities such as local poultry rearing, pineapple growing and piggery. My family now has a monthly income of about 500,000 shillings which meets almost all of our needs. I feel so happy that am I now empowered to provide for my family. I will remember LWF, ACDI/VOCA for their efforts in making me realize my potential for transforming my family of course not forgetting USAID for making the funds available.”

Agnes attending to her pigs which she bought from the money she received from selling silver fish

Sub-Programme in the Spotlight: Sembabule

Sembabule District is located in the dry cattle corridor in southern Uganda, about 48 km northwest of Masaka with estimated population of 231,500 (according to Uganda National Bureau of Statistics 2010 census results). The goal of the LWF Sembabule Sub-programme is to work with people, in healthy and sustainable ways, to help them discover durable solutions, and support the development of communities where people are empowered to claim their right to dignified lives. The development challenges addressed by Sembabule include food insecurity, limited access to education, low income levels, inadequate access to safe water, poor hygiene practices, health issues (HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases) and environmental degradation. Below is a detailed look on three of LWF's initiatives:

Access to Education

The Sembabule Youth Vocational Skills Training Center sponsored by LWF currently enrolls 88 students (40 boys and 48 girls) from three of Sembabule's sub counties. There are three tutors at the school who teach carpentry, agriculture, tailoring and home economics. LWF covers the students school fees, food and pays the salary of the tutors. Before students are sent into the real world, LWF provides groups of student with a kit to share that includes tools for carpentry, agricultural supplies, or a sewing machine. *"Some students have managed to build their own homes, pay school fees for their siblings, establish income generating activities,"* says the Byaruhanga Juma, the school's headmaster about the school's graduates. The school has been running for five years and at the end of this year LWF is looking for the government to take it over.

William Kalamuzi, 18, (pictured below) is from Ntusi sub-county and focuses on carpentry at Sembabule Youth Vocational Skills Training Center. He came to the school because his single father was unable to pay his school fees. He has been at the school for two years and has learned how to make furniture, how to cook and how to provide for himself. He hopes that one day soon he will be able to open his own furniture workshop to provide for his father and sister.



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Food Security

In the sub-district Kasmya, LWF focuses on helping the people create sustainable livelihoods by providing agricultural support to families who are in great need of an additional source of income. With the help of local leaders and LWF FEWs, these community members are identified. LWF provides families with seedlings and agricultural training.



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Kahimakayai Ngyevina (pictured above, tending her goats she received from LWF) is the head of a household of five. She is HIV positive and has been receiving agricultural support from LWF since 2009. Before receiving support, her income was based on selling local beer but now she has been able to double her income thanks to the seeds and animals LWF has given her. She was even able to purchase more goats with the money she earned. "I am so grateful that LWF has helped not only me but the whole community," she said. As a result of LWF's assistance she is able to live a new lifestyle.

Savings Groups

In addition to food security, LWF staff has mobilized and educated the community about Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA). LWF FEWs have taught community members this model of savings groups and community members have learned how to make investments, take out loans, repay loans and audit their personal and group finances. This model encourages community participation and member accountability while providing community



LWF Uganda

members with a safe way to

make small investments and receive loans. From these savings groups, community members have been able to start new income generating activities, pay for health care, pay school fees or save the money for emergency situations.

Left: Each group has a lock box that can only open in the presence of 3 key holders to ensure the box's safety.

Top: The accountant recording a member's share



LWF Uganda

SPECIAL EDITION: Rights-Based Approach

(continued from page 1). Before the RBA training, staff members expressed sentiments like, 'RBA is so big and complex. I hope to get more concrete knowledge and simplified materials,' and, 'The documents on RBA are often too heavy.'

The focus of RBA is the fulfillment of everyone's human rights through five key principles: Participation, Accountability, Non-Discrimination, Empowerment, and Links to human rights. Upon completion of the training, staff members have a strong understanding of what RBA is and how to implement it in their line of work. "In school I learned the theory. Now, after working with LWF, I have gotten practical training," (Esther Akao, Project Officer, Pader Sub-Programme).

It is the hope that staff members will interact with community members in a way that recognizes their rights and empowers community members to claim these rights. Staff members are also encouraged to use this approach in their personal lives.

"The capacity building for Rights-Based Approach was a great [session] and I learned a lot. The training helped me to see myself as a human being. [I learned] RBA isn't just for the vulnerable community, but for me, and for me as part of LWF. Most Ugandans were not well versed in rights. But now some

know and [understand] the obligations. That knowledge has helped me to realize the rights apply to me and not just to others," (Beatrice Acirocan, Administrative Assistant, Pader Sub-Programme).

Next to the staff trainings, the development of a guiding material on how to apply RBA in practice has been prioritized. Together with LWF staff, Eva is compiling a document, which will hopefully guide the staff of LWF Uganda, as well as other organizations, on how RBA can be used throughout the project cycle. It will be finalized this month.

Eva leaves LWF Uganda with a greater understanding for key human rights concepts and how to apply them in the field of development.



Moses, a Field Extension Worker, demonstrating the RBA approach at a women's VSLA group meeting

"In school I learned the theory. Now, after working with LWF, I have gotten practical training,"

(Project Officer, Pader Sub-Programme)



Above: Eva conducting her last RBA workshop in Sembabule Sub-programme

Below: Andrew, a FEW in Sembabule, teaching his co-workers about basic human rights



LWF staff members participating in an activity called gender circles. Here men and women listen to each other's stories about their daily interactions with the opposite sex and involvement in gender equality

Moving from Theory to Practice



LWF Uganda



LWF Uganda

“Working with LWF Uganda Programme has been a wonderful experience and a very interesting journey. I have learned a lot from my colleagues; together we have made progress on the application of a rights-based approach in our projects. Staff are now more confident on how to promote human rights in their work with the communities. Knowing that capacity has been built, and that the skills and confidence are now taken up by the men and women, boys and girls that LWF Uganda works with, is a great joy. I envision more empowered and self-sustained communities, who claim their rights and take control of their lives, as a result of the work of LWF Uganda Programme,” Eva

Top: The Sembabule Sub-programme staff after completing their three-day RBA training

Above: LWF staff members participating in a power walk activity. All staff members begin on the same line and are given different identities. Statements are read like “I can buy and read a newspaper daily.” If staff members’ assumed identity can answer ‘Yes’ then they take a step forward. At the end of the activity staff members are spread out throughout the room and realize that while all people are ‘born free and equal in dignity and rights’ not all people have the same access to their rights.

Right: Staff members holding an imaginary ball as an energizer



LWF Uganda

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ABOUT LWF UGANDA

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Uganda Program is part of the Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service (LWF-DWS), an international humanitarian and development agency. LWF Uganda works to reduce people's vulnerability, supporting them to realize their potential, to build on their assets, and to respond to their own problems and needs.

Since operations first began in 1979, LWF Uganda has both expanded and adapted its program to the changing contexts in Uganda. LWF Uganda has provided support to communities devastated by civil war, villages destroyed by tribal conflict, families affected by drought and flooding, and individuals struggling to reach self-sufficiency. Despite enduring many hardships, the people of Uganda have responded to such difficulties with strength and resilience, determined to uphold their dignity.

Recognizing the crucial importance of linking short term relief work with long term sustainable development activities, LWF Uganda has made enduring commitments to the individuals and communities we work with; supporting them in times of emergency, assisting them to recover once the emergency has subsided, and encouraging them to feel empowered to advocate for their rights and build self-reliant lives.

We are a learning organization, committed to the constantly improving our work and increasing our impact. With over thirty years experience working in Uganda, a team of over 180 employees – 97% of whom are employed locally – we have sound experience and in-depth knowledge of local issues and are continually working to develop long-term, sustainable solutions to these challenges.

The Case of Bamu, Jinja: A Successful Urban Poor Fund Loan

The Bamu Savings group in Jinja is a successful model of savings, loan repayment and project success. The group proudly boasts of 282 members with 60 daily savers.

Using a loan of 5,000,000 Ushs from Urban Poor Fund (UPF), with an interest of 10%, the group reached out to private sectors and negotiated a three-month contract with Crested Crane Hotel to serve as their supplier of all vegetables. The members would purchase vegetables in bulk from the local market in Bamu and retail to the Hotel.



They were able to repay the required 1.1 million Ushs each month.

The Bamu Savings group has grown to understand their collective financial capacity. The credibility of the group with its successful project and successful repayment has prepared them to further projects. *"We are trying hard to market ourselves because we know we can do so many things,"* said Nandudu Sarah, a member of The Bamu Savings Group.



Uganda MDG Facts

24.5% live on less than
US\$1/day

20.4% of children go to bed
hungry

83.2% of children are enrol-
led in primary school

74% of household have ac-
cess to safe water

6.4% are infected with
HIV/AIDS

13.7% of children die be-
fore their 5th birthday

Source: UNDP Uganda 2010