

"... that they may have life and have it in its fullness" (Jn. 10:10)



RAYS OF HOPE

NEWSLETTER



ON A MISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONVERSATION: YOUNG AGENTS OF CHANGE



To lessen the consequences of climate change in Uganda, tree planting has been encouraged and practiced by the people. The appeal was made during a tree-planting event held in the Luzira area by Caritas Uganda, Caritas Denmark, Neils Steensen School, Copenhagen, and

Community Integrated Development Initiative (CIDI).

Students from Luzira Church of Uganda Primary School and Neils Steensen School engaged in a debate to exchange ideas about the implications of climate change and how to mitigate its consequences for the next generation.

A tree-planting event was held at St. James Biina Primary School and Luzira Church of Uganda Primary School after this. The students were charged with taking good care of the over thirty trees that the young change agents planted in the aforementioned schools.



The National Environment Management Authority reports that Kampala produces about 150 tonnes of garbage every day. According to estimates, the amount of waste generated daily per person in urban areas is approximately one kilogram, and only forty percent of the plastic waste generated is collected. Later, the Neils Steensen School students went to the Bugolobi market in the Nakawa division and carried out a cleaning project to demonstrate proper

hygiene and sanitation in markets.

It was a great pleasure hosting the students from Denmark to engage young people in environment conservation as a great strategy in restoring the already degraded environment.

Empowering Community- Based Animators in Lira district.



The Nakawa East Member of Parliament, Hon. Ronald Balimweso and the mayor of Nakawa Paul Mugamba called for proper hygiene and sanitation in the markets. They noted that 80% of the diseases that affect the people arise from poor hygiene and sanitation.



MONITORING VISIT BY THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR CARITAS UGANDA AND TEAM IN BIDIBIDI SETTLEMENT



The National Director Caritas handing over a certificate of completion to one of the beneficiaries who attended the value addition training on agricultural enterprises in Bidibidi Settlement Zone 2.

On 29th November, 2023 the National Director Caritas Uganda Fr. Hilary Muheezangango, the assistant National Director Fr. Denis Ocanda, and the team from Caritas Uganda paid a visit to the project implementation sites in Bidibidi Settlement.

At Ochogandi Community Agriculture

demonstration center, the National Director and team interacted with community-based farmer animators who shared their experiences of working with Caritas Uganda in support of the farmer groups and improving their own livelihoods. While at this site, various enterprises such as vegetable gardens, urban farming, nursery sites, hatchery, compost making, banana plantation, micro -irrigation systems and good agronomic practices aimed at food security and nutrition initiatives were showcased.

During the visit, two homesteads in village 4, Zone 2 of Barack and Monica Yeno, Sudanese refugees were interacted with on effects of kitchen gardening, climate resilient techniques, block farming in response to food security and nutrition. These have become home-based learning centres for the surrounding households on good agronomic practices and climate resilient techniques.



The National Director and team concluded their visit with a tour at the sales exhibition at the Marketable skills and Functional Adult learning centre at village 11 Zone 2. The women with skills in textile knitting, shoe and soap making, value addition of selected agricultural enterprises showcased their products and shared their experiences.

Martha Yeno a Sudannese refugee in Bidibidi settlement explaining how she grows vegetables in sacks a skill she learnt from ADRAA Agricultural college.



Processing turmeric into powder form during the Value addition training in Bidibidi settlement.

Batenganya Samuel- CBA Kidera Sub- County.



The National Director inspecting the dry and organic waste pits at Batenganya's home. These promote proper sanitation and hygiene in a home.

Batenganya Samuel is a community-based animator in Kidera sub-county that has benefited from the Food Income and Improved Livelihood program in Jinja Diocese. He was selected by the agronomists to attend agricultural trainings at Kakira to gain knowledge and skills in good agronomics practices.

“Before the training, I lacked money in my household to meet my basic needs such as food, clothing and access to medical care. The situation changed when I attended an agricultural training at Kakira and I learnt how to make money from good agronomic practices. I was taught how use organic fertilizers in my garden, kitchen gardening, mulching, intercropping and other agronomic practices. When I returned home, I got my small piece of land and implemented the skills I had acquired, “he narrated.



Some of the good agronomic practices that Batenganya is employing in his kitchen garden.

Batenganya planted Sukuma wiki and egg plants which are a source of food nutrients especially Vitamin A to his family. He sells some from the vegetables to pay school fees for his children. He also constructed two waste pits for dry and organic waste that he uses as manure after it decomposes.

"I'm grateful to Caritas for the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills in agriculture, nutrition and good sanitation practices. I'm able to improve my living conditions and teach my community members so that we can move out of poverty," he concluded.

"Empowered Voices: Transformative Leadership and Advocacy Journey of the daughters of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus"

Sr. Biira Roset is a social worker by profession who works with the Bridge for Peace orphanage home. She is also a beneficiary of the Caritas Uganda - Conrad N. Hilton Foundation initiative and a trainer of trainees (TOT) for advocacy on human rights, social justice, and good governance.

Prior to gaining expertise in advocacy, Sr. Biira Roset would carry out her regular duties as a social worker at the orphanage. In addition to her training as a trainer of trainees, Sr. Biira gained new skills and knowledge in advocacy problems

identification, stakeholders mapping and engagement, proposal writing, and other areas after attending a three-day program in advocacy of human rights, social justice, and good governance.

She was able to teach the orphanage children a part of family tracing thanks to this training. This enabled her recognize that the children in the orphanage are receiving excellent care, but also have a right to know who their biological family is and to feel a feeling of association with them, just like other children do.

In collaboration with several stakeholders, including village Local Councils, probation officers, police officers, and her colleagues, Sr. Biira was able to locate the family of a newborn child who was left without a caregiver when her mother passed away following delivery at Mt. St. Mary's hospital in Kasese.

Even so, Sr. Biira used the advocacy training to equip other sisters in her congregation with the knowledge and abilities to advocate on behalf of their children. Working with other designated duty bearers and stakeholders, the congregation was able to successfully reunite a widower and his children who had been forcibly removed from him and placed in an unidentified orphanage in a different village by the relatives of their late mother because he had failed to pay the bride price. The father gave the kids to his sister, their aunt, out of concern for potential abuse by the new lady he is living with. They made an agreement that he would always take care of their basic needs and keep an eye on them.

As a result, both the children and their father received social justice and they were granted the right to belong to their father and other family members.

The catholic sisters' capacity to successfully implement the family tracing component is evidence of their increased management and leadership skills. Reuniting children with their parents or other family members represents the restoration of both parents' and children's human rights to be in each other's lives. It also advances social fairness.

PICTORIAL



Beneficiaries of value addition of selected agricultural enterprises showcasing the products they made during the sales exhibition.



The Caritas National team interacting with young women who knit sweaters and clothes to earn a living in Yumbe district.



Barack, a community-based animator explaining how he has improved his household income as a result of practicing good agronomic practices and earning high yields in Bidibidi settlement.



Inspection of the hybrid power water system constructed to provide water through the irrigation system at Orchogandi farm in Yumbe district.



The Caritas staff from National Office and Jinja Diocese at the Buyende sub-county offices for a courtesy visit to the local government officials



The Caritas National Office staff during a capacity building session to enhance individual and collective capabilities, ultimately leading to improved performance and competitiveness.

Caritas in the News

<https://www.caritasinternational.be/en/emergency-development/global-refugee-forum-2023-time-to-put-words-into-action/>

<https://www.aciafrica.org/news/9672/church-in-africa-to-benefit-from-caritas-internationalist-strategies-to-foster-safeguarding>

<https://capitalradio.co.ug/news/2023-10-30-students-from-denmark-in-uganda-on-environment-conservation-mission/>

<https://youtu.be/fGq2S67Um4E?si=33brtUGE4DN8cC9U>

<https://capitalradio.co.ug/news/2023-10-30-students-from-denmark-in-uganda-on-environment-conservation-mission/>

<https://www.dagsavisen.no/debatt/2023/10/15/faerre-gir-norge-ma-gi-mer/>

<https://umojastandard.com/2023/10/25/selective-implementation-of-environment-conservation-laws-has-worsen-climate-changes-in-uganda-caritas/>

Mission : Foster integral and sustainable development through community initiatives and policy advocacy.

Caritas Uganda is mandated by the Uganda Episcopal Conference to spread charity and solidarity among the poor and marginalized.

