

VOICES

Rising

UGANDA UPDATE

ChildVoice 
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SPRING 2024

MUCH NEEDED COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE AT THE LUKOME CENTER

MEDICAL CARE IS AN INTEGRAL PART of overall wellness and recovery from trauma. From its founding days, ChildVoice has been committed to ensuring our students receive good basic medical care as part of their recovery process. This care has also been extended to the local community over the years, as we have come to recognize the importance of bringing healthcare to the greater communities in which we serve.

In April, a team of medical professionals, led by Dr. Josephine Reece of West Virginia University, traveled to Uganda to provide care to students and local residents. They held clinics in both Lukodi (the Lukome Center) and Arua (Imvepi Refugee Settlement). In Lukodi, the clinicians provided care for 679 individuals in six days, both children and adults. More than half of the patients suffered from malaria, and many needed treatment for multiple ailments.

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ChildVoice’s Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Coordinator Denise Stasik, who was also in Uganda at the time, remarked that the West Virginia team’s patients were very happy to receive excellent medical care.

“More than 50 people were lined up at the gate by 7:00 AM,” Denise said. “The thing that struck me is the large number of people who returned a few days after treatment to tell us how much better they felt. A common theme was that they felt the physicians really listened to them and were very empathetic.”

The team then moved on to Imvepi Refugee Settlement in Arua, where they managed to see many more patients than in Lukodi. Despite two medical team members falling ill, they managed to provide care for 918 patients! The ChildVoice and West Virginia medical team were joined by members of International Rescue Committee at the start of the six-day-long clinic, which was also observed by officials from Uganda’s Office of Prime Minister.



LUKOME CENTER CLASS 16:

Getting Ready to Prove Themselves!

As a vocational institution accredited by the Ugandan government, ChildVoice’s Lukome Center provides students with the opportunity to take the DITs, helping to ensure they can obtain good jobs or start profitable small businesses. The 27 students of Class 16 are preparing to take their Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) exams – 15 in catering and bakery, 6 in hairdressing, and 6 in tailoring. Nearly all of Class 16’s students (25) are child mothers, their children enrolled in either early childhood development or daycare, depending on their ages.

Also of note: A team from Raymond Baptist Church (Raymond, New Hampshire) visited the Lukome Center in March. Among their activities, they met with students of Class 16, who are now starting to prepare for their graduation.

Remarkably, the medical team had a sufficient supply of medications to provide adequate treatment for the many ailments local community members sought care for. ChildVoice is incredibly grateful for Dr. Reece and her team for the exceptional care they provided.



IMVEPI

Agriculture Program Continues

Agriculture skills continue to be important for all of our students to learn, both at the Lukome Center and in Imvepi. Farming provides both a vital food source for our students and their families and a source of income. This continues to be of importance as World Food Programme is currently providing very little in the way of assistance to Imvepi residents according to ChildVoice's Imvepi Program Manager, Julius Owori.



"We haven't gotten any support from [World Food Programme]," Julius explained. "Their support went to Palorinya [Refugee Settlement], which is in Moyo, and not Imvepi, which did not manage to get food [assistance]."

Mid-March brought rain to northern Uganda, signaling the start of a new growing season for our Imvepi students. At each of our four Girl Empowerment Centers, students (200 in total) began preparing nursery beds for their demonstration vegetable gardens with which they are trained in backyard farming. While planting a variety of vegetables, students focused on one crop in particular – onions.

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Thanks to all who have chosen to partner with us in our mission to restore the voices of children and adolescents affected by war, we have met our match and exceeded our spring fundraising goal.

It's no understatement to say we could not do this without you. Your ongoing support is the lifeblood of our life-changing programs in Uganda and Nigeria – and now, in Ukraine and Moldova as well.

Thank you for partnering with us—and trusting us—in our mission to bring hope and healing to war-affected youth.

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day

A CHANCE FOR IMVEPI STUDENTS TO SHOWCASE THEIR SKILLS

Students at Imvepi also took part in the annual International Women's Day celebration, which took place in March. Participating students were assigned to showcase one of the skills they had been learning. They chose to demonstrate all the stages of bar soap making – the making of lye, mixing of chemicals, process to cutting the bars with a machine, and finally discussion on the marketing of their product. Soap – both in bar and liquid form – is often in short supply throughout Imvepi; bar soap making is therefore that serves a two-fold purpose for our students, both providing an essential hygiene product for them and a source of income.



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