

Uganda

Fresh from the Field

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Jim & Josephine Zylstra
Country Consultant
 jzylstra@worldrenew.net

Joseph & Robinah Mutebi
Program Consultant
 jmutebi@worldrenew.net

Edward & Milly Okiror
Program Consultant
 eokiror@worldrenew.net

Carol Musoke
Constituency Bridger
 cmusoke@crwrc.net

World Renew Canada
 3475 Mainway
 PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1
 Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8
 1-800-730-3490
 Fax: 905-336-8344

World Renew US
 2850 Kalamazoo Ave SE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49560
 1-800-552-7972
 Fax: 616-224-8060

Warm Greetings from Sunny Uganda!

While temperatures in much of North America have been freezing, here in Uganda we have been experiencing some of the hottest temperatures of the year. But the blazing sun has not deterred events. Farmer's fields are being readied for new crops; honey has been harvested; politics and soccer are hot discussion topics—it's business as usual.

World Renew Uganda and our partners are also already making plans for the next quarter, including: visits from both FRB and Calvin Christian High School; Church to Church Partnerships developments; closure of the CLAD program; and more program evaluations—Uganda is like a beehive busting with activity.

One of the most fascinating insects known to man is the honeybee! As a colony, they form a super-organism of workers, queen bee, and drones that thrive. Scientists say that for as long as there's hope and a purpose to live, a honey-bee will do all it takes to live—otherwise it will die in just a matter of days!

In many ways, Ugandan rural communities are much the same as a colony of bees.

They depend heavily on each other, and without the support of family, neighbors, and in some cases the entire village, disruptions like the death of a key family member, fatal diseases, and war can bring about devastating consequences for them.

But where there's hope and a purpose to live, people can rise out of despair to survive and thrive! In this quarter's newsletter we share with you three success stories of people whose "hives" were once severely disrupted but who are now thriving because of the hope they found in the support you generously give, the people around them, and above all, God's unfailing promise given in Isaiah 40: 29-31:

*²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
 and increases the power of the weak.*

*³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
 and young men stumble and fall;*

*³¹ but those who hope in the LORD
 will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles;
 they will run and not grow weary,
 they will walk and not be faint.*

We are forever grateful for your continued support!

Praise and Prayer:

- Continue to give thanks to God for program resources for this year.
- Pray for safety and good health as we travel around the region supporting partners.
- Continue to pray for open doors to address widespread poverty.
- Pray for our partners and groups like the one Serepta, Doreen, and Emmanuel belong to so that they continue to be positive sources of change in their communities.

*Looking for your Mutebi, Okiror, or Zylstra news?
 We're trying a new format to get you the latest information about the World Renew staff member you support, while also updating you on the broader work going on in Uganda. Read on to find out what has been happening, then contact us to let us know what you think of this new format.*

Giving Idea



A Beehive - a sweet gift. In Uganda, many families cultivate bees to sell the honey. The gift of an improved beehive helps families produce more honey efficiently and with less impact on the environment. \$50

Hope in Beekeeping



by **Joseph Mutebi**
Program Consultant
Uganda Team

Serepta, a peasant farmer in Mamba Boma Village, Nebbi, West Nile, and a member of Mamba Women Christian association/Can Kelo'Ngec group formed in 2010. In 2006, Serepta's husband died and instead of support and sympathy, all she got from her relatives was harassment because they blamed her for his death.

In a calm, high-pitched voice, 67-year-old Serepta Oronya tells of her love for bee keeping and how God used the honey-bee to help her move from the most difficult time of her life to the point where God rescued her for a better tomorrow. This is her story.

"My husband died in 2006, and afterwards my life was never the same. All of the household property and even land I inherited were taken away by my late husband's family. I was illiterate, and I couldn't educate my children. Finding enough food to feed my children was a problem. My late husband's clan blamed me.

There's an African saying that 'Death is always caused by someone.' To them, I was that 'someone'. I had to think of how my children and I would survive."

Serepta did survive. In 2009, she became a beneficiary of a goat-raising program supported by World Renew Uganda programs in Padyere APDC (Archdeaconry Planning and Development Committee). But unfortunately, Serepta's goat died before it kidded.

During this time Serepta also began keeping bees. With six traditional log beehives and the little knowledge she had, she started raising bees for honey. But the quality and quantity from her hives was poor. Worse still, she lost four of her hives.

But Serepta didn't give up. In 2010, members of Mamba Christian Women's Association received training on



apiary management and the use of a new type of beehive. She then received two beehives which she added to her two remaining hives.

In January 2013, Serepta made her first, post-training honey harvest, and she saw big benefits from it! From her four hives, she harvested 72 kilograms of honey, sold all 72kgs, and used the money to buy three modern bee hives. With training, and her deep faith in God's providence, all seven of her bee hives are colonized. Serepta estimates that she harvests 25kgs of honey from each hive!

And Serepta is not yet finished – she's buzzing with more activity for the upcoming rainy season. Through a World Renew Uganda-supported project, she will plant a sunflower crop. Smiling, she says that the sunflowers will brighten up the apiary, feed the bees, improve her honey harvest, and also fetch her a good 15kg of sunflower seed harvest which she can sell to get more income. With a bright face she concludes by saying,

"As an old woman, I can now earn a living from my beehives without having to dig so many fields for an income."

Living healthy with HIV and AIDS



by **Edward Okiror**
Program Consultant
Uganda Team

On a veranda in front of her shop and home, with a shy smile on her face, Esther Adong proudly displays her merchandise and patiently waits for her clients to come and buy from her.

Esther is one of the 126 community members mobilized by St. Thomas Church Otwal to start a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) with support from the CRC churches from Calgary, Alberta, through World Renew's partner, Partners in Hope. Esther belongs to a group of 40 members, and she is living with AIDS.

"I used to find it difficult to take care of my life," Esther says. "Buying medicine like Septrin, getting counseling, and socializing with my neighbors was a problem until I met Doreen Ajok."

Doreen is a village Home-based Care Provider trained by Diocese of Lango with financial support from World Re-

Esther outside
her shop



new's Embrace AIDS program. Ajok started to visit Esther and to give them support and counsel them. She introduced Esther to VSLA, and Esther has never regretted joining the group!

Esther learned that healthy living with HIV is not just about taking drugs and keeping a healthy physical body: living healthy transcends to the souls and minds of both the individual and the entire community. It is about "positive" living, and it begins with people like Doreen Ajok, who stand up against stigma and reach out to help those who are in need.

The philosophy of positive living is about creating systems and structures that take good care and provide support

(Continued on page 3, see Esther)

A Story of Significant Change



by Jim Zylstra
Country Consultant
Uganda Team

*Emmanuel
checking his
oranges*



Okwaet Emmanuel from Olwa parish in the Amuria District of Uganda was a beneficiary of a Foods Resource Bank (FRB) project through World Renew in 2010. His is a tale of significant change after disaster.

In June 2003, disaster struck Olwa, when a Kony rebel invasion disrupted this quiet village! The disruption did not end there—the area continued to be attacked by Karamajong cattle-raiding warriors, and was then struck by both floods and droughts.



Emmanuel at the grinding mill

Three years later, in 2013, the residents of Olwa village are on the road to recovery with hope and rejoicing. Okweta Emmanuel is one of the happy beneficiaries in Olwa. He has a story to tell about the change that has occurred for him and his family after receiving support from World Renew's PAG-KIDO (Pentecostal Assemblies of God Katakwi Integrated Development Organization) food security program.

Forty-seven-year-old Emmanuel is a successful farmer who owns a grinding mill and a drug store who is now constructing a permanent house for his family. He has diversified his farming, has a citrus garden, and owns animals. He is also growing banana and cassava crops.

Emmanuel is taking care of his family and even educating his children with the income he earned from selling cassava cuttings and chips as well as groundnuts he purchased from his food security group. From the sale of his harvests, Emmanuel earned UGX 2,350,000 (about \$905 USD) from the cassava chips, UGX 1,500,000 (\$578)

from the sale of cassava cuttings, and UGX 1,800,000 (\$693) from groundnuts. Emmanuel has four acres of mature cassava plants that he says will earn a good amount of money if he harvests and sells them at a good price.

Emmanuel has five biological children and other dependents. He is now able to send three of his children to school: one child is in senior five, another in senior three, and the other is pursuing a nursing course at Kampala International University. Emmanuel also helped his nephew, Ebongu Charles, complete nurse's training, and Charles is now working at one of the Ococia Health Centre III, a mission hospital in Amuria District.

Emmanuel appreciates the support he has received from PAG-KIDO. This support has helped him reach his goals. He is confident that he can support his children as they complete their studies.

(Esther, continued from page 2)

people to living with HIV so that they can lead more meaningful, productive, and happier lives, and at the same time provide support for their partners who are not infected with HIV so that they remain HIV-free.

The VSLA group that Esther belongs to provides this kind of healthy support system and it has been a beacon of hope for many of its members.

As part of the VSLA, Esther borrowed 100,000 shillings (USD40) to expand her small business. She bought beans and sesame which she sold at a profit and paid off her loan.

This year she has borrowed 50,000 shillings (USD20) and increased her sales. This time, Esther used her business profits to purchase two goats to raise.

In a proud voice, Esther says that she now has found hope and a purpose to live. She can afford to buy Septrin, take care of her household needs, and has faith that her business will grow. But above all, she celebrates her group's weekly meetings. During this time, group members share stories of encouragement and pray for one another, something that has strengthened her spiritually. With her group, Esther has found a place where she finds hope and a purpose to live and thrive!

Global Volunteer Program

You can volunteer in Uganda!

There are no specific needs at the moment, but there is a learning tour in the works for Good Health and HIV/AIDS. Learning groups from supporting churches are always welcome, or there may be something that can be crafted to suit your skill set. Find out more at worldrenew.net/globalvolunteerprogram