



Visit to East Africa - Uganda

We begin in Uganda. We head out of Kampala and head toward Kakinzi to visit projects funded in part by ELCA World Hunger Appeal, through its partner Lutheran World Relief.



This bit of contaminated water was the only source of water for the 6000 people in the Kakinzi area.



Now, an inventive reservoir system collects water during the rainy season.



Drains are installed at the bottom of this rock slide, about 100 yards away from where the reservoir.



From the rock slide we can look down at the reservoir and watch neighbors taking turns pumping water. Just \$10,000 built the reservoir, with community members providing much of the labor themselves. Families pay 25 cents per month to use this water.



Uganda has a population of 24 million, two million of which are orphans. One quarter of Ugandan households have at least one orphaned child as a member. Lutheran World Relief partners with AMREF—the African Medical and Research Foundation—in Uganda. AMREF’s approach to improving the lives of children orphaned by AIDS is to improve the whole infrastructure of the community. This is a cost effective approach. Caring for a child in an orphanage would cost \$1000 a year, and that child rarely remains connected to the community. It costs about \$120 per year to care for an orphaned using the AMREF model, and the child remains part of the community.



One of the AMREF programs in the Kakinzi area provides housing for child-headed homes. This home, built for Skovia and her two younger brothers, consists of a kitchen, two bedrooms and a latrine. Program homes cost about \$3000 to build, and are the same size and design, no matter the size of the family.



Skovia, now 17, doesn't go to school so she can take care of her two younger brothers. The AMREF program trained Skovia in mat making, and sponsors the school fees for her brothers. The door decoration signals that Skovia has mats for sale.



Milly has eight children of her own and is guardian for two orphans. The AMREF program improved her home and provided the \$120 micro-loan Milly needed to be self-employed as a seamstress. Now Milly makes all the school uniforms for the area.



Many children orphaned by AIDS attend Kakinzi Primary School, thanks to scholarships your contributions to ELCA World HungerAppeal and Stand with Africa help provide. The school, with its new classrooms and large water tank, benefits from AMREF's approach to supporting children orphaned by AIDS by building the community's infrastructure.



Some of the school children sang a thank-you song to AMREF. Listen for the powerful line in the refrain, **“education is life insurance.”**



Moving on in Uganda, we are blessed to visit the Katosi Women Fishing and Development Association.



Margaret is the association's amazing chairperson and leader, shown here at their Katosi office.



It started when a small group of women, many widowed, entered the man's world of fishing on Lake Victoria. With grant help from Lutheran World Relief, the women purchased four boats, including one refrigerated boat, hired fishermen, and set up business.



Because of pollution in Lake Victoria, there was a six-month ban on fishing. This propelled the women to diversify their efforts to include raising animals and crops and setting up small businesses.



Lutheran World Relief helped the association set up its mandatory savings and micro-loan programs. Regina is a founding member of the association. Her savings and micro-loans helped her get a new reservoir. See her old reservoir in the background; its large rust holes are plugged with plastic shopping bags.



The savings and loan program helped Regina build this new fuel-efficient wood-burning stove, which has venting to the outside.



The association's programs also helped Regina get her two "no-graze" cows. Regina grows her own feed for the cows and uses the cow dung and urine to fertilize her banana trees. What a difference manure makes! It's easy spot the trees that do—and do not--have the benefit of an animal nearby.



Catherine bought a pig with her micro-loan from the Association.



Have you spotted Catherine's pig? A pig costs about \$33.



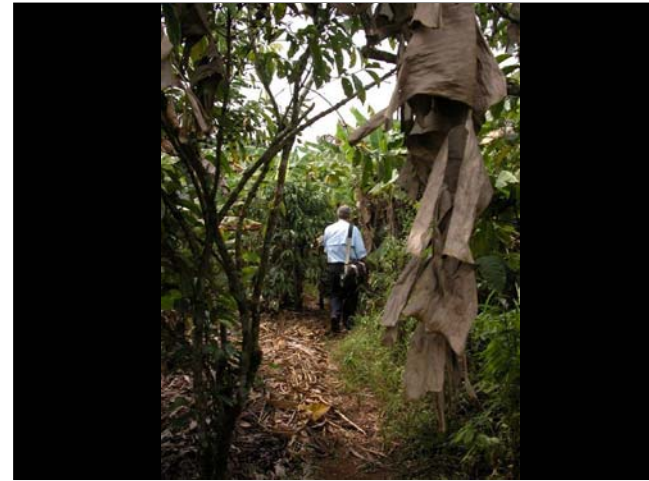
Catherine is also the proud owner of this new “lifetime” latrine, built for \$277. “Lifetime” evidently means 30 meters, the depth of this latrine.



The Katosi Women Fishing and Development Association used the grants and technical assistance it received from Lutheran World Relief as a transformational stepping stone, improving the lives of its 48 members, their families, and the Katosi community. Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Stand With Africa, through LWR, made a visible difference here. Katosi Women Fishing and Development Association has graduated from receiving grant money from LWR, but it will continue to be in relationship with LWR staff, receiving technical assistance as needed.



Here we are in and around Bukoba, Tanzania, where ELCA World Hunger Appeal funds, through the ELCA Division for Global Mission supports the HUYAWA (You-YAH-wa) program. HUYAWA, which means “Service for Children” is a program of the Northwestern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. We visit some of the homes of children orphaned by AIDS who are receiving help from the program.



We drive out from Bukoba into the countryside and then walk a maze of paths through banana trees. Just when you think you are truly in the middle of nowhere, you come upon...



...the corner convenience store! It's easy to miss the community for the banana trees.



We visit Patrick, who was four when his father died, and six when his mother died, both as a result of AIDS. For awhile Patrick's grandmother took care of him and his two younger sisters. Patrick's grandmother, now disabled, along with his two sisters, have been taken to what sounds like a group home. Patrick, at age 15 and in the last year of primary school, is considered to be head of a family of one. He lives alone, in order to keep his house and plot of land from being vandalized or taken over. His poverty is extreme. HUYAWA helps Patrick with school costs, bedding, clothes and food. "I'm afraid to stay alone," said Patrick. "There are bad people...at night I think they could find me alone in the house."



We ask, “What do you hope for?” and Patrick says, “I don’t expect to be selected for secondary school. I hope to become a proper farmer.” Later, though, we ask, “What do you pray for?” and Patrick replies, “I pray to get good grades [on the examination] and be selected to join secondary education.” We leave saying, “We’ll keep you in our hearts.” Patrick puts his hand to his heart and smiles.



We visit Benedicto, age 73, who lost his wife to AIDS in 1996. His two youngest children, shown here, receive program help from HUYAWA. Byabato, age 9, is frequently ill and likely HIV-positive. He receives free medical assistance and counseling as the result of the program.



Responsibly, Benedicto has not remarried since his wife, Leonida, died from AIDS in 1996. “I know I am not safe,” he says.



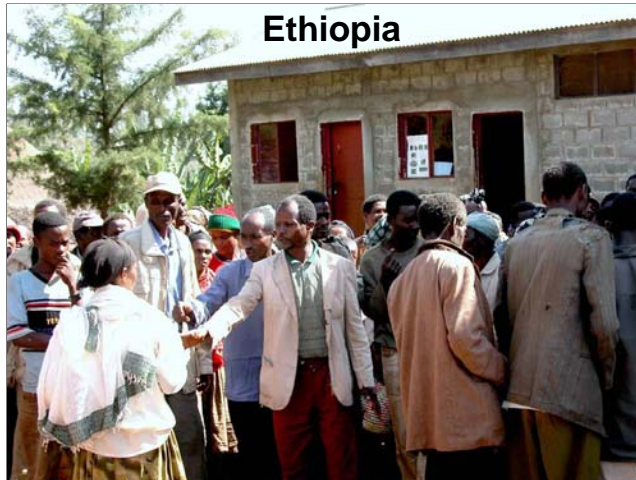
John (left) is a grandfather who cares for two of his grandchildren, orphaned by AIDS, in his home, and cares for the property of four other grandchildren, also orphaned by AIDS. A neighbor is trying to claim his grandchildren’s plot of land, and HUYAWA is helping to cover the legal expenses.



Witness (left) and Yunith, two of John's grandchildren, tell us that of their many chores, they like to fetch water and clean utensils the best and like gathering firewood (traditionally a role for boys and men) the least.



Kagemulo's smile here is misleading. It's the result of seeing the video taken during our visit with her. Kagemulo had never seen a picture of herself before. Kagemulo tells us, "I cry all of the time. I've lost hope." Three of her four sons are dead, and the fourth has advanced AIDS; he can no longer communicate. Kagemulo is guardian for this son's two children and two other grandchildren. When pushed, Kagemulo shares three hopes: She hopes that her son will die before she does. She hopes that after she dies, her grandchildren can stay in her home and on her plot of land. She hopes her grandchildren can survive without her. "All they want to do is play," she says. "If I'm sick and don't tell them to do it, they won't collect firewood or look for food." Kagemulo is grateful for the visits of the HUYAWA field representative. He brings the family bedding and school uniforms and arranges for free medical care at the hospital and clinic of the Northwestern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.



We move now to Ethiopia, where we visit a relief food distribution station organized by the South Central Ethiopian Synod of the EECMY (Evangelical Ethiopian Church Mekane Yesus). ELCA World Hunger Appeal funds, through Lutheran World Federation and the EECMY, help support this relief effort.



Once a month families line up for 15 kilos per person of wheat or corn and corn oil to supplement their nutrition.



Three bags of wheat are divided among 10 people.



This relief ration not only keeps people alive, it keeps them from selling all of their assets (such as cattle), and it keeps them from becoming refugees.



These last photos are taken as we leave the relief station.



Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Stand With Africa make a life-saving difference.



Thank you.



© 2004 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This presentation is produced by Sue and Paul Edison-Swift, who were part of the nine-member "ELCA Communicator" visit to Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia, February 2—16, 2004. For more information, pictures, stories and reflections, go to www.elca.org/hunger/stories/EastAfrica.html