



UGANDA

ALERT: The rapid spike of COVID-19 cases caused the Ugandan government to initiate a new 42-day lockdown on June 18. As a result, instead of a projected economic recovery from the first year-long lockdown, Uganda is now in the midst of a new crisis. Refugee populations are especially vulnerable and already suffering from food insecurity as meager savings are depleted and market prices quadruple. (See sidebar.)

The Lukome Center:

The students of classes 13 and 14 at the Lukome Center took Uganda's national vocational skills exam in March and graduated in mid-April. Due to the lingering economic impact of the pandemic and consequent lockdowns, many of them – especially those from the Imvepi Refugee Settlement – will be returning to difficult situations.

African swine fever swept through northern Uganda earlier this year, decimating a number of local hog farms. While the pig pandemic has now subsided, the economic hardships it caused many local farmers remain. Thankfully, the Lukome Center's hog operation remained untouched.

Imvepi Refugee Settlement:

Agricultural training continues at the settlement. Agriculture has helped many of our students and their families weather ongoing food security issues. Meanwhile, amid the unfolding crisis, ChildVoice has been engaging in ongoing dialogues to resolve land use disputes between refugee farmers and landowners.

NIGERIA

The Nigeria team continues to finalize plans for the new Youth Empowerment Center and has hired a contractor for the building and the well (borehole). Drilling is tentatively planned to take place at the end of June. Meanwhile, we have acquired a small plot of farmland for our new boys' program, and students have already begun planting corn. Skills training sessions for adolescent girls continue as we search for another plot of land for the girls' farm program.

In Mubi (Adamawa State) our presence is taking shape. Through a partnership with Nuru International, we will be opening a new site here this year!



HUNGER CRISIS: Help Us Respond

One-half of one meal a day. That's what a South Sudanese refugee living in the Imvepi Refugee Settlement receives in relief rations right now, according to ChildVoice's Uganda team. "They're getting monthly rations that last only about a week," says Director of Programs Kristin Barlow Benoit.

Some of the adolescent girls we work with have become so despondent that they've talked about suicide as their only way out. One of our Class 14 graduates, a South Sudanese Refugee of the Lukome Center, is among them.

"[She] was thinking of committing suicide because she's alone," says Richard Kyitarinyeba, ChildVoice Head of Office in Uganda. "Her hut was down, she had no food completely. But we stepped in a few days ago and saved her life."

A human being cannot thrive for a month on a week's worth of food. **A child cannot survive on less than one meal a day.** The adolescent girls we serve need your help urgently right now. [Please consider making a special donation today at childvoice.org/ugandalockdown2021.](https://childvoice.org/ugandalockdown2021)

Your designated gift will help us ensure that they remain safe and have the food and supplies they need to weather the coming days.