

El-Nino: THE DO'S AND DON'TS

8 REASONS WHY YOUR CHILD MIGHT  
DROP OUT OF SCHOOL

# THE Refugee

MAGAZINE

Issue #7 | Kakuma Edition



## MODELING FOR CHANGE

MISS NYAMUON'G'A'S DREAM FOR WOMEN DIGNITY

FEATURES

# MODELING FOR CHANGE

MISS ANGELINA NYAMUONG'A'S ATTIRE DURING THE KAKUMA MISS WORLD REFUGEE DAY GOT PEOPLE TALKING. WE WANTED TO FIND OUT THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IT AND HERE LIES THE STORY MANY GIRLS ARE EMBARRASSED TO TALK ABOUT

## 2. INSTANT CLASSROOM PROJECT

UNHCR and Vodafone partner in a project that will see Kakuma students introduced to E-Learning through Vodafone's Instant Classroom technology

## 6. YOUTH TO BENEFIT FROM NEWLY CONSTRUCTED VOCATIONAL CENTRE

NRC's newly constructed Vocational Training Centre to offer modern courses to Refugees and host community in Kakuma

## 8. SAMI YUSUF & WYRE IN KAKUMA

Iranian music star performs in Kakuma at an event organized by FilmAid and WFP

## 11. FILM FESTIVAL (KAKUMA)

FilmAid marks it's 9th Annual Film Festival in Kakuma, Dadaab, and Nairobi with pomp and colour

## 13. GOBOLE DANCERS

Kakuma's favourite dance group is back in the camp after battling it out in Sakata Dance Competition



TALK TO US



@TheRefugeeMag



The Refugee Magazine  
KAK ED





[www.filmaid.org](http://www.filmaid.org)  
[www.issuu.com/therefugeemagazine](http://www.issuu.com/therefugeemagazine)

## EDITORIAL NOTE



**RAHMO MOHAMED**  
**ISSUE EDITOR**

FilmAid's Journalism Training Programme

Over the past one month, the media has been used by the weather man to warn people of the impending El-Nino rains. Whereas some parts of the country have reported heavy down pour, Kakuma remains calm with a heavy cloud presence. This however does not mean that we might not experience the heavy rainfall. In this edition, we tell you how to prepare for the heavy rains; the do's and dont's!

We also feature a young lady who is dedicating her time and energy in educating young girls on the proper use of sanitary towels. Her outfit that won her the Miss World Refugee Day creative category will leave you amazed.

I would also like to congratulate the Filmmaker and Journalism Training Programme students for successfully completing their courses.

I dedicate this edition to the young men and women in my Journalism Class of 2015 for the hard work they put into ensuring that you, our esteemed reader, get informative yet entertaining editions of The Refugee Magazine (TRM). It is our hope that you found every edition worth reading. Enjoy the read!

*Editor*

### THE TEAM

**EDITOR:** UKECH DANIEL. **CHIEF EDITOR:** OTIENO SAMUEL.  
**PHOTOGRAPHY:** OTIENO SAMUEL. ABDUL PATIENT. CHELIA ROSE. **ISSUE EDITOR:** RAHMO MOHAMED. **WRITERS:** JEREMIAH PUOT. EMMAN NASRALLA. SALADI WAMALIKO. MAKER MAYEN. KALO YOUSIF. AYAN MOHAMED. SARO JACOB. **DESIGN & LAYOUT:** OTIENO SAMUEL





# MODELING FOR CHANGE

MISS ANGELINA NYAMUONG'A'S ATTIRE DURING THE KAKUMA MISS WORLD REFUGEE DAY GOT PEOPLE TALKING. WE WANTED TO FIND OUT THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IT AND HERE LIES THE STORY MANY GIRLS ARE EMBARRASSED TO TALK ABOUT

With a population of nearly 150,000 displaced persons in Kakuma Refugee Camp, good sanitation and hygiene is vital. The humanitarian organizations have over the years stepped up their services to try and cater for this basic yet much needed services but there is a lot that still needs to be done.

Angelina Nyamuong'a is a nineteen year old South Sudanese refugee and an aspiring model. The talented 19 year old arrived in the camp in the year 2002 after being forced out of her home country due to civil war that was then threatening to tear the country apart. She has spent almost all her life in the camps and as a young refugee girl, she faced a lot of problems. She is however

hopeful for a better life having been awarded a scholarship to study at a Canadian University under the World University Services Canada (WUSC) Scholarship Programme. "I have lived all my life here in the camp. I came here when I was very young and attended school here in the camp," says Nyamuong'a .

In many African communities, the menstrual cycle is a mysterious phenomenon, with different communities harboring different beliefs around it. "When a woman is on her menstrual cycle, she cannot be allowed to cook 'buntu' (ugali) or even enter her husband's house," says Chalazire, a Congolese male refugee living in Kakuma. In most cases, women and girls could not be allowed



to interact with the male members of the community and were pushed aside. It was a tormenting moment for young girls especially those who were facing the experience for the first time.

Some communities would take advantage of this and marry their underage girls off to old men as they believed that the menstrual cycle was a sign that a girl had blossomed into a mature woman. There have been numerous efforts by humanitarian agencies working in Kakuma to provide sanitary towels to refugee women and girls. The Lutheran World Foundation (LWF) has been providing young women and girls with quality sanitary towels for the last few years. These towels are distributed through schools and Food Distribution Centers. However, many women in the camp admit that the towels are never enough. "We receive one to three packs (eight towels each) of sanitary towels and two panties every three to four months," says Teresa, a South Sudanese refugee. "These towels are never enough as on average, the menstrual period would last for three consecutive days," she added.

Windle Trust Kenya (WTK) under their Kenya Equity in Education Project (KEEP), has been able to constantly supply school going girls with six packs of sanitary towels and two panties every four months. This has gone a long way in trying to ensure that pupils do not miss classes during their menstrual periods.

This has forced many young girls and women to look for alternative means to manage their menstrual cycles with most having to abandon school for at least three days every month so as to avoid embarrassment, discrimination, or even rejection from fellow students during their menstruation period.

"Not everyone in the camp has access to these towels. A lot of women miss the towels when they are being distributed and have had to make due with pieces of cloth collected from the markets in an effort to contain the monthly cycle," says Nyamuong'a. "These pieces of cloth are sewn together into a sanitary towel using a pieces of string. Unfortunately, the home made towels end up leaking and are unhygienic," she adds. Those who cannot access the pieces of cloth have turned to using tissue paper and are sometimes forced to sit on the ground for hours to allow the earth absorb the flow. "I was young when I noticed my body undergoing some changes," says Nyamuong'a. "I did not understand what was happening to me and I was scared to talk about it."

The girls whom The Refugee Magazine team interviewed admit that they received their first sanitary towels while in primary school. Many took them home not knowing what the pads were for or how to use them. When these girls experience their first menstrual cycle, they are embarrassed and in some extreme cases, both their male and female

classmates ridicule the innocent young girls.

"I appreciate the various agencies who are working tremendously hard to provide refugee girls with sanitary towels. Over the years the quality of towels provided has improved, however, there is a lot more that needs

---

I HAVE LIVED ALL MY LIFE HERE IN THE CAMP.  
I CAME HERE WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG AND  
ATTENDED SCHOOL HERE IN THE CAMP

---





PHOTO: Girls line up to get sanitary towels and school uniforms PHOTO BY Chelia Rose

to be done," says Nyamuong'a. "Giving young girls the towels without telling them what the pads are for is not doing much to help. I want to see young girls trained on how to use the sanitary towels and told that the changes their bodies are undergoing are normal," she concludes.

According to Nyamuong'a, majority of girls and women will be exposed to the sanitary towels for the first time in their lives during the distribution of sanitary towels in schools and in the Food Distribution Centres, hence the need for teaching them on their use.

We met Nyamuong'a for the first time during the Miss World Refugee Day 2015 competition that was organized by FilmAid International in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The World Refugee Day is a calendar day set aside by the United Nations (UN) to highlight the plight of refugees and displaced persons. What caught our attention was the creative yet unique attire that Miss Nyamuong'a wore in the creative category competition. Her earrings and clothes were made from sanitary towels. The pink and blue colors blended well and her speech amazed many leading to her

selection as the winner under the creative category.

Nyamuong'a has dedicated most of her time teaching young girls in her community on how best to use sanitary towels and hygiene during menstrual cycles. A WUSC candidate, she understands the importance of education and how missing classes due to menstrual cycles will impact on the girl-child's future.

"GIVING YOUNG GIRLS THE TOWELS WITHOUT TELLING THEM WHAT THE PADS ARE FOR IS NOT DOING MUCH TO HELP. I WANT TO SEE YOUNG GIRLS TRAINED ON HOW TO USE THE SANITARY TOWELS TOO AND TOLD THAT THE CHANGES THEIR BODIES ARE UNDERGOING IS NORMAL"

GIVE US FEEDBACK ON THIS AND OTHER ARTICLES THROUGH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE THE REFUGEE MAG KAK ED (FACEBOOK) AND @therefugeemag(twitter) or email us through therefugeemag@gmail.com

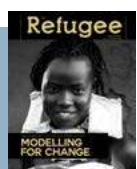




PHOTO: GREENLIGHT  
SECONDARY SCHOOL  
STUDENTS USE VIRTUAL  
CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT  
DURING A BIOLOGY  
LESSON | BY OTIENO  
SAMUEL



# INSTANT CLASSROOM PROJECT

BY RAHMO MOHAMED

I was talking to a friend of mine arguing on how technology, and especially the social media, is transforming how we communicate. I feel that with the world becoming a global village, human relations have improved tremendously and for the better. However, my friend thought that technology had broken family ties and the human way of communicating and forming bonds.

It is evident that technology has become a vital part of education and knowledge sharing in the academic and social world. Take an example of Julius Yego, a renowned Kenyan sportsman, who this year broke the world javelin record with a distance throw of ninety-two (92) meters during the IAAF World Athletics Championships in Beijing. The story

behind his success belies the importance of how technology has had a positive impact towards fostering learning. Julius Yego learnt javelin through watching videos off the social video sharing platform YouTube. I have heard of many more stories of people who have embraced technology and are now doing very well for themselves. A good example is FatBoy Animations founder Michael Muthiga who learnt animation through the Internet and is now a wealthy pioneer of the art in Kenya. By embracing technology, the possibilities are endless.

The Vodafone Foundation in collaboration with UNHCR has initiated an Instant Classroom Project in Kakuma Refugee camp. The project will see Kakuma refugee schools receive tablets and



WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO USE  
WHAT OTHER CHILDREN OUTSIDE  
THE CAMP ARE USING

## EDUCATION

internet connection with the aim of facilitating learning and interaction between students from Kakuma and other parts of the world. "We are very happy to use what other children outside the camp are using," says Hassan, a student in Green-light Secondary School.

The Vodafone Foundation and UNHCR delivered the first two instant classroom kits to Kakuma Refugee Camp on the 22nd of June 2015. The instant classrooms concept developed by the Vodafone Foundation is a single case containing 25 tablets, a battery compartment, 3G modem hotspots for internet connectivity, an HD projector and a laptop. The 52Kg case is designed for areas where there is no access to electricity. The tablets, which are preloaded with educational software and internet browsers, will be used by teachers and students in daily learning and research. The tablets can also connect locally to the teachers' laptops enabling teachers to deliver content without the presence of internet connectivity.

One of the instant classrooms was installed at Green-light Secondary School with the aim of benefiting 1,200 students while the other was installed at the WTK public library in Kakuma 3 for teachers, adults, and youth who were out of school. This is with the aim of improving the quality of education in the camp as students can easily access information from the Internet.

"It's interesting when a student *digs* out information from Internet hence raising the students' curiosity to learn," says Mr. Omondi, the Deputy Principal of Green-light Secondary School. Both teachers and students will access information that they would not otherwise find from the scant textbooks available. It is hoped that the project will improve school attendance as many students will enjoy a break from the traditional mode of learning and enter the digital classroom model.

The Vodafone Foundation carried out an induction for the teachers so as to familiarize them with the devices' use and maintenance. "I remember we had a practical in the training where we brought in students and carried out lessons," adds Mr. Omondi. The trained teachers and agency staff would be required to pass the knowledge to students and other beneficiaries.

In a world where basic computer knowledge and information on changing technologies could be the barrier between you and your dream job, this project could not have come at a more opportune time. "We are done with the old ways of learning where we were taught with chalk and blackboard. We now use technology that is fun and enjoyable," said Aisha, a form four student at Green-light Secondary School.

"WE ARE DONE WITH THE OLD WAYS OF LEARNING WHERE WE WERE TAUGHT WITH CHALK AND BLACKBOARD AND INSTEAD WE ARE USING TECHNOLOGY THAT IS FUN AND ENJOYABLE,"

PHOTO: VIRTUAL CLASSROOM THAT WAS DONATED BY VODAFONE



Many remain positive about the innovation even in the face of scarcity of devices where only 25 tablets are to be shared by more than 1,000 students. Green Light may be the first school to benefit from the project but we hope in future, Vodafone will introduce them to other schools, the intention being all children in the camp will have a chance at accessing modern technology to learn.



# Youth Set To Benefit From Vocational Center

BY EMMAN NASRALLA

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is one of the organizations within Kakuma Refugee Camp that provides tertiary education to the thousands of youth who may only have basic education from school. NRC have constructed a modern vocational training centre in the New Arrivals Area in Kakuma 4 with the aim of equipping learners with skills in agriculture and technical jobs among other courses.

The project coordinator, Mr. Eric Mutivo, says that statistically, the majority of the population in the camp are youth. This training center was set up to help those who have did not gain access to higher education attain technical skills through vocational training. These skills would allow the youth access jobs in the camp and hopefully in their countries of origin upon their return.

“The organization provides short intensive courses for youth, enabling them generate income either through employment or self-employment,” says Mr. Mutivo. He highlighted on the courses provided in the training center and the reasons as to their offering.

Among the courses offered is mechanics, which involves the repair of bicycles, motorcycles, and vehicles. The main mode of transport in Kakuma is slowly changing from bicycles to the use of motorcycles and vehicles and therefore these skills are vital as a key need to address maintenance issues that arise from time to time.

Carpentry and masonry is another course



offering in consideration that refugees live in semi-permanent houses that requires skilled masons for their construction. This skill is of importance not only in construction of housing, but in the building of institutions like schools and offices. In Kakuma, various assessments have indicated

that there are not enough skilled masons hence those who take up this component of training will find a ready market for their skills.

The welding course is also of equal importance as it offers trainees an opportunity to earn a livelihood in a camp where welding services are increasingly becoming a key component in many construction projects implemented by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The vocational centre also offers computer courses to refugees and members of the host community.

Other courses offered include latrine construction and slab production. This skill is necessary as pit latrines are commonly used in the camps and it requires skilled labour with knowledge on their construction and slab production, which would last longer and improve the hygiene standards of people living in the camps.

One key training that would be of interest to many in the camp is the introduction of an agricultural course. This course is aimed

at equipping learners with skills required to turn arid land into arable land hence ensuring that apart from agriculture being a means of livelihood, communities will also attain much needed food security.

The NRC Training Center enrolls a total of 200 youth annually. “For agriculture, a good

---

“OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO EMPOWER THE YOUTH EITHER FOR EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS. THE COURSES HAVE A COMPONENT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND WE WILL SUPPORT THOSE WHO NEED TO START BUSINESSES.”

---

part of the training is done practically and takes place in agricultural sites within the camp,” says Mr. Mutivo. He adds that the training has been ongoing even prior to the construction of the center as the first agriculture and slab production trainees have already graduated.

“Our main objective is to empower the youth to prepare them for employment or business. The courses have a component of entrepreneurship and we will support those who need to start a business,” says Mr. Mutivo. NRC through their livelihood project provides start-up kits for the youth to facilitate business start-up using their acquired skills and to generate income hence enabling them become productive people in the society. Among the challenges that the organization faces is the low number of female trainees that enroll for their courses. He urged more women to take up the course offered at the vocational center.

# PASSING ON THE GLOVES

BY DAWIT EJIGU



JULIUS BUKANDE ADMIRERD HIS DAD AND WANTED TO BE LIKE HIM. THE NOW BOXING CHAMP IS USING HIS SKILLS TO MENTOR REFUGEE YOUTH HERE IN THE CAMP. DAWIT EJIGU SPENT A DAY WITH HIM TO BRING YOU THIS EXCLUSIVE FEATURE.

It is hard to imagine that a boxer can be forced to leave his homeland in this century. This shows that however strong or neutral you are in politics, you can be forced to become a refugee or asylum seeker. It is sad to see people being displaced in this day and age with the world opening its borders to accommodate more displaced people. Today, it is estimated that there are more than 19.5 million refugees at the end of the year 2014 according to the UNHCR's website (<http://www.unhcr.org.uk>) a clear indication that the refugee situation might not go away any time soon. To many, refugee camps may seem like a well of hopelessness but the fact remains the number of skilled and talented people

in the refugee camps will astonish you. Kakuma Refugee Camp is no exception to this, and especially in the sports world. I have had the chance to meet great men and women who in a normal world would be considered champions and role models to many. Among these great men and women are Karate champions from Ethiopia, athletes who are now training for the 2016 Rio Olympics, great footballers and boxers among many others.

Kakuma 2, Youth Center 3 is where we met Julius Bukande, a Congolese refugee and a former boxing champion from Congo. When I met Julius for the first time, he was sending his little brother to Lodwar for a boxing training session. It seems boxing

runs in his family's blood as he opens up to us how he remembers his father. His father was a heavyweight champion back in Congo and in his later years, his name and skills in the sport became legendary and respected across Congo and in the neighbouring countries as well. "I admired my father's dedication and discipline in the sport. Boxing was his life and growing up watching him practice made me develop the passion I have for the sport. I would see myself in my father's shoes, I am still trying to fit in his shoes though," says Julius, as his face begins to glow with the thought of his dad.

Within the same space is a group of dancers, young, energetic and full of life.



Their small radio blazes with the latest music collection from a flash drive that has been wrapped with tape. It is their prized possession. Their dance moves are the latest and all the members struggle to copy their choreographer. It is not the first time that I got to see them as I had watched them perform a couple of times at past events organized by organizations such as FilmAid. Julius and his team on the other hand do not let the music and sounds from the other team sharing the medium sized facility distract them.

"Boxing is all about being disciplined," says Julius. According to him, this is the first thing that his 30 trainees learnt. On this day, there were no female trainees around but Julius and his trainees alluded to the fact that boxing is becoming a popular sport to the female gender.

Bukande began boxing back home in Congo. He has been practicing boxing since he was a small child. As an inspiration, his father was his role model. He influenced his boxing career in every way. "My father was a boxer, he fought in Tunisia, Algeria and Libya and is commonly known as 'Saidi'. Most people from East Congo may know him since he was widely known for organizing boxing competitions throughout the region," says Bukande.

The Kakuma Boxing Group trainer admits that a lot still has to be done in sensitizing the community on boxing as a sport as a majority of people carry negative perceptions about boxing. It is also widely believed that boxing is all about punching your opponent to the ground, and myth has it that too much exposure to your opponent's blow can lead to mental illnesses, a myth that Bukande readily dismisses. For him, boxing is an art just like kung-fu, tae-kwondo, or karate.

The group has more than 28 members, but since most of them are students, only few of them are active when the schools are in session. With fluctuating numbers of trainees, Bukande has continued to train his fellow boxers. Paulin Hangi is one of Bukande's students. Although he has been practicing boxing since he was young back in his home country, he admits that Julius' mentorship has greatly improved his skills and physical fitness. The 80Kg boxer is slowly improving and is likely to become one of the best in the group. "There are so many good things about boxing, especially self-discipline. It has excellent regulation just like other sports for instance Tae-kwondo, Kung' Fu, or any other," says Hangi.

The members have three days of training per week. The training includes vigorous physical exercises and live boxing sessions. Although most of the trainees are from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), there are other nationalities like Somalis, South Sudanese and Burundians. Congo has a rich history in boxing as a sport, having hosted the World Heavyweight Championship boxing competition in 1974. In October of that year, the biggest fight of the 20th Century was hosted in Kinshasa Stadium. During this event, the two great heavyweight boxers Mohammed Ali and George Foreman competed for the world championship title in a fight billed as 'The Rumble in the Jungle'. The then President of DRC (formerly Zaire) Mobutu Sese Seko, played a great role in organizing and promoting the event in his country. Mohamed Ali won the title after the 8th round with a knock-out win over George Foreman. The event made a good number of Congolese to appreciate and take

THERE ARE SO MANY GOOD THINGS ABOUT BOXING ESPECIALLY SELF-DISCIPLINE; BECAUSE BOXING HAS EXCELLENT REGULATION JUST LIKE OTHER SPORTS FOR INSTANCE TAE-KWONDO, KUNG' FU, OR ANY OTHER

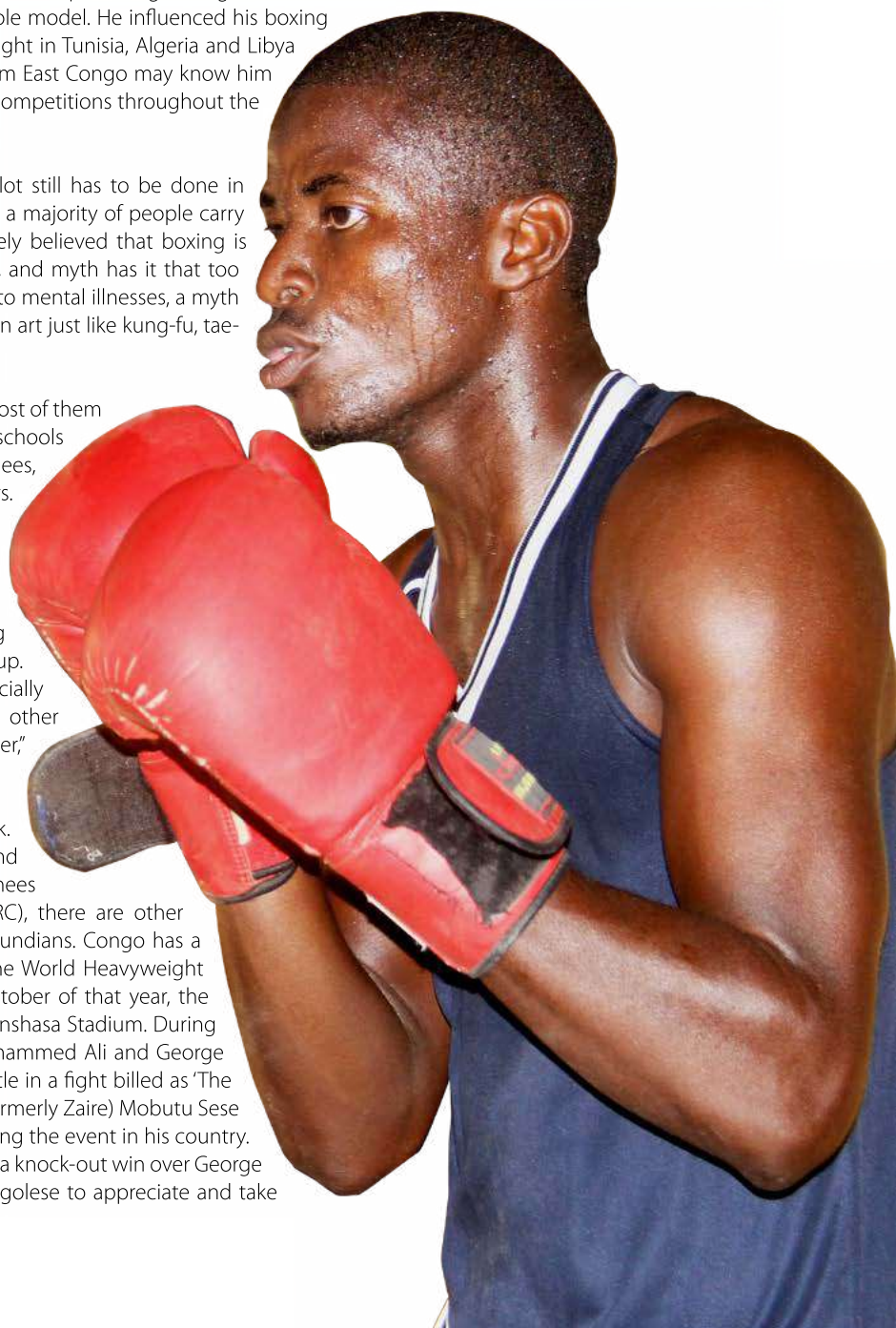




PHOTO: Julius Bukande (middle) last words before a training session | By Otieno Samuel

I ADMIRER MY FATHER'S DEDICATION AND DISCIPLINE IN THE SPORT. BOXING WAS HIS LIFE AND GROWING UP WATCHING HIM PRACTICE MADE ME DEVELOP THE PASSION I HAVE FOR SPORTS. I WOULD SEE MYSELF IN MY FATHER'S SHOES, I STILL AM TRYING TO FIT THOUGH,

up the sport.

Bukande has so far won four trophies in his boxing career. In addition, he has participated in many amateur boxing competitions in Uganda, Rwanda, and Congo. Even after being forced out of his home country, Julius still has a passion for boxing. This is a passion he intends to pass on to the younger generation with the hope that one day, these young lads will become great men and women in the sport.

The greatest challenge faced by the group is lack of equipment, some of which costs an average of Kshs. 7,000. The group of 30 have to share two pairs of boxing gloves both of which are in a deplorable state. "We have no material support. For a instance, we do not have gloves, exercise equipment, gym and other things which are so crucial for boxing. This forces us to concentrate more with physical

exercises," says Hangi.

"Even though boxing is one of the violent sports which does not suit sensitive areas like a refugee camp set-up, our office is studying how to assist and we are trying our best to supply what this boxing group members need," says Tom Aduwa, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Youth Protection and Development Unit Officer. According to Mr. Aduwa, in the near future, the LWF Youth Protection and Development Unit is considering organizing for a local competition between our best boxers. The youth protection office has promised to take some boxers to national boxing competitions as well as purchase new equipment come 2016. Before then, the boxing group will have to patiently wait for well-wishers to help raise enough money for the purchase of training equipment or get equipment in kind."



# KAKUMA, IRANIAN MUSIC STAR PERFORMS

IRANIAN MUSIC STAR SAMI YUSUF AND KENYA'S WYRE PERFORM FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER IN KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP AT AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY FILMAID AND WFP AT KALEMCHUCH PEACE CENTER.

BY UKECH DANIEL

Kalemchuch Peace Centre, a hot and dusty location located a few kilometers from Kakuma town and Kakuma Refugee Camp was the place to be on this momentous day. The harsh climate did not deter people from attending a music concert graced by renown musician Sami Yusuf. At one end of the venue, different dance groups were practicing their moves while at the other end, the FilmAid crew were busy setting up equipment and lining up the stage for the awaited performance. Dozens of people were dressed in what could possibly be their best outfit. Trendy music was playing in the background as everybody eagerly awaited to witness the big event.

Sami Yusuf, the global goodwill ambassador for the World Food Program (WFP), was the star performance. He was accompanied by Wyre, the popular Kenyan artist who was accompanied by dancer Ian Wainaina, famously known for being a judge in the Sakata Dance competition. The fact that very few people knew Sami Yusuf drew immense curiosity. On arrival at the airstrip, the artists were welcomed by the Burundi talking drums as they later headed to the camp on a tour and as well as visiting WFP's Food Distribution Centre 4.

The event started with some breath-taking performances by artists from the camp. Simple Swaggers thrilled the audience with their dance moves. The cultural dancers were not left behind as they also came in to make the event as enjoyable and memorable as possible. The Burundi cultural dancers entertained the audience with their soft dance. The South Sudanese Cultural dance was also part of the entertainment repertoire and upcoming musicians were also out to shine at the event.

The event was organized as part of the build up activities around WFP's Bamba Chakula initiative, which seeks to substitute 10% of cereals given to beneficiaries as rations with a food voucher

cash value that enables the beneficiaries to buy fresh food products that they would otherwise not get as part of their normal rations. The event gave the WFP's goodwill ambassador the chance to see the work that WFP does and hopefully the opportunity to use his celebrity status to source for more donations from around the world.

As this was their first visit to Kakuma, I could not resist the urge to have a chat with them and find out what they felt about Kakuma and the local talent. "It is my first time here and I'm loving the vibe already," said Wyre. Together with his colleague Ian, Wyre was invited to perform alongside Sami Yusuf. The guests also had a chance to meet with the local artists and had an interactive session with them. They also posed for photos with the refugee artists. "They've explained to us some of the challenges that they are going through. So it's up to the ambassadors and also us as musicians, to go and explain to the rest of the world what needs to be done to support this initiative by WFP. What other way is there to better to pass this message across other than through music?" He added.

---

## WHAT OTHER WAY IS BETTER TO PASS THE MESSAGE THAN THROUGH MUSIC?

---



PHOTO: Sami Yusuf entertains fans at Kalemchuch | By Abdul P.





# THE 9TH ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL MARKED

FILMAID MARKS THE 9TH ANNUAL FILMAID FILM FESTIVAL IN KAKUMA, NAIROBI, AND DADAAB THAT CULMINATED WITH THE GRADUATION OF FILM AND JOURNALISM STUDENTS.

**F**ilmAid International held a successful 9th Annual FilmAid Film Festival themed "Home Away From Home." The theme created by FilmAid's Filmmaker Training programme students, seeks to make refugees feel more at home rather than alienated in a foreign country. This is backed by the need to project true hope that their refugee status is only a transitory state.

The Film Festival, which is held once a year, provides a platform for 25 film students to showcase their productions. It coincides with the graduation ceremony for the film students upon successful completion of a one year Filmmaker Training Programme (FTP) where FilmAid International in conjunction with Africa Digital Media

Institute (ADMI) takes students through basic film production skills. The trainees are from different communities and backgrounds and go through a competitive selection process.

Kakuma Refugee Camp marked this year's festival by screening the student produced films across the camp and within the host community giving the youth a chance to interact with the filmmakers through powerful question and answer sessions after every screening. These sessions provide the refugees and the host community a platform to identify with the filmmakers and get to better understand the motivation behind the themes captured in the films. Budding artists also got a chance to perform during the

PHOTO: FilmAid's Film Truck | By Otieno Samuel



evening screenings. "We have watched their films and we appreciate the good work that they have done", says Kelvin Mulamba, one of the viewers.

The closing gala held at the Clinic Four basketball court witnessed an epic turn out with guests and attendees being treated to beautiful renditions and graceful sways by Gobole dancers amongst other creative art groups.

Before the curtains closed, FilmAid's Kakuma Field Manager, Ms Perpetua Angima, presented The Film and Journalism programme graduates with their certificates. Amongst the A list awardees, Amina Rwimo took home the Best Directors award while Stallone Ngongo bagged the award for Best story/film. The two also got an invitation to attend the Nairobi Closing gala and were scheduled interviews with top local media stations to practice their craft. They also got a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet with the US Ambassador, Robert F. Godec at the closing gala event that was held at the Michael Joseph centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

"All the students exceeded our expectations and I am proud of them," Perpetua Angima.

The event culminated with the launch of Sandstorm, a 5-part series centered around the lives of refugees and shot in Kakuma by FilmAid early this year. The film's lead and supporting characters present during the launch, lauded FilmAid for making them part of the premiere TV series made in Kakuma refugee camp. Also present during the launch was FilmAid's staff and representatives from other organizations and members of the refugee community.

The graduation ceremony was a time to celebrate achievement and also a moment to challenge the aspiring future filmmakers and journalists to join the programme. FilmAid's field manager Perpetua Angima announced the next intake of students from both the host and refugee



ALL THE STUDENTS  
EXCEEDED OUR  
EXPECTATIONS AND I AM  
PROUD OF THEM

*Perpetua Angima*

PHOTO: Amina and Stallone \ By Abdul P.



community and encouraged them to take advantage of FilmAid's training programme in an attempt to better their future and start a successful career in film and journalism.

The course selection which is scheduled for the month of November will see 50 students join the programme. As part of the requirements, only the best performers in KCSE and enthusiastic women and men will be considered in a highly competitive process. Interested candidates are required to send applications addressed to The Digital Media Officer (for journalism trainees) and FTP- Trainer (for filmmaker trainees), FilmAid International and deliver the applications to FilmAid's offices near the UNHCR compound.





TALENT YARD

PHOTO: Gobole Dancers perform during FilmAid's Film Festival in Kakuma 1 | By AboutUP

# GOBOLE BACK AFTER SAKATA

AFTER A TOUGH BATTLE AT THE SAKATA DANCE COMPETITION, GOBOLE DANCERS RECEIVED A HERO'S WELCOME AT FILMAID'S FILM FESTIVAL

BY EMMAN NASRALLA AND SALADI WAMALIKO

**E**xtraordinary actions put ordinary men on pedestals out of ordinary reach. However, men don't need to ride thunder to become heroes. Talent has given rise to heroes the world over from sportsmen to musical artists, dancers and acrobats.

In the far Northern half of Kenya a few kilometers shy of the South Sudan and Ethiopian borders, tall clouds of dust fill the air and the fierce sun rays pierce through the heart of Kakuma. However, its resilience keeps it alive, full of breath and fertile with talent. From its sun scorched dusty ground, talent has risen in the form of Gobole.

Gobole Dance group was founded ten years ago but remained dormant during early 2005. The name Gobole is coined from an antic gun that carried one bullet that was used by poachers to hunt the big five game animals. Two friends pioneered the group but they could not compete with the strong opposition that was coming from a more established and already famous group named the 'Beach Boyz'. This competitive disadvantage made them invite other dancers to join in so as to counter the threat of the 'Beach Boyz'.

As the cliché goes, nothing good comes easy, the milestone Gobole has placed along their journey has come with a fair share of challenges. They had to work hard to be recognized, performing in local wedding ceremonies and public events, sometimes without invitation and pro bono. These sacrifices eventually came to bear fruits upon their eventual breakthrough in 2006. Albeit lacking sophisticated equipment, not even a radio cassette, to facilitate their practice sessions or practice gymnasium their determination never waned. They would use a car battery that required occasional recharging several kilometers between areas, Kakuma 3 and Kakuma 2.

Gobole is predominantly Somali Bantu, but they have continually urged others to join because they believe art and Gobole is for everyone. "We do not discriminate", said the group's leader Ali. Their very first show was in Kakuma town and although they put on a stellar performance, no one recognized them, as the 'Beach Boyz' wave had swept the whole town.

In 2009 the Gobole dancers would face a major hurdle encountered often by many creative groups. Numerous misunderstandings put the group in danger of eminent collapse as most of the dancers withdrew, leaving behind just two boys. The members struggled to juggle studies and dance.

They would reunite after sometime and like a rejuvenated eagle with more vigor, started performing outside Kakuma and going as far as Lodwar to perform in shows. Their first major show was the Miss Tourism-2014 where they came in at second place. This automatically qualified them for a dance battle with another nineteen groups. They showed the world their skill and class by winning first place.

With that feather already added to their hats, they preceded to perform a second show in Lodwar, held in Sun field. This is the show that they look back on with fondness as it is the show that exposed them to the rest of the country taking them to Eldoret and Nairobi. It is the show that allowed them the opportunity to watch Ugandan music icon Jose Chameleon perform. Showing just what they are capable of they carried their first ever trophy back to Kakuma. "I thank Kakuma," said their designer.

In 2015, with support from FilmAid and LWF they went to Eldoret and auditioned for the Sakata Dance Competition. The

show was held in Matata and featured twenty-four groups. Luckily they emerged at the top. In June 2015 they competed in the Sakata competition that had dancers and artists from Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. Unfortunately they were eliminated before the final, but in the spirit of a warrior they believe they live to fight another day.

Despite countless challenges like old costumes, lack of finances, and no equipment or training facilities they managed to soar to unimaginable heights. The Sakata judges also challenged them as to why the group was only made of boys. To this they explained that girls aren't able to attend their practice sessions, which are mostly held at night and would not be safe.

The majority of Gobole dancers are students. "People think that if you are a dancer, you don't learn and also think that you smoke or do other negative things. It is wrong to think that way", said Chudo one of the dancers.

The Gobole dancers also urge agencies to support them by providing them with essential equipment for their training sessions and training space, as Youth Center 3 is far and frequently engaged by organizations' activities thus hindering their practice.

The Gobole dancers' stories are a narration of hope and determination in the midst of hardships. It is a testimony of turning challenges into opportunities and a belief that what the mind perceives the mind achieves.



**PEOPLE THINK THAT IF YOU ARE A DANCER, YOU DON'T LEARN AND ALSO THINK PERHAPS YOU SMOKE OR YOU DO OTHER NEGATIVE THINGS**



# Preparing for the **El-Nino**

PHOTO: Agency car stuck after heavy rains | BY Otieno Samuel/FilmAid

**W**ater is life as it is said but with excess amounts, the results can be devastating. Kakuma located in the northern parts of Kenya, 800KM from the capital, is a semi-arid area which hosts Kakuma Refugee camp. The area, though not known to receive heavy rainfalls, has seasonal rivers that drain rainwater from the surrounding hills. The seasonal rivers, however, can have a devastating impact on the residents. Refugee houses and those of the community are usually swept away by rainwater leaving the humanitarian agencies and the government to help those affected.

A few months ago, different weather stations around the globe including Cable Network News (CNN) predicted the coming of El-Nino rains. This was later confirmed by the Government of Kenya and different weather forecast organizations. Since then a lot of measures have been developed and are currently being put into place by the humanitarian agencies and the government of Kenya in different parts of the country. In Kakuma, the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), The Department of Refugee Affairs and other implementing agencies have been having several meetings in preparation for the El-Nino rains that are expected to fall before the end of October.

As much as the humanitarian agencies are going out of their way to make sure that life and the property of their beneficiaries are protected, a lot more has to be done by individuals. Being prepared is the best thing one can do and this can only be achieved through a good understanding of the El-Nino and the do's and don'ts in case of emergencies.

El Nino is the warming and disruption of the ocean's atmosphere in the tropical Pacific Ocean. This warmer water increases air

moisture and impacts the weather and climate around the world. It is an irregularly and complex series of climatic changes affecting the equatorial pacific region. When El Nino is active, there is a higher probability of heavy rains. These rains can result in small streams as well as regional and large scale flooding. This flooding usually poses a huge threat to many communities.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE FOR EL NINO**

Open drains and keep ditches and other water collection ways clear of leaves and debris. Understand the main drains in your compound and ensure that they are all open to prevent water collection which may cause flooding.

If your house is in a low lying or is impacted by high runoff volumes, know where to find sandbags for blocking water from washing away walls. You should also know where to find other emergency provisions.

Check for emergency service agencies and know where to turn for emergency. Make sure you know the key hot-lines for help.

Make copies of all your important documents and make sure the original copies are kept safely. Scan the documents if possible and save them in your e-mail or in a cloud where you can access them anywhere.

Check holes and other signs that leaks could occur in heavy rain conditions. Assess the conditions of a roof and make repairs if needed.

Keep trees trimmed for excess debris. The excess debris prevents the steady flow of water which leads to flooding and therefore must be avoided at any cost.

Be prepared to evacuate if necessary. Know where to go when your house is flooded.

### WHAT TO DO DURING THE RAINS

Be extremely cautious when driving. Do not attempt to drive through moving water. Follow emergency traffic instructions. If a car stalls in flooding water, abandon it as soon as possible.

Do not attempt to walk through floodwaters. The waters might have dangerous creatures like snakes. Do not cross moving water.

Switch off all the electric appliances and the electricity sources like generators. Electricity should be kept off during floods and people should only use batteries. It is dangerous and fatal when naked electric cables get in contact with water as it might cause electric shocks.

When a house is flooded, remove all your belongings and abandon the house. Do not enter the house as it might collapse.

Avoid the main roadways that typically flood in heavy rains. Use them only when necessary.

Keep the children away from flooded water and let them not play in water as it may result in serious accidents like drowning.

### WHAT TO DO AFTER THE RAIN

Drain stagnant water from any water collection around the compound.

If there is any house that has been ruined by the rain and some parts of the wall still standing, demolish it so as not to cause any accidents.

Collect useful materials from a ruined house as you might need them in future. Materials like iron sheets and wood.

Repair any leakage that was caused by the rain.

Cover muddy paths with sand-bags to create a comfortable way to pass.

# The Beautiful STRUGGLE

BY SALADI WAMALIKO

In the year 2014, Shantale Musongo came to Kakuma Refugee Camp from Goma in Congo after the outbreak of a civil war that left hundreds dead and thousands more displaced.

"I had to look for safety in the camp as I feared for my life". Shantale fled with her husband and upon arrival at Kakuma refugee camp, they were given a place to stay. The hardships in the camps forced her to look for alternative ways of making ends meet. She decided to use her skills as a beautician that she acquired when she was in her home country.

Starting a business without capital proved almost impossible but her hopes remained high despite the dark times. Starting small, she made a few customers who enjoyed her services. Her business later received a financial boost from SAVIC (Solitary and Advocacy with Vulnerable Individuals in Crisis) which is sponsored by Swiss Contact in partnership with NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council). She was introduced to SAVIC by her customer Mr. Kabiona, the communication assistant of SAVIC. SAVIC constructed a room for her which she is now using as a salon as well as a classroom for her trainees. "My trainees attend the trainings in shifts, some come in morning shifts while some come in afternoon shifts," says Shantale.

Her trainees come from all communities in the camp including a few from the host community and most of them being the youth. Her class, although dominated by female trainees has a good number of men too. "When I joined the training I

knew very little about the course, but now I have acquired a lot of knowledge. I can now work on my own to cater for my family's needs," says Ibile Shabani, one of Shantale's trainees.

Many customers prefer going to her salon. "The commitment towards her customers and her level of professionalism makes me go to her services every time I want to be smart and neat," says Kabiona.

"Despite getting money to cater for my needs, I face some challenges as not all the tools I need are available. For instance, I only teach theory in manicure and pedicure because of the lack of required equipment for teaching," she explains. Shantale specializes in hair and skin care. Her talent and skills represent just a portion of people with great potential living in the camps.

"MY TRAINEES ATTEND THE TRAININGS IN SHIFTS, SOME COME IN MORNING SHIFTS WHILE SOME COME IN AFTERNOON SHIFTS"







# ONE ON ONE WITH MR. WORLD REFUGEE DAY

BY UKECH DANIEL

CHANGKUOTH BIEN WON THE MR. WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2015 COMPETITION. UKECH DANIEL SPENT A DAY WITH HIM AND HERE IS WHAT HE HAD TO SAY ABOUT HIS MODELING JOURNEY.

### *Tell us about yourself*

I am a South Sudanese refugee living in Kakuma. I am 20 years old. I like modeling but am not yet a professional. I model for fun with the hopes of becoming a highly paid model.

### *Why modeling and not sports?*

I started modeling when I was in the Child Right Club back in the year 2009. I modeled because everyone in my club was modeling. I then came to love it as it always made me busy during holidays and also gave me a chance to express myself.

### *Is modeling your dream career?*

We all do things out of interest and you cannot do something you do not want to be. I really want to be a model and I love it. All I want to do right now is to work hard to become a professional model like Ger Duany (a Hollywood actor and model from South Sudan) and also use my modeling to inspire more refugee youth to become future models or stylists.

### *How does modeling make you feel as a refugee?*

It makes me feel that despite being a refugee, I can do anything that other people can and also be anyone I want to be. However difficult life might be I have to



give it my all.

***Was the World Refugee Day your first time to compete in modeling?***

No. I have participated in many competitions both in the camp and outside the camp. I have competed in Youth and Culture festivals, World Refugee Day Competitions, and South Sudanese modeling competitions in Nairobi. The competitions have always been very competitive and you can never predict who will win.

***What would you say is your most memorable moment in modeling?***

A friend from Nairobi told me that he had heard about modeling in Kakuma and asked me to compete. I competed and I managed to get second place in the South Sudanese modeling competition in Nairobi. I became Mr. Youth and Culture Festival 2013 but my best achievement so far is the most recent where I became Mr. World Refugee Day.

***How do you deal with failure?***

Life is all about failure and success and

therefore we should embrace both. You will never succeed without failing, but if you fail you have to correct yourself. For me when I fail I make sure I add more effort to what I have been doing until I get the best results out of it. In short I just take failure as part of the things that motivate me the most. The secret is to never give up.

***What can you say is good about modeling?***

Modeling keeps me busy during my leisure. I have never been so confident in myself. Modeling built the confidence in me and also made me a better person. It has made me believe that I can be like any successful person and succeed in life.

***What are some of the drawbacks in modeling?***

In the camp very few people recognize modeling and the advantages that come with it and that what you are doing is right. As a result you feel discouraged. The most loved art in the camp is music. Most people usually ignore modeling as they think that it will not help them in any way. This discourages them from getting

involved in modeling even if it is what they wanted to do.

***What word of advice can you give to those who want to be models like you?***

Actually we have people who are talented in the camp but they do not know what to do about their talents. The thing is that in life you don't have to give up because you never know when an opportunity will present itself. You have to struggle and show your talent so that you are recognized because life is all about trying till you get what you worked for.

***Any last words to the people?***

Many people in Kakuma think that they are here to stay and do nothing. They are wrong though. You can become whoever you want to be in Kakuma as there are so many opportunities. The organizations in the camp should also continue appreciating what the refugees are doing so that they are motivated and work hard. If I succeed in life I will never forget what Kakuma has made me and also continue encouraging the guys in the camp and correct them where possible.





# 8 REASONS WHY YOUR KID COULD DROP OUT OF SCHOOL

BY UKECH DANIEL

It is every child's right to acquire education. This is a priority that must be fulfilled at any cost, but the question is, what if the child is not ready to be educated? Unlike before, children in the contemporary world are fond of making their own decisions. Though the cost of education is not a problem, students have been using many excuses to stop schooling. The dropout problem will not be solved in a month or a year and it has always been a problem. However, measures can be taken to prevent students from dropping out. Yes, the problem is persistent and deeply rooted, and it has caused issues for years, but that is no excuse for inaction. The drop out problem is not unfixable. There are solutions, and everybody is part of them. This has to be a collaborative effort. We should always present concrete practices and policies that will enable us to make a difference. Many of the same measures we have been advocating to close the achievement gaps also help solve the dropout problem.

## Student Preparedness

In schools most of the students are not academically prepared to handle most tasks. The majority of students in Kakuma Refugee Camp started their education late. This makes them slow learners and unable to cope with the pace of covering the syllabus. It takes patience and courage to convince the students and let them know what they need to know in order to prevent them from dropping out of school.

## Parenthood

Family obligations such as parenthood have been one of the main causes of school dropouts. Some of the students in school are either parents or guardians. With all this pressure on them as parents, they tend to put parenthood first. Unfortunately most of them are paralyzed by the size of the tasks. This results in stress,

which in turn forces them to leave school.

### Parental Guidance

Most of the youth and children living in the camp do not live with their parents and as a result, they have too much freedom and not enough guidance. They do not know the right path to follow and in many cases end up taking the wrong path influenced by their peers. They need attention from the teachers and guardians to guide and advise them as parents.

### Freedom

Having too much freedom can lead to choosing wrong friends who might lead them in to drugs and substance abuse hence forcing them to abandon education. We should all take part in ensuring that our friends and family do not involve themselves in drug abuse and keep them safe. Those already indulging in drugs and substance abuse should seek medical help and or rehabilitation.

### Learner's Interest

Parents of most dropouts are ignorant to the problem, not aware or are simply not interested in their children's performance in school. Such parents should change their attitude and take a keen interest. They need to start involving themselves in their children's educational environment. By doing so their children will be motivated enough to continue being in school.

### Quest for employment (Child Labour)

Some students get bored and decide to leave school and search for paid employment. As a result they always find themselves either employed with low incomes or unemployed. Most of them end up being poor and not able to support their families. All schools should be made more relevant and engaging by enhancing the connection between school and work. This will make school days more interactive and enjoyable, reducing boredom.

### Mentorship

This can be achieved by improving instructions and supporting struggling students and also by building an environment that fosters academics. Teachers should ensure that all the students have a strong relationship with at least one adult in the school and improve communication between parents and schools. Holding high expectations for all students and trying different approaches to motivate them to learn can also help in reducing the rate of school dropouts.

We must all strive to make schools more accessible to children, especially girls who do not usually have the same opportunities as boys. We must ensure equal opportunities for children irrespective of gender, economic situation or any other socio-cultural factors. It is always good to work to ensure that education remains a development priority and to support national policies that aim at providing access to school for all children in a safe gender sensitive environment. Let's all go to school and gain the knowledge that we thirst for so that in the future we will live happy and satisfying lives.



## Life As A Refugee

A poem by Bulcha Jacob Sero

Life as a refugee is miserable if underwent,  
Living in a house and dwelling in a tent,  
When strong wind comes, the tent away is sent,  
Leaving the owner without anything, both his and the  
ones he lent,  
Unlucky, there is no place to spend the night no  
house to rent,  
Truly life as a refugee is full of accidents.

Food received is little,  
Children have grown thin and their skin have turned  
white,  
If you look at them, you will realize that they are small,  
both in weight and in height,  
Am sure if a strong wind blew they will fly like kites,  
Unable to stand and fight,  
Against the wind's strong might,  
They clung to their mothers tight,  
Crying for food which is their right,  
They are hungry and moan and at night,  
Oh, what a pitiful sight.

Although being a refugee is an abrupt fate,  
Living an unexpected life you will hate,  
But living a different lifestyle is not late,  
In the coming years and date,  
There is high chances of living a good lifestyle I bet.

Becoming a refugee is so sudden,  
Many victims are even madden,  
While others are extremely saddened,  
By the thought that they are going to carry a refugee's  
burden,  
But I advise you, the best way is your determination  
to harden.





**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FilmAid's FTP & JOURNALISM TRAINING PROGRAMME GRADUANDS**

# DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE WITH THE WORLD?

HAVE YOUR ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN OUR NEXT PUBLICATION  
BY WRITING TO US THROUGH [therefugeekak@gmail.com](mailto:therefugeekak@gmail.com) OR DROP  
THEM IN OUR FilmAid's OFFICES



The views expressed in this publication do NOT represent that of UNHCR, PRM, FilmAid, or any other partner unless otherwise stated.