

THE Refugee

FEATURES + OPINION + HEALTH + EDUCATION + TALENT

Kakuma Edition
ISSUE # 3
NOT FOR SALE
DIGITAL EDITION



FILM FESTIVAL WINNERS

PLUS

THE THIN LINE BETWEEN CHILD RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITY

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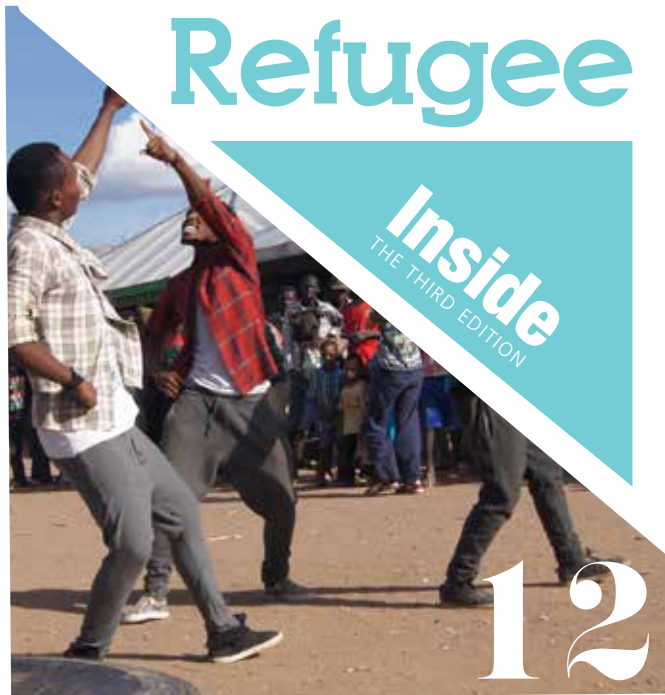
2



24

Refugee

Inside
THE THIRD EDITION



12

FEATURES

- 2. Pillars of tomorrow
- 4. Power switch in my hands
- 6. Thin line of understanding

EDUCATION

- 7. Give me a chance

MY OPINION

- 16. Peace Caravan, a good idea

TALENT

- 12. Black Snake Swagger
- 10. King Moses



3



APOLOGY

The Refugee editorial would like to apologize to our readers who may have been offended by a statement made in an article that was published on page 2 and 3 of our second edition. The article on 'Battling with Breast Cancer' pointed out that '...most African communities discriminate against people with terminal illnesses and the Tigrinya are no exception,' a statement that some of our readers found offensive. Our sincerest apologies. The article was written with good intentions.

Editor's Letter

I love colour and creativity. I remember in my young days I used to love making beads and every time I thought I had one done, I'd turn the works into something else. We all have a creative side and I believe there is no single being that was created without a talent. Although finding ones talent can be a task for many, some easily identify our talents and perfect them into a trade or even a career. The secret to having a fulfilling career is doing something that you like doing, your talent or hobby could be a key to choosing the right career path to take.

Often, if not all the time our parents and guardians may be against this especially those who still believe in white collar jobs. Take an example of a kid who has a talent in singing and tells the parents that he or she wants to be a rapper or an artiste. Most of the time, this may be unacceptable to many parents who want a bright future for their kids. However, they forget that there are a good number of musicians who make millions of shillings through sales of their music in a very short time and there are those who are having white collar jobs only to retire in poverty.

It is with this in mind that the refugee magazine, third edition has come up with stunning stories of refugees who are using their talents for a worthy course. We have featured a group of dancers with

whom their moves are leaving Kakuma residents mouth open in dismay, and whom the majority feel deserve the chance to go into national if not international competition. We have also featured the great King Moses whose songs are rocking the airwaves among other great musicians.

The 8th Annual FilmAid's Film Festival was held in early August. Although this year's event did not have so much pomp and colour as compared to the other years the turnout was great and this year's prizes for the winners were just wonderful, thanks to mobile telephone service provider- Safaricom. The winners also got a chance to be interviewed live on a number of national television stations and on radio stations. Join us in our next edition as we take the journey through the lives of these FilmAid trained Filmmakers to find out what it took to get them to where they are right now. To be the best in the Film Industry.

It is my hope that you will find this edition more informative and entertaining and that you will continue making our audience. As always, your comments, feedback, suggestions, and complaints are welcome and also feel free to interact with us through our social media handles.

Rukiya Salesa

Editor

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IN THE SHOES OF A REFUGEE WOMAN

Pillar of tomorrow

LIFE IS UNBEARABLE AND SHE PREFERENCES TO SOMETIMES SUFFER IN SILENCE

BY RUKIYA SALESA

Woman, part of God's most beautiful creation. With unique features that conquers the world, her heart, strength and selflessness always prevails all time all seasons. She keeps life flowing from generation to another creating a sense of belonging.

It's believed that in every war-torn country, women and children are the most affected. They sustain permanent injuries both emotionally and physically, and are victims of abuse all in the name of them protecting their families.

For a refugee woman the pain and fight is

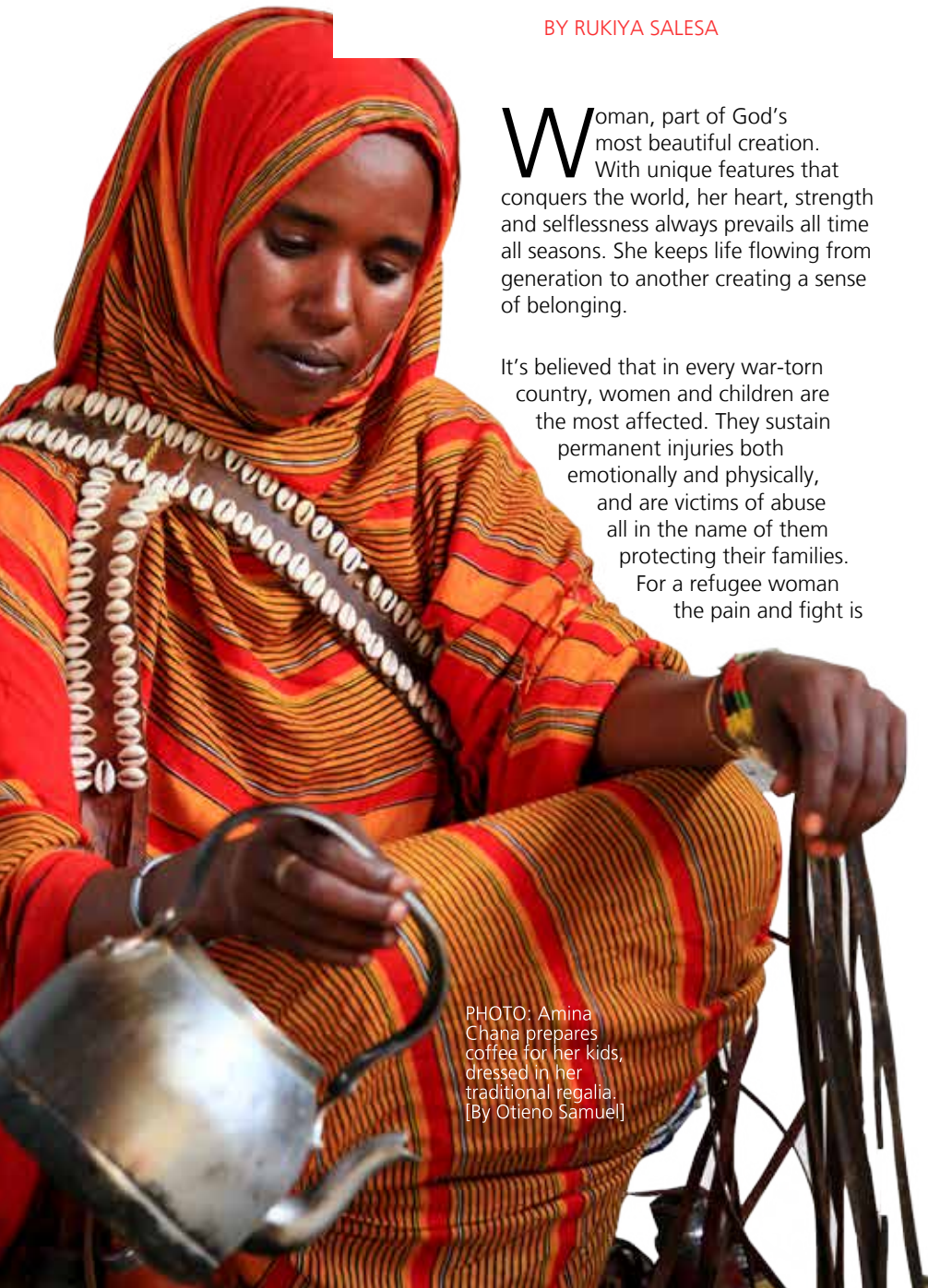
much more. The struggle to secure the lives of her loved ones is quite difficult to get away with. Most take along children and any other family member through the unsafe roads and bushes in search of greener pasture, a safe home, a safe heaven, a refugee status. It is not only in war that women rights are violated, but almost everywhere across the planet the atrocities committed against women and young girls are unimaginable. In Africa, the most common violation against women are FGM, physical abuse, sexual abuse, gender inequality among others. However, notable improvement is being recorded worldwide on the place of women in the society as more women are getting educated and taking leadership positions as a result.

The scene changes in war situations as women tend to suffer the most casualties. In Kakuma refugee camp, the number of women is less than that of the number of men while the number of women and men combined is less than the number of children yet the burden of taking care of these young lot mostly lies on the shoulder of women. There are 97603 children, 90,299 male, 79,444 women, 169,743 total population, women over 18 35,243, men over 18, 36,896. (Figures are according to UNHCR data as at July 2014)

Amina Chana, a single mother of four could not hold back her tears as she talked of the heart throbbing journey of leaving her home, her place of birth. It all started when she lost her husband and her family no longer felt secured as a result. As a mother and the only person her children looks up to she could not lay back and wait for more torture. Her long search for peace and security brought her all the way to Kakuma, a semi-arid area with snakes and scorpions but safe enough to call home, a single semi-permanent room with one of its walls destroyed by rain. To her it's a safe harbor one that protects her family from the scorching sun and many evils that lie waiting in the dark.

PHOTO: Amina Chana prepares coffee for her kids, dressed in her traditional regalla. [By Otieno Samuel]

FEATURES



Her struggle to put food on the table began the very first day she stepped into Kakuma Refugee Camp. With the uncountable ups and downs she landed on a security job at Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Safe Haven in Kakuma one. She works two weeks of night shift and another two of day shift in a month, all with her children in mind.

She may never replace her husband's place in the family, and with this the uncountable questions from her children continue to add to her problems. She burns out the emotional moments that pins her down and leaves her with headache for days. At times her children get to demand for more than she can offer and she has learnt to carefully keep their hope with promises some of which she cannot fulfill. She receives no support from family or friends. Amina has managed to stand up for her family and at least try to bring them to same level with their friends and age mates. She strives beyond her capability leaving her in the state of being fatigued.

Her story has can be echoed by many across the camp and across the globe. Thousands of women are left to fend for their families and take up the roles of their husbands or men as the head of their families or as the sole breadwinners. These changes in the society may be attributed to many things or vices but in Kakuma scenario, the story is that of separation. At the time of war, families may be separated and in some cases reunions are never achieved. This leaves the already vulnerable women between a rock and a hard place.

On our entrance to Marina Namulundaes we encounter her sad face seemingly in deep thoughts. She is a single parent and a mother of 9 children. She left her home country after the death of her husband that was as a result of increased insecurity. She and her family were no longer safe and she decided to start the grueling journey in search of refuge in the year 2010. She arrived in Kakuma and was



PHOTO: Marina Namulundaes outside her house in Kakuma 1 [By Otieno Samuel]

Her struggle to put food on the table began the very first day she stepped into Kakuma Refugee Camp

received and registered as a refugee by the DRA and the UNHCR.

All her children attend to school except her young boy who is still under age. Marina is the head of her family of 5 boys and 4 girls. For visitors and people who are not so close to her it will be difficult to differentiate the fostered kids from her kids by birth. She is fostering two children whom she took in after their parents passed away back when they were still living in the DRC. With no support from family or friends Marina must strive to keep her life and

that of her kids rolling living each day as it comes. To support herself and her 9 children, she is selling mandazi in her block just to get a few coins to help fill in the gaps that otherwise would make life unbearable.

Life is unbearable and she prefers to sometimes suffer in silence. She complains of her worn-out roof that may provide shade over the scorching sun but may not be of much help during the rainy season. Just like any others strong single mother she hides the pain of her husband's loss, sometimes too afraid to show that to her children.

In the shoe of a refugee woman, nothing is what it seems like. The question is, is the world really fair to women? In our next edition we will take a look at more inspirational stories of women who go the extra mile to make someone else's life better.



ENERGIZING KAKUMA

PHOTO: Aerial view of Kakuma 4, New Arrival area [BY OTIENO SAMUEL]

POWER SWITCH IN MY HANDS

“PEOPLE IN KAKUMA COMPLAIN ABOUT THE SUN AND CLIMATIC CONDITION OF KAKUMA; BUT THEY DID NEVER THINK ABOUT HOW TO USE THIS CONDITION FOR SOMETHING GOOD.”

Since 1992, refugees and asylum seekers have been trickling into Kakuma Refugee Camp with the numbers of new arrivals doubling in December 2013 after civil war broke out in Africa’s newest state, the Republic of South Sudan. This camp has been serving the poor and the oppressed for the past twenty years. Today the camp has changed a lot in different ways. Small businesses are booming; especially service sectors like hotels and different consumer selling shops are experiencing dramatic growth at a pace never thought of before. The boom in trade and a somewhat stable life refugees has led to the emergence of the need for a reliable yet affordable source of energy.

To respond to this, the refugees were only left with one option, fuel run generators became their businesses and home power plants. In addition,

under their Income Generating Activity (IGA) program, the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) is assisting low income individuals to get power at a very low price. In this program NCCK has planted five power generators in Kakuma I, Hong Kong, Kakuma II and Kakuma III according to James Elele; Assistant Officer of IGA – NCCK, Kakuma.

According to Mr. Elele those power generators were planted to capacitate different vulnerable and low income refugees to make them self-reliant. “Under Lighting Project we delivered 5 power generators to different block residents at the beginning of the year 2010. But now none of them are operating because of the mistrust among beneficiaries (the people who were given generator by NCCK to give electric power services to the residents). By this they were getting income through supplying power to

those who needed it at very low prices. At this time they were playing two crucial roles; first they were generating income for their own, second they were stabilizing the power market which was so expensive and out of reach for many. Though the lighting project has faded out, it has assisted so many beneficial to be self-reliant,” says Mr. Elele.

The lighting project has now been faded out. It however opened up avenues and business ideas for many as private individuals are now making a living through supplying electricity to their communities using their own generators with Kakuma I, Block 9, and 10 residents having more than 3 working generators.

Abdi Hussein is one of the ‘Lighting Project’ beneficiaries; he came to Kakuma in the year 2012 and began to benefit from ‘Lighting Project’ in 2013; a year after his arrival. As

Hussein told The Refugee Magazine that the generator given to them by NCCCK broke down from long service. Currently he has rented power generator with 4000 HP (Horse Power) to supply electricity to residents of Kakuma I block 9 and 10. "We deliver electricity to 160 customers across block 9 and 10. In addition we also give Satellite Dish services to our customers for a fee of KSH 1,500 per month. Since there is so much competition in this sector the income we get is not much; but thank God it is supporting our lives," says Hussein.

Ephraim Kebede is an Ethiopian national living in Kakuma Refugee Camp since 2008. From the time he arrived in Kakuma he has been using generator sourced electricity. "When I came to Kakuma, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church was supplying power to our block, later when the generator belonging to the church got a mechanical problem, a Somali business man came and continued offering the service but only for a short period of time," says Kebede.

As The Refugee Magazine found out from the users, the service is only available for 7 hours a day and most of the residents are not comfortable with this rationing. "There is a time when we disconnected power from most of our customers because of lack of money to buy fuel. As I told you our generator generates 4000HP and it uses too much fuel. We can only give 7 hours of service per day which translates to between 10 and 12 litres of fuel per day." Says Hussein,

The problem of frequent power cuts, short time service, monthly payment, together with other sophisticated problems is forcing the business community and residents to search for alternative sources of energy. Eyob Gero works as a barber in Kakuma I in Somali market. To sufficiently run his small sized business he would pay KSH 3,000 per month to get power from private electricity suppliers. 'People in Kakuma complain about the sun and climatic condition of Kakuma; but they

never think about how to use this condition for something good,' says Gero. After gradually saving from his business earnings, Gero bought his own power source in 2010 and now he is working independently in terms of energy. "I bought this solar panel with its battery four years ago; and it cost me slightly more than KSH 15,000 at the time,' says Gero. Solar energy is free and very friendly in terms of use. 'My income has significantly increased with the KSH 3000 monthly payment that am now saving." Gero reveals.

Though it is at its infancy in Kakuma, solar energy is becoming a familiar more preferred source of energy for much of the camp residents and the world over. Few of Humanitarian NGOs operating in the camp also use this free energy for different purposes. For instance, Don Bosco Vocational Training Institute, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) (in schools and reception center) are the most familiar ones.

To promote solar energy usage in the camp NCCCK has been running 'the solar project' from the year 2010. The project came through UNHCR with the support from Energias de Portugal (EDP); a Portuguese based Green Energy Company operating mostly in Europe and South America. The program was scheduled by the company as 'Pilot Project' and 42 households in Kakuma became beneficiaries as NCCCK reports. In addition to this, to improve livelihood

There is a time when we disconnected power to most of our customers because of lack of money to buy fuel

and security across the camp, 21 lighting poles have been planted to serve as street lights for local residents. However, for this project to come back on track, NCCCK needs funding for it.

To attract donors NCCCK sent out a full survey report on solar energy abundance in Kakuma Refugee Camp as Raphael Nyabala Camp Coordinator NCCCK/ RSP told the Refugee in an interview. "We have done a full survey and report and sent it to EDP and other green energy suppliers. From the past project the street lights we had planted have been of great help in terms of security especially for women and children. But when you compare the population of the camp and the street light we planted, it is very small. So in our survey report we have included all this and in the future we want to improve energy supply in schools of Kakuma and other refugee serving institutions. I hope that the full detail and feedback we gave to EDP and other green energy suppliers will grant us other opportunities," says Mr. Nyabala.

According to the NCCCK, numerous trainings and awareness on solar usage has been rolled out to different block residents of Kakuma Refugee Camp and this had led masses to have their own solar panels and are now power at a very cheap rate compared to using diesel fueled generators.

FACT BOX

21

The number of solar street lights installed by NCCCK that currently serving more than 150,000 people.



THE THIN LINE OF UNDERSTANDING

BY RUKIYA SALESA



PHOTO: Children stare at a humanitarian van in Kakuma 4 [By Otieno Samuel]

WHERE WAS CHILD RIGHTS DURING OUR DAYS? WE HELPED OUR PARENTS TIRELESSLY, WHY IS IT DIFFICULT TODAY?

As days pass by in Kakuma and many parts of the world, many parents/ guardians, or caretakers experience the growing gap between them and their children. Many more have found themselves on the wrong side of the law either charged with child labour, and, or child abuse.

I met a couple of women living in my block at a water point discussing the roles their children should play towards them. My guess was one of them might have crossed the thin line that aims to protect both the parents and their children sparking a list of questions in my mind. "Where was child right during our days? We helped our parents tirelessly now why is it difficult today?" Asks Mary Nyakong a mother of four.

Safia Hamma is among the many parents in the world who believe children should also play their

part in the society. In olden days children were taught house chores and other responsibilities, different from now that children do not have time to learn. They have right to play but is it really regarded as child abuse to do house work i.e. washing, cooking?

'Fostered children would need more attention, but could this be a chance to act irresponsible?' A rhetorical question ringing on a foster parent's mind who chooses to remain anonymous.

The society is the pillar of our own existence and it is built on the strength of and bonds that we foster within our own families. This starts with the bond that we have with our children from the time they come into this world. This relationships and bond are however determined by the understanding between us which may only be achieved if we both play our roles as parents and as children.

THE CHILDREN'S ACT

BY DINAH MAKAMBI (RCK)

The Children Act was enacted in 2001 to protect not only the rights of the children but also to highlight the duties and responsibilities of children within the home and the society.

According to the Children Act, the duties and responsibilities of a child are as follows:

Duty to work for the cohesion of the family.

Duty and the responsibility to respect parents, family, superiors and elders at all times and assist them in case of need.

The responsibility to serve the community the best way they can by placing their physical and intellectual abilities at the service of the community.

Children have the responsibility to preserve and strengthen the positive cultural values of my community in my relations with other members of the community.

While these responsibilities are expected of children, emphasis is laid on ensuring that the age and ability of such child is considered, and children are not subjected to hazardous work. Any form of Labor that risks the physical, mental or moral well-being of a child, either because of its nature or because of the conditions in which it is carried out, is known as hazardous work.

In addition, as much as children have the responsibility to support their families and societies, this support should not be confused with child labor. Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as being something positive and is encouraged. This includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays. These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and to the welfare of their families; they provide

them with skills and experience, and help to prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

CHILD LABOUR

The term 'child labor' is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.

The Children Act defines child labor as any situation where a child provides labour in exchange for payment and includes:

Any situation where a child provides labor as an assistant to another person and his labor is deemed to be the labor of that other person for the purposes of payment;

Any situation where a child's labor is used for gain by any individual or institution whether or not the child benefits directly or indirectly; and

Any situation where there is in existence a contract for services where the party providing the services is a child whether the person using the services does so directly or by agent.

According to the International Labor Organization Child labor refers to work that:

Is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and

Interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

Whether or not particular forms of work can be called child labor depends on the child's age, the type and hours of work performed the conditions under which work is performed among other things, in addition to the conditions highlighted above.

Parents also have the responsibility to guide their children and also to protect children from hazardous work. The Children Act states that every child should be protected from economic exploitation and any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION

GIVE ME A CHANCE

BY CHELIA ROSE

Gabriel Ken arrived in Kakuma refugee camp in 1993 with his relatives during the 1992 civil war in Sudan. He later joined Fashoda School, one of the schools for pupils with special needs. He is deaf. It is at this point that he met his friend Isaiah from the host Turkana community. Isaiah was studying in the neighboring Raja Primary School but in the same grade as Gabriel.

Despite the numerous challenges in the refugee camp, not to mention him being deaf, Gabriel like most of his

physically challenged friends in school was determined to excel in one of the toughest environments in the world. In 2006, Gabriel and Isaiah sat for their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and passed with good grades hoping to join high school the following year. Unfortunately for him, this was the last time he would sit in classroom chasing his dreams of becoming a doctor.

There isn't a single post-primary school for special needs students in Kakuma making it almost difficult for such

students to continue pursuing their educational dreams.

Isaiah, despite coming from a poor background, was fortunate enough to secure a full scholarship from Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) to continue with his education in a provincial school in Nyeri County.

In the meantime, Gabriel continued with the hustles and tussles of life in the camp, not knowing what to do next. This is the plight of hundreds of refugees who

Continues on page 9...

PHOTO:
MUSAFIRI
GERMAIN
[By
Josephat
Ekiru]



MUSIC & TALENT

Jungle talents

BY BERNADETTE OTIENO

The Kakuma Refugee Camp is almost synonymous with heartbreaking stories of people forced to flee from war torn countries, languishing in the arid area with nothing more to do than hope for quick resettlement. However, what you might not hear about is the scores

of young people living at the refugee camp who have taken up music as a source of release and means of expression.

Kakuma Refugee Camp boasts of a number of talented artists including dance groups, theatre groups and a group of fast rising popular musicians. Salumu Djabir Ramadhan, Diddyston Bashimbe, Bororeraho Rajabu Amissi, Musafiri Germain Balabala, Bol Biel Bop, Lissa Gabrielle Grace and Christian Nyarugeta are some of the talented youths who are traversing the impossible by pursuing their passion for music at the refugee camp.

SALUMU DJABIR

The crowd goes silent and follows onto every word Salumu Djabir Ramadhan croons, as he performs one of his many songs about the tragedies of his personal life or chanting out words of hope for a better future. Smart is a filmmaking student under FilmAid's Filmmaker Training Program. Hailing from the Democratic Republic of Congo, he is one of the most recognized musicians at the camp with his singles receiving massive airplay at the local radio station, Atanayeche, and a few regional radio stations as well. His music is a blend of genres, particularly Hip-hop music.

DIDDYSTON BASHIMBE

Laughter reigns through the crowd as Diddyston Bashimbe jiggles around to a song thundering from the huge speakers at a FilmAid outreach event. He cracks a joke or two sending more laughter through the huge crowds of people gathered for the event. Diddyston works for FilmAid as an outreach facilitator. Hailing from DRC, his stage name is Diddyston Baibe and he is a singer/songwriter. He has similarly performed at a number of events hosted by FilmAid and been an MC to most of these events as well. He has worked on a number of collaboration with internationally recognized artists, the first biggest collaboration he did being a song with Eassy Brown that has received a good number of views on Youtube.

MUSAFIRI GERMAIN

At a glance he appears just like any other shy teenager, keen on following the latest trends, here at the camp. However, once he takes to the mike the crowd breaks out cheering as he effortlessly drops rhyme after rhyme. Musafiri Germain Balabala goes by the stage name King Moses, a talented rapper originally from DRC. He is equally well known in the camp and as far as Lodwar for his enchanting rhyming skills. His songs also enjoy airplay on Atanayeche and other regional radio stations.

AFISA RAJ B

Taller than most Burundian teens around here, always spotting tinted spectacles that giving him a perpetually focused look; Afisa Raj B is the stage name Bororeraho Rajabu Amissi goes by. Originally from Bunjubura, Burundi, Afisa is another acclaimed musician and songwriter in Kakuma. He has graced the stage to perform at a number of events here in Kakuma, winning over an ever growing fan-base owing to his musical prowess.



CHRISTIAN NYARUGETA

Christian Nyarugeta has an easy, laid-back nature and always exudes swag. The Congolese singer has a similar sound to the best of Bongo artists and you would be forgiven for mistaking him for one. He is also a vastly skilled rhyme master and skilled dancer.

You can't miss to spot out Bol from any crowd; he is conspicuously tall and always dons selections of bling accompanied by trendy wears. Originally from South Sudan, Bol works as an outreach facilitator for FilmAid. He goes by the stage name Bolingo and is well known for his skillful rapping in Nuer.

QUEEN LISSA

Lissa Gabrielle Grace, better known as Queen Lissa, is the only recognized female rapper here at the Kakuma Refugee Camp. Hailing from Bunjumbura, Burundi, she came into the limelight following a rap piece she recorded as part of a collabo with various local artists and Octopizzo last year. Her choice of lyrics could be considered risqué, but she gets the message across and has been lauded for it.

They all regularly perform at FilmAid's outreach events, which are conducted as platforms to highlight different social issues taking place within the camp. The artists have also had the opportunity to record songs with internationally acclaimed artists including Emmanuel Jal and Octopizzo. They have also appeared on the 'We Want Peace' music video, a collabo between Emmanuel Jal and Eric Wainaina, which was recently shot at the camp.

Each of them is unique in their own way, but they all share one common aspect; they use music as a means of expressing themselves. Music to them is a form of release from their current situation and they use it to channel what they feel as well as share messages of hope and peace. The sky is the limit for these stars and we can only hope to hear their music receive airplay in both national and international platforms.

Continued from page 7

are living with physical challenges in the camp.

As time passed by, Gabriel decided to start the frantic search for a job, but this was not easy at all. Wherever he went looking for a job, they insisted that he produced his secondary school certificate which unfortunately he did not have.

This did not kill his morale of finding something better for himself. After a long struggle looking for employment, he finally landed himself a clerical job with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

A quick spot check in the camp showed that there are only three schools for special need pupils. These schools are managed by Lutheran World Foundation (LWF) and cater for the deaf, blind, mentally handicapped among other physical challenges.

Nasbunda pre-school runs programs on mental and deaf cases. Here the children are taught basic life skills such as- brushing teeth, putting on clothes, bathing and using the toilet, and general hygiene. To move to next stage, the teachers evaluate the pupils on what they have been taught.

"Most of the children here were born impaired and have lived with their conditions for a long time, therefore it becomes difficult for us to treat their conditions. We are only able to monitor their progress in and out of class room and ensure that they are coping well," said Shaban, a teacher in the school.

Other than their physical conditions, the children have to put up with limited resources such as hand washing soap, books, towels to help clean saliva; lack of

enough trained special needs teachers.

The deaf unit started in 2008 and currently it has classes one up to class five. According to Kate Jerome, a teacher at Nasbunda pre-school points out that lack of a clear curriculum is a big challenge for them. The school has been using the American Sign Language curriculum and now they have to change to the Kenyan one, sentiments that are shared by his colleague, Joseph Longok, a teacher from the neighboring Fashoda primary school. "In 2009-2010, the curriculum changed from the American to Kiswahili sign Language which confuses our learners a great deal" he added.

Safred Tsalwa, Special Needs Field Supervisor, says that children are normally classified into three groups, that is; class 1A- with very low understanding; class 1B- those with moderate understanding levels and class 1C- those with very good understanding ability. Those in class 1C, are taught how to use sewing machines, making tables clothes, read and write and after a short while they are integrated into various primary schools. While those in classes' 1B and 1C, are taught basic life skills –such as combing their hair, putting on clothes, brushing their teeth, bathing and general cleanliness, and maintaining a good hygiene. The deaf are also classified depending on their level of hearing, this include; partially deaf, moderately deaf and profoundly deaf.

It is the hope of Gabriel and many of his kind that the government and agencies promoting education in the camp will take note of their plight and construct well-furnished and equipped secondary schools for students with special needs to enable them to compete equally with other students.



PHOTO: Special needs students at Nasbunda pre-school during the August holidays [By Otieno Samuel]



THE GREAT KING MOSES

BY OMARI MOHAMUD

I WOULD FIND MYSELF SINGING,
SOMETIMES WHEN I AM SLEEPING I
DREAM THAT I AM SINGING A NEW
SONG AND WHEN I WAKE UP, I CAN STILL
REMEMBER THE LYRICS IN MY HEAD...

Early in the morning and I tune my radio to perhaps the only station in Kakuma, as it is becoming my routine and 'We na Mimi' song by talented Kakuma refugees is electrifying the airwaves. Then, the sudden change within the song to rap capture my curiosity and I decide to track this talent in the dessert. Musa Balabala known as King Moses is a 20 year old refugee living in Kakuma refugee camp with his name slowly becoming iconic whenever someone talks of hip hop or talent in the camp. He was only 15 years old when he developed his love for music. "I would find myself singing, sometimes when I am sleeping I dream that I am singing a new song and when I wake up, I can still remember the lyrics in my head" he says with a surprised look.

"By 17 he started playing hip hop music in bars and private gathering for

entertainment without payment" adds Musa's father. Popular belief to African parents is that music is never a good way to earn a living. Most believe that all their children should get employment in a more formal set up with a monthly income and sometimes it does not matter how much they earn in employment so long as it has a more steady flow. For Moses' parents, they did not disapprove of his involvement in the music industry even though he hardly made any money. Unlike many upcoming musicians in most urban setup, King Moses had to memorize all his music as he had no electronic devices to record his music and rehearse with it.

King arrived in Kakuma in the year 2010 after his family was forced to flee their home land due to rising insecurity. Here, he not only found a home but also a platform where youths like him got an

opportunity to grow their talents. To start him off, Moses asked his father for a radio which his father pleasantly gave him. With the radio, he listened to music and imitated some rappers while trying to write his own music therefore boosting his confidence and moral.

"As a refugee I play music not only to entertain but also tell the world what happens to refugees and how it hurts to be a refugee, in another side I am not different from a teacher or lawyer," he says.

King found different bands in Kakuma such as the king of dance, beach boys, black snake and "Gobole". Not long after he arrived he was invited to a youth center for a concert by the king of dance crew, every band was required to sing songs on HIV prevention by Lutheran World Federation (LWF). "It's here that I released my first HIV song and was well received by the audiences and organization." He has written over 60 songs but has only recorded six for the short period of time he has been in the camp, with the latest being 'refugee life,' 'mkali,' 'night club,' 'najua kesho tawika,' 'Mfalme,' and 'nauliza' that he recorded with Kenyan Hip hop star Octopizzo.

'King has inspiration, he takes time to compose and goes deep in his music, he is a story teller and can be one of the big artiste stars in the world if he gets opportunity' says Smart, an upcoming artiste in the camp.

King Moses is an independent musician and does not get any funding from any organization in the camp. None of his songs has been played on national broadcaster yet due to lack of funding and support but he remains hopeful that someday his songs will rock the airwaves. "I get nothing from music for the time being and I just don't hope and dream but I also work hard, that's why I call Kakuma a field for practices," he said.

Having listened to his song and watch some of his live performances alongside many other refugee artistes, I am confident that these groups of young talented artistes have a bright future ahead. Above all, they need financial support for their dreams to come true. Who will save them?



BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

PHOTO: HandicapInternational.US

New hope for people living with disabilities

Too often invisible, too often forgotten and too often overlooked, refugees with disabilities are among the most isolated, socially excluded and marginalized of all displaced populations,” goes a statement by Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In Kakuma Refugee Camp, persons with disabilities (PwDs) have had their needs put in the backburner as emerging priorities continue to sprout. For years, there have been sporadic arrivals of refugees fleeing the escalating conflict and drought in neighboring countries. This put a strain on the camp’s capacity and humanitarian assistance.

In the second half of December 2013, the conflict in South Sudan worsened which precipitated the influx of refugees, almost doubling its initial capacity of 90,000. UNHCR estimates that around 10% of the new arrivals have some form of disability or impairment. Apart from the new arrivals, more than a thousand refugees with disabilities have been registered in Kakuma camp, but the number may even be higher.

Persons with disabilities, like any other refugee, have to compete for scarce resources in the camp. However, limited mobility, poor physical accessibility of service points, stigma and discrimination present bigger challenges for them. In addition, only a handful of humanitarian agencies in Kakuma provide assistance to this vulnerable group.

Among the few, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has been implementing a community-based rehabilitation (CBR) project to meet the overwhelming needs of refugees with disabilities. In May 2014, the IRC forged a synergistic partnership with Handicap International to strengthen response to the rehabilitation needs of PwDs in Kakuma through provision of center- and community-based functional rehabilitation, issuance of assistive devices and mobility aids, referral of clients for prosthesis/orthosis fitting and orthopedic surgery, and strengthening inter-agency response towards PwDs through disability mainstreaming.

Since 1982, Handicap International has been working to improve the living conditions of people living in disabling situations in over 300 projects in over 60 post-conflict and low-income countries. HI has implemented repatriation and refugee assistance programs in partnership with UNHCR in several countries, providing a multi-disciplinary humanitarian response to refugees and offered specialized support to victims with trauma and people with disabilities. In particular, for several years HI has been implementing actions within refugee camps in Kenya (Dadaab), Thailand, Bangladesh and Ethiopia with financial support from United States Government through BPRM.

New Read Courtesy of the French Embassy

BY RUKIYA SALESA



PHOTO: The French Amb.. Mr. Rémi Maréchaux addresses journalists [Photo: Otieno Samuel]

The French Ambassador, Mr. Rémi Maréchaux was on the 11th August 2014 in Kakuma Refugee camp to officially inaugurate a community library that has been put up by the UNHCR and Windle Trust through funding from the French government. The project, which was signed off in April last year aims to enhance a reading culture among refugees in the camp; particularly Francophone refugees. The French Embassy also donated 5 desktop computers for e-learning. The event which was well attended by agency representatives and French speaking communities marked the official opening of the modern library with the ambassador cutting the red ribbon.

Journalists and members of the community were then allowed into the library. The library received positive response from the communities living around Kakuma 4 with speakers calling for the construction of such facilities and book donations. The facility is going to be a place where different people from different communities meet to learn and share ideas. It is aimed at creating an open space for both French and non-French speakers, targeting both the refugee and the host community. The library is supported by Book Aid and the Kenya National Library Services.

The Ambassador expressed both his personal and his government’s intention to continue supporting such initiatives in the camp in the future.



PHOTO
Black Snake dancers perform during the shoot of the World Refugee Day music video by FilmAid

BLACK SNAKE SWAGGERS

REMEMBER THE AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARY KAKUMA CAN DANCE? WELL IT IS TRUE THAT KAKUMA CAN DANCE. GUYO GALMA HAD A ONE ON ONE INTERVIEW WITH THE GROUP AND THIS IS WHAT HE FOUND OUT.

Tell us about your group

Black snake swaggers are a group of youth dancers consisting of seven boys and was started in the year 2010 in Kakuma. The team was initially known as 'buju' boys a short form of Bujumbura the capital city of Rwanda.

Why the name black snake?

We needed an attractive and fierce name for the group, different from other groups. The name came about when we were practicing under a tree in the community, in the middle of the process a black snake passed by, that caught our attention hence and the name.

How did it all begin ?

We were all dancers back at our home country but didn't know each other

then. Kakuma brought together and having a common interest we started a dance crew.

How often do you meet for practice?

We used to meet three times a week but now it's once a week since most of us are studying and others are working.

What are the sources of your music and dancing style?

We update ourselves with the latest styles and music from the internet. At times each member comes up with a new style which we modify and practice it. *Poreotic* and *Iamme* dance crews in USA are the teams with we look up to.

What is your objective as a team?

We aim to reduce or stop drug and substance abuse among the youth through dance which breaks boredom and idleness. Most of the people who come to watch our performance get entertained hence reducing stress.

Being a group from Kakuma 1, do people from other parts of the camp and the Turkana

county recognise you?

Yes. Kakuma gets to see our performances severally, in big events and in many other activities held in the community. Oftenly youths from different areas come to learn new styles and get latest tracks from us during our practice days. We have been to Lodwar and lokichogio and we have moved crowds of people with our magical moves.

How does it feel to perform at big events?

It is an incredible feeling, for a performer the stage is like a shrine. We always give our best and to the best that we can. Such event gives us exposure where we make new friends, meet other dancing crews and above all create a market for our group.

Which was your best performance as a crew?

Our best performance and great moment on stage was in Lodwar during Turkana county dancing competition. We were well organized and moved from one step to another systematically, everyone attending was up on their feet

shouting and members from other dancing teams joined in unison. We emerged the winner and we were awarded trophy among other gifts.

Do you have any embarrassing moments on stage?

Embracing moments, mistakes on stage and failure of systems are always there and to us they are like stepping stone to success. One time we were using methylated spirit fire in our dance and unfortunately the fire caught one of our member's clothes and took time to go off. We had to be creative and improvise "operation fire off" style. One or two members went on with free style moves while the rest put out the fire. Most of the audience thought it was all part of the dance but only a few could read the fear on our faces.

Do you see 'Gobole' shakers as a threat to your tittle?

Yes .They have held the second position several times and there are chances of them moving a step higher someday as most of our members are engaged in different activities which distracts us from practicing as a team. Though they are energetic and very determined they cannot stand up to our game.

What is the biggest challenge you are facing as a dance crew?

We lack funds; it's the only thing that would have filled the uncountable potholes on our road to success.

Tell us some of your achievements so far

Being known and appreciated by our people is a priceless attainment. We have had numerous chances to reach, touch, and change behaviors and mind-set of many youths. We have also trained young boys (real simple swaggers) it's worthy to give back to community.

What would you like to tell upcoming dancers and aspiring ones?

Believe in yourselves and work hard towards making those little dreams come true. Dance does not work with age it works with talent. Remain focused and join us in the journey to self-realization.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Lolibo & Heritier Make Headlines as FilmAid Film Festival is Marked



PHOTO: Asmani Ndungutse receives an award for the best documentary film from FilmAid's outreach officer Andrew Otemba. [PHOTO by Otieno Samuel]

Where would the world be without film? Would we have stories to tell? What would your story be? The 8th Annual FilmAid Film Festival was marked in Kakuma, Dadaab and Nairobi between the 4th -12th day of August 2014, with Kakuma's closing gala being held on the 8th August



PHOTO: FilmAid's country director Stella Suge hands over an award to Heritier at Nairobi's FilmAid Film Festival closing gala, courtesy of Safaricom



PHOTOS FROM LEFT: Lolibo, a filmmaker from the host community during Nairobi's closing gala, Lowot from the host community receives a Lenovo tablet during Kakuma's closing gala, Eddy gives a copy of The Refugee Magazine to Nairobians attending the closing gala, FilmAid's staff with FTP facilitators, The 8th Annual Film Festival winners and humanitarian staff pose for a photo during Kakuma's closing gala.

2014 at Clinic 4 grounds. This year's event, themed what's your story? Was marked with prompt and colours as FTP and other internationally submitted films were screened to refugees living in Kakuma and Dadaab Refugee Camps.

The FilmAid's Filmmaker Training Programme, commonly known as FTP, is a two year training course offered free of charge to refugees who have shown interest in Filmmaking. The programme which is funded by the BPRM, involves vigorous training in cinematography, script writing, pre and post production techniques and skills, is a competitive programme where youths are selected on merit and proven talent. This year's graduates were a lucky lot as they received certificates from JFTA (Jamuhuri Film Training Academy)

after FilmAid and the later got into a partnership. The Jamuhuri Film Training Academy is an internationally renowned institution that has trained a good number of the best film producers in the country and across the borders.

Speaking during the event, the FilmAid Field Manager, Anthony Muteru stressed on the importance of gaining theoretical knowledge from class and that it was now up to the graduates to ensure that what they had learnt did not go to waste. He also congratulated the graduates for their efforts and hard work in his short speech.

The FilmAid Film Festival is an annual event with the first ever held in the year 2006. It is a one week

event where films made by the graduating students are screened in the respective camps and the winning films also getting a chance to be screened in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. International and local submitted films are also screened. This year's event was not as rampant as the previous years with the screenings and closing gala receiving slightly less audiences as compared to last year. However, the winners in this year's annual film festival received prizes worth thousands of shillings courtesy of Safaricom. The first price winner received a Huawei P6 phone worth KSH 42,000 with the first runners up receiving a Lenovo tablet worth KSH 36,000 in the different categories both in Kakuma and Dadaab Refugee camps. Other great prizes included thousands of shillings worth of airtime which were awarded to the best actors in the various film categories and FTP facilitators.

'Your certificate today may get you to the door but do not think that it will get you to the top of your career ladder,' Anthony Muteru, FilmAid Field Manager-Kakuma field program.

Nairobi

Nairobi saw the 8th Annual film festival culminate into an evening described by many as 'awesome' through the social media. The August 12th event was held at Wangari Mathae screening hall at Alliance Francisé. The event which was well attended by the public and FilmAid staff brought together Directors, Actors, among other film producers from Kakuma, Dadaab, Nairobi and across the world, marked the end of the 8th Annual Film Festival. This year's festival had lots of surprises for the winners as Safaricom sponsored the expensive awards and the Best Director and Best Film Award winners receiving national media coverage with media houses like KBC(Kenya Broadcasting Corporation), NTV, HOT 96 radio and Citizen television holding live interviews with the winners and FilmAid's Country Director Stella Suge.

Intakes for next year's FilmAid's Filmmaker Training Programme (FTP) will soon be announced and all aspiring filmmakers from Dadaab and Kakuma Refugee Camps will be invited to apply for the highly competitive chances.

WHEN IT RAINS

BLESSINGS AND CURSES



PHOTO: The seasonal car wash near Somali Admin
[By Otieno Samuel]

It is the rainy seasons again in Kakuma, Turkana County and unlike the previous seasons, this one is leaving a long trail of destruction, with refugees and the host community being the most affected lot.

Many refugees have lost their homes to the rains, some reporting to have lost all their properties as the seasonal rivers commonly known as 'lagas' burst their banks. The United Nations Commissioner for Refugees compound was also not left behind as the dykes built around their offices were overwhelmed letting water run into their compound leaving their offices and residential areas flooded.

However, the rain that poses a challenge to many is a blessing to a few as the famous Kakuma 1 car wash comes to life once again. The youth are earning a living from the stagnant waters near the Somali administration block through washing vehicles and motorbikes at a fee. Kakuma is located in a semi arid area where water is scarce. It has been reported that people go for days without the precious commodity and such rains are sometimes considered a blessing.

The rains are also hampering the efforts by the humanitarian agencies in providing services to the beneficiaries as parts of the roads connecting the humanitarian agencies to the refugees remain cut off for hours after it rains leaving the two stranded on either sides.



PHOTO: A humanitarian vehicle plunges into a pit in Kakuma 1
[By Otieno Samuel]



PEACE CARAVAN, A GOOD IDEA

BY DAWIT EJIGU

It is back in September 2012 that I left my home land and crossed the borders of Kenya because of so much pressure on free press in my beloved country, Ethiopia; plus I was in pursuit of protection for my life. After leaving my homeland for the first time, I stayed for some weeks in the capital Nairobi before heading to Kakuma Refugee camp. This September will mark my second year anniversary as a refugee.

At only four months I joined Journalism training classes that were being offered free of charge by FilmAid-Kenya. I was a journalist back in my home country and fitting into this class was a walk in the park for me. I however had a hard time fitting into the culturally diversified class and community where Swahili language was a favourite. I had difficulty getting stories from Swahili speaking communities but now " Swahili yangu iko poa kidogo' (my Swahili is much better).

Every time I watch and read news either on TV, or on the Internet respectively, I see how the world is diving into a pool of chaos and disorder with men, women, and children fleeing their home and some even losing their lives. Do you



PHOTO: Peace Caravan participants walk past Somali Market
[By Josephat Ekiru]

know that the number of Refugees across the globe has exceeded the largest number during Second World War? Now we have more than 51 million refugees in the world, enough number of people to form a continent.

It was in response to this evilly act that peace caravan was organized by FilmAid Kenya in collaboration with the UNHCR, The Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA), and other humanitarian agencies operating in Kakuma Refugee Camp on the eve of the World Refugee Day, June 19, 2014. As one man who faced violation of human right, I was there to say NO to where the world is heading, NO to war and disorder. A day before, I went home with marker pens and papers to write some peace and love quotes from people in the refugee community. From the quotes, I found one that I really liked from the

I HAVE
DECIDED
TO STICK
TO LOVE.
HATE
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TO BEAR

famous American Human Rights Activist Martin Luther King and I translated it to my mother tongue-Oromo and Amharic languages (Ethiopian languages). In one of his ground breaking speeches, Martin Luther says 'I have decided to stick to love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.' It is true that because of hate, war begins then it ends up with casualties. I can say it was so simple to say 'NO' to the first and second world wars to save lives of innocents. But humans denied that 'NO' themselves and lost more than 100 million lives in less than five decades; what a curse!?

The caravan was set to start at the DRA (Department of Refugee Affairs) at 9.00am and as more and more people trickled into the DRA compound, the event begun officially with the welcome speech from DRA's head man Ole Kiburi. "As government of Kenya we do really welcome all of you, 'Karibu sana!' We feel great when we welcome you so feel at home and celebrate your day" says Mr. Kiburi. As a symbol of peace, he and other UNHCR, FilmAid and other agencies representatives released white doves amid cheers from the swelling crowd.

It did not matter whether one was a refugee, Kenyan citizen or international staff, all joined in the caravan with one common voice 'YES to PEACE and NO to WAR and VIOLENCE'. 'Heal the world' song by the late Michael Jackson rocked the procession with voices from the crowds singing along, the crowd slowly walked past Kakuma town towards the UNHCR compound where they were greeted by powerful traditional dance performances from all the communities represented in the camps reminding us of who and where we came from. It suddenly felt like being at home again.

From the UNHCR compound, the Peace Caravan then proceeded over to the Kakuma Sports Association ground where more communities entertained the attendees with colourful traditional performances. I had travelled to 14 of the 18 zones in my homeland during my career as a journalist in the Oromai Regional State. Though this state has homogenous population, it harbours a culturally diverse population. It is also a very wealthy region in terms of culture, natural resource, man power, and everything. It always amazes me when I think about the diversity of culture among people of the same tribe. The Ethiopian group playing their 'Shaggooyee' music reminded me of my past encounter with a similar group back at home.

The now scorching sun was getting hotter than ever but this was not going to stop the determined soldiers of peace from getting their message of peace and love across the camp as the convoy proceeded to its final destination at the Food Distribution Center One (FDP 1) in Kakuma one just opposite Unity primary, Second oldest primary school in history of Kakuma Refugee Camp. Here, the representative from World Food Programme (WFP), and LWF, made their own promising speeches for the attending refugees which seemed to rejuvenate their hopes. Then 'The man of the event' Octopizzo performed the well-known 'IVO IVO' bringing an end to this wonderful and auspicious occasion.



PHOTO: Shadrack Gahungu in his second hand clothes shop in Kakuma 1

[By Otieno Samuel]

IKI RIMBA

BY STANLEY NZOMPIMPA

In unity we stand is a saying that is slowly coming to being with more groups commonly known as 'chamas' financing businesses for the youth

One of the most attractive aspects someone will surely remark in their first visit to Kakuma is the flourishing business activities throughout the camp. Just a tour around the communities making the large Kakuma Refugee Camp is enough to realize how surprisingly are the many business activities going on in the camp.

Those who have a negative and erroneous image of the camp like I had 9 months ago before I came to Kakuma, will always be amazed when they reach the camp and learn that life here is more than just receiving cups of food and staying in tents, more than living on the mercy of scorpions, snakes and spiders, the famous 'S' family.

The truth is, some people have gone beyond the traditional understanding of 'refugee life' which meant nothing more than just sitting and waiting to be provided with 'everything' from donors and the humanitarian world. Call it a revolutionary way of living or whatever you would like but it is real that Kakuma people have a different perspective of life as refugees.

It is astounding but true as well that so many people are getting rich and creating so much wealth, thanks to business in Kakuma.

Those who, like me, have known life in other refugee camps such as Mutabira in Tanzania or Kajembo in DR Congo must have realized what I am telling you by now: that life in the sunny and hot Kakuma has many and many opportunities to offer.

But the question you may ask yourself is: How do these people raise funds for their businesses? Where do they get that starting stepping stone the so called capital, an indispensable element for any business activity existence? There are no banks in the camp, no financial institutions to support businesses as it is in urban settings.

Well, I had the same question and went on to ask some of the owners of the leading business centers, both in Kakuma1 and across the camps. Although answers I got are diverse, there is one common source of income that exists to every level of the business, no matter how small or big they are. The revealed secret is called 'Ikirimba', a Kirundi word meaning a palace or an area where many people do gather and share constructive ideas.

Ikirimba is a system of self lending applied by business people especially in poor communities where residents can't afford or do not have

access to formal money lending institutions such as banks or micro-finance institutions. A group of business people gather together and decide to put small amounts of money together to finance each member's business in rounds or turns. Ikirimba is primarily based on friendship and neighborhood or social circles. The amount to be given by each member of the group is fixed according to the level and progress of the members' business activities, making a group of people who are normally on the same level of capital. There are no interests charged to recipients making this one of the best methods of lending.

To start the rounds, the group members use a random selection using small pieces of paper. A member picks a piece of paper with a number on it and will receive according to the number on his/her paper. For instance, if a group of ten people decide to start a kirimba, ten pieces of papers are made with numbers from one to ten. They also set a specific period to pay which varies from group to group and can go from one week or less to one month or more.

The person who will randomly pick a piece of paper with number one will be the first to receive the group's contributions, number two will follow and number ten will be the last recipient. The recipient naturally gets the amounts from all the 9 people and the rounds continue. When every member of a group has received the money, then the group members may decide to restart with the same amount or to increase/decrease the amount.

Financing businesses through Ikirimba in Kakuma

Shadrack Gahungu is Rwandan by nationality and arrived in Kakuma some months ago. He started a small business of selling second hand clothes and joined an existing group of Kirimba in Kakuma one. The group, started by one clothes seller Jonas Byiringiro, a Rwandan and Anicet, a Burundian venturing in food items, had a total of 15 people doing different businesses: second hand clothes selling, restaurants managers, transport (known as boda boda) operators and shop owners all

living in Kakuma one.

The group started with a small fixed amount of KSH. 1,000 but flourished with time. Each week, members had to contribute KSH. 1,000 and at the end of every week, one member would receive the full KSH. 10,000. Within ten weeks, the rounds were over and the group members decided to increase the fixed amount to KSH. 2000 per week. That means that each week, one member receives KSH. 20,000 and the rounds are completed within ten weeks. The group was very satisfied with the results and went on with the KSH. 2000 per week.

After more than 4 rounds, they realized they had made so much profit out of the capital they continuously received and the group recently decided to increase the amount to 5000 per a period of 10 days. The number of contributors also increased from ten to fifteen members. That new strategy will see one member receiving KSH. 70,000 every ten days.

I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT WE WERE ABLE TO FINANCE OUR OWN BUSINESS WITH OUR OWN MONEY

The story of the group is one of the many success stories in the camps and Shadrack is very proud of his friends and at the same time business supporters.

"I couldn't believe that we were able to finance our own business with our own money", He exclaimed adding that, "Getting a loan for which you don't have to pay any interests is a dream for many business passionate people"

Challenges

It is said that behind every success story, there is a failure untold experience, untold not because it is not inexistent or significant but because it propels us to excel, to the level where we are. The rule works even with Ikirimba. One of the most common challenges is when a member meets finds him/herself in

a situation where he/she can't afford to pay the fixed amount. To solve the problem, the member has to request one of the other members to cover the amount on his/her behalf.

Another challenge is when a person joins a group and doesn't have enough money to pay. If the person is not lucky to pick the piece of paper with number one, it becomes hard for them to cover all the amounts and wait until their round comes. Lastly, if a member withdraws before completing, the rest have no choice but to add to the normal amount in order to cover the gap created by the departing member.

Self Support

Ikirimba's main objective is to gather as friends and have something going on together. So it is primarily social rather than commercial. Because of that aspect, it is usually seen as a self help group in which members do more than exchanging money. When a member faces any unexpected difficulty, all the group members stand as one and face the difficulty as one, as a family.



PHOTO: Shadrack inspects his new bundle of mitumba clothes in his shop [By Otieno Samuel]



HEALTH BITE

BEAUTIFUL SKIN SECRETS

black is beauty' is a white man's saying to refer to the African or Dark skinned people as beautiful. However, this may not be the case in Africa as many Africans, both male and female admire white or light skinned people. After creation, according to the holy books, God saw that all that he created was good, and that he created all in his own image.

This century is witnessing a lot of changes and trends in the human race. It is becoming a trend in the camp nowadays for the ladies to use face lightening cream without knowing the dangers that are carried in the creams. Ladies feel that being light skin makes you more beautiful than they really are. It is ironical that our ladies are even tempted to think of that not knowing how many white skinned people would wish to have the skin that they want to change.

A survey carried out by the British Skin Foundation found 16% of dermatologists believe lightening creams are completely unsafe, and 80% feel they are only safe when prescribed by a dermatologist. These creams contain chemicals that are unsafe and may cause some type of skin cancer. Bleaching is, in fact, a process in which the hair on the skin is bleached to match with the actual skin tone. However, the side effects are: Dark grey spots, Skin cancer, Acne, Swelling of the skin, Thinning of the skin, Cataracts, Setting down of fat on face, chest,

upper back and stomach, Increase in appetite and weight gain, Osteoporosis, Neurological and kidney damage due to high level of mercury used in the creams, Psychiatric disorders, Severe birth defects, Asthma, and Liver damage.

Some of these side effects could be seen almost immediately while some are seen after prolonged use of skin whitening creams.

However, there are natural ways in which you could take care of your skin and get a flawless skin without worrying about side effects. These include;

Diet - Diet is the most important part that you should take care of if you want a flawless skin. Take away all refined food products and replace them with healthy and nutritious ones.

Water - Increase your intake of water. This helps keep skin free of dehydration and so the look is healthy and unblemished.

Cleansing - Take proper care of cleaning your skin. Choose the product that is natural and effective. Pay attention to exfoliating your skin from time to time so that you get rid of the dead skin.

Limes and Lemons - Citric acid is natural bleach and will help you have a lighter skin time without any side effect. You can make a face mask with lime juice, few drops of glycerin and flour to make a paste. Apply this on your face and leave for 20 - 30 minutes. Wash with normal water.

#TBT

HIGH PROFILE VISIT, KAKUMA

ADAPTED FROM UNHCR social media



The Deputy Director of the Africa Bureau, Ann Encontre visited Kakuma for 2 days. She came to observe the South Sudanese situation in the camp and also at the border. She was able to view various aspects of the operation and the sectorial gaps as well. She met refugees in the camp and even had a meeting with refugee leaders representing the various nationalities hosted in the camp.

The Deputy Director who is based in Geneva and acts as the regional coordinator for the South Sudan crisis appealed to staff and partners to continue working closely with the resources available to cater to refugees and provide essential services.

FLASH FLOODS



Kakuma has in the past few weeks been experiencing heavy rainfalls that has left a trail of destructions in its wake. Roads accessing the camps has been cut off for hours after long rains leaving the humanitarian community stranded on one side and the beneficiaries on the other. Refugees are the worst hit with most of them being left to sleep in the cold after their semi-permanent structures were swept away by the rains. Read more of this in our next edition.



1



2

1 /2. Flooded parts of Kakuma after heavy rains.

3. William receives the best Director's award during the Film Festival .

5. A Sudanese woman being prepared for cultural dance during the World Refugee Day

CAPTURED MOMENTS



Mr & Miss World Refugee Day first runners up



3



4



5



Dancers at 8th Annual FilmAid Film Festival closing Gala



Film Screening during the 8th Annual FilmAid Film Festival.



Panoramic view of Clinic 4 grounds during FilmAid's Film Festival closing gala



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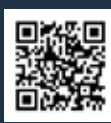
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