



Youth and Women Community Development Organisation

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Empowering for Sustainable Development

Report on

YWCDO Christmas Celebration of 2018

Project Title	YWCDO Annual Christmas Celebration 2018
Project Location	Wajo Refugees settlement Lobule sub County, koboko District Uganda
Attendance	500 + (Over Five Hundred)
Project in charge & Report Designation Mobile:	Mrs. Rose Leya Women Coordinator 077428083
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Partner Organization	Support Trust African development-Netherland
Reporting Date	30 th 01-2019

Introduction

The Youth and Women Community Development Organization (YWCD0) has been involved in organizing Christmas and Easter celebrations with the host and refugee's community since 2016.

The main aim is to bring together women, elders, girls, boys and children, often victims of conflicts or wars and war related atrocities, Gender based violence, poverty and cultural & traditional practices

The theme was: Enhancing Peaceful Co-existence between and amongst the refugees and the host communities and girl child Education.

The event was held on 27th December at WAJU refugee settlement, Lobule sub-county. The reason for organizing it outside the YWCD0 premise is to:

- Break the tradition of always celebrating the Christmas and Easter the same place (YWCD0) premises with the same communities
- Create a fresh environment to promote peaceful co-existence between the refugees and the host community, the lonely etc. who are un able to travel to YWCD0
- Promote the organization's activities and network to create new partnerships.

Over 500 community member and government official: women, children and youth, churches leaders, mosque leaders, refugees, local politicians attended the event.

The activities included:

- Speeches by different speakers- host community members, refugees & invited guests.
- Gifts were given to various groups as a way of sharing.
- To the organization it promotes social cooperate responsibility to the community
- Entertainment with traditional dances and songs etc.

Welcome speech by the Local Council One



The Local council 1 chairman welcomed YWCD0 and everyone. He assured people not to worry about insecurity-the village is peaceful. He was full of joy when he received the letter that YWCD0 wanted to celebrate 2018 Christmas at Waju camp. This is the first time that an organization went to celebrate an event in their community. He therefore, urged YWCD0 not to let this be the last time. The organization should come to their village again. He then outlined challenges faced in the community such as lack of support to youth and women program, teenage pregnancy, school dropout among others

Speeches by Youth Peace Committee (YPC) chairman and the YPC Coordinator

The Youth Peace Committee (YPC) Wajo refugee settlement representative, **Mr. Agele** thanked YWCD0 for thinking about them. Since they have been at the camp, no organization thought of coming to share the word of God, food and to bring them together. He said they have a youth group of 35 youths. The group has chairs and a small savings. They requested the YWCD0 to work with them and give them support in term of



training and financing their agricultural activities with seeds, treatment etc. They group grows onion, cabbages, egg plants etc.

Mr. Agele YPC Representative.

The YPC coordinator **Mr. Kupajo Charles** said their interventions with the youth in the community has reduced the rate of drinking and maruga chewing. He requested YWCDO and partners to support. Since most youth practice farming supporting them in farming with seeds will keep them busy and earn them some income.



Mr. Kuajok Charles YPC coordinator

YWCDO women Chairperson Mrs. Rose Leya presenting her speech



Mrs. Rose Leya

The YWCDO women Coordinator, **Mrs. Rose Leya** welcomed everyone and thanked the almighty God for bringing them all together. She further thanked the government officials for the support in making this program successful. She thanked all stakeholders, friends, brothers and sisters in the Netherlands for supporting YWCDO. Gratitude was extended to Support Trust African Development (STAD) and Ms. Florence Andrew, chairperson based in the Netherlands who is behind the women and youth in the organization since its inception. It was through her that the youth and women groups merged to together to work in unity. Thus, the birth of YWCDO. She then wished everyone a happy new year.

THE PREACHER OF THE DAY: REV. ARCHDEACONS ALEGE JOHN OF KOBOKO ARCHDEACONRY



Rev. Archdeacon Alege John

The Preacher Archdeacon Alege John Warned the youth of the dangers of drugs and Alcohol Abuse and early or premarital sex, and violence. He said, Christ peace is free and for all regardless of race, sex and color. Peace in the family is only brought by sharing, respect, love. Without peace at family levels, no stable nations too. He shall be happy to hear that the level of drugs consumption among the youth is reduced and the common fights put to an end. He concluded by quoting the scriptures: "Blessed are the peace makers for they will receive peace"

Guest of Honour- Miss Yunis Owiny

Miss Owiny started her speech by wishing everybody merry Christmas & Happy new 2019. Christmas is a birth day that comes with gifts to the new born child as we read during the birth of Jesu Christ. Today YWCD0 thought very wisely to come and share the little they have with people in Waju refugee camp on this Christmas day. In some cultures, young girls and boys use it as a day for meeting and eloping (getting married). This is wrong. We should instead use such days to focus on what Christ came and died for- great peace with neighbors, (host & refugees), love, support & share God's abundant gifts with each other. She advice both women & men to practice family planning. This will enable parents meet the children demands: school fees, cloths, medication, spiritual need and instill respect and discipline in them. She also emphasized on the value of the girl child education. Parents value their girls in term of dowry (early marriage). This should stop. Girls have potentials and seen not be valued in terms of dowry only. She advised girls not to under rate their skills and contribution in society. She also advised boys to stop using drugs. Be productive when on holidays. Help your parents raise school fees etc.



Miss Yunis Owiny (blue dress)

Below are great photos taken from the Christmas event at Waju refugee settlement.



Left some clergy men



Right in yellow, local council & a police officer in charge of Lobule station



Community Nursery School Kids Presenting Songs & Poems to the visitors at the Event.



DEMS CORNER KUJOJOYA CLUB ENTERTAINING GUESTS AT THE FUNCTION



WAJO ANDUNGU (DISCO) GROUD ALSO PRESENTING THEIR DANCE



Women Preparing Lunch for the quests at the Event

Letter from the Guest of Honor after the Christmas celebration

Breaking Barriers to Promote Peaceful Co-existence

In a world that is infected with conflict and strife, pain and agony, groans and extreme luck, the Christmas party organized by the Youth and Women in Development Organization (YWDO) bringing together refugees and host communities in Waju refugee settlement in Koboko District was spot on.

I was privileged to be the Guest of Honor at this auspicious occasion that was attended by over five hundred people: men, women, youth and children. The day's activities included music, dance and drama, speeches by various community leaders and government representatives. Gifts were presented to the best groups and one of them was a nursery school children's group.

The speeches by the community representatives were humbling and for that matter it is best to quote them in their own words.

A community elder said, "I was born and raised here. I never thought there were people out there who valued us. This action will never be erased from my memory. It is the first of its kind and I am very grateful."

A widow said, "These words you have spoken are more than food or any material thing. I could sit here the whole day, listen to you, and never be bothered about anything. Thank you so much for making us feel human again.

These two comments represent the atmosphere this party created in the community. It affirmed the fact that a valued, honored and empowered human being can scale the walls.

Another highlight of the occasion was the fact that YWDO declared to the beneficiaries that they were but channels and not the source of the resources that funded the party. This speaks to me highly of the integrity of the organization especially where they had the freedom to own the glory but rather chose to honor the source of the resources in absentia.

On my own behalf therefore, I want to thank you for your generosity. Your work in the Lord is indeed not in vain. Be assured that there is healing actively happening in many lives because of this partnership.

Thank you and God bless you.

Eunice Owiny.

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Conclusion

The YWCD0 and Waju refugee community would like to sincerely thank all the people in the Netherlands and friends of STAD & YWCD0 from France – Mrs. Nelly Irene who generously and voluntarily contributed to supporting this event. Special gratitude to Ms. Florence Andrew, chairperson STAD who has tirelessly supported YWCD0. We also would thank mama Rose Leya, YWCD0 chairperson for women who tirelessly put her energy in making sure the project runs smoothly. Thanks to all the government officials, religious leaders and the host community for accepting and hosting us, the cooks who provided meals and finally the community entertainment groups for cheering up the function.

It was wonderful to share Christmas message as we celebrate the birth of Jesus – prince of Peace and HOPE with traumatized group of people undergoing some psycho-social problems due to loss of love ones, properties, communities, sense of belonging etc. Such events or gatherings bring together women, children and youth, churches leaders, mosque leaders, refugees, local politicians etc. regardless of ethnicity, religion or political afflictions

