Windle International Uganda
Education Transforms Society

QUARTER TWO NEWSLETTER (APRIL – JUNE 2024)



Dear Reader,

Greetings from Windle International Uganda (WIU)! We are happy to present to you this edition of our Quarterly Newsletter for the period April to June 2024. At WIU, we remain steadfast in our mission to utilize all available resources to support refugees and host communities in accessing inclusive quality education and training, while also amplifying their voices and stories.

In this edition, we highlight an array of WIU news, updates, and inspiring stories from the field over the past quarter.

We hope you find this newsletter both informative and uplifting. Your continued support and interest in our work make a significant difference in the lives of those we empower.

Enjoy the read!

WIU Communications Team

Windle Trust International Announces Ten New Postgraduate Scholarships in Uganda for 2024/2025



Mr. David Masua, the CEO, Windle Trust International revealed that ten fresh postgraduate/master's degree scholarships will be offered in Kampala, Uganda. This announcement was made during a significant event—a leadership workshop and memorial event commemorating the late Mr. James Aryam. Mr. Aryam, the former Executive Director of Windle International Uganda, left a profound legacy of service to refugees and marginalized communities before his passing on in 2021. In his honour, a postgraduate scholarship program was established in 2023, embodying his values and commitment.

Currently, there are twelve postgraduate students primarily from South Sudan pursuing their studies at Makerere University and Kyambogo University in Kampala. With the addition of the ten newly announced scholarships, the James Aryam Scholars will be 22, marking a significant expansion in the program.

This initiative forms part of Windle Trust International's broader postgraduate program, which includes opportunities for selected students to pursue one-year master's degree programs in the UK through partnerships with the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission and various UK universities. Notably, the postgraduate program in Uganda operates in collaboration with Windle International Uganda.

During the announcement, Mr. Masua expressed gratitude to the James Aryam Scholars for their dedication, while also challenging them to view the scholarship not merely as a means to obtain another degree, but as an opportunity to make meaningful contributions to their communities' after graduation.

Andrew Emmanuel Omara, the Executive Director of Windle International Uganda noted that James firmly believed in the value of education to cause change among young people. He urged the scholars to emulate James Aryam's values and hard. "He was a go getter, action oriented and problem solver," he said.

The event saw distinguished guests in attendance, including Mr. Douglas Asiimwe, the Acting Commissioner for Refugees in the Office of the Prime Minister, who served as the Chief Guest. Additionally, the UNHCR Uganda Deputy Country Representative, Secretary Education Attache for the Embassy of South Sudan, Academic Registrar for International students at Makerere University all graced the occasion, emphasizing the collective commitment to supporting education and empowering individuals from refugee and marginalized backgrounds.



Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement: 36 Groups Compete for $5,000 Grants to Boost Business Ideas under i-UPSHIFT Project



In an inspiring showcase of innovation and entrepreneurship, 36 groups from the Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement recently pitched their business ideas for a chance to receive $5,000 each under the i-UPSHIFT project. This initiative, made possible through the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, aims to empower refugees by fostering economic self-sufficiency and encouraging community-driven development.

The competition aimed to select 10 outstanding groups to receive the $5,000 grants to grow, implement, and develop their innovative projects. The diverse range of ideas presented highlighted the creativity and determination of the participants, who are eager to make a positive impact within their community.

After a rigorous selection process, the following 10 groups were chosen for their exceptional proposals: Smart Skills Innovations, Young Innovators, Together We Can, Peace Group, Success OFUA, Generation of Success, Success Uriama, Poultry Farming, Gbalala Agri-Business and Grace Group

These 10 groups represented Windle International Uganda at the national summit organized by the ILO, where each group was awarded a $5,000 grant to bring their business ideas to life. Their projects span various sectors, including agriculture, environment, and community services, demonstrating a broad spectrum of innovative solutions to local challenges.

The grants will not only provide the necessary financial support but also include ongoing mentorship and training in business management, financial literacy, and marketing. This compre-



hensive support ensures that the entrepreneurs have the skills and knowledge needed to achieve long-term success.

Stephen Opio, the Chief Technical Advisor, ILO emphasized the importance of such initiatives: “By investing in the entrepreneurial potential of refugees, we are not only fostering economic growth but also promoting social cohesion and community development. The ideas presented today have the power to create lasting change.”

The i-UPSHIFT project underscores the importance of international collaboration in addressing the challenges faced by refugees. By providing funding, training, and mentorship, the project empowers individuals to create sustainable businesses and drive positive change in their communities.

High-Level Policy Dialogue: Windle International Uganda and Partners Discuss Critical Education Challenges



Windle International Uganda, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports and other development partners, recently held a High-Level Policy Dialogue to discuss essential education policies following the International Day of Education.

At the conference, the Rt. Hon. First Deputy Prime Minister, Rebecca Kadaga, reaffirmed the government’s commitment to education financing, highlighting the progress achieved through supportive policies. She emphasized the importance of continuing these efforts to ensure sustainable development.

Uganda stands out as a leader in implementing Universal Education, significantly contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. However, there remains a pressing need for open discussions on education financing to create a safe and supportive environment for young learners, who face the risk of dropping out of school each year.

Andrew E. Omara, Executive Director of Windle International Uganda, commended the Government of Uganda for fostering active partnerships through various agencies. He also urged the government to provide more support for critical policies, such as the formulation of school feeding programs.

During the dialogue, Windle International Uganda was honored and recognized by the Government of Uganda for its outstanding contributions to the education sector. The award was presented by the Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, First Deputy Prime Minister.

This dialogue underscores the importance of collaboration and policy development in advancing education and supporting the next generation of learners

Windle International Uganda Celebrates World Refugee Day at Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement



On June 20, 2024, Windle International Uganda joined a host of organizations and dignitaries to commemorate World Refugee Day at Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement in Ofua. The event saw participation from DRC, TPO, BRAC, World Vision, NRC, AFI, Water Mission, Save the Children, UN Women, OPM, UNHCR, UNICEF, as well as the Japanese Ambassador, the Minister of Urban Development, and other government officials.

Windle International Uganda contributed to the event by participating in a skit organized by UNHCR, depicting the challenges refugees face during war. As an education partner, Windle International Uganda emphasized its commitment to providing inclusive, equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The Ofua Community Secondary School choir warmly welcomed the guests with an enthusiastic song, receiving high praise from the honored attendees.

In the exhibition segment, Rhino Camp High School and St. Luke Widi Secondary School showcased vocational education products and student projects. Rhino Camp High School presented student-made uniforms and dryers, while St. Luke Widi Secondary School exhibited a water purifier and a fan.

Hon. Obiga Mario Kania, the State Minister for Urban Development and Member of Parliament for Terego East constituency, expressed his gratitude to the students and school administrators for equipping students with practical skills essential for the job market. He commended the students for their strong scientific skills and knowledge, crucial for global advancement. Despite the relentless heat, one dignitary appreciated the students' innovation after testing the fan, noting its effectiveness in providing a cooling breeze.

The exhibition also featured integrated UPSHIFT items such as liquid soap and crafts, developed by youths as part of social innovation projects aimed at creating lasting community change.

To demonstrate innovative teaching methods, Early Childhood Development (ECD) caregivers showcased locally made instructional materials. These materials, sourced from the environment, are used in ECD centers to foster effective teaching and learning while promoting environmental conservation

Enhancing Education in Emergencies:
A Deep Dive into the INEE MS 2024 Edition



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The recently published Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies Minimum Standards (INEE MS) 2024 Edition has brought significant updates and changes to the field of Education in Emergencies (EiE). As Education Programmers at Windle International Uganda, it is crucial that we familiarize ourselves with these changes and understand how they inform our work in supporting education for crisis-affected populations.

Shared with you in this article are some of the significant changes in the 2023 Edition:

- Structure Alignment: The new edition aligns key actions and guidance notes one-to-one, and standard numbering has been revised to 1-19. This restructuring aims to make it easier for practitioners to navigate the document and access relevant information efficiently.

- Inclusion of Cross-Cutting Issues: The 2024 Edition includes a dedicated section on cross-cutting issues, highlighting the interconnectedness of various thematic areas in Education in Emergencies. This emphasis on holistic approaches underscores the importance of addressing multiple dimensions of crisis-affected populations' needs.

- Expanded Guidance: The new edition provides comprehensive guidance on emerging issues such as distance education, cash and voucher assistance, private-sector engagement, humanitarian and development coherence, data security, and the role of education in addressing environmental emergencies like climate change. This expanded guidance equips practitioners with the tools to navigate complex challenges in the field.

- Strengthened Emphasis: The 2024 Edition places a heightened focus on refugees, child protection, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), gender, disability, early childhood development (ECD), social and emotional learning (SEL), disaster risk reduction (DRR), conflict mitigation, and inter-sectoral collaboration. These areas are crucial for promoting inclusive, equitable, and sustainable education for all.

- Emphasis on Inclusive Language and Plain Communication: The new edition emphasizes using inclusive and respectful language when referring to individuals' identities and circumstances. Additionally, there is a clear emphasis on using plain language that is easy to read, understand, and translate, ensuring accessibility for diverse stakeholders.

- Embracing Anti-Racism and Locally Led Humanitarian Action: The 2024 Edition encourages practitioners to engage with concepts of anti-racism, decoloniality, and locally led humanitarian action. By centering the agency and knowledge of local actors, this guidance promotes more equitable and community-driven approaches to Education in Emergencies.

Thus, as we delve into the INEE MS 2024 Edition, it is evident that embracing these changes calls for a new approach in our implementation of activities in the EiE sector. By incorporating the updated standards and guidance, we can enhance our interventions and better support crisis-affected populations in accessing inclusive and Equitable quality education. Let us seize this opportunity to deepen our commitment to EiE and drive positive change in the lives of the People we serve.

From Strife To Head Girl: Florence's Journey in Palorinya Refugee Settlement



In the heart of Palorinya Refugee Settlement, amidst the trials of displacement and the echoes of a past marked by civil strife, Florence Aduwa's story is a testament to resilience and the power of education.

Forced to flee her homeland in South Sudan with her family during the civil war, Florence found herself surrounded in the chaos of overcrowded refugee camps. Yet, amid the turmoil, there emerged an inspiration of hope as organizations of both implementing and operating partners that worked tirelessly to mitigate the suffering and restore a semblance of normalcy.

The memory of the cholera outbreak in the Elegu transit center remained etched in Florence's mind, a stark reminder of the fragility of life in such dire circumstances. However, with the swift intervention of humanitarian aid, and support from organisations and partners, the tide began to turn, paving the way for a more stable existence. Amid these hard times, Florence embarked on a new journey of learning as she enrolled in the nearest school, grappling with a new curriculum and language of instruction. Initially daunting, this however changed when she got to know about Windle International Uganda, which recruited staff from the local community to bridge the language barrier

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic posed another unprecedented challenge, threatening to derail the educational progress she had made thus far.

WIU and World University Service of Canada (WUSC), in partnership with Global Affairs Canada supported learners as a result of COVID-19 pandemic. They leveraged additional resources to support schools, communities, and boys and girls in Moyo and Obongi to effectively respond to the uncertainties and enable all boys and girls to continue their learning.
The situation had posed unprecedented challenges to Ugandan's education system and more so the marginalized and vulnerable populations living in crisis and conflicts including adolescent refugees, the host communities. The COVID-19 Emergency Response for the Adolescent Girls' Education in Crisis Initiative (AGENCI) slowed the spread of the virus and mitigated its effects for schools, households, and communities by rapidly responding to immediate necessities, including providing important personal protection equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 messaging to enable communities to take positive action towards protecting themselves and boys and girls living in these communities. Through innovative initiatives by AGENCI project, Florence and her peers were equipped with radios and recorded lessons, ensuring continuity of learning amidst the lockdown.

Guided by local mentorship program facilitated by the AGENCI project, Florence honed her leadership skills, eventually assuming the role of Head Girl at Idiwa Parents Secondary School, Obongi District. "Through the mentorship I received, I gained confidence in myself which greatly developed my leadership skills. This enabled me to contest for the position of head girl at Idiwa Parent Secondary School where I emerged successful," Florence shared with a sense of pride and achievement.

Florence Aduwa Posing with fellow student leaders at Idiwa SS – Photo Credit: Joseph Waninda/WIU

Empowered by this support, Florence found herself flourishing academically and socially, with newfound clarity and confidence. The concerted efforts to engage parents in their children's education proved instrumental, fostering a sense of collective responsibility and investment in the future generation



Uganda Certificate of Education, setting her sights on advanced studies where she is currently studying Geography, Economics, and Agriculture. Recorded lessons through radios played a vital role in ensuring that children continued to have access to education during the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to their academic, social, and emotional development despite the unprecedented circumstances.

Florence hopes to become a finance manager for an NGO in future so that she can support other vulnerable girls in her community.
From the 4,566 (Female 1,621, Male 2, 94) students in Palorinya refugee settlement, 210 adolescent girls were directly empowered by AGENCI project through life skill activities. This created an inclusive gender responsive safe learning environment.

Florence voiced her gratitude to Global Affairs Canada, World University Service of Canada, and Windle International Uganda. "Through their collective efforts, countless lives, including mine, have been transformed, paving the way for a brighter tomorrow amidst the uncertainty."

Football: My Passion and Path to a Bright Future



Kiden Florence Taban, a 15-year-old South Sudanese refugee student, is currently in Form 1 at Yoyo Secondary School in Bidibidi refugee settlement. Florence's journey into football began in the first term of 2024, thanks to her sports teacher, Mr. Patrick Nyeko, who encouraged her to join the sport. Initially hesitant, she soon realized her potential, particularly in goalkeeping, and joined her class team for the inter-class competitions as a goalkeeper.

Florence's talent quickly became evident. She excelled during the inter-class competitions, earning her the position of the school's goalkeeper for the district inter-school competitions.

"After the inter-class competitions, we were uncertain if we could participate in the district games due to the lack of affiliation fees. Windle International Uganda (WIU) stepped in to cover the costs for all the secondary schools in the settlement, ensuring our participation. WIU also provided us with transport to Adrovo SS, which boosted our morale and confidence," Florence recounts.

During the district competitions, Florence's team faced several schools. They won against Romag SS with a score of 1-0, played to a draw against Odravu SS, and had another draw against Valley View SS. Due to their excellent discipline, her team was selected for the quarter-finals. Florence's remarkable save during a penalty shootout against Midigo SS earned her the nickname "Onana," after the famous Manchester United goalkeeper. This victory secured their place in the regional competitions.

However, the journey to the regional competitions in Koboko was not without its challenges. The organizers required 2.2 million shillings from each school. Once again, WIU supported them by covering the fees. Florence's team played against Adjumani Model SS and Banda Army SS, showing great determination despite the odds. Although they faced tough competition, including a formidable team from Moyo Star, they persevered.



Florence is deeply grateful for WIU's support and dreams of taking her football career to the next level through consistent training. She aspires to play in Europe and encourages her fellow girls to participate in sports and other co-curricular activities, believing that talent can open unexpected doors. Florence also urges girls who are currently not in school to enroll, emphasizing the numerous benefits, including talent development.

She calls upon WIU, other educational partners, and well-wishers to support them with essential equipment like balls, jerseys, boots, and gloves. With these resources, Florence and her peers can continue practicing even during holidays, effectively nurturing their talents and utilizing their leisure time meaningfully.

Agriculture Project Has Improved My Family's Nutrition



Suzan Gune, a South Sudanese and a dedicated mother of eight, resides in Bongilo village within Palorinya Refugee Settlement. Her children attend Bongilo Primary School, where Suzan plays a pivotal role in supporting the school's agriculture project which is implemented by Windle International Uganda with funding from Convoy of Hope (COH).

Suzan is an active volunteer farmer at Bongilo Primary School, contributing to the school gardens. The volunteer farmers, including Suzan, were selected from a parents' meeting following a sensitization session led by Windle International Uganda staff, the school administration, and the Parents Teachers Association (PTA). Before the introduction of the school gardening initiative, Suzan's primary responsibilities were a housewife—cooking for her family, caring for her children, and tending to a small garden with limited agronomic knowledge. "I joined the group from its inception in 2022 and currently serve as the information secretary," Suzan shared.

In her role, Suzan mobilizes members and disseminates vital information. She also assists with weeding and irrigation, ensuring crops receive adequate water. Through demonstrations and training provided by WIU staff, Suzan and her group have learned essential agricultural practices such as planting crops in rows, creating nursery beds, proper spacing, and timely weeding. "I am now applying these skills to my home garden," Suzan said.

The results have been remarkable. Last year, Suzan harvested a substantial yield from the seeds provided, using part of the harvest to feed her family and planting the remainder. "I received five kilograms of maize from the school garden harvest. My family consumed two kilograms, and I planted the remaining three kilograms this year," she remarked.

Suzan believes the project has the potential to transform both the school and their home lives. "The project's success last year has significantly improved our well-being. We shared five kilograms of maize among the group members, which greatly benefited my family," Suzan noted.

Suzan expressed her gratitude to WIU and Convoy of Hope for their support. She highlighted the project's positive impact on the health of her family and the school children. "Many community members are now eager to join us because of the tangible benefits we've experienced," Suzan concluded.

DAFI Alumni Series



Windle International Uganda is excited to introduce the DAFI Alumni Series, celebrating the incredible journeys of our DAFI scholars. The DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) program has been a guiding light, providing scholarships to outstanding young refugees and opening doors to higher education and brighter futures. In this quarter's DAFI Alumni Series, we are celebrating Samuel Opira who is currently working with Windle International Uganda as a Project Officer. Opira's story and community work is just a glimpse of the transformative impact of the DAFI scholarship program. Watch here: https://youtu.be/LJmpKv4BCvg

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