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Activity Updates

June - September 2021

Adjumani Project Office



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Communication Officer

Education

Thanksgiving mass for JRS sponsored students.

“The struggle here may not look big but there is something to harvest from this education in future.”

Msgr Elizeo Ovure, Episcopal Vicar for refugee Vicariate, Arua diocese.

23/09/ 2021



Students who attained a first grade in the UCE 2020 examinations.



Ayikoru Loyce, 18

I am excited, happy, proud and grateful for the sponsorship. I am an orphan, the youngest of nine and was raised by my grandmother. She sold charcoal to pay for my school fees but could not afford to pay after my senior two.

JRS has been like a parent to me, caring, visiting us in school, providing us with sanitary pads and other materials. JRS gave me hope to continue with my education. I want to be a pharmacist

JRS organized a thanksgiving mass for 35 students who completed the 2020 Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE). The mass was attended by students, JRS staff, partners, head teachers, school board of governors, UNHCR, OPM and the district education office.

The mass was led by Msgr Elizeo Ovure, Episcopal Vicar for Refugee Vicariate Arua Diocese who in his message appreciated the efforts of JRS in educating the minds of the young. He said that though the contribution may not look big now, there will be a bountiful harvest in future.

Ms Ujeo Josephine, retired DEO Adjumani, in her speech advised the girl child to strive hard in her studies, citing the situation where as a young person there were few educated women and she had to compete hard against her male counterparts. She said respect for one's self is one of the keys to success.

According to the DEO, JRS has helped improve the transition of students from primary to secondary schools by 50% in Adjumani over several years of supporting students in secondary school.

Mungula Secondary School

Contractor: Nile Joint Operations Limited

Construction: Girl's dormitory, washrooms and incinerator.

Status: Complete

Donor: Latter Day Saints



Ground breaking for the construction of the girl's dormitory at Mungula SS on 1/07/2021.



Ongoing construction of the girl's dormitory (21/07/2021)



The monitoring team inspects the construction site at the school during their weekly monitoring. (09/09/2021)



Inspection of the washrooms and incinerator by the monitoring team. (09/09/2021)



The completed girl's dormitory at Mungula SS. (14/10/2021)



JRS M&E, engineer and contractor check out the finished incinerator during a routine monitoring visit. (14/10/2021)

Pagirinya Secondary School

Contractor: East and West Company Limited

Construction: Girl's dormitory, washrooms and incinerator, kitchen and laboratory.

Status: In progress.

Donor: Latter Day Saints. Misesan Cara.



Ground breaking for the laboratory construction at Pagirinya SS on 1/07/2021.



Digging the foundation for the girl's dormitory. Looking on is the district engineer and the contractor. (14/07/2021)



Monitoring team visiting the school to check on the progress of the laboratory construction. (29/07/2021)



Monitoring team visits the Kitchen under construction at Pagirinya during a routine weekly inspection. (14/10/2021)



The team—JRS M&E and engineer, and district engineer during a routine supervision. (14/10/2021)



Girl's dormitory and washrooms under construction. (14/10/2021)

Edema Justine Thomas, 39 (Ugandan)

Substantive Head teacher Mungula Secondary School

"I would like to appreciate JRS and funders for the development in the school through the construction of the girl's dormitory, washrooms and incinerator."

Mungula Secondary School was established in 1994. Over the years, we have benefitted from JRS support; two permanent structures and the multipurpose hall were constructed with JRS support in 1996, 2000 and 2004.

The school is partially boarding and had been lobbying for a girls dormitory. The school had improvised, turning two classrooms into dormitories to accommodate the girls.

The school was constructed for a girl's dormitory, washrooms and incinerator.

"We are so happy to get the dormitory, it will increase the retention level of girls in school. In the community girls are easily married out and retaining them at school saved them this fate."

Edema says girls residing in the dormitory will improve on their performance as they will be close to teachers for consultation. It will help change the attitudes of the community who do not consider girl child education important.

385 students (154M, 70F – Nationals), (132M, 32F – Refugees)

Okot Mathew Thomas, 50, South Sudanese

Head Teacher Pagirinya Secondary School

"JRS has done a lot of infrastructural development within the school, they constructed the library, administration block, two classroom block, and upgraded a three classroom block." Okot is grateful for the ongoing construction of the science laboratory, kitchen, girl's dormitory, washrooms and incinerator at the school.

"Initially we used to teach sciences theoretically and would take the candidates to Dzaipi Secondary School for practicals over the weekend. It was a hardship and costly to the parents." The two roomed science laboratory will be used for biology/ chemistry, and physics and agriculture.

The permanent kitchen with a store, serving area, cooking area and changing rooms have replaced the temporary structure that had been constructed by the community. The girl's dormitory that will be equipped with beddings has two rooms and a room for the matron, and will target 120 girls, with washrooms and an incinerator behind the dormitory.

"Girls have been coming from home because we had nowhere to house them. With the construction, we hope that this will improve the performance of girls in school, because while at home, girls are given a lot of domestic chores that affects their arrival to and performance at school."

Okot says the cultural background of South Sudan too affects the education of the girls as they are looked at as a source of income when they reach a certain age and are married off. Retaining them in school will give them an opportunity to study further.

South Sudanese born in 1971 as a refugee in Uganda, we returned to Uganda in 1989 and I got the opportunity to study with the support from JRS. In 2007 I went back to South Sudan and worked there for 8 years before returning to Uganda in 2015 where I have remained till now.

1016 Students (581M, 235F – Refugees) (130M, 70F – Nationals)

Child protection awareness raising session

The training was to equip teachers with a best understanding of the child protection concepts and its applicability, and to build their capacity in ensuring a safe space for children in school and community settings.

In both the refugee and host communities, it has been evident that children are one of the most vulnerable as they suffer sexual, emotional, physical violence, neglect and exploitation. This situation has been worsened by the COVID 19 restrictions.

JRS organized an awareness workshop on child protection for teachers, refugee welfare councils (RWCs), board of governors, and PTA members, with skills on child protection, increased awareness on how to create protective environment for the children both at school and in the community.

Participating schools

Ayilo Secondary School
Nyumanzi Secondary School
Pagirinya Secondary School
Lewa Secondary School
Maaji Secondary School

Main challenges

Poverty
Child marriages
Teen pregnancies
Domestic violence in homes
No sex education
Drug abuse by children
Corporal punishment
Child labor
Child neglect

82 participants
(25F, 57M)
3-9/ 09/ 2021



Rita Abiro CFPU Adjumani Police station takes the participants through the child protection session at Ayilo Refugee Settlement.

Training on COVID 19 preventive methods and case management for secondary school teachers in Adjumani district

JRS supported Adjumani district to orient secondary school teachers in ensuring timely response to epidemics and reduce transmissions within schools as government plans to reopen schools and also reduce COVID 19 transmissions in the community.

To build capacity of the secondary school teachers on preventive, transmission and mitigation measures of COVID 19 in school setting and community as well.

Girl child education awareness

The girl child education awareness training is to equip participants with the knowledge and skills on how to support girls attain and access inclusive and equitable quality education and other services. Putting in perspective crises such as the COVID 19 pandemic, the training aimed to build the capacity of the community in fighting violence against children especially girls, how to retain girls in school through strengthening the community-based child protection systems.

The training focused on inclusiveness and equitable education of the girl child, parental roles and ensuring the continuation of education while at home during the crisis. Support of the girl child education using existing structures and using community based systems to support the girl child overcome violence and abuse.

Challenges with girl child education

- * Negative attitude of some parents to educate the girls child.
- * Corruption at the police where they ask for bribes for defilement cases.
- * Some community members do not like to report cases of defilement/ rape due to fear of attacks from the perpetrators and being ostracized.
- * Cultural norms that allow the early marriage of girls.
- * Abuse by some parents under the influence of alcohol.
- * Forced marriages and early marriages.
- * Schools are a long distance from home, this affects attendance and enrollment of girls in school.
- * Some taboos and norms related with the education of the girl child.
- * Menstruation and lack of sanitary materials makes some to miss school.

12-13/ 08/ 2021, Nyumanzi, Ayilo, Pagirinya, Lewa and Maaji Refugee Settlements. 54 (39m, 15f)



Group presentations during the training session. 54(39M, 15F) participants attended from 5 refugee settlements.

Gender responsive education training for secondary teachers.

Participating Schools

Monsignor Bala Secondary School
Alere Secondary School
Adjumani Secondary School
Bezza AL hajji Secondary School
St. James Secondary School
Dzaipi Secondary School
Pakele Comprehensive SS,
Arinyapi Secondary School
Comboni Secondary School
Boroli Secondary School
Mungula Secondary School
Ofua Secondary School
Biyaya Secondary School
Maaji Secondary School
Pagirinya Secondary School
Lewa Secondary School
Ayilo Secondary School
Adjumani Model SS
St. Mary's Assumpta Girls.

38 (19M, 19F)

The training aimed at building the capacity of participants on identification of gender barriers within the education system and to ensure strategies are in place to address these barriers at the school level, and on the practices of equitable and inclusive education in secondary school.

The challenges raised that the girls face in schools include, bullying from boys, defilement, lack of incinerators and proper washrooms, and cultural norms that do not favour girl's education.

Participants agreed to scale out the gender responsive education training to the rest of the teachers in their respective schools, organise guidance and counselling sessions and offer equal opportunities in student leadership and decision making. Schools agreed to incorporate gender framework policies in their school rules and regulations and gender responsive education activities in their school budget.

Secondary school teachers in Adjumani attending the gender responsive education training that was held at Multi-purpose hall in Adjumani district.



Radio Lessons at Radio Usalama

17% Very Good

63% Good

20% Not good

Covered topics they had not learnt yet. Kept them busy studying. Helped improve their knowledge. Has enabled them complete the syllabus.

Inadequate radios. Difficulty in understanding subjects that require visual illustration. Short time allocated for each subject. Negative attitude among some parents.



Radio Lesson time

53% Lesson time is favorable

47% Lesson time unfavorable

Students attending a YCS meeting at Comboni Comprehensive Secondary School.



Livelihood

Equip and impart vocational skills to persons with vulnerability such as orphans, school drop outs, teen mothers, vulnerable girls and women at risk.

30

Impoverished girls, school drop-outs, teenage and single mothers in Adjumani district learning tailoring and business skills to improve their standard of living, enable them improve the care for their children and contribute to the economic recovery of their communities



Tailoring students attending class at the JRS Adjumani office.

Vocational skills training at Moyo Technical Institute

55

(19f, 36m)

Vocational skills training for persons with vulnerability at Moyo Technical Institute (MTI). Courses offered include: Tailoring, Hairdressing, Welding, Building, Carpentry, Electrical and solar installation, Motorcycle repair and Plumbing.



Vocational students meeting at the JRS office before heading to school



Students taking part in the hairdressing class.



The M&E officer inspects items made by the carpentry students.



Students at the computer laboratory at the institute.



Meeting with students at Moyo Technical Institute during a monitoring and evaluation visit.



“I plan to open up a business when I complete this course to support my siblings.”

Misiku Eunice, 21

Is one of the students undertaking the six month tailoring and business skills course at Jesuit Refugee Service.

“I love tailoring,” Eunice says within the first month of her attending school, she has learnt to cut materials and use the sewing machine. “I enjoy the work and it makes me happy.”

Eunice joined the tailoring class in September 2021, she had dropped out of school in 2019 while in S.2 at Comboni Secondary School when her mother failed to raise school fees for her continuation.

Eunice is the first born of seven and has been brewing local alcohol along with her single mother to make ends meet. She got to know of the tailoring course when a friend informed her while at work and applied.

Eunice’s family came from South Sudan in 2016 during the peak of the conflict and were resettled in Olua Refugee Settlement, Adjumani District. During the duration of the course, she is residing with an aunt and grandmother in a household of eight within Adjumani Town Council.

“I plan to open up a business when I complete this course to support my siblings. Some of them are in school while others are at home.” Eunice appreciates JRS and the training saying it has given her hope for a better future for her and her family.

“I will one day want to go home to South Sudan when the war ends, we will need to rebuild everything with the skills we have got.”

The vocational skills training (tailoring) targets to empower impoverished girls and women, school drop outs, teenage mothers and single mothers within Adjumani district. Thirty girls and women will benefit from the tailoring and business skills training.

Peace Building and Reconciliation



Let's talk peace hour — Radio talk shows

15/ 07/ 2021— Obstacles to peace

29/ 07/ 2021— Effects of violence on men

12/ 08/ 2021— Effects of violence on women

26/ 08/ 2021— Effects of violence on children

09/ 09/ 2021— Hope, consolidating uncertainty for school age going children

23/ 09/ 2021— Hope consolidating uncertainty

Radio Usalama

Languages

English

Madi

Kuku

Arabic

Training for local council chairpersons on conflict, peace building and conflict resolution.

The training aimed at building the capacity of community leaders to mobilize and work for peace, justice, peaceful conflict resolution, conflict management and reconciliation.

The training targeted local council I, II and III chairpersons and executive councilors of Ofua Sub County.

During the training, the councilors discussed key conflict drives such as, land conflict that is characterized by land grabbing and has been deepened by the customary land demarcation, and inter tribal conflict.

22-23/06/ 2021, Ofua Sub County. 43(35m, 8f)



Training of women leaders from the refugee and host community on peace building and reconciliation

The training was to build capacity of community women leaders in peace building and conflict resolution so they support their families and communities effectively addressing conflict through non-violent means.

Participants were from locations of Nyumanzi refugee settlement and Pagirinya refugee settlement.

One of the key conflict drivers in the society is irresponsibility which has led to family breakups as stated by participants.



Participants at the training at Multi-purpose Training Centre

“A man in my neighborhood used to receive the cash ratio for his family and afterwards travel away to South Sudan leaving the wife and children hungry” Agot from Nyumanzi says that the family disintegrated with the children going apart. After elders intervened, the family eventually got back together.

“As a woman I see peace as people who are welcoming, an organized homestead with a clean environment, happy children playing and going to school, a situation where there is no war and one can travel without rejection, no violence and there is free assembly. “

Nyumanzi and Pagirinya Refugee Settlements 23-27/ 08/ 2021 90 (55R, 35N)

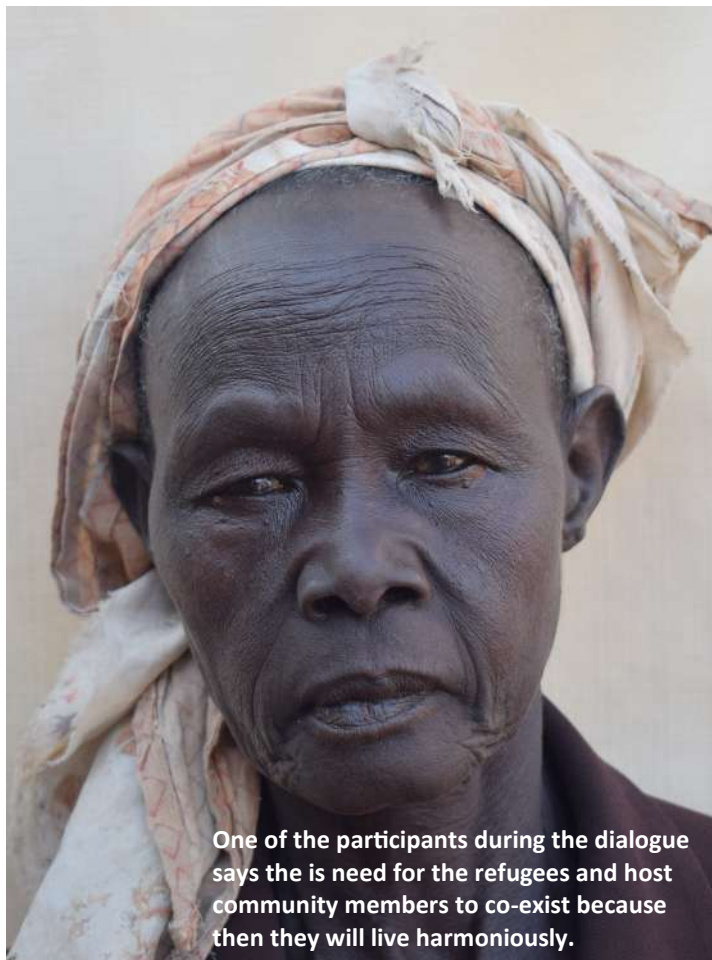
Training of trainers for youth and religious leaders

The training aimed to build the capacity of communities to mobilize and work for reconciliation. The training targeted refugees and nationals who are religious leaders based in the refugee settlements.

Among some of the topics discussed included, peace, conflict and violence and its effects, justice and injustice.

Peace building is a challenging activity with dynamics of actors and conflicts. With the skills and knowledge attained during the training, participants will contribute to the peaceful coexistence of refugees and host communities, beginning right from their families.

Pagirinya, Maaji II and Nyumanzi Refugee Settlements. 26-27/ 05/ 2021, 21(15m, 6f)



One of the participants during the dialogue says the is need for the refugees and host community members to co-exist because then they will live harmoniously.

Peaceful and harmonious coexistence between the host and refugee community

‘Peaceful and harmonious coexistence between the host and refugee community’

The dialogue was attended by women leaders, host community leaders, refugee welfare councils, youth leaders, cluster leaders and opinion leaders. Several issues arose in the meeting.

The youth general secretary Pagirinya village Ingavure Patrick, says some of the conflicts arise due to inter-marriage. He cites that when a refugee girl gets married to a national, the couple is often threatened with death threats, insults and tribal sentiments.

“Refugees have been welcomed by the community wholeheartedly, but the challenge of deforestation characterized by charcoal burning is greatly affecting the vegetation cover.” Kandaruku Bosco, youth leader Logoangwa parish.

Pagirinya Refugee Settlement, 18/ 09/ 2021

Training of secondary school teachers on peace building and reconciliation in Adjumani district

Attending Secondary schools

Pagirinya . Dzaipi . Nyumanzi . St James Comprehensive . Adjumani Model . Biyaya . Mungula . Maaji . Lewa . Arinyapi

The training aimed at building the capacity of teachers to mobilize and work for peace, justice, conflict resolution, management and reconciliation.

5-6/ 7/ 2021 44(3m, 14f)

Commemoration of the International Peace Day 21/ 09/ 2021

‘Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world’

JRS joined other partners in commemorating the world peace day held at Nyumanzi refugee settlement. At the celebrations partners carried out dialogues, road drives with peace messages, radio talk shows, tree planting and environmental cleaning at the trading center. JRS organized a community dialogue attended by 54 participants.

World peace day is celebrated every year on 21 September to strengthen peace across the nations by observing 24 hours of non-violence and ceasefire. It is also a day devoted to promoting solidarity for building a peaceful and sustainable world.



accompany

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advocate



Fr Taban Patrick Constantino SJ is a board member of Jesuit Refugee Service.

“Growing up, the Jesuits working with JRS were my models for working with the marginalised and poor refugees. I wanted to work with the Jesuits to help refugees.”

JOURNEYING WITH JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

An interview with Father Taban Patrick Consantino SJ

Fr. Taban SJ is a Jesuit Refugee Service board member. He shares with us his journey with JRS.

Growing up, the Jesuits working with JRS were my models for working with the marginalised and poor refugees. I wanted to work with the Jesuits to help refugees.

I came to Uganda from South Sudan as a baby with my parents. We lived in Magburu Refugee Settlement, Adjumani District, where I had my initial calling to be a priest.

As an altar boy, I encountered priests of the Jesuit society who were leading mass at the camp during my teens. When I saw the selfless way they worked and served refugees, I wanted to be one of them.

In 2001, I attended St Mary's Minor Seminary, Kochoa and four years later met Fr. Patrick Hume SJ four years later while drawing illustrations for JRS. And later did my A 'levels under a full JRS scholarship.

I went to Juba looking for vocation promoters for the Jesuits but did not get them. There I got involved in teaching catechism. The Arch Bishop Lokudu Loro took me to the major seminary in Khartoum where I met the vocational promoter of Sudan Fr. Hans Butman SJ, he became my spiritual director.

In consultation with Fr. Patrick, Fr. Hans recommended I join the Jesuits in 2008 and requested the Arch Bishop to let me go. After a year of candidateship with Fr. Patrick, I was accepted to join the Jesuits in Arusha, Tanzania in 2010.

I spent two years in Arusha, another three in India before my ordination as Deacon in Kenya where I had studied theology. I then went to Rome for licentiate in social sciences specialising in social communication.

At a conference in Rome, I shared my story. With my experience and background as a refugee, JRS requested I be a part of the board for the 57 countries they serve. I can identify myself to the plight of refugees.

Food distribution in the parishes and deanery of Adjumani and Obongi District

JRS supported 10 parishes within the Adjumani deanery with food items. With the close of churches and public celebrations during the lockdown, parishes were struggling to make ends meet.

10 parishes of;

- Sacred heart Adjumani Parish
- Loa sub parish
- Kureku parish
- Dzaipi parish
- Pakele parish
- Indriani sub parish
- Oriangwa sub parish
- Obongi parish
- Palorinya parish
- Unna shrine



Support of the St Kizito chapel, Pagirinya Dzaipi parish.

JRS supported the re-construction of the ST Kizito Chapel in Pagirinya Refugee Settlement after it was blown away during a storm. The Christians in the community had began reconstruction, however, could not complete due to lack of materials.

JRS through its pastoral department supported the Christians to complete the new structure.



St Kizito Chapel before (after the storm), and after the re-construction.

Economic empowerment and financial management - Refresher training for catechists.

The basic theological formation on economic empowerment and management refresher course for catechists aimed at equipping them with tools and strategies for resource creation for their families and communities.

The lack of theological and real life education in the churches, (refugee settlements and host communities) for the catechists is a great challenge. Many catechists are rated among the least income earners in the society, with some living on the minimum basic with their families.

The economic empowerment training aimed at educating catechists on their welfare and the management of the little resources both of the Christian community they serve and their own property.

Areas of discussion included creation of resources, sources of church funds, family welfare, management of community resources church property and catechism as a service.

Obongi District. 22(4f, 18m).



Angubo Charles

Catechist Adupi chapel, Obongi district, about 8km from the parish

I have begun a short catechetical course at Ladonga Catechetical Training Centre. This training is more broad than the one at Lodonga. I have benefitted and appreciated the program, mainly the skills to uplift my economic status and that of the chapel.

I am going to use the information I have received during this training to convene the chapel council and give them a summary of what I have learnt here and task them to take the same information to their Christian communities. I will not leave out the association leaders who I intend to use as a means of spreading the information.

The situation at the chapel before has been bad. When we were mobilising for bricklaying for the chapel construction, few Christians showed up. They did not come because they have no faith and the knowledge of how to make the bricks.

My greatest challenge is the distance from the parish, which is about 8Km and the minimal support from the Christians.



Perina Elmani

Indilinga chapel, Obongi district

The training on economic empowerment has been beneficial to me, I will employ these skills in my personal planning and the community will benefit from it.

The challenge in my community is that the people are poor and do not contribute to the church. I live with the children, my husband works far. I am acting as the head of the family and it is a challenge balancing family issues with the church work.

Grabbing of the church land is also another issue, and when it comes to church construction, Christians are not offering assistance.

At the church, while some Christians work with and support me, there are others who do not.

Activity report on awareness raising on child protection in Nyumanzi

Ayilo, Nyumanzi, Pagirinya, Maaji 1 and Maaji 11

The training was meant to raise community awareness on child protection for parent groups in the five settlements who will be helping to identify concerns of child within their community and report them to the relevant authorities

Specific Objectives

To improve the understanding of child protection among the parent groups, and their capacity to prevent abuse.

To strengthen the skills of the parent groups to recognize diverse child protection issues

Topics covered during training

Child protection and forms of child abuse.

Causes and signs of an abuse

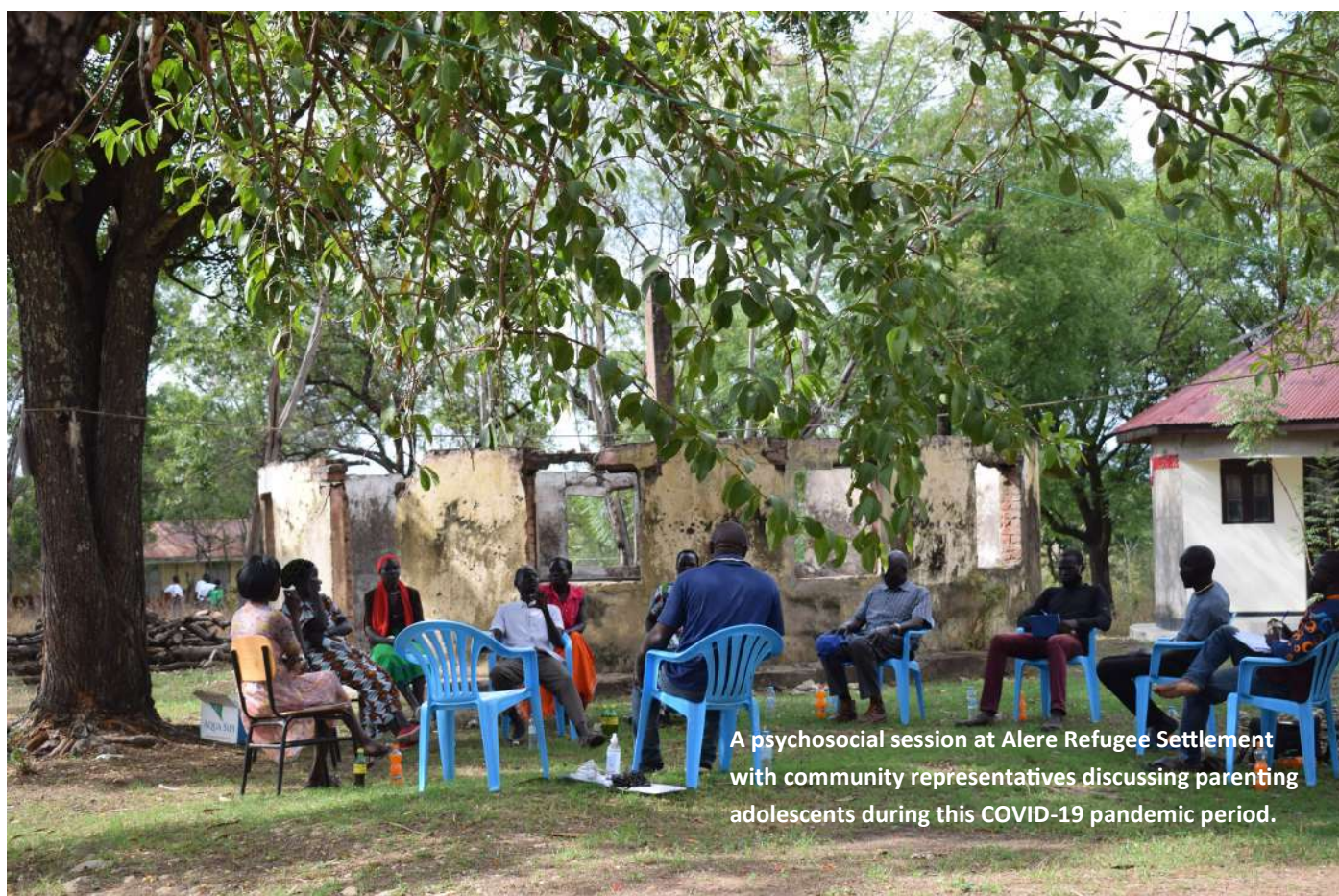
Effects of violence on children

Roles of different stakeholders in protecting children, rights and responsibility of children

Achievements

Sharing of experience from their community during the session.

Knowledge will be used to change abusive aspects of their cultures and protect children right, identify cases of child abuse in the community and share the roles of stakeholders in the protection of children.



A psychosocial session at Alere Refugee Settlement with community representatives discussing parenting adolescents during this COVID-19 pandemic period.



A radio psychotherapy session program in session at Usalama Radio in Pakele.

40

January To
September

Talk shows

Radio station – Usalama Radio, Pakele

Duratoon – 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Languages: English, Arabic, Madi.



MPSS facilitator David takes part in the radio psychotherapy session recently.

Basic Needs



A nursing sister interacts with a child during one of the community outreaches in Russia East village.

Community Medical Outreach

Supporting the most vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and host community members access basic goods and services of, medical, food and non-food support, shelter and cash support.

JRS in collaboration with the district health office and partners, is carrying out community outreaches to reach the communities with COVID 19 related services, such as testing, case identification, vaccination and referrals. During the community outreaches, there is also malaria testing and treatment, vaccination of children, COVID 19 vaccination and HIV testing.

Services offered;

Health education on various topics including prevention of the pandemic disease.

Malaria testing and treatment

HIV counselling and testing

COVID screening and vaccination

Treatment of other conditions

Vitamin A administration and deworming

Routine vaccine

Nutrition assessment

Antenatal care for pregnant mothers

Catchment areas

Adjumani Mission HC III

Maryland HC III

Robidire HC III

Dzaipi HC III

Outreach sites

Eleukwe

Rassia East and West

Robidire

Olobo

Patua

Pavuraga

Lajopi Ginnery

Mirieyi settlement

Manyalwa

Marinyo

**JRS envisions a world where refugees
and the forcibly displaced live in
dignity and peaceful coexistence, where
all human rights are recognized
and safeguarded and the full potential
of all is realized.**



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