

**Joseph & Robinah Mutebi**  
**Program Consultant**  
jmutebi@worldrenew.net

**Edward & Milly Okiror**  
**Program Consultant**  
eokiror@worldrenew.net

**Carol Musoke**  
**Constituency Bridger**  
cmusoke@world-renew.net

**Nema Aluku**  
**Health and HIV Consultant**  
**East and Southern Africa**  
naluku@worldrenew.net


**World Renew Canada**  
3475 Mainway  
PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1  
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8  
1-800-730-3490  
Fax: 905-336-8344

**World Renew US**  
1700 28th Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508  
1-800-552-7972  
Fax: 616-224-8060

worldrenew.net/uganda  
 @worldrenew\_ug

 **World Renew Uganda** 24 Aug  
@worldrenew\_ug  
Pray for the 2016 Uganda elections as candidates begin to campaign. Pray for a peaceful election. #praymonday  
Expand

 **World Renew GVP** 6 Aug  
@worldrenew\_gvp  
One of our #volunteers has arrived in #Uganda. Follow along with Cheyenne's blog at: bit.ly/1UqtRgc  
Retweeted by World Renew Uganda  
Expand

 **World Renew Uganda** 20 Jul  
@worldrenew\_ug  
#GivingThanks for her giant tomato plants. Her trainings taught her to improve the soil through mulching. #praymonday

Warm greetings from all of us here at World Renew Uganda. As I sit at my desk and look out at the blue sky, green grass, and red dirt; listen to the birds chirp, the kids playing, and a few cars driving along the street somewhere in the background—I am reminded of the hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful”. Let us praise the Lord together for the mighty things He has done in our lives. In this newsletter we celebrate the progress of our World Renew partners and the communities they work with. We share with you the great and simple processes that we have observed and learned from them. And we share with you their gratitude and excitement for a brighter tomorrow. Indeed, for us it is an Ebenezer! May God continue to bless you, for great is the sacrifice you each make to keep God's work moving.

## Living Justice, Loving Mercy, Serving Christ in a Goat-Exchange Program

By Carol Musoke, Constituency Bridger

Witnessing a goat-exchange activity had always been one of my desires, and in June 2015, during the partnership evaluation exercise for World Renew partner Lango Diocese, I could not contain my excitement when I was put on the team that would observe a goat-exchange activity for a community group at St. Peter Aduku Church of Uganda. For many World Renew supported communities, goats are very popular. They are substantially income earning, they are easy to maintain, their milk is a good supplement to the family diet, and their manure is good for enriching the soil to grow more produce for food and for sale. No wonder goats are a popular feature in World Renew's gift catalog! For every goat-gift received in Uganda, the “firstborn kid” is lovingly handed down to the next beneficiary, who in turn lovingly takes care of it and then hands down that goat's “firstborn kid” to yet another beneficiary, and so on.

Since 2009, through Partners in Hope, Calgary CRC has been in a church-to-church partnership with St. Peter Aduku Church of Uganda, and one of the key activities in this partnership has been to support impoverished homesteads through the goat-exchange program. For years I wondered how this entire process of handing down goats is done—who gets which goat, when do they get it, and how fair is this process?—all without the use of some high-tech computer software. If you too were wondering, let me share with you how the congregation of St. Peter Aduku Church of Uganda does it.

### 1. Who gets the goat?

This is a really foundational step, and right from the inception of the program it's given a lot of

deliberation and processing. The community members gather criteria based on cultural, environmental, social, political context, and program objectives. And before each goat-exchange the group leaders and group members select the next set of beneficiaries. The paramount focus is that the criteria are balanced, non-corruptible, and beneficial to the whole community.

### 2. When do they get the goat?

Goat-exchanges are done every three to four months after the kids have been weaned. To ensure that some members do not keep the goats longer than necessary, the community aims to have all the does (nanny goats) conceive within the same month, and the partner-staff agriculture officers are always available to give the group members advice on some of these technical processes.

### 3. Who gets which goat?

The system is efficient. The selection process takes less than 20 minutes and will often be done at the end of a regular group meeting. First, all the goats available to be given are counted, and the group makes sure the number of goats corresponds to the number of benefi-



*A goat-exchange beneficiary receiving her goat as others await their turn.*

(Continued on page 3)

# The Power of Community Organizing

## A Story of Transformation



by Joseph Mutebi  
Program Consultant  
Uganda Team

In today's community development work, stakeholders are starting to recognize emerging organized groups as potential partners and valuable connections. They have found it much easier to support an organized group than to go through the painstaking process of organizing one. For any intervention the process of organizing a community is a prerequisite for meaningful results. Organizing builds a strong foundation for program planning, community ownership of the program, and community cohesion. This has affirmed World Renew's intervention of laying the needed foundations for community development. And through these interventions we and our partner organization Nebbi Diocese Church of Uganda have learned valuable lessons. For example, we have learned that women, especially those living in the least-served habitats, learn and cooperate better in situations that bring them together. We have learned that rotational leadership, which is much encouraged in community development, builds the capacity of even the least privileged in terms of education and literacy levels. We have also learned that the promotion of self-help has been appreciated for its ability to encourage the least-served communities to work on mechanisms that improve their livelihood with minimal external support. This has enhanced their ability to begin enterprises with resources from within the community. In our role as facilitators of the process of community building, it has been crucial for us to learn from this indigenous knowledge to improve our programming.

### Why a Self-Help Approach?

Adoko Martina is married and is 55 years old, but she looks 15 years younger. Her explanation for this youthful look is that she "found her voice"—and through platforms like the self-help groups she has had plenty of opportunity to freely share her views and ideas. Martina emphasizes the need for improvement in self-help methods, but she laments that many of the men are not ready to adopt the initiative. She emphasizes that the local authorities are a gateway to the effective mobilization of the communities. With the level of capacity she has gained, Martina is vying to represent women at the sub-county local government during the 2016 Uganda general elections.

Learning from the church intervention and support of the self-help initiative in Jonam in Nebbi district, Archdeacon Rev. Canon Charles Owiny says, "The people in this area now willingly give to the church and offer to

*Martina with her flock*



serve in various capacities as needed. The church has experienced an increase in giving as a result of the increased enterprises and income of the people of this

area. Love has been observed among the participating communities. There is no more isolation; the communities feel the warmth of working together. The hygiene and sanitation standards have greatly improved. The people look smart and have better clothing."

The church management committee has noted better stewardship, transparency, and financial planning. There is increased interreligious harmony when it comes to resolving community problems. The benefit is appreciated by the church, which is ministering to the entire community.

Even without any external financial input, the self-help groups see significant progress. The level of transparency at the project levels through planning and budgeting with all involved has increased the level of ownership. One woman mentioned that there is no more idleness among them and that this has led to better health and living conditions. People look healthy and elegant. And they give credit to the self-help approach that has enabled them to take ownership of their progress through the decisions they make and the ability to come up with workable solutions.

In Faulonga, village members reported reduced domestic violence. There is harmony at the household level between men and women. This harmony has helped them to collectively save money. In one of the saving groups, members have so far raised 350,000 Ugandan shillings and are committed to achieve their dream. One committee member said that during their monitoring visits they witnessed lots of success stories celebrated as a result of the savings and credit plan developed by the members of the group. One of the members shares, "We believed we were poor, but we are not. Any poverty here is just due to poor planning. We thought that banking is for the rich and civil servants, yet saving is possible within the communities. Now that we know how to plan and work together with the little that we have, we have quick access to our own financial and credit services. People from other areas come to buy vegetables such as tomatoes from us. This is a lucrative business opportunity, and we shall work harder to achieve more."



# Together We Can A Story of Transformation



by **Edward Okiror**  
Program Consultant  
Uganda Team

Clement is one of the 30 community facilitators whom KIDO, with support from World Renew Uganda and FRB, has trained since 2013. Clement works in one of the six communities where World Renew supports improving livelihood programs for people affected by natural disasters and war. By practicing conservation farming and participating in the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), Clement has seen his family on the path of transformation. His two wives, Iseru Janet and Sarah, are also members of the VSLA, where the three save money every week. Clement is a polygamist, and between him and his two wives they have 13 children. For Clement, joining the Ekeunos farmers group in 2012 was one of the best things that ever happened to him. Keeping a large family is not easy.

He shared, "Life was very hard, and we relied on only one meal a day and very little income." But all that changed in 2012, when PAG KIDO started work in his community. Families received training on conservation farming, learning new and simple approaches on improving soil fertility and addressing the challenges of the rapidly changing climate. They also received training in VSLAs to help them learn to save and invest.

This is Clement's testimony: "Through the Participatory Evaluation Process we were able to come up with our own family action plan to guide us on how to solve our problems. And in our plan we focused on horticulture, adopting modern farming practices and savings. This has changed us! In the year 2013 we made mulch and were able to use organic manure in our 'conservation farming' tomato garden. This earned us 1.5 million shillings (about US\$410), and we used that for purchasing a cow, which has calved twice so far."



*Clement watering garden as wife (seated), kids, and KIDO intern (standing) watch him.*

For Clement's household income, this was quite a lot of money—they had never earned even half that amount in just a single harvest. In 2014, Clement put to practice other conservation farming techniques in his gardening, and these have not disappointed him—the yields have been a lot more than he expected. With a satisfied look on his face, Clement ends his testimony with these words: "We have embraced the use of these practices, for we have seen with our own eyes how it has changed our family food situation, income, and life."

Clement's wife Iseru shares her gratitude by saying: "As a family, we thank PAG/KIDO and World Renew. Your interventions made our family known in Olungura village and beyond. Our husband currently is serving as a community resource person in an ongoing program, and he is very resourceful to not only our family but also many members of the community, even those not directly involved in the program."

(Continued from page 1)

ciaries selected. Second, the group makes two sets of numbered paper strips, one set corresponding to the goat-givers, and one set corresponding to the goat-receivers. Each strip is then folded to keep the number hidden. Then the sets of strips are set apart, and each person picks a paper from their respective pile. Next each person giving a goat goes to stand next to their goat, unfolds the paper, and attaches it to their goat. Then the goat-receivers unfold their papers, and each one finds the goat that has the number matching the number on their slip of paper. That is the goat they will take home. Finally, the goats are handed over in jubilation and thanksgiving, amid lots of hugs and blessings offered through prayer and worship. The process is simple but powerful enough to transform an entire community.

As I looked on and marveled at the simple beauty of this process, I could not help seeing our World Renew tagline come to life: Living Justice, Loving Mercy, Serving Christ. By ensuring a fair distribution process, the community is living justice; by empathetically selecting the most needy members, the community is loving mercy; and by taking good care of the kids they give away and receive, the community members are serving Christ. In effect, your gift of a goat is doing much more than putting money on the table of an impoverished home; it is going the extra mile of preaching the gospel of Christ! May God continue to bless you all.

## Disaster Response Services

Volunteer in North America. World Renew Disaster Response Services can use your help to restore homes of disaster survivors. Volunteer for one, two, or three weeks from Alberta to New Jersey to Florida and in between. Groups, individuals, and couples are welcome and there are reconstruction and non-reconstruction opportunities. Visit [worldrenew.net/drs](http://worldrenew.net/drs) to get started.

## Global Volunteer Program

You can volunteer in Uganda!

Learning groups from supporting churches are always welcome, or there may be something that can be crafted to suit your skill set.

Find out more at [worldrenew.net/globalvolunteerprogram](http://worldrenew.net/globalvolunteerprogram)