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## Report 17 March 2018

### **Environmental Conservation in Imvepi Refugee Camp**

*World Action Fund a local NGO operating in Arua, got a SEED grant from United States Embassy, Kampala, Julia Taft Foundation US\$25,000 for a project “Reducing carbon emission through afforestation”*

Meeting held with Refugee communities in March 2018 in Point H villages 1, 2 and 3 over 80 refugee members gathered



*Village 1 and 2 members*



*Village 3 members*

**Addressing and educating the refugee community in Point H in Village 2** about environmental protection, inset suite is WAF's agroforest specialist educating and addressing the area refugee community members in village 1 and two as the areas local councillor keeps addressing.



WAF emphasised on peaceful coexistence with the community and best practice of farming



*Tree cut in the refugee settlement across the stream*

**Stray animals:** Refugee communities complained of stray animals destroying their crops and urged us to help convey the message to Local authorities, as they have reported to OPM no actions to date.

**Enterprenueship**



*Refugee Communities preparing soil for brick laying project along the river stream in point H village 2*



WAF met the refugee community members to address on alternative methods of earning a living. The conservation idea is to replace the cut trees within the settlement with new trees and train refugees and local communities with the best farming practices.

**The Youths:**

We interviewed these refugee youths who are making earnings through brick laying, we advised them to seek permission on where to get wood fuel and species of trees used to burning the trees.



*Inset above are tree logs used for firing bricks*



*Bear soil seen after cutting trees in Village 2-point H.*

**Complaints:**

The complaint from the refugee communities is that, the domestic animals from the local communities are destroying their household garden crops and they often lose crops to animals, these were reported to OPM and local area councillors with no substantial feedback. This has made the refugee communities with less hope to plant crops as an alternative way to supplement food ratio.

WAF has started in phases on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the best farming training techniques to the refugees, they expressed low morale after their crops have always been destroyed by animals, we are starting distribution of seeds e.g okra, onions, cabbage as a choice from the refugee communities in their back-yard gardening.

WAF is trying to engage the local communities and Local council to have co-existence with the refugee, we have talked to the local areas council 1 or 1 of Village 2, Mr. Robert to forge a way forward to have peaceful co-existence, more meeting is due to be schedule with the area host LCs and that of refugee LCs and community mobilisers.

In the training schedule for 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018, we have involved 30% of the locals to join the training with the refugees as way of harmonising close relationships and happiness with the communities

**Training on energy saving stoves and briquettes:** WAF is starting training on this with 50 trainees expected in energy saving stoves and charcoal briquettes. The training starts on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and ending on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

These includes 70% refugees and 30% host communities within point H.

### **Awareness**

WAF is currently carrying out campaign on Radio One FM in Arua and on social media, on environmental and drama clip can be accessed in English below and there is Lugbara local language version:

<https://youtu.be/DQ6oeJ7UOZw> *Plant more trees*

[https://youtu.be/0Q7\\_DvW3jRA](https://youtu.be/0Q7_DvW3jRA) *Super dad*

<https://youtu.be/k8dXuwxMquM> *Tourism*

We encourage more actors to join us and continue the environmental awareness campaign as our project is short leaved for 12 months ending September 2018.

The campaign on environmental conservation is across different dimension not only targeting the refugee settlement.

And the refugee communities expressed disappointment that, they are always warned of cutting trees, as they watch more locals been destroyed by locals and they feel victimised on this.

WAF environmentalist advised we are not targeting the refugees only but the host communities too as the climatic conditions spares no one and has no boundaries.

We will plant 24,000 trees out of these, 4,000 are fruit trees to be planted in in April/May 2018 after heavy rains, within the settlement areas and host communities, and the refugee community leaders have shown us the open lands where soils are left bare to plant and the pawpaw seedlings as short crops will be given to the refugee communities after training on farming methods along with other seed crops and other grafted fruit trees will be given to the host communities in the ongoing campaigns.

### **Way forward**

We encourage more CSOs, government and local communities to join us in this campaign, as continuous effort is needed in averting and reversing more cutting of tress. We advise each partner to have a small budget for environmental support and conservation if we want to reduce adverse climatic conditions.

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