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# VOICES *Rising*



## GRADUATIONS IN NIGERIA: Celebrating Achievement!

IN YOLA, 125 students, including 15 boys, graduated from our program in Malkohi internally displaced persons camp. The boys not only received life skills training and vocational training in building trades such as electrical, they were able to put those skills to work during the construction of our Youth Empowerment Center at Malkohi. Well over 300 people attended the joyous celebration.



**MARKING A FIRST FOR  
OUR WORK IN NIGERIA,**  
*15 of our Malkohi graduates were boys!*

Of the girls who graduated from our Mubi program, 64 were trained in tailoring through our innovative apprenticeship program in the Gella and Madanya communities, and are currently putting their new skills to work in a tailoring workshop provided by ChildVoice. Also, 51 of our Mubi graduates were trained in smallholder farming.

"We are so proud of each and every one of you," said ChildVoice Nigeria Co-Director David Jomusu of our Mubi graduates. "We are here today because every single one of you stood tall and said 'Yes we can. Yes we can learn, yes we can succeed.' You decided you would not be defined by where you come from but by where you want to go, by what you want to achieve, by the dreams you hope to fulfill!"

In addition to graduation celebrations in Nigeria, the 27 Lukome Center students who graduated last fall received passing grades on their Directorate of Industrial Training exams!

The celebrations were filled with song and dance, and were attended by family and local dignitaries. Please join us in congratulating our latest graduates!

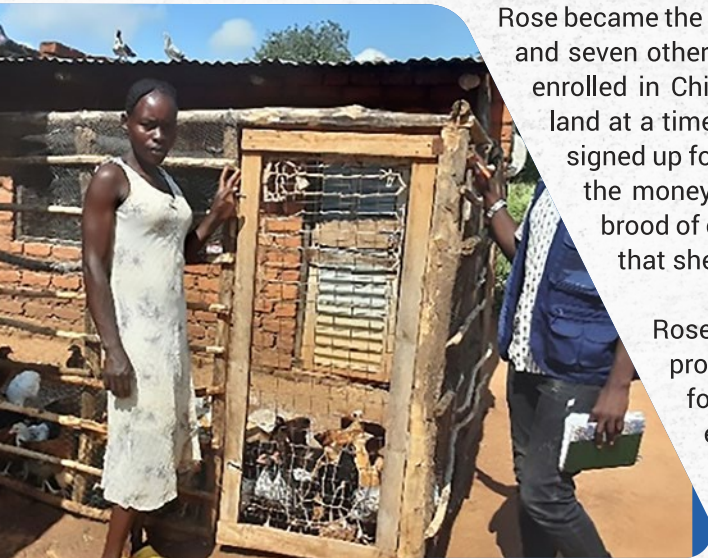
## ROSE: From Refugee to Entrepreneur

ROSE, A 2024 GRADUATE OF OUR PROGRAM in Imvepi Refugee Settlement, has a small chicken farm in which she maintains a flock of 50 birds. She sells a percentage of her chickens every other month. From her earnings she invests a percentage in replenishing her flock. It's a smart small business plan for this young entrepreneur, and an amazing achievement for a young woman who joined our Imvepi program in 2019.

It's a life Rose couldn't have imagined for herself a few years ago when she bore witness to a horrific event in South Sudan in which she was pulled from a bus that was set on fire with people inside.







Rose became the de facto head of household for a large family, including five young children and seven other family members. Recognizing that it fell to her to provide for them, she enrolled in ChildVoice's smallholder farming program, growing crops on two acres of land at a time when food aid was being sharply reduced within Imvepi. Later, she also signed up for two months of chicken farm training through another organization. With the money she earned from selling her crops, she was able to purchase her first brood of chicks. Now, she wants to earn enough money to purchase a larger plot so that she can expand her business.

Rose has a special message for those who have helped support her and provided the counseling, skills training, and loving guidance that has transformed her life: "I was in darkness, but you showed me the light. You provided for me and my needs. I am empowered and the future of my children and siblings is taking new shape. I promise not to disappoint you."

## SITUATION REPORT: UGANDA, NIGERIA, & UKRAINE



**A SURGE OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT** is sweeping through multiple regions across the globe—including the regions in which ChildVoice is currently working. In Uganda alone, 96,641 refugees, driven by violent unrest in their native countries, flooded across the border between January 1 and May 1 of this year. Of these, 65 percent were from the Democratic Republic of the Congo; 21 percent were from South Sudan; and 12 percent were from Sudan. They arrived hungry, traumatized and in need of care that has been increasingly hard to find at a time when global aid is in sharp decline.

In January of this year, northern Nigeria saw an upsurge of violence perpetrated by Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP)—a splinter group of Boko Haram. In multiple clashes in Borno State, 48 soldiers and 80 ISWAP militants were killed. By the end of March, Nigeria's population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) remained astonishingly high at 3,122,248 individuals.

War in Ukraine continues unabated. On April 14, at least 35 Ukrainian civilians, several of them children, were killed, and 110 wounded during a Russian missile strike. While some 3.6 million IDPs anguish within Ukraine's borders, another 6.8 million Ukrainians have taken refuge in other countries.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34*

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