

VOICES *Rising*



Four of Kiden's five siblings eating the
▶ **ONE MEAGER MEAL
THEY GET PER DAY**

CRISIS IN UGANDA: *People Going Hungry as More Refugees Arrive*

UGANDA IS IN THE MIDST OF AN UNPRECEDENTED REFUGEE CRISIS. As of June 26, 2025, 116,251 new refugees have sought safety within Uganda's borders since the beginning of the year. Nearly 60 percent of these are Congolese, with the remainder coming from South Sudan and Sudan. The total number of refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda now stands at over 1.9 million. At the same time, due to a 40 percent drop in funding, the World Food Programme (WFP) continues to cut back on critically needed food aid in Uganda. In Kampala, WFP Communications Officer Didas Kisembo has reported that WFP is currently able to feed only 663,000 refugees through the remainder of the year. This leaves the Ugandan government in a funding crisis as they struggle to determine how to provide adequate nutrition for those refugees who are receiving no food assistance from WFP.

Kiden, a 14-year-old South Sudanese refugee living in Imvepi Refugee Settlement, is one of these forcibly displaced people. She has struggled daily to provide for her five siblings ever since her parents abandoned them.

"My mother packed her belongings and left," Kiden recounted. "I thought she was going to wash her clothes, but she never returned." Two days later, her father also left. Now a ChildVoice beneficiary, Kiden represents just one of the dozens of new refugees ChildVoice is working to accommodate amid this growing crisis.

The number of displaced people in East African countries more than doubled between 2020 and 2024, according to WFP.

The displacement surge in the region this year has pushed Uganda's refugee reception system to the breaking point. In June, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) released \$2.5 million in emergency funds to help the country cope with the massive influx of refugees. CERF funds are being used to provide some nutrition support to new arrivals at points of entry. But once these new arrivals are relocated into refugee camps and settlements, they are faced with daily food insecurity and persistent hunger.

UNICEF recently reported that addressing severe acute malnutrition in Uganda's refugee camps is becoming increasingly difficult, saying that "Uganda's national nutrition pipeline, managed by the National Medical Stores, is projected to break by June 2025, threatening the continuity of treatment for nearly 20,000 children."



Said Julius Owori, ChildVoice's Imvepi Program Manager, of the situation: "The number of beneficiaries flocking to our Girl Empowerment Centers in Imvepi has drastically increased ever since the WFP funding cut was announced. And the number of referral cases, including new arrivals, has increased. . . We simply cannot ignore their pleas, and this has forced us to stretch our resources to extend support to them."

Owori reports that the number of beneficiaries we are accommodating in each of the centers has increased by 60 percent. Despite the challenges ahead, ChildVoice is committed to standing in the gap.



You can view a video update from Julius Owori here:
<https://youtu.be/IR6MHH4Zmf0>



INTERVIEW WITH LUCIANA CHUMACERO: *An Intern Dedicated to a Willingness to Serve*



THIS PAST SPRING, CHILDVOICE'S NIGERIA TEAM HOSTED AN INTERN, LUCIANA CHUMACERO, a postgraduate who recently completed her master's degree in the UK and is passionate about helping victims of exploitation and human trafficking.

This marks the first time ChildVoice has hosted an intern in Nigeria. Luciana spent a month working with staff members, focusing specifically on helping to improve our monitoring and evaluation methods, especially tracking long-term outcomes.

She took time out from her busy study schedule to talk with ChildVoice about her experiences and observations, including how strongly dedicated the Nigeria team is, as well as some of the challenges they face.

To read highlights from our conversation with Luciana, go to
<https://childvoice.org/all-blog-posts/luciana-chumacero>.

▶ Luciana (at left) chats with a ChildVoice student



LOVE TO GOLF?

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 ChildVoice's Golf for Hope Classic!*



*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."
 Matthew 25: 35-36*

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