

Aniye

Report 2019 - 2020

1. Introduction

There are close to a million and a half refugees in Uganda, coming from twenty different war-torn African countries. Uganda offers a welcoming and relatively safe place for them, but the country suffers from high levels of poverty and unemployment and there are no available jobs for the newcomers. Most refugees survive on the little money they brought when escaping from their home countries, odd jobs which are underpaid, some insufficient aid donations, and internal food sharing between family and community members. Chances to develop and improve are slim and require a lot of creativity and luck. Marginalized groups such as disabled people, single mothers, sex workers, sexual minorities, HIV positive, etc, are subjected to numerous types of discriminations and their employment opportunities are significantly reduced. Corona restrictions made everything much harder and everyone is struggling to survive.

“Aniye” means 'we have come' in the Zande language of South Sudan. It is a new, inclusive grassroots movement of refugees and international volunteers who want to make a difference. We strongly believe that the solution to Africa's problem is not aid or charity and will not come from outside. There are thousands of local activists who offer effective, realistic solutions, based on their intimate understanding of the local problems. But these initiatives are often blocked by discriminative bureaucratic and funding systems. Also, opportunities for collaborations and public acknowledgement are mainly biased towards top-down, western led, costly aid projects. These systems marginalize small local organizations and make them very hard to maintain. Many of them are unable to complete their objectives. Aniye is committed to support small grassroot organizations to achieve their goals and bring real change to African people and nature.

The last year was extremely challenging for us as an organization, but mainly for the refugees we are working with. Unfortunately, we had to drastically reduce our normal activities and concentrate on assisting people who were struggling to survive.

2. Our projects

Grant Proposal Writing Workshops

As part of our efforts to facilitate grassroots intersectional self-help and advocacy organizations, we have run a series of fundraising and organizational management workshops. This year we ran three grant proposal writing workshops for small environmental and human rights NGOs. The courses focused on:

- Identifying suitable grants (International and governmental)
- Understanding the grant's requirements and conditions
- Writing and editing of applications
- Preparing the budget
- Submitting proposals
- Sending appropriate correspondence

In total we had 62 participants from 27 different organizations including refugees and peace building, environmental, and human rights. We believe that helping these grassroots activist organizations be able to fundraise for themselves is the best way to bring real change. One of the groups who came to our workshop especially from DRC has returned to their country and are running their own workshops based on our teachings, to their fellow activists. As part of our grant proposal writing workshops, all participants are entitled to receive help with editing their funding proposals by our native English-speaking volunteers. We have helped the editing of 21 different proposals, at least five of them successful. The funding goes directly to the different grassroots groups and allows them to achieve their goals, with our continuous involvement and support.

Vocational skills trainings

Since we began working, we ran close to 300 hours of training in vocational skills, literacy and English for Urban refugee groups. We have been working with close to 200 children and 250 women and our capacity building activities have served 37 small local organizations. Our arts and crafts trainings are focusing on jewellery and African beading, recycled paper arts, shoe making, soap making, etc.

Together with different refugee organizations and individuals, we ran a series of meetings to establish a network of human rights advocates in Uganda. With the aim of establishing:

1. Capacity building to our group members
2. Promotion of freedom of expression
3. Governance as related to refugee issues
4. Examination of the root cause of refugee influx in Eastern Africa
5. Creation of a series of information sessions about refugee rights for the different communities

Economic development

We launched a Facebook page 'Refugees in Kampala – Arts and Crafts'. The page gives refugee artists a unique opportunity to promote their work, communicate directly with their customers and develop their businesses. 100% Of income goes directly to the artists and/or their organizations.

This went hand in hand with a weekly Local Arts & Crafts Community Market in Namuwongo. Every Saturday we were giving groups of women from the slam and refugee groups space to sell their products as well as to network between the intersectional groups and develop joint strategies and mutual support. The groups were presenting beautiful products such as jewelries, bags, shoes and many more unique souvenirs and gifts, all handmade by our people. 100% of the profits went directly to the groups selling.

Projects started/running with our support

As part of our work with Refugee Association for Development (R.A.D) and in collaboration with our great friend Hortensia Salama, we supported the establishment of a hair dressing saloon and training center supporting families caring for Congolese and local orphan and vulnerable children.

As part of our collaboration with Kandaakiat for Women group. A training center for tailoring, shoe making and African beadwork and a shop selling these products in support of Sudanese and South Sudanese women and youth. There are more than 60 women and youth benefiting from the daily teachings of tailoring, beading and shoe making.

As part of our collaboration with Hope for Eternity (HEM) we give art and craft trainings to two groups of widowed women living in the Kyaka II refugee camp, some of these women act as surrogate mothers for 25 orphan children from the camp.

Education

We estimate that due to economic situation. Tens of thousands of refugee children in Kampala do not receive any formal education. These children will have very little opportunity in life and are likely to be dependent on, rather than contribute to the society where they live.

Therefore, together with local groups, we have run hundreds of hours of literacy and English teaching activities to children groups of in Makindye, Nsambya and Ndejje.

Additionally, we collect game donations from international sources. These games are used for playing activities with refugee children in all our groups. During Ugandan school vacations our volunteers travel around Kampala offering Ugandan and refugee children days of playing activities to make their vacations more fun.

Support of vulnerable groups in time of Corona

Corona restrictions in Uganda left thousands of refugees and local people without any income opportunity and many of them struggled to survive. During the lockdown we have managed to channel private donations to provide food for four groups of especially vulnerable groups (3 adult and one children groups) and some individual families. In total we have been providing food for more than 130 people, some of them upon request and some throughout the lockdown period.

Safe housing

Many refugees find themselves at great risk because of issues which made them leave their original countries, because of domestic violence or other because they belong to different marginalized groups, especially LGBTQs. This year we have provided temporary shelter to 21 people for times ranging from a few days to six months, depending on the case.

Health Support

There are many cases where the authorities are unable to provide efficient and timely health support, which can cost some people their lives. During the year we supported 35 patients who failed to receive adequate care by other means, by paying their hospital bills. Cases were ranging from malaria to operations after violent and sexual attacks.