

UNV UGANDA PARTICIPATES IN *WALK THE WORLD* EVENT (MAY 2007)

On 13th May 2007, WFP organised a *WALK the World* event that was commemorated in various countries worldwide. In Uganda, separate walks were held in different stations around the country. The focus of this activity was on ending child hunger, in relation to the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG1). A number of UNV volunteers, in a show of solidarity, took part in the walks at four separate locations: Kampala, Adjumani, Moroto and Pader.

Kampala - by *Mwangi Mathenge*, UNV Programme Officer

In Kampala, the eight (08) kilometre walk was kicked off by the President of the Republic of Uganda H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. The Chief Walker displayed exemplary fitness, setting such a fast pace that others practically to jog along just in order to keep up. The UNV volunteers who braved the round trip and shared in the fun included *Joe Burua*, UNDP CPR Unit and based at the National Focal Point; *Andreas Lehnert* and his family of the UNDP Service Centre; *Edith Kaddu* of UNHCR and her family, *Roberta Russo* also of UNHCR and her family, *Teresita Cedeno* of UNHCR, *Ali Hamba* of UNHCR; *Stella Suffer*, formerly with UNHCR plus *Moses Tumusiime* and *Vincent Bukenya*, formerly with UNV Human Rights Project. The UNV team was led by *Mwangi Mathenge*, UNV Programme Officer.



Getting ready for the walk (right-left): UNV Programme Officer Mwangi Mathenge, Stella Suffer, Moses Tumusiime and Vincent Bukenya



On the move: UNV Teresita Cedeno (waving) and Moses Tumusiime proudly raise the UN volunteer banner as they stride along

The weather was quite favourable, with cool temperatures that enabled those walkers who weren't in the habit of exercising regularly to keep going. Nevertheless the Chief Walker's pack had to wait at Grand Imperial Hotel's Shell Petrol Station roundabout for those coming behind. Upon getting a breather, the group set off again, tackling Sheraton Hotel's hill at an energised pace but little knowing that they needed to reserve some energy to use in reining in their speed as they went down the Fang Fang Hotel hill. However, it was at Golf Club that the UNV pack realised that they would have been better off running so that they could pick up enough speed to see them through Acacia Avenue and back to Kololo Airstrip Grounds.

As they worked their way up the slope, UNV Burua commented on the interesting fact that there were barriers all around the Grounds to ensure that 'clever ones' did not get ideas about taking short-cuts, while tackling the stretch along Upper Kololo Terrace and round to the Wampewo Avenue final point, which was visible about a kilometre away.

Prior to the walk, as they awaited the arrival of the dignitaries, the assembled crowd was entertained by a band comprising of former street children, who displayed considerable skill with the mast. The Ndere Centre Troupe did



Display of solidarity: Walkers donning WFP "Fight Hunger" t-shirts tackle the Kololo hill, flanked by UNVs in their "5 Years of Volunteering" shirts

not let the organisers down as they enthralled the crowd with intriguing dances at the start, as well as at the finishing point where they entertained the walkers who were catching their breath after successfully completing the walk. It was impossible not to be struck by the Child Ambassador from Karamoja who in his presentation reinforced the reasons why it is imperative for all to carry on with the *Fight Hunger* campaign.

To crown the day, the President had the gathering in stitches of laughter with the story of a competitive road race for all animals where the winner was to become king of the rest. Brain rather than brawn won the day though, as hare was outsmarted by chameleon that had attached itself to the tail of the hare throughout the race and thus was first on the seat of the throne.

Moroto - by *Christine Akot* and *Francis Oloka*, OHCHR

UNV volunteers *Christine Akot* and *Francis Oloka* kept the UNV flag flying high at the Moroto station. The chief walker here was the Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Hon. Aston Kajara and others included the State Minister for Primary Education, Hon. Peter Lokeris.

The walkers commenced at Apostles House in downtown Moroto, then traversed Moroto town through the town hospital to Campswahili. From there they proceeded along Abyebo Road where the OHCHR office is located, at which point UNV Christine Akot assumed the role of flag bearer. They continued to Senior Quarters via Singila then on to Moroto Municipal Primary School before finally reaching their end point, the Boma grounds.



UNVs Christine Akot (right) with her immediate supervisor Priscilla Ciesay of OHCHR (2nd left) seated in front of a restaurant prior to the start of the Moroto walk.



A cross-section of participants leave the starting point, Apostles House Moroto

At Boma grounds, speeches and entertainment were the order of the day, with a local artist called Lopeta being the main entertainer. The joyous event was marred however by an accident that occurred just after the Minister for Karamoja Affairs had started his speech. That notwithstanding, the event wound up successfully at Hotel Leslona in Moroto.

Adjumani - by Simon Obuoja and Carolyn Akello, UNHCR

Adjumani district was not left behind in staging a *WALK the World* event. Once again there was a sizeable UNV contingent at this station, including UNVs **Jacqueline Okello**, **Carolyn Akello**, **Simon Obuoja** and **Rose Nakasinde**. The chief Walker was the State Minister for Environment, Ms. Jessica Eriyo. Others dignitaries who participated included the Senior Presidential Advisor for Northern Uganda and several MPs.

The UNVs played a very active role in organising meetings and raising funds towards the Fight Hunger event. In just 9 days, the UNVs in Moyo were able to solicit funds from friends of WFP in the district, district officials and corporate colleagues, raising the sum of 800,000 Uganda shillings! This money was officially handed over to WFP.

Not limiting their participation to fundraising activities, the UNVs also took an active lead in organising and leading the team comprising of a group of traditional dancers and the Moyo Brass band to Adjumani for the walk. The latter groups added colour to the event.



UNVs Jacqueline Okello (2nd right), Carolyn Akello, (3rd right) and Samuel Kinungi (3rd left) at the Laopi ferry crossing, with the brass band playing in the background

Pader - by Nuwe Devota, OHCHR

Yet another walk to commemorate the Fight Hunger campaign was held in Kalongo, Pader district. Organisations that participated included WFP Kitgum and Pader, WHO, World Vision and of course, UN Volunteers. The Chief Guest at this event was the MP of Agago County, Hon. Ogenga Latigo. UNV **Nuwe Devota** took part in this walk.



Walkers find time for a shared joke as they participate in WFP's noble cause in Kalongo, Pader. Right is UNV Nuwe Devota



Silhouetted against the backdrop of a towering hill, Nuwe Devota (left) and colleagues help proclaim the Fight against Hunger message

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