

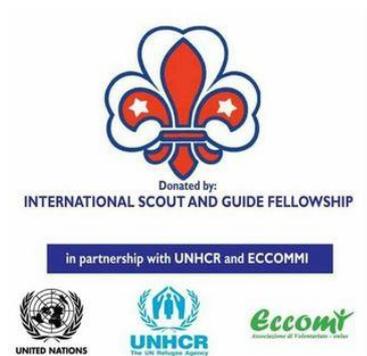
## REPORT IMVEPI PROJECT UGANDA

By Mathius Lukwago, WCom member

### General

Since its creation in the 1950s, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has helped millions of people of concern—refugees, returnees, internally displaced people, and stateless persons—to rebuild their lives by safeguarding their rights and providing protection, lifesaving assistance and seeking solutions.

None of this has been possible without partners, and without a strong and enduring sense of partnership.



ISGF has a partnership as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) since 2012. Martine Lévy, former chairman of ISGF World Committee, is the official representative for ISGF at UNHCR. The partnership with UNHCR will enable ISGF to strengthen the preparedness and capacity of the National Scout and Guide Fellowships for humanitarian response.

### Imvepi Refugee Settlement in Northern Uganda

In 2013, a conflict broke out in South Sudan, leading to a complex and dangerous situation of armed conflict, economic decline, disease and hunger. The total of about 2.5 million South Sudanese refugees fled to nearby countries such as Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of the Congo, and over 60% of them are children under 18 years old.

With thousands of new arrivals fleeing to Uganda every day, Africa's largest refugee crisis started. More than 1.5 million South Sudanese refugees fled to neighboring countries in the region, around half of which were in Uganda.

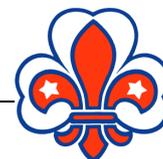


Upon arrival, refugees received a plot of land on which to build their new homes and grow crops. Uganda hosts most refugees from South Sudan and as of March 2018, over 1,000,000 South Sudanese refugees had fled into the country. The IMVEPI Refugee Settlement, which was opened in 2017 had, in April 2020, 65,796 refugees.

### Project description

It was when ISGF was asked by UNHCR to support the IMVEPI Refugee settlement providing temporary shelters that ISGF stepped into this project.

During the 28<sup>th</sup> ISGF World Conference in Bali, Indonesia, 2017 the project was announced and launched on 20 June 2018 on World Refugee Day.



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Each year on June 20 the UNHCR around the world host World Refugee Day events in order to draw the public's attention to the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide who have been forced to flee their homes due to war, conflict and persecution.



Initially ISGF wanted to raise money in order to provide canvas tents, each twenty-five (25) euros, for the refugees. However, the camp administration advised not to have canvas tents as these would last only six (6) months. The settlement had to deal with longer stays, from several months to years.

After discussion within the World Committee and the camp administration it was unanimously agreed to construct fifty (50) semi-permanent huts for 4 persons of 3 x 3 meters that would last much longer. So, the goal was to have built fifty (50) huts. The more permanent accommodation was more expensive, and the huts were constructed for five hundred euros fourteen (514) each.



### Fundraising

After ISGF announced the project to their members they put a goal of twenty-five thousand (25.000) euros. The income of the fundraising could be followed via a thermometer on the ISGF website.

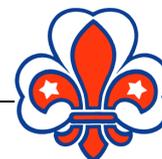
Many NSGFs, Central Branch groups and individuals donated for this project up to twenty-five thousand eight hundred and three (25.803) euros.

WE DID IT!!! Together we raised the amount. THANK YOU for giving back and bringing hope to these refugees.

### Visit of UK team in December 2019



The IMVEPI Refugee settlement was visited from 15 till 17 November 2019 by ISGF team members from the United Kingdom. Jane Wardropper, Dave Mowbray and Audrey Mc Naughton who have seen with their own eyes what has been accomplished. The team also brought with them some scholastic material and sports material which they collected to handover to children in the settlement. The UK Team also provided transport for the local Fellowship and three members joined them. This Fellowship covered their



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accommodation and meals. The camp administration was incredibly grateful for the contribution and the visit of the UK Team.

The team also supported a rabbit project which included building a large hutch and buying seven rabbits (1 male and 6 female) for breeding and developing a micro enterprise.

#### Completion of the IMVEPI project

There was communication with UNHCR Uganda, Kampala office, that once the huts were completed there would be an official hand-over. However, the final construction work of 15 huts to make a total of 50 huts ended during the COVID-19 pandemic and it was not possible to do the official handover to the representative of the UNHCR.

#### What were the challenges

- Not doing all the construction work at the same time because the funds were not raised at once.
- Travel time from Kampala (capital of Uganda) to the settlement which is over 1000 kilometers to and from the camp. It takes over 6 hours on tarmac roads plus approximately a further 4 hours on dirt roads to reach the camp from the capital.
- There were no Scouts, Guides or local Fellowship members living near the settlement who could give support to the construction.
- The needs of the refugees were very complex and the selection of the beneficiaries by the camp administration was difficult.
- The weather was very harsh and the working conditions for the team was difficult.
- Some refugees were not friendly and took the material to use for their own shelter or disrupted the construction work.
- During the final stage of construction, the Corona virus outbreak started, and the transport was suspended which affected the travel back to Kampala.
- Out of the 35 constructed huts six (6) of them were damaged as the roofs were blown away during a storm.

