

VOICES

ChildVoice 
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Rising

CELEBRATING GRADUATION

AT IMVEPI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

MARKING A MILESTONE for our six-year-old Girl Empowerment Centers in Imvepi Refugee Settlement, 46 remarkable students of Imvepi Class 6 celebrated the completion of their programs with a joyful and festive graduation ceremony. The ceremony was attended by over 800 people, including local community members and leaders, nonprofit partners, and dignitaries from the Office of Prime Minister.

One of the key speakers was Desire Jocelyn, a graduate who also attends a local school and is at the top of her school's class. She talked about how she was able to earn and save enough money to buy her own sewing machine, which she uses to make uniforms to sell to her school. Another speaker, Mary, is a former ChildVoice student now in the aftercare phase of her program. She gave an inspirational speech in which she discussed how ChildVoice found her, what she learned through ChildVoice, what she did after graduating, and who she is today.

**46 STUDENTS OF
IMVEPI CLASS 6
CELEBRATED A
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The graduates all received graduation certificates during the ceremony. These reflected the vocational areas of hair dressing and tailoring. Following the presentation of the certificates, graduates and those in attendance enjoyed a time of music, dancing and smorgasbord of delicious foods.

Imvepi Program Manager Julius Owori added that while not reflected on their certificates, students also pursued bar soap making and agriculture. "We are trying to see how to introduce agriculture as an independent skill," he added.

Prior to the day of the graduation ceremony, Julius and other ChildVoice staff members conducted community pre-release discussions at all four of our Girl Empowerment Centers.

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LUKOME CENTER CLASS 16:

Takes Vocational Exams

Last week, Class 16 students at the Lukome Center in Uganda sat for their Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) examinations. The students tested in hairdressing, tailoring, and bakery/catering. Students who pass the DIT demonstrate they possess the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in a specific vocational field.

Upon passing their exams, they are awarded professional certifications that will help them in securing good employment or establishing their own small businesses. Please join us in wishing them success as they prepare to receive their certifications!

"We had to conduct a dialogue informing the community, the parents and the leadership of Imvepi what to expect from us after the girls graduate, and what we expect from them," Julius explained.

Our Imvepi graduates will now transition to the aftercare phase of their program, during which we will continue to monitor their progress and provide extended support for the next three to five years. We are so proud of what all our Imvepi graduates have accomplished, and we remain dedicated to helping them navigate life's uncertainties as they put their skills to use within their communities.

CHILDVOICE: NIGERIA

Co-Directors on the Importance of Community Service

During his trip to Nigeria in June, ChildVoice CEO Nathan Mandsager took the opportunity to sit down with our Nigeria Country Co-Directors Rebecca Malgwi and David Jomusu to talk about their work and the importance of engaging students in community service. The theme of giving back to their communities figured heavily in the conversation. Below is a transcript of the interview:



David: My name is David Jomusu, one of the co-country heads here in Nigeria. I believe community service has [been helping] communities try to work with us. And the beneficiaries we are working with are able to understand we are . . . teaching them that at the end of our activities with them, maybe after graduation, it is expected of them to give back to the community.



Becky: Hi, I'm Rebecca. I'm also his co-leader, one of the country heads in Nigeria. To add to what he has said, I think community service is a way of teaching our girls and boys selflessness, you know, to be able to help others in need, and to be able to think about others apart from yourself.

To watch a video of the interview and read the full transcript, go to <https://bit.ly/3LmUKni>

Thank you for all you do in support of our mission!

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, 'Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you'—when you already have it with you." —Proverbs 3: 27-28



A CHILDVOICE BOARD MEMBER REFLECTS ON OUR PROGRAMS in Nigeria

In June, ChildVoice CEO Nathan Mandsager visited our Nigeria operations at three sites in the northeast of the country: Malko-hi Internally Displaced Persons Camp near Yola; the Gella offices and training center near Mubi; and the new Labondo relocation community near Jimeta. He was joined by one of our new board members, Reuben Sheneni, a native Nigerian. Reuben took time to reflect on and write about his journey and the work he witnessed. He writes:

"I commend the ChildVoice founders and staff for thinking through and creating a practical and effective model that reaches to the heart of displaced people, especially in Nigeria."

To read Reuben's complete essay, go to <https://bit.ly/3S4idgT>

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