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## NEWS Update – July 2019

Dear friends and supporters,

On Monday morning this week we arrived back at Gatwick airport from Uganda, tired and looking forward to getting home, but with a deep sense of gratitude and satisfaction as we looked back over the previous week, and the Four Day Business Workshop that we ran for the South Sudanese business community in Morobi Refugee Camp.

Following this brief introduction from me, you can read a report by a member of the UK team, Andy Ferguson, who wrote it for his own friends and supporters and has kindly agreed to us using it as our News Update this month.

Before that, I would like to take a couple of lines to acknowledge the immense amount of work and commitment that the seven members of the UK team showed, not only giving up their time and paying their own fares, but also raising enough money to cover the cost of the workshop and contributing significantly to the ongoing employment of the Community Savings Fund Groups facilitator for whom PDH will be giving a grant for the next two years.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Lokose Emmanuel Victor into this role. He is being trained this week by our microfinance partner charity, Five Talents, and from next week he will be working towards setting up Savings Groups among the 60 people that signed up last week, as well as seeking to set up new groups in neighbouring areas of the refugee camp. Please remember him in your prayers in that important role.



Our thanks too to the Bishop and staff of our local partner, the Diocese of Kajo Keji who invited us to run the workshop and provided all the logistical support. We believe that together, we have helped to provide the tools for these courageous people to build their businesses, their economy and their community as they work together to bring about more stability in the sad situation that they are currently experiencing. Our morning reflections from the Bible took us to Isaiah 58:12 one day and we were encouraged by Isaiah's commission where he describes those who serve the needy as '*Repairers of Broken Walls and Restorers of Streets with Dwellings*'. It was good to be reminded that we were in the 'restoration' business, and we value your ongoing prayers for us and for these people.

We will upload some photographs to our website in the next few days, but in the meantime, I will hand over to Andy Ferguson for his excellent report.

With our thanks and kind regards,

**Andrew Robertson**  
Managing Trustee

*"All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor; the very thing we were eager to do." [Paul. 49 AD]*

Having returned safely from Uganda yesterday, I thought I would send out a quick note on how the business training workshop with Projects Delivering Hope went.

We arrived in Moyo, Northern Uganda on Monday afternoon, with the 4 day Business Training Workshop running from Tuesday through to Friday.

Each day started 8:30am with a 1.5 hour drive along dirt roads from Moyo to the Morobi Refugee camp – very bumpy! The day's sessions would start between 10-10:30 am, finishing at 4-4:30pm, followed by the 1.5 hour journey back to Moyo where the team was staying. We used time in the evening to debrief on the day, and preparation for following day.



*One of the workshop delegates shows the team round some of the businesses on the main market in Morobi on day 1 of the 4 Day Business Workshop.*



*Morobi Refugee camp.*

80 men and women delegates attended the workshop from a wide range of businesses – agriculture, wide range of retail businesses, motorbike spares, welding and metal fabrication, hardware & grinding, leather goods manufacture, dress making/tailoring, hairdressers, solar mobile phone charging, charcoal makers, Shea Nut oil making and restaurants.

The topics we covered in the business workshop included: planning; risk management; marketing; collaborating with other businesses; employing and managing people; record keeping; understanding profit and cash flow; attracting investment & thinking bigger about their businesses.



*A role playing game being used to explain how understanding cash flow is key to making good business decisions.*



*Break out groups working through exercises.*

Each session included presentation of content (translated), and facilitated breakout groups with exercises/activities. The level of engagement from the outset was fantastic and the delegates ability to apply the content to their specific business problems was very strong. Some stories to give a flavour:

- Solar Mobile Phone Charging business – following the risk management session, a delegate identified that his business suffers when it is less sunny, so now he is making plans to purchase a generator to use when it is not sunny to that he can maintain & grow his ability to charge phones whatever the weather.
- Shea Nut oil business – shared how their understanding of cash flow management has led them to plan to save so they can acquire a machine to press the oil to increase their output from their current manual wooden pestle and mortar process, and so grow their business.



*Innocent, a delegate on the workshop, outside his business on the Morobi camp. He employs one other person who serves customers when he is not there. Innocent has trained him in stock control and carrying out daily stock audits. The 2 nearest side walls, on either side in the picture, are the doors to his shop. Innocent sleeps in the shop overnight to ensure no stock is stolen.*



*Florence (front right), a delegate on the workshop, outside her dress making business on the Morobi camp. When Florence arrived at the camp, she had no business. She started by offering to repair people's clothes by hand. Then saved money to buy one sewing machine. She has since bought 2 more sewing machines, and employed & trained two staff in dress making. Florence cannot read or write at the moment. After the session on 'Thinking Bigger', Florence was first to the front to share her 2 year dream to buy more machines, and train more staff so that she could grow her business to become a supplier to other businesses.*

A major theme & benefit of the four day workshop was how local businesses working together are critical to rebuilding the communities that have been so badly disrupted by the civil war in South Sudan. It was very moving to see how passionate the delegates were about their role in this, both now in the refugee camps, and when they return to South Sudan – where much of the infrastructure of their communities they have come from has been destroyed or removed.

All of us in the UK team were really humbled and challenged by the resilience, drive and entrepreneurship of the delegates, many of whom have crafted businesses from nothing. The positivity and passion to see their businesses grow is amazing considering the challenges and obstacles they have faced.

Alongside the business conference, there was a series of parallel workshops on basic health guidance for women given each day to different women's union groups across the camp by a GP who was a member of the team.

The money you have helped raise will also fund the salary of a micro-finance/community savings co-ordinator who will facilitate the set-up and running of self-managed community savings schemes. These will be able to provide microfinance loans to these businesses to help them grow. Projects Delivering Hope are partnering with Five Talents, who have set up successful schemes all over Africa. Lokose Emmanuel Victor has been recruited to the co-ordinator role, and was at the business conference all week. The final day of the conference included an overview of how the schemes work and their benefits, and 60 of the 80 delegates indicated they would like to join – a much higher number than was expected.

The final day of the conference included a graduation ceremony for all delegates – this was a great celebration with singing & dancing! Bishop Emmanuel (Bishop of Kajo-Keji, South Sudan), whose idea the business conference was, wanted us to pass on his grateful thanks to all those in the UK who had given money to enable the conference to happen. He saw it as a great success, and a pilot for similar projects to help build skills & capabilities of local business people who he believes are vital to the rebuilding of the communities so badly impacted by the civil war.



*The majority of delegates following the graduation ceremony on the last day of the 4 day Business Workshop, Morobi Refugee camp.*

So, a really big thank you from all the delegates, Bishop Emmanuel and from me for your hugely generous support – without which, none of the above would have been possible.  
Andy



*'Gate crashers' to the Business Workshop.*