



with funding from
 Austrian
Development
Cooperation

A woman with short hair, wearing a white patterned dress and a green beaded necklace, sits on the ground in a rural settlement. She is surrounded by several chickens and a duck. The background shows trees and a simple structure made of sticks.

SUCCESS STORIES

MIGRATION PROJECT

RHINO REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

Preface

For the past seven years, horizon3000 in partnership PALM Corps has implemented the Migration Project in Terego with funding from Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), Brothers and Sisters in Need (BSIN) and Caritas Carinthia.

The project aimed to secure the livelihoods of refugees and host communities and thus contribute to sustainable development in Rhino Camp and the Bidibidi resettlement areas in the West Nile region of Uganda. This project represents the final consolidation phase of the project to support South Sudanese refugees and host communities in Northern Uganda in their efforts to secure their livelihoods. It directly involved 850 beneficiaries and 4,500 people indirectly, with 510 being women and 340 men.

In the heart of Terego District's, Rhino Refugee Settlement where poverty index is 54.75%, a quiet transformation is unfolding. Once struggling to survive, individuals from both the Ugandan host community and South Sudanese refugee settlements have found new hope through agriculture and entrepreneurship. With the support of PALM Corps, they have turned hardship into opportunity—growing thriving farms, starting businesses, and fostering unity in their communities.

From Robert Acema, who grew from a struggling farmer to a community leader, to Joyce Lukuru, who broke free from financial struggles through poultry and vegetable farming, each story in this collection is a testament to resilience. Refugees like John Francis Amin and Betty Night have rebuilt their lives, proving that with the right support, success is possible.

These stories highlight the power of knowledge, determination, and community support in overcoming adversity and building a brighter, self-sustaining future for all.



In the heart of Terego District, **Robert Acema** transformed his farming legacy. Once relying on slow-growing cassava and rice, he ventured into vegetable farming but struggled with low yields. In 2019, PALM Corps' modern farming training became a game changer—boosting his quarter-acre tomato harvest from UGX 500,000 to UGX 2.5 million. Today, Robert is not only a successful farmer but also a community mentor, guiding both host and refugee farmers.

With his newfound skills, he expanded into animal vaccination, earning up to UGX 500,000 monthly. His steady income fuels dreams of a Mabati house and quality education for his children, proving that resilience and innovation can bridge divides and foster community unity.



Robert Acema: From Small-Scale Farmer to Community Leader



At 54, single mother **Joyce Lukuru** redefined her future. Once forced to borrow money just to survive, she embraced a new path through PALM Corps' training in poultry keeping and vegetable farming in 2017.

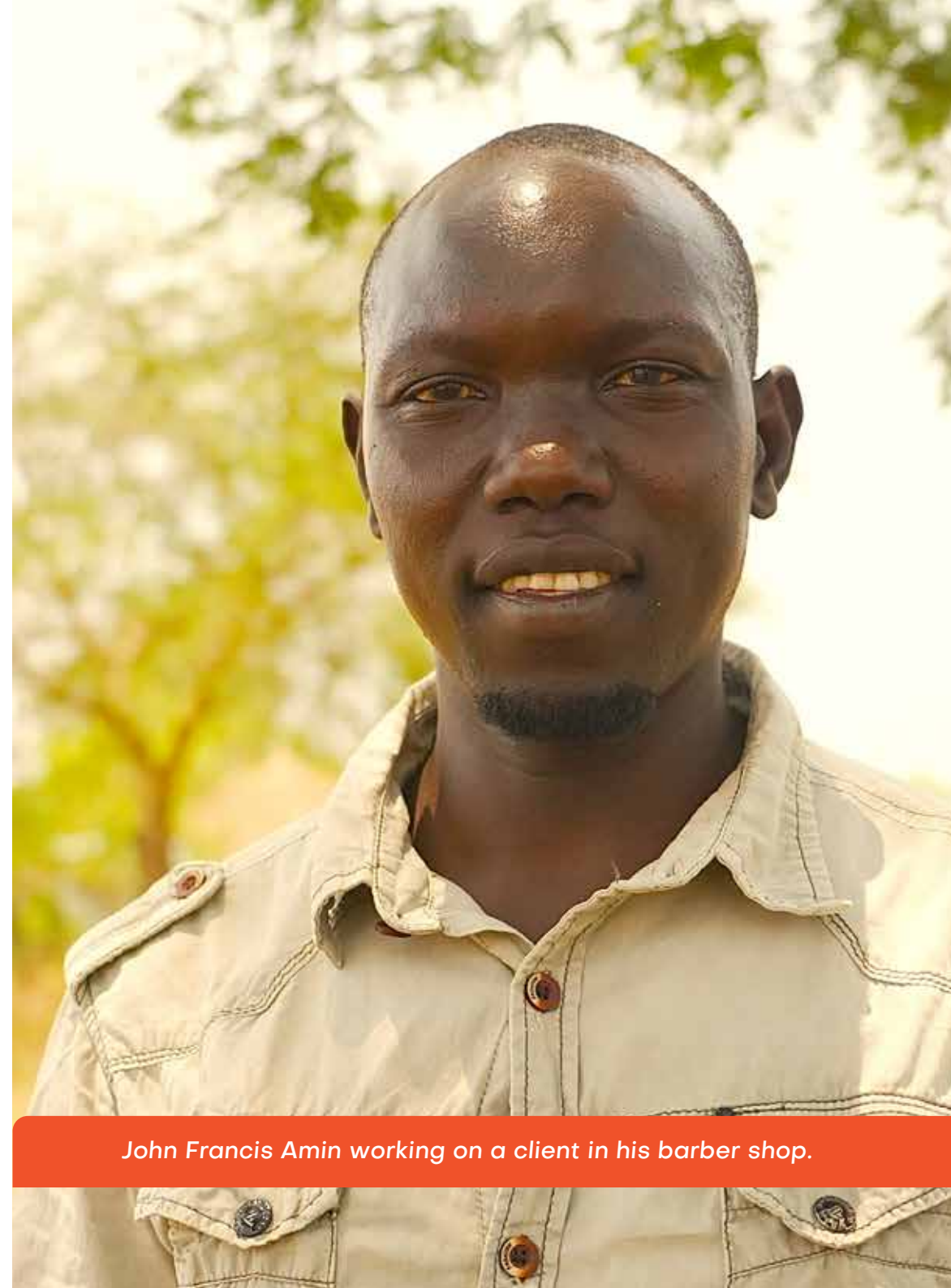
Starting with five chickens, her small flock grew to over 30, allowing her to expand into cassava and vegetable farming. Weekly earnings from her ventures enabled her to join a Village Savings and Loan Association, fostering support among refugees and locals alike. Today, Joyce not only supports her family and pays school fees but also trains others, turning personal hardship into a beacon of financial independence and community transformation.

Joyce Lukuru: From Borrowing to Financial Independence



At 32, **John Francis Amin** left South Sudan for Uganda when his phone charging business became too dangerous amid conflict. Reunited with his wife and child at Rhino Camp, he embraced change through PALM Corps training in vegetable growing. Using seeds and determination, he cultivated tomatoes and onions on rented land, saving diligently until he opened a unisex salon at Ocea Centre. Earning 3,000–5,000 shillings daily and training local youth, John also expanded into cassava and maize farming.

Now pursuing an agriculture certificate, his journey from struggle to success inspires hope, proving that with support and resilience, one can build a brighter future.



John Francis Amin working on a client in his barber shop.



Betty Night feeding her chicken.



Betty Night's journey is one of profound transformation. Once a victim of unspeakable violence during her perilous escape from South Sudan, Betty arrived in Uganda with scars both seen and hidden. Life was a constant struggle as she depended on UNHCR handouts, unable to work due to her injuries.

In 2022, PALM Corps extended a lifeline, training her in tomato farming. That single sack of tomatoes became her turning point—yielding three profitable boxes. Soon after, she diversified into poultry and rabbit farming. Today, Betty's small plot overflows with tomatoes, rice, maize, and even pigs. With steady income, she now sends her children to school and can afford essential medical care. "This project is the only one that has given me a smile on my face," Betty says. Her resilient spirit and newfound independence are powerful testaments to the transformative impact of hope and opportunity.



Fleeing conflict in South Sudan, 27-year-old **Lilias Anita** arrived at Rhino Camp carrying both hope and scars. Once dependent on UNHCR handouts and casual work, she sought a better future for her family. In 2018, PALM Corps transformed her life by training her in hairdressing. With a startup kit in hand, she opened Emmanuela Beauty Saloon in Ofua 3, serving both refugees and host community members.

Despite a setback when thieves stole her weaves, Lilias rebuilt her business using funds from crop sales. Today, her thriving saloon, combined with ventures into modern farming, ensures food security and steady income. Lilias dreams of expanding her salon, mentoring youth, and building a legacy of resilience and hope.



Lilias Anita: Rising from Refugee Struggles to Entrepreneurial Success



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