

ChildVoice

The Situation in South Sudan

Since last summer, the conditions in South Sudan have grown steadily worse. Because of the deteriorating security situation there, more than 25% of the population now is displaced, with more than 950,000 refugees fleeing to northern Uganda and more pouring over the border each day. Due to the continuing instability, we have delayed our plans to open a center in the city of Yei.

Instead, we brought two classes—a total of 13 highly vulnerable young girls—from South Sudan to the Lukome Center in northern Uganda. Here, they have found a safe, loving sanctuary where they can begin to heal and rebuild their lives.



New Hope for Nadia and Her Son

We at ChildVoice are all too familiar with the atrocities and abuses against young, vulnerable children who have been kidnapped or coerced into sexual slavery and forced labor. Here is the story of one young South Sudanese girl, 18-year-old Nadia, who came to ChildVoice from a brothel in the city of Yei.

Nadia's mother died when she was young, and shortly after that her father simply disappeared. For years, she was bounced from family member to family member; desperate to make money, Nadia turned to prostitution. She met some other young girls who worked as prostitutes, and they introduced her to the Safari Lodge, an infamous brothel known for its child prostitutes. Not surprisingly, Nadia's life went even more downhill from there.





Creating Bonds with the Students at the Lukome Center

Often we're asked, "What difference can I make when I join a trip to northern Uganda and visit the Lukome Center?"

Most important is the wonderful reality that everyone who visits forges valuable relationships with the students and staff. And when visitors return home, they become ambassadors for ChildVoice within their churches and communities.

If you've ever considered joining us on a trip, please know that we'd love to have you. Perhaps you might consider joining us on one of our 2017 trips (see box, right).

For more ChildVoice news, visit www.childvoiceintl.org.

In 2015, Nadia became pregnant. Against the advice of her fellow prostitutes, she decided to keep her baby.

Thankfully, through the help of a social worker, Nadia found ChildVoice in February of 2016. She was already in labor and in desperate need of a C-section. ChildVoice staff were able to move her to a hospital that could deliver her baby.

Today, Nadia and baby Conrad are at the Lukome Center in northern Uganda, where they finally have found a place of sanctuary, and where Nadia can rebuild her life with the prospect of a brighter future for her and her child.

She has risen up as a leader among the newest class of South Sudanese girls and is excelling in her catering/bakery training. She also is learning the Acholi language so she can converse with all the students, including those from northern Uganda. And while she came to the Lukome Center as a shy, reserved young girl who rarely had a smile on her face, now she is filled with joy, constantly smiling and laughing and enjoying the company of her new friends.

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ChildVoice Events

- March 2: **Class 8 Graduation**, Lukome Center, Uganda
- March 18: **Auction for Africa**, Outlook Farm, South Berwick, ME
- April 29: **New England Faith & Justice Summit**, Bethany Church, Greenland, NH

Upcoming Lukome Center Trips

- August 5-19 and October 17-30, 2017
- April 7-21, August 4-18, and October 13-27, 2018

Join an existing trip or schedule a dedicated trip for your church or community group. To learn more, contact Gary Christman at gary.christman@childvoiceintl.org.