

## Empower Life - Progress Report -A Walk for Change with JLOF

In July and August, our Chairperson and Senior Advisor undertook a remarkable 700 km coastal trek through the breathtaking landscapes of Northern Spain. This journey was a blend of physical endurance, spiritual discovery, and cultural immersion, tracing a path walked by pilgrims for centuries—each step echoing history and tradition.



The trek was dedicated to raising awareness of the Jeremiah Lucas Opira Foundation (JLOF) and fundraising to support its impactful initiatives. These initiatives aim to empower underprivileged communities in Northern Uganda through education, sports, and sustainable development. The Walk for Change with JLOF represents a commitment to the Foundation's cause. Beyond the physical challenge, the walk was a platform for raising global awareness and funds, vital for JLOF's mission to uplift communities in Northern Uganda. The walk symbolized solidarity, resilience, and hope for a brighter future, aligning with JLOF's goals of fostering sustainable development through education and sports.

Reflecting on the experience, our chairperson said: *"The Camino del Norte surpassed our expectations! From the invigorating challenges of the trail to the breathtaking coastal vistas, every step was an unforgettable adventure. After 24 unforgettable days, 700 kilometers*

*(about 434.96 miles), and over 909,000 steps, we reached Santiago de Compostela. Our journey was as challenging as it was transformative. But beyond the physical endurance, we walked with purpose—to support the Jeremiah Lucas Opira Foundation and its mission to empower underprivileged communities in Northern Uganda. A huge thank you to everyone who supported and encouraged us from around the world! Special shoutout to our fellow pilgrims who walked alongside us and to the warm, welcoming communities of Northern Spain for their kindness and hospitality.”*

## **Project Update**

The challenges and opportunities outlined in our March project report remain unchanged, as does the remarkable resilience and determination of the community. Despite ongoing socio-economic struggles and the far-reaching impacts of global issues like climate change, the community continues to work tirelessly toward a brighter future.

1. **Teachers' Accommodation:** The school has eight teachers, but only four have adequate housing, thanks to support from the Food for the Hungry organization. The remaining four teachers are living in classrooms, creating an unhealthy environment for them and students. Providing accommodation for the remaining teachers will require an additional \$20,000, which will also help keep families together and improve the learning environment.
2. **Library and Resource Center:** The school's library, while stocked with some books, cannot be fully utilized due to insufficient lighting. Installing solar panels, at a cost of \$2,000, would allow students and teachers to make better use of the resource center, fostering a culture of learning and intellectual growth.
3. **Cupboards for Lower Grades:** Classrooms for the younger students currently lack adequate storage for educational materials. A modest investment of \$500 would provide four cupboards, ensuring a more organized and effective learning environment for the lower grades.
4. **Sports Field Upgrade:** Sports are essential for holistic student development, fostering physical health, teamwork, discipline, and resilience. However, the school lacks proper sports facilities and equipment. Upgrading the sports field, training teachers, and expanding sports programs would require a multi-faceted investment, enabling the school to organize inter-school competitions, sports festivals, and recreational activities to promote teamwork and discipline.
5. **Tree Planting Initiative:** Deforestation remains a major issue in the region due to the need for timber, charcoal, and medicine. The community and school leadership have called for a renewed tree-planting effort. At \$10 per tree, this initiative would not only help combat deforestation but also foster environmental sustainability, building on the success of past efforts led by JLOF.

## **How you can get involved.**

The challenges highlighted, from insufficient teacher accommodation to the need for better school infrastructure, require continued external support. By addressing these needs, we

can enhance the learning environment, promote sportsmanship, and contribute to the long-term well-being of the community.

Your support is vital to transforming these communities and bringing about lasting change. Here are several ways you can get involved:

- **Donate:** Every contribution helps us move closer to our goals. Support us with a one-time or recurring donation via GlobalGiving: [Donation Link](#)
- **Fundraise:** Organize events to raise awareness and rally your community to support our cause. Start a Fundraiser: [Fundraiser Link](#)
- **Volunteer:** Share your skills in grant writing, project management, or other areas. Contact us at: [info@jlof.net](mailto:info@jlof.net)

### **Looking Ahead**

As we continue our journey, we remain focused on harnessing the power of education and sports as tools for lasting change. Our commitment extends to ensuring inclusive education, particularly for students with special needs. The Walk for Change with JLOF initiative and our ongoing projects in Uganda are a testament to the collaborative spirit of our supporters and partners. With your continued involvement, we are confident that together, we can overcome challenges and create lasting, meaningful change.

### **Thank You!**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported our cause. Your generosity empowers us to make a meaningful impact in the communities we serve. Thank you for being an essential part of our mission to empower lives