

Background

ILA Uganda is involved in...

trauma counselling

Recognizing thousands have been affected by more than 20 years of war through abduction, rape, displacement, witnessing atrocities of war **ILA Uganda** begins with healing the emotional wounds of war with Trauma Counselling.

With more than 1.8 million people forced into displacement camps, over 30,000 children abducted as child soldiers or sex slaves, more than 12,000 victims of the war reside in Acholi Quarter (a slum in Kampala) and many living deep in the villages of the northern region of Uganda, the need for Trauma Counselling is overwhelming.

There are countless testimonies of abduction, killing, maiming, witnessing trauma, forcibly participating in the harming or killing of others and rape from those we serve. When the victims of war are released through this trauma counselling and learn to forgive, emotional healing begins. Many thought they were alone in their suffering. They now realize that they are not alone. **ILA Uganda** continues to see incredible healing come through this program that reaches entire families and entire villages.

discipleship

After the war many have struggled and questioned their faith. Questions of, "Why did God allow this to happen?" "Why did I have to suffer so much?" "Why did God allow me to survive the war?" Many are hungry to receive peace and reconciliation within themselves and those around them. The Discipleship program helps to bring answers to these questions and teach foundational truth to those seeking new life in Jesus Christ in an environment where it is safe to share their questions and grow and find healing together in Jesus.

Each one is given a bible in their own language, when available; we also give audio bibles to those that cannot read. Many times those we serve struggle with how to honor their culture and be a born-again believer in Jesus at the same time. We love seeing those we serve learn and grow together. The teachings are foundational but the impact is eternal.

resettlement

There are over 12,000 displaced individuals from Northern Uganda living in a slum in Kampala known as "*Acholi Quarter*." They came to the area due to war: former child soldiers, rape victims, witnesses of the atrocities of the war and their families. This area was to be a temporary safe place during the war; but now an entire generation has been born in the slum. Life in Acholi Quarter is very difficult. Many families desire to return home to their villages. When the restoration of the emotional and spiritual aspects are met many are ready to stand firm in their identity and move forward and leave the poverty of the slum and being life anew in their villages. We carefully select families that are ready and passionate to leave the slum and assist them in providing housing, crops for planting and sustainability, farming tools, transportation and other basic needs. We value and love seeing families leave the poverty of the slum that was once a "temporary" stop during the war become self sustaining through the planting of crops and animal rearing.

We believe that supporting families displaced and living in Acholi Quarter to return to their villages will create a positive impact for the young generation. Before anyone is resettled back to their village, they attend the Trauma Counselling and Discipleship Program. After an assessment, we travel with the family to their village to make sure those already in the village will welcome the family back home. Many times the war caused challenges and divisions within families. We want to make sure that the relationship is

positive. We also strongly encourage the family members in the village to participate in supporting in the resettlement. We provide the building of a home, a toilet, food for 3 months, seeds for planting crops, farming tools and some basic household items. This program continues to be one of our most needed and requested. To resettle one family from the slum back to their village in the northern region it costs \$1800.

Biblical Texts & Reflection Questions

- What struck you most about what Tricia said on Sunday?
- Why do you think **ILA Uganda** talks about their holistic restoration ministry using the above three terms?
- What do you think about the order: trauma counselling, discipleship, resettlement?

Read **Malachi 6:8** *The LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

- What does it mean to act in this threefold way?
- Which is most difficult for you?
- What is the relationship between doing these things and living in grace?

Read **Mark 10:43-45** *whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

- Who is Jesus speaking to? Why do you think Jesus said this?
- What does it mean to be a “servant”, a “slave of all”? What doesn’t it mean?
- What does biblical greatness look like?

Read **Psalms 89:14** *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; unfailing love and truth go before you.*

- Define the key words: righteousness, justice, love, truth.
- Why do you think the psalmist says this?
- What are some implications for your life and the places you serve?

Read **Exodus 4:2** *Then the LORD said to him [Moses], "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied.*

- What are the implications of this verse for service?

Summary

- Thinking about our North American context, how can a holistic ministry of trauma counselling, discipleship, and, resettlement impact people’s lives?
- What are the obstacles to trauma counselling, discipleship, and, resettlement?
- Where do you see people being most resistant to trauma counselling, discipleship, and, resettlement?
- Where do you need trauma counselling, discipleship, and, resettlement?