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NGO NO. S.5914/8530

Dear Walter,  
Dear Interkultura,

On behalf of M-LISADA's Gulu – Kampala “Walking For A Better Future” walking team, we would like to send you a heartfelt thanks for your generous and enabling support. We would like to express our gratitude for your empowering belief, that we can build a better future together.

Our 15-day 332km/210mile fundraising walk to build a primary and vocational school in Bombo was a remarkable and powerful experience that none of us will ever forget. The walk was an act of commemoration and remembrance for all the people, who died or suffered during the Northern Ugandan War with Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). One of the people on Team M-LISADA who led us on our walk was Okello Francis, an assistant M-LISADA social worker and a former child soldier, who was captured by the LRA and separated from his family, when he was 12. The walk was also done to spread awareness of the important work that M-LISADA does and to celebrate the journey that M-LISADA has made as we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As a team we proudly walked with your support for the life changing power of education and job skills.

The walk was an active reminder, that the very difficult is possible, if one keeps on trying and takes the task step by step until they achieve their goal(s). Dressed in your shirts and with your help, we walked united in friendship and with love for the walk's causes and for the work that M-LISADA does. We walked with foot steps of resilience,

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courage, endurance, determination, hope, dreams, joy and faith until we made it all the way back home to M-LISADA. One of the many valuable lessons that we learned on the walk is that one needs to walk with love and all of these qualities to overcome the heat, soreness, exhaustion and pain that comes with every step at the end of a long walking day.

The walk was a vivid reminder of how much we have, of how much we can offer, of how difficult life can be and of how much help people need. We visited schools where 18-year-old Secondary 4 students studied for their final exam's outside in a building that only had a few sticks for walls and a blackboard with holes in it that sat on top of a chair. As we walked past villages filled with kids who had no clothes or were dressed in ripped dirty clothes, we saw kids without the option of going to school, without the chance to get an education or to learn job skills; instead, we saw vulnerable families without help destined to repeat the same form of impoverished struggle and existence. Seeing all of this reinforced our belief that the best way, we can help improve lives and make a better future, is by building a primary and vocational school for those who need it the most.

Thank you for sharing our laughs and smiles. Thank you for walking with us, thank you for joining us when we made our jubilant and triumphant return home to M-LISADA, where we were joyfully reunited with our staff, children and families for our homecoming party, where we were joined by friends, community members, national newspapers and local partners. We celebrated with cultural dances, African drumming, and a performance by M-LISADA's Senior Brass Band. We had a special gift ceremony for Team M-LISADA walkers and sponsors.

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As a member of our walking team and M-LISADA family, we are sending you this team picture as a gesture of our thanks.

Thank you from all of the vulnerable kids and youth that M-LISADA serve and from all of the people that M-LISADA hopes to help.

**Segawa Bosco Executive Director M-LISADA Organisation and Team M-LISADA**



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