THE FABE JOURNAL

Family Basic Education in Action

Bi-monthly Newsletter | July - August 2026



JULY - AUGUST IN REVIEW

Partnership, Learning and Community Action

July and August were months of new partnerships, stronger community engagement and continued learning across LABE's programmes.

LABE strengthened its capacity to use evidence and participatory approaches in programming, while PlayMatters 3.0 and the Breaking Children's Barriers to Equitable Education (BBEE) projects opened further opportunities to advance inclusive learning for children and families.

From nutrition demonstrations with parents to the greening of Home Learning Centres with 4,500 fruit tree seedlings, communities continued to demonstrate how locally led solutions can support children to learn and thrive.

Top stories

- 4,500 fruit tree seedlings to green HLCs
- PlayMatters 3.0: a new chapter for Learning through Play
- BBEE partnership advances equitable education
- Evidence and participatory programming strengthened
- Early learning enters climate conversations
- Communities turn savings into livelihoods

FLAGSHIP STORY | CLIMATE, LEARNING & COMMUNITY ACTION

Greening Home Learning Centres



Greening HLCs: LABE and RC Kampala Central kick off the initiative with a tree-planting exercise at LABE Head Office in Kampala.

What if a tree planted today could support a child's learning, nutrition and community for years to come?

In August, LABE received 4,500 fruit tree seedlings from the Rotary Club (RC) of Kampala Central, in partnership with Roofings Group, to support the greening of Home Learning Centres (HLCs) across Northern Uganda and West Nile.

The mango, avocado and jackfruit seedlings are being distributed to LABE-supported HLCs in Gulu, Nwoya, Yumbe, Adjumani, Koboko, Terego and Obongi, where children, caregivers and communities will take part in planting and caring for them.

The initiative goes beyond making learning spaces greener. Once mature, the trees will provide fruit that can contribute to children's nutrition, while surplus produce can provide an additional source of income. Along the way, children will learn about growing trees and caring for their environment.

> *"Planting a tree at a Home Learning Centre is also an opportunity to plant the values of care, responsibility and environmental stewardship in a child."*
>
> *Stellah Keihangwe Tumwebaze*
> *LABE Executive Director,*

TAKING EARLY LEARNING INTO THE CLIMATE CONVERSATION

From 5-7 August, LABE Executive Director Stellah Keihangwe Tumwebaze participated in the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Uganda 2026, where she joined a panel discussion on early learning and climate change.

She highlighted how environmental and climate challenges affect young children's learning and wellbeing, and shared LABE's response through initiatives such as greening HLCs.



LABE ED with young climate activists during LCOY Uganda 2026

READ THE FULL STORY >

Expanding Equitable Learning



Breaking Children's Barriers to Equitable Education

In July, LABE joined Diakonia, Gulu Women's Economic Development and Globalization (GWED-G) and African Youth Development Link (AYDL) for a collaborative learning and planning session in Gulu. The engagement combined reflection on lessons from joint field monitoring with the inception of the Breaking Children's Barriers to Equitable Education (BBEE) project, funded by Diakonia Sverige.

Over the next two years, the partnership will work to improve equitable access to quality education for vulnerable children in selected districts in Northern Uganda and West Nile. Under the project, LABE will work with primary schools to promote girls' access to, participation in and retention in education, while engaging families, schools and communities to address barriers that hinder girls' learning and educational progression.



BBEE Project Inception in Gulu.



LABE Programme Manager, Nairuba Joyce, presents on the LABE Programme during the inception.



A New Chapter for Learning through Play

On 25 August, LABE joined government, development partners and education actors in Kampala for the national launch of PlayMatters 3.0.

The new phase builds on evidence from PlayMatters 1.0 and 2.0 and places greater emphasis on strengthening the wider education ecosystem so that Learning through Play can increasingly become part of how teaching and learning happens within Uganda's education system.

LABE is among the national partners contributing to this next chapter and will support implementation in Yumbe District, bringing its experience working with children, families, educators and communities.



Partner Spotlight: LABE's Two-Generation Approach

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation highlighted LABE's work supporting refugee children and their families through a two-generation approach.

The Foundation recognised how LABE supports caregivers to run home-based childcare centres, creating opportunities for families to strengthen their livelihoods while young children access safe, nurturing environments where they can learn and play.

CLICK TO WATCH

> *"Refugee children need early chances to learn and play, just like any child. The key is reaching families during the most important years of a child's development and supporting both children and their caregivers."*
>
> *— Conrad N. Hilton Foundation*

The future of Learning through Play will be built through partnership - connecting government, educators, communities and organisations around a shared commitment to children's learning and wellbeing.

ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING

Better Evidence. Stronger Participation. More Responsive Programmes.



MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

Quality early childhood programming requires more than reaching children; it requires understanding how they are growing, developing and responding to the support they receive.

In July, LABE strengthened staff capacity to use the Caregiver-Reported Early Development Instruments (CREDI) and Growth Monitoring tools through a hands-on training facilitated by a team from Tiny Totos in partnership with officials from Yumbe, Koboko and Terego District Local Government Health departments.





Illustrations from IYCF Image Bank

Field staff from LABE's seven districts of operation: Yumbe, Adjumani, Terego, Koboko, Obongi, Gulu and Nwoya, strengthened their understanding of how the tools can be used to monitor children's growth and development, generate quality data and inform programming that better responds to the needs of young children and their caregivers.

The engagement reflects LABE's continued investment in building staff capacity and strengthening the use of evidence to inform programme decisions.



FROM LEARNING TO PRACTICE: PAPRO

In August, LABE staff from across field locations converged in Koboko District for training in Participatory Programming (PAPRO).

The training strengthened shared understanding and practical tools around voice, ownership, relevance, trust and sustainability. But the learning did not remain in the training room.

Staff moved into communities at Diobe, Nyeite and Tanyaji HLCs, where they piloted the methodology and facilitated conversations that enabled community members to identify priorities and shape decisions using the principles explored during the training.

For LABE, effective programming begins with listening. Communities are not simply beneficiaries of programmes; their voices and experiences are essential to shaping solutions that are relevant, owned and sustainable.

> ***"I understood that working with communities, rather than working for them, is the best way to get better results and make them own the work and its results."***
>
> ***- Kau Derrick, MEL Officer, Koboko***

READ THE FULL STORY

Learning That Reaches the Household

Putting Nutrition Knowledge into Practice

Good nutrition during pregnancy and early childhood plays an important role in children's growth, development and ability to learn.

Following a parenting session on nutrition, parents from Anguowubo and Alibajiako HLCs in Terego District participated in a practical food demonstration, preparing nutritious meals for pregnant mothers and children aged 0–6 using locally available foods.

Facilitated by a nutritionist from Arua Regional Referral Hospital, the activity enabled parents to translate nutrition information into practical skills they can apply within their households. The demonstrations were also documented for possible adaptation into future parenting materials.

The session ended with a friendly competition, with Alibajiako HLC emerging as the winner, but with both communities taking home practical knowledge to support healthier beginnings for children.



Parents at Alibajiako HLC participate in the cooking demonstration



Preparing healthy meals: Mothers prepare paste during the food demonstration



Winnie Adiru, a nutritionist from Arua Regional Referral Hospital instructing mothers on cooking high valued foods



FROM SAVINGS TO OPPORTUNITY: Ngun Gwon Koyi's Road to Success

What happens when savings are matched with knowledge and the confidence to invest?

For members of the Ngun Gwon Koyi Home Learning Centre VSLA in Obongi District, the answer is taking shape through a growing poultry enterprise, household businesses and a new outlook on saving and investing.

Through collective saving and enterprise, members are strengthening their ability to meet household needs while building more secure livelihoods for their families.

> ***Armed with new knowledge in financial management, poultry production, group visioning, and enterprise development, the members decided to invest their savings in poultry farming. They started with 35 Sasso chickens...The impact has extended well beyond the group enterprise.***

READ THE FULL STORY >

Early Childhood in the Conversation



Media, Journalism and Advocacy at MMA Reconnect

On 29th July, LABE participated in MMA Reconnect 2026, an annual virtual open house gathering hosted by the Moving Minds Alliance focused on strengthening collective momentum for early childhood development (ECD) in crisis settings. Reconnect brought together organisations, researchers, journalists, funders and frontline advocates working to advance early childhood development in humanitarian and crisis settings.

The engagement built on LABE's work with the Moving Minds Alliance and the Reporters for Early Age Children in. Humanitarian Crisis (REACH) Network to strengthen media attention to the experiences and needs of young children in crisis settings.

Running for a Cause and Staff Teambuilding







30th August: *LABE staff joined thousands of Ugandans in the 2026 Rotary Cancer Run, standing in solidarity with individuals and families affected by cancer and supporting the wider fight against cancer in Uganda, while strengthening their teamwork and group cohesion.*



International Youth Day 2026

Young people's realities may differ, but many share common aspirations: to learn, thrive, be heard, contribute and build a better future.

On 12th August, LABE joined the world in marking International Youth Day under the message: ***Different Contexts, Common Aspirations***. LABE continues to recognise the importance of creating opportunities for young people, including those in underserved communities, to develop their skills and participate meaningfully in their communities.

OUR PEOPLE

Welcome to the Team!

We are pleased to welcome a new colleague who has joined LABE and are bringing his skills and experience to our growing team.



Francis Omara

Education Field Officer - PlayMatters, Yumbe

Francis joins LABE with over 10 years of experience in the education sector, working with international NGOs in Uganda. He brings extensive expertise in education programme management, stakeholder management and community engagement.

He is also experienced in strengthening child protection and safeguarding mechanisms in schools, supporting compliance with education standards and regulations, and providing mentorship and coaching to promote learner-centred pedagogy.

In his role as Education Field Officer under PlayMatters, Francis will support the delivery of quality, inclusive and play-based learning interventions for children and communities in Yumbe District.

Around LABE

Our work is powered by people. From field activities and community engagement to learning, advocacy and partnerships, here are a few moments from the LABE team during July and August.



LABE staff during PAPRO training



Programme staff monitor HLCs



Programme staff during the Strategic Plan meeting



Godfrey Andriaku (PO, Yumbe) joins a play session



Yumbe staff share an Eid meal



David Andama (PO, Koboko) inspects a play area



Young Facilitators at Alibajiako HLC, Terego District

Looking Ahead

As we move into September, LABE will continue building on the partnerships, community action and learning that shaped July and August.

Among the priorities ahead are continued implementation of PlayMatters 3.0 and BBEE, greening Home Learning Centres through the distribution and planting of fruit tree seedlings, and strengthening the capacities of Parent Educators, Youth Facilitators and staff on gender-responsive approaches.

September will also mark the launch of LABE's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, setting the direction for the organisation's work and priorities over the next five years.

As we celebrate International Literacy Day, we will continue reaffirming the role of literacy, inclusive education and community action in enabling children, families and communities to learn, participate and thrive.

OUR PARTNERS

Stronger Together

Our work is made possible through collaboration. We are grateful to the partners who provide funding, technical expertise, shared learning and implementation support, and who work alongside LABE to advance learning, inclusion and opportunities for children, families and communities.

CONRAD N. Hilton FOUNDATION

echidna giving

COMIC RELIEF

the ELMA philanthropies

SESAME WORKSHOP

People Change the World Diakonia

PLAN INTERNATIONAL

AfriChild Research. Policy. Impact. The Centre for the study of the African Child

Liliane Fonds open the world for a child with a disability

unicef for every child

KULEA WATOTO Nurturing Children

All in All LEARNING NETWORK UGANDA

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

KYAMBOGO UNIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR SERVICE

NECDA UGANDA

ipa Innovations for Poverty Action

COTTON ON FOUNDATION empowering youth

Rotary Kampala Central

TinyTotos

MOVING MINDS ALLIANCE

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Together, we are strengthening families, expanding opportunities for learning and supporting communities to thrive.



STAY CONNECTED

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