

Building a Vocational Training Workshop to Rehabilitate Former Child Soldiers in Northern Uganda



Discussion Overview

- Introduction to Xslaves.org
- Slavery and the Situation in Northern Uganda
- Friends of Orphans
- Results of Baking and Catering Program
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Introduction to Xslaves.org

- **Who We Are:** Student-Founded and Student-Led Non-profit Organization
- **Our Mission:** To eradicate slavery worldwide
- **Our Strategy:** To address the root causes of slavery by supporting educational, vocational, microcredit, and sustainable assistance programs in Africa and throughout the world where slavery persists
- **Our Current Focus:** Rehabilitating former child soldiers and abductees in Northern Uganda

The Worldwide Problem of Slavery

- **27 million** slaves in the world today- more than at any time in history
- Slavery is an internationally recognized crime against humanity.
- Slavery exists in many forms including bonded labor, forced labor, human trafficking, sex trafficking, and child soldiering.
- Slavery, in any form, represents a fundamental violation of human rights.
- Slaves suffer physically and psychologically as a result of frequent beatings, rape, verbal abuse, forced religious conversion, threats of violence, body mutilation, and other malicious assaults on human dignity.

Situation in Northern Uganda



- 21-year war in which the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has continued to abduct children, attack civilians and government forces, and destroy infrastructure
 - Up to 40,000 boys and girls abducted and forced into child soldiering
 - Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed, maimed, raped, and traumatized.
 - Many children orphaned by war and disease.
 - High rate of HIV/AIDS leaving behind widows and orphans who are illiterate and lack skills.
 - Abducted young girls are sexually exploited by the LRA and become child mothers who are often HIV positive.
 - Up to 2 million people have been displaced to IDP camps with little food, cramped living and poor sanitation.
 - 750,000 children are out of primary school.
 - Top UN official described the rebel war as “the worst forgotten humanitarian crisis on earth.”

Testimonies from Former Child Soldiers and Abductees

- **Okello Morris**, 14 years old- “I witnessed the killing of my father...I was brutally beaten, trained, and forced to kill...”
- **Abalo Mary**, single mother of 3 children- “a group of soldiers...woke us up in the middle of the night...They ordered us to walk for about 2 kilometers... I was made to kill my own children, all 3 of them.”
- **Kopkulu**, abducted at the age of 20- “Our job was to kill; nothing else...I spent the first two months of captivity with over 40 other people in a dirty swamp...Then we went for a chilling initiation. We were told to abduct 2 people each, a man and a woman...We made the men lie down, and we hit their heads with axes. Then we scooped out their brains and ate them...On the second day, we cut the women’s throats... and drank their blood, down to the last lick...After that, killing became natural.”

Friends of Orphans

- Introduced to Friends of Orphans (FRO) by our Partner Free the Slaves
- FRO founded in 1999 by Ricky Anywar Richard, a former child soldier who watched the rebels burn his family alive
- FRO's mission is to rehabilitate, reintegrate, and empower former child soldiers, abductees, child mothers, orphans, and other people impacted by conflict and by HIV/AIDS in Northern Uganda.
- FRO has helped thousands by providing support in the areas of education and training, health, human rights, psychological and cultural healing, agricultural and other economic development, and peace-building activities.

Results of Baking and Catering Program



- In 2008-2009 Xslaves.org funded a baking and catering program that provided vocational training to 30 former child soldiers for 9 months.
- Program also provided start-up capital to enable graduates to start their own baking/catering businesses.
- The program has been highly successful, and FRO has been able to share their experiences, success stories, and best practices with others around the world.
- Says program participant Acen Christine: “I had lost all hope...now I can see that very soon I will be independent economically with a bright future.”



Current Project: Permanent Vocational Training Workshop

Project Cost: \$53,000

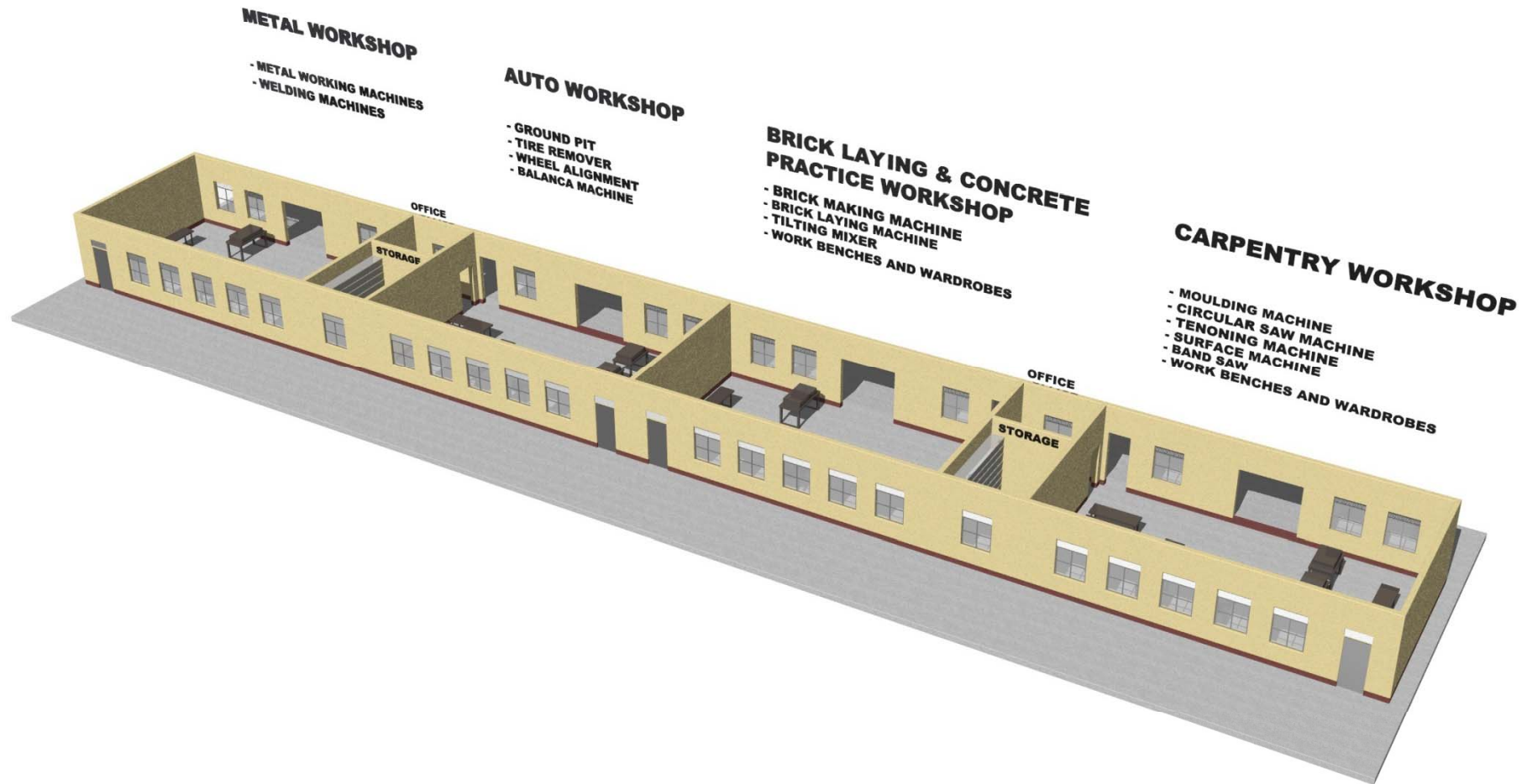
- Xslaves.org's current focus is to build a permanent vocational training workshop for FRO.
- Workshop was identified as FRO's number one priority.
- Vocational training is critical to helping former child soldiers and abductees become economically self-sufficient.
- FRO has been providing vocational training in temporary facilities that are poorly suited for the task of vocational training.
- Workshop will provide students with a place to apply their classroom learning in the areas of auto, metal, bricklaying/concrete, and carpentry.
- Workshop will also be a one-of-a-kind facility in Pader County and will serve thousands of children for many years to come.

Exterior View of Proposed Vocational Training Workshop

FRIENDS OF ORPHANS VOCATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP



Interior View of Proposed Vocational Training Workshop



Donation Information

- Donate via credit card online by visiting our website at www.xslaves.org or make checks payable to “Xslaves.org” and mail to:
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PO Box 2672
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Thanks for your generosity and support!