

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL LIRA
OLILIM FINAL PROJECT REPORT
MAY 2025

With support from Soroptimist International Sweden, Soroptimist International Lira received and distributed Solvatten equipment to middle-aged women of Olilim in Otuke District in Northern Uganda in 2024. This was the 3rd Solvatten project. A total of 72 women benefited from the project. This report explores the benefits of Solvatten to the women and their families, based on the field visit conducted on 18th May 2025 in Olilim, with 70 beneficiaries in attendance.

The women are so excited about the use of Solvatten solar water heating and purifying kit, which is one of the latest technologies that has immensely contributed to energy-saving initiatives, where the women do not have to use firewood for boiling water for tea, drinking, and bathing for their families. The women noted that firewood is scarce due to environmental degradation. Using equipment like Solvatten has become useful because firewood that would have otherwise been used for boiling water is spared for cooking food items like cassava and beans, which require a lot of firewood, given the scarcity of firewood in the villages.

The women are aware of the time frame during which they can use the Solvatten to maximize sunlight, and they also consider the safety of the kit during the rainy season when they must be away from home for tasks such as clearing gardens, planting crops, weeding, or harvesting. They worry about the safety of the Solvatten kit when no one is available to attend to it, especially if it is left in the care of children who may not handle it properly. The Solvatten could also be vulnerable to theft if not safeguarded. Consequently, the women have begun taking the kit with them to the garden so that while they continue their work, the Solvatten can be set in the sun to do its job, ensuring that hot water is available for their children, who can enjoy tea at any time, as can the entire family. Access to clean water for drinking and tea when needed has significantly improved the lives of the children and their relationships with the whole family, as they

are not worried about diseases affecting them due to drinking unclean and contaminated water.

During an interactive moment, one beneficiary, Betty Geoffrey, said the Solvatten has helped her immensely. After giving birth in June, it has been easy for her to boil water for her baby to bathe, as well as to provide safe water for mixing her baby's food, medicines, and for drinking. She adds that her husband comes home late after spending time with friends, so pre-boiling his bathing water using the Solvatten and storing it in a thermos has greatly improved her relationship with her husband.

According to Richard Okullu, a spouse to one of the beneficiaries, who was injured sometime back and who is still on treatment said the Solvatten has greatly helped in providing warm water for bathing and hot compress/massage to his injury, his family proudly takes safe boiled water and tea, hence deriving a direct benefit from the Solvatten equipment.

Sarah Angom, on the other hand, attributes her husband's body hygiene to the Solvatten; she said he used to drink a lot and could not bathe, which caused a bad body odour. However, he now bathes due to the availability of warm water provided by his wife, who benefits from using Solvatten.

Another beneficiary, Lucy said since she gave birth, her family has been peaceful, because she can provide warm bathing water to her husband at night, warm tea before he goes to work, and she is thankful that he is no longer angry with her because of delays in providing warm bathing water and tea.

The women of Olilim greatly appreciated the women of Sweden for considering them as part of the project.

Speaking on behalf of Soroptimist International Lira, Madam Josephine Aloba thanked all the women beneficiaries for being steadfast and embracing the use of the Solvatten.

Other business

Ms. Josephine Alobo explained to the women that one other important aspect of life is to acquire skills for a better livelihood. In this regard, she introduced the idea of soap making, which she emphasized could benefit the families by using their homemade soap or even earning some income from it. The women were then trained on how to locally make herbal soap from natural materials like neem leaves, aloe Vera, guava, and eucalyptus leaves blended with essential oils and simple chemicals. She informed the women that the herbal soap is essential for the management of skin conditions like ringworms, rashes, and can, among others, serve the whole family as well. She further noted that if soap production is well embraced by the women, it can also be sold to generate household incomes.

The women were taken through a practical session where they made the herbal soap. Soroptimist International Lira donated materials to the women as a start-up. SI Lira also donated soap-making equipment such as buckets, basins, water jugs, and molders to the group as a starting point after the training.

The women expressed sincere gratitude to Soroptimist International, and still requested if they could be considered and supported to acquire a modest machine for extracting shea butter oil.

Below is a photograph of women receiving the SI Lira team



Below are women gathering to and waiting to give their report



Below is a photograph of women preparing for the soap making session

