

## PVP Barefoot Workshop Report

The PVP barefoot workshop was held from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. It was attended by 12 PVP members, two Film Aid staff and the two PVP facilitators. It was conducted by Chandler Griffin and assisted by the Assistant Program Manager. There were 2 sessions in a day. The afternoon sessions were held to accommodate the members that were schooling. Various trainings on video production skills have been conducted in the past but this one was different because members were expected to unleash their creativity and potential by being more creative. In the end they had to create their own stories and make short films by the end of the workshop. The first two days focused on stimulating expression where members used magazine photos to create their own stories. Each member would select a photo and tell the group why they had selected it. The facilitator would then ask the member to make up a story immediately and tell it to the group. They would then prompt them to give more details and the story would go on and on until the story teller had exhausted everything. At first the participants were very shy and were even shocked that they would have to come up with stories from the photos. In the end however, they became more vocal and gave more details to their stories. As a result many ideas were generated. On the third day the members then created their own stories which they later developed into films. During the sessions the ideas were discussed and critiqued so that they would be narrowed down to the theme. Voting was then done by all members and the ones with the most votes were selected to be filmed. The members then divided themselves into groups where the stories were developed and scripts written and refined.

After that the participants were taught how to use Panasonic GS 500 digital cameras. These came with many features including microphone cables, gun zoom microphones and 3 Mac I Books, all donated by Cinereach which is a media organization based in the US. The participants observed that these were easier to use, more portable and had more features than the VHS cameras that they had been using previously. The groups then met and the various production roles were assigned. These included: the director, assistant director, camera persons, boom operators and actors. The members then searched for suitable locations where the shooting would take place. Shooting was mostly done in the camp. 'Amerika' was shot in the host community. During the shooting it was interesting to see that they all took their roles seriously. They worked with the new equipment in such a way that one would think they had spent a lot of time with the cameras.

The groups got together and watched the footage and then logged them onto the I Books and worked on the I Movie with the assistance of Chandler. They used the newly donated Mac I Books. They learnt how to create projects, name clips, work on the timeline and cut their own sequences. The making of the sequence was quite tough at first but all the members were very eager to learn. They were very dedicated and worked overtime to finish their pieces.

At the end there were 5 Films, 'Selfish Friends', 'No More Fighting', 'Don't Touch Me', 'For Sale' and 'Freedom'

"Selfish Friends" is the story of two childhood friends; Peter and Morris who are both interested in the same lady, Janet, a beautiful Somali. However, none of them speak about it and they both ask Janet for a date. Unknown to them, they are to meet the same day, the same time. When Peter finds Morris and Janet at the hotel, he confronts them claiming that Janet is his girl friend. A fight ensues and Janet who is very incensed that they are fighting over her tells them off and leaves them alone. Ashamed of what they have done, they talk and make up.



### *A fighting scene from "No more fighting"*

"No more fighting" is the story of three brothers, Mabruk, Salama and Batali who jointly run a business they inherited from their late father. The harmony they enjoy comes to an abrupt end when Mabruk and Salama gang up accusing Batali of running down the business. Salama and Mabruk have to run for dear life after Batali, armed with a bow and arrows chases them away. It is only after the intervention of a neighbor and respected elder in the community (Michael Birashirwa) that they reconcile.

"Don't touch me" is the story of Sam, a HIV positive widower facing stigmatization from his community members. Even his closest friend John deserts him after being convinced by his wife that Sam can infect him through shaking hands. John uses detergents to clean up as he is convinced he might have the virus on him. When they meet again, John openly refuses to shake Sam's hand.

Patrick, a friend who sees what Sam is going through even from other members of the community calls for a meeting where he educates them about transmission of HIV/AIDS and also issues on stigma. The community agrees to treat Sam as one of their own and they even arrange for a visit to his place.



*crew and cast of 'freedom' on location in 'Amerika.'  
From front left to back right:  
Bior David, Simon Lokwang,  
Michael Birashirwa and Michael Gatluak.*



"Freedom" is a short narrative piece calling for an end to forced marriage. The narrator, Michael Gatluak states all the disadvantages of this old practice that threatens the general well being of girls denying them a chance to become empowered.

"For sale" is a short drama about Susan a bright young girl, who after finishing primary school is married off to Dominic, a rich man living in the US despite pleas from her mother to let their daughter pursue her studies. Two months after the wedding, the father gets the shocking news that Susan is hospitalized and in critical condition after being battered by her husband.

In an interview after the training, James Jackson said he gained a lot of useful skills which he will make use of when he goes back home to South Sudan. "I have made films that pass messages to people," he said.

Sam Benjamin Bullen said he will now be more confident working on films based on situations happening in the camp.

Jimmy Jackson could not hide his excitement at the end of the workshop saying "I created stories and turned them into films." Michael Gatluak was very appreciative of the training saying that he sees more opportunities for the PVP in bringing about social change, educating people about violence and forced marriage. From the members interviewed to give views about the workshop in general, there were only two responses: good and great!

The members however felt that the time was not enough as there were two sessions and they were very eager to learn a lot more. They requested that similar workshops take place more frequently

I will echo the views of the pvp members, saying that the workshop was a great success and I believe that a lot more can be done in the near future. I also agree with the members proposal that should the workshops happen in the near future, they should take place over the holidays so that they can have ample time to learn.

This was a great experience for the members and I have a strong belief that their work in the future will be much better in terms of content and quality