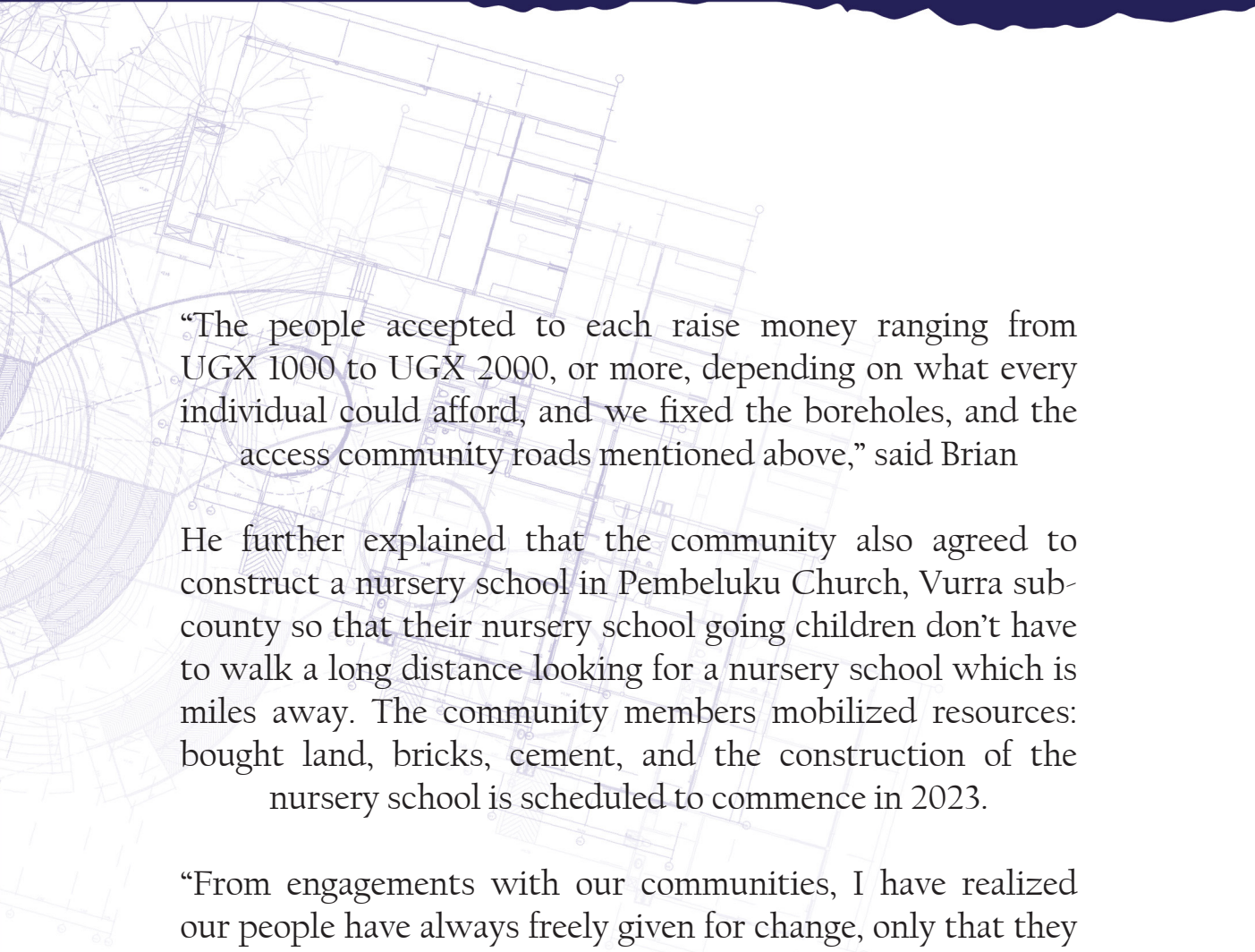




IDENTIFYING AND SOLVING COMMUNITY CHALLENGES IMPROVES FOR WECISNET AFTER PHILANTHROPY RELATED SKILLING

Brian Ofoyrwoth is an advocacy and research officer working with West Nile Regional Civil Society Network (WECISNET). He is among the community facilitators that underwent the skills training organized by UNNGOF in 2021 under the Philanthropy for Development programme. Brian says he acquired skills in facilitation, community mobilization, communication, listening, and administration which have enabled him, and fellow facilitators to have an impact in their communities.

According to Brian, WECISNET organized grassroots meetings to identify problems affecting the people. Some of the problems mentioned included; broken boreholes, and the poor state of the community access roads connecting Manibe Sub-county in Ayivu East Constituency and Nyio parish to Arua City. Different stakeholders including LCI, 2, 3, religious leaders, the elderly, persons with disabilities (PWDs), youths, boys and girls attended the meetings.

A faint, light blue architectural blueprint or floor plan is visible in the background, showing various rooms, corridors, and structural lines. The blueprint is centered and covers most of the page's background.

“The people accepted to each raise money ranging from UGX 1000 to UGX 2000, or more, depending on what every individual could afford, and we fixed the boreholes, and the access community roads mentioned above,” said Brian

He further explained that the community also agreed to construct a nursery school in Pembeluku Church, Vurra sub-county so that their nursery school going children don't have to walk a long distance looking for a nursery school which is miles away. The community members mobilized resources: bought land, bricks, cement, and the construction of the nursery school is scheduled to commence in 2023.

“From engagements with our communities, I have realized our people have always freely given for change, only that they didn't know it was philanthropy. And when we explained the concept to them, they appreciated it more and vowed to continue using this approach to better their communities. We have to take it upon ourselves to encourage our people to use the available resources to solve social-societal problems other than over relying on government.” He affirms

He adds: “we have to encourage our people to use the 3T's approach (Time, Talent, and Treasure) to better their communities. We want them to know and acknowledge that without government's intervention, they can also do something for their communities.

