

# SIGHT BY SIDE



2 young photographers, 1 European Union (EU) and 1 Ugandan national, were selected and paired up to travel to refugee settlements in Northern Uganda and slum areas of Kampala where they portrayed their individual but complementary perceptions on inequalities in this diverse country.

During their journey, they had the chance to visit projects funded through the EU #AfricaTrustFund and their beneficiaries.

Guillem Trius (Spain) focused on host communities and Esther Ruth Mbabazi (Uganda) on South Sudanese refugees. They each asked one simple but powerful question. Guillem asked locals "if you became a refugee tomorrow, what would you miss the most?", while Esther asked refugees "what did you manage to bring with you when you were forced to leave your home?"

## WHAT IS THE #AfricaTrustFund ?

The Emergency Trust Fund for Africa is working with partner countries to address the root causes for destabilisation, forced displacement and irregular migration across three regions: the Sahel and Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa and North Africa.

The Horn of Africa is currently hosting 4.5 million refugees, 70% of Africa's refugees and more than 20% of all refugees world-wide; the highest number on the African continent. Our projects focus on economic development, support for access to

basic services, prevention of irregular migration, fighting human trafficking, conflict prevention, addressing human rights abuses and enforcing the rule of law.

## ABOUT UGANDA

Uganda, a country rich in wildlife and home to different tribal heritages and diverse landscapes, is also the largest refugee hosting country in Africa with over 1.2 million refugees and, whilst growing economically, still faces major challenges. Uganda is at the forefront in the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), an initiative led by UNHCR in close coordination with relevant States, other UN agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders, and is also a pilot country for the EU humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

maintains one of the most progressive refugee protection policies in the world. The Ugandan Government upholds an inclusive approach, granting refugees freedom of movement, the right to work, to establish businesses and to access public services such as education.

The programmes of the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa in this country focus on vocational and technical trainings, livelihoods, conflict management, as well as education and providing economic opportunities for both refugees and host communities.

Despite the challenges generated by the influx of refugees, Uganda

## WHAT IS SIGHT-BY-SIDE?

Sight-by-side brings together voices and views of young Africans and Europeans to create dialogue and breakdown stereotypes through art and media projects and to promote a more diverse image

of African countries. This first edition of Sight-by-Side sheds light on inequalities in Uganda and on the work of the Africa Trust Fund in this country.

## ESTHER RUTH MBABAZI



**Esther Ruth Mbabazi** is a photographer based in Kampala, Uganda. As a documentary photographer, Esther uses storytelling and photojournalism to address issues in her society. Coming from a humble background, her work explores changing conditions on the African continent. Through this lens, she focuses on the social, economic, physical and emotional aspects of daily life, especially in rural areas and for minority groups. Esther is driven to bring to light issues in society that are too often overlooked. Her works have been published in The New York Times, TIME Magazine, The Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Slate, and El Pais, and commissioned by a variety of NGOs and international organisations.

## ESTHER RUTH MBABAZI (UGANDA) FOCUSED ON REFUGEES AND

### THE THINGS THEY CARRY



This project explores the things people manage to carry with them when leaving their homes behind in times of conflict and war. Esther asked South Sudanese refugees at refugee settlements in northern Uganda: "What is the most important thing you carried with you on your journey, and what does it mean to you? One cannot walk long distances with heavy items, and so the majority of one's home is left behind – in most cases never to be seen again", she explains. "Their stories, and the items they chose, are a reminder of the individuality of each refugee, and the weight borne by those forced to abandon their homes." The portraits are all made inside the houses, to invite the viewer into the lives and stories of those photographed.

## GUILLEM TRIUS



**Guillem Trius** was born in 1991 in Barcelona, Spain. He believes in long-term multimedia documentary projects and uses this method to share stories from people around the world. He has been working in countries such as Ethiopia, Somalia, Syria, Niger, Faroe Islands, among others. He has been published in national and international newspapers such as La Vanguardia, Revista 5W, Al Jazeera, and The Guardian. In 2016, he received an honorable mention at the Tokyo International Photo Awards (Japan) and the Head On Photo Festival (Australia). He was also shortlisted at the Sienna International Photo Awards (Italy) for his work "Life and Death inside Gambo Hospital". He has recently been shortlisted at the Kolga Tbilisi Photo Awards (Georgia) for his work 'Færeyjar'. He exhibited his work in Spain, Australia, Georgia, Ethiopia, Belgium and Japan and he is a member of the documentary agency OAK Stories.

## GUILLEM TRIUS (SPAIN) FOCUSED ON

### THE HOST COMMUNITIES LIVING IN AND AROUND THE SETTLEMENT AREAS



His project reminds us that we may all be exposed to conflict. He asked those that he portrayed "If you became a refugee tomorrow, what would you miss the most?". He noted that the majority of the answers people gave do not refer to material possessions. "As you go through the answers, you also see that some of them refer to what refugees look for when they come here. For example, access to education. Now, these are the things that the two communities, refugees and locals, are sharing", he explains. "The line between refugees and hosting communities is almost invisible. They share land, resources and work together. Both benefit from this coexistence".