



On the spotlight with
Peter Mading



Peter Mading

Academic Profile:

1st class honors graduate. Bachelor of Science Degree in Conflict Resolutions and Humanitarian Assistance at the Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology(MMUST).

Many refugee students have had to overcome substantial barriers in their pursuit for education. While significant progress has been made in expanding higher education opportunities for refugees, much remains to be done. Statistics indicate that less than one-sixth of refugees have access to tertiary education, including technical and vocational education and training.

The story of Peter Mading, a recent WIK alumna and 1st Class Honors Graduate is that of resilience and shattering glass ceilings.

Peter was a WIK scholarship beneficiary under the DAFI programme (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative), supported to undertake a Bachelor of Science Degree in Conflict Resolutions and Humanitarian Assistance at the Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology(MMUST).

"I have been a refugee for the last 20 years. Growing up in Kakuma Refugee Camp, I had to overcome unsurmountable challenges in my education journey. Sometimes it was going to school on an empty stomach after running out of ration food, or surviving on just a cup of porridge, other times it was the inadequate learning resource materials. At one point I dropped out of high school after my sponsor passed away and had to seek employment in my former Primary school so as save enough money to get back to school. Even after completing my secondary education, I stayed 4 years before getting the WIK sponsorship, after several attempts of applying for different scholarships. This is because tertiary education scholarship opportunities are limited despite most refugees qualifying which in turn makes them very competitive. Despite all these challenges, I had hope of a better future, so i persevered and stayed focused."

It is such refuge education challenges that strengthens the resolve of WIK tertiary education scholarship programmes to continue providing opportunities, offering solutions and expanding options for refugees to shape their futures through access to higher education.

WIK has partnered with leading and accredited institutions of learning to provide WIK scholars the opportunity to get world class quality education and training. For Peter, MMUST was his University of choice .

"I was admitted to MMUST in September 2016. I enjoyed an environment that made me feel comfortable to achieve my academic goals. So when I became the first refugee student in the history of the university to graduate with a first class honors, it came as a shock to them. They could not believe that a refugee could beat all other students to come top of the class."

For WIK scholars, the experience at the University also presents new challenges and opportunities.

"Being a WIK scholar at the University also opened new opportunities for personal growth, social connections. For example, had the opportunity to serve as the Secretary General of the International Students Guild of MMUST for a year. I was a great opportunity to create long lasting connections and networks and horn my leadership skills"

It goes without saying that the beyond academics support structure that is extended to WIK scholars plays a pivotal role in their academic success. This type of support includes psychosocial services, mentorship, career guidance.

“WIK has been with me every step of the way. The support I got as a student is all round, from guidance and counselling, mentorship, financial support. The staff are just a call away and always available to listen, advise and guide. One of my memorable moments as a WIK scholar is the annual students conference where all WIK scholars and staff, invited WIK alumni get together to share experiences, network, mentor and support each other.”

It is evident that Universities and higher education institutions are places that facilitate personal growth, local and regional connections, and create the leaders of tomorrow, especially for refugees. New horizons are opened and opportunities are created for refugees to build self-reliance, and develop the skills necessary to contribute to recovery and rebuilding after conflict.

For Peter, the future is bright.

“I look at my future and smile. Without Education my life would have been so bleak. I would not have the hope for the future like I do now. Before I got this scholarship, I was just like any other refugee. Now, I realize that I have been elevated to a higher position of opportunities, like getting a Masters scholarship, getting job or volunteer/internship opportunities. I see more opportunities now than before.

I grew up seeing the dedication of humanitarian agency workers in their service to refugees, a most vulnerable group of people. This greatly inspired my decision to study Conflict Resolutions and Humanitarian Assistance. As a way of giving back to the society, I plan to use the skills, knowledge and training acquired to serve my fellow refugees. I also have the situation of my home country, South Sudan, in mind and I am determined to one day go back to change the mess that pushed me away from that country in the first place.

Investing in higher education evidently equips young refugee men and women with the skills, values, knowledge and attitude to develop resilience, self-reliance and paves way for them to contribute to recovery and rebuilding after conflict upon repatriation.

“Education is an equalizer. Mine has been an incredible journey of restoration of my dignity which is lost when you become a refugee. Thank you to WIK for the life changing opportunity.”



No.10 Amboseli Road, Off Gitanga Road, Lavington
P.O. Box 40521-00100 Nairobi
Mobile +254 721 551 451, Email: windle@windle.org
Website: www.windle.org