Example of Story that could be developed for FAO: discussion of Charles Owach

Target audience: general audience—we want to show them what FAO wants to achieve

Faster Food for Faster Recovery: Early Maturing Sweetpotato Helps Displaced Families Recover in Northern Uganda

High yielding sweetpotato varieties have helped over 20,000 internally displaced families settle into their new homes in Northern Uganda.

- IDPs lived in camps for close to 20 years & lost many of their crops, including sweetpotato
- SP is a major staple in the Northern Ugandan diet
- SP requires fewer inputs and the new, improved varieties give higher yields than other staples like cassava, millet, and sorghum
- Thus, FAO identified SP as a key intervention to help families recover from the trauma of war and displacement.

Photo of Mary Akulo and her family eating Sweetpotato

Mary Akulo, a mother of 4 children, says "I did not know these new kinds of sweetpotato when FAO first brought them, but I was very pleased when after just 3 months there was enough to eat for the whole family. These new types give many more roots than our old varieties did".

FAO made the decision to distribute new, improved varieties that were higher yielding and earlier maturing than the varieties used by farmers in the past. They contacted the National sweetpotato program at Namulonge to learn about where they could get quality planting material. It turns out that SOSSPA, a farmer's organization in Soroti, specializes in high quality multiplication of sweetpotato

vines, which is the sweetpotato "seed" planted by farmers. FAO purchased over XXX million vines from such farmer multiplier groups.

In addition, some of the new varieties were orange-fleshed. These varieties are very high in pro-vitamin A, a vitamin that helps the body fight off diseases and ensure good eye sight.

> *My children love the color of the new orange one called Kabode. It has a very sweet taste.* Mary Akulo, sweetpotato farmer in XX village.

This is a good example of how an emergency relief program can effectively contribute to rebumping development.