

Poised. ADRA Uganda expect a big turnout. PHOTO/GEORGE KATONGOLE

ADRA Run launched to champion girl child

BY GEORGE KATONGOLE

KAMPALA. Aid agency ADRA Uganda has unveiled the 2026 ADRA Run, a mass-participation event aimed at rallying national support for the protection and education of the girl child in Northern Uganda.

The run, slated for May 10 at Metroplex Mall, Naalya, will feature three categories 10km, 5km and a 2km Children's Fun Run, drawing runners from across communities, corporate organisations, faith groups and civil society.

Speaking at the launch, ADRA Uganda Programmes Director Benon Babumba said the event goes beyond sport, positioning it as a platform for advocacy.

"This is not just launching an event; we are making a statement. We are raising a collective voice for the girl child in Northern Uganda, particularly Agago District," Babumba said.

He noted that despite over a decade of ADRA's presence in the region — including operations in Amuru, Lamwo, Kitgum, Pader and Agago, girls continue to face forced marriages, early pregnancies, school dropouts and limited access to basic services.

The run, organised under the theme Run to Save Her Future, seeks to spotlight these challenges while mobilising action from government, communities and development partners.

ADRA Uganda is implementing programmes on sexual and reproductive health and rights, mental health and women empowerment in partnership with ADRA Sweden, Global Affairs Canada and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

"This is a collective responsibility. We are calling upon the media, religious leaders, business community and all Ugandans to join us and run to save our future," Babumba added. Event coordinator Timothy Ahimbisibwe said the run will start and end at Metroplex Mall Naalya, with routes designed to offer a safe and enjoyable experience.