

Boosting Livelihoods

About Re:Build

Refugees in East Africa: Boosting Urban Innovations for Livelihoods Development (Re:Build) is a five-year urban livelihoods program being implemented in Nairobi and Kampala.

Now in its third year, Re:Build seeks for urban refugees and vulnerable host residents to achieve economic, regulatory, and social environments. The program is committed to generate and share evidence

for innovative, sustainable livelihoods solutions that can be adopted to support refugees and vulnerable host residents in other cities in East Africa and beyond.

The International Rescue Committee and the IKEA Foundation are working with local authorities, local and international partners, Community Based Organisations and Refugee Led Organizations to deliver program interventions.



Re:Build Conducts Campaign On Decent Work



Rahma Nakato Nakazzi, 22, was supported by Re:Build to study welding in a vocational school and upon completion placed for internship at KenKat Workshop, a private company in Kampala to improve her skills. Nakazzi performed well consequently leading to her retention at the firm.

The Refugees in East Africa: Building Urban Innovations for Livelihoods Development (Re:Build) is conducting a 'Decent Work' campaign to generate discussions, influence policy and promote creation of a conducive work environment for urban refugees and vulnerable host communities in Kampala and Nairobi.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) outlines features of decent work as fair income, security in the workplace, social protection for families, better prospects for personal development, equality for both men and women and the freedom for people to express their concerns and organize and participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Re:Build Target - **20,000**

Served Clients - **7,529**

Rahma Nakato is one of the 7,529 clients who have so far benefited from Re:Build services. The clients, who are now in employment, are the foundation that informs the ongoing campaign by Re:Build on Decent Work.

The campaign is running from **April – August 2023** and aims at generating discussion on barriers to decent work with various stakeholders, influencing policy makers to address obstacles to decent work and engaging private actors to promote creation of a decent work environment.

Partners in the Decent Work campaign include UN agencies, the private sector, civil society organisations, city authorities, umbrella organisations, Re:Build partners, Government departments and urban refugees together with host community members.

IRC President & CEO visits Re:Build

David Miliband, the President & CEO of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) visited Re:Build clients and a Nairobi partner in the last week of February 2023.

In his interaction with clients, Miliband heard from members of New Hope, an Urban Saving and Loan Association (USLA) formed in 2021. Re:Build supported the USLA with training on effective management of activities and a seed capital of 70,000 Kenya shillings (approximately EUR €465).

Refugees and vulnerable host communities often face challenges accessing financial services in cities and other urban areas in East Africa as they do not have collateral and all the documents required by banks.



The President & CEO of International Rescue Committee (IRC), David Miliband speaking at the offices of Re:Build partner, SHOFCO. Re:Build builds the capacity of its local partners to better service client needs

“When I wanted to start a business, I had no capital and could not get a loan from the bank,” said Hawa Adam, a member of the group and a single mother from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Hawa Adam now runs a small business set up with capital she borrowed from the saving scheme. Miliband appreciated the positive impact the USLA is having on its clients in providing capital needed to set up livelihoods’ ventures.

By March 2023, New Hope, with a membership of **24 members (14 female, 10 male); 22 refugees and two Kenyans, had a total saving of 385,525 Kenya shillings (about EUR €2,560).**

In the last two years, Re:Build has supported **29 USLA groups with a total membership of 215 clients.**

The IRC President & CEO also interacted with SHOFSCO, one of three Re:Build partners in Nairobi. Before the partnership with Re:Build, SHOFSCO did not have any programming for refugees, said Augustine Mwangangi, a SHOFSCO staff.

With the capacity sharing support from Re:Build, SHOFSCO has now mainstreamed refugees in its programming.

The IKEA Foundation visits the Re:Build Program in Nairobi



In a meeting at the end of a three-day engagement in Nairobi between Re:Build and its donor, The IKEA Foundation, Laura Costica from the foundation described Re:Build as a “well-oiled machine”.

The engagement between Re:Build and the donor was to ensure The IKEA Foundation and Re:Build are better

aligned on program activities for the third year of program implementation. Re:Build’s program activities and budget for 2023 were approved by the donor in March, a key outcome from the meeting in Nairobi.

In partnership with The IKEA Foundation, Re:Build brings together the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and local and

international partners to support urban refugees and host communities in East Africa to secure livelihoods opportunities. Re:Build was launched in July 2021 and is now in its third year of implementation. The program has offered services to more than 7,500 clients in Nairobi and Kampala.

Placing Women in the Digital Space



Sarah Haroun Majala at work on her computer. She trained for a six-month Re:Build sponsored computer course. From the skills attained, she is able to transcribe videos and audio for online content.

The 2023 theme for International Women’s Day “**DigitAll: Innovations and technology for gender equality**” focused on the role that women and girls play in innovations and technology.

Gender equality is central to the operations of the Re:Build Program. Indeed, the program has a deliberate strategy to place women in sectors traditionally dominated by men, including in the digital space.

Take the case of Sarah Haroun Majala, 49, a Ugandan refugee living in Njiru, Nairobi.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic struck, Majala, a mother of three, was operating a shop selling artwork merchandise. However, the pandemic forced her to close the business.

Without a business and her livelihoods options at risk, Majala enrolled with the Re:Build program and was supported to undertake a six-month Computer and online marketing course at IAT College in Nairobi.

In commemoration of the International Women’s Day, Re:Build organized a mentorship lunch for 12 female clients from the refugee and host community. The mentorship session focused on equipping the clients with skills and knowledge to better develop their career plans



Upcoming Events

- Decent work campaign - April to September 2023
- Financial inclusion workshops - May to June 2023
- Media roundtable meetings - April 28, 2023
- Randomized control trial wave two



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