

## Re:Build - Refugees in East Africa: Boosting Urban Innovations for Livelihoods Development

A multifaceted approach to support urban refugees to build sustainable livelihoods in East Africa and to inspire evidence-based systemic change globally.



### Challenge

Nearly 100 million people are displaced worldwide, the majority of whom are making their way to cities, which are beacons of economic opportunity. Yet these opportunities are frequently out of reach for refugees and other vulnerable residents. As a result, urban refugees struggle to build sustainable livelihoods and achieve long-term self-reliance. At the same time, programs to support them lack investment and evidence to show “what works.”

In 2021, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) with funding from the IKEA Foundation launched Re:Build. The Re:Build program is providing solutions and generating evidence and learnings through piloting innovations & responding to urban refugees’ needs. At €30 million over five years, this is one of the single largest investments in this space. Since its inception, Re:Build has offered livelihood services to **7,529 clients** in Kampala and Nairobi comprising of **3,981 refugees and 3,548 nationals**. Of these **4,275 were female** and **3,240 male** as of May 2023.

Initially focusing on Kampala (Uganda) and Nairobi (Kenya), Re:Build is working to expand the evidence base on innovative and sustainable livelihoods solutions that can support refugees and host communities in East Africa and beyond.

### Business Grants

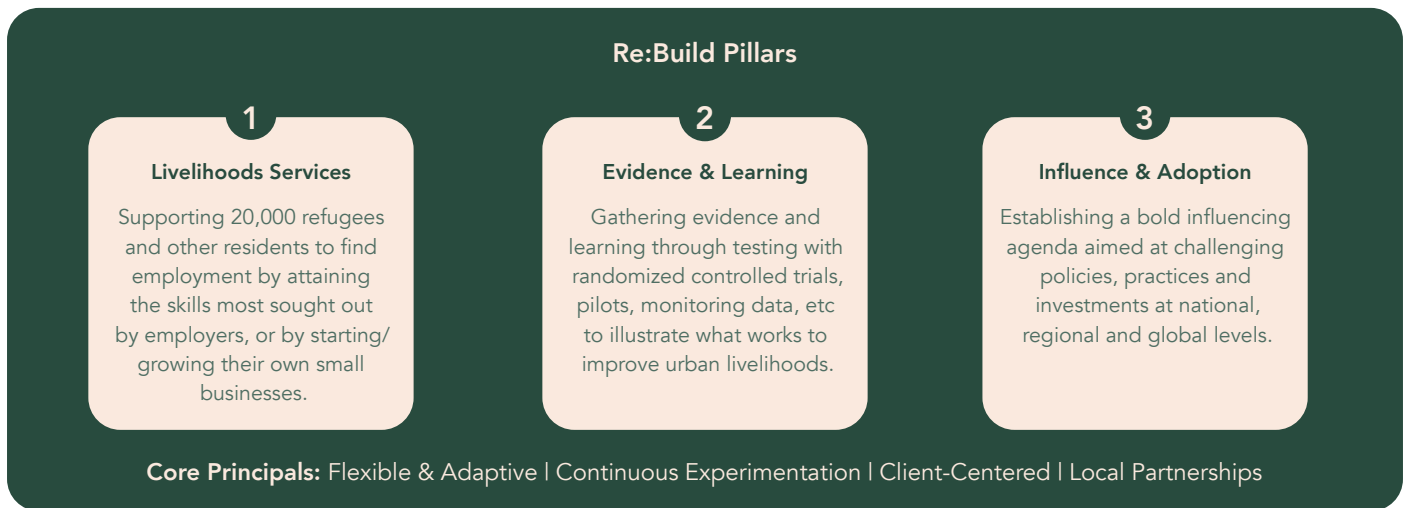
A business grant from the Re:Build program has enabled Kapinga Tambwe, a Congolese refugee in Kampala, to set up a grocery shop where she sells vegetables. Her customers also buy fish, a venture earning her money to take care of her two daughters and husband.

“The business grants are meant to support clients to start their own business or improve on existing ones to provide lessons on what works or doesn’t work for micro-enterprises targeting urban refugees and hosts,” said David Musiime, the Re:Build Research Coordinator.

The business grant is part of the ongoing RCT approach. In Kampala, there are **600 mentors** participating while there are **1,170 mentors** and **1,180 mentees** enrolled in Nairobi.



## Re:Build approach



## Re:Build Services

Re:Build is flexible and adaptive by design, informed by continuous experimentation and learning. Its implementation is tied to a commitment to delivering livelihood services and community-driven market-based improvements targeting **20,000 refugees** and host residents in low-income neighborhoods in Kampala and Nairobi.

Through experimentation, Re:Build has gathered valuable knowledge supporting clients get jobs or start/grow their own businesses, while managing financial risks by offering:

- Apprenticeship opportunities secured for refugees and vulnerable hosts that have undergone skills development and vocational training.
- Skills certification through recognition of prior learning
- Supporting Urban Savings and Loans (USLAs) groups by providing clients with a gateway to financial inclusion
- Loan Guarantee Fund to cushion financial service providers, unlocking the challenge hindering lending for refugees
- Mentees reached with micro-enterprise support under RCTs
- Clients trained on green energy, preparing them for green energy livelihood opportunities

## Enabling Change

Re:Build is providing a strong voice in enabling change. Our aim is to ensure that Re:Build's scope of change extends across Kampala and Nairobi, and beyond to any city hosting refugees.

Through system strengthening approaches, our local partners in Nairobi and Kampala have taken the front seat in driving community level advocacy. Re:Build's immense contribution to legal reforms in East Africa is achieving government responsiveness to urban refugee needs.

Reports and policy briefs provide evidence and innovative sustainable livelihoods solutions on what works and doesn't work in promoting urban refugee self-reliance in East Africa and beyond. Re:Build's advocacy work has a firm focus on promoting the value and effectiveness of urban refugee livelihoods programming.



### Grant takes Tambwe off Kampala streets, sets up thriving business

*"After receiving the grant from Re:Build, I constructed a grocery store, and paid rent to have permanent space for my business. At the time, hawkers were being cleared from the city streets where I used to sell salty fish. Re:Build helped me settle and grow my business from street-hawking."*

- Kapinga Tambwe, a Re:Build client in Kampala



Our Results as of May 2023	
7,529 Clients accessing services	4,275 Female clients offered services
1,527 Reached with vocational training	141 Reached with green energy training
4,223 Mentees reached with microenterprise Support	413 Reached with digital skills training
599 Reached with apprenticeship	123 Engaged in clothing and textile value chain addition
112 Prior skills certified	58 USLA groups formed & trained

To learn more about Re:Build, please contact

Priscilla Dembetembe  
**Program Director, Re:Build**  
[priscilla.dembetembe@rescue.org](mailto:priscilla.dembetembe@rescue.org)  
[www.rebuild.rescue.org](http://www.rebuild.rescue.org)

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