



Boosting Livelihoods



# Re:BUiLD PhotoBook

International Women's Day - 2024 Edition

THEME: *Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress.*

In partnership with:

the IKEA Foundation



[www.rebuild.rescue.org](http://www.rebuild.rescue.org)





## About Re:BUiLD

**Re:BUiLD - Refugees in East Africa: Boosting Urban Innovations for Livelihoods Development** is a multifaceted approach to support urban refugees to build sustainable livelihoods in East Africa and to inspire evidence-based systemic change globally.

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.

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.

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.







## Our progress as of Feb 2024

**8,371 clients**

Clients accessing  
services

**4,938 clients**

Female clients  
offered services

**1,455 clients**

Reached with  
vocational training

**84 clients**

Reached with green  
energy training

**4,255 clients**

Mentees reached  
with microenterprise  
Support

**352 clients**

Reached with digital  
skills training

**603 clients**

Reached with  
apprenticeship

**137 clients**

Engaged in clothing  
and textile value  
chain addition

**110 clients**

Prior skills  
certified

**107**

USLA groups  
formed & trained






*24 August 2023, Kampala. Members of God's Love USLA Group take part in a saving session in their weekly meeting. God's Love USLA group is one of the groups that have been able to access fintech through IRC's partnership with Ensibuuko - a micro-finance institution in Kampala (PHOTO: Joseph Sosi/TheIRC)*

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## About this PhotoBook

Over the past four years, Re:BUiLD has been dedicated to empowering women through various economically viable livelihood activities. Our initiatives range from vocational training and apprenticeships to the formation of women's savings groups, fostering a culture of collective saving, and providing microenterprise grants. As we commemorate Women's Day 2024, this photobook aims to amplify the voices of our female clients, sharing their stories and experiences.





**“Re:BUiLD gave me money to start my business, Yes I might not be okay now, but I am good to grow.**

**- Aturinzire Udita**

08 February 2024, Kampala. Udita Aturinzire at her newly opened mobile money station along Nsereko Road in Nsambya. This is Aturinzire's second mobile money place. (PHOTO: Nathan Tibaku/TheIRC)

Udita Aturinzire, a 25-year-old businesswoman, took an unconventional path. Despite her training as a tailor through Re:BUiLD's vocational program, you won't find her stitching away at a sewing machine along Nesereko Road in Nsambya.

Instead, she made a bold move: investing her start-up capital in mobile money back in 2022. Fast forward one year, and Aturinzire is now managing her second mobile money outlet.

**“ In the Re:BUiLD program, I contribute to the advancement of gender equality in economic empowerment through legal scrutiny and advocacy for progressive policies, along with stakeholder engagement and capacity building. I ensure women’s equitable access to economic opportunities, fostering an environment where they can thrive economically.**

Tina Kalitani - Re:BUiLD, Senior Protection and Rule of Law officer



12 February 2024, Kampala. Tina Kalitani Nassasira, Re:BUiLD Protection and Rule of Law Officer plays a vital role in protecting women’s economic achievement through sensitization on prevention of gender-based violence. (PHOTO: Nathan Tibaku/TheIRC)



**“Let every woman go out there and do something for herself. I want women not to think big, start small, and explore opportunities to grow your business.**

**- Eleni Wendmu Tadese**



12 February 2024, Kampala. Eleni Wendmu Tadese tends to a client at her hair and makeup salon. At her Mulu Hair and Makeup Salon, Eleni trains women on various skills such as hair braiding, tailoring, etc. (PHOTO: Nathan Tibaku/TheIRC)

Eleni Wendmu Tadese 44, a seasoned entrepreneur, wears multiple hats in the bustling city of Kampala. Her salon and makeup shop are go-to destinations for those seeking beauty transformations. But Eleni's impact extends beyond her business ventures.

As a Re:BUiLD microenterprise mentor during RCT Wave 1, she generously shared her wealth of knowledge with aspiring women entrepreneurs. Drawing from her more ten years of business experience in Uganda, Eleni guided four women under her wing. Their journey involved diverse pursuits: from catering services to liquid soap making.



**“Under the RE:BUiLD program, we have actively dismantled gender barriers, providing women with opportunities to excel in sectors crucial for climate resilience, including waste management, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and green digital skills. Women are increasingly assuming leadership roles and leveraging their expertise to drive initiatives aimed at mitigating climate change impacts and promoting environmental sustainability.**

**Joan Nakiyini - Operations Lead, RGF**



14 February 2024, Kampala. Joan Nakiyini joins a team of women preparing organic manure at Raising Gabdho Foundation (RGF) (PHOTO: Nathan Tibaku/TheIRC)





**“For women especially operating small business, one business is not enough, if you own two, one can help you save money, another for taking care of the family, so I want to open another business for my family.**

**- Kazi Kahambu**

13 February 2024, Kampala. Kazi Kahambu poses for a photo at her second-hand shoe shop at Discount Mall. (PHOTO: Nathan Tibaku/TheIRC)

Kazi Kahambu, a determined entrepreneur, operates a second-hand shoe business in the packed hallway of Discount Mall in Kampala. Her journey is one of resilience and resourcefulness. Despite being a single mother of eight children, Kazi knows the value of hard work and strategic planning.

Kazi invested in her shoe business. From five sacks of second-hand shoes, her inventory has now grown to an impressive eight sacks per week. Each sack holds the promise of profit and progress.



**“Re:BUiLD is playing a vital role in encouraging refugee women to adopt the group saving culture and strengthening their position to approach formal financial institutions. Moreover some of the groups are investing in joint income generating ventures such as liquid soap making.**

Apalang Yak - USLA Officer, KOWED



14 February 2024, Kampala. At Kandaakiat for Women Empowerment & Development (KOWED), Apalang trains women on financial inclusion, emphasizing the culture of saving among women owning small businesses in Kampala. (PHOTO: Nathan Tibaku/TheIRC)



**“As women, sometimes we fear starting something, we overthink about rental costs, we fear the business might make losses but I want us to have the courage to set up shops. Just start!**

**- Namutebi Amina**



13 February 2024, Kampala. Aminah Namutebi straightens braids to make dreadlock extensions at her salon in Nansana. (PHOTO: Nathan Tibaku/TheIRC)

Aminah is a salon business owner in Nansana, a Kampala suburb. Through Re:BUiLD's partnership with UGAFODE Microfinance Limited, Aminah borrowed capital to transition from a mobile salon service to a shop. In a bit to set her salon apart, Aminah acquired a machine to make dreadlock extentions from braids which she sells to her customers.



**“As a project assistant at the Re:BUiLD program, I have been able to impact business skills to refugee women in Urban Savings and Loans Associations (USLA) groups I have also supported to register these groups with the city authorities, and I am currently facilitating USLA linkages to financial institutions like banks.**

Joy Kiden - Re:BUiLD, Project Assistant



12 February 2024, Kampala. Joy Kiden, Re:BUiLD's Project Assistant at the program's Livelihood Resource Center in Nsambya. (PHOTO: Nathan Tibaku/TheIRC)





“I used to be home and do nothing, but now by making briquettes, I not only earn money but I am avoiding using charcoal which is expensive to buy, and instead I save that money in my savings group.


- Nicole Bahizi

14 February 2024, Kampala. Nicole Bahizi packages briquette in a sack for safekeeping. (PHOTO: Nathan Tibaku/TheIRC)

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Bahizi is a mother of four children. In partnership with Re:BUILD, Raising Gabdho Foundation (RGF) trained Bahizi in renewable energy and waste management. Bahizi chose to make and earn income from making briquettes.





**“I never knew how to save money, I could get money but within a short time, it is done but with this savings group, I know I have some money saved.**

**- Mariya Koche**

15 February 2024, Kampala. Mariya Koche prepares tea for a customer. She operates a cafeteria in Arua Park, a busy travellers' point in Kampala.  
(PHOTO: Nathan Tibaku/TheIRC)

Koche is a Sudanese Refugee and a member of Greenlight savings group, one of the Urban Savings and Loans Association KOWED formed in partnership with Re:BUiLD. Members of Greenlight were trained USLA methodology and best practices of saving money in groups. She operates a cafeteria in Arua Park, a busy travellers' point in Kampala. Koche believes women participating in savings could be a driving force for women economic empowerment.



# Our Implementing Partners



CENTER  
FOR  
GLOBAL  
DEVELOPMENT





KAMPALA, UGANDA  
International Rescue Committee  
Plot 7 Lower, Naguru East Road, Kampala

NAIROBI, KENYA  
International Rescue Committee  
Merchant Square, 4th Floor, Block C  
Riverside Drive, Nairobi



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Re:BUiLD brings together  
The International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Center for Global Development (CGD),  
Open Capital (OC), Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)  
Nairobi City County Government (NCCG) and local partners. Re:BUiLD is committed to generate  
and share evidence for innovative, sustainable livelihoods solutions that can be adopted  
to support refugees and host residents in other cities in East Africa and beyond.