



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





31 October 2023, Nairobi. The treasurer of Tujijenge Mulenge USLA Group notes down the savings of the week. Tujijenge Mulenge is one of the groups that have been able to access fintech through IRC's partnership with Equity Bank in Nairobi (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno/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.





**“Women shy away from starting a business, but for me, resilience and adaptability are key. I aspire for my business to grow.**  
- Joyeuse Maombi

*15 February 2024, Nairobi. Joyeuse Maombi sews a piece of cloth at her home in Rongai. Joyeuse is a member of Jamii Urukundo USLA group which has been facilitated by IRC's ReBUIILD Program (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno/TheIRC)*

Joyeuse Maombi - 25, transitioned from shopkeeper to a skilled tailor in Nairobi, through hard work and determination. She specializes in making African fabric at the comfort of her home.

Joyeuse bought her sewing machine from the proceeds of a KES 10,000 loan she acquired through Jamii Urukundo Group a USLA group facilitated by IRC's Re:BUiLD Program. This has enabled her to take care of her two kids while also earning a decent income.

**“Through mentorship programs, educational trainings and Empowerment campaigns, I’ve witnessed a significant increase in women’s confidence, skills, and opportunities. Many women have transitioned into leadership roles, pursued higher ladders and challenged gender stereotypes. We’ve created lasting change, paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable future for women worldwide.**

Caroline Johns - Re:BUiLD, USLA Monitor



*Caroline at the IRC Regional office in Nairobi. She plays a vital role in supporting the sustainability and success of USLA groups by providing oversight and guidance to empower members in their financial endeavors. (PHOTO: Caroline Johns)*



**“The loan I received from Equity enabled me to get new equipment, do repairs and add more stock. I am grateful to Re:BUiLD for the partnership with Equity Bank.  
- Makia Ibrahim**



13 February 2024, Nairobi. Makia Ibrahim inspects ground rice that she uses to make Anjera - a sour fermented pancake-like flatbread, with her long time employee Ken. Makia has employed 4 Kenyans in her business enterprise. (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno/TheIRC)

Makia Ibrahim, an experienced business owner, has found a niche in making Anjera a popular dish in some parts of Nairobi, especially around the Eastleigh area. This has created employment opportunities for 4 Kenyans so far who help her to manage the growing demand of the flat-bread.

She is also a member of Oromo Women USLA group, facilitated by IRC's Re:BUiLD program. It is through this group that Makia was able to access a loan from Equity Bank via a partnership with IRC.

**“In Re:BUiLD, I gather client feedback to respond effectively to their needs. I prioritize gender equality in economic empowerment, treating all feedback equally. This ensures our clients’ voices and choices are respected and considered impartially in our programming decisions, advancing gender equality within Re:BUiLD.**

**Monicah Njuguna - Re:BUiLD, Client Responsiveness & Accountability Senior Officer**



17 January 2024, Nairobi. Monicah Njuguna (Center) at the community facilitators onboarding session to kick off the start of RCT Wave 2 (PHOTO: Joseph Sosi/TheIRC)



**“My proudest achievement is that I have mentored someone, and they are involved in a business, and they are growing, and you can see they are earning something.**

**- Ake Mohammed**



13 February 2024, Nairobi. Ake Mohammed poses for a photo at her shop in Huruma Estate, Nairobi. (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno/TheIRC)

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Ake Mohammed 30, is not your ordinary shopkeeper, the skills she has learned from running her business catapulted her to be the treasurer of Huruma Women USLA group. She also enlisted as a mentor during RCT Wave 1, where she shared her expertise and business knowledge for would be enterpreneuers who have since followed her footsteps in starting their own businesses.



**“Through the Re:BUiLD program, I have had the opportunity to engage with women from marginalized communities who initially did not believe in women’s economic independence and leadership. Through our interactions and the grant support provided by IRC, these women have transitioned from naivety to becoming fearless business owners. Leading to significant improvements in their families’ economic status and overall well-being.**

**Stephanie Otiato - Re:BUiLD, Research Assistant**



26 February 2024, Nairobi. Stephanie Otiato, Re:BUiLD's Research Assistant at the program's Livelihood Resource Center in Pangani. (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno/TheIRC)





**“Because of IRC, I have become a breadwinner to my family. Without the assistance from our Tawakal USLA group, I’m not sure where we could be right now.**

**- Zamzam Ibrahim**

*13 February 2024, Nairobi. Zamzam Ibrahim showcases samosas that she has prepared for delivery, at their home in Nairobi. She extensively uses social media to get customers for her food & snacks. (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno/TheIRC)*

Zamzam Ibrahim 27, developed a passion for cooking in her youth. Following the pandemic-induced closure of their family hotel and her mother’s prolonged illness, she obtained financial support from the Tawakal USLA group through Re:BUiLD to restart her business.

She aspires to open a large hotel serving Swahili and other cuisines, drawing inspiration from her mother’s teachings and connections.



**“Under the ReBUIiLD program, I actively encourage and facilitate women to join savings groups, this has helped to address gender disparities in access to economic opportunities through targeted support such as access to finance**

Florence Wambui - Re:BUIiLD, USLA Monitor



21 February 2024, Nairobi. Florence takes part in training session organized for USLA groups under the ReBUIiLD program. She plays a vital role in supporting the sustainability and success of USLA groups by providing oversight and guidance to empower members in their financial endeavors. (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno/TheIRC)





“Women out there are enduring hardships. If I could raise my children as a single mother, I believe I can mentor others

- Lucy Juwa

14 February 2024, Nairobi. Lucy Juwa proudly presents her exquisite collection of handcrafted bags offering a unique blend of tradition and modern style.  
(PHOTO: Edgar Otieno/TheIRC)

Lucy Juwa, the secretary of Tusonge Wote Mbele USLA group is determined to live up to the name of the group by making sure no one is left behind. Her passion is on empowering women through mentorship and livelihood trainings.



**“As a Research Assistant in the Re:BUiLD program, My participation in recruitment created opportunity to interact and encourage empowerment for women and girls to enable them to participate in the economy and unlock their potential and contributing to overall socio-economic development.**

Zamzam Galata - Re:BUiLD, Research Assistant



26 February 2024, Nairobi. Zamzam Galata, Re:BUiLD's Research Assistant at the program's Livelihood Resource Center in Pangani. (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno/TheIRIC)



# Our Implementing Partners



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

KAMPALA, UGANDA  
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Plot 7 Lower, Naguru East Road, Kampala



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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.