

## 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.

### Re:Build approach

#### Re:Build Pillars

1

##### Livelihoods Services

Supporting 20,000 refugees and other residents to find employment by attaining the skills most sought out by employers, or by starting/growing their own small businesses.

2

##### Evidence & Learning

Gathering evidence and learning through testing with randomized controlled trials, pilots, monitoring data, etc to illustrate what works to improve urban livelihoods.

3

##### Influence & Adoption

Establishing a bold influencing agenda aimed at challenging policies, practices and investments at national, regional and global levels.

**Core Principals:** Flexible & Adaptive | Continuous Experimentation | Client-Centered | Local Partnerships

### 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.



## 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

## 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



### Our Results as of May 2023

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

To learn more about Re:Build, please contact

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