

# REBUIILD

Boosting Livelihoods

January 2025 Factsheet



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

Re:BUiLD uses a multifaceted approach to support urban refugees to build sustainable livelihoods in East Africa and to inspire evidence-based systemic change globally.

### Background

In 2021, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) with funding from the IKEA Foundation launched Re:BUiLD. The Re:BUiLD program provides 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 **20,732 clients** in Kampala and Nairobi comprising of **12,163 refugees** and **8,569 nationals**. Of these **12,392 were female** and **8,340 male** as of January 2025.

Initially focusing on Kampala (Uganda) and Nairobi (Kenya), Re:BUiLD has expanded the evidence base on innovative and sustainable livelihoods solutions that can support refugees and host communities in East Africa and beyond.

### Re:BUiLD Pillars

#### Service Provision

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.

#### Evidence & Learning

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

#### Influence & Adoption

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

#### Pillar Achievements:

- The program exceeded the target by 4%, empowering 20,732 refugees and local residents to achieve economic independence, primarily by starting and growing their own businesses, as well as by gaining the skills needed for employment in high-demand sectors.
- The program supported 143 groups in opening bank accounts, enabling them to build financial stability with total savings reaching €160,461 and loans accessed amounting to €70,008, fostering economic growth and resilience.
- The program achieved a strong economic impact, with 83% of surveyed clients reporting sustained income generation by working at least eight days per month through their own businesses.
- The program achieved a lasting economic impact, with 87% of surveyed grant-supported businesses remaining operational for at least six months, demonstrating the effectiveness of financial support in promoting sustainable livelihoods.
- The Program conducted a study in Kampala and Nairobi utilizing Randomized Controlled Trial aimed to address challenges by examining the effects of cash grants and a mentorship program on economic and psychological outcomes on both Ugandan and Kenyan hosts and refugees.
- Re:BUiLD presented regional best practices in refugee integration on a global stage at the Africa Urban Forum and World Urban Forum, highlighting successful approaches to inclusion and economic empowerment.
- The program facilitated a peer exchange learning from Koboko Municipality with NCCG and KCCA birthing the direct implementation concept for cities.
- Co-facilitated a descent work conference with NSSF resulting to rolling out of social security Haba Haba scheme to enhance refugee employability.

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

## Business Grants

In 2022, through other Re:BUiLD clients, Annie Morisho learned about the Re:BUiLD program. She registered and when assessed, she qualified for a business grant and mentorship. With the UGX2,000,000 (530 Euros) business grant, Morisho opened a grocery shop, bought a machine to crush cassava leaves (food preservation), and a fridge to store soft drinks and vegetables she sells. For Morisho, the shift from hawking and a grocery store is important because she has reduced risks to her health, expanded her business and increased her earnings.

“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 **3,939 clients** participating while there are **4,045 clients** enrolled in Nairobi.



## 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. So far, 20,732 clients have been served in both cities, surpassing the target.

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

- Supporting Urban Savings and Loans (USLAs) groups by providing clients with a gateway to financial inclusion. 4,251 clients have so far accessed services through USLAs.
- Offering Loan Guarantee Fund to cushion financial service providers, unlocking the challenge hindering lending for refugees.
- 12, 444 clients have been reached with micro-enterprise support under RCTs.
- 619 clients have been trained on green energy, preparing them for green energy livelihood opportunities

Our Results as of January 2025	
20,732 clients accessing services	12,392 female clients offered services
12,163 refugees offered services	1,992 clients accessing vocational training
12,440 clients reached with microenterprise Support	619 clients accessing climate resilience and livelihood services
624 clients reached with apprenticeship	382 clients offered catalytic fund
110 clients prior skills certified	4,251 clients accessing USLA services

### 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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