



Re:BUiLD in Action

Year 5, Quarter 1, 2025 Newsletter

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REBUiLD
Boosting Livelihoods



In partnership with the IKEA Foundation

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Priscilla Dembetembe

Dear Friends,

As we enter the fifth and final year of the Re:BUiLD program, we find ourselves in a time of both challenge and opportunity. With cuts to aid in the Humanitarian sector, the landscape in which we operate has undeniably shifted. However, this shift has only strengthened our resolve to continue our mission of empowering individuals, fostering resilience, and creating lasting change in the communities we serve.

In this first quarter newsletter, we reflect on the remarkable progress we have made, surpassing our client target by the end of Year 4. Despite the challenges we face, our work remains a testament to the power of collaboration, adaptability, and determination. Together, we have proven that even in very difficult times, we can deliver meaningful and impactful results.

As we move forward in this final year, we are committed to navigating these challenges, and embracing them as opportunities to innovate and strengthen the foundation we have built. We will continue to provide support where it is needed most, with a focus on sustainable, long-term solutions that will last beyond the Re:BUiLD Program.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this journey.



April 9, 2025, Kampala, Uganda. Hajat Faridah Kibowa (with yellow sash), Chairperson of the National Women's Council who represented the Minister of State for Kampala, engages with an IRC client under the Re:BUiLD program that was showcasing her products at the International Women's Day celebrations organized by Kampala Capital City Authority and partners. The celebrations, held under the theme 'Accelerate Action for gender equality', took place at Kampala Capital City Authority grounds. (PHOTO: Edna Karyne Kyokunzire for The IRC)

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Our Results as of April 2025

20,738 clients
accessing
services

**12,364 female
clients**
offered services

12,168 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
accessing catalytic
fund

110 clients
with prior skills
certified

4,285 clients
accessing USLA
services

RCT WAVE 2 ACTIVITY UPDATE

The second-wave study of the Re:BUiLD program Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) is progressing as planned. With funding from the IKEA Foundation, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), in partnership with researchers from the Immigration Policy Lab at Stanford University (IPL) and the Georgetown University Initiative on Innovation, Development, and Evaluation are studying the effects of business grants and networking on business and social outcomes for urban refugees and hosts in Nairobi and Kampala.

This quarter, the Evidence and Learning pillar under the Re:BUiLD program initiated the behavioral measure of collaboration and began verifying businesses of Wave 2 RCT clients who received grants in the last quarter.



February 27, 2025, Nairobi, Kenya. Re:BUiLD community facilitators at a business verification training workshop in Nairobi for the RCT wave 2 intervention. (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno for The IRC)

The behavioral measure of collaboration is an initiative within the second wave of RCT designed to assess clients' willingness to work with others. Under the initiative, was the opportunity for a small additional collaboration grant for teams interested in working together on a collaborative business idea. "Collaboration is one of the key mechanisms under the networking intervention of the study to help improve the social and business outcomes for clients," says Caroline Agabiirwe, the Research Manager at the Re:BUiLD program.

The initiative fills current gaps in the assessment of the networking intervention from self-reported surveys and helps better understand collaboration behavior among refugees and hosts; for example, whether the intervention affects who clients are willing to collaborate with in terms of the mix of their gender, nationality, refugees, or hosts.

Clients with already existing collaborative businesses or those interested in starting had the opportunity to apply for the grant via either an online or paper application in groups of 3-8 members. For a team to be eligible for the collaboration grant, it was required that at least one member be a current participant in the wave 2 RCT study and that each team member contribute their own money, and together have a total contribution of between 37 euros to 385 euros as capital for their joint business venture.

In each city, only 10 winning teams would be randomly selected for the grant and their total amount be doubled by the Re:BUiLD program and sent back to the group, with each member receiving an equal amount.

Overall, a total of 2124 applications were eligible for the collaboration to grant both in Kenya and Uganda. The principal investigators supported the random selection of the 10 teams in Kampala and Nairobi. The selected teams have now been informed and further steps are being taken to have their collaboration grants disbursed. The business verification activity is a monitoring exercise targeting all the recipients of the second wave of RCT business grants in the last quarter. So far of those who have been contacted and visited, 1010 in Uganda and 1170 in Kenya have been verified to have operational business i. Of these, 671 and 537 have physical stores in Uganda and Kenya, respectively. Others are either hawking their goods, selling online, or in an open space.



March 12, 2025, Kampala, Uganda. A Re:BUiLD community facilitator (left) verifying a business in Kampala for the RCT wave 2 intervention. (PHOTO: Nathan Iijo Tibaku for The IRC)

NAIROBI COUNTY LAUNCHES A REPORT TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



February 26, 2025, Nairobi, Kenya. Nairobi County Executive Committee Member in charge of Inclusivity, Public Participation and Customer Service Ms. Rosemary Kariuki (in a blue coat), on behalf of H.E Governor Sakaja launches the Civic Education, Public Participation and Citizen Engagement status report that primarily seeks to reconfigure the public participation initiatives in Nairobi and ensure there is adequate and inclusive engagement of the people. (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno for The IRC)

Counties play a crucial role in economic development, with the central government allocating 15% of the Kenya's GDP to the county governments much as challenges persist, particularly in public participation. A [report by KIPPR and NGECC \(2017\)](#) on the status of public participation highlighted that citizen participation in the counties has been very low. Special Interest Groups (SIG) such as the youth, women, people with disabilities (PWDs), older members of the society, minorities and marginalized groups are still underrepresented in public forums.

In response to this challenge, the Nairobi County Government (NCCG), on February 26, 2025, launched the [Civic Education, Public Participation, and Citizen Engagement Status Report](#).

The report, developed in collaboration with non-state actors, is the result of extensive research conducted across various wards to capture diverse perspectives. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of public participation mechanisms within Nairobi City County, identifying gaps and challenges that hinder meaningful civic engagement. It highlights issues such as limited access to information, inadequate inclusion of

marginalized groups, and low awareness among citizens about their rights and participation channels

Speaking at the launch event, Nairobi County Executive Committee Member for Inclusivity, Public Participation, and Customer Service, Ms. Rosemary Kariuki, delivered remarks on behalf of Governor Johnson Sakaja. She reflected on Nairobi's governance journey since 2013, emphasizing a shift toward a more transparent and participatory administration, reiterating the essential role of public participation in holding the government accountable and emphasized his administration's dedication to its mandate.

"We created a directorate of public participation to streamline and consolidate public participation and civic education in the county. If you want to know what your government is doing, you can get in touch directly with that directorate, and there find the information you need to begin to engage with us—and the help you need to understand it," said Ms. Rosemary Kariuki.

The County now plans to decentralize public participation from the sub counties to the wards, making civic education more accessible and increasing engagement at the grassroots level.

Inclusion of Refugees and Children in Public Forums

The report highlights the importance of refugee inclusion in governance and public participation processes in Nairobi City County. It emphasizes that inclusive public participation promotes good governance, accountability, and equitable service delivery and so vital for Marginalized groups inclusion such as refugees, often face barriers to accessing civic education and participation mechanisms.

The document notes that the participation of refugees in civic processes remains low due to limited awareness, accessibility challenges, and a lack of targeted policies to ensure their representation. It recommends enhancing public participation by ensuring accessible information, engagement platforms, and collaboration with civil society organizations.

The inclusion of the voices from refugee communities and children, is a first-of-its-kind initiative in Kenya and a framework is currently being developed to ensure children's participation in public forums is fully implemented.

The findings will inform policy and legal reforms, to enhance the **NCCG Public Participation Act of 2016**, as well as the refining of guidelines, standards, and regulations. By addressing these gaps, the report aims to enhance the inclusivity, accessibility, and effectiveness of civic education and public participation.

With this initiative, Nairobi County is setting a precedent for other counties in Kenya by ensuring every voice matters in governance. By prioritizing accessibility, inclusivity, and active participation, the county is strengthening devolution and empowering citizens to shape the future of their communities.

Several stakeholders who committed to this project include [World Vision Kenya](#), [Pamoja Trust](#), [United Disabled Persons of Kenya \(UDPK\)](#), [International Rescue Committee](#), [CARE Kenya](#), [Geospatial Synthesis](#), [URAIA Trust](#), [County Governance Watch \(CGW\)](#), [Kenya Alliance of Resident Associations \(KARA\)](#), [Mzalendo Trust](#), [Kenya Paraplegic Organization \(KPO\)](#), [Civic Voices](#), [Ecumenical Center for Justice and Peace](#), [Katiba Institute](#), [Center for Economic Governance](#), [Remusi Housing Cooperative](#) and the [Kenya Human Rights Commission](#).

Other key members who attended the launch are the Directors of Public Participation from Machakos, Siaya, Vihiga, Mandera and Nyandarua County, recognizing Nairobi's significance as a benchmark for best practices in citizen engagement for other counties.

"We commend the County Government for its courage in auditing public participation and prioritizing marginalized communities, including PWDs and refugees. This is what



February 26, 2025, Nairobi, Kenya. Jamin Kusuania, IRC's Senior Advocacy Manager speaks at the Public Participation and Citizen Engagement status report launch at Charter Hall in Nairobi. (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno for The IRC)

true inclusion looks like—ensuring every citizen's voice is heard. We look forward to collaborating with the county to turn these recommendations into action," said Jamin Kusuania, IRC's Senior Advocacy Manager.

Similarly, [Pamoja Trust](#), IRC's Re:BUiLD program implementing partner for community level advocacy for social cohesion between refugees and hosts, lauded the county's efforts to include marginalized communities.

"NCCG has provided a platform for marginalized communities to participate in forums and engage in decision-making. We congratulate you and are committed to realizing the full potential of devolution," said Evans Abondo the Program Officer at Pamoja Trust.

Victor Musirimu, a refugee and community champion, underscored the report's significance in advocating for marginalized groups, highlighting its role in fostering inclusive governance and equitable representation.

"May God bless Nairobi County for the great work being done. As community and budget champions, we appreciate the county's commitment to supporting marginalized communities."

IRC UK TRUSTEES CHAIR VISITS Re:BUiLD



March 3, 2025, Nairobi Kenya. Dr. Lola Banjoko (right foreground), IRC UK Trustee Chair, interacts with Eric Ndikumana at his phone repair shop in Carlifornia Estate, Nairobi. (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno for The IRC)

On March 3 and 4, 2025, the IRC's Re:BUiLD program in Nairobi hosted Dr. Lola Banjoko, IRC UK Trustee Chair, accompanied by Mohamed El Montassir Hussein, the Country Director for Kenya, and other Senior Management Team members. The visit aimed to experience the program's activities, impact, engage with clients, and explore fundraising opportunities.

Dr Banjoko's visit began at the Pangani Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC), where she met the Nairobi team, received program updates, and reviewed planned activities. She then visited the Rangers Family, an Urban Savings and Loans Association (USLA) group in Kayole, comprising of 22 members—mostly refugee women—who have benefited from IRC's financial inclusion initiatives in partnership with Equity Bank. The program has positively impacted the establishment of micro enterprises that have enhanced their monthly incomes. This has improved their ability to access healthcare, education for their children, shelter, and food security. Notably, the members have created employment for over 94 people through their various enterprises.

Among them was Immaculee Nzingire, a salon owner, who shared her journey:

"When I joined the group, I was unsure of myself and my future as a refugee. But being part of this community, saving, and accessing loans from Equity Bank changed everything. My first loan was KES 20,000, and after successfully repaying, I accessed KES 60,000. This helped grow my salon, and I'm almost done repaying it without struggling."

Dr Banjoko praised the program's role in job creation and collaboration with financial institutions:

"The private sector needs to recognize this—Re:BUiLD isn't just supporting businesses; it's building a customer base. These are consumers, not just refugees. The next step for Re:BUiLD is to showcase these success stories. This program is paving the way forward."

She also interacted with three individual microenterprise clients who received business grants and mentorship. Among them was Eric Ndikumana, a Burundian refugee who runs a motorcycle transport business and a mobile phone repair shop. Through disciplined saving, Eric was able to purchase his own motorcycle, securing an additional income stream.

Dr Banjoko, on March 4, visited Pamoja Trust, Re:BUiLD's implementing partner to see the efforts being put in improving community engagement and strengthening refugee and host networks. The discussions focused on promoting refugee rights, market access, and civic participation. The visit concluded at Ubuntu Youth Organization and the Kibra Refugee and Host Network, where she commended the growing unity and advocacy for refugee inclusion.

She emphasized the importance of working together, stating, "Fostering inclusivity and a shared sense of belonging strengthens both communities."

Her visit reinforced Re:BUiLD's impact in empowering refugees through financial inclusion, enterprise development, and advocacy, ensuring a path toward self-reliance and integration.



March 4, 2025, Nairobi Kenya. Dr. Lola Banjoko (far right), IRC UK Trustee Chair, at Ubuntu Youth Organization offices in Nairobi. (PHOTO: Edgar Otieno for The IRC)

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE 'FASCINATED' BY IRC WORK IN KAMPALA



February 6, 2025, Kampala, Uganda. William Carver-Grenside (in blue shirt), Second Secretary Humanitarian - British High Commission, Kampala alongside Elijah Okeyo the IRC Uganda Country Director interact with clients at the IRC Livelihoods Resource Centre in Nsambya. (PHOTO: Edna Karyne Kyokunzire for The IRC)

"It was fascinating to see firsthand the work being done, and especially to hear directly from those we spoke with," said William Carver-Grenside, Second Secretary Humanitarian - British High Commission Kampala, following his visit to the IRC Re:BUILD clients in Kampala on February 6, 2025.

Among the clients was Florence Kavugho, a Congolese refugee supported by Re:BUILD. Florence begun her journey working in a hair salon before starting her own business – Kyose Locs. She received a €500 (UGX2 million) business grant from Re:BUILD in 2022 under the Randomized Control Trial Wave 1 (RCT Wave 1) which boosted her salon business. Additionally, she benefitted from a 6-month business mentorship under Re:BUILD's microenterprise intervention, a research study which explored the impact of cash grants and group mentorship on micro-businesses.

At her salon, Ms. Kavugho currently employees 4 people; two refugees and two Ugandans. She specializes in plaiting the much sought-after deadlocks, charging each customer at least €50 (UGX200,000), with an average monthly income of €1,250 (UGX 5 million). She spends €500 (2 million) on operational costs leaving her with a monthly profit of €700 (UGX 3 million). From the profits realised from the salon, Ms. Kavugho set up a grocery store seven months ago which she says is doing well too.

Currently, Kampala hosts a significant number of refugees and asylum seekers, with approximately 157,000 leaving in the Kampala metropolitan area. (UNHCR 2025) Many of these refugees like Ms. Kavugho, are finding ways to sustain their livelihood through small businesses,

supported by initiatives such as Re:BUILD."The trade-off refugees have to make between settlement or urban settings must be huge, and it will be interesting to see how to the system copes with further influxes of urban refugees," Carver-Grenside noted.

He also interacted with clients at the Re:BUILD Livelihoods Resource Centre in Nsambya where they access services such as case management support including; legal counselling, referrals and psychosocial support, as well as basic ICT skills training.



February 6, 2025, Kampala, Uganda. William Carver-Grenside (in blue shirt), Second Secretary Humanitarian - British High Commission Kampala interacts with Florence Kavugho a Re:BUILD client at her salon in Kasubi, Kampala. (PHOTO: Edna Karyne Kyokunzire for The IRC)

THE EVOLUTION OF JONATHAN SAIDI'S POULTRY BUSINESS: HOW HE GREW TO 1,500 BIRDS



February 12, 2025, Kampala, Uganda. Join us as we take a closer look at the development of young chicks in a brooder, from their first week of life to being market-ready in just two months. David Hangi's photos for the IRC provide an insightful perspective on this fascinating process.

Jonathan Saidi Fama's journey as a refugee in Uganda stands as a shining example of what can be achieved through hard work, perseverance and innovativeness. As a refugee who has faced the uncertainty of a new life in the suburbs of Kampala, Jonathan has turned his dream into reality, creating a thriving poultry business that has grown exponentially in just a few years.

Starting with only 20 birds, Jonathan's ambition and commitment have fueled his incredible growth, and today, he proudly manages a flock of more than 1,500 chickens.

Jonathan's journey started in the year 2022, when he secured a business grant of €500 (UGX 2 million) and 6 months of business mentorship under the IRC's Re:BUiLD microenterprise intervention. This initiative, which included a Randomized Control Trial (RCT), studied the effects of cash grants and group mentorship on

business outcomes, featured Jonathan as one of the study participants. Jonathan has been able to use this grant to expand his poultry business from just 20 birds to 250 birds in 2024 and now more than 1,500. He explains how the chickens mature in two months and are sold at UGX25,000 to UGX28,000 each.

"From each bird, I get a profit of about UGX8,000," he says, adding: "Apart from investing back into the business, I use the profits to support my family by paying fees for my young brothers and to meeting my mother's medical bills."

Having fled Congo in 2013 as a child and now 24 years old, Jonathan pays school fees for his two young siblings and takes care of his mother. His story is a testament to the resilience of refugees and a reminder that with the right support, even the smallest beginnings can lead to greatness.



February 12, 2025, Kampala, Uganda. Jonathan fixing drinking troughs for the chickens (PHOTO: David Hangi for The IRC)

Accessing credit

As the business expands, Jonathan requires money for more chicken feeds and other inputs. In August 2024, through the Winners Savings Group, he borrowed UGX1,500,000 from UGAFODE which he was able to pay back by October 2024, showing that with the right mindset, financial support can be a tool for growth, rather than a burden. Under the RE:BUiLD program, research was conducted to showcase the bankability of refugees following concerns that refugees are mobile and not bankable. The research findings through statistics shared by UGAFODE showed that refugees are bankable indicating that refugees have consistently been able to repay their loans, proving their financial reliability.

In November 2024, Jonathan borrowed UGX3,000,000 to build a larger structure to accommodate the growing number of birds. He is currently paying the loan in instalments.

Modern & innovative farming

Jonathan says he has utilized tutorials on YouTube to build modern, hygienic and sustainable structures for his chickens.

"I made my current structure with plastic mesh for the floor, and this allows the droppings and any liquid to fall through ensuring that the chicken stays in a dry and clean environment. Also, I find it easy to collect the droppings and convert them into manure," he explains.

In addition to employing his sister as a marketer for the chicken at her local church, Jonathan has also created a [tiktok page](#) to inspire the public on chicken production as a viable source of income. He shares insights into the entire process, from the care of the chickens to the point they are ready for consumption.

Future

Jonathan hopes to study Business Administration and is optimistic that as his business continues to grow, he will be able to use some of the income to pay for his tuition.

Related links

<https://rebuild.rescue.org/press/ikea-foundation-inspired-rebuild-opportunities-kampala>

<https://mailchi.mp/3a2c5bc3498f/the-irc-insight-your-quarterly-irc-uganda-updates-17985538?e=87efb5c643>

<https://mailchi.mp/b22f3e9ff774/the-irc-insight-your-quarterly-irc-uganda-updates-17987685?e=d66067f4e2>

A CALL TO DRIVING CHANGE AND ELEVATE MARKET AWARENESS FOR REFUGEES



February 19, 2025, Kampala, Uganda. Micheal Kirya (standing), Manager for Agriculture and Agribusiness at the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) presents the KCCA workplan for climate smart livelihoods activities at the SRG meeting. (PHOTO: David Hangi for The IRC)

At the recent Re:BUILD program's Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) meeting, partners emphasized the urgent need to raise awareness among refugees about new market opportunities in Kampala. The Platform for Vendors in Uganda (PLAVU) highlighted that refugees often miss out on these opportunities due to a lack of information.

"Our biggest challenge has been limited awareness of new markets when they open. We need partners to ensure refugees are informed about these developments," said Robert Omuya, Community Engagement Officer at PLAVU.

Newly opened markets, both private and public, offer urban refugee traders opportunities to integrate and thrive economically. These include Gwanda Market in Mengo, Usafi Market opposite Queen's Way, and the newly reopened Busega Market. Refugees need their identification card and a recommendation letter from a local council to access these market spaces.

During the SRG meeting, Micheal Kirya, Manager for Agriculture and Agribusiness at the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), stated, "The law doesn't prohibit refugees from working in markets." He advised those interested in obtaining space to write an application

to the Director of Gender, Community Services, and Production, specifying the market they are interested in. The application will then be submitted to the markets' allocation committee for consideration.

PLAVU, a Re:BUILD partner, has created a structure of community volunteers, both refugees and hosts, to ensure refugees and vulnerable hosts are informed about new developments within Kampala City. Robert shared, "Each community facilitator leads groups of 2 to 5, with membership ranging between 18-30 clients," spreading awareness campaign messages during their Sunday meetings.

A key proposal from the SRG meeting was an information and awareness campaign to inform refugees through their leaders about available market spaces. Additionally, Moses Okot, Advocacy Manager at Re:BUILD, proposed organizing physical visits for refugee leaders to these markets to create linkages with market leaders and understand market governance dynamics.

Access to these market spaces empowers refugees economically, fosters social integration, and helps develop entrepreneurial skills. Ultimately, these opportunities can improve their quality of life and enable them to better support their families.

Re:BUiLD, KCCA, AND RGF PARTNER FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The International Rescue Committee's Refugees in East Africa: Boosting Urban Innovation for Livelihoods Development (Re:BUiLD) program has partnered with the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and Raising Gabdho Foundation (RGF) to implement a climate-smart livelihoods initiative. Over the next 12 months - starting in 2025, KCCA and RGF will leverage their expertise to train 500 urban refugees and hosts in Kampala in urban farming techniques, including: mushroom growing, organic manure production using black soldier fly waste management, and creating eco-friendly energy sources such as briquettes.

The Re:BUiLD program envisions this partnership fostering sustainable urban farming practices that generate income for refugees and vulnerable hosts in Kampala. The initiative aims to ensure that best practices are adopted by both government and local non-governmental organizations even after the program concludes.

"Part of our reason for engaging KCCA is the sustainability element," says Moses Odokonyero, the Senior Program Manager for Re:BUiLD in Uganda. He added that KCCA's existing demonstration farm in Kyanja, a Kampala suburb indicates the Government of Uganda's commitment to adopting program practices for the future.

The collaboration between Re:BUiLD and KCCA has evolved significantly over the years. Initially, KCCA received in-kind grants in the form of ICT equipment to equip its Kabagala Youth Center, where urban youths learn videography and photography skills. In 2023,

the program supported the City Authority with office supplies to facilitate the registration process for savings groups.

"Through our in-kind grants approach, we built new relationships and learned about KCCA's urban demonstration farm in Kyanja and other services that could support urban refugees. Our collaboration has also seen KCCA working with the Nairobi City Council Authority (NCCG), where they jointly pledged at the [Global Refugee Forum](#) (GRF) to integrate urban refugee response into their programs. This partnership represents cumulative growth over the years," said Mr Odokonyero.

Godwin Gumisiriza, the KCCA Manager for Welfare and Community Services, expressed gratitude towards the Government of Uganda for being a frontrunner in responding to refugee crises. He noted that the Re:BUiLD collaboration aligns with Uganda's National Development Plan Four (NDP IV), which mandates all ministries to have refugee-inclusive programs.

RGF, a long-term implementer of the Re:BUiLD urban farming activity, hopes the collaboration with KCCA will ease the challenges refugees face in accessing markets to sell their produce.

"This initiative is a breakthrough, allowing refugee entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products, connect with customers, and better understand market needs. It represents a significant step toward economic empowerment and integration for refugees in Kampala," said Sarah Basemera, the RGF Team Leader.



Frank Mufano, a Congolese refugee, making an energy efficient cook stove. Under a partnership between Raising Gabdho Foundation (RGF) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC)'s Re:BUiLD program, Frank was introduced to renewable energy technologies of making energy efficient stoves. The stoves contribute to a significant reduction in carbon emissions and the overall carbon footprint. (PHOTO: Lutaaya Shafic, RGF).

Re:BUiLD IN ACTION VOICES



"Fight! Don't give up and be positive. If this one fails, try another. Giving up will take you back, but sometimes you need to change one thing for your business to work."

Racheal Chibalama, a refugee and single mother of 4 in Kampala, sells food items at her grocery stall on weekdays and sews clothes on weekends.

"As a woman in business, you must believe in yourself. People know that Congolese sell good necklaces and earrings, so buy those necklaces, and hawk them if you must. You will not sleep hungry, you will get tired, but you cannot sleep hungry"

Uwera Bitetwa, a jewelry retailer in downtown Kampala. For five years, Uwera hawked jewelry in Kampala and surrounding areas. With support in the form of credit from her savings group, she now has a permanent shop.



"Do not be afraid to start a business; being a woman doesn't mean you must depend on someone because you have nothing to do. Starting a business starts with a determination that you can make it. Do what you love, and you will get the strength to be successful."

Immaculee Nzingire, a saloon owner in Kayole Estate, Nairobi. Through money saved in her USLA group, she was able to access loans from Equity Bank that have enabled her to expand her business.

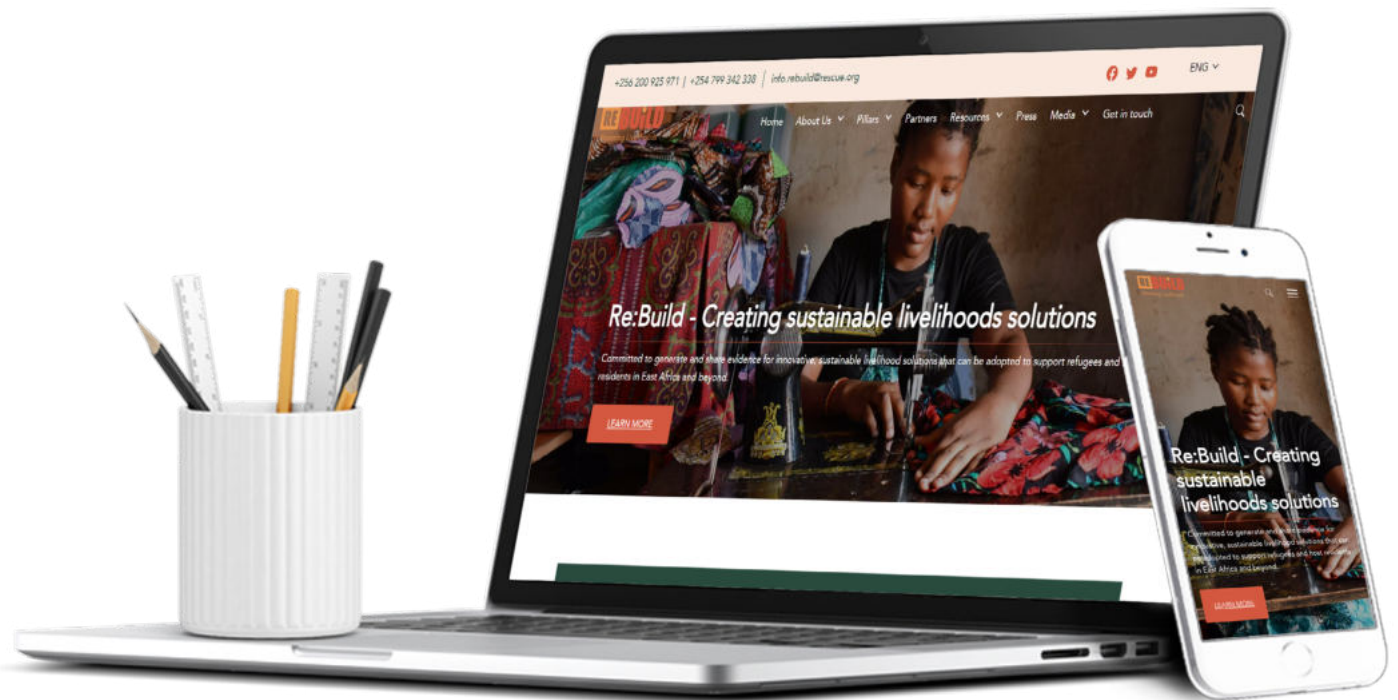


"It's good to be in a USLA group; the group connected me with like-minded people that helped me save and later I was able to access loans. I started from the group, got a small loan and it boosted my business."

Monique Mukantwari, a grocery shop owner in Kayole, Nairobi. Through money saved in her USLA group, she was able to access loans from Equity bank that have enabled her to expand her business.



Re:BUiLD ONLINE



We are excited to share the latest updates, news, and resources from our program with you.

To stay connected and informed, we encourage you to follow our social media accounts and visit our website regularly.

By doing this, you will receive engaging content and valuable insights about the program. We share key program visibility materials, change stories and events that we get to be involved in.

Connect with us on:

Website: <https://rebuild.rescue.org>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@ReBuildEastAfrica>

Rescue.org: <https://www.rescue.org/topic/irc-partners-ikea-foundation-build-opportunities>

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to engaging with you on our platforms.



KEY MOMENTS/DAYS

- **Release of Re:BUiLD RCT Wave 1 Results - May 2025**
- **World Refugee Day - 20th June**

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

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



www.rebuild.rescue.org

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.