CONTENTS

3 A Message From our Executive Director
4 Where We Work
5 Vision and Mission Statement
6 Our Impact at a Glance
7 Covid-19 Response
8 YARID Core Programs
9 English for Adults (EFA)
10 Bridge to Formal Schooling (BFS)
11 Information Communication Technology (ICT)
12 Job Training & Placement (JTP)
13 Tailoring Project
14 Protection
15 Protection Spotlight
16 Wakimbizi
17 Center for Global Development Research
18 Tushirikiane
19 Staff Demographics
20 Financials
21 Support Refugee-Led Projects
22 Appreciation
During COVID-19 I was with my colleagues handing out food to my fellow refugees. Families faced uncertainty, illness, and loss. The country was shut down with evening curfews, schools were closed, and food supplies were scarce. While many large aid organizations closed services and evacuated staff, we remained. That is what makes YARID unique. We are refugee-led. We uphold our community-driven values and remain consistent as a source of support for our refugee friends and family.

These past two years have shown us the resilience of refugees and our ability to lead with innovative solutions. When the country shut down, and the needs increased, we could not just sit by and let our community suffer. We distributed food and emergency supplies to 1,187 households and passed out face masks made by our tailoring program encouraging our community to be safe and stay healthy. We kept going and adapted our work to ensure children kept learning and families' basic needs were met.

Uganda only fully reopened in February of 2022. As we emerge from the lockdown, we hope for a renewed energy to support refugee-led initiatives like YARID. We have been here for the last 15 years and will continue to persevere through whatever the world throws at us next. During these harsh economic times, your support is crucial. At the end of this report, you will see some ways you can help the refugee community directly. We are empowered and encouraged by your support.
WHERE WE WORK

Uganda

8 Children's Learning Centers across Kyaka II Refugee Settlement & Kampala

5 Kampala Adult Learning Sites (English & Vocational Training):
1 Makindye
2 Rubaga
2 Kawempe

Kyaka II
Kampala
Refugees and displaced persons are integrated and self-reliant.

To empower refugees, asylum seekers, and other displaced persons around Africa to overcome the burdens of deprivation and vulnerability to become healthy, educated, self-sustaining, and contributing members of society.

Objectives:

1. Empower refugees with employable skills so they can become self-reliant.
2. Promote gender equality through women’s empowerment initiatives.
3. Promote safety, security, and meet the immediate basic needs of newly arrived refugees.
4. Enhance community space for refugees to improve their lives.
5. Advocate for refugee rights and access to services through education.
## OUR IMPACT

### at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult English Learners</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of School Youth Targeted</td>
<td>2,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT Learners</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailoring Trainees</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supported by the Protection Team</td>
<td>811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Training Trainees</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LIVES DIRECTLY IMPACTED**

4,194

2020-2021
COVID-19 RESPONSE

The pandemic and two-year lockdown in Uganda affected refugees and nationals alike. People were unable to work to support their families. However, YARID remained committed to reducing the risks of health degradation of refugees in Kampala by providing emergency support to the most vulnerable, improving hygiene practices by distributing masks, disseminating useful information on COVID-19 prevention, and facilitating quick recovery to the most affected refugees by providing a "restart kit" to help them get back to their "normal" life.

Although the lockdown heavily restricted daily life, our refugee children's education program continued in open community spaces, while national schools were forced to close for 2 years. The Wakambizi research project was also launched to determine the effects of Covid-19 on refugees. Additionally, Tushirikiane provided peer-led mental health support for refugees to better identify and manage the stress of the pandemic.

1,187
Households reached with food, emergency medical assistance, business support, and community health sensitization information.
YARID CORE PROGRAMS

1. EDUCATION
2. WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT & LIVELIHOODS
3. PROTECTION
4. RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY
ENGLISH FOR ADULTS (EFA)

English For Adults (EFA) teaches adults functional English to help them quickly integrate into Ugandan society. Most refugees come from multi-lingual backgrounds speaking French, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, and other local or tribal languages. Our teachers provide support to adult learners to gain the conversation skills needed for daily life. YARID offers English classes from non-literate to advanced levels. Students take Level 1 for 3 months then advance to Level 2 for 3 months.

Amidst the challenges of COVID, 53 students (24 females and 29 males) graduated in 2020. In 2021, 105 students graduated (57 female and 48 male).
Bridge to Formal Schooling (BFS) is a project supporting out-of-school children between the ages of 9 to 14. The goal of BFS is to provide students with the necessary math and literacy skills to mainstream them into the formal schooling system using a community-driven approach where we actively engage parents and guardians through family mentors. Mentors support parents, guardians, and teachers alike to address challenges that might stand in the way of their child's education.

Originally launched in 2015, BFS scaled up through an invaluable partnership with Street Child UK. As a result of the contributions of Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) Africa, Medicor Foundation, and The Waterloo Foundation, the project grew from an initial cohort of 30 students to over 1,000 per cohort. Teachers use the TaRL methodology to regularly assess student progress and grow their abilities; this approach ensures children can learn at their own level, not just at their age.
ICT was new for Romeo before he joined YARID. He was introduced to one of YARID’S ICT Trainers, Suzy, through a friend who was taking our Digital Competency courses. The Digital Competency curriculum and training of our trainers were provided by our partnership with MONDO, an NGO in Estonia. In this program, Romeo learned how to use various smartphone apps, Google's suite of programs, how to design a basic website and even smartphone photography tips. Now, Romeo is his neighborhood's resident tech expert. Romeo is bridging the digital divide and empowering his community by teaching others what he learned. He even recruited more of his friends to join YARID's next cohort. Romeo shared, "Many people live on technology. We have to learn how to use it. I am so happy with YARID. They give youth a purpose."
In Uganda, refugees have the right to work, yet many face barriers to successful employment. Unemployment is a challenge for Ugandan nationals and refugees alike. However, a disparity exists with only 29% of refugees working versus 64% of the host community. YARID hosted a 3-month job training series to support job seekers to gain targeted career-building skills. The first cohort graduated 124 participants out of the 167 who attended classes. This training grew into a new program pilot to include job placement support through building employer connections. Training topics included:

- Goal Setting
- Time Management
- Problem Solving
- Elevator Pitch
- Effective Phone Calling
- Email Writing
- CV and Cover Letter
- Job Search Tips
- Mock Interview

124 Graduates
Tailoring is a popular career for men and women in Uganda. Many industries employ tailors to make school uniforms and many people still make their own clothing at home. YARID’s Tailoring Project was designed to provide skills to refugees so that they can have a source of income. During 2020-2021, trainees learned how to make skirts, dresses, school uniforms, aprons, and various craft items. Learners also made 26,000 masks which they were able to sell and make a source of income. Refugees who have graduated from the Tailoring Project have been able to open their own businesses and even teach their fellow community members the same skill.
PROTECTION

Nationalities Served

- 66% Congolese
- 13% Burundians
- 10% Rwandese
- 11% Others

811 Refugees Supported

EMERGENCY SUPPORT

- Medical Exam Referrals
- Medicine Purchases
- Burial Costs Covered
- Home Visits

COUNSELING

- Mental Health Support
- Referrals

REFERRALS

- Food Cash Assistance
- Business Start-up
- Internal Referrals to WEP/Livelihoods
Lotone, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was very sick and could not afford the medicine she needed. She tried to get assistance from other NGOs, but they were unable to help her. Then she heard people talking about YARID and how they were supporting refugees with health issues. Lotone went to the Protection Office with letters from the hospital and they were able to buy her the medicine she so desperately needed. This was not the only time YARID provided her with support. During the COVID-19 lockdown she was unable to buy food and once again she reached out to YARID. YARID was one of the few organizations that were going door to door providing people with food. Lotone was able to get the food she needed to feed herself and her kids. Without the support she received from YARID she claims she might not have survived. "YARID is good for all refugees," she said, "I am thankful for YARID for supporting my family and kids. God help YARID."
The Future with Wakimbizi is a collaborative data-driven project that aims to amplify the voices of urban refugees in Kenya and Uganda. It was spearheaded by two refugee-led organizations; Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID) in Uganda and Youth Voices Community (YVC) in Kenya respectively, and supported by the international nonprofit Data4Change (D4C) and South Sudan-based nonprofit #DefyHateNow (DHN).

In July 2021, with the support of D4C and DHN, YARID and YVC collected survey data about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the urban refugee community in Kampala and Nairobi. In total 512 urban refugees (298 from Uganda) took part in the survey. Focus groups and interviews were conducted with urban refugees who participated in the survey to gather qualitative data and testimonials. Wakimbizi means “refugees” in Swahili.

Wakimbizi strives for refugee-led, community-based organizations like YARID to be considered as service partners by international NGOs, and local and central governments in our new home countries, and not as mere beneficiaries or aid seekers. These research insights can transform how humanitarian providers respond to refugee issues and how they partner with leaders from within the affected community.

Read the full report at: www.futurewithwakimbizi.org
Can Development Aid Change Attitudes Toward Refugees?

Experimental Evidence from Urban Microentrepreneurs in Uganda

Researchers at the Center for Global Development (CGD) partnered with YARID on this research study. We worked with 1,558 inexperienced Ugandan salon owners and tailors and randomly assigned them to one of six groups:

1. Cash Only: A grant of 500,000 UGX (140 USD) with no mention of refugees
2. Information Only: A conversation that includes information about Uganda’s aid-sharing policy, YARID’s work in the community, and a listening exercise to encourage empathy for refugees
3. Cash and Information: The grant is delivered with the canvassing conversation. The goal is for the business owners to associate the grant with the presence of refugees and their right to work.
4. Mentorship by an Experienced Refugee: Facilitated weekly meetings to discuss business practices and techniques.
5. Mentorship by an Experienced Ugandan: The same structure as (4) but pair Ugandans with other Ugandans for comparison.
6. Control Group: Surveys Only

We found that the Cash and Information group significantly increased their support for refugees’ right to work, other inclusive policies, and their attitudes toward refugees. The effects persist more than one year after the intervention. Attitudes in the other groups also changed, but significantly less than the cash and information combined. These findings empower our work as we adapt our approaches with the goal to build better social cohesion among the refugee population and Uganda host population.
Tushirikiane is a mental health literacy and promotion project for urban refugee youth in Kampala. Our research with urban refugee youth found that 74% of young girls and 49% of young boys aged 16-24 reported depression symptoms. Partnering with the University of Toronto, we aim to reduce stigma and create scalable literacy & digital tools (i.e. virtual reality, SMS, & WhatsApp) to address mental health stressors. This project is underway with a final research report expected in 2023.

Engaged 400 youth & young adults ages 16-24 years old

A YARID Peer-Educator sets up the virtual reality simulation on a test subject. Participants experienced a 360-degree virtual world involving various scenes and conversations that provided mental wellness strategies.
STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS

- Males: 50.5%
- Females: 49.5%
- Refugees: 60.5%
- Nationals: 39.5%

- Nationals: 115
- Refugees: 94
- Males: 96
- Females: 94
## FINANCIALS

### 2020 Revenue
- Total: $378,810

### 2020 Expenses
- Total: $355,890

### 2021 Revenue
- Total: $449,545

### 2021 Expenses
- Total: $427,935
SUPPORT REFUGEE-LED PROJECTS

DONATE
Here's how your money can help...

$10 USD buys mother care kits for a new mom
$30 USD provides a home care kit for a refugee with chronic illness
$93 USD supports 1 refugee child to go to school for an entire year (only $7.75/month!)
$300 USD empowers a woman to start a business & support her family ($25/mo)

VOLUNTEER
YARID relies on volunteers to support refugees adjusting to a new life in Uganda.

For more information on volunteering or to submit a donation, go to our website www.yarid.org.
APPRECIATION

British Council
Center for Global Development (CGD)
Community Leaders
Data 4 Change
Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)
Medicor Foundation
Mondo MTÜ
Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
Open Society Foundation
Refugee-Led Organization Network (REلون) Uganda
Resourcing Refugee Leadership Initiative (RRLI)
Street Child UK
TaRL Africa
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
University of Toronto
U.S. Bureau for Population, Refugees, & Migration (BPRM)
World University Service of Canada (WUSC)

Special thanks to Brenda Semerenko for producing this annual report!