

UMOJA REFUGEE CREATIVE

YEAR 2023

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

LATEST INFORMATION AND UPDATES
ABOUT UMOJA REFUGEE CREATIVE





OVERVIEW

Umoja Refugee Creative is a registered, **non-profit Refugee-led** organization founded by Refugees in Nairobi in the year 2016 as a community welfare initiative and fully registered in 2020 as a **community-based organization** for uplifting and changing lives of the less privileged Refugee families and vulnerable local hosts in the urban setup of Nairobi.

URC- main areas of focus are:

- **Mental Health,**
- **Livelihoods /Education,**
- **Advocacy.**

Mission-“Building a **self-empowered** community through the power of harmony creative and optimism”

Vision-“To uplift the needy for sustainable **self-reliance**” by creating a supportive environment where (all) both refugees and host communities can sustainably thrive

Goal-“To instill in everyone’s mindset to maintain a good practice of self-reliance standards’ for families’ **sustainability** via proactive activities and skills development”

OUR CORE VALUES: RICO

RELIABILITY
INTEGRITY
COMPASSION
OPEN-MINDEDNESS



MENTAL HEALTH: PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE SELF-RELIANCE FOR URBAN REFUGEES AND NEEDIEST HOST KENYANS, NAIROBI.

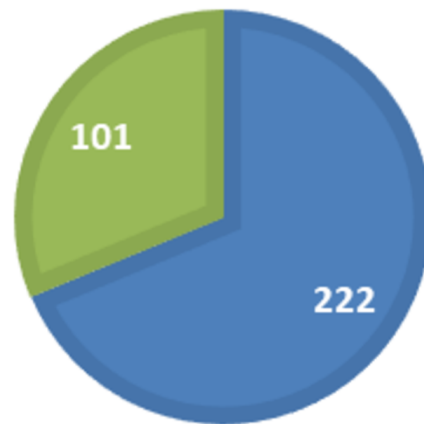
Mental health is one of our pillar program that helps our beneficiaries to gain **self-awareness** and therefore learn to overcome the trauma related to their background. With the counselling and awareness activities, the community is educated on dealing with trauma, stress and depression while **rebuilding** their **dignity** in the host community. Under our guide, we believe that once one is mentally stable, and **trauma informed**; they then find it easier to focus on livelihood issues.

We have conducted individual counselling, couple counselling and group counselling sessions that have **impacted** our community **positively**. In addition to psychological counselling, we have also conducted **Psychological First Aid (PFA)** campaigns. Our counselling sessions covered different subjects in the community from matters on GBV & SGBV, to marital issues and parenthood.

The project was supported by **Cohere and 323** beneficiaries were supported.

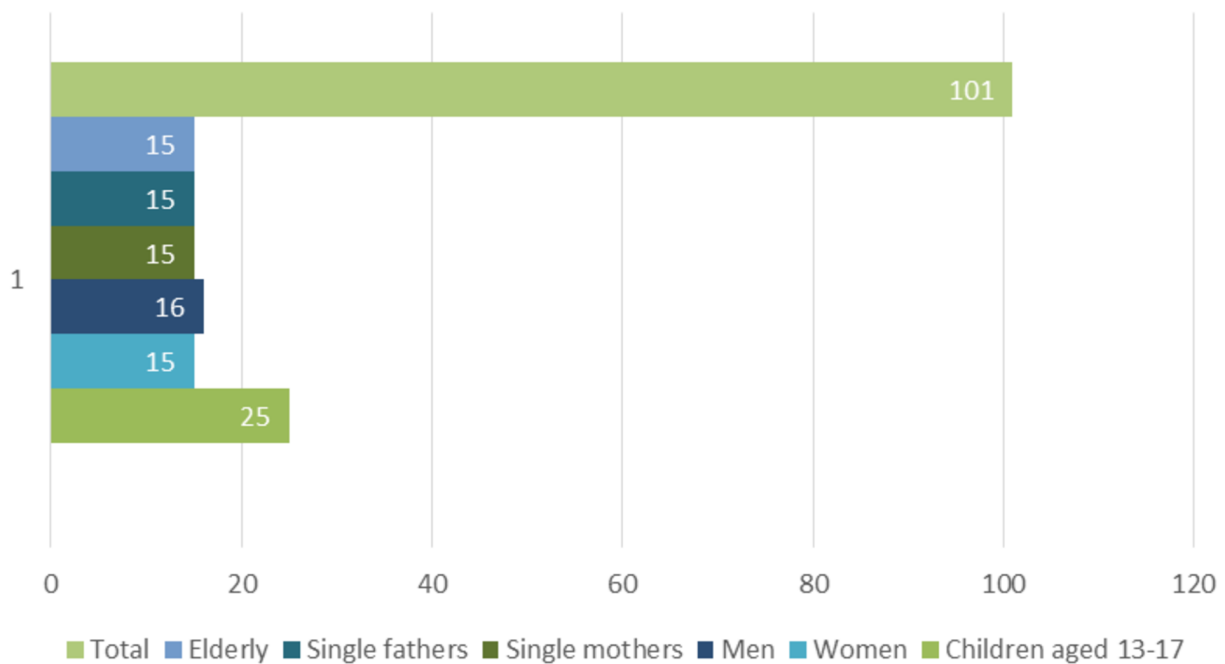
BENEFICIARIES OF COUNSELLING

■ Group counselling ■ Individual counselling



In total the team impacted 323 clients.
101 beneficiaries of individual counselling and 222 in group counselling.

DEMOGRAPHIC IN COUNSELLING OUTREACH



The Mental Health team managed to reach different demographics throughout the year, 6 different groups were counselled on different matters.

LIVELIHOODS

Inuka dada-Tujiendeleze project.

1. Inuka dada was initiated in 2020, to promote Refugee women's **Resilience** through **capacity building** as a recognition of their prestige and social standing, for generating a **sustainable income** out of their talents. It is composed of various procreative activities like Urban Saving and Loaning Associations (USLAs), Crafting, and tailoring.

URC gave out a **seed fund** to support the USLA groups, which was disbursed among the six groups we trained.

2. Inuka Dada-Tujiendeleze project was equally based on hands on training, digital skills, and **entrepreneurship** skills for refugee women and girls .

The project managed to impact various beneficiaries both men and women on urban saving and loaning for **sustainability**. This gave them **financial freedom**.

A seed fund of KES 76,000 was distributed among 6 USLAs. The six groups were trained and collectively saved over **KES 700,000 a year**.

68 households each with 4-7 size which indicates that about **462 individuals were impacted** by the entrepreneurship initiative during 2023, thanks to our partners **REFUGEPOINT**

USLAs/GROUPs	Number of members	Amount received (in KES) as seed fund.	Savings (in KES)
Upendo Group	13	15,000	121,710
Vision (A)	14	15,000	230,830
Vision (B)	14	15,000	207,000
Creative Women (detergents-business)	8	15,000	27,000
Jasiri Women Saving Group	7	8,000	53,100
Maendeleo	12	8,000	68,510
TOTAL	68	76,000	708,150

LIVELIHOODS

Handcraft training

On this URC trained Refugee young mothers on how to make liquid detergents and cleaning soaps (**Dettol, Liquid Soaps, Shampoo, Jik and Downy**). Additionally, we have crocheting of different items such as table mats, carpets, as well as beaded handbags.

Through URC criteria of selection we have managed to train **20 Refugee** young mothers on detergents and soap making who are empowered with **entrepreneurship and marketing skills**. From this training, a saving group was formed as USLA as mentioned above, which has impacted them positively towards sustainability for their families.

Tailoring



Tailoring is among our main handcraft project that takes about 60% of young Refugee women who have interest in learning **tailoring skills** based on hands-on training. We had 3 cohorts all throughout the year with a **total of 46 trainees** at the end of the year. Our 3rd cohort was the most successful **with 28** trainees in total.

The training takes place over the course of 6 months.

The first week of training is **practicals** on how to assemble sewing machines, then threading while using papers on how to sew straight lines. By the end of **six month** training, each trainee has the required skills on making hand bags, schoolbags, skirts, shirts, and dresses.

After a period of six months, trainees graduate with capacity to mitigate the livelihood issues as they strive to become self-reliant. Some the graduates are typically absorbed to join us for an **internship** for further training while producing products for sale, this can be in our production workshop or other partners in the same scope. The opportunity gives the beneficiaries a learning and life-changing journey as they pursue their sustainability.

LIVELIHOODS STATISTICS

175

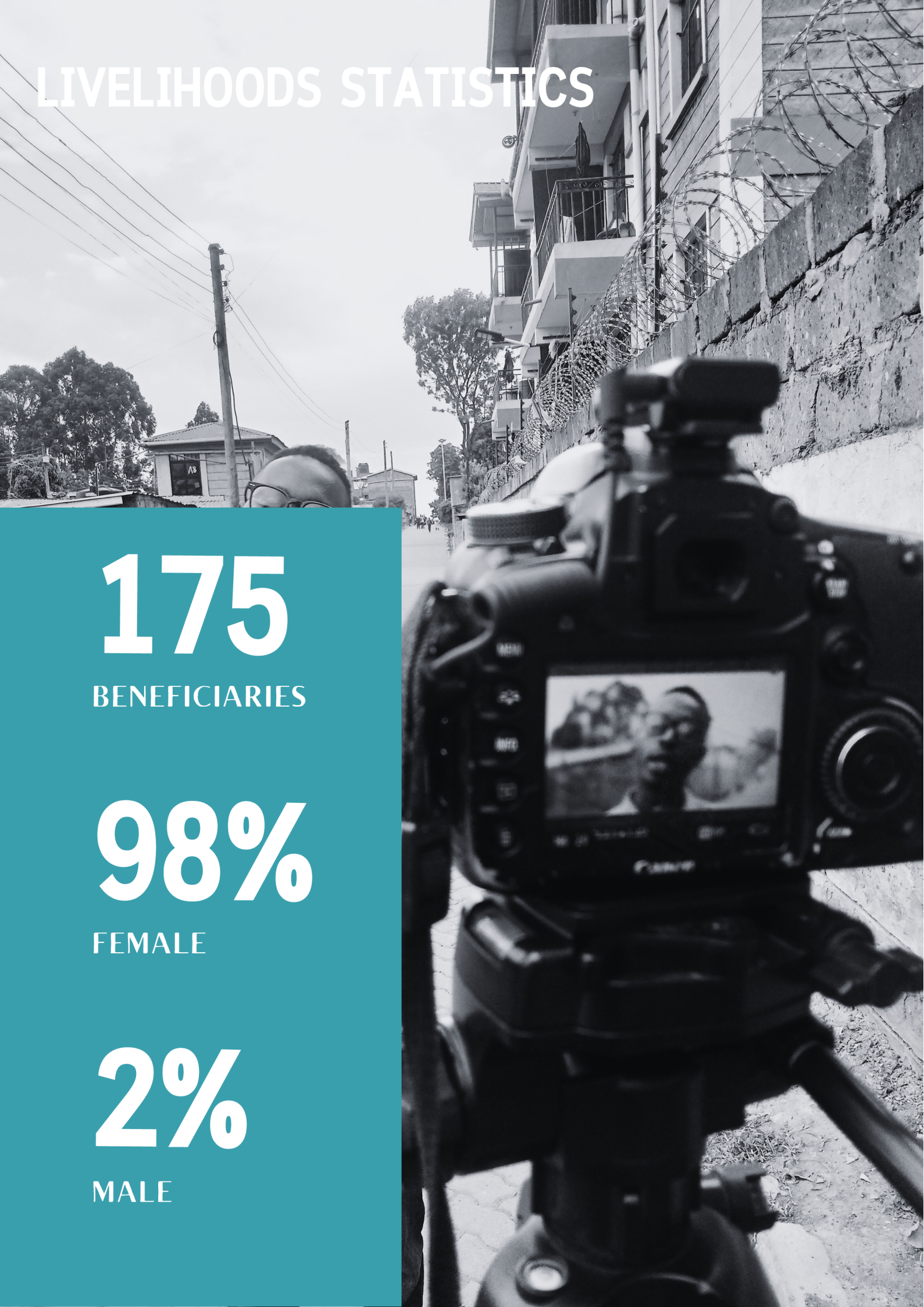
BENEFICIARIES

98%

FEMALE

2%

MALE



LIVELIHOODS

Computer Literacy

On computer literacy, we realized as a community-based organization, 99% of our trainees don't have knowledge and skills in computer-based programs, which made it difficult to qualify the trainees to join the film and production/creatives class which was far beyond their knowledge. It's a **fast track** before diving into the advanced classes.

This training is based on basic computer skills, then the trainees are ready for the advanced class which entails, film-making, creatives: e.g. Graphic design, and production.

In Computer basics, we have trained 34 trainees, spread across 3 cohorts.

Film & Video Production

This is the advanced stage of our **digital literacy** training given after the basic level of computer literacy skills. In film production, the trainees learn graphic design, video editing, Photoshop, using different software's for **design** and video editing, **cinematography** (video coverage) and photography.

In total we received **43 trainees** in film production. These are the **34** who were in computer literacy adding up **9** more for cinematography. Our last cohort had the highest intake, in total **27** trainees. Our first and second cohort of **16** trainees have successfully **graduated**.

URC management is building relationships with production houses/studios to refer them for internships and others being retained directly to UR stories program that tells the untold stories of refugees at large.

Storytelling

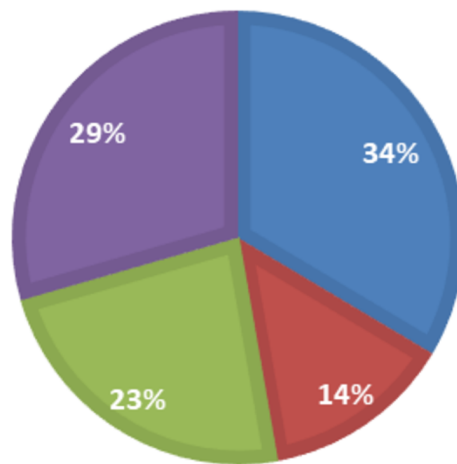
Storytelling is the last stage of our training, which is one of the most powerful tools as it creates a participatory and **immersive experience** among our trainees. More than entertainment, it stimulates curiosity and aims to change refugees' lives by bringing more **visibility** when they open up and tell their stories to the world. This last leg of our program was jointly supported by **RefugePoint** and **Cohere**, as they provided financial and technical aid to run this program.

We initiated a Youtube channel as part of our way to communicate and connect with the rest of the world, we also use this tool to sensitize and improve social cohesion. This is where we prepare our trainees in basic writing of their own stories and give them tools on how to face the outside world bravely with no fear and get to engage them once again getting into the system.

We train them on how to write and break down a story and different **techniques** of making their stories unique which can give them different opportunities for **sustainability** by marketing their stories and earning income through **storytelling**.

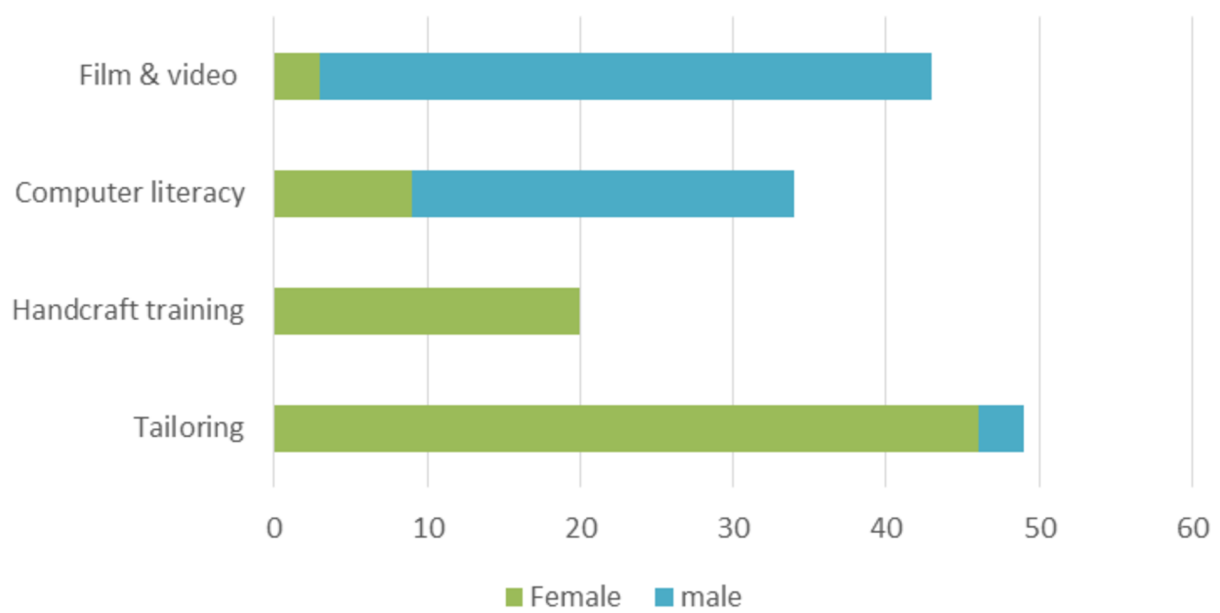
BENEFICIARIES OF OUR LIVELIHOODS TRAININGS

■ Tailoring ■ Handcraft training ■ Computer literacy ■ Film & video



In total we trained 146 individuals in 4 different livelihoods skills.

Gender distribution in our livelihoods training



73% women trained, mainly concentrated in tailoring, while 27% are men trained mainly in film and video production.



EDUCATION/SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Through URC, the community has acquired **knowledge** and **skills** through different training sessions we offer from various departments.

URC has managed to train 30 trainees who successfully completed their courses and **graduated**.

This has had an impact on our community in establishing **positive relationships** between the community, refugees, local government, businesses and institutions.

We look forward to **partnering** with various stakeholders and actors like NITA, and other Institutions of the same scope for our trainees to get government certificates.



JONAS NDAYISENGA, CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF URC DURING "BEYOND MY STATUS", JUNE,30-2023 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



ADVOCACY

URC has been actively involved in **advocating** for the community, representing the **rights** and **needs** of Refugees at local, county, national, and global levels. The URC team has attended different forums where refugee matters are discussed, including co-organizing advocacy events like **Beyond My Status** which attracted over **90** stakeholders. With the support of **IOM**, we tackled the issue of refugees and displaced people’s livelihoods while celebrating their **resilience** and addressing the challenges attached to their **socioeconomic development** in the host communities.

We also used the online platform approach to address issues related to social integration.

As part of our advocacy, we managed to reach out to **2750** refugees in numbers, both physical and online attendants. Our Executive Director, Jonas Ndayisenga attended forums like **GRF2023**(Global Refugee Forum), with the support of **Oxfam Africa**, and local high-level advocacy convening events on various topics, like the RLO Convening organized by RefugeePoint and Refugee Self-reliance Initiative-RSRI.



CHALLENGES

- Lack of resources to support the next intakes as the **turnout** increase every year.
- Young mothers aren't able to afford home care for their children so they have to attend classes with small children. Daycare support would be ideal to support their **enthusiasm** in pursuing their dreams.
- The office isn't equipped to receive **differently abled** individuals
- There is a **language** barrier challenge.
- Lack of financial resources to sustain the **workforce**.
- Challenge for resources for accessing government **certificates** (NITA/KNEC) for the trainees after finishing the training.
- Trainees need additional **opportunities** beyond the training period such as job **placements**, market linkages, and/ or startup kits, etc.
- Need for capacity sharpening and advanced training of our **trainers- TOT**.



3674
Beneficiaries

78%
Women

70%
Refugees

30%
Host community

SUCCESS STORIES



DUSABE
27
Mother of 2,
Refugee since 2016

Dusabe's story is a reason to believe in refugees' capacity to rebuild their dignity and regain hope away from home.

"Through the **tailoring skills** training, my **life** has **changed**, alongside learning a new skill I also gained my **confidence** back. I committed and got an **award** for a tailoring machine for starting up my **own business**, now I can make up to 300 shillings a day from my customers, and my relationship with others is good. I can use a portion and **save** the other, by 5 years to come I will completely achieve my **goals**. I have **challenges fetching** more **materials** and a **space** to put some of my designs because I still use my sitting room. I recommend those supporting Umoja Refugee Creative, to support them by providing them with more **resourceful opportunities** like buying materials and sharpening their capacity to reach and impact more needy community members in pursuing sustainability and self-reliance. And I appreciate Umoja refugees for the skills they offered to me, may they continue to support others the same way."



MARY

59

Single Mother of 3, Host Community

“My name is Mary Musera, I am 59 years old and a mother of 3 girls. I come from vihiga, chavakali. I have been living as a **single mother** for 30 years now. I started working as a housemaid when I was 15 years old, and since then I never got a chance to education or do any other job, than a housemaid. But I never lost **hope** of becoming a tailor.

Since when I was a child, I wanted to be a tailor but never got a chance; and luckily Umoja Refugees Creative gave me a **chance**, they never minded my age, I was very happy to be considered in their training because it was the only chance I had to **achieve my dreams**. Umoja refugee helped me revive my dreams at an old age and gave me **skills** and **knowledge** in tailoring and entrepreneurship. Above all, they blessed me with a **start-up kit** of a tailoring machine.

I have seen a positive change in my life; I make my **own money** now through the skills I learned at Umoja Refugee. I make women's handbags, purses, skirts, shirts, and also repairs. In a day at least I make KESH350, which enables me to cater to basic needs like rentals, buying food, and savings. I am no longer doing housemaid jobs, and now I am **self-employed**.

I **don't borrow** from my children anymore, because I have something to do in life and be able to **sustain myself**.

The advice I can give to the community is that **age does not matter**; you can achieve anything you want in life if you are focused, patient, working hard, and believing in yourself” Mary.

PARTNERSHIPS


OUR WORK WAS POSSIBLE THANKS TO PARTNERS LIKE REFUGEPOINT, COHERE, REFUGEES INT'L, THE NAIROBI COUNTY, OXFAM AFRICA, POWER254, THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, IRC, THE FRENCH EMBASSY ETC.

MAIN FUNDING PARTNERS-2023



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