



YARID

2025

NEWSLETTER – 2025 – SPECIAL EDITION

FOR ALL WOMEN & GIRLS



“ OPENING MESSAGE

At YARID, we remain committed to investing in women and girls. By offering practical skills and training, we're building self-reliant futures, enabling participants to support their families and contribute to their communities.



Judith Okala, Women Empowerment & Livelihood Manager, during her opening speech at YARID's Women's Day celebration March 7.

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YARID NEWSLETTER: Q1 2025

This newsletter explores impactful stories from YARID's campaign **#ForAllWomenAndGirls** from Q1, 2025. In focus are refugee-led initiatives and trainings that have benefited both host and refugee communities in Uganda, sparking growth and transformation.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2024, YARID SUPPORTED

7,121 WOMEN & GIRLS

ACROSS KAMPALA - NAKIVALE - KYAKA II - PALABEK

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BRINGING PARTNERS & COMMUNITIES TOGETHER: **FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS**



Dance circle during YARID's Women Day celebration in Nsambya, Kampala

This event brought together:

UNHCR, OPM, KCCA, alongside RELON Uganda, ARSF, Talent Beyond Boundaries, African Women and Youth Action for Development, PCR Uganda, Mirror Group Network, Da Vision Youth Group, SBS, Charter4Change, Voice for Refugees, LCI and OC Police Nsambya, and Refugee Community Leaders.

Special thanks to Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and Resourcing Refugee Leadership Initiative for supporting this event.

CAMPAIGN: 5 WOMEN IN FOCUS

During the month of March: 5 women were highlighted on YARID's social media platforms. Their growth journeys is an source of inspiration, and on International Women's Day they attended as speakers, motivating other women and girls from both the refugee and host community.

In March, YARID hosted an International Women's Day Celebration in Kampala. Partners, refugee and host communities were brought together for a day of speeches, dance, and performances.

Graduates from YARID shared how skills in tailoring, arts & crafts, ICT, business, and English have helped them rebuild their lives and gain work opportunities. With 400 women and girls in attendance, Madam Peace from the KCCA also took center stage during the event, presenting the government services that are free and available for all, regardless of nationality.



Several National Anthems were played

yarid_ug

Check out their stories on youtube!



NANCY AKOT
Business woman
Grant winner, WEP
Program Graduate

ASIMWE AVINE
Graphic Designer
ICT Program
Graduate

TRACY LAGUMA
Clinic Nurse
JTP Program
Graduate

MUTESI YVETTE
Program Coordinator
Da Vision Youth Group
RLO Seed Grantee

BLESSING ANGALIA
Waitress
EFA Program
Graduate

TOGETHER IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS



Marching band during the joint International Women's Day celebration in Palabek Refugee Settlement

A Stand for Girls' Futures: **Amidst growing insecurities**

At a time when girls are facing rising challenges of teen pregnancy, school dropouts, and food insecurity, YARID joined partners in Kyaka II, Nakivale, and Palabek to reaffirm a collective stand for their futures.

In **Palabek**, the event took place at the school where YARID supports over 2,000 children each year with quality education. Head Teacher Adong Jenifer opened the ceremony, and Akullu Fivi, Refugee Desk Officer at the OPM, called for urgent investment in girls' education, underscoring that with teenage pregnancy rates now reaching above 40%, girls are being pushed out of school far too early.

In **Kyaka II**, YARID's Catch-up and Bridge to Formal Schooling Program were commended by the camp management, that provides over 3,000 children with quality education every year.

In **Nakivale**, the RETI Project team was present during the UNHCR-led celebrations and spoke of their impact of equipping women, and youth with practical business skills.

Across the settlements, this was more than a commemoration. **It was a call to action.** Girls' futures are under threat, and we must respond.

Your Support Matters!

Refugee-led trainings & services are changing lives. With your support, YARID can reach more women and girls with the tools they need to thrive.

Donate to the campaign:
yarid.net/forallwomenandgirls

DA VISION YOUTH GROUP: RECIPIENT OF YARID'S RLO TO RLO SEED GRANT 2024



Da Vision Youth Group is a refugee and women-led organisation in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement that equips women and youth with skills in tailoring and hairdressing to support their families and build self-reliance. They also offer mentorship, GBV awareness, and emotional support, creating a safe space that fosters healing and community resilience.

Da Vision Youth Group held a graduation in February 2025 in Kyaka II, celebrating women, girls, and youth who completed hands-on skills training. The event marked a key milestone in their continued efforts to create opportunities for adolescent girls, young mothers, and survivors of violence.

Congratulations to all the graduates and the dedicated team that made this possible!

RLO TO RLO Strengthening Program

Since 2023, YARID has supported 11 Refugee-Led Organizations with seed grants and capacity strengthening in Kampala, Kyaka II, Nakivale, Palabek & Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement

With support from

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation & the Resourcing Refugee Leadership Initiative (RRLI)



Learn more & support their efforts

Connect directly with Da Vision Youth Group: davisiongroup761@gmail.com

BLESSING'S STORY



My name is Blessing. I'm a refugee from DR Congo and currently working at Sheraton Kampala Hotel as a waitress.

Coming from DR Congo, I couldn't speak English. Talking to someone was hard. Even introducing myself was difficult. I would just say "hello" and continue in French. Because of the language barrier, I couldn't express myself, and I didn't feel confident at all. Then I joined YARID. My experience there was so nice. The teachers were lovely and supportive. I learned more than I expected, which really helped me.

Because of what I learned at YARID, I felt confident enough to take catering classes. That also helped me to do an internship at Sheraton Kampala Hotel, which later turned into a job. Now, I can confidently speak with people in English. That's one of the reasons I've been retained at Sheraton. I feel proud of what I've achieved. I'm not just working I'm also growing and learning every day.

To other refugee women out there, believe in yourself. Many refugees think, "Where will this English take me?" But the truth is, many of us have knowledge we just lack the language, and then we miss opportunities.

- Blessing Ngongo Angalia

English Classes helped Blessing find her voice

YARID teaches English For Adults at Learning Centres across Kampala and Jinja.

Hundreds of women & girls are enrolled each year who, like Blessing, are ready to build a new life in Uganda. Beyond language, the classes foster cross-cultural understanding and a sense of belonging. Learning English is a vital step toward integration and access to meaningful opportunities.



EXPANDING COMMUNITY SERVICES: THROUGH SPORTS AND HEALTH



Launch for YARID's New Sports Program

On March 6, YARID hosted a women's football match to encourage more girls to participate in sport. The match featured girls from YARID's newly launched Sports Program, introduced this year under our Youth Engagement initiative in collaboration with Malmö University. YARID staff also joined the game, kicking off what we hope will grow into a vibrant, inclusive space for young people. Launching a football program holds special meaning for YARID. The organization began in 2007 by bringing displaced youth together through football. Nearly two decades later, football continues to serve as a powerful tool for connection, confidence, and community.



A woman receiving health screening

Bringing Healthcare Closer to the Community

YARID, in partnership with Sir Albert Cook Health Center, organized a medical camp in Makindye for women and those in need of free health screenings and treatment. A total of 99 persons were assisted.

YARID continues to deliver critical services year-round through its Protection & Psychosocial Support team. Services include: emergency medical and food support, counseling, mental health & HIV awareness, ambulance support, burial support, and referrals.

For Emergency Support:
+256 704 135 6884

Voices from the Team

“Women cannot stand alone we must uplift both women and girls, regardless of age, nationality, or background. Gender equality must be championed in government, organizations, communities, and even religious spaces. The world is trying, but discrimination still holds women back. We must do more.

**Marie Zawadi | YARID
WEP & Livelihood Coordinator**



“No girl should be denied education, violated, or left behind. Rights mean being protected at all costs. Equality means inclusion regardless of gender or status. Empowerment means enhancing visibility and creating better opportunities. Let's build a world where women and girls feel safe and seen.

**Catherine Birabwa | YARID
JTP Trainer**



“In some communities, educating boys is prioritized over girls. Women are still denied rights even in their own homes. We must educate girls, fight against harmful cultural practices, and call out gender-based violence. Let's work together so every woman can feel proud, empowered, and free.

**Muruta Hakiza | YARID
Protection Assistant**



COMING IN JUNE

- Application opens for **YARID's RLO TO RLO Strengthening Program**
- **World Refugee Day**, Themed: *"In Solidarity with Refugees"*. Reach out and be part of planning a joint activity.
- **HIV Awareness** and Prevention talks with youth in Makindye
- **YARID Launching Welding Classes**

STAY TUNED FOR MORE!

Subscribe to our upcoming newsletter. Send an email to

✉ info@yarid.net

LEARN MORE ABOUT YARID

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