



YARID

2025

NEWSLETTER - 2025 - Q3

FAMILIES AT THE FOREFRONT

“ OPENING MESSAGE

Every day, I watch children laugh, play, and learn while their parents attend classes or work. Seeing parents gain skills and confidence, knowing their little ones are safe, reminds me why this work matters. Supporting both children and caregivers is not just care. It is building a future.



Hadijah Nabunya, Childminder
at YARID's Child-Friendly Space in Nsambya, Makindye



YARID NEWSLETTER: Q3 2025

This edition brings families to the forefront with a closer look at YARID's Two Generation approach and the pathways that support learning, livelihoods and self-reliance. It also highlights emergency response interventions for new arrivals in Nakivale, steady growth from the Community Garden in Palabek, and an inside view of the ICT Hub in Kampala. Throughout the quarter families continue to learn and move forward together.

DID YOU KNOW?

150 Families

In focus for a New Project in Palabek

Read more on page 3

1,500 Families

Reached in Emergency Response in Nakivale

Read more on page 4

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ADVANCING THE TWO-GENERATION APPROACH IN UGANDA

*"When families grow together,
communities become stronger."*



Judith Okala, Women Empowerment and Livelihood (WEP) Manager, speaking at the National Two-Generation (2-Gen) Learning Event in Kampala

Families Learning and Growing

YARID's Two Generation approach strengthens the connection between children's learning and their caregivers' growth and well being. At the heart of this model is the Child Friendly Space, a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment that supports children from both refugee and host communities in Kampala.

Children aged six months to three years take part in structured play, early learning and recreational activities that build protection, social interaction and emotional development. Each child is signed in and out daily by a caregiver to ensure safety and accountability. While children learn and play, they also receive meals and care, giving their caregivers time to participate in classes or livelihood activities.

This approach supports early childhood development while also opening opportunities for parents to learn, build skills and access services offered at YARID (see page 7 for more).



Special thanks to the Hilton Foundation for bringing partners together and advancing the 2 Generation approach in Uganda.

Urgent Need for Child-Friendly Spaces

More than 50 percent of people living in Uganda's refugee communities are children, yet many lack safe and nurturing environments for early learning. By age 5, a child's brain is already about 90 percent of its adult size. Limited access to child friendly spaces, nutritious food and early learning opportunities hinders development during these critical years (UNICEF, 2024).

YARID remains committed to family centred programming that create opportunities for parents and children to learn and grow together.

High Demand & Need for Expansion

Caregiver enrolment and attendance have reached an all time high at YARID. With demand continuing to rise, there is a pressing need to expand child friendly spaces so more families can benefit. Explore how you can support or partner with us in this effort. Contact info@yarid.net

Meet **Faiza Abdalla Ahmed**, Tailoring Student at YARID

I'm a mother of two children, aged ten months and three years. I first learnt about YARID's Child-Friendly Space when I registered for my course in tailoring. The support has helped me a lot because I can attend classes without worrying about my children. They love being at YARID. The space is big, comfortable, and full of play and laughter

Knowing my children are safe gives me peace of mind and the strength to keep learning.

“



Steady Growth in Palabek!

Through **LEAD Uganda**, participants from refugee and host communities put new insights into practice in the field. Over the quarter, they prepared nursery beds, levelled soil, planted seeds, and completed the transplanting phase, moving tomato, cabbage, and eggplant seedlings to the main field with proper spacing, ridge digging, and mulching.

The results? Steady green growth and for many, their first experience using climate-smart methods in practice.

Through the **Community Gardens for Learning & Livelihoods initiative**, YARID supports refugee and host community members to strengthen food production, nutrition, and livelihood opportunities in Palabek.

This work is part of **LEAD Uganda**, led by **Woord en Daad** and funded by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands**.



Support for 150 Family Businesses in Palabek

During September, YARID in partnership with **Street Child** launched a new project: *Empowering Refugee Families through Livelihoods and Learning* in Palabek Refugee Settlement. The one year pilot supports caregivers to start small businesses through training, mentoring, and start up assistance, helping them earn an income so their children can stay supported in school.

At the same time, their children are receiving scholastic materials, access to learning opportunities, and menstrual hygiene kits for girls. In Palabek, this new approach has been warmly received by local leaders, refugee welfare councils, and parents who see it as a chance to build lasting change. It represents YARID's belief that when families grow together, the entire community move with them.

PROJECT LAUNCH!

New Pilot by YARID & Street Child





A TWO-WEEK EMERGENCY INTERVENTION IN NAKIVALE

Escalating conflict in eastern DR Congo has triggered one of the largest recent influxes of asylum seekers into Uganda. By September 2025, over 130,000 people had crossed the border.

Over a two week period, YARID carried out an emergency response in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, reaching 1,500 of the most vulnerable households. More than 7,500 individuals, including children, women, and elderly, received assistance consisting of essential food and non food items.

This intervention addressed immediate needs in line with Uganda's progressive refugee policy, linking emergency relief with longer term pathways to stability and self-reliance.

As a refugee led organisation,

YARID is positioned to respond quickly, understand community priorities, and ensure transparent, well targeted distributions in partnership with local authorities and UNHCR. Appreciation is extended to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the timely support that made this intervention possible.

More Support is Needed

With thousands of new arrivals each week, unmet needs remain high. When crises hit, education is often the first disrupted and the last restored.

Providing Education for Children Arriving in Nakivale

Through ECHO RISE, 356 children are now actively enrolled and learning at YARID's learning centres across Nakivale Refugee Settlement. The Language Bridging Programme supports newly arrived learners from French and Swahili speaking countries to gain English language skills and transition into primary or secondary schools. Each child is assessed and placed in a flexible learning pathway suited to their needs.

Funded by European Union, ECHO RISE is a consortium led by **Save the Children** with eight partners working together to create inclusive spaces where all children can learn and grow.



Nsimanta Lovance engaging learners at Ngrama C Language Bridging Centre in Nakivale Refugee Settlement.

"I love teaching English because it opens doors for children to new opportunities and builds confidence"

Teacher Nsimanta Lovance



YOUTH TAKING LEAD INSPIRING OTHERS

In August, YARID marked International Youth Day by highlighting inspiring journeys of young people. One of them is Shania Neema, who took part in the RETI Project in Nakivale Refugee Settlement. With a long-held dream of becoming a visual storyteller, she gained hands-on experience in photography and videography, realising that her dream was within reach and that her creativity could inspire others.

"I now see every frame as a chance to impact someone's heart."

This year's theme, "Local Youth Action for the SDGs and Beyond", is a reminder that meaningful change begins in our communities. When young people like Shania are supported to grow and express themselves, they become a source of inspiration for many more.



Scan the QR Code
and check out Neema's
story

In Kampala, YARID's Youth Engagement Programme brought this theme into practice through a series of youth-led activities in Nsambya. A mental health dialogue at YARID's office created space for open conversations on well-being, relationships, and healthy lifestyles. Youth also joined a community clean-up in the surrounding area to promote a safer and cleaner environment. Another activity featured a music and art showcase, where participants explored instruments and took part in creative sessions, exhibitions, and dance.

Together, these activities offered young people opportunities to express themselves, build confidence, and take active roles in shaping positive change within their communities.

Artisan Training Continues for 632 Youth in the 5th RETI Cohort

Hands-on artisan training is ongoing in Nakivale, where youth are building practical skills in tailoring, hairdressing, crafts, soap making, carpentry, yoghurt production, cosmetology, and photography.

RETI is shaping a new generation of skilled youth by offering vocational training, business skills, job linkages, and access to financial services. Led by Muni University in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, the project equips young people with the tools they need to progress toward sustainable livelihoods.



Youth taking part in a community clean-up in Nsambya and the surrounding neighbourhoods.



A youth learns how to hold a violin during a music workshop at YARID

Interested in partnering on future youth-led activities? Let us know! info@yarid.net

FOR A FUTURE IN TECH YARID'S ICT HUB



Daniel Musoda teaching a digital skills class at YARID's ICT Hub

At YARID's ICT Hub, digital learning is paired with real exposure to the working world. To show learners what these skills can lead to, YARID organises field trips to workplaces and invites graduates to return to YARID to share their journeys and offer career advice.

Last month, Joseph Kamoga, who graduated in 2024, returned to speak with learners about his path into digital design. Today he works as a freelance graphic designer and IT support specialist, creating visual content for clients around Kampala. Joseph shared:

"Design is not just about how things look. It is about shaping experiences, solving real problems, and helping people connect. Your creativity can make a real impact."

His visit reminded learners that the skills they are building can turn into real opportunities, freelance work, and new creative directions.

Daniel's Journey: From ICT Learner to Training 1,000 Others

"In 2020, I joined YARID's ICT class wanting to strengthen my digital skills. The programme was running in partnership with MONDO at the time, and even with the lockdown disruptions, I stayed committed and completed the course. That experience opened my eyes to what digital skills could do and pushed me to keep learning. A year later, return to YARID as part of the team. Stepping into the role of Digital Skills Trainer changed the direction of my journey. It allowed me to keep growing while supporting others who were starting where I once began."

Working at YARID has helped me build confidence in digital storytelling, connect with thousands of learners, and share the creativity that first brought me into the programme. Today, I take pride in guiding learners through the same skills that shaped my own path."

Join us at the hub!

YARID's ICT and Digital Competence Programme is free and open to all nationalities, providing practical digital skills for work and daily life. Learners start with a 3-month introductory class in core computer skills, then move into advanced level that covers graphic design, photography, videography, and computer maintenance.



Alaine Wanican, ICT Coordinator, walks through the five components of the ICT module. Watch the video to learn more.

SCAN ME!



Take a tour of
YARID's ICT Hub

START YOUR NEXT JOURNEY WITH US!

At YARID, every person deserves the chance to learn, grow, and thrive. Across our centres in Kampala, Kyaka II, Nakivale, and Palabek Refugee Settlements, we provide free trainings and support programmes that help refugee and host community members build skills, strengthen confidence, and create pathways toward sustainable futures.

Trainings & Services in Kampala

Women Empowerment & Livelihoods

Tailoring, Hairdressing, Arts & Crafts, and Welding.

Training centres: Nsambya (Tailoring, Hairdressing, Arts & Crafts and welding), Rubaga MYDEL (Hairdressing and Tailoring), Kawempe (Federation of Uganda Salons and Beauty Professionals), and Namuwongo (Tailoring).

English for Adults

Functional English, level 1 & 2 for daily communication and social cohesion.

Training centres: Nsambya, Namuwongo, Namasuba (WCR), Kawempe Kisalosalu, Najjera, Lugala, Rubaga at Angels Refugee Support Foundation, and Jinja.

ICT & Digital Competence

Digital literacy, design, photography, videography, and computer maintenance.

Training centre: Nsambya, Makindye.

Job Training & Placement

Hands-on practical job readiness training, employer linkages, preparing job seekers for gainful work opportunities in Uganda.

Protection & Psychosocial Support

Emergency Food & Medical Support, Psychosocial Support & Counseling, Mental Health & HIV Awareness, Ambulance Services, Burial Support and Referrals

Child-Friendly Space

Safe and nurturing care for children aged six months to three years at Nsambya head Office

HOW TO REGISTER

To enrol in any YARID programme, visit our main reception in Nsambya or contact us via info@yarid.net +256-2009-12345

LOCATIONS



Get in touch!



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