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Date: December 2024
Location: Amahoro Coalition Office, Nairobi, Kenya

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

AMAHORO COALITION

Contents

1. Message from the Curator 3
2. 2024 - a year of impact 5
3. Our Strategy 5
4. Fellowship Snapshot 6
- Creating Inclusive Futures for Families of Autistic Children 7
- Transforming E-Waste into Opportunity and Sustainability in Africa 7
- Driving Sustainability and Empowerment through Recycling 8
- Empowering Women and Girls in Kakuma Camp 8
5. Private Sector Engagement Snapshot 9
- Bridging the Digital Divide: Eutelsat and AReL's Mission to Connect Kakuma 10
- ManCave: Creating Jobs and Upskilling Refugee Barbers 10
6. Client Engagement Snapshot 11
- Bridging Somalia's Skills Gap 11
7. Analytics, Research & Advocacy Snapshot 12
8. Looking Forward to 2025 14

Isaac Kwaku Fokuo
Curator, Amahoro Coalition

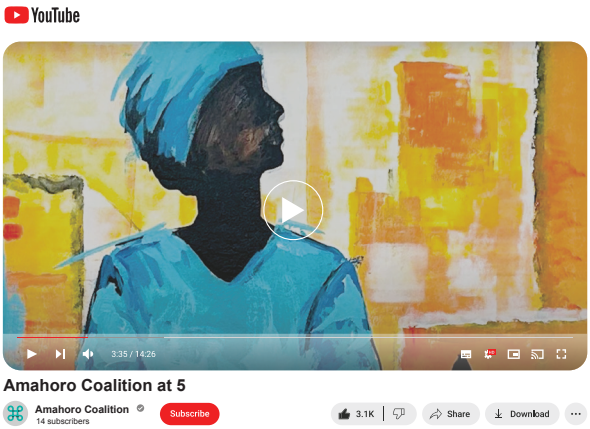
Message from the Curator

Five years ago, Amahoro Coalition was an idea; one born out of urgency, but also out of possibility. We saw a future where Forcibly Displaced Persons (FDPs) in Africa were not merely recipients of aid but recognized as leaders, entrepreneurs, and contributors to thriving economies. We believed that beyond the statistics of displacement were real people: visionaries, problem-solvers, and innovators, who only needed access and opportunity to rebuild their lives with dignity.

Today, that vision is no longer just an aspiration. It is a reality we are shaping, alongside partners like you, every single day. In just five years, Amahoro Coalition has redefined what economic inclusion looks like for displaced communities in Africa. We are the **only organization on the Continent providing employment opportunities, fellowships, and direct funding to displaced entrepreneurs at scale,** shifting the conversation from humanitarian relief to long-term economic independence. Through strategic partnerships with Africa's private sector, we have helped unlock pathways to jobs, investment, and self-reliance, proving that displacement is not a crisis to be managed, but an opportunity to be harnessed.

One of our most significant achievements has been the direct investment in FDP-led enterprises. The awards granted to our Amahoro Fellows represent one of the **largest investments into businesses led by forcibly displaced persons in Africa.** This is true testament to our commitment to not just advocating for inclusion, but actively building it. These businesses are not just surviving; they are thriving, employing others, and demonstrating the economic power of refugee-led enterprises.

Our team, partners, friends, and Amahoro Fellows reflect on the past five years of the Amahoro Coalition, its impact, achievements, and their vision for the future.



Additionally, we continued to expand employment pathways, connect displaced talent with Africa's leading companies, and shape policies that center FDPs as economic actors. Each milestone reinforces our core belief: that long-term solutions to forced displacement must be rooted in economic agency and inclusion, not dependency.

Looking ahead, we are scaling our impact. In April 2025, we will host the **3rd Africa Forum on Displacement (AFD 2025) in Nairobi,** bringing together policymakers, business leaders, and change makers to forge bold, market-driven solutions for displacement. Building on the successes of Kigali (2021) and Accra (2023), AFD 2025 will set the agenda for the next chapter of economic inclusion across Africa.

We are also expanding our footprint: more funding, more fellowships, more employment opportunities, so that even more FDPs can move from survival to prosperity. This work is only possible because of the partnerships, collaboration, and shared vision we have built over the years.

Five years in, our mission has never been clearer: **to ensure that displaced people are not seen as a burden, but as an untapped force for Africa's growth.** This is not just our work: it is a collective movement, one that requires all of us.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We invite you to continue walking with us to invest, collaborate, and shape the future of economic inclusion in Africa. Because when we open doors for displaced persons, we unlock potential not just for them, but for the entire continent.

With gratitude,

Isaac Kwaku Fokuo
Curator, Amahoro Coalition

2024 - a year of impact

Expanded our reach to **16 African Countries**

Engaged **over 400** private sector **CEOs**

Mobilized over **US$ 20 million** commitments

Reached **15,000 FDPs**

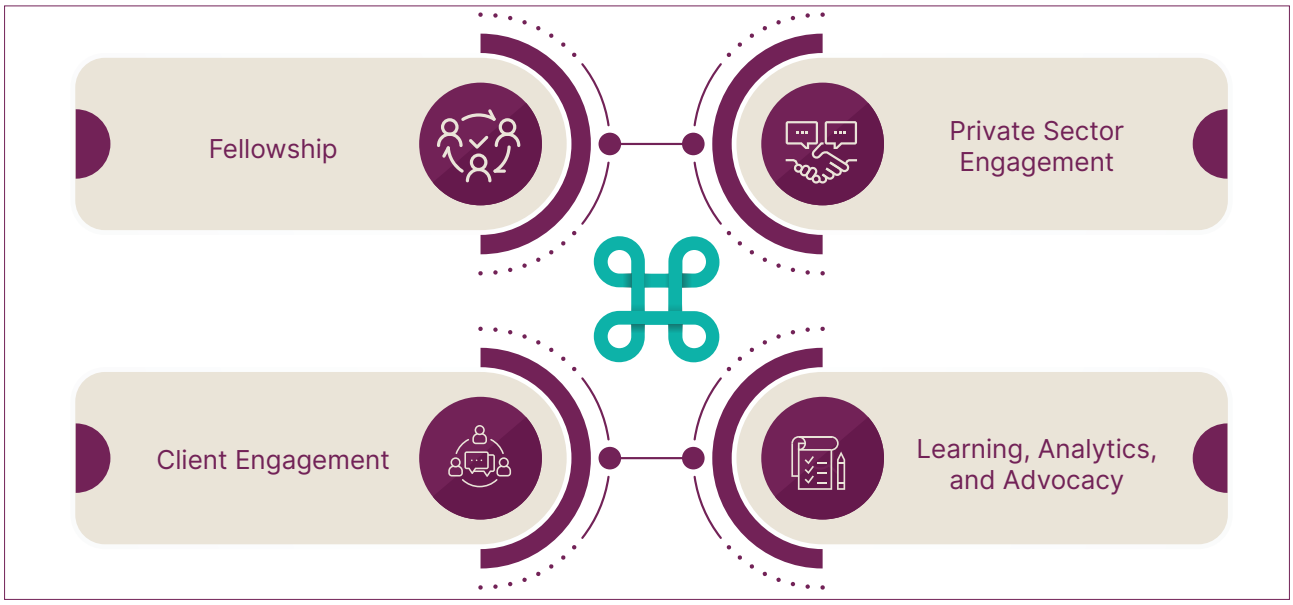
Awarded **US$900k** to FDP led initiatives

AMAHORO COALITION

Our Strategy

Established in 2019, Amahoro Coalition is the leading convener of African private sector leaders for social impact. We provide tailored solutions to businesses engaged on the continent, enabling them to tap into the African demographic dividend, including in vulnerable settings like displaced communities. We also work to empower the youth of Africa, including those in displaced communities, through strategic connections with the private sector to co-create breakthrough opportunities for all. Overall, our mission is to ignite a transformative shift in the African private sector, unlocking the full potential of forcibly displaced persons to become valuable contributors to society.

Our Four-Pillar Framework drives Amahoro's mission to empower the youth of Africa, engage the private sector, and unlock transformative opportunities for forcibly displaced persons.

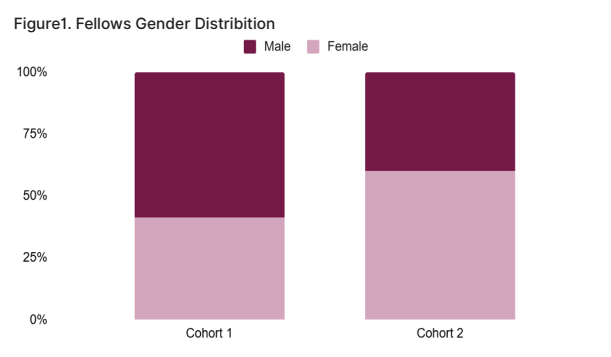


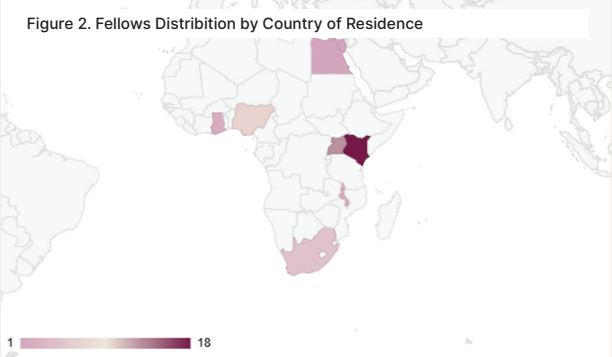
Fellowship Snapshot

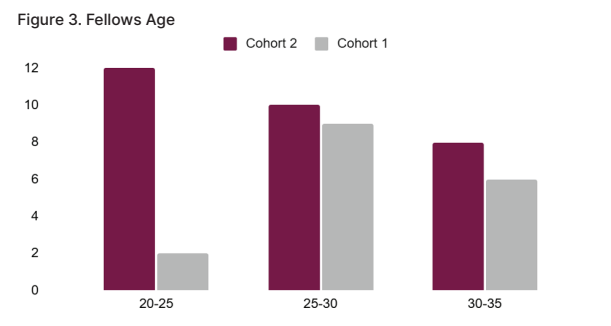
The **Amahoro Fellowship** advances refugee economic inclusion by investing in FDP youth, including RLO and business leaders who are catalysts for transformative change in their communities. Through tailored support, global platforms, and access to networks, we enable these leaders to create or scale innovative businesses, generate dignified work opportunities, and champion change within their communities. This approach contributes to stable livelihoods, self-reliance, and wealth creation, building a resilient and impactful network of FDP youth leaders.

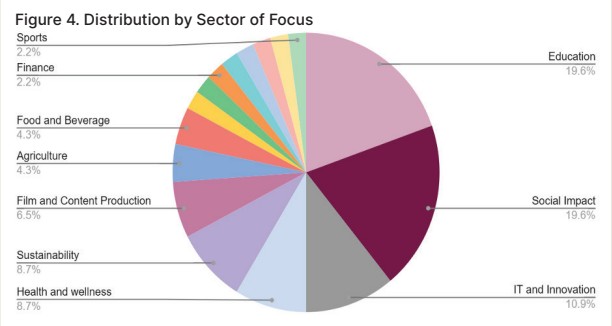
To date, Amahoro has engaged 47 Fellows:

- **17** from **Cohort 1** completed the Fellowship in December 2024,
- A **second cohort of 30** began the 12-month program in October 2024.
- **Fellows** were invited to apply for grants of up to **$15,000 each** to scale their businesses. This funding addressed critical needs, such as working capital and investment readiness, helping Fellows overcome challenges tied to bootstrapping their enterprises.
- In this first round, **15 Fellows** were **awarded** a total of **$222,371 in grants**, enabling them to **create 232 new jobs**, including opportunities for **77 FDPs.**









The second round of funding was launched in November 2024, offering a combination of grants and loans to provide Fellows with sustained, long-term support. This blended approach delivers transformational capital and business resources to help Fellows build competitive, revenue-generating enterprises.

- For round two, 12 applications were received, eight of which were approved by Amahoro's Fellowship Investment Committee.
- The **12 funding applications totaled $900,000**, with **83% requested as loans** and **17% as grants**.
- So far for round two, the Fellowship Investment Committee has approved approximately **$700,000 in funding directly to youth-led FDP businesses**.

Creating Inclusive Futures for Families of Autistic Children

Ariane Umuhoza, a Rwandan entrepreneur based in Cape Town, co-founded The Oasis Inclusive Centre to support mothers of autistic children. Since 2018, the center has provided advocacy, workshops, and autism-friendly transport for 18 children to and from the Alpha School for Learners with Autism. With support from Amahoro's Funding Call 1, it launched a website, expanded its social media presence, and introduced a YouTube channel to share autism resources. The team also completed specialized training, qualifying them to train parents and caregivers, and launched Autism-Friendly Tour Services in Cape Town.

The Amahoro Fellowship boosted Oasis's visibility, helping secure UNHCR funding through the Adonis Musati Project. This enabled the distribution of sensory toy boxes to 10 families, with 15 more planned. The center has partnered with Autism Western Cape and The Scalabrini Centre, engaged over 80 parents through workshops, and improved access to specialized schools. Through these efforts, Oasis is transforming support for autistic children and their families, particularly within displaced communities.

Transforming E-Waste into Opportunity and Sustainability in Africa

Zang Luka, a Nigerian entrepreneur and Cohort 1 Fellow, is driving sustainability through Zang Global Limited (ZangTech). His company converts electronic waste into affordable products like power banks and solar lanterns while developing biodegradable packaging from agricultural waste. By integrating circular economy principles, ZangTech tackles environmental challenges and creates economic opportunities for marginalized communities.

With support from Amahoro's Funding Call 1, ZangTech expanded its operations, diverting 20 tons of e-waste from landfills, reducing 2,400 kg of carbon emissions, and creating five direct jobs while generating income for 100 waste collectors. Now part of the Mastercard Foundation's G-Cap program, ZangTech is scaling its model across Africa, including an expansion into East Africa in collaboration with Kiza Action Limited, an enterprise led by another Amahoro Fellow in Kenya.

Driving Sustainability and Empowerment through Recycling

Agwu Kalu Ibe, a Cohort 1 Amahoro Fellow, founded **LevelUp Recyclers LTD** to address plastic pollution while creating economic opportunities for displaced women and youth in Abuja, Nigeria. The company collects, processes, and sells plastic waste, engaging widows, single mothers, and vulnerable women from IDP camps as waste collectors. By providing training and fair wages, LevelUp offers a pathway to self-reliance while reducing environmental waste. The collected plastic is sorted, cleaned, and processed at the company's facility before being sold to manufacturers, turning waste into economic value.

With support from Amahoro's Funding Call 1, **LevelUp** scaled its operations by acquiring a baling machine and mini truck, increasing plastic processing capacity by **30%**. As a result, **50 women** are on track to leave the Durumi IDP camp, earning **2-5 times** above the poverty line. The company also employs **six permanent staff** and **45 part-time plastic sorters**. With a goal to recycle **1,500 tons** of plastic annually—preventing **9,000 tons of CO2** emissions—Agwu envisions expanding this model to provide livelihoods for **20,000 women** across Nigeria's IDP camps, proving that sustainable business can drive both environmental impact and economic inclusion.

Empowering Women and Girls in Kakuma Camp

Sudi Noor, a Cohort 1 Fellow and Somali refugee in Kakuma, founded the **Girl Power Action Initiative (GPAI)** to empower women and girls through education, economic opportunities, and advocacy. Since 2021, GPAI has supported **2,000** refugee girls, providing **1,000** with reusable sanitary pads, improving school attendance and reducing stigma around menstruation. The organization also offers sexual and reproductive health education (SRHE), SGBV prevention programs, and digital skills training for women aged 12 to 35.

With support from Amahoro's first funding call, **GPAI** trained **30 young mothers** in tailoring by purchasing eight sewing machines, built a classroom for SRHE and SGBV workshops, and hosted a basketball tournament during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. **GPAI** was also selected to partner with Plan International on WASH behavior change initiatives. Sudi's next goal is to establish a sanitary pad manufacturing line, creating economic opportunities for women while eradicating period poverty for schoolgirls in Kakuma.

Private Sector Engagement Snapshot

Amahoro engages with companies and business leaders across the continent to explore ways that the private sector can co-create economic opportunities with FDPs. In these engagements, we seek collaborations related to human capital development in young people and financial capital investments in their enterprises and their communities. In practice, this means working with companies on how they can hire FDPs as employees and interns, include them in their recruitment and training processes, or engage them as freelance gig workers. In terms of investments, we also explore with companies how they could expand their businesses to FDP communities, build business partnerships with FDPs including our Fellows, or provide other types of in-kind or charitable support.

In 2024 we expanded our targeted private sector engagements efforts from five to nine countries, entering into Cameroon, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Somalia. Overall, we engaged **468 unique private sector partners** (including 281 new companies) through 1:1 meetings initiated by the private sector partnerships team and through the future of business roundtables and other convenings. We introduced business leaders to opportunities for economic inclusion of RDPs and fostering collaborations to address systemic barriers to employment, resulting in identified future employment and livelihood pathways for up to **10,000 FDPs**. This process of convening, networking and solution building has resulted in **formalized commitments** from **46 companies to create at least 3,000 specific jobs**, leading to dozens of FDPs taking up jobs in 2024 in Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, and many more in the pipeline in 2025. This process has also **mobilized over $20 million** in new resources in 2024 from private sector partners for innovative, market-building solutions benefiting FDPs, while laying the groundwork for further investments in 2025 and beyond.

The **private sector team hosted 10 events in 10 countries** in 2024. In May 2024, Amahoro participated in the **Africa CEO Forum Kigali**, joining over 2,000 business leaders, investors, and policymakers to explore strategies for Africa's economic transformation. Under the theme, "At the Table or On the Menu?," the Forum emphasized leadership, digital transformation, continental integration, and financing as key agendas for positioning African businesses at the forefront of global innovation and growth. Amahoro also participated in the fourth **Africa Financial Summit (AFIS) in Morocco** in December. AFIS focused on strengthening financial sector resilience and addressing barriers to financing Africa's economies. At the event, Amahoro hosted a roundtable on "Expanding Financial Services to Africa's Underserved Markets" and presented a white paper on the topic. The roundtable brought together stakeholders from fintech, banking, microfinance, and investment sectors. Building on these discussions, Amahoro proposed the establishment of the Africa Inclusive Finance Coalition, uniting leaders to advance commitments and build a more inclusive financial ecosystem on the continent. This initiative will be built out in 2025.

Figure 5. Private Sector Reach

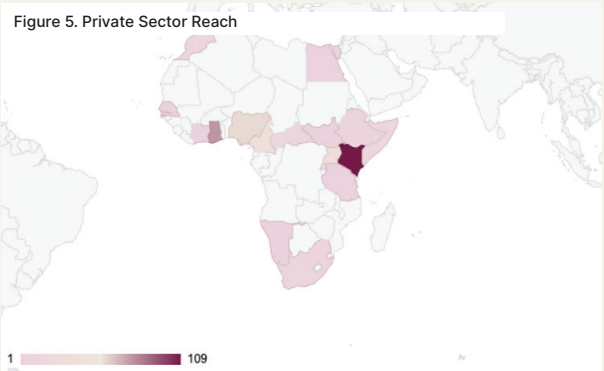
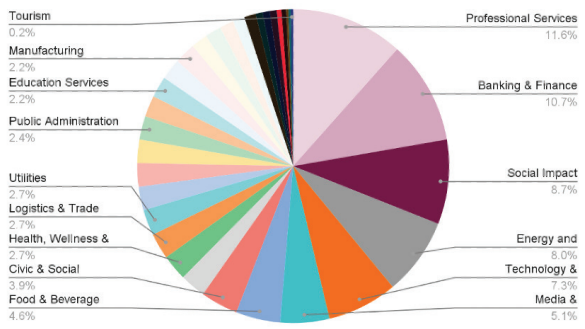
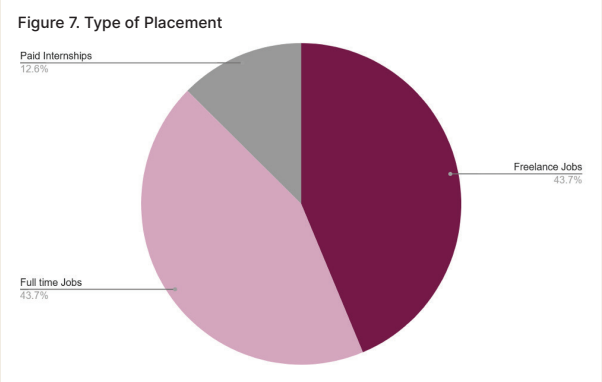
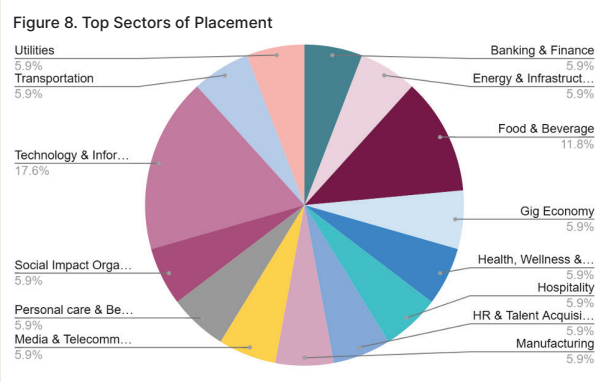


Figure 6. Area of Engagement







Amahoro has facilitated several large scale initiatives including a **$20 million in affordable housing in West Africa**, yielding more market opportunities and improved livelihoods environments for our clients. Amahoro is driving systemic changes in how the private sector engages with our clients. In 2024, we made significant progress in **three sectors - affordable housing, clean and efficient energy products, and community wifi networks**.

Bridging the Digital Divide: Eutelsat and AReL's Mission to Connect Kakuma

For years, Kakuma Refugee Camp has faced scarce, costly, and unreliable internet, limiting education, remote work, and digital services. Seeing this gap, **Kiza Ramadhan**, founder of the **African Refugee-led Education & Leadership (AReL) Initiative** and an **Amahoro Fellow**, sought a solution.

At the Jeune Afrique CEO Forum in May 2024, Amahoro connected **Eutelsat** to the opportunity of expanding connectivity in refugee settlements. Partnering with **AReL**, Eutelsat will pilot a community Wi-Fi network, offering faster, lower-cost internet in Kakuma. **AReL** will serve as the local ISP, managing operations and community adoption. Pending regulatory approvals, the pilot will test and refine the model.

More than just Wi-Fi, this initiative is a lifeline to education, jobs, and self-reliance. With Amahoro's support, **AReL** will document the impact and explore expansion to other refugee camps, proving that connectivity is a right - not a privilege.

ManCave: Creating Jobs and Upskilling Refugee Barbers

Amahoro facilitated a partnership between ManCave, a grooming business, and Alight, an international NGO that works alongside refugees and displaced communities, to recruit and equip refugee barbers in Nairobi. With Alight providing essential barber equipment, **six refugees** were hired at ManCave and its sister franchise, Royal Africa - each reporting a **2-5 times increase** in their **incomes** as a result.

Recognizing a need for further training, ManCave is transforming its office into a barber training center, ProArtist, offering technical and soft skills development alongside discounted haircuts. Amahoro continues to support ManCave in securing funding and leveraging external partnerships to scale this initiative, strengthening job creation and economic inclusion opportunities for displaced individuals.

Client Engagement Snapshot

At the heart of the Coalition's mission is a commitment to fostering economic inclusion opportunities for our clients (FDPs). Through our client engagement work, we build diverse networks, cultivate strong stakeholder relationships, and develop tailored solutions to address unique economic inclusion challenges. By maintaining close connections with FDP communities, we identify and place clients in jobs, integrate them into private sector commitments, and connect them with leadership opportunities, such as the Fellows Program. Additionally, our deep understanding of client priorities enables us to advocate effectively within Amahoro and across the broader refugee economic inclusion ecosystem.

Amahoro's client sourcing strategy leverages partnerships with Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs), universities, vocational training schools, and NGOs to access FDP communities and regional networks. RLOs provide trusted grassroots connections, aligning client skills with job opportunities. Collaborations with universities and vocational programs ensure internships and job placements for refugee students and skilled graduates. Partnerships with NGOs and multilateral agencies offer access to vetted FDPs and critical resources like internet access and digital training. This multi-channel approach ensures a scalable client pool while advancing economic inclusion across Africa.

Bridging Somalia's Skills Gap

The **Banadir Training Institute (BTI)**, founded in 2019, equips Somali youth with **technical skills** in electrical work, mechanics, carpentry, and construction to address the country's labor shortages. Despite Somalia's growing private sector, many skilled jobs are filled by foreign workers. Established by BECO and the Banadir Water Association - two of Mogadishu's largest employers - BTI builds local capacity to meet workforce demands.

Through a partnership with Amahoro, BTI will train and employ **1,200 displaced youth** over **three years**. By combining technical training with strategic networks, this collaboration fosters resilience, economic independence, and inclusive growth while supplying Somalia's businesses with skilled local talent

Our commitment to collaborating with refugee-led organizations to create lasting solutions is demonstrated by our **network of 77 refugee-led organizations** across s**even countries**, increasing our **reach to over 15,000 FDPs** in their networks and increasing our talent pool to approximately **2,000 individuals** with the distribution below.

Figure 9. Distribution by Country

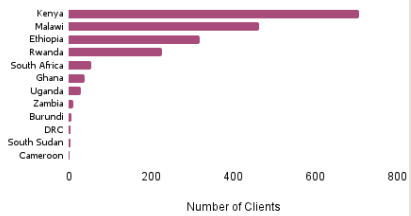


Figure 10. Level of Education

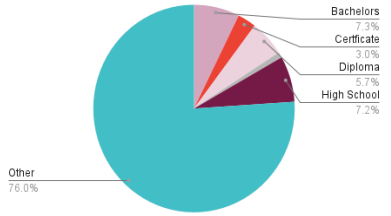
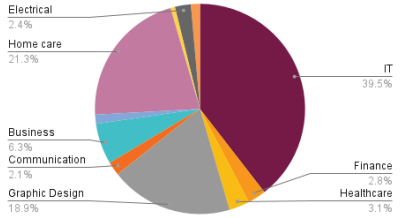


Figure 11. Top Job Functions



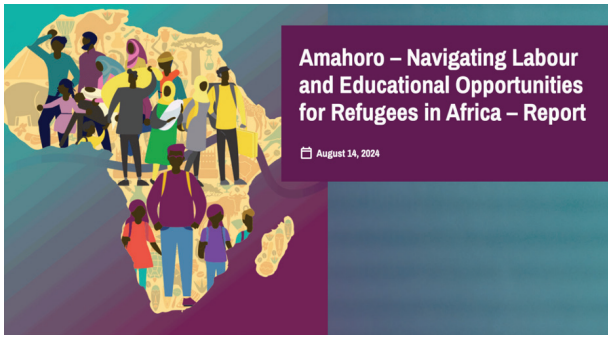
Analytics, Research & Advocacy Snapshot

Analytics

Amahoro Coalition is a data-driven organization, using robust analytics to document our impact and showcase the value of our unique approach to refugee economic inclusion. As one of the few actors that approach the crisis of displacement in Africa from an economic inclusion and private sector engagement perspective, it is critical that we document our impact with not only compelling impact stories, but also quantifiable data and robust analysis in order to showcase the value of our unique approach. Analytics are thus central to our work and play a central role in helping us to drive the narrative on economic inclusion of FDPs in Africa. By leveraging diverse data sources and analytical tools, we assess our programs across sectors, test engagement strategies, and generate actionable insights. These analytics not only enhance our performance but also strengthen our storytelling, reporting, and advocacy efforts, aligning with our goal of driving the narrative on FDP economic inclusion in Africa.

Research

Amahoro has led the way in convening private sector leaders in Africa to drive social impact and benefit FDP communities. Dedicated research enables Amahoro to produce actionable insights that influence policy, foster innovation, and guide efforts to overcome economic inclusion barriers. Our work with research partners ensures that the voices of FDPs and RLOs are integral to shaping solutions and creating sustainable impact. In 2024, Amahoro created and commissioned the following key research pieces;



Navigating Labor & Educational Opportunities for Refugees in Africa: This paper explores the evolving policy focus on durable solutions for FDPs, emphasizing refugees' rights to education, employment, and settlement. It highlights the gap between policy aspirations and realities and recommends strategies to bridge it, including adopting inclusive national policies, fostering regional collaboration, and engaging the private sector to scale impactful initiatives.

Expanding Financial Services in Africa's Fragile Markets: This paper examines the challenges and opportunities of expanding financial services in Africa's fragile markets. Highlighting successful private sector initiatives, it offers actionable recommendations for financial services leaders on leveraging tailored strategies and partnerships to drive revenue growth while advancing economic inclusion.

Upcoming in 2025:

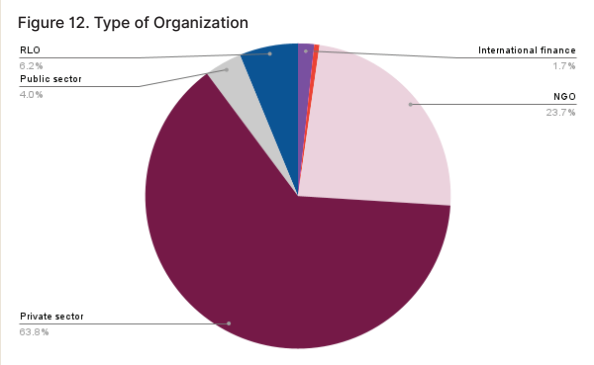
- "Pathways to Employment" research series, in partnership with the Refugee Led Research Hub, provides step by step guidelines on how FDPs can access formal employment across 16 countries in Africa. These first-of-their-kind publications fill a critical information gap and will inform scalable models for job creation across the continent. Findings will be disseminated through the Coalition's extensive in-country networks. We will develop user-friendly resources from the reports that clarify refugee workplace rights for private sector actors, empower refugee-supporting organizations to educate and advocate effectively, and highlight areas where governments and stakeholders can collaborate to improve refugee economic inclusion.

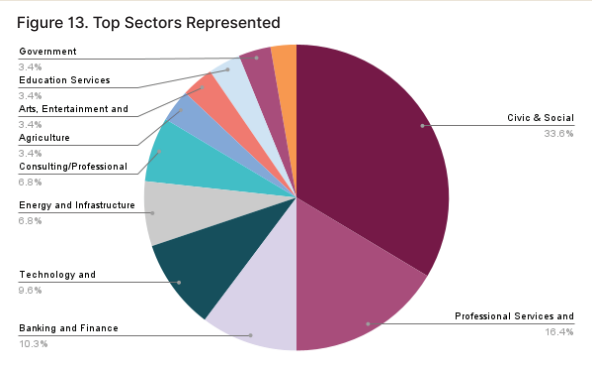
- Policy Brief on AfCFTA: The Coalition has commissioned a study to explore the potential economic inclusion opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), with a focus on cross-border trade within the EAC and IGAD regions.

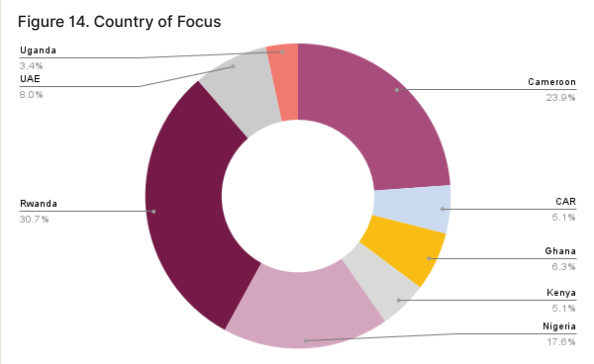
Advocacy

Influencing policymakers and industry leaders is central to our mission of driving systemic change and creating environments that support FDP economic inclusion. Leveraging insights from our programming, research, and partnerships, we aim to reshape how key actors understand displacement and its impact on youth. By fostering shared perspectives on the opportunities of engaging FDPs, we work to inspire the adoption of new policies and practices while addressing barriers that hinder economic inclusion for our clients.

The Coalition has hosted in-person and virtual roundtables throughout Africa and engaged CEOs around the opportunities to FDP economic inclusion in their respective countries. We worked directly with **six governments** to build support for co-created solutions involving the private sector and to address barriers to implementation, such as the return of 300,000 refugees to the Central African Republic, the digital training and job placement of internally displaced persons in Nigeria, and the transition to work of refugees in Ghana.







Looking Forward to 2025

Be part of #AFD2025: the largest gathering of African private sector leaders addressing the challenges of displacement

As the world faces unprecedented displacement crises, the need for action-oriented conversations is more critical than ever. Join us in **Nairobi, Kenya,** from **28th** to **29th April 2025** for the **Africa Forum on Displacement 2025,** where leaders from the private sector, government, and civil society will come together to address the challenges and opportunities of displacement in Africa.

Register today and be part of re-shaping the future of Africa's displacement!

Fellowship - Launch of Cohort 3

Amahoro is excited to launch Cohort 3 of the Fellowship Program in **June 2025**, bringing together **30 exceptional FDP leaders** from across Africa, with a strong focus on increasing women's representation in the program. Selected through a rigorous process, these Fellows exemplify resilience, innovation, and the potential to drive lasting impact in their communities. Building on the success of previous cohorts, the program will provide leadership training, mentorship, access to funding, and extensive networks to help Fellows scale their ideas and initiatives. With an emphasis on transformative change, leadership, and community impact, the Fellowship will equip them with tools to create sustainable solutions for refugee economic inclusion.

We are excited to witness the journeys and achievements of **Cohort 3** in 2025 and beyond! **Know a potential candidate? Want to support the program? Follow us on social media, share this opportunity, and help us build the next generation of changemakers!**

Economic Inclusion Initiative

Amahoro Coalition is designing a groundbreaking initiative in partnership with leading African businesses, aimed at advancing the economic inclusion of FDPs. By pledging a percentage of revenue, investments, or employment opportunities, businesses can align their strategies with impactful social change. This initiative provides a structured pathway for engagement and celebrates participating companies as pioneers, inspiring others to follow suit. This effort is vital for connecting businesses to untapped opportunities while fostering inclusion and economic growth across the continent. **We will be sharing more information on our socials in March 2025. Stay tuned!**

AMAHORO COALITION

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