COMMUNITY UPDATE

# AMPLIFYING REFUGEE WOMEN-LED WORK AND LEADERSHIP

## HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

- 20 women-led refugee organizations engaged across Uganda
- 7 new partnerships established
- With women-led refugee organizations
- 3 ongoing partnerships strengthened
- Through continued collaboration
- USD 85,000 in grants secured for women-led refugee organizations
- Peer-led wellness sessions ongoing
- Community-led livelihood initiatives supported

## Overview

Fuse works alongside refugee women-led organizations (WRLOs) to strengthen collaboration and long-term community-led impact.
Over the past months, we visited nearly 20 WRLOs across Kyaka II, Nakivale, Rwamwanja refugee settlements and Kampala to better understand the work they are already leading, their aspirations, and the realities they navigate daily.
Through these engagements, we continue to see the strength, innovation, and community knowledge that already exists within refugee women-led ecosystems

## our approach

**Ecosystem-Centered Support**
We work alongside WRLOs as partners, recognizing refugee women leaders as experts, organizers, and drivers of change within their communities.

**Peer Learning & Shared Expertise**
Organizations within the network support one another through shared skills, knowledge, and lived experience.

**Visibility & Documentation**
We support organizations to document their work, strengthen accountability systems, improve branding, and increase visibility.

**Long-Term Sustainability**
Our focus is on strengthening conditions that allow refugee women-led work to grow sustainably through visibility, systems change advocacy, and access to funding and wider opportunities.

## Community Highlights

Community-Led Savings Groups
We connected with a women-led organisations running a VSLA initiative sustained entirely through member contributions. Through small rotating loans, women are able to start businesses, pay school fees, access medication, and support their households.

Mental Health & Collective Wellbeing
Refugee Mental Health Network facilitates wellness exercises during our twice-monthly partner meetings, creating spaces for care, reflection, and collective wellbeing across the network.

Regenerative Agriculture & Livelihoods
Minak continues to support refugee women through regenerative agriculture initiatives that strengthen livelihoods and food security.
Despite limited external funding, the initiative currently employs six people.

## What we are learning

The most impactful solutions are often already community-led.
Across the organizations we engage with, refugee women are building systems of care, economic resilience, and leadership with limited resources but deep community knowledge.
What continues to emerge is the value of listening, trust, and building with communities rather than working around them, supporting visibility, sustainability, collaboration, and access to funding while allowing communities to lead their own work.

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