



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the annual report of Resilience Action International (RAI), a refugee-led non-governmental organization that provides vocational education, entrepreneurship programs, and reproductive health services to refugee youths in Kenya.

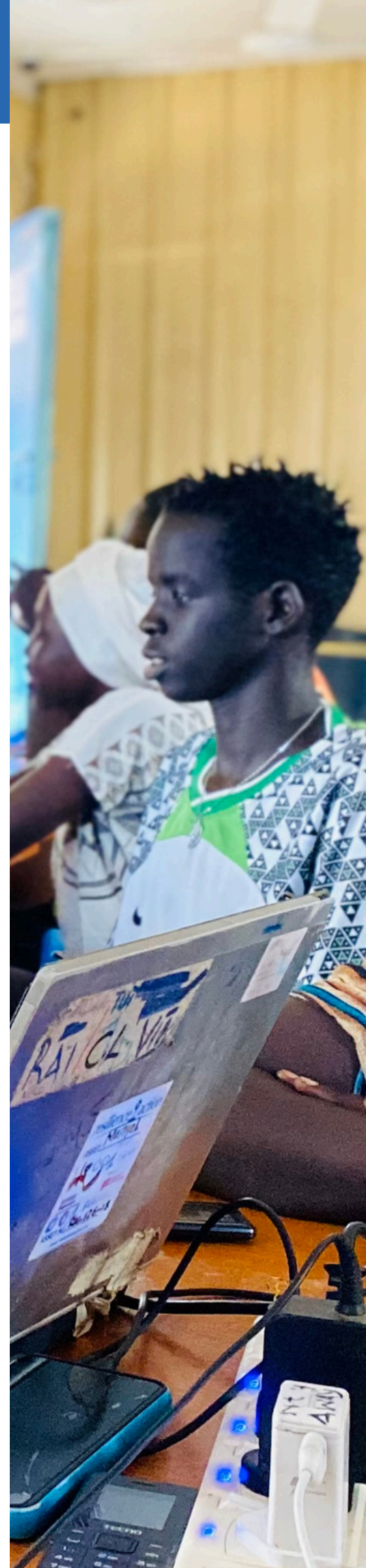
In 2023, our guiding principle revolved around a steadfast theory of change. Grounded in the belief that by delivering top-tier skills training and education, facilitating economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, and advancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRH-R) of our beneficiaries, we can significantly enhance their well-being, dignity, and self-reliance.

MISSION AND VISION

Resilience Action International (RAI) stands as a beacon of hope, a refugee-led non-governmental organization dedicated to empowering displaced youths in Kenya through vocational education, entrepreneurship programs, and reproductive health services.

Our mission is to equip displaced youth with skills and tools to achieve greater economic potential.

Our vision is to create a society in which every displaced person is enabled to thrive economically and socially.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the year 2023, we made significant strides, impacting the lives of 3,487 refugee youths through our flagship programs: vocational education, entrepreneurship, and livelihoods, and youth reproductive health.

Through these initiatives, we delivered top-tier skills training, fostered economic empowerment and entrepreneurial spirit, and championed the sexual and reproductive health and rights of our beneficiaries.

Our efforts extended to combating gender-based violence, early marriage, and teenage pregnancy, while staunchly advocating for the rights and needs of our youth.

We achieved remarkable results and outcomes across our three main programs:

- 98% of our vocational education trainees completed the training and received certificates
- 65% of them secured formal or informal employment or higher education opportunities within six months of graduation.

- 96% of our entrepreneurship and livelihoods participants completed the financial literacy and business development training,
- 55% of them started or expanded their businesses within 5 months of enrolling in the program.
- 90% of our youth reproductive health participants attended the awareness-raising sessions on sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- 87% of them were assessed and proved to have gained critical skills and knowledge on SRHR

Undoubtedly, 2023 presented its share of challenges and opportunities. The global economic landscape's uncertainty and volatility impacted our fundraising endeavors and donor relationships, necessitating a pivot towards alternative and sustainable income streams.

Despite these hurdles, we remain steadfastly grateful to our donors,

supporters, partners, and dedicated staff whose unwavering commitment has underpinned our success.

Their trust, confidence, cooperation, and invaluable contributions have propelled our organization forward, and we eagerly anticipate deepening and fortifying our collaboration in the years to come.

Finally, we extend our profound admiration and gratitude to our beneficiaries, whose resilience, courage, and unwavering pursuit of excellence continue to inspire us.

Their dedication to education, livelihoods, and health serves as a testament to the indomitable human spirit, and we stand committed to supporting and empowering them on their journey towards a brighter future.



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Our objectives for 2023 were as follows:

- Reach out to 3,500 refugee youths through our three primary programs: vocational education, entrepreneurship, and livelihoods, and youth reproductive health.
- Attain a minimum completion and employment rate of 80% for our vocational education trainees.
- Witness a 50% increase in income among our entrepreneurship and livelihoods participants.
- Enhance the knowledge and awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights for at least 85% of our youth reproductive health participants.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

REFUGEE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM (REP)

In 2023, the Refugee Entrepreneurship Program reached 1,876 refugee youths via skills training and small business start-up grants.

These initiatives encompassed immersive sessions on financial literacy, comprehensive business development training, insightful workshops on savings and loans, and collaborative efforts within cooperatives.

Moreover, aspiring and existing entrepreneurs received vital support in the form of seed grants, microloans, and invaluable mentorship.

Despite its successes, the Refugee Entrepreneurship Program encountered several challenges, including addressing the low levels of literacy and numeracy among certain participants, navigating the complexities of high interest rates and repayment difficulties associated with some microloans, and confronting competition and regulatory hurdles within certain business sectors.

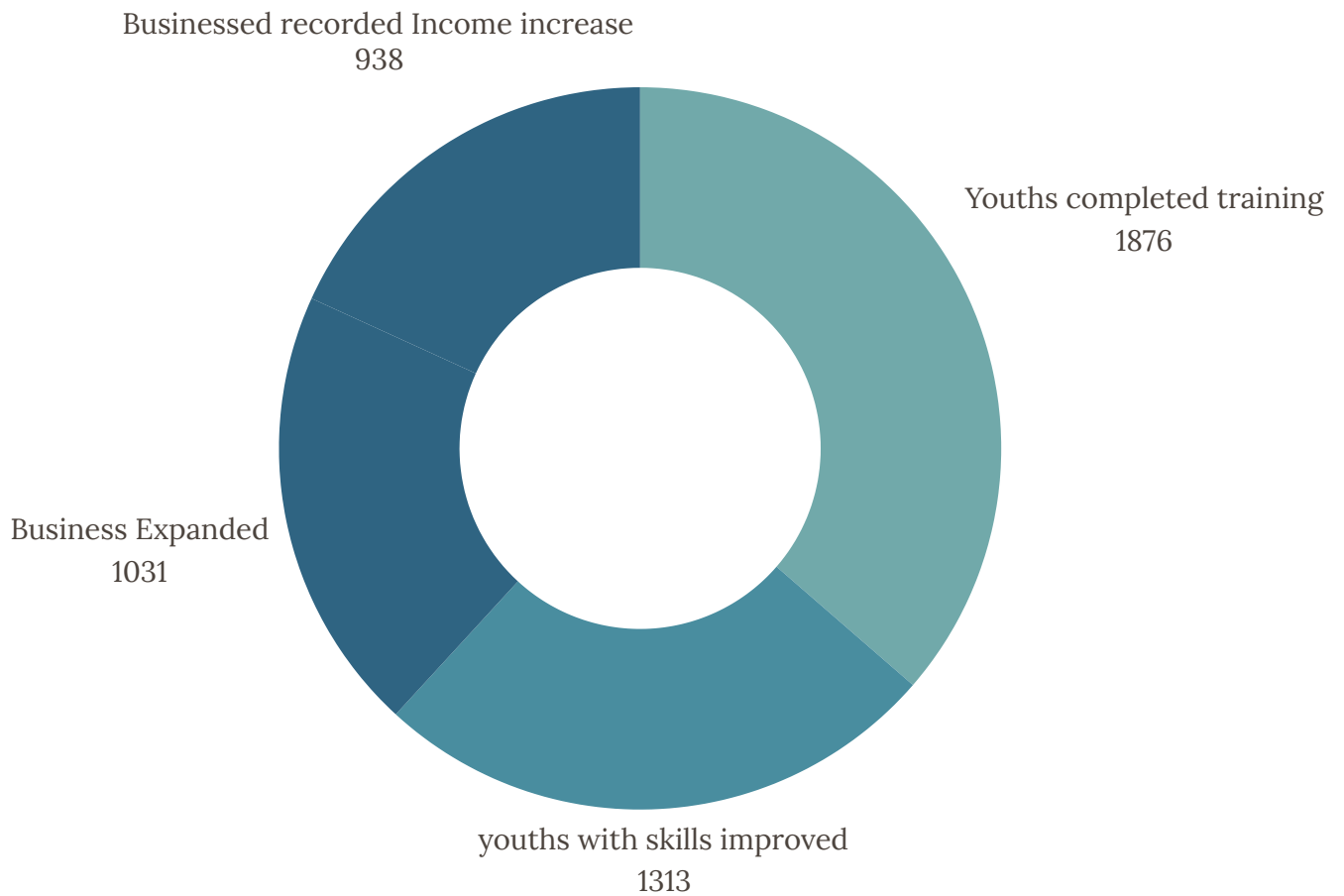
However, amidst these challenges, the program gleaned invaluable insights and best practices, including the efficacy of peer-to-peer learning and support mechanisms, the integration of gender and environmental considerations, and fruitful collaborations with local financial institutions and regulatory authorities

These lessons serve as guiding beacons for future endeavors, ensuring continued growth and effectiveness in empowering refugee youths towards economic self-sufficiency.



REP STATISTICS

The Refugee Entrepreneurs Program (REP) yielded remarkable outcomes:



80% completed financial literacy and business development training.



70% improved financial management and planning skills



55% started or expanded businesses with seed grants or microloans.



50% increased income and assets due to the program

50%

REP trainees increased trade income and assets in 2023

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING (VET)

The vocational education training program reached 2,345 refugee youths, imparting essential skills crucial for their future.

Courses offered included English Language and ICT, supplemented by certificate courses facilitated through partners like the Open Society University Network and Jesuit World Wide Learning, F5 Company, COHERE, leading to employment and higher education opportunities.

The program faced challenges including inadequate equipment and facilities, high dropout rates, and limited access to markets and finance for graduates.

To address these challenges, the RAI implemented innovative strategies such as mobilizing resources to improve infrastructure, providing post-training mentorship and counseling to increase job acquisition among participants, and forging partnerships with strategic institutions to enhance access to learning materials and funding for digital skills courses.

In addition to these efforts, we prioritized community engagement through public exhibitions on digital safety and security, and school to school visits,

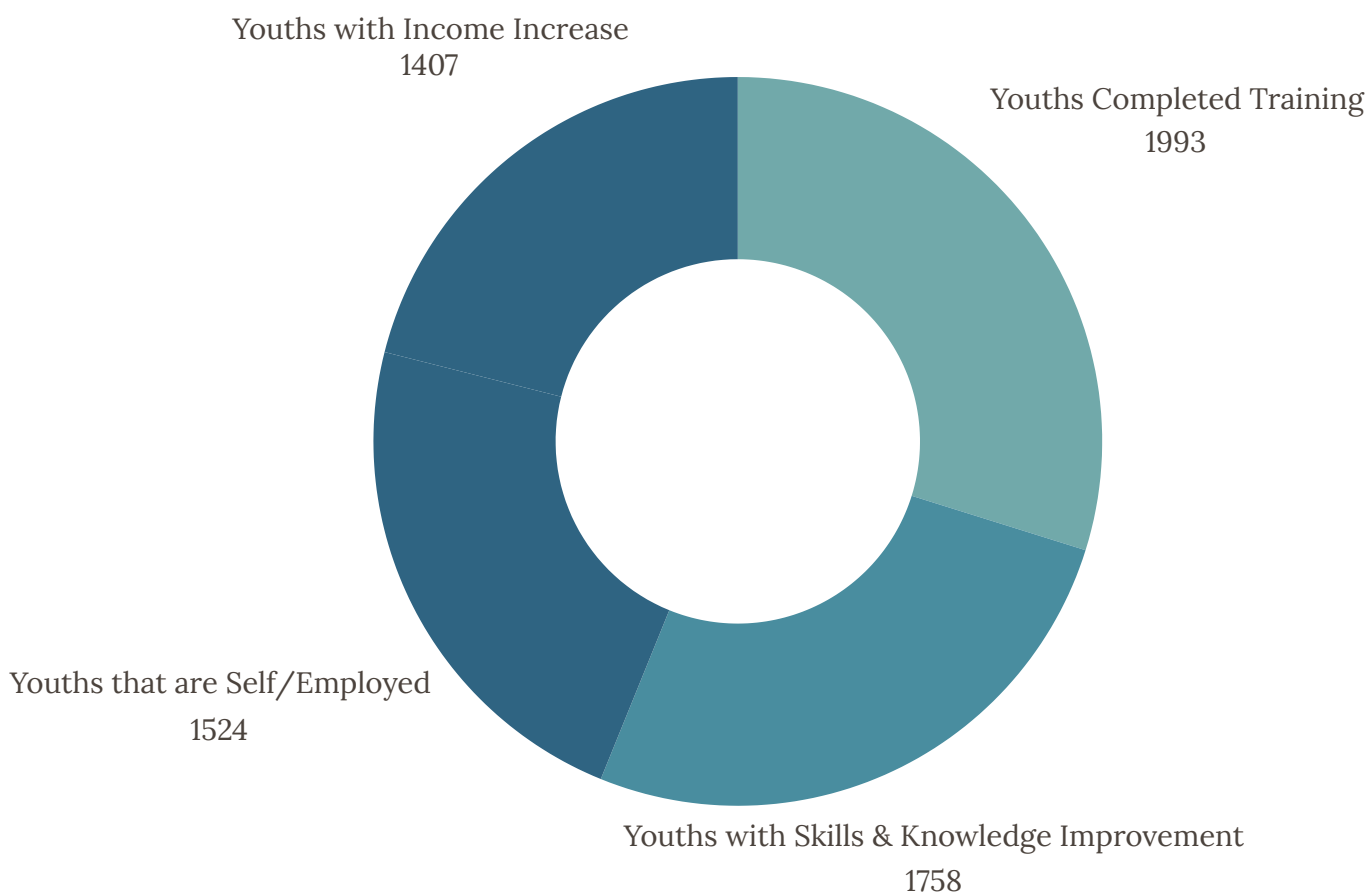
fostering a supportive environment for young adults to transition into vocational training after school.

Through such initiatives, the program not only equipped refugee youths with practical skills but also encouraged collaboration and networking among participants, further enhancing their prospects for success in their chosen fields.



VET STATISTICS

The Vocational Education Training (VET) achieved the following results:



85% completed training and received certificates.



75% reported improved knowledge and skills.



65% secured employment or started businesses within six months of graduation.



60% increased income and savings post-training.

65%

VET trainees secured jobs or self-employment in 2023

YOUTH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM (YRH)

In 2023, this program reached out to 2,109 refugee youths and adults, embarking on a mission to bolster their sexual and reproductive health and rights through a multifaceted approach.

From raising awareness to offering counseling, testing, and referrals, every effort was made to address pressing issues like gender-based violence, early marriage, and teenage pregnancy, all while staunchly advocating for the rights and well-being of young refugees.

Despite formidable challenges stemming from stigma, discrimination, and systemic barriers, including cultural and religious divides, as well as limited healthcare resources, the program remained resolute.

Guided by proven methodologies, it embraced youth-friendly and confidential approaches, enlisted the support of community and religious leaders, and empowered youths to serve as peer educators and advocates.

In doing so, YRH program not only overcame obstacles but also fostered a supportive environment where refugee youths could thrive and assert their rights with confidence and dignity.

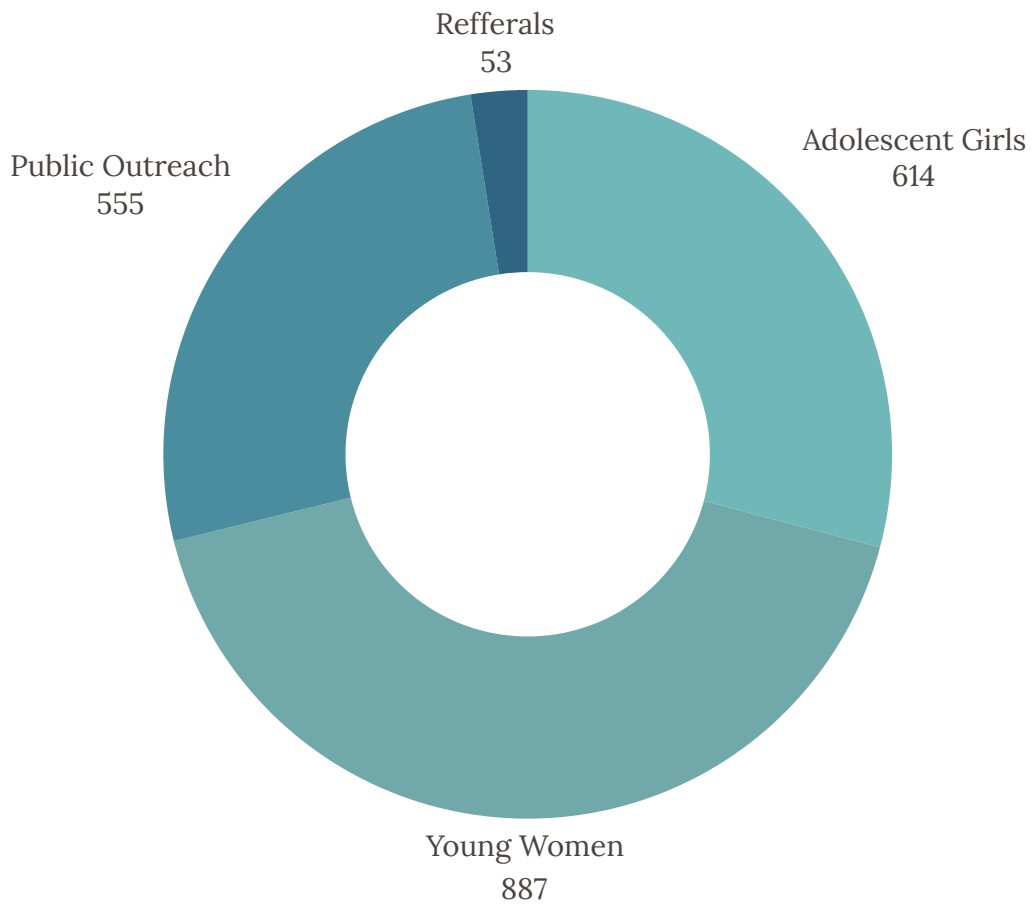
Amidst formidable environmental challenges such as flooding and mud pans, which made it arduous to reach activity sites, the team exhibited remarkable resilience and determination.

Beyond overcoming environmental hurdles, we forged meaningful partnerships with the community to broaden its impact. By collaborating with local health pharmacists, herbalists, and medical drug suppliers in the Kakuma refugee camp, YRH facilitated conversations on access to crucial services such as maternity care and post-abortion services in camp settings.



YRH STATISTICS

The Youth Reproductive Health Program (YRH) performed as indicated:



614 Adolescent Girls were reached by School-based Comprehensive Sex Education



887 Young Women participated in sexual & reproductive health Rights workshops



555 Men and Women of the public were involved in community outreach program



53 Youths and Adolescents were referred to psychosocial & protection services

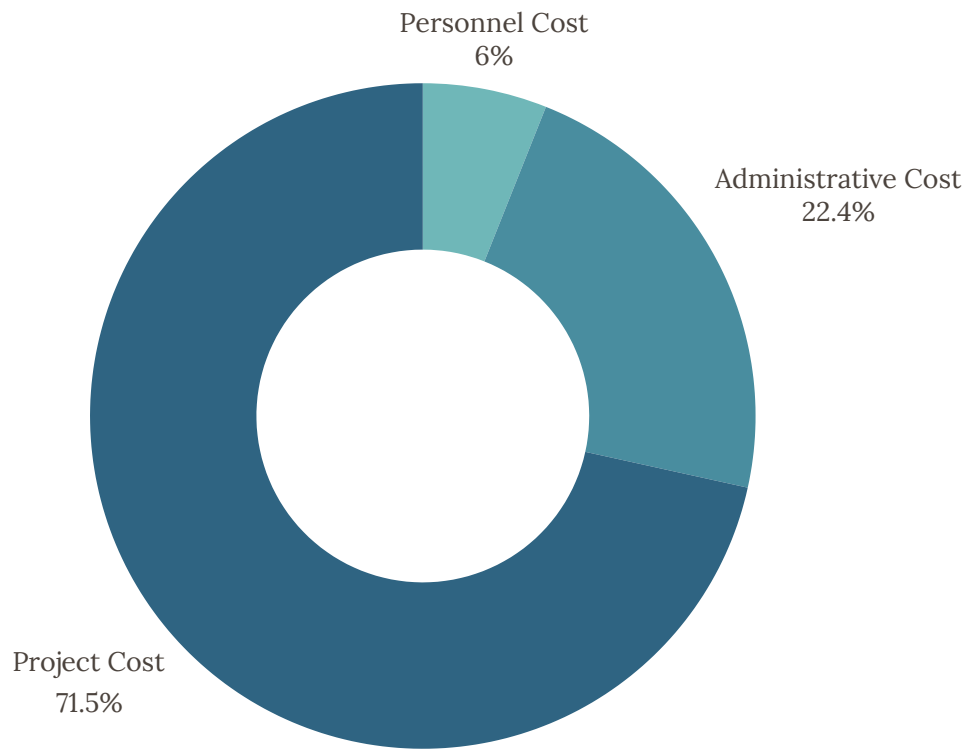
87%

YRH Participants recorded knowledge and skills gain

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE IN 2023

Resilience Action International total revenue for year 2023 was USD \$ 235,756.84



71%

Of Total Revenue went to
Project Implementation

STORIES OF CHANGE

BILEWANE BIENVENE

In the sprawling expanse of Kakuma Refugee Camp, amidst the harsh realities of displacement and uncertainty, a story of resilience and determination unfolds.

Meet Bilewane Bienvene, a 30-year-old Congolese man whose journey epitomizes the transformative power of education and opportunity.

Arriving in Kakuma in 2011, Bilewane found himself thrust into a foreign land, alone and without a roadmap for the future.

With the echoes of war still fresh in his mind, he grappled with the daunting prospect of rebuilding his life from scratch.

Despite the challenges and the temptation to surrender to despair, Bilewane chose to persevere, fueled by the hope of a better tomorrow.

In the vastness of the camp, Bilewane found solace in the camaraderie of newfound friends who introduced him to Resilience Action International (RAI), then known as SAVIC.

Recognizing the importance of education in shaping his destiny, Bilewane embarked on a journey of self-discovery, enrolling in RAI's Beginner English course.

However, the path to success was fraught with obstacles. Twice, Bilewane faced setbacks, dropping out of courses in pursuit of immediate financial stability.

Yet, undeterred by adversity, he remained steadfast in his resolve to carve out a brighter future for himself and his family.

With renewed determination, Bilewane rekindled his commitment to education, completing courses in basic and advanced ICT through RAI.

Armed with newfound skills and knowledge, he seized the opportunity to enroll in the Entrepreneurship course, recognizing it as a gateway to economic empowerment and financial stability.

Through the REP program, Bilewane's

entrepreneurial spirit flourished. Armed with newfound financial literacy and business acumen, he transformed his small shop into a thriving enterprise, adeptly managing his finances and laying the groundwork for future growth.

RAI's mission to empower youth with knowledge and skills resonates deeply with Bilewane's experience. With each success story like his, RAI moves closer to realizing its vision of a future where every refugee youth can thrive economically and realize their full potential



Bilewane arranging merchandise at his general shop in Kakuma 2.

PARTNERS & DONORS



Jesuit Worldwide Learning
Higher Education at the Margins



CONTACT US

Email:

info@resilienceaction.net

Mailing Address

PO BOX 9365,
00100 Nairobi - Kenya

Headquarter Offices

RAI Campus - Kakuma
Kak2.Zn2.B2
Kakuma Refugee Camp
Turkana West, Kenya

Social Handles

X Page: @ResilienceAct
LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram:
Resilience Action International

Website

www.resilienceaction.net

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