



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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FOREWORD BY FOUNDER



Founded in 2010, Resilience Action International has worked tirelessly to equip refugees with vocational and social skills to regain economic self-sufficiency. Like previous years, 2019 was full of excitement for RAI. During the year, we graduated more than 10 cohorts, serving almost 800 young refugees in our vocational education and ASRH (Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health) programs. It has been my privilege to work with my team who are so dedicated to serve the youth in their communities.

Kakuma Refugee Camp currently hosts more than 40,000 youths. Growing up as refugees, these young people aspire to find opportunities to engage in productive livelihoods and live with economic agency. However, according to UNHCR, only 6% of refugee youth have access to secondary education, while only 1% of qualifying refugee youth are enrolled in tertiary or technical education programs. Many refugee youth without education and requisite skills fail to find a job. Vocational education is the anchor that will help youth to access further economic opportunities. With this in mind, RAI is committed to continue supporting youth with the provision of various vocational courses. We believe that, one day, all refugee youth will have the skills, capacity and agency to stand on their own.

With your staunch support over the past years, we are thrilled to have reached nearly 10,000 refugee youth and impacted their lives. As a refugee-led NGO, we engage youth's voices to better serve their needs and ensure our project implementation is also informed and guided by youth themselves. In our tenth year, we will continue to empower our youth – to ensure their rights, provide access to opportunities and ultimately realize their full potential.

Muzabel Welongo, Founder

ABOUT US

Founded in Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp in 2010, and formerly known as Solidarity & Advocacy with Vulnerable Individuals in Crisis (SAVIC), Resilience Action International (RAI) is a refugee-run non-profit organization that supports displaced youth to achieve a better future. Since its creation, the organization has grown from a small self-help group, to a registered NGO with operations in Kenya. While our current full-staff size is 3, we are empowered by more than 45 refugee staff who work with us on a full-time capacity but receive a stipend due to legal labor restrictions.

We support refugee youths through vocational education and livelihood development programs. By doing this, we are leveraging the abilities and potential of refugee youth to forge new and better paths for their own futures. Our programs cover English Language, Tailoring and Fashion Design, Small Business Start-up and Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health. Our educational offerings are aimed at preparing refugee youth for informal and formal employment, as well as for entrepreneurship.



OUR VISION

We nurture economically empowered, self-sufficient refugees.

OUR MISSION

We enable refugee youth to live to their full potential by increasing access to education and productive livelihood opportunities.

OUR VALUES

Refugee-led, community-driven

We work as a group of passionate and excellent refugees and we make sure the voices of youth in the community are being heard.

Accountability and Transparency

We are to be held accountable for our actions and we conduct our activities with complete and open transparency.

Self-reliance

We believe every refugee can gain agency in their lives through education and employment.



IMPACT SUMMARY



Enrol

refugee youth



Train & Develop

equip them with
technical, vocational
skills



Sustain

increase their access
to employment &
entrepreneurship
opportunities



5

technical &
vocational education
courses provided

911

refugee youth
served

List of courses we provided:

1. English Language*
2. Small Business Start-up
3. Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health (ASRH)
4. Tailoring & Fashion Design
5. Digital Literacy**

*one of the courses (Global English Language) was provided in partnership with Jesuit Worldwide Learning

**this course was provided in partnership with Xavier project

No. of refugee youth completed our course in the year of 2019

COURSE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
English	317	132	449
Small Business Start-up	36	13	49
ASRH	80	144	224
Tailoring & Fashion Design	19	85	104
Digital Literacy	55	30	85
Total	507	404	911

WHY RAI?

:

CHALLENGES OF REFUGEE YOUTH

1 Lack of Quality Education

Faced with these constraints, many refugees lack the ability to meet their daily livelihoods and are forced to live a future full of uncertainty. According to UNHCR, more than 60% of refugees are children and youth below the age of 25. While 90% of the world's children attend primary school, only 60% of refugee children do. In Kakuma Refugee Camp, only about 6% of high-school age refugees (13-18) are enrolled in high school, and only 1% of refugee youth are enrolled in tertiary or technical education programs. As a result of limited opportunities for education, many refugees cannot access employment opportunities, a situation that leads to a low sense of dependence, self-actualization, and increase gender-based crimes within refugee communities.

In addition to the limited access to education, existing education solutions targeting refugee youth use traditional, low-quality teaching methods that produce professionals who are not ready to compete in the local and regional markets. Most education programs lack learning infrastructure, have poorly trained teachers, and have not adapted with the most recent technologies that are relevant in today's labor market. Most of these programs fall short of offering fully engaging, market-oriented and locally adapted learning experience to their students..



2 Early Pregnancy

Currently, Sexual Reproductive Health and rights in this area is mainly taught by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and is not mandatory for the youth or any other participants to attend. Statistics reveal that youth in the refugee camp are sexually active by the age of 12, and more than half of the female population suffer unwanted pregnancies before the age of 18. A study by the UN Children's Fund in 2016 indicated that HIV prevalence in Kakuma stood at 7.6%, which is alarming. Worse still, parents and elders within the community do not discuss these issues with their kin as SRH is a taboo topic in this conservative culture.

With limited knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and no access to contraception, teenage women become unintentionally pregnant and without proper planning, it might lead to a range of health risks such as sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) for the mothers. Early and forced marriage can be both a cause and a consequence for the issue. Teenage mothers often drop out of school, limiting the opportunities for education and employment.



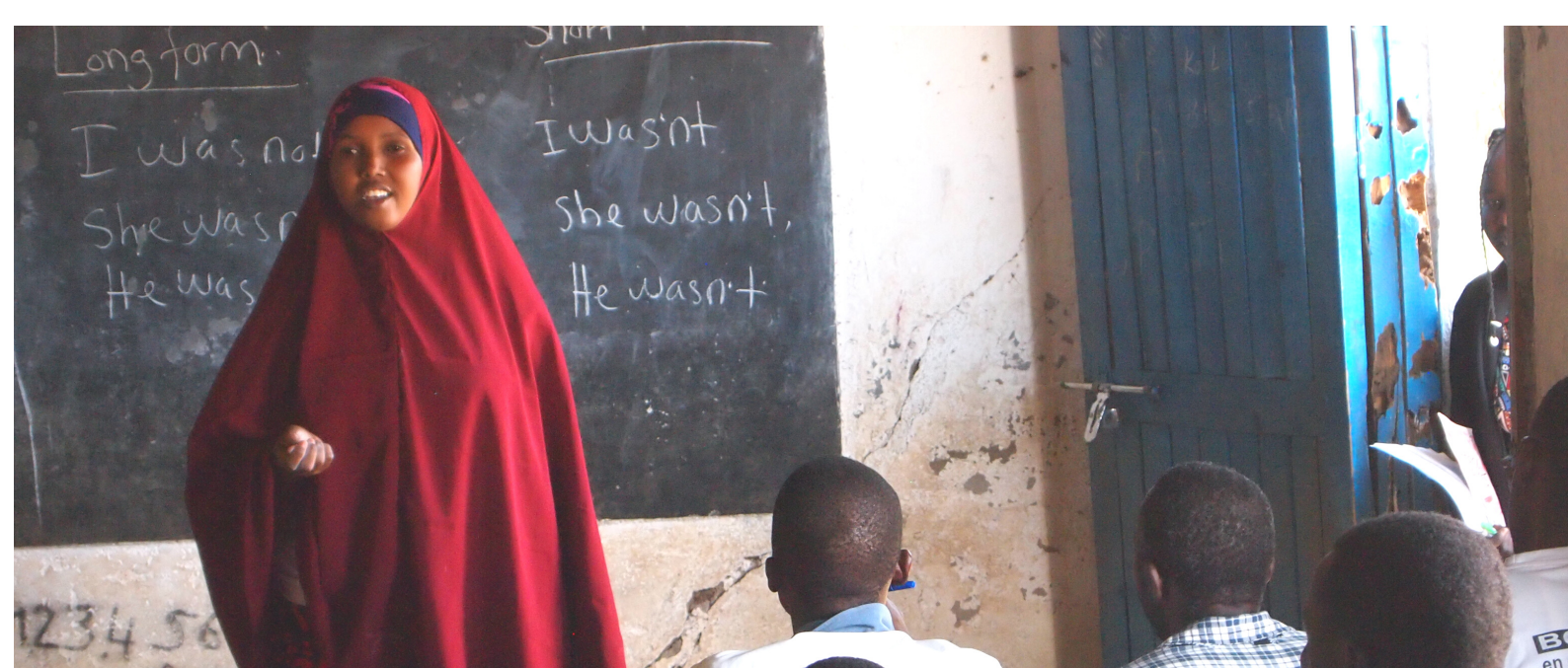
OUR SOLUTIONS

1 Provide technical & vocational education

Our Education for Livelihood Program aims to provide internationally recognized vocational training that is directly linked to the local market, taking input from local employers and business networks. The program supports refugee youth on their path to getting work opportunities as well as starting their businesses, and thus regain self-sufficiency.

2 Provide sexual and reproductive health (SRH) program

Our SRH program aims to increase teenage women access to sexual and reproductive health knowledge and rights, and promote the use of family planning and contraceptives among sexually active adolescents, in order to reduce adolescent pregnancy and HIV infections. Inadvertently, by empowering them and imparting life skills, we hope to increase the number of refugee youth in classrooms, and increase their life opportunities.



OUR PROGRAMS

1 Education for Livelihood Program (edLive)

It is designed to build vocational, technical and soft skills to prepare young refugees for meaningful employment and entrepreneurship through provision of certificates and short courses.

We developed courses in three main learning areas to give refugees enough options to choose from: English Language, Small Business start-up and Tailoring and Fashion Design. This program has increased technical and soft skills for job acquisition, as well as reduced barriers and limitations in accessing employment among refugee youth.

3 PROGRAMS

11 INTAKES

737 YOUTH REFUGEES COMPLETED THE INTAKES





ENGLISH

Beginner
intermediate
Upper intermediate

A 16-week course designed to help young refugees to gain English, career and life skills through the activities of reading, writing, working on grammar exercises and peer discussion in class on three levels.

SMALL BUSINESS START-UP

A 16-week course to build and strengthen the competence of potential young refugee entrepreneurs to launch, manage and grow their businesses. We covered entrepreneurship skills, market research and business plan writing skills.

TAILORING & FASHION DESIGN

A 8-month course for youth refugees who want to work in garment making sector with the aim to learn, develop and practice the skills required by the market. They can then get employment in garment manufacturing unit or get self employed by opening a tailoring shop.

2 Sexual & Reproductive Health Program

Through this program, we were to improve reproductive health information among adolescent and youth refugees aged 14 to 18 through accurate, relevant and culture-sensitive education and awareness and to enhance access to youth-friendly, confidential and safe reproductive health services. The program also builds the capacity of communities to support youth in accessing RH information and services through circulation of educational materials and workshops.

The following activities were carried out in the year:

- Reproductive Health curriculum for adolescent in and out of school
- Private counselling and provision of condoms
- Referrals to existing health clinics
- Training for parents and other adult community members on effective methods of communicating SRH information with their adolescents
- Community health services including, peer education, condoms, referrals for contraceptives

98

trained adolescent in
SRH course

122

adolescents were referred
to access the IRC Clinics

242

adult community members
were trained in approaches
to support adolescent

360

family planning and
services done for sexually
active adolescents



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Other than our programs, we have collaborated with different non-profits to improve youth refugees' lives. In the year end, we also organized a Youth Needs Mapping Exercise with the community.

GLOBAL ENGLISH COURSE (GEL)

Co-organized with Jesuit Worldwide Learning

It brings a comprehensive high-quality, internationally-known approach to learning Global English using the Common European Framework of References for Languages (CEFR).

Refugee youth will be able to communicate in English by engaging in global conversations, practicing their skills and sharing learning.

DIGITAL LITERACY COURSE

Co-organized with Xavier Project

It trains youth refugees to become proficient in basic computer and internet skills. It helps individuals gain the digital skills necessary to engage in a digital economy and improve livelihoods.





YOUTH NEEDS MAPPING EXERCISE

In October 2019, we conducted 9 focus group discussions with 272 participants, mostly youths, parents and people who worked with youth initiatives, in Kakuma refugee camp. The discussions revealed the challenges refugee youths were facing that hinder them from gaining their sense of self and making a meaningful living. Key challenges included lack of access to quality education and job opportunities. The groups discussed also corresponding actions to tackle through the challenges. It is hoped that, through knowing better refugee youths' situation, needs and prospects, we can join hands with individuals and organisations from private and public sector to create opportunities for them to prosper.

Key challenges faced by refugee youth: (listed in the order of priority)

- 1 Lack of job opportunities
- 2 Lack of access to quality education
- 3 Drug abuse
- 4 Early marriage
- 5 Food shortage

OUR NEXT STEPS

Understanding better the challenges of refugee youth in our daily programs and the Youth Needs Mapping Exercise, we will focus on increasing employment and entrepreneurship opportunities among refugee youth through, Education for Productive Livelihood (edLive) Program, quality technical and vocational education in the coming year. We will provide technical and vocational education to refugee youth, by combining class-based instruction with career success skills and apprenticeships directly linked to student's job preference. To achieve quality outcomes, we will ensure the following for all our offerings under the edLive program, which include highly trained instructors, high-quality curriculum, relevance to local labor market, community needs, and aspirations of youth, accredited or recognized courses called **English for Career Success, English for Academic Advancement, Small Business Start-up and Tailoring and Fashion Design.**



STUDENT STORY



“Since completing the Small Business Start-up course, I’ve been able to manage my business in a much more effective way!”

Alsadie Hamid
Student in Small Business
Start-up course 2019

Alsadie Hamid, from Sudan, has lived in Kakum Refugee Camp for two years. Living in the camp is difficult - there is often not enough food and water, and no certain future. It would be easy to imagine that refugees’ lives are on pause. Yet, instead of only waiting to receiving aid, Alsadie made a decision to embrace the life here and thrive in spite on the harsh conditions. One year ago, he set up a small grocery store, selling beverages and household items, in the market of the camp. Aiming to expand his business and make greater profits, he decided to take our Small Business Start-up course (“course”) in 2019 fall.

(continue reading on next page)

Alsadie found the course extremely rewarding as it provided him with practical understanding of a wide range of business skills, including customer service, inventory management and time management. He also said that this course offered students opportunities to work as part of a group to complete a business plan, in which he could interact and learn from people from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

Alsadie added that, “the facilitator was very knowledgeable, supportive and encouraging. The modules were relevant and essential in creating and growing a small business. I have applied what I learnt in the daily operation of my store – now I can maintain customer relationship, create appealing store display and set strategic goals for the business.”

Alsadie hopes that he can set up one more store in the camp soon and intends to progress to the advance level of our course so as to manage and grow his business better.



- Alsadie and his grocery store "The Quality Point" in Kakuma 3 market.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

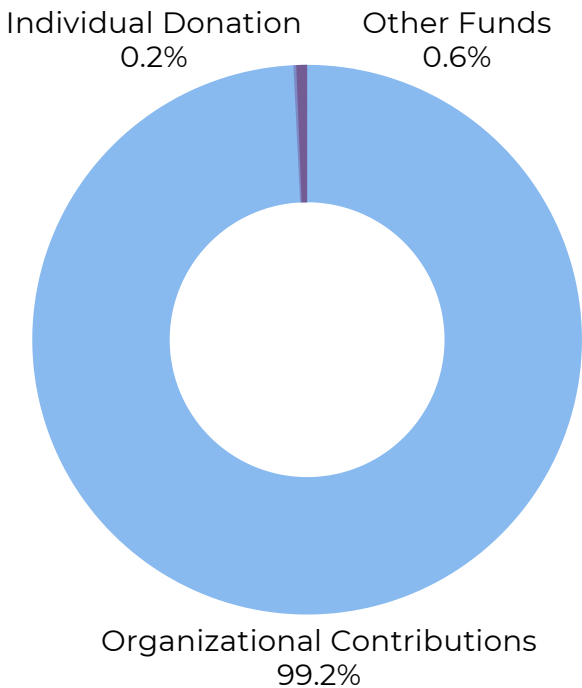
INCOME

	USD
Grants from Institutional Donors	\$94,416
Other Funds	599
Individual Donation	159
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Total Income	\$95,174

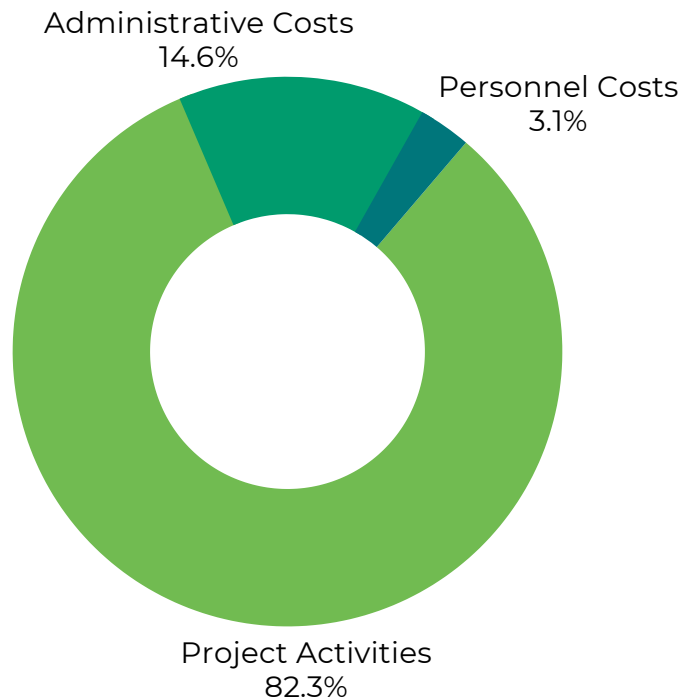
EXPENSE

	USD
Project Activities	\$78,358
Personnel Costs	2,936
Administrative Costs	13,880
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Total Expense	\$95,174

INCOME



EXPENSE



WITH THANKS TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

We want to thank everyone who supported us. Your generosity has helped refugee youths strengthen their ambition, confidence, and hope and has helped them regain agency over finances and futures.

Board of Advisors

Ms. Celeste Marin

Ms. Meriwether Beatty

Mr. Muzabel Welongo

Ms. Charlotte Greenbaum

Ms. Molly Fitzgerald

Partners in Kenya

UNHCR Sub-Office Kakuma

Xavier Project

SwissContact, Skills for Life Project Kakuma

Kakuma New Reflector (KANERE)

National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), RH Program

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Okapi Green*

*Okapi Green is our sister company and is a social start-up specializing in reliable solar energy and internet connectivity products, as a means to promote livelihoods and entrepreneurship.

International Partners

Segal Family Foundation (SFF) – USA

Anderson Rogers Foundation – USA

John & Mary Franklin Foundation – USA

Ideation World

Feed the Mind – UK

Gered Gereedschap, Netherlands

Computer Aid International

GlobalGiving.com

Jewel & Lotus

We Share Solar

Accounting for International Development (AfID)

One World Children's Fund



SUPPORT US

With your support, we're helping refugee youth and their communities to regain the sense of self and live a better life.

Every dollar you donate is used to advance this goal, ensuring better prospects for livelihoods, education advancement and social agency among the youth we work with. From all of us here at Resilience Action International, thank you for your support!

Change the lives of refugee youth!

You can scan the QR code on right-hand side or visit resilienceaction.net/donate to make an online donation.



GENERAL INFORMATION

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