

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**Resilience Action
International**



RAI

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND MANAGING DIRECTOR



Muzabel Welongo

Founder & Executive Director

In the presence of a disruptive pandemic, Resilience Action International made notable achievements in 2021. While the government recommended the closure of most educational institutions, with the support of our donors and partners, we extended most of our vocational education programs outside the classroom. In addition to organizing smaller class groups in the community, we provided small loans to allow our dressmaking students to open small shops and continue learning as they generate an income. We also expanded our digital learning offerings, including courses offered through WhatsApp and online.

We are excited that our programs have made an impact in improving the livelihoods of the refugee communities in Kakuma Refugee Camp. This year, we trained 1,548 refugees in our different vocational education courses, including computer skills, Global English Language, tailoring and dressmaking, and financial literacy. As an improvement from previous years, 46% of our graduates were women and girls. We have implemented initiatives to encourage female participation, including establishing a child-care room to allow women with young children to attend classes.



Wyclife Barasa

Managing Director

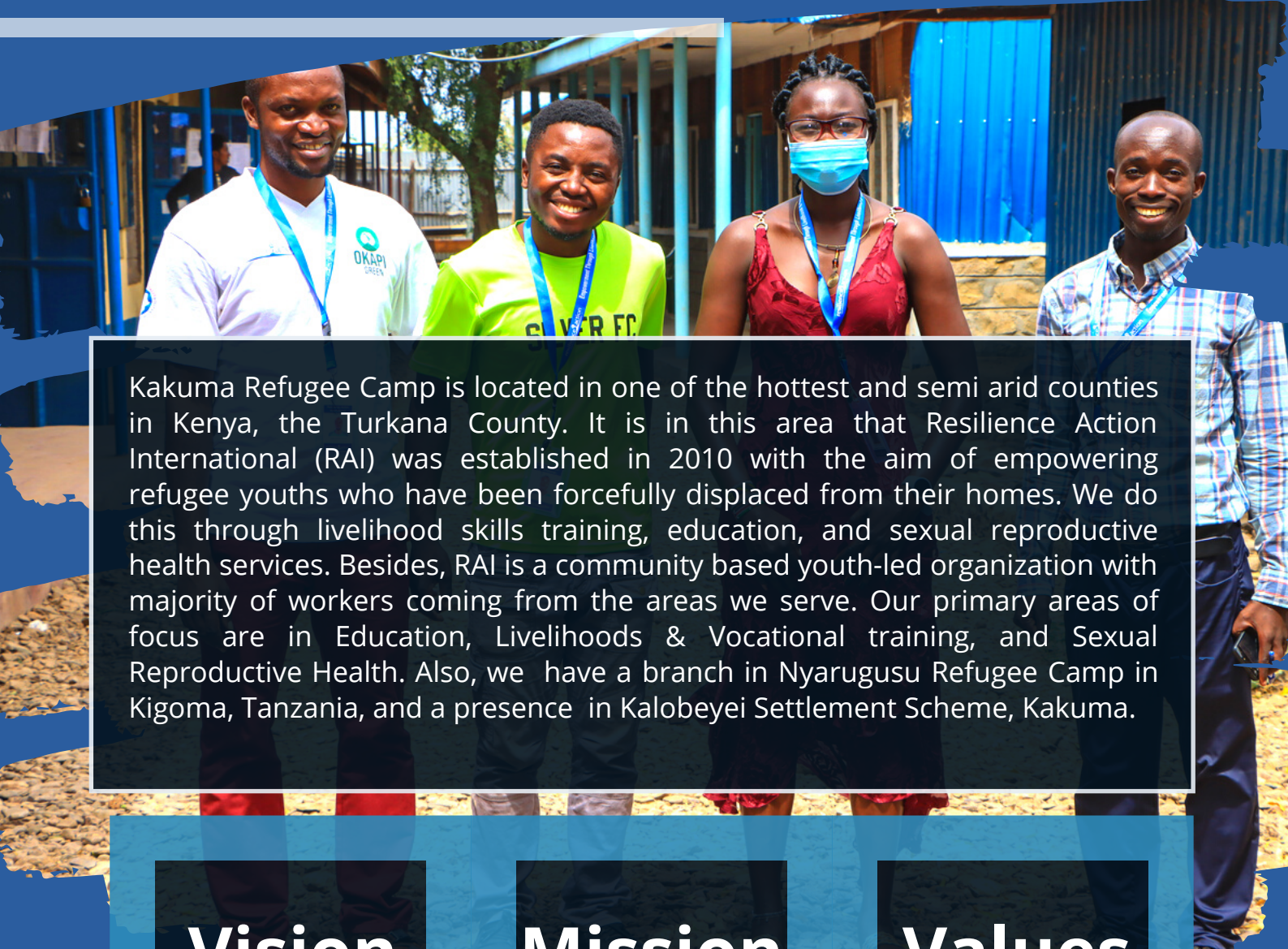
Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our donors and partners, notably Segal Family Foundation, Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL), Cohere, GiZ, WeLead and OSUN. We thank you for your continued partnership. We also thank the community of Kakuma Refugee Camp for their support. We're proud of the resilience and commitment of the refugee youth and hope to continue being part of this journey towards a self-sufficient refugee community in Kakuma and beyond.

Warm Regards,

Muzabel Welongo
Founder & Executive Director

Wyclife Barasa
Managing Director

ABOUT US



Kakuma Refugee Camp is located in one of the hottest and semi arid counties in Kenya, the Turkana County. It is in this area that Resilience Action International (RAI) was established in 2010 with the aim of empowering refugee youths who have been forcefully displaced from their homes. We do this through livelihood skills training, education, and sexual reproductive health services. Besides, RAI is a community based youth-led organization with majority of workers coming from the areas we serve. Our primary areas of focus are in Education, Livelihoods & Vocational training, and Sexual Reproductive Health. Also, we have a branch in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp in Kigoma, Tanzania, and a presence in Kalobeyi Settlement Scheme, Kakuma.

Vision

We envision a society where every young person can influence decisions affecting their well-being and actively participate in socio-economic building of their community.

Mission

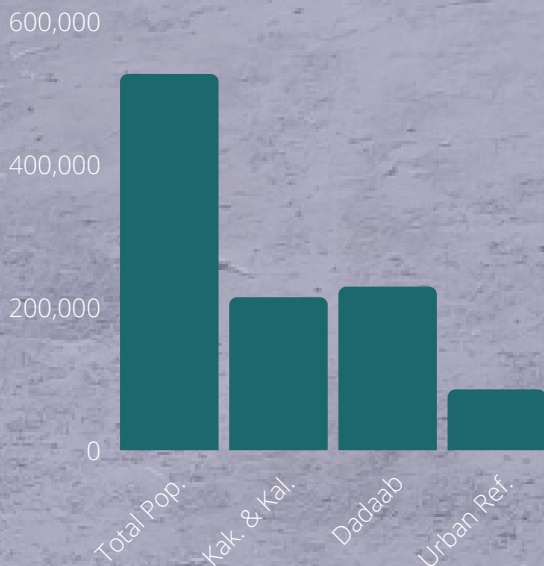
We enable refugee youth to live to their full potential by increasing access to education and productive livelihood opportunities.

Values

As a Refugee-led organization, we are community-driven and at the core of our existence is accountability, transparency, and self-reliance.

UPDATES

Population



As of July 2021, Kenyan Statistics Package in conjunction with UNHCR recorded a total refugee population of 525,671 in Kenya. Kakuma Refugee Camp & Kalobeyei Settlement support over 200,000 refugees. Turkana County has a total population of about 926,000 people and 21% are refugees. As we narrow it down to Turkana West, Kalobeyei & Kakuma Refugee Camp make 45% of the total population of the area.

COVID-19

Since onset of COVID-19 in 2020, there has been a global trend of rising infection rates. Reports by UNHCR from March 30th 2021 indicates 65% of refugees had less access to medical facilities citing fear of infection and absent medical staff; exposing the population to the dangerous effects of the ravenous disease. We as a refugee led establishment, embarked on local manufacture of reusable masks that we distributed to refugees in need and also encouraged the public to follow COVID-19 guidelines to protect themselves.



The Needs

Youth Needs Mapping

In 2021, we led a youths' need mapping exercise that covered Kakuma 1, 2, 3 and 4. The study involved youths in school, girls in and out of school, youth in tertiary institutions, and community leaders. Our main goal with the research was to identify current youth needs and create programs that can effectively bridge the gap with most guarantee of success and applicability with camp setting.

Through this research, it was brought to light that refugee youths deeply value education and economic development but inaccessibility of digital learning due to substandard internet connection, early pregnancies, poor to non-existent sexual reproductive health knowledge, and lack of higher learning institutions are barriers impeding them from getting hold of development opportunities around them.

However, the situation can be changed by strategic measures that can broaden the education and economic development opportunities such as active participation of community leaders in sensitizing youths on sexual reproductive health and drug abuse, accessibility computer literacy centers, inclusion of peer counsellors in debunking myths on contraceptives and curb peer pressure, and supplying sanitary towels to schools.

As a community based organization, we are working to quickly bridge these gaps by designing custom need-based programs & curriculums that are relevant to real-time problems and can aid refugee youths in formulating practical solutions applicable to their personal situations.

Our Programs

Education for Livelihoods (EduLive)

The world is quickly migrating to the age of automation with machines and Artificial Intelligence being at the forefront of many inventions. Despite the rapid shift from heavily relying on human labor to machine driven tasks, soft skills still remain irreplaceable. Our vocational training develops soft skills together with technical skills, enabling students to be more adaptable, flexible, initiative-driven, and emotionally intelligent in the evolving areas of :

English Language:

Our Beginner and Advanced English classes bridge the communication gap between refugees originating from non-English speaking countries with their English speaking customers, sellers, teachers, and neighbors.

Small Business start-up

Students get to learn about financial management skills, business management and generation of income through profits. Besides, our beneficiaries are empowered to gain skills for self employment and employment and how to create business plans that can be funded by RAI.

Digital Skills

Refugee youths are taught Basic ICT skills and their daily applications. We provide them with fully equipped computer/laptop stations to learn from and work on in a practical way. Our classes give students the technical experience of operating a computer/laptop.

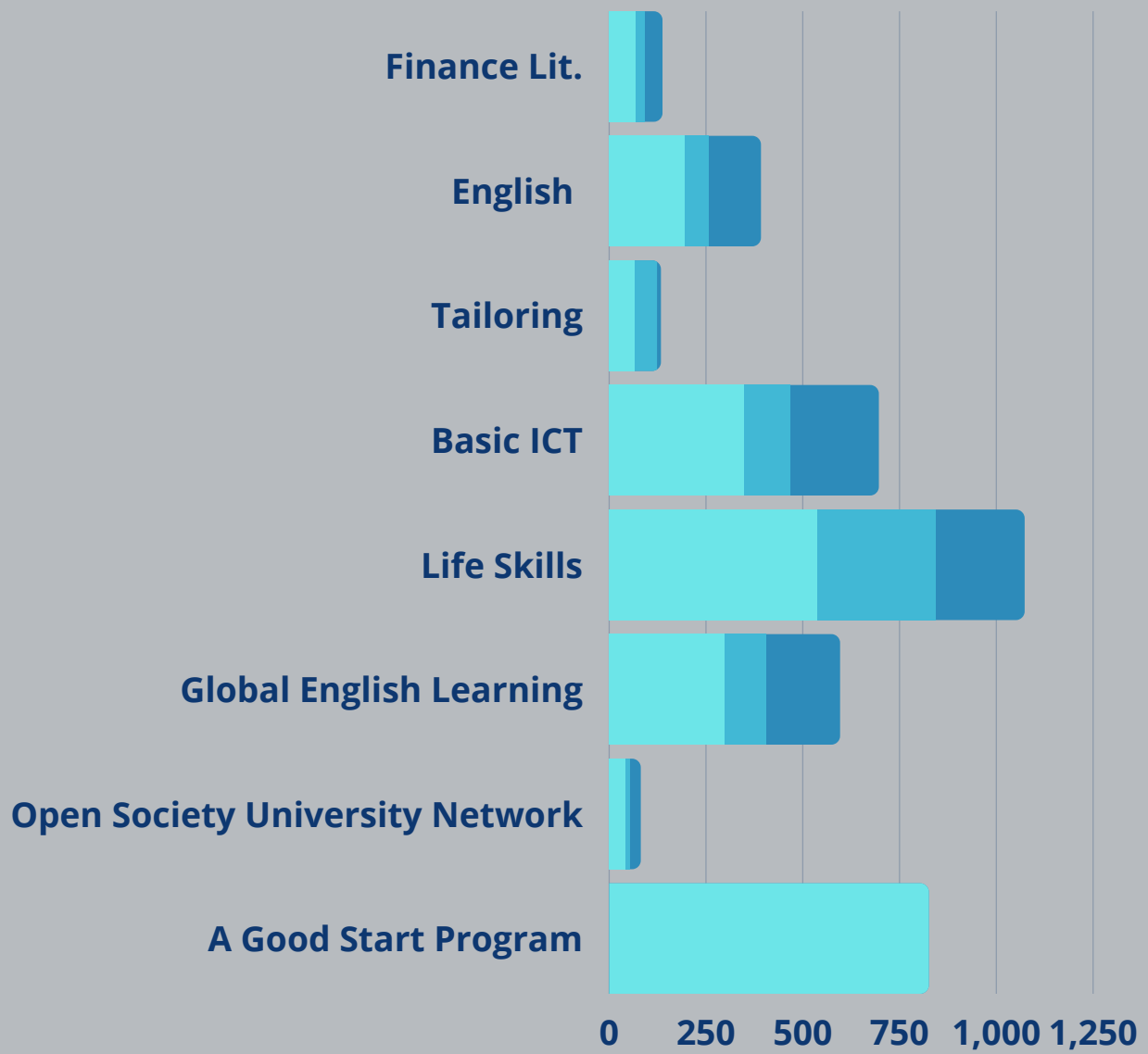
Tailoring and Fashion Design

Our students experience hands-on training on professional tailoring then we place them as interns in private tailoring shops around Kakuma Refugee Camp. Once they complete their apprenticeship, they are eligible to apply for a sewing machine loan from RAI to start their practice.

A Good Start Program

This trains refugee youths on how to better their lives and turn available resources into income generating activities within Kakuma Camp. The program is run in partnership with Xavier Project, and focuses on Financial Literacy, emotional and psychological learning; human rights and law.

Education for Livelihoods Program 2021



Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH)

Our SRH program is designed to equip women and sexually active adolescents about their sexual health and rights, services, family planning and contraceptives to reduce from unwanted pregnancies and HIV infection.

Our approach to health is customized to be relevant in the conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic such as the documented rise of teenage pregnancies and increased cases of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) against young girls and women in Kakuma Refugee Camp. For this reason, we are diversifying our SRH services to cover important areas through:

The WeLead Project

RAI is partnering with a consortium of African organizations in connection with the Center for the Study of Adolescents (CSA) under the SRHR Partnership Fund. This project is meant to enhance the SRHR of four right holders groups: Young women with disability, young women with HIV, young women who identify as LGBTI and young women who have been affected by displacement. We Lead aims to support the target group to impactfully and sustainably advocate for their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Ibis Reproductive Health Research

RAI is a partner with Ibis Reproductive Health in the research study aimed at exploring and documenting refugee and displaced women's experiences with abortion. We want to understand women's abortion experiences in humanitarian settings and find the key to the development of interventions that adequately meet the needs of women living in humanitarian contexts.



The African Women's
Development and
Communication Network



marsa مرسى
sexual health center مركز الصحة الجنسية



2021 MILESTONES

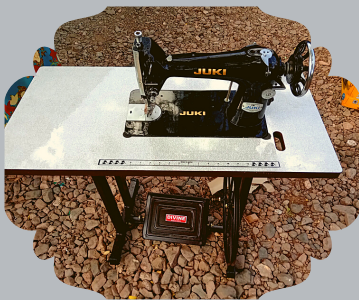
Creche Renovation

In partnership with Xavier Project, Resilience Action renovated an old classroom into a creche that will be instrumental in hosting young children of beneficiaries attending programs on the campus. The creche is expected to greatly improve student attendance for those who don't have nannies or access to child care in the camp.



Digital Skills

In partnership with GiZ, RAI has trained over 300 students in 2021 in digital literacy and digital skills. We are proud of the increasing number of students knowledgeable in technical skills and spike in student registration in this particular area.

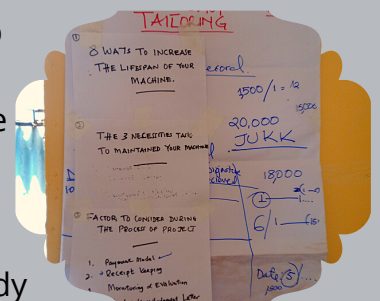


Podcast Launch

In November, we launched an audio Podcast in Kakuma Camp to conduct Life skills training in the community to teach new content to those unable to convene in our training center. This was made possible through our partnership with GIZ

Business Grants

We made it possible to support tailoring business start-ups by offering machine loans to eligible beneficiaries. The business loan is meant to help displaced students create more business opportunities in Kakuma camp and also motivate them to be self-employed.



Refugee Youth Need Mapping

Our team successfully concluded a qualitative study on the current needs of refugee youth and educational offerings that can offer the most potential for their future employment or entrepreneurial venture.

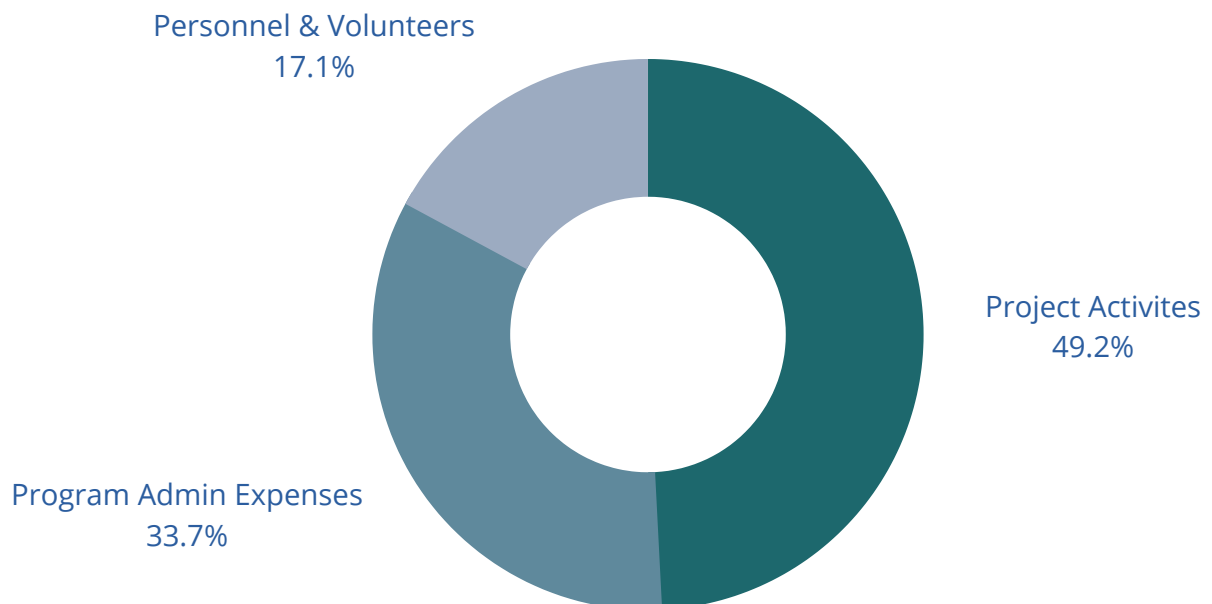
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME


Grants	\$104,722
Donations and Others	\$280
Total Income	\$105,002

EXPENSES

Project Activities	\$51,643
Personnel and Volunteer Costs	\$17,989
Program Administration Expenses	\$35,370
Total Expenses	\$105,002



FUTURE PLANS



It is through the lens of adaptability and relevance that we base our future on. For this reason, we are looking forward to adding a new Barber course to our life-skill and vocational training program due to its high demand in the refugee community in Kakuma Camp. The main objective is to train men who are out of school and want a source of income generating career or business in grooming.

Also, we plan to partner with other organizations in our sexual reproductive health program to diversify our areas of focus. This will enable us to reach more refugees in the community concerning women's sexual rights and matters related to reproductive health.

Other than this, we are hopeful our impact in the community will continue to rise annually and create a better environment for youths to grow and prosper.

IMPACT STORIES



"Before enrolling in tailoring classes, I had no sewing skills or any experience using a sewing machine. I was starting from scratch."

Nzombolimpa, Tailoring

In 2019, 27 year old Nzombolimpa enrolled in the tailoring class at RAI main campus to pursue a tailoring course. The hard life in the camp couldn't permit her to rely only on employment. So, she enrolled in vocational training at RAI after high school to develop her skills in sewing.

Her future plans after getting the certificate was to start her own business and comfortably cater to the needs of her children and siblings. Fortunately, her husband was in agreement with her ambition and bought her materials to practice sewing at home in her free time after attending training at RAI. Currently, she owns a busy tailoring shop in the Burundian Market which she shares with a close friend of hers who is also a tailor. It's been 4 years since she started her own venture and there's no sign of stopping.

'A worker from RAI came to my shop and explained to us about the seed grant loan to former tailoring students. I applied for the loan, got the machine, and now we are diligently paying back the loan. I have a friend who wants to train to be a tailor but all the institutions she's gone to can't accept her because of her infant child. They tell her to come back when the child is older and enroll for training. But, I will advise her to join RAI because they have creche and don't turn away young women with children.'

IMPACT STORIES

Godfrey, English Class

Mr. Godfrey Sangu is a 39 year old Congolese man who runs his own small business in Kakuma 4. His business, which he categorized as a community based initiative, deals with Scorpion Control and Snake Relocation around Kakuma Refugee Camp. In addition, he keeps a collection of exotic beetles and carpenter bees as a hobby which he uses to impress clients with when they come visit his workshop.

Presently, his family still lives in Democratic Republic of Congo but he came to Kenya years back speaking only Swahili, French, and a little bit of English. Because he was unemployed and had no income generating activity in the year of his arrival, he decided to join RAI's English classes meanwhile as he thought of what to do. He started the Scorpion Control business while attending English classes and now he can clearly communicate with clients, create social media posters, hold speaking engagements in schools and clinics, and talk with potential investors interested in his work.

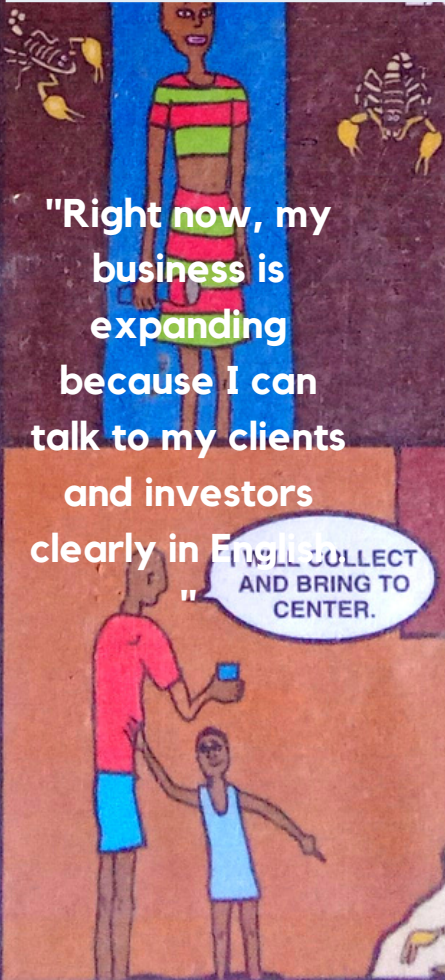
'Each time a client would enquire about my services or ask for help, I could not understand what they were saying. I could get some words but the rest did not make sense to me. This affected my work because I could not fully understand my clients and they couldn't understand me. Also, the language barrier barred me from visiting offices to apply for permits and get legal advice.'

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he was forced to pause his studies for a few months. The good thing is he was able to complete his studies in 2022, having reached the Advanced English level C1.

'Right now, my business is expanding because I can talk to my clients and investors clearly in English. From my experience I can say that language is the only way to communicate and get heard. If you cannot take the step to learn a language that could help you understand and be heard, it means that the one blocking your progress is you. We need to take the opportunities we have because English opened a way for me to access many other opportunities.'



"Right now, my business is expanding because I can talk to my clients and investors clearly in English."



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Donors and Partners

With deep gratitude and appreciation we thank our donors, volunteers, and partners for working with us in achieving our 2021 milestones. With your continued support, we are looking forward to bringing more change in the lives of refugee youths living in Kakuma.

Donors

Segal Family Foundation 



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HIGHER EDUCATION AT THE MARGINS



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