

Annual Report 2022



FORWARD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Muzabel Welongo



It is my pleasure to share this foreword with you as the founder and executive director of Resilience Action International (RAI). I understand firsthand the challenges that displaced individuals and families face, including the barriers to self-sufficiency and access to opportunities. The situation for refugees and asylum-seekers in Eastern Africa is particularly challenging. As of 2022, the region hosts over 5.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers, with the largest populations in Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Ongoing conflict, political instability, and environmental disasters contribute to the forced displacement of millions of people in the region. At RAI, we stay true to our commitment of supporting displaced communities to achieve economic stability and independence from aid. Looking to the future, our vision at RAI is one where refugees and other displaced individuals have the support and resources they need to thrive and build new lives. We believe that by working together with local communities, governments, and other stakeholders, we can create a more inclusive and sustainable future for all. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Last year, it took enormous courage to work under changing dynamics of the camp owing to the increasing number of refugees coming into the country since 2018. Through our programs, we provide refugees with the resources and training necessary to create a brighter future for themselves and their families. RAI's work is critical to achieving this vision. I am proud of our team's efforts and the impact we have made in the lives of refugee youths in Kakuma. I am confident that with our continued dedication and hard work, we will make an even greater impact in the years to come. I want to thank everyone who has supported our work and contributed to our success. We could not have achieved this without your generosity and belief in our mission. Together, we can create a brighter future for refugees and other displaced persons around the world. Thank you for joining us on this journey.



MANAGING DIRECTOR Wycliffe Barasa



RAI

Resilience Action International (RAI) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2010 as a self-help group training refugees in English Language. The organization was established

with the aim of reducing refugee youth dependency on aid and building self-reliance of displaced community through vocational training. RAI's work is grounded in the belief that refugees and other displaced individuals have the right to live with dignity and respect, and should have access to the resources and opportunities they need to rebuild their lives.

Over the years, RAI has worked tirelessly to provide a range of services to displaced communities including entrepreneurship, vocational education, and youth reproductive health. We became a legal Community Based Organization in 2014 and later transitioned into an NGO in 2016. Our name changed from Solidarity and Advocacy with Vulnerable Individuals in Crisis (SAVIC) to RAI to better reflect our ambition of serving refugees and displaced youth beyond County and Country borders.

In 2022, we celebrate 12 years of serving refugee and displaced youths in East Africa with pride. We piloted a center in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which aimed to build and strengthen the capabilities and resilience of youth amidst the civil and political turmoil. We are grateful to our partners and donors who have been instrumental in this journey of empowering youth in their context and in achieving the Strategic Development Goals 2030 of Quality Education, Reduced Inequality, and Decent Work and Economic Growth. Together, we have made significant strides towards creating a brighter future for the young people we serve.

Mission

To a society in which every displaced person is enabled to thrive economically and socially

Vision

To equip displaced youth with skills and tools to achieve greater economic potential.



Core Values

1

Refugee-led, community-driven

We work as a group of passionate and excellent refugees and ensure youth's voices in the community are being heard.

2

Accountability and Transparency

We are obligated to be answerable for our actions, and activities we conduct are done in transparency.

3

Self-reliance

As RAI we are always working towards self-sustaining pathways to ensure the organization continues to support the refugee community even in absence of external support.

ORGANIZATIONAL PILLARS



**Vocational
Education**



Entrepreneurship



**Youth
Reproductive
Health**



ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAMS

RAI programs are in 3 major categories designed to equip youths with skills for economic development and sustainable livelihoods after training with us.

01

Entrepreneurship

02

Vocational Education

03

Youth Reproductive Health

01

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

RAI's KuzaBiz Program is dedicated to equipping refugee youths with the necessary entrepreneurial and business skills to thrive in the developing world. The program offers a variety of resources, including Small Business Training, Digital Entrepreneurship Skills, Business Coaching, and a Startup Grants. These tools are designed to help individuals build their businesses from the ground up, develop digital marketing strategies & skills, and access vital funding to turn their ideas into reality. Through the KuzaBiz Program, RAI is fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency among the refugee communities in Kakuma.



Small Business Training

Together with Street Business School (SBS), Resilience Action International (RAI) is bringing business skills to the streets and markets, with a focus on helping entrepreneurs with little to no formal education or business training. Our small business training provides confidence to young people who want to start a trade, while also offering coaching support to existing businesses looking to expand and grow. Additionally, RAI helps beneficiaries connect with markets through advertising and promotion exercises, and also connects them to microfinance lending opportunities available in the camp and VSLAs. Through these efforts, we are committed to empowering refugees and displaced individuals by providing them with the tools and resources necessary to thrive in their communities.



Small Business Grants

RAI's small business grants initiative provides capital or in-kind resources to support budding entrepreneurs. After small business training, beneficiaries become eligible to receive small business grants from RAI. This program was inspired by community tailors and entrepreneurs from other sectors who raised concerns about the unaffordability of sewing machines and inaccessibility of capital for start-ups. To address this issue, RAI raised funds to start the sewing machine grant to support the transition of skilled tailors from training to self-employment; and small business grant to support start-ups in other sectors.



ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAMS

02

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Vocational education on ICT and English language skills plays a critical role in the economic and livelihood development of refugee youths. In today's digital age, access to information technology skills and English language proficiency are essential for acquiring knowledge, participating in online businesses and platforms, and communicating with a global audience. By acquiring these skills, refugee youths can increase their chances of securing better-paying jobs, starting their own businesses, and accessing online learning opportunities that were previously unavailable to them. Furthermore, these skills can help break down language and cultural barriers and promote social inclusion, ultimately leading to increased self-reliance and community development.



Digital Entrepreneurship Skills

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are essential skills for any career that a student may want to pursue in the future. The use of computers and their applications can be found in courses outside of technology studies, such as natural sciences, humanities, and business studies. At RAI, we offer two courses on ICT that cater to the needs of youths in Kakuma: Basic ICT and IT Support Specialist. With these skills, we aim to unlock the creativity of youths and enable them to transform their communities through innovations and virtual entrepreneurship, paving the way for decent livelihoods and economic growth both online and offline.



English Language

RAI's English language program is designed to meet the needs of beginners, intermediates, and advanced learners. We offer two English language courses: Communicative English classes for youths who need to improve their communicative skills for day-to-day interactions, and Global English Learning (GEL) for those seeking an academic pathway to English-based professional courses at the certificate, diploma, degree, and postgraduate levels. After completing the Communicative English course, learners can transition to the GEL program or return to the community with a better understanding of English in its written and oral forms.



Tailoring & Dressmaking Craft Training

With a focus on tailoring and dressmaking, our craft training program provides practical skills and knowledge through hands-on training and attachments to local tailoring businesses. Complimentary, participants take part in entrepreneurship training to equip them with the skills needed to start and run their own successful businesses. This program empowers individuals with the tools necessary to create their own opportunities and achieve self-sufficiency.



Nuru Access Hub

Nuru Access center is a Solar-powered hub for refugees to access digital skills and internet, as well as a co-working space for those with remote jobs. In 2022, RAI partnered with Don Bosco to bring ICT training and e-learning to the camp. Projects, including workshops, life skills, and ICT training, are carried out at the hub. With continued support from Nuru Access hub, RAI has expanded e-learning services and increased beneficiaries of vocational and life skills training programs. The center aims to provide accessible and affordable services to refugees and the host communities, while promoting self-sustainability, education, social cohesion, and livelihood empowerment.



ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAMS

03

YOUTH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (YRH) PROGRAM

RAI empowers youths and adolescents through sexual and reproductive health (SRH) training so that they make informed decisions about their health and sexuality. Likewise, through advocacy work and outreach activities, we promote gender equality by addressing issues such as human rights, policy change, and accountability of relevant bodies on youth health issues. RAI is part of the WeLead project, which aims to strengthen the influence and position of young women whose SRH-R are neglected the most.



School-Based Girls' Training

Our school-based workshops target adolescents in public and private schools in Kakuma. The content taught to adolescents have been customized to be age-relevant and answer common questions concerning sexuality and reproductive health, body autonomy, and human rights. By educating young people about their sexual and reproductive health, we can reduce the risk of health complications and increase the likelihood of them leading healthy and productive lives. This can contribute to building stronger and more resilient communities in the long term.



Public Forums and Awareness Campaigns

RAI conducts youth workshops to equip men and women on advocacy, communication, and information on trending, upcoming and existing health matters that are detrimental to their wellbeing and welfare. The workshops touch on current health issues or updates in the community, and introduce teen parents, youths in higher or vocational education and those out of school to simple methods and mediums of advocacy and engagement in a variety of platforms.

Community Advocacy

Community advocacy has enabled us to increase awareness and understanding of sexual and reproductive health and services among young women living in displacement. Through workshops and training sessions, RAI introduced young women to simple methods and mediums of championing for their rights and involving the community around them in the mission. By empowering youths with advocacy strategies and forms, they become agents of change and are able to lead the way in advocating for their reproductive rights and accessing health information and services.



OTHER PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

PROFESSIONAL COURSES

In 2022, RAI collaborated with the OSUN Hubs for Connected Learning Initiatives (OSUN) to increase recruits for their Refugee Higher Education Access Program (RhEAP). RhEAP serves as a bridging program for students who have completed high school and need additional skills in thinking, reading, and writing to be successful in university. The program includes English classes, academic writing and history, science courses, and elective courses from any institution in the Network. RhEAP is delivered through a blended learning format that combines intensive face-to-face work with a course professor and online coursework.

IBIS RESEARCH

IBIS conducted research on refugee and displaced women's abortion experiences in Kakuma camp, with RAI as a partner. The third phase concluded this year with results shared with key community members. Another dissemination activity involving health stakeholders is planned for 2023. The research aims to provide evidence to inform resource allocation, service improvements, and recommendations for supporting women who self-manage abortions in humanitarian settings.



OKAPIGREEN

Okapi Green Energy Limited is an affiliate of Resilience Action International. Okapi Green is a company that generates and distributes clean solar energy in Kakuma refugee camp via its solar grid mini system, narrowing the gap of electricity access by the population in the area. In 2022, we managed to connect 200 households and businesses to sustainable solar power, and plans to expand its operations are underway for 2023.

In 2022, RAI welcomed new partners for upcoming projects. Don Bosco collaborated with us to provide Basic ICT skills to refugee and host youths in Kakuma 2 and 3. Livelihood Impact Fund partnered with us in our livelihoods project. RAI also collaborated with COHERE to offer Capacity Strengthening and Sharing course (CSSC) to support grassroots organizations in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. Additionally, We Share Solar conducted a capacity building activity with RAI to train teachers on the assembly and usage of portable solar kits for home learning.



PROGRAM STATISTICS 2022

EDUCATION PROGRAM

1,546

Beneficiaries

484

WOMEN

1,062

MEN

484 WERE YOUNG WOMEN AND 1,062 WERE YOUNG MEN

LIVELIHOODS SMALL BUSINESS GRANT



50



57

Livelihoods small business grant assisted 57 people while sewing machine loans empowered a total of 50 tailors in the refugee community.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM

1,743

people reached



1,370

ADOLESCENTS

108

WOMEN

265

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

3,518

Beneficiaries for 2022



38%

62%



FINIANCE SUMMARY 2022

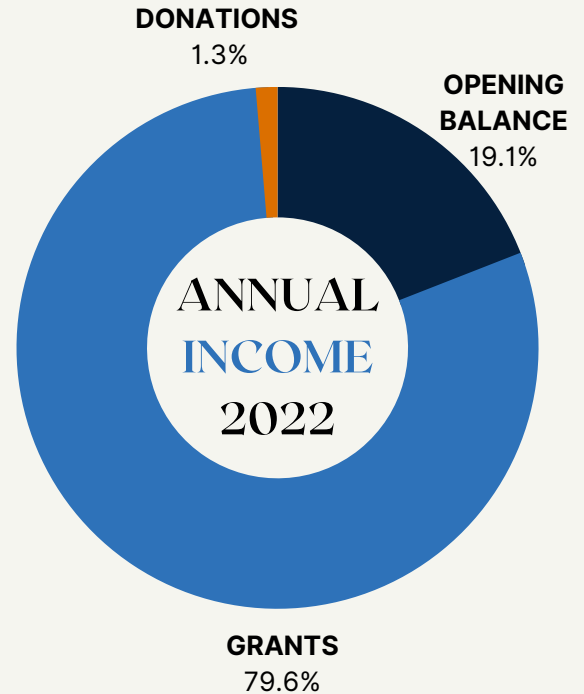
INCOME

USD

- Grants \$207823.3
- Opening Balance 49760.71
- Donations 3495.669

TOTALS

\$261079.7



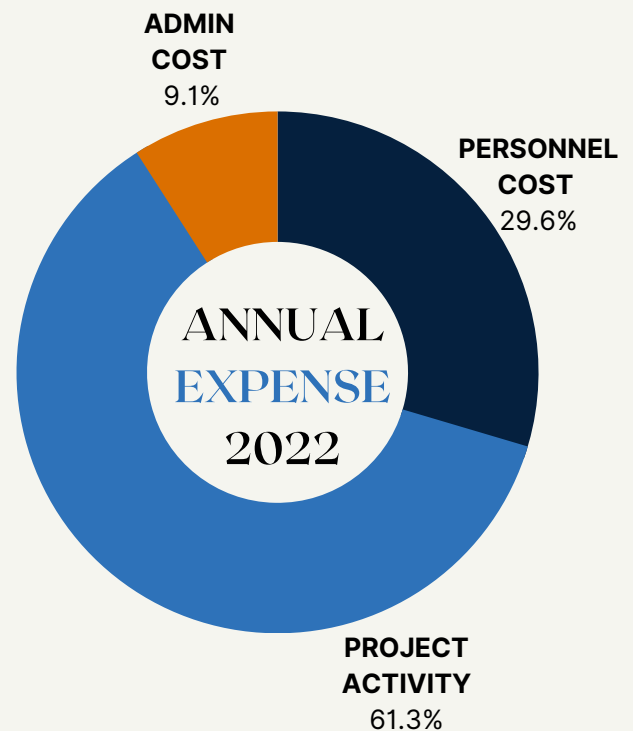
EXPENSE

USD

- Project Activity \$160157.4
- Personnel cost 77237.02
- Admin cost 23685.3

TOTALS

\$261079.7



OVERVIEW

Refugees in East African camps face numerous challenges when it comes to accessing vocational education, youth reproductive health services, and employment opportunities. These challenges include limited access to educational resources and materials, language barriers, and cultural stigmatization. Additionally, refugee youths face high rates of unemployment and lack of job opportunities.

RAI addresses these challenges by providing vocational education and training programs that equip refugees with the necessary skills to start their own businesses or secure employment opportunities. Through the provision of small business grants and entrepreneurship training, RAI supports young refugees in starting and growing their businesses. Furthermore, RAI's youth reproductive health program offers comprehensive education and services that address the specific needs of young refugees, including adolescent training, community engagement & advocacy, and information sharing on health related topics. Overall, RAI strives to provide holistic support to refugees in East African camps, helping them to build resilience and achieve their full potential despite the many challenges they face.

This year, we took on extraordinary projects to further and complement our agenda through partners who share similar vision as us in Reducing Inequality, and creating pathways to Decent Work, Economic Growth, and quality education for the youths in the camp. Together with COHERE, RAI delivered capacity strengthening and sharing course to 12 grassroots youth-led organizations in Kakuma and Kalobeyei Settlement Scheme. CSSC training aim was to fortify the managerial, leadership, and safeguarding capabilities of refugee led organizations as they serve the community.



Besides this, RAI has been growing its interest in sustainable clean energy to power institutions and businesses in the rural Kakuma. The dry, hot and sunny nature of Kakuma prompted us to be proactive when it comes to sustainable livelihoods in this context. Hence, we teamed up with We Share Solar to train high school teachers assembling and maintenance of domestic solar powered kits. We believe, clean energy is the future for sustainable power production for communities living in rural, secluded areas where infrastructure is limited and/or poor. Finally, higher education is essential for academic development of refugee youths. RAI has continued to work with OSUN Hubs for learning in hosting Refugee Higher Education Access Program (RhEAP) to prepare students for university so that they can pursue their desired career paths.



OVERVIEW



In preparation for new 2023 projects and adjustments for in particular programs, we held a series of assessments to gauge program relevance to solving current issues; identify gaps in the local markets, and to note community recommendations on we could bridge the gaps. Our vocational programs performed exceptionally this year having reached 40% more women and girls than in the previous years. Women and girls in Kakuma refugee camp face greater barriers to education than their counterparts due to early marriage, gender-based violence, and limited access to resources like sanitary products. Regardless of the circumstances, RAI continues to pave way for gender equality and improve the socio-economic status of women through projects that contribute to women and girls' wellbeing.



IMPACT STORIES

"I AM GRATEFUL FOR ENROLLING IN THE OSUN PROGRAM BECAUSE IT EXPOSED ME TO INTERACTIONS THAT I WOULD HAVE NEVER HAD IF I WERE IN ANOTHER COURSE."

--Youniyas Abdisrahman Seliman



Youniyas came to Kenya in 2013, joined primary school at class 6 and finished high school in 2019. Despite emigrating from Sudan to escape war, he states his main reason he chose to live in Kenya over Tanzania or Uganda is Education. Kenya's education system is ranked top in Eastern Africa and has a decent position in Africa overall, hence attracting many scholars from the east African community.

In 2021, Youniyas joined his first class in the OSUN program at RAI center. One among many reasons that drove him to join this class was to get busy and not to stay idle, especially after COVID-19 pandemic cost him his volunteering job at Gambela primary school in Kakuma 2.

"I volunteered at Gambela primary school as a teacher for 3 months but when COVID-19 hit, we were asked to go home. During that time, I was also taking ICT classes at another institution within Kakuma but I had to cut my training short due to pandemic restrictions. As a result, I stayed at home trying to find something to keep myself busy. However, during my walks in the community, I saw a recruitment poster concerning the OSUN program at RAI. So, I took a picture of it, went home and searched their website on the net. After reading about it, I decided to enroll so that I can improve my skills and at the same time keep busy.'

Youniyas had personal objectives that he needed to achieve through training in the OSUN program. For this reason, he enrolled in Academic Writing, Global History, STEM, Information Security, Culture Identity, English, and Science Literature.

'I enjoyed global history. I am a lover of history. In high school, I was forced to drop history because I wanted to pursue a course in physics. However, the OSUN program gave me the chance to do what I love. Likewise, I really enjoyed Science Literature classes because I was a big fan of biology back in high school but I didn't get the chance to complete it. I am grateful for enrolling in the OSUN program because it exposed me to interactions that I would have never had if I were in another course. For example, I met youths from other countries in the world; through history lab, I got a glimpse of what happens in other countries; and through Academic writing, my skills in report and proposal writing have greatly improved despite not liking English due to writing exercises."

He credits the skills he got from the courses he took for helping him attain the job he has now. Today, Youniyas is a part time student pursuing a diploma in Social Work as he works as a volunteer at RAI. He is enjoying his 3 months leave from child protection job.

'Currently, I am working as a Child Protection Monitoring & Evaluation officer at the Danish Refugee Council in Kakuma Refugee Camp. I can write reports, proposals, and carry out research thanks to what I learnt through the OSUN program at RAI. In future, I hope to pursue other courses through OSUN and even expand my professional skills so that I may be able to work with many more organizations within and outside this country.'



IMPACT STORIES

"I GAINED A LOT FROM TRAINING. THE TRAINING WAS A GREAT WAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SRH AND INCREASE MY KNOWLEDGE"

--Mulki Mohamed Abdi

Mulki is a 24-year-old young refugee Somali woman in Kakuma. When she was still a child, she spent some time in Nairobi with her father and brother before moving to Kakuma. As a child raised by a single father, she credits her dad for being her inspiration and the reason why she wants to become more than just the average Somali woman.

'Most girls my age are already married and have 2 to 3 kids by now. People ask me why I am not interested in finding a husband, settling down, and raising a family now.'

She is currently a diploma holder from a popular public university in Kenya, and a young lady with past experience in film and screenwriting. Though she admits to being crippled by fear and anxiety of crowds or situations that force her to stand out, today she has made big strides in overcoming this. At first, she was skeptical and unwilling to join the WeLead project until she met her friends who were training adolescents in the SRHR program at RAI.



Img: Mulki's Facilitating community workshop

'Initially, I joined Resilience Action International as a volunteer in the education department under ICT. My goal was to aid facilitators in their classes and gain more ICT skills during my 3 months here. However, I met the program manager, who asked me whether I can join the SRH team as a volunteer. Then I had a talk with the Senior Project Coordinator about WeLead Project and the activities' Her encounter with the program manager and senior Project Coordinator did not immediately change how she felt about SRH in general. According to her, SRH was all about teaching people about sexual stuff, which is a taboo topic in her community.

'While hanging around at RAI campus, I met some of my female friends who I'd known since high school and they were part of the WeLead project. I asked them what they did and they told me they train adolescent girls on their SRH rights. My mind was changed and I decided to give it a try. Fortunately, one of the trainers was being replaced and I took the chance to apply and I got in!'



IMPACT STORIES

Since she began facilitating SRHR sessions for adolescents in Kadugli Primary Schools, things have been changing around. Firstly, mothers in her community were curious to know what her job entailed and whether their teenage daughters can be part of the program.

'Several Somali ladies see me carry a box of biscuits every day from 3pm going to facilitate the session for the young women in school settings and they get curious. One time, one of the ladies along the street stopped me and asked where I was going and what I did. After that, more women were stopping me along the way within the week to ask if I could include their daughters in the SRH sessions too.'

Before joining RAI as a volunteer, Mulki was a private English tutor to children within her community. Parents would leave their children with her as they went to work. This built trust between her and the mothers in her neighborhood.



Img: Mulki (the third from the left) with her colleagues

"WHEN ADOLESCENTS LEARN ABOUT SRHR, THEY WILL PERSEVERE THROUGH SCHOOL AND THE NUMBER OF DROP-OUTS AND TEEN PREGNANCIES WILL DECLINE."

'The children I used to tutor and their parents are now calling me a role model. Mothers in my neighborhood want their daughters to be like me and they even send them to me with bottles of cold water to tell them about SRH. Also, among the adolescents I train at the primary school, I am noticing more of them developing strong decision-making skills. One time a 17-year-old girl came to me saying that she can now say NO to sexual advances from older men and boys her age because she now knows she doesn't have to please anyone and she doesn't want to bear the consequences of premarital sex.'

Engaging with her trainees and community members on SRH was invigorating, exciting and empowering for Mulki. What's more, the state of being regarded as a mentor by the adolescent she trains and children in her neighborhood encourages her to do and be at her best every day. Above all she credits her father for the strong upbringing he gave her as a child. Also, she is grateful to her personal mentor, a Somali business woman now in the United States with her daughter, who was her caretaker when she was a child for inspiring her to pursue education beyond high school.

'Besides, I gained a lot from training. The training was a great way to learn more about SRH and increase my knowledge. Also, interacting with other ladies made me open minded and flexible. I realized everyone has their own story and experiences. I know I am not alone.'

WeLead has immensely impacted the thinking of young refugee women in the program. And through the eyes of Mulki, she is hopeful that the Somali society in Kakuma will go through significant community development in future due to girl child education.

'When adolescents learn about SRHR, they will persevere through school and the number of drop-outs and teen pregnancies will decline. As a result, more young women will be empowered to build themselves up, be self-sufficient, and choose healthy relationships. Then when they have kids, the mothers impart SRH knowledge to their children and develop a community that nurtures growth in all areas for all genders.'



DONOR & PARTNER

YOUR SUPPORT WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED!



OUR TEAM

As a pioneering refugee-led NGO, RAI empowers youth through the youth and works in collaboration with like-minded supporters who share our vision. Our staff comprises of men and women from Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kalobeyei, and Kenyan nationals who are passionate about making a positive difference in the lives of the vulnerable and marginalized communities of Kakuma. Despite our diverse backgrounds and cultural differences, we place a strong emphasis on cohesion and teamwork, with a shared eagerness to learn from each other. This approach has been critical to our success in positively changing lives and communities in the region.



**MUZABEL
WELONGO**

Executive director



**WYCLIFFE
BARASA**

Managing Director



**VASCO
AMISI**

Managing director
Okapi Green



**NDUME
MSENZA**

Finance and Admin
Officer



**KENASI
DANIEL**

IT and Logistics
Officer



**GLORIA
B. MAIRURA**

Program Manager



**SAMUEL
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Coordinator



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SOCIAL HANDLES



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