



**International
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Organization**

PROSPECTS



Kingdom of the Netherlands



UNVEILED VISIONS

DECENT WORK AND SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH MY LENS





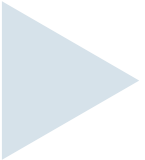
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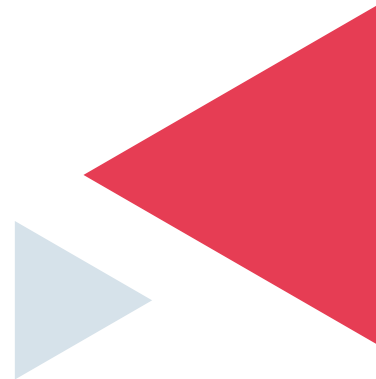






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► Introduction



► Message from the donor - the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Ambassador of the Netherlands
to Uganda, H.E Karin Boven

This is a book about human resilience, the power of youth and the transformative potential of partnerships.

Uganda is known for its progressive refugee policies and has, at the time of publishing of this book, opened its doors to over 1.6 million people that sought refuge from conflict and instability. One out of four of them are young people, who still have their lives ahead of them. The challenges that come with displacement often leaves young people at a crossroads with an uncertain future. Investment in their access to education and job opportunities is crucial to enable them to break through and live up to their full potential.

When young refugees are empowered through education, vocational training and livelihood opportunities – as is done by the PROSPECTS partnership consisting of the Netherlands, ILO, UNICEF, UNHCR, World Bank and IFC – they are enabled to shape their lives. Through innovative training programs, mentorship, and access to resources, these youth are not only gaining practical skills, but also nurturing their aspirations and self-confidence – ultimately improving their well-being, and the well-being of their communities.

The Netherlands is committed to protect and improve the socioeconomic prospects of refugees and host communities. We do this by improving their reception and protection, and by investing in their education and employment. I am proud of the PROSPECTS partnership and its achievements that have impacted the lives of many – of which this book is a beautiful example.

I invite you to look at the insightful and inspiring pictures of these young refugees with an open and curious mind. Take this opportunity to step into their world and witness their reality. When we try to understand the realities of others, we enable ourselves to bridge differences and act from a place of shared humanity.

I hope this book will inspire readers to join us in the mission to invest in the potential of young refugees and to support initiatives that foster their growth and empowerment.

► PROSPECTS in Uganda

The Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities (PROSPECTS) is a unique partnership that aims to facilitate transitioning from humanitarian to development-centred assistance, which can address long-term challenges and needs of the host and refugee communities and accelerate sustainable solutions to build a more inclusive, cohesive and productive society. The PROSPECTS programme is supported by the Government of the Netherlands, that brings together the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank (WB) and is being implemented in eight countries Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Sudan and Uganda.

The Partnership focuses on four pillars:



Education and training

Increased access of forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) and host communities (HCs) to quality education, skills and learning opportunities



Economic Inclusion

Improved livelihood and expanded economic opportunities for forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) and host communities (HCs), through access to entrepreneurship and employment opportunities



Protection and Social Protection

Increased government protection for forcibly displaced and host communities;
Protection and Increased inclusion of forcibly displaced and host communities in community-based, local and/or national social protection systems



Critical Infrastructure

Improved services, facilities and information systems essential to forcibly displaced and host communities

Within this Partnership, the ILO plays a key role in the promotion of decent work and focuses on strengthening local economic development and improving employability, by equipping refugees and host communities with better and more relevant skills to enter local labour markets and to access enterprise development opportunities.

In Uganda, the ILO works closely with the government and employers' and workers' organisations to strengthen the policy, legislative and institutional environments, for work-related protection and inclusion of refugee and host communities. These interventions are underpinned by efforts to ensure meaningful youth participation, gender mainstreaming and arrangements for persons with disabilities. While addressing specific vulnerabilities, the ILO also pays close attention to fostering social cohesion between host communities and refugees, by facilitating empowerment and enhancing self-reliance.

Target areas

The PROSPECTS partnership in Uganda is targeting three settlements in four districts representing different socio-economic contexts:



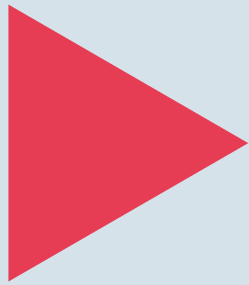
Nakivale refugee settlement in Isingiro is a 60-year-old refugee-hosting district with the most diverse refugee population, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia and Ethiopia.



Rhino Camp settlement in Terego and Madi-Okollo hosts refugees mainly from South Sudan, DRC and Sudan.



Imvepi settlement in Terego is one of the most recent refugee settlements and is home to South Sudanese asylum seekers.



Unveiled Visions: Decent Work and Social Justice Through My Lens

The FOTEA Foundation implemented a photography contest titled "Unveiled Visions: Decent Work and Social Justice Through My Lens" as part of the PROSPECTS project, organised by the International Labour Organization funded by the Government of the Netherlands. The main aim is to enhance the skills of refugee and host community youth through photography, fostering meaningful participation and capturing their perspectives in creative ways.

Uganda is the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, effecting one of the most progressive refugee policies in the world. The need is greater, now more than ever, for young people to learn new skills which allow them to critically engage with displacement contexts, and, as a consequence, enable them to lead socio-economic and cultural activities through creating and promoting decent jobs, extending social protection, and advancing youth rights, voices, and agency.

The programme aimed to:

- Build the capacity of participating youth by providing transferable digital skills in mobile photography.



- Enhance meaningful youth participation and capture youth voices in creative ways.
- Address youth employment issues and highlight the challenges faced by young women and men, showcasing their resilience and innovation in overcoming these challenges.

Under this framework, FOTEA issued open calls inviting forcibly displaced and host community youths in Nakivale, Imvepi, and Rhino settlements, as well as urban youths in Kampala District, interested in learning how to visually document and represent their narratives using mobile phones. We received 94 responses: 72% from the refugee community and 28% from the host community, with 74% men and 26% women.

Fifteen participants from each location were selected for basic photography and narrative storytelling training. They chose community relevant topics to document visually using their mobile phones. Additionally, they attended a communications training session to learn how to leverage social media to promote their work and local businesses.

Under the guidance of experienced photojournalists and educators Edward Echwalu, Georgina Goodwin, and Miriam Watsemba, 60 young people learned the power of photography. They discovered how to leverage images to tell important stories, share their realities, and work

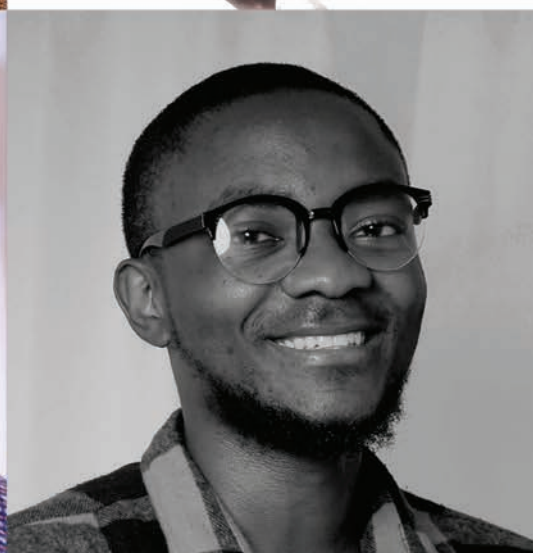
towards gainful employment. Of the finished works, the best 10 stories were selected for an exhibition and are spotlighted in this publication.

We recognize the value of visual literacy in documenting varied experiences and perspectives, fostering understanding and peaceful coexistence amidst the country's growing diversity. We are also very happy with the beautiful work the participants have created during this programme. We hope that beyond this experience, they will continue to document and share their perspectives, using their digital skills to build their lives and communities.





► Outcomes from
'Unveiled Visions'
Photography contest



Empowering futures: The inspiring journey of Janet, a multilingual educator and community builder

by **Blanchard Sibanza**, 24, Congolese (Nakivale, Isingiro District)

Blanchard is dedicated to youth empowerment and social change. Despite not completing his education, he became an entrepreneur, designing menstrual products for girls in Nakivale settlement. He aims to grow his business to create job opportunities for young girls, giving back to his community.

Iradukunda Janet, a 37-year-old refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has lived in Uganda for eight years. Residing in Kahirimbi village, she is a dedicated teacher and mother of three with another child on the way. Despite the challenges of being a single, pregnant parent, Janet remains passionate about education and nurturing young minds

Trained as a teacher and caregiver, Janet believes in children's potential to bring positive change within their communities. She is respected and loved in her community, teaching in seven languages to accommodate diverse refugee backgrounds.

Janet works at an Early Childhood Development centre in Rubondo, 20 kilometres from her

home. During school terms, she rents a room in Rubondo, living there with her children. Her ability to speak multiple languages ensures effective communication with her students.

During holidays, Janet offers free classes at home, creating a small school environment with a blackboard and books, fostering a love for learning. Her dedication extends beyond her own children, showing her commitment to the education and well-being of all the neighbourhood children.

Janet's story is one of resilience and determination. She navigates challenges with strength, instils hope, promotes peace, and uses creative approaches to educate children, shaping a brighter future for her community.







A little haven

by Awien Rose Madot, 25, South Sudanese (Kampala District)

Awien is a full-time Journalism and Communication student at Makerere University in Kampala District. She dreams of becoming a photographer and journalist to tell the stories of minority groups, especially women and refugees, like herself. She aims to highlight their challenges and successes, showcasing their resilience.

Helen Abour is a Biomedical laboratory student at Makerere University. She moved to Uganda from South Sudan with her parents and siblings in 2004.

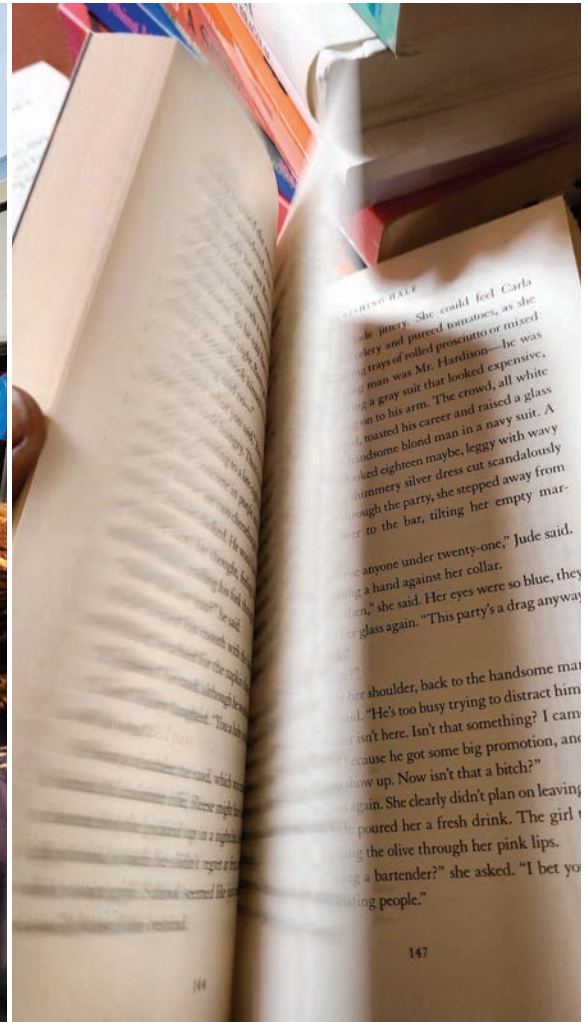
She has since discovered a piece of heaven in the books that she reads. Her love for literature enables her to slow down in the fast paced world around her while giving her the opportunity to learn something new and relax while at it.

Before joining the university, access to books was limited, primarily due to the high costs involved in purchasing them. Now as a student, she is able to access a variety of authors and genres through the Makerere University library.

Outside her hectic course work, she enjoys diving into worlds created by African authors.







Disability is NOT inability

by **Daniel Dara Sebit**, 28, South Sudanese (Imvepi, Terego District)

Sebit is an O'level graduate with a certificate in IT. He started photography at the age of 12 when his brother bought him a camera. He aspires to become a photographer, capturing the world around him to express his distinctive perspective and vision creatively.

Mana Cosmas is a 26 year old differently abled refugee. Having arrived at Imvepi Refugee Settlement in Uganda in 2017, he has always been determined not to let his physical limitations hold him back.

Upon his arrival into Uganda, Mana lived with his countryman and friend, Pabana Samuel who is a phone repairer. They fled to Uganda because of political unrest back home in Yei Town, South Sudan. In the two years they lived together, Mana learnt how to repair phones, and when Pabana went back to their hometown in 2018, Mana turned the skill into a business which continues

to earn him money that he uses to meet his basic needs, and pay for his adult learning education.

In 2021, Mana joined the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) at Annex Primary School in Imvepi Refugee Settlement. He completed the three year programme in 2023 and passed to secondary level for which he is currently preparing.

As he accumulates the required funds for this next step, Mana spends his free time teaching himself ICT skills at the community centre. He hopes to one day attend a tertiary institution to attain a Diploma in Business Administration.







To nourish and to empower

by **Munguzo Jean**, 22, Congolese (Nakivale, Isingiro District)

Munguzo has a diploma in Information Technology, one of his passions, and also holds a strong interest in alternative education. He aspires to advocate for refugee rights in Uganda, aiming to improve their opportunities for a life resembling what they had before obtaining refugee status.

Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2002, Milton Shandwa is a 22 year old entrepreneur who has been living in the Nakivale refugee settlement in western Uganda with his family since 2014. Growing up, he always dreamed of becoming a professional footballer.

Milton, the fifth of 13 children, faced many challenges including having to drop out of school due to the lack of resources to continue. In 2021, he joined Unleashed Potentials in Motion, a Refugee-led Organization and an implementing partner of ILO whose mission is to empower and educate youth and women from refugee and host communities by transforming mindsets

and catalysing social entrepreneurship to create and increase employment opportunities. It was the education in entrepreneurship using the ILO business development training tools that he received from this organisation that changed his life.

Now the proud owner of Domijo, a bakery located in the Nakivale refugee settlement, Milton's business goes beyond baking delicious treats. He believes that it is one solution to the rampant unemployment in the settlement. He employs six youths, who he continues to equip with technical and entrepreneurial skills that they can use to better their future.







Village to velocity

by **Malik Joshua**, 21, Ugandan (Entebbe District)

Malik in his senior six vacation. He aspires to pursue computer science at university. His interest in photography is driven by its creative aspects in entertainment and journalism and fuels his dream of establishing a film and photography agency through which he can tell compelling stories.

Sseviri Denis is a 26 year old resident of Entebbe Town whose personal vision extends beyond the borders of his ancestral home which is located in Kiboga District, located centrally in Buganda region, Uganda.

Raised by relatives in Entebbe town, Sseviri was forced to fend for himself, at 18 years of age, due to the economic strain faced by his caretakers. This was a major turning point in his life as he was now faced with fending for himself.

Due to a lack of formal education, Sseviri worked tirelessly for four years as a handyman, until he managed to save up to UGX 2,000,000

(approx. USD 530) which he used to purchase his motorcycle. From the dusty roads of Kiboga Village to the vibrant Entebbe Town, his biggest motivation was his belief that the motorcycle was his gateway to financial freedom.

For Sseviri, the motorcycle is a symbol of the independence he yearned for for years; and with the turn of a key, his life changed for the better. With the motorcycle, he is able to ferry passengers and packages. This has exponentially increased his income, enabling him to meet his basic needs in decent housing and food, all while sending money back home to Kiboga to support his parents.



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Rice production for financial freedom

by **Lalaka Samuel**, 25, South Sudanese (Rhino, Madi-Okollo District)

Lalaka completed his A levels in 2021 with support from his sister. His passion for photography sparked while documenting a school tournament. He aims to pursue journalism and aspires to become a photojournalist, driven by the potential of photography to enact change.

Amunda Tony is a 17 year old South Sudanese refugee living with his grandmother, Kiden Judith, in Wanyange Village in Madi Okollo district. Driven by a desire to finance his education, he's currently in senior one at Rhino Camp High School, and to support his family, Amunda ventured into rice cultivation. He utilises his after school hours and weekends, with the majority of his work happening during school breaks.

Amunda aspires to study Agriculture at university and to diversify into farming various grains alongside rice. Leveraging the two planting

seasons in March and September, he harvests over three sacks of rice per season and ensures proper storage to safeguard against weather and pests. He primarily sells his produce to non-governmental organisations and community members.

Described by his peers as hardworking and focused, Amu embodies resilience and determination in the pursuit of his goals.







The grinding mill

by Asiki Ronalio Angilo, 25, South Sudanese (Bidi Bidi, Yumbe District)

Asiki Ronalio graduated from O'level in 2023. He runs a YouTube channel managing a group, 'Keli Boys Comedy'. His dream is to use media and his photography to advocate for a better life for his community.

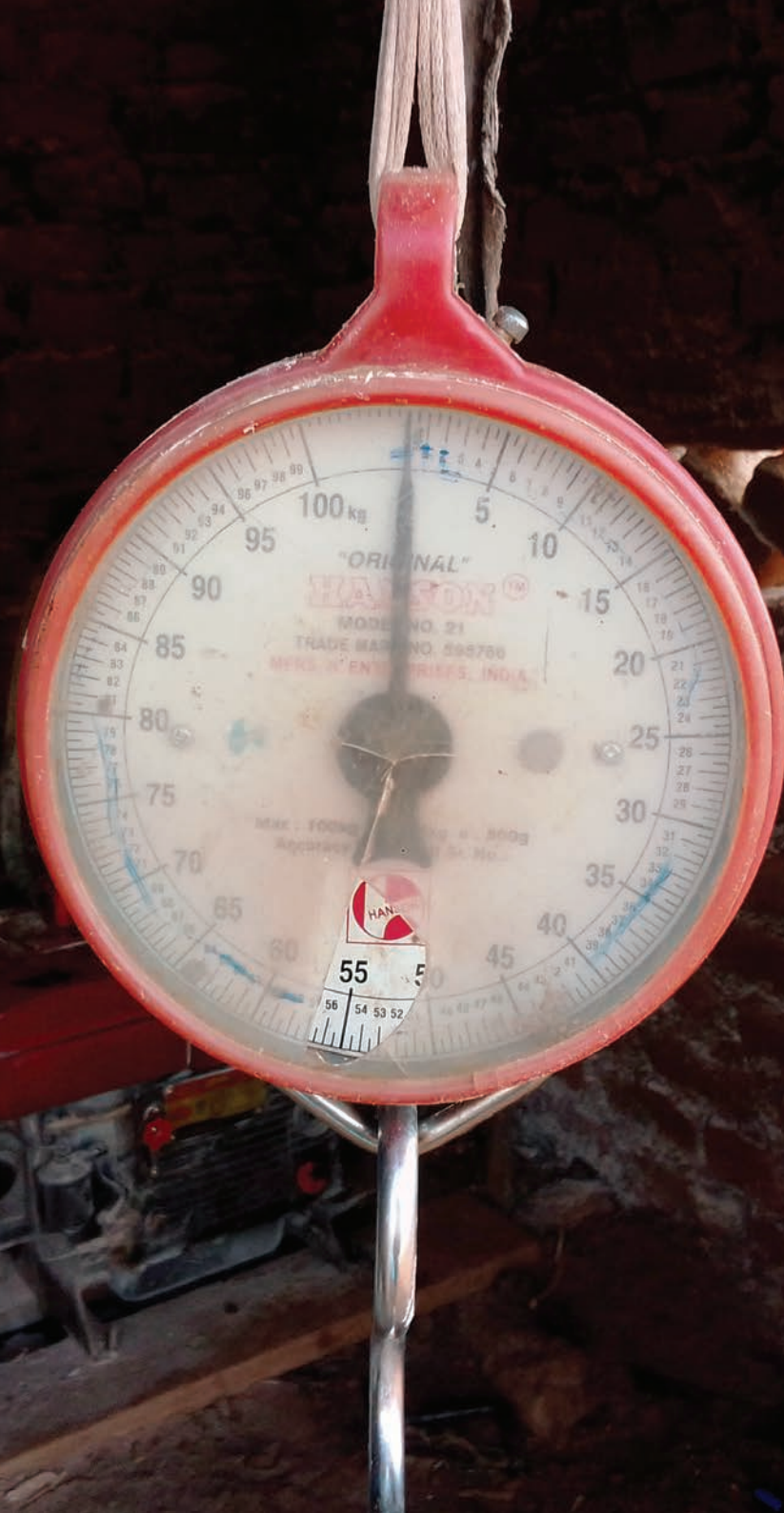
Peter Ramadan is a 19 year refugee who fled his hometown in South Sudan for Uganda in 2016 due to political instability. He has since settled in the Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, Zone 1, Village 13.

Having relocated to Uganda on his own, Ramadan was faced with a number of challenges until he met Christine Taji, an entrepreneur who owns a grinding mill. It was through this encounter that he had the opportunity to learn how to operate a grinding machine, and later, secure part time work as a grinder which earns him money during school holidays.

Ramadan now operates the machine daily from 8:30am to 7:30pm in Village 13. Due to its

strategic location, the mill serves two near-by villages. Furthermore, he has been able to attract and retain customers because of his hospitable character, in addition to offering the service at a competitive price. While other mills charge between UGX 150 (approx. USD 0.03982) and UGX 200 (approx. USD 0.053) to grind each kilogram of either maize or cassava, Ramadan charges only UGX 100 (approx. USD 0.02655).

At the end of each month, Ramadan earns UGX 70,000 (approx. USD 19) which he is saving to pay for his secondary education having only completed his Primary Leaving Examinations in 2023.







From grass to grace

by **Emmanuel Given**, 21, South Sudanese (Rhino, Madi Okollo District)

Given is an O'Level graduate who dreams of becoming a professional journalist and video producer, a field in which he excels. He is comfortable working under pressure and thrives in this environment.

This is the story of a refugee who multiplied 8 cows into 800.

Gew Duk, aged 50, and a resident of Odobu Village, Rhino Refugee Settlement fled to Uganda in 1988 with his wife Rebecca Nyang. Upon arrival, he joined a cattle keeping group with six others, who together, received 20 cows as a way to improve their lives sustainably in the long term.

Owing to his heritage as a Dinka and expertise in cattle keeping, Gew was assigned the responsibility of taking care of the herd. This involved grazing the cattle, collecting cow dung, and milking the cows. In 1989, the group split and divided the cattle, giving 8 cows to Gew.

Over the years, Gew faced many challenges such as the lack of pasture and water to feed his growing herd, diseases which affected the cattle, as well as cattle rustling from nearby communities.

Through all this and with the support of his family which now consists of seven biological children with his wife Nyang, Gew has persevered and found solutions for some of his challenges which include sending his sons five kilometres away from the kraal, following the Nile with the cattle to feed after his wife Nyang and daughters milk the cows.

Cattle keeping is the family's main source of income as they sell products from the cows such as the milk and cow dung which is burnt and used as a mosquito repellent when smeared on the walls of mud and wattle houses that many people in the community live in.

The Dinka people are the largest ethnic group in South Sudan who are better known for their traditional forms of agriculture and cattle keeping. They are also referred to as the legendary cattle keepers of Sudan. Gew's herd of 800 cows within the refugee settlement is also a great source of pride for him and his family.







Against all odds

by **Gloria Hayat**, 21, South Sudanese (Imvepi, Terego District)

Gloria, a recent senior six graduate, aspires to become a journalist with a mission to empower and uplift women, believing in their potential to drive positive change in the world.

With an initial investment of UGX 40,000 (approx. USD 11), given to her by her brother, 29 year old Lillian Aate now earns a monthly profit of approximately UGX 90,000, (approx. USD 24), from selling food items such as tomatoes and onions, as well as snacks like fried cassava and potatoes in the local market.

She is an entrepreneur from South Sudan who lives with her six children and husband in the Rhino refugee settlement. Having fled to Uganda in 2017, Aate is committed to ensuring that her family has access to basic needs such as food and education.

She is up early every morning, and by 7am, she has prepared the children for school. After she sees them off, she carries her commodities to the market where she begins her day by frying the snacks so her customers can enjoy them fresh.

With the money that she makes, she is able to pay school fees for five of her six children and make available other necessities in the household. She hopes to expand her snack menu and increase her stock of fresh vegetables, and even with the limitations in finance, she joined a community women's saving group that has enabled her to remain committed to this dream.







Not all heroes wear capes

by **Kambale Rogers**, 26, Congolese (Kampala District)

Kambale, a passionate photography enthusiast, seeks to capture the essence of people's social experiences. While initially aspiring to pursue a degree in Public Health, financial constraints halted his education after senior six. His goal now is to enable young people to share their perspective through photography.

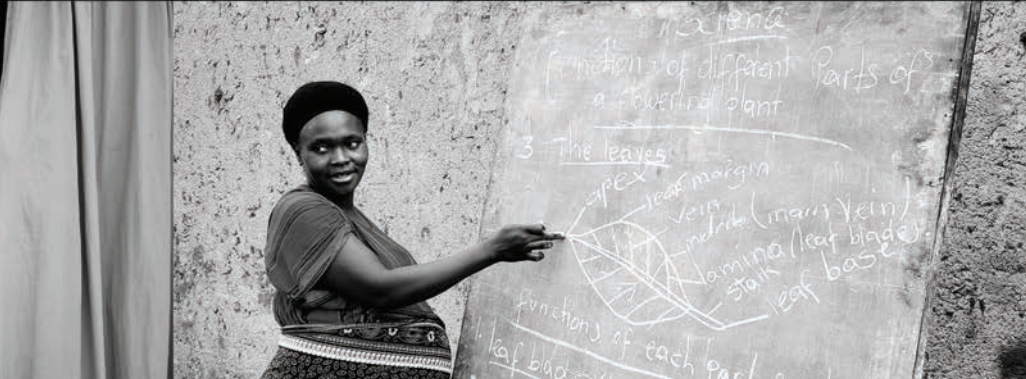
53 year old nurse, Mwira Florence is a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo who lives in Wakiso District, Uganda. Despite her nursing background in her home country, Mwira struggled to find dignified work and often resorted to odd service jobs, including nursing and cooking in restaurants.

In 2021, she took a significant step by partnering with a local healthcare professional and opened her own healthcare practice with just UGX 500,000. Located in Lufuka village, Ndejje, Wakiso District, Mwira employs one Ugandan nurse and passionately serves her community.











Developing independence through transition

Reflections from Blanchard Sibanza. Blanchard is a refugee living in Nakivale Settlement and participant of the unveiled vision photography contest.

"I never imagined that I would be forced to leave my country and become a refugee. Today, I am a refugee, learning to live life without everything that I once loved."

I was born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the northern province called North-Kivu. I grew up in Beni, one of the cities in the province. I went to bed every night without fear that some people might enter my home in the middle of the night and take my life. I looked forward to a future where I continued my education at university upon completion of secondary school, and living a decent life as a passionate architect.

However, all of that changed in 2016, as I have been living in Uganda as a refugee. How can one pursue the dreams they once had? As young people, we all have big dreams and aspirations that we would like to see accomplished, but what happens when all those dreams are taken away?

It was in trying to find the answers to these questions that I learned one of the hardest life

lessons; when you focus on what you can control, instead of what happens around you, you can find a path to independence. I did not like the person I was becoming as a refugee—someone without vision or goals. All I knew was that I wanted to find peace and safety. But how can you find peace when you have no clear goal as a young person?

I decided to change the life I was living and find new meaning as a refugee. I joined Unleashed Potentials in Motion, a refugee-led organisation and an implementing partner with the International Labour Organisation, that empowers youth through mindset transformation and social business development. There, I met young people who wanted to rewrite their life stories, transforming from vulnerable to proactive, valuable community members. I met Victor Mafigi and Amani Joel, the co-founders of Unleashed, and I was able to attend training in personal development and in fact trained to become a trainer to be able to empower fellow youth to become independent and align with their personal life vision. Unleashed Potentials

in Motion works to create sustainable refugee and host communities through social cohesion, peaceful coexistence, leadership, and social business development for self-reliance using ILO business development tools like Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) and Gender and Entrepreneurship Together (GET Ahead).

I found purpose in empowering fellow young people to become resourceful and proactive problem solvers within their communities. In order to enable young people to reach independence, they need training in employable skills and access to resources to empower them to implement their business ideas. In the past four years, I have witnessed many whom I have trained contributing to their communities' livelihoods by creating new jobs and addressing social challenges through social businesses.

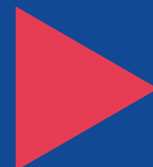
My friend and colleague Patient Baraka started a business that manufactures mosquito-repellent jelly to prevent malaria in children under 8 years old. I have also been inspired to bring solutions to my community which I am currently doing through manufacturing reusable sanitary pads to combat menstrual period poverty in Nakivale. Not only are we creating social businesses, but many other empowered youth are doing the same, becoming self-reliant within the community. This is what I call independence through social business creation and youth empowerment.

I am proud to be part of the positive change in my community. This transformation—from feeling hopeless to becoming an independent and valuable person—is what motivates me. I aim to contribute to the social and economic development of my community.





► ILO PROSPECTS at a Glance (from official ILO Gallery)



About the ILO

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency for the world of work. It was founded on the conviction that universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice.

The ILO brings together governments, employers and workers from its 187 member states in a human-centred approach to the future of work based on decent employment creation, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue.

The ILO's tripartite membership drafts, adopts and monitors the implementation of international labour standards on key world of work issues – ILO Conventions and Recommendations. The ILO undertakes research and data collection across the range of world of work topics.

It publishes flagship reports and a wide range of publications and working papers. Its globally renowned set of statistical databases are maintained and updated with nationally sourced labour market data.

The ILO manages a wide range of development cooperation projects in all regions of the world. Realised in partnership with donor countries and organisations, these projects aim to create the conditions for delivery of the ILO decent work agenda.

The ILO has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and field offices in more than 40 countries.

About FOTEA foundation

FOTEA, which was founded in 2016 to support the production of the Uganda Press Photo Award, offers perhaps the most diverse and complete specialist visual education options in the East African region. We bring together photographers and media practitioners, circumventing established structures to engage young photographers critically, encouraging them to look beyond the boundaries of the established media ecosystem and to develop ideas and approaches which address issues which they're passionate about.

FOTEA's main project is the Uganda Press Photo Award (UPPA), which started in 2012. UPPA began as a competition for Ugandan photojournalists. Over the years it has grown into a platform that not only promotes the best of today's photojournalism and documentary photography in Uganda but also supports emerging photographers through the Young Photographer Award and Mentorship Programme. On the regional level FOTEA aims to bring together visual storytellers from East Africa

by encouraging and championing viewpoints that document and engage with social change in the East African region through the East African Photography Award.

Activities now under the purview of FOTEA include not just the Awards but also the Emerging Photographer Mentorship Programme, portfolio reviews open to photographers from the African continent, workshops, photography talks and panel discussions, film screenings, and exhibitions. We work with different partners and encourage mobility in the region and beyond. Since our first photography training in 2013, we've trained over 500 photographers in a variety of skills, at a variety of levels and from different East African countries. We have worked with many photographers from the African continent and beyond who, through our workshops, have been mentored and presented their work in different formats.



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