



Solidarity **Eden Foundation**

Welcome!



Intros & Icebreaker

REFUGEES IN UGANDA



UGANDA - POPULATION DASHBOARD

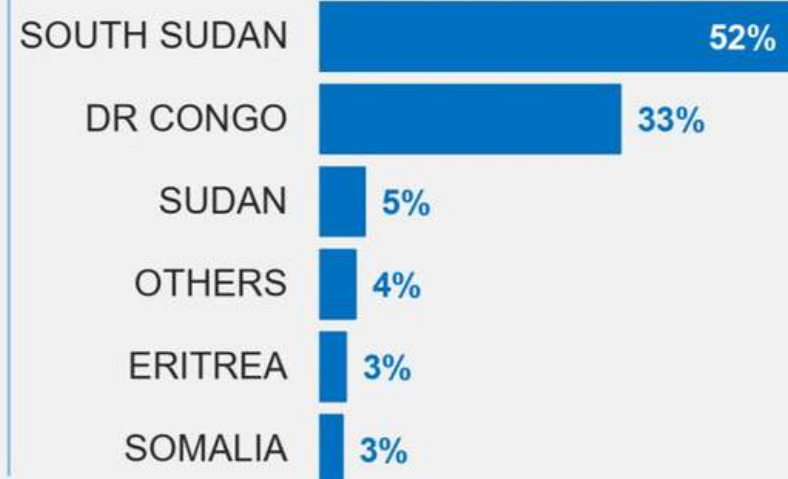
ANNEX II - Map - Refugees and Asylum Seekers

31-Oct-2025

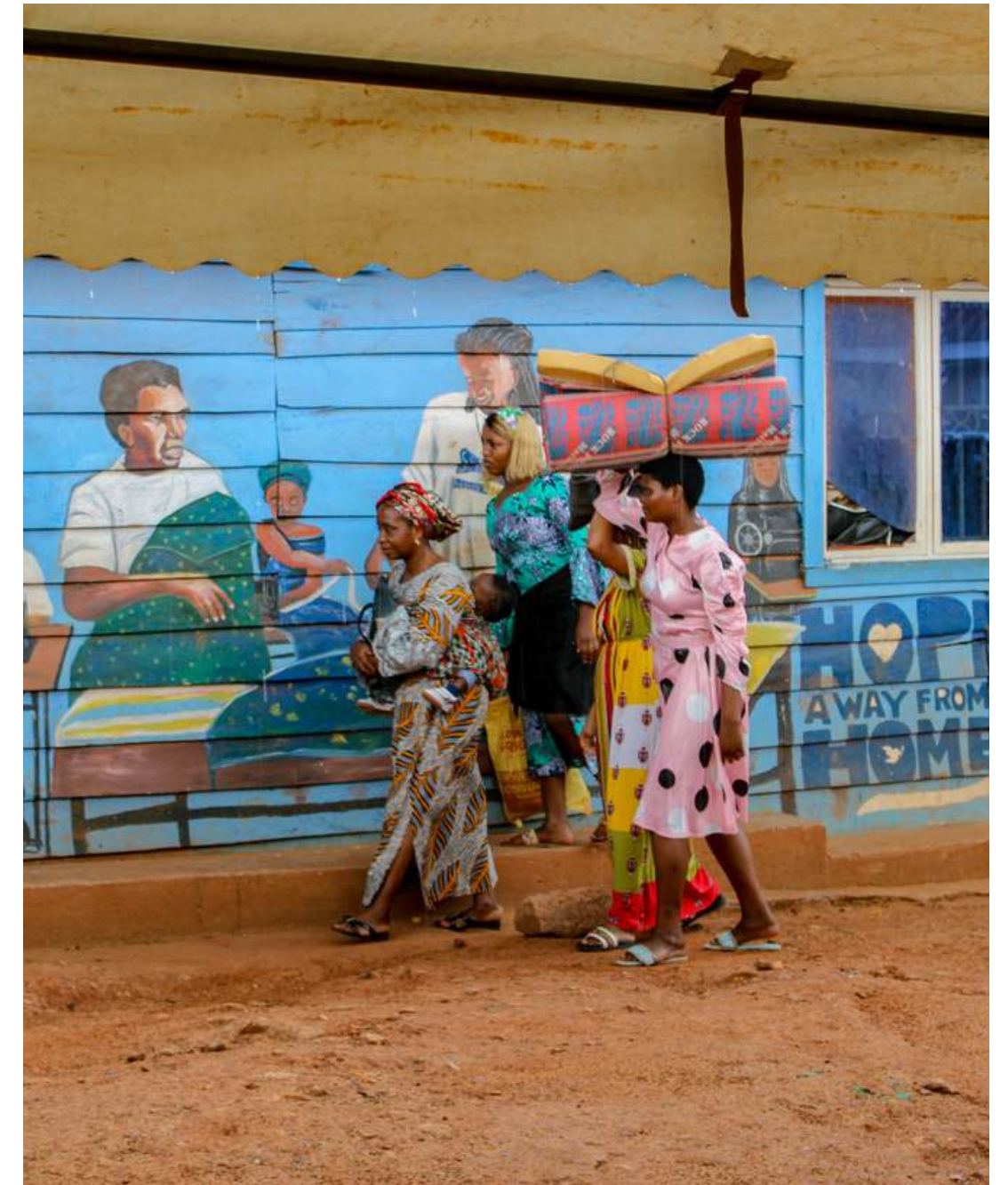
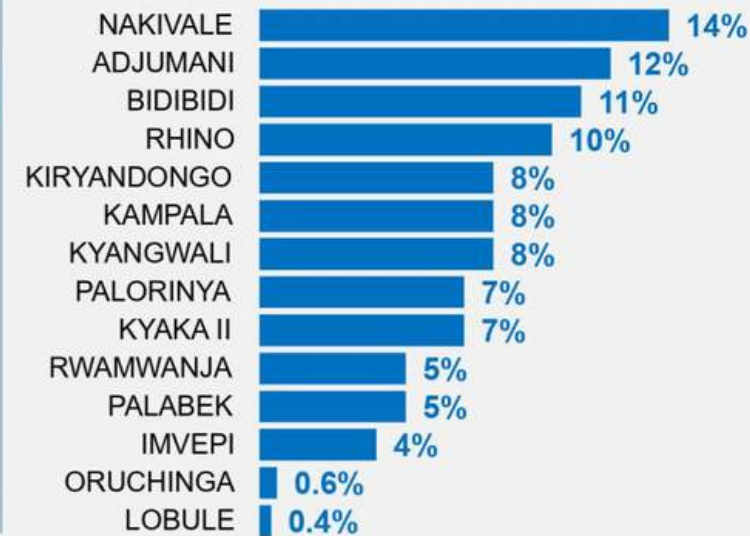
Total refugees and asylum-seekers

1,961,518

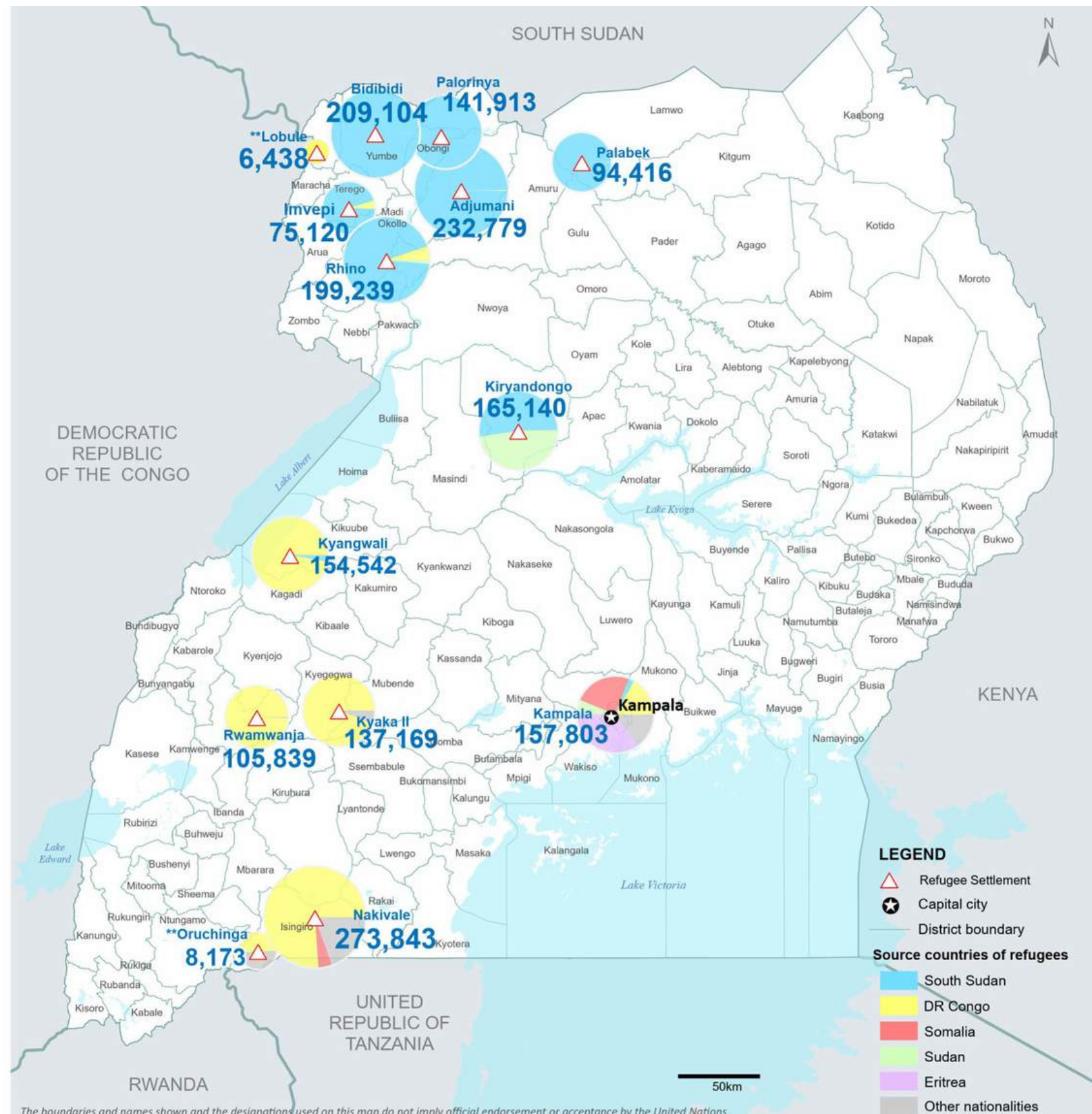
Countries of origin



Refugees per settlement



THE ISSUE & CONTEXT



- Uganda is the biggest refugee-hosting country in Africa
 - It hosts the 3rd largest refugee community globally, with over 1.9 million
 - Majority of refugees come from South Sudan and the DRC, but others travel to Uganda from Rwanda, Burundi, Eritrea and Somalia
- Uganda has historically had the most liberal refugee policies, allowing this population the right to work, free movement outside of the settlements, and a plot of land to subsistence farm.
 - Rising conflicts in neighboring countries has meant overcrowding, and land can no longer be given freely. Settlements are slowly turning into the more traditional Camp design.
- Problems with host country/communities
 - Services (education, medical, food and water, land)
 - Unemployment
 - Tribal violence
 - Shifting Populations
- With overcrowding in settlements, more refugees are trying their luck in cities; particularly Kampala

THE ISSUE & CONTEXT

- Refugee response in Uganda is MASSIVELY underfunded
 - Nearly all resources focused on emergency response in the camps/settlements
 - Urban refugees give up their monthly aid allowances to live outside the settlements (housing, food, clothing, education)
- Life in Kampala for 150,000 Refugees
 - Slum housing (safety, flooding, disease)
 - Lack of Opportunities (Work, Education)
 - Lack of community-based personal development spaces particularly for women and youth
 - Xenophobia
 - Lack of Community Safe Spaces
 - Isolation and lack of purposeful living



WHERE DO WE COME IN...?

Solidarity Eden Foundation (SEF) is a registered, refugee youth-led organization based in Kampala, Uganda, founded in 2015 to support urban refugees, particularly women and youths, in rebuilding their lives with dignity, resilience, and purpose. Through trauma-informed, and community-driven programming.

MISSION

Our mission is to address pressing challenges such as forced displacement, ethnic conflict, unemployment, and social disconnection, while equipping refugees with the tools they need to integrate into local communities, build sustainable livelihoods, and rediscover a strong sense of identity, belonging, and hope.

VISION

We envision a world where that's more welcoming, aimed at building resilience, networks, belonging, and sustainable livelihoods for refugees, particularly women in Uganda



ABOUT SOLIDARITY EDEN FOUNDATION

FOUNDING STORY

Refugee youth-founded in 2015. With experience and a shared vision between Jules and Jeremiah, we decided to start with a number brainstorm and shared learnings.

Founding Solidarity Eden Foundation was really the result of the great passion we had developed for community development over the years because so many refugees face great challenges when they arrive in Uganda, after having been through traumatic experiences in their home country, while adjusting to completely new and different cultural practices. That is not an easy transition; refugees must deal with language barriers, unemployment, difficulty accessing to services, cultural barriers and discrimination from the local communities.



ABOUT SOLIDARITY EDEN FOUNDATION

FOUNDING STORY

“We always have to leave behind all our possessions. But not our skills and knowledge. If allowed to live a productive life, refugees can help themselves and contribute to the development of their host country.” Robert Hakiza, YARID



ABOUT SOLIDARITY EDEN FOUNDATION

OUR WORK & STRATEGY

At Solidarity Eden Foundation we care, empower, and inspire at-risk refugee communities for a better tomorrow. We unite urban refugees through avenues like Language Development Programs, Vocational Training, Community Development, Creative Arts and Cultural Exchange Programs in order to address social issues like ethnic conflict, unemployment, and social integration.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D9EA3tzzESjomlGGjvi6mvj_BCzJv8IS/view?usp=sharing



ABOUT SOLIDARITY EDEN FOUNDATION

OUR IMPACT

At the heart of our work is the SEF Refugee Resource Center, a vibrant, welcoming space that has become a second home for over 300 refugees, primarily newly arrived individuals from DR Congo, South Sudan, Burundi, and Rwanda. More than just a resource center, it is one of the few safe and inclusive spaces in Kampala where refugees feel genuinely seen, supported, and connected.

We combine education, vocational training, community building & integration activities to support refugees with strengthening the skills they need to not only survive in the face of trauma, stress, displacement, and deprivation, but to become self-reliant. Our four main program avenues combine to create an engaging, efficient, and cost-effective intervention.

7,218

Refugees reached since
our founding in 2015

439

Refugees directly
impacted in our latest
programming year

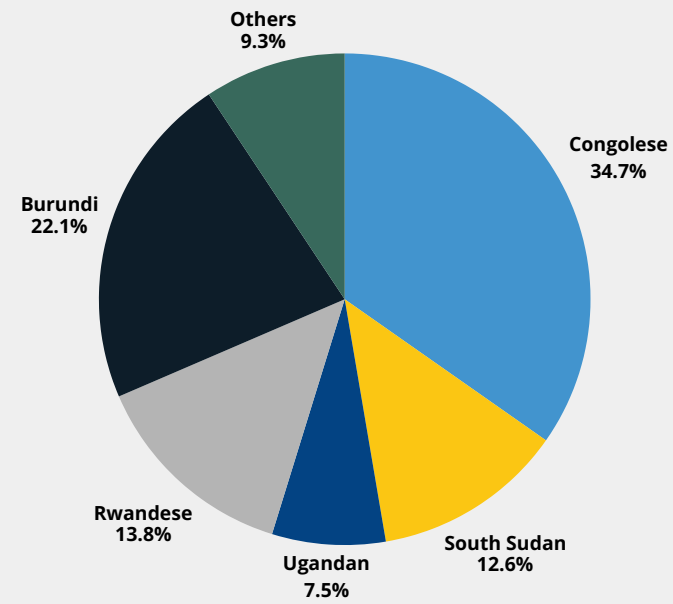
70.6%

Females ratio served
across all programs

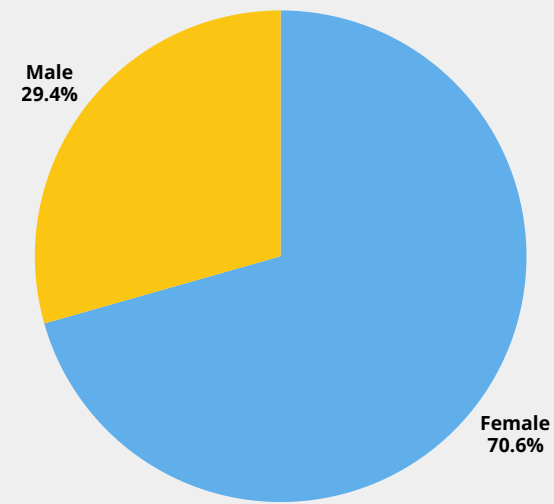
10

Participant's Country of
origin, speakers of over
41 languages and
dialects

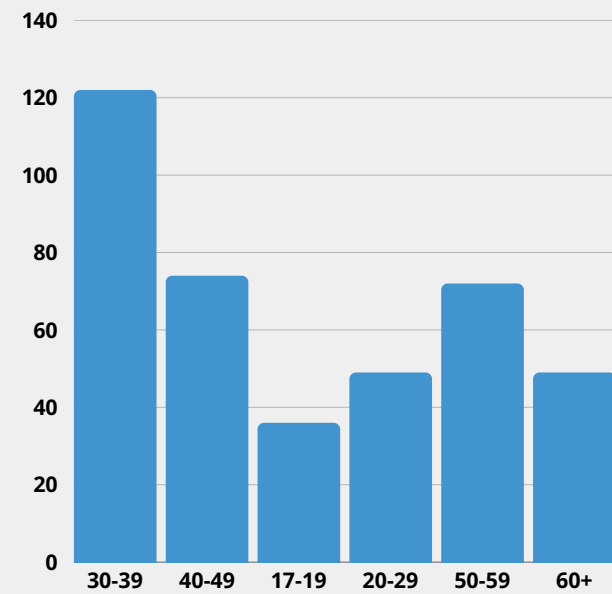
PARTICIPANTS DEMOGRAPHICS



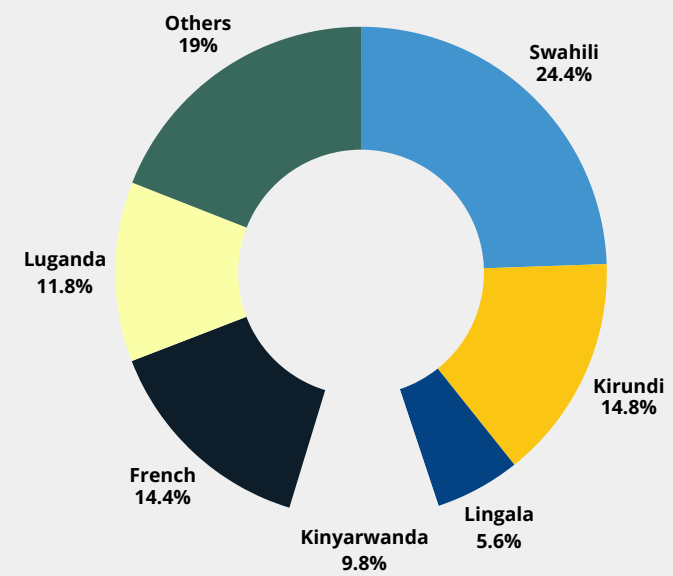
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



GENDER BREAKDOWN



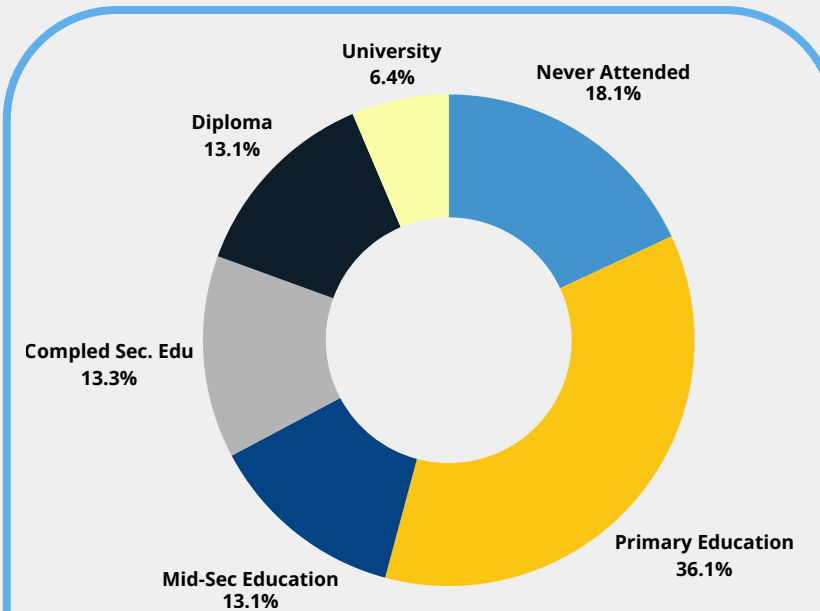
AGE BREAKDOWN



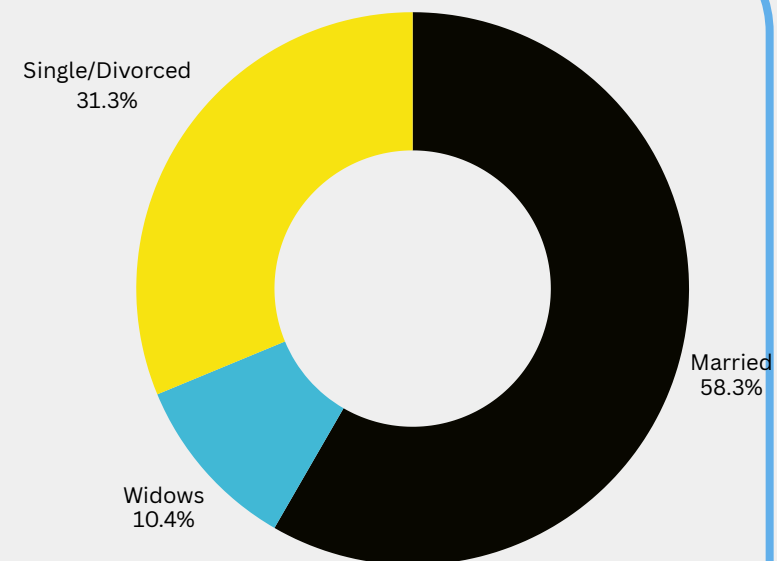
LANGUAGES SPOKEN



PARTICIPANTS DEMOGRAPHICS



LEVEL OF EDUCATION



MARRITAL STATUS



OUR PROGRAMS

REFUGEE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Empowering refugees in Kampala through free, practical, and inclusive English classes. Our program helps learners improve communication, confidence, and community integration while promoting personal growth through interactive and trauma-informed learning activities.

Our English Development Program delivers high-quality, trauma-informed, and engaging Functional Adult English classes completely free of charge for vulnerable refugees in Kampala. Designed to support daily learning, the classes focus on helping refugees improve their English proficiency, integrate more effectively, and build stronger connections with both refugee and non-refugee communities.

Each year, the program directly impacts 250 refugees, with a minimum of 50% being women. To enhance learning and promote holistic development, we integrate co-curricular competitions and interactive activities to build participants' English-speaking, problem-solving, social, and cross-cultural skills.



OUR PROGRAMS

REFUGEE EDUCATION PROGRAM

English Language Use and Development Survey Results:

89%

“Learning English will help me achieve my goals” - 2024 Participant Program Survey Results

78%

“I have learned new English words at the Solidarity Eden Foundation” - 2024 Participant Program Survey Results

85%

“Speaking English at SEF helps me speak it to other people in the community” - 2024 Participant Program Survey Results

74%

“I can write things like a message, letters, and other texts in English” - 2024 Participant Program Survey Results



OUR PROGRAMS

CREATIVE ARTS & CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

We celebrate diversity and identity through music, drama, and poetry events that bring refugees and host communities together. These gatherings promote healing, unity, and belonging while engaging leaders and stakeholders in dialogue around peace, inclusion, and shared community values.

We organize creative arts, cultural, and heritage celebrations at our Refugee Resource Center, featuring music, drama, and poetry performances. These events explore themes such as diversity, identity, peacebuilding, cultural humility, social justice, power, and privilege, enabling participants to reflect on their experiences and social contexts.

Each event is designed to be inclusive, reflective, and celebratory. We invite key community leaders, stakeholders, and policymakers to participate, strengthening community cohesion, fostering refugee-host relationships, and advocating for inclusive policies and shared community identity. These cultural events are a vital tool to inspire, uplift, and affirm the identities within our diverse community, fostering a sense of belonging, healing, and unity for all those we serve.



OUR PROGRAMS

CREATIVE ARTS & CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Social and Cross-Cultural Exchange Survey Results:

90%

“I accept and work with people of different cultures than mine” - 2024 Participant Program Survey Results

79%

“I have learned about other cultures, music, foods, and languages other than mine at SEF” - 2024 Participant Program Survey Results

97%

“I am comfortable asking questions to people about their cultures, and the groups they are connected in their communities” - 2024 Participant Program Survey Results

80%

“If I am going through a difficult time, I can share it with people at SEF” - 2024 Participant Program Survey Results

70%

“I am comfortable talking about myself, and the things I believe in to other people and groups.” - 2024 Participant Program Survey Results



OUR PROGRAMS

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WATCH THIS SNIPPET:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pZtagGFJ4RINH9asL2VysJIZzhGRc5Zt/view?usp=sharing>



OUR PROGRAMS

VOCATIONAL TRAINING - WOMEN ON THE WHEELS

At Solidarity Eden Foundation we live to inspire our participants to understand that being a refugee is not the end of life, but can be a beautiful new beginning. This spirit helps them realize the barriers in front of them and see them as opportunities to get to work. We provide free-of-cost tailoring and fashion design training covering all the material costs for participants, including tailoring machines, fabrics, and access to highly trained and experienced instructors and mentors. Aiming to use this skill for their own sustenance and the ability to meet their basic needs and become self-reliant.

We support 5-10 outstanding women throughout the implementation of each cohort to help reduce the worries of what to do after the program. For these women, owning their own sewing machine, we believe, is such an incredible way to send them off on a journey to self-reliance and fight refugee poverty.

Through other collaborations with Love Binti, we connect 3-5 refugee women each year, with job connections to work in Ugandan-owned fashion businesses.



OUR PROGRAMS

VOCATIONAL TRAINING - WOMEN ON THE WHEELS

The country is battling with a mental health crisis, for refugees, the stats are close to double if we put into consideration the instability around the region, and the wounds they are still healing from caused by war and conflicts yet we know that mental wellness and recovery if not done properly or taken care of by a trained professional can cause a lot more harm than good, it can in fact freshen the wounds that were already healing.

Through the Women on Wheels project, we provide our participants with access to trained and licensed professional counselors and psychotherapists at a free cost. The average cost to access this kind of service around Kampala is 200,000 Ugx (about 55 USD) per session, which the participants we serve cannot afford, so they access these freely and feel part of a community. We believe that when people with the same needs, goals, and ambitions come together, incredible things happen! They grow connections between themselves and also strive to be there for each other. This program helps these women know they can count on each other and, collectively, they help shape their voices, resilience, and abilities to overcome challenges that may come their way.





Solidarity Eden Foundation

HEALING, EMPOWERING AND INSPIRING FOR
A BETTER TOMORROW.

Founded in 2015 to provide refugees with a safe
space to gain essential psychosocial, emotional
and, lifeskills support to integrate well in host
communities and be self-reliant.

SOLIDARITYEDENFOUNDATION.ORG
EDENFOUNDATION54@GMAIL.COM



OUR PROGRAMS

BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

We deliver and serve participants with a practical 12-module curriculum in business, entrepreneurship, and financial management lasting 6 months. The program aims to transform the economic futures of refugee women and their households.

We support strengthening and accelerating refugee-saving habits through village saving groups. Each group will consist of 30-40 women per cohort in the savings activity, meeting weekly and making deposits in their safe locker in a cycle of 6-8 months, while also aiming to advance refugee women's leadership, where members will serve as group chair leaders, secretaries, saving box key holders, and advisors.

Through these savings groups, we aim for financial independence for the refugee women and also inspire each other with information about money matters like spending, saving, investing, and banking. Combining these efforts, with practical and locally relevant tools and resourcing, we are committed to:



OUR PROGRAMS

BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

1. Contribute and accelerate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 1 and Goal 10, End Poverty through Reduced Inequalities; income inequalities for vulnerable refugees, especially women.
2. Boost refugee women's confidence and competence to run and manage small to medium income-generating activities, equipping them tools, connections, and resources needed to achieve a great sense of self-reliance.

The savings program is supported by our Business Training Facilitator to assist in monitoring and sustaining the program, as well as connecting the women to opportunities within the local community. Since 2022, we have reached over 348 women,



OUR PROGRAMS



Tegere's Story

[Click to watch video](#)



SOLIDARITY EDEN FOUNDATION
**CERTIFICATE
OF COMPLETION**

This certificate is proudly presented for honorable achievement to

FURAHA BASHENGEZI

For successfully completing the Solidarity Eden Foundation
Women on the Wheels Vocational Tailoring, Fashion and Design Training Program
held in Kampala Uganda from August 14th 2023 - April 12th 2024

Together with all rights and honors.


Executive Director

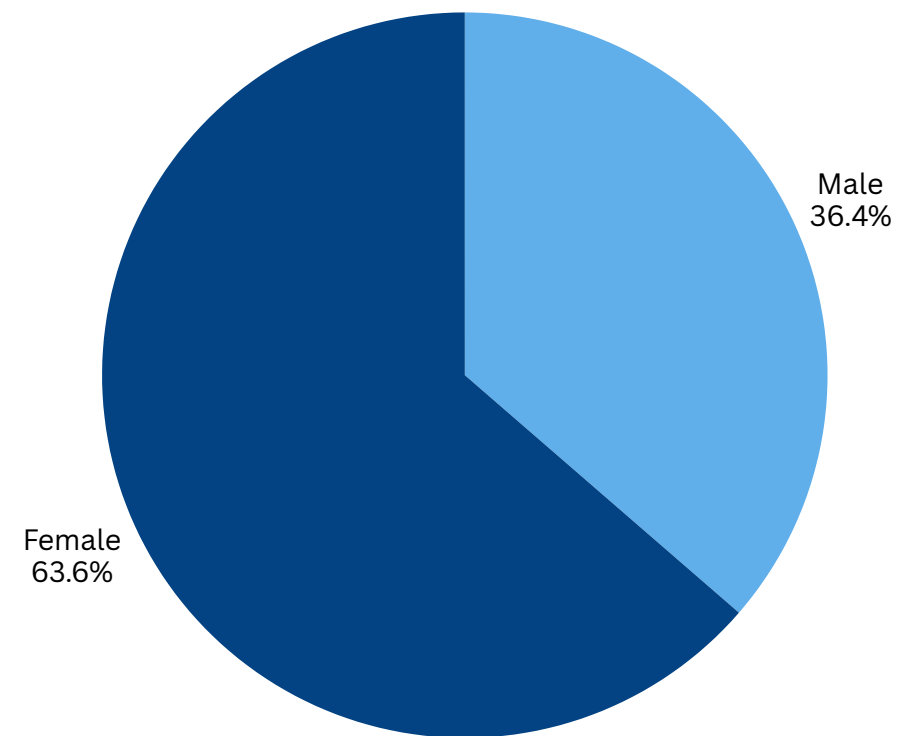

Programs Coordinator



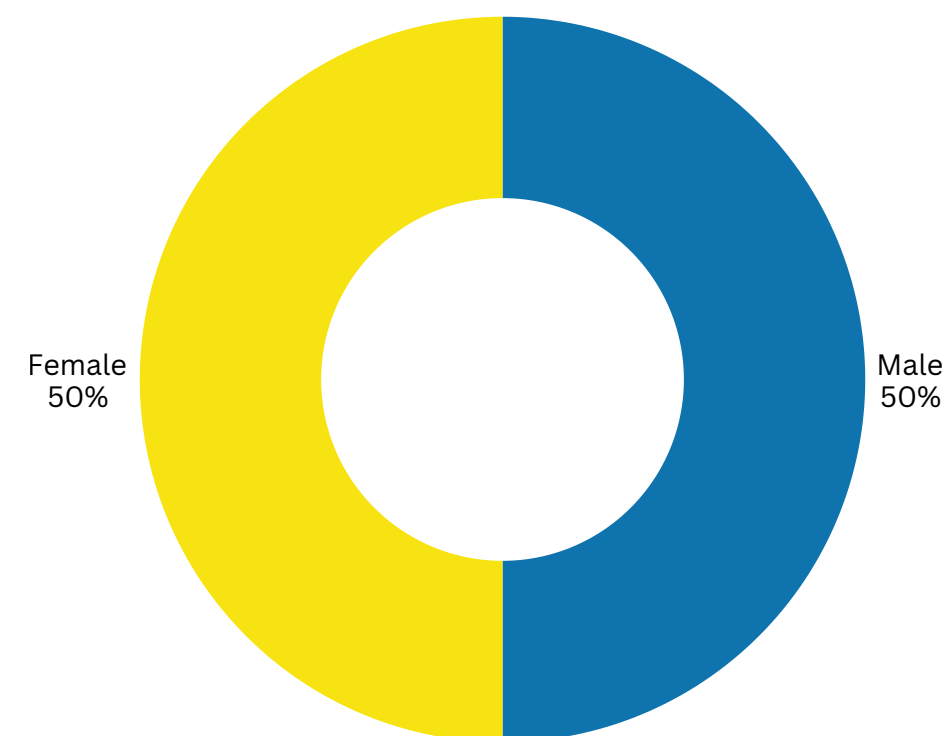
Our Team:

Gender Breakdown

All Contracted-Staff



Leadership/Management Team



- * Average Staff Tenure: 3.4 years
- * Average staff age: 30.4 years old



Mayele Jules Murhula
Executive Director,
Co-founder



Joyce Mweneinga
Communications
Coordinator



Josephine Kajibwami
Vocational Program
Manager



Birindwa Nziku
Programs Supervisor



Vestine Shema
Language Support
Officer



Jacques Mwisa
M&E Officer



Ahadi Ryde Clement
Program Operations
Manager



Rose Mbiira
Sewing Instructor



Celestin Mbarato
English Instructor



Hellen Ngangu
Sewing Assistant Instructor
& Savings Group Officer



Akili Rusumba
Finance Officer

Our Partners & Supporters:



LOVE BINTI



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



Sinai International
Evangelical Church



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
OFFICE OF THE PRIME
MINISTER



OUR GOALS & TARGETS:

- 2024-2026 Strategy & Beyond
- Collaborations and Partnerships
- Exchange, learning, and evidence/best practice sharing
- Sustainability and sector leadership



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THANK YOU...!

