

HODARI Foundation

Innovation, Independence and Inclusion

Annual Report 2025





Executive Summary

HODARI Foundation (HF) is a refugee-founded and refugee-led organization based in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement in Southwestern Uganda. HF applies innovative theories of change and a human-centered design approach to support the independence, resilience, and empowerment of refugee women and children. Our core interventions focus on regenerative agriculture, Childcare, and Social enterprise development.

The HF's mission is to promote and defend the rights and well-being of all individuals, regardless of background, by fostering a culture of inclusivity, independence, equity, and empowerment.

We proudly celebrated our 5th Anniversary, marking five years of impactful service and community transformation. Over this period, we have empowered more than 6,310 individuals, strengthening livelihoods, resilience, and hope across the communities we serve.

We sincerely acknowledge and appreciate the unwavering support and generosity of our donors, partners, the Government of Uganda, and the community. This milestone would not have been possible without your trust, collaboration, and shared commitment to sustainable development.

As part of this celebration, we officially launched our Five-Year Strategic Plan (2025–2030), which provides a clear roadmap for scaling our impact and deepening our contribution to inclusive growth.

As of 2025, HF has grown into a dedicated team of 15 full-time staff members, including 11 refugees and 4 host community representatives. The team is led by an Executive Director with a background in agribusiness innovation and management, supported by professionals including a food nutritionist (currently an intern with the National Agricultural Research Organization), a certified accountant, an environmental scientist, Spawn Lab Officer, an occupational therapist, and a community liaison officer responsible for community engagement and mobilization.

This diverse and skilled team enables HF to deliver context-responsive, community-driven solutions that advance gender inclusion, livelihood development, and sustainable impact in displacement-affected settings. By 2025, HODARI Foundation has reached and supported over 884 direct beneficiaries.

Regards;

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Janvier'.

Janvier HAFASHA
Executive Director



985

Direct beneficiaries
Reached in 2025

148

Smallholders' farmers trained in good agronomic practices and land management

1000

Trees were planted to advance agroforestry, carbon sequestration, and broader environmental restoration, contributing to healthier landscapes for future generations

151

Trained entrepreneurs in comprehensive skills in mushroom production, processing and enterprise development

1

Electric solar dryer for mushroom with 200kg capacity

200

Children improved with nutrition and were provided with education opportunities, discovered their talents, free expression and care.

84

Elderlies were supported with food relief

2

Empowered Caretakers with small businesses to bolster household economic resilience

5

Partnerships secured that led the momentum of 2025 and were beacons of the courage and the changes.

15

Staffs of whom 11 are refugees and 4 are Ugandan nationals

400

Community members are aware of climate -change, environmental threats and adaptive solutions

Regenerative Agriculture & Climate Change

The HODARI Foundation's Regenerative Agriculture & Climate Change program is a cornerstone initiative dedicated to promoting sustainable land management, environmental restoration, and climate resilience within the Kyaka II Refugee Settlement and surrounding host communities.

Rooted in the challenges of displacement where soil degradation, erratic weather patterns, and limited resources exacerbate food insecurity, the program empowers smallholder farmers, particularly refugees and vulnerable women, to adopt regenerative practices that restore ecosystems while enhancing productivity and livelihoods.

A key component of the program is the establishment of a fully fenced 2-acre demonstration farm, which serves as a practical learning hub. Here, farmers engage in hands-on training on techniques such as composting, mulching, crop rotation, water conservation, and integrated farming systems. This site has become a model for climate-smart agriculture, demonstrating how regenerative methods can improve soil health, increase biodiversity, and support long-term food security in fragile environments.

The program has delivered tangible impact through targeted capacity-building and awareness efforts. A total of 148 smallholder farmers were trained in good agronomic practices and sustainable land management, while climate change awareness sessions reached 400 community members, fostering a deeper understanding of environmental threats and adaptive solutions. Additionally, 1,000 trees were planted to advance agroforestry, carbon sequestration, and broader environmental restoration, contributing to healthier landscapes for future generations.

As an active member of the Livelihoods, Energy, and Environment Sector, coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR Field Offices in Kyaka II, the HODARI Foundation ensures its work aligns with national and humanitarian priorities. This refugee-led initiative not only combats climate vulnerability but also promotes community stewardship, turning environmental challenges into opportunities for resilience, dignity, and sustainable development.





Social Enterprise Development

The HODARI Foundation's Social Enterprise Development program focuses on fostering economic self-reliance and entrepreneurial capacity among refugees and host community members in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement. By equipping vulnerable individuals particularly women and smallholder farmers with the skills, tools, and market-oriented opportunities needed to build sustainable businesses, the program transforms agricultural production into viable income-generating ventures. Central to this effort is the mushroom value chain, which provides low-barrier entry points for entrepreneurship while addressing post-harvest losses and enhancing product quality for broader market access.

A landmark achievement was securing the prestigious Ashden Grant – Transforming Energy Access, which supports the project “Empowering Smallholder Farmers through Electric Solar Dryers to Reduce Post-Harvest Losses in Mushroom Cultivation.” This funding enabled the procurement of a high-capacity 200 kg electric solar dryer, a critical piece of infrastructure that allows farmers to efficiently dry mushrooms, extend shelf life, reduce spoilage, and produce consistent, high-quality value-added products and with this initiative HODARI Foundation was able to train 101 farmers on how to use solar-dryer operation. The initiative not only minimizes economic losses but also promotes clean energy use and climate-resilient practices in displacement settings.

Through targeted training in partnership with YIDA, the program empowered 50 entrepreneurs with comprehensive skills in mushroom production, processing, business planning, and enterprise development. These participants, many from women-led groups, are now better positioned to launch and manage profitable ventures, contributing to household incomes, food security, and community economic growth. Through combined innovative technology with hands-on capacity building, HODARI Foundation's social enterprise approach demonstrates how refugee-led innovation can drive dignity, financial independence, and long-term resilience.

Childcare, Child Protection & Community wellbeing

The HODARI Foundation's Childcare, Child Protection & Community Well-being program is dedicated to safeguarding the rights, health, and development of vulnerable children, elderly individuals, and families in the Kyaka II Refugee Settlement and surrounding communities. In displacement settings where access to education, nutrition, and psychosocial support is often limited, this program adopts a holistic approach that addresses immediate needs while fostering long-term resilience, dignity, and community solidarity.

A core focus is improving nutrition and educational opportunities for children. The program has enhanced nutrition outcomes for over 200 children through targeted feeding initiatives and the integration of nutrient-rich mushroom products into daily meals. Additionally, 48 children received direct educational support, including 4 students in secondary school and 44 pupils in primary school, helping to break cycles of poverty and displacement by ensuring access to learning.

Mental health and psychosocial well-being remain a priority, particularly for children facing trauma and instability. Through play-based learning activities and storytelling sessions, the program improved the emotional health of 150 children, providing safe spaces for expression, joy, and healing. These interventions promote child protection by building emotional resilience and strengthening community networks.

Community celebrations and partnerships further amplified the program's reach. HODARI Foundation co-hosted the Day of the African Child with support from the African Youth Action Network (AYAN), creating a platform for advocacy, child-friendly activities, and awareness on issues affecting displaced children. The program also extended support beyond children, providing essential food relief to 84 elderly community members and empowering 2 caretaker-led small businesses to bolster household economic resilience. 24 were supported under DiscoverMe and 60 were reached through Compassion day event.

As an active member of the Child Protection Sub-Working Group, HODARI ensures its efforts align with coordinated humanitarian responses, contributing refugee-led perspectives to broader protection strategies. This commitment underscores the program's role in fostering inclusive well-being across generations.

Looking ahead, these achievements are strengthened by foundational milestones such as celebrating the HODARI Foundation's 5-Year Anniversary, launching a comprehensive 5-Year Strategic Plan (2025–2030), and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). These developments provide a robust framework for scaling impact, deepening institutional partnerships, and sustaining transformative support for childcare, protection, and community well-being in the years to



Other Engagement (National and International)

The HODARI Foundation has actively joined the other RLOs to amplify the refugee voices in national and international forums, advocating for inclusive sustainable development, climate resilience, and humanitarian innovation. Through strategic participation in high-level conferences and engagements, the Foundation amplifies the perspectives of displaced communities, shares evidence-based solutions from the mushroom value chain and regenerative agriculture initiatives, and influences policy discussions that shape responses to food insecurity, child welfare, and environmental challenges in refugee settings.

At the national level, HODARI Foundation representatives attended the 8th National Youth Parliament, and contributed to role of young people in the leadership and decision-making and participated in the 11th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The team also engaged in the EcoAdapt Session hosted by the Ministry of Water and Environment and joined Global Refugee Forum (GRF) Youth Pledge Reviews, ensuring that refugee-led innovations are integrated into Uganda's national strategies for sustainable development, climate adaptation, and youth empowerment.

Internationally, HODARI strengthened its global visibility and technical expertise by attending the Humanitarian Innovation Forum organized by Elrha, participating in the Humanitarian Energy Access Conference organized by the Global Platform for Action (GPA), and completing the DANIDA Fellowship on SDG Implementation in Copenhagen. These platforms facilitated knowledge exchange, networking with global innovators, and the adoption of best practices that directly inform scalable solutions back in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement.

Despite these achievements, the Foundation continues to navigate significant challenges that impact program sustainability and community outcomes. Key obstacles include the high prevalence of stunting among newborns and toddlers, rising school dropout rates among children, increasingly unpredictable weather conditions affecting agricultural production, the absence of a dedicated value addition hub facility and UNBS certification for mushroom products, and limited access to long-term investment and sustainable funding. Addressing these barriers remains central to HODARI's strategic priorities as it advances toward greater impact and self-reliance.





PARTNERSHIPS AT THE HEART OF EVERY CHANGE WE MAKE.



AYAN – DiscoverMe project serving to Cultivating Self-awareness & Confidence among children



Ethos Foundation – Climate Education among youth through Permaculture Principles & Ethics.



Walters Ministries – Combating malnutrition among children through hot meals



Sporesight – Spawn laboratory materials



Nourish All – Capacity sharing on mushroom cultivation and financial system strengthening



COHERE – First ever unrestricted funding that allowed us to decide to invest it in fencing two acre Demo farm, establishing a robust goat breeding initiative to empower refugee youth and foster parents through goat multiplication and training.



Ashden – Transforming Energy Access Grant. "Empowering Smallholder Refugee Farmers with Solar Electric Drying Technology to strengthen the Mushroom value Chain in Kyaka II



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