



Service Delivery in Refugee-Hosting Areas, Social Cohesion, and Messaging: Results from a Large-Scale Experiment



Research Conference
June 13, 2022

**MESTIL HOTEL**
20 BARRACKS DRIVE
NSAMBYA, KAMPALA, UGANDA

Hosted by:



YARID | Young African
Refugees for Integral
Development



CENTER
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Agenda

9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

9:30 AM Light Breakfast & Coffee

10:00 AM Opening Remarks

- **Robert Hakiza**, Executive Director and Co-Founder, YARID
 - **Thomas Ginn**, Research Fellow, CGD
 - **Asiimwe Douglas**, Commissioner for Refugees, Office of the Prime Minister
 - **Fatima Naqvi**, Senior Social Protection Specialist, World Bank
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10:45 AM Session 1: Summary of Research Findings

Presentation followed by Question and Answer:

- **Thomas Ginn**, CGD
 - **Robert Hakiza**, YARID
 - **Hope Zainab**, Field Officer, YARID
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11:45 AM Break

12:00 PM Session 2: The Role of Refugee-Led Organizations in Service Delivery and Social Cohesion

Panel followed by Question and Answer:

- **Zbigniew Paul Dime**, Senior Community Based Protection Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
 - **Dawla Kodi**, Executive Director and Founder, Kandaakiat Organization for Women Empowerment and Development
 - **Lukendo Mbokani Jerry**, Executive Director and Founder, OneYouth OneHeart Initiative
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12:30 PM Session 3: Incorporating Findings into Practice

- **Christine Nandora**, Economic Recovery and Development Coordinator, International Rescue Committee
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12:45 PM Closing Remarks & Lunch

- **Judith Okala**, Women Empowerment & Livelihood Manager, YARID
- **Thomas Ginn**, CGD
- **Robert Hakiza**, YARID

Overview

Can aid change host community attitudes toward refugees?

Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID) and the Center for Global Development (CGD) are excited to share new results from a randomized controlled trial on the attitudes of Ugandan micro-entrepreneurs in Kampala. The study finds that simple, low-cost addition to an aid program for host communities can have large, persistent effects on social cohesion.

Participants were randomly selected to receive cash grants and a short message. The message explained how the program was part of the refugee response and that the service provider was a refugee-led organization. More than one year after the program, we find that Ugandans who received both the grant and the message were significantly more likely to support refugees' right to work, freedom of movement, and having a refugee as a neighbor.

The findings led to three recommendations for service providers and donors to facilitate social cohesion: include host communities in programming, attribute the program to the presence of refugees by attaching a short message, and deliver services through refugee-led organizations.



YARID and CGD are pleased you joined us for this event to discuss these findings, how they can apply to programming, and other topics related to host communities, social cohesion, and refugee-led organizations.

Can Aid Change Attitudes Toward Refugees?

AUTHORED BY: TRAVIS
BASELER, THOMAS GINN,
ROBERT HAKIZA, HELIDAH
OGUDE, OLIVIA
WOLDEMIKAEL

Host citizens often oppose inclusive policies for refugees like the right to work. They worry these policies would negatively affect their livelihoods while yielding little for them in return.

One strategy to make the benefits of hosting more **tangible** to citizens is to include them in assistance packages with the refugee response. This “aid-sharing” concept has been outlined in the New York Declaration, the Global Compact on Refugees, and Uganda’s 70:30 principle, among others. When citizens know they are receiving assistance *because* of the refugee presence, do their attitudes toward refugees and their right to work change?

Researchers partnered with Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID), a refugee-led organization that includes hosts in programming, to study this question in Kampala, Uganda. We worked with 1,558 inexperienced Ugandan salon owners and tailors and randomly assigned them to one of six groups:

1. **Cash Only:** A grant of 500,000 UGX (140 USD) with no mention of refugees
2. **Information Only:** A conversation that includes information about Uganda’s aid-sharing policy, YARID’s work in the community, and a listening exercise to encourage empathy for refugees
3. **Cash and Information:** The grant is delivered with the canvassing conversation. The goal is for the business owners to associate the grant with the presence of refugees and their right to work.
4. **Mentorship by an Experienced Refugee:** Facilitated weekly meetings to discuss business practices and techniques
5. **Mentorship by an Experienced Ugandan:** The same structure as (4) but pairing Ugandans with other Ugandans for comparison
6. **Control Group:** Surveys Only



Results: We find the **Cash and Information** group significantly increased their support for refugees' right to work, other inclusive policies, and their attitudes toward refugees. The effects persist more than one year after the intervention. Attitudes in the other groups also change, but significantly less than the cash and information combined. No programs affected business profits or economic outcomes, likely due to COVID-19.

MEET THE RESEARCH TEAM:



TRAVIS BASELER

Assistant Professor, University of Rochester

Travis Baseler is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Rochester. His specific areas of interest include migration, refugees, and social networks in developing countries. He received his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 2019.



THOMAS GINN

Research Fellow, Center for Global Development

Thomas Ginn is a research fellow at the Center for Global Development, where he studies migration and displacement. He received his PhD in economics from Stanford University, where his dissertation evaluated camps for Syrian refugees, and his BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

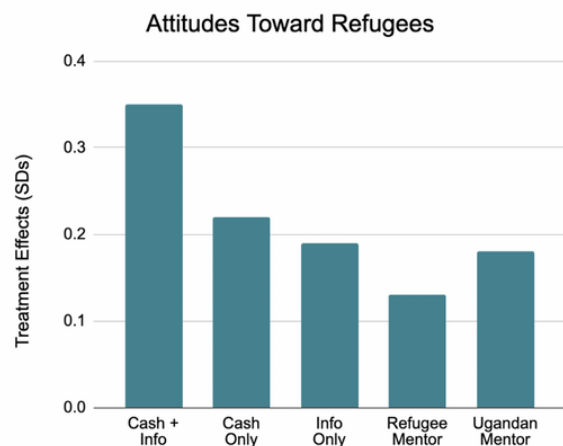


ROBERT HAKIZA

Executive Director, YARID

Robert Hakiza holds a degree in Agriculture from the Catholic University of Bukavu (DRC). While living as a refugee in Uganda, he co-founded Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID). In 2013, Hakiza worked as an assistant researcher with Oxford's Humanitarian Innovation Project. He was a TED Fellow, Aspen New Voices Fellow in 2017, and 2020 Obama Leader.

Relevance: Policymakers and practitioners are increasingly including host communities in the refugee response in many sectors. Our research finds that this principle, especially when **combined** with a short, explanatory message that connects the assistance with the refugee presence, can substantially affect hosts' attitudes and support for inclusive policies. Furthermore, delivery through a **refugee-led** organization likely made the message - that refugees bring direct benefits to host communities - especially salient to host recipients.



HELIDAH OGUDE

Social Development Specialist, World Bank

Helidah Refiloe Oguide, a South African-Kenyan national, is a Social Development Specialist at the World Bank. Her work focuses on development responses to forced displacement, social cohesion, and the relationship between climate change and conflict. She holds an MSc in International Relations from New York University and a Ph.D. in Migration Policy from The New School.



OLIVIA WOLDEMIKAEL

PhD Student, Department of Government Harvard University

Olivia Woldemikael's research focuses on migration in the Global South, with a focus on exclusion and inclusion of refugees and migrants. In 2015, she graduated with BA from Columbia University.

Special Thanks

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Building the Evidence on Forced Displacement



About the Hosts



The mission of YARID is to empower refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced persons around Africa to overcome the burdens of deprivation and vulnerability to become healthy, educated, self-sustaining and contributing members of society.

www.yarid.org



@yariduganda



The Center for Global Development works to reduce global poverty through innovative economic research that drives better policy and practice by the world's top decision makers.

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Thank you for attending!