

# Rock of Refuge Kalama Community Based Organization

(Formerly Kalama Your Friend Community Based Organisation - KYF CBO)

## Annual Progress Report: January – December 2025

Mityana, Uganda

Date: 27 December 2025

## Executive Summary

2025 was a year of resilience, growth, and transformation for Rock of Refuge Kalama Community Based Organization in Mityana District, Uganda. Starting the year as KYF CBO with support for 69 vulnerable children, the organisation ended the year with 93 children under its care, providing daily meals, education, healthcare response, psychosocial support, and skills-building opportunities.

Major achievements included signing an MoU with Mityana Local Government, acquiring eight sewing machines to launch the Okutunga Mibirkwa women's vocational programme, multiple successful harvests through child-led home-growing, remedial education for 15 primary school children, community celebrations, the launch of a women's safe space, an environmental plastic recycling project, and, in Q4, the CBO Board's authorisation of the formation of a mother organisation — Rock of Refuge Foundation Uganda Ltd — a company that will pursue NGO registration and will be affiliated with the CBO as a sister organisation while serving as the mother organisation with distinct administration and mandate. A linked supporting entity was also registered in the United States to facilitate international partnerships and sustainability.

The year was not without significant challenges: chronic food insecurity (children receiving only one meal per day), water scarcity affecting irrigation and hygiene, healthcare limitations, menstrual health gaps, substandard housing, climate impacts (heavy rains destroying gardens), and organisational restructuring amid external disputes. Despite these, the organisation maintained transparent governance, zero reported incidents under child protection and whistleblowing policies, and a steadfast focus on community-driven solutions.

This detailed report captures every key activity, milestone, challenge, and outcome across all four quarters to provide full transparency on the year's journey.

## Organizational Development and Governance

### Leadership and Capacity Building

- Older children consistently demonstrated leadership by managing farmland, home-growing gardens, planting, harvesting, and sustainable practices throughout the year.
- Volunteers played vital roles: Harold supported agricultural replanting; Maggie took over Okutunga tailoring classes from 1 September.

- Early in the year, Project Facilitator Raymond Gavin provided strategic and operational support before departing amid later organisational changes.
- Q4 restructuring emphasised self-reliance, administrative efficiency, mobility (need for office space and transport), and completion of further registration documentation.

## **Institutional Strengthening and Partnerships**

- On 10 April 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with Mityana Local Government, formally strengthening credibility and collaboration.
- Child protection, whistleblowing, financial management, and risk policies were actively implemented and guided all decisions.
- Administrative improvements (structured calendars, meeting discipline, timely reporting) were prioritised throughout the year.
- In June, a public clarification document was issued addressing unauthorised affiliation claims by the former “Kalama Friend Foundation.”
- In Q4, the CBO Board authorised the formation of a mother organisation, Rock of Refuge Foundation Uganda Ltd, a company that will pursue NGO registration. It will be affiliated with the CBO as a sister organisation while functioning as the mother organisation with different administration and mandate. A supporting entity was also registered in the United States to facilitate international partnerships and sustainability.

## **Community Engagement and Celebrations**

- 21 April: Easter celebration with children.
- 22 April: Earth Day participation at Gejja International Organisation for networking and learning.
- 11 May: Mother’s Day celebration with shared meals for mothers and caregivers.
- Multiple children’s birthday celebrations (including 20 July and 29 June).
- 30 June: Launch of dedicated women’s safe space forum for sharing experiences, challenges, and solutions.
- 3 June: Community Councillor Noah James provided mentorship to children.

**Child Protection Policy:** No incidents reported in 2025.

**Whistleblowing Policy:** No incidents reported in 2025.

## **Programmatic Achievements and Activities**

### **1. Child Welfare, Education, and Health**

- Daily care, one meal per day (supplemented by harvests), and psychosocial support provided consistently to all children.
- Beneficiary numbers grew from 69 (Q1) to 93 (Q3–Q4).
- 15 children at Kalangalo R/C Primary School received targeted remedial education to address significant learning gaps, support for school attendance, term starts, holiday transitions (children returned home in May with continued caregiver oversight), and essential materials.
- August: Clothing distributed to vulnerable children via Okutunga programme.

- 9 September: Child participant Jackie sustained a finger injury while cutting jackfruit; medical treatment provided on 25 September (surgery avoided).
- Ongoing response to chronic health needs (e.g., caregiver Zai received herbal treatment for uterine fibroids and chronic back pain due to resource constraints).

## **2. Okutunga Mibirkwa (Women's Economic Empowerment)**

- Q1: Eight sewing machines acquired through dedicated donation in memory of Ms. Jolene.
- 27 April: Official launch of tailoring and craft-making classes for vulnerable women.
- Ongoing sessions throughout Q2–Q3 with regular coordination involving local leaders.
- 4 August: Clothing support extended to children from programme output.
- 10 September: Women mastered advanced tailoring; began producing market-ready bags and dresses (now available for order).
- 1 September: Volunteer Maggie assumed full responsibility for classes.

## **3. Food Security and Agriculture**

- February: Maize harvest provided temporary relief from food shortages.
- April: Children and volunteers (including Harold) replanted crops with focus on sustainable irrigation.
- 28 April & 18 June: Child-led home-growing and gardening sessions emphasising teamwork.
- 22 June: Vegetable harvest.
- 30 June: Beans and cassava harvest strengthened household nutrition.
- 31 August: Gardens destroyed by heavy rains, causing setback in food supply.

## **4. Water Accessibility**

- Year-round fundraising advocacy and meetings with international supporters to develop plans for borehole or water tank construction, prioritising irrigation and hygiene needs.

## **5. Environmental Sustainability**

- 22 September: Launch of plastic collection and recycling project; children and community constructed birdhouses from recycled bottles to promote eco-friendly practices.

## **6. Menstrual Health**

- Persistent gap in hygiene products and private sanitation facilities continued to exacerbate stigma and health risks for girls; remained a priority area for resource mobilisation.

## **Key Challenges Experienced in 2025**

- Chronic food insecurity and rising malnutrition/stunted growth (one meal per day).

- Water scarcity severely limiting agricultural productivity and hygiene.
- Limited healthcare access for chronic conditions (e.g., Zai) and emergencies.
- Substandard housing conditions requiring urgent upgrades.
- Climate volatility, notably August floods destroying gardens.
- Menstrual health resource shortages.
- Operational constraints: office space, transport, and slow on-ground progress during Q4 restructuring.
- External disputes and attempts to undermine the organisation, resolved through public clarification and administrative measures.

## **Strategic Priorities Moving into 2026**

1. Expand education support: remedial classes, school materials, and consistent term attendance.
2. Strengthen food security: drought-resistant seeds, climate-resilient techniques, scaled home-growing.
3. Complete water project: borehole/tank for irrigation and hygiene.
4. Secure healthcare partnerships for subsidised treatment.
5. Address menstrual health with reliable hygiene supplies and private facilities.
6. Grow Okutunga: increase production, marketing, and income generation.
7. Infrastructure: secure permanent office and transport.
8. Sustainability: deepen international partnerships via Rock of Refuge Foundation Uganda Ltd and the supporting entity in the United States, and diversify support streams.
9. Environmental projects: expand recycling and awareness initiatives.

## **Closing Note**

Rock of Refuge Kalama Community Based Organization extends sincere gratitude to every volunteer, community leader, local authority, international supporter, and donor who contributed time, resources, or encouragement throughout 2025. Every harvest, celebration, lesson taught, and challenge overcome reflects collective effort in transforming lives. We remain fully committed to transparency, accountability, and sustainable impact for the children, women, and families of Mityana.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

**Nkatta Hamza**

Executive Director

Rock of Refuge Kalama Community Based Organization

All project documentation, photographs, meeting records, and supporting evidence are available upon request.