

«What if we could transform refugee camps into regenerative communities?»
Generation Restoration

Summary

On October 28th, 2024, Generation Restoration e.V. organized a roundtable with 17 participants from various organizations online. Generation Restoration e.V. aims to actively serve as a bridge builder, connecting and supporting the inspiring initiatives that exist within marginalized groups, including both refugees and host communities. Harnessing the experience of grassroots actors, combining common approaches or objectives, framing those for standard-setting, and - ultimately - approaching international organizations for policy definitions are at the forefront of Generation Restoration e.V.'s efforts. The second roundtable of a continuous series has taken the leap from not only sharing but focussing on predominant questions. The positive impact of sharing and gathering to find solutions for scaling and implementing regenerative solutions, either in-person or online, has been acknowledged by all participants and is the driving factor for the establishment of the roundtable series according to the reasons to participate:

«Learn and connect with other regenerative agriculture practitioners.» - Gloire Mudekuza (Plethora Social Initiative)

«Excited to find an organized collective to learn from, collaborate and grow with.» - Catherine Sekitoleko (Obuntu Bwa Casalina)

«Learning from others and sharing with others.» - Francis Lumbuye (NCFG)

Presentations on documenting Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and scaling approaches

The implementation of regenerative practices follows a process of documentation to track the progress and advocate for its scaling. Hence we have invited two of our initiative's members to share their approach towards documentation.

Paulinho Muzaliwa, founder and CEO from [Unidos Social Innovation Centre](#), shared his documentation method for monitoring and evaluating regenerative projects. He introduced the output, outcome and impact (IOOI) levels to the participants. Here, output means all "immediate" results like soil health, water retention and crop yield. The outcome level touches upon those factors that have an effect on the farmers themselves, like earnings as well as behaviour towards the environment. The third level, the impact level, tracks the impact on the country as a whole and the broader goals that the project wants to achieve, such as contributing to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our second speaker, **Francis Lumbuye**, Co-Founder and Coordinator of Nature and Creativity for the Future Generation (NCFG), devoted his presentation to the documentation of the scaling of regenerative projects. He specifically touched upon a climate mitigation project introducing bio gas. The assessment of scalability was subject to the availability of bio gas in the target areas, the availability of unemployed youth who could be working in such a project, the support of local leaders, the market size for packaged gas in Uganda, its ability to be replicated and the income generation.

Key Questions & Discussions

The second part of the roundtable included two discussion groups on relevant questions for documenting regenerative solutions:

«What do we need to document impact assessment?»

«How far can we standardize documentation on common aspects to advocate for policy changes?»

Within the first discussion group on *«What do we need to document impact assessment?»*, the focus was first laid upon the conceptualization of the project itself. This means that there are different refugee camps

and there is the need for diversified approaches among urban and rural areas. Furthermore, it was highlighted that one must be aware of the resource scarcity in refugee camps that impacts the suitability of common approaches in calculating carbon capture or similar. However, waste reduction and water management are available methods to be pursued. The actual commitment to those available methods depend on awareness creation as many refugees compare their previous living situation with the one in Uganda and do not perceive climate change as a contributing factor towards why it has always rained in their home country but not so in Uganda. A mindset change that those regenerative practices can actually mitigate climate change and following bring more rain is needed.

Our second discussion group reflected on the question «How far can we standardize documentation on common aspects to advocate for policy changes?». It was phrased that it is essential to follow a community approach that might include starting with systemic constellation and visualization. Furthermore, it can include using the same methods, such as the “IOOI method” (Input - Output - Outcome - Impact). In addition to our first speaker on M&E, it was voiced that it is helpful to follow a hypothesis. Additionally, frameworks for impact logic and assessment might be of use. Organizations could, for example, follow guidelines like the [Social Impact Navigator "Planning ahead for what happens afterward"](#). The constellation of the organization itself might also be effective when different roles such as analyzers, facilitators, documenters, and communicators become the standard.

Network: Participating organizations & common goals

The unique perspectives of all actors in the roundtable are relevant to intrinsically understanding and incorporating themes into advocacy. They showcase that Ugandan organizations are willing to implement regenerative solutions. However, collaboration and coordination make these efforts even more effective.

Extract of that network:

UNIDOS Social Innovation Center

Turning refugees into change makers – that is the goal of the Unidos Social Innovation Centre. In the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in South West Uganda the refugee-led organisation aims at empowering young refugees with entrepreneurial skills. “Our vision is to completely transform our refugee camp into a regenerative community, where everyone will become self-sufficient. We firmly believe that through developing strong entrepreneurial skills, we will be able to co-create, build resiliency and turn the hard and often painful situations that adversely impacted us in our home countries, into stories of success”, says founder Paulinho. Through the application of permaculture these determined refugees do not only regenerate soil and ecological environment but also their own lives and the community.

Contact:

Paulinho Muzaliwa, founder and director of UNIDOS

<https://unidosprojects.org/>

Nature and Creativity for the Future Generation (NCFG)

Indigenous NGO is working with farmer communities with less resources in Uganda. We are a member of Green light future Union which is a consortium focusing on agroecology. NCFG promotes agroecology, seed regeneration, use of available resources, environmental conservation methods, and safe water in communities.

We have a [demonstration farm](#) to showcase what we preach. Agriculture students use it as a practicing classroom. Roundtable discussion on refugees and restoration is important for us to share our experiences, expertise, challenges, and solutions as we aim at environment restoration.

Partners Empowering Agro-ecology and Community Education (PEACE)

Online-Roundtable 28.10.24 by Generation Restoration e.V. Regenerative solutions in refugee camps and settlements

We are a community-based organisation (CBO) found in Buikwe District, village Bukaya. Majorly with a focus in Agro-ecology which involves environmental conservation, recreation through raising nurseries and tree planting and empowering local smallholder farmers.

Our vision: To promote Innovativeness and Climate Action.

Mission: To promote tree planting to smallholder farmers through raising our own nursery beds and by giving out free seedlings to farmers, Rotary Clubs, schools, and the government.

Contact person:

Peter Kibuuka, Rotarian, Director PEACE

Eco Mamas Uganda

Eco Mamas Uganda: Our mission is to enhance the quality of living for youth, women and families in poor rural areas through education involving environmental sustainability, permaculture, holistic nutrition, herbal medicine, yoga and healthy food preparation.

We are developing a community resource and learning center. We are currently working on the first phase of the construction of the house based on a permaculture concept that will accommodate students, teachers and other guests.

We've got 4 small groups :

- 1. Vegetable and herbal medicine.*
- 2. Value addition - porridge flour making.*
- 3. Livestock - local poultry*
- 4. Packaging - Paperbag making to help mitigate against plastic pollution.*

We wish to connect with organizations and individuals who are willing to share knowledge or contribute financially in the construction of the house that will help facilitate, trainings and accommodation.

Contact person:

Adam Suleman, Project Coordinator Eco Mamas Wakalenge Ecovillage

<https://www.ecomamasglobal.com/copy-of-current-projects>

Moram Organics

MORAM ORGANICS is a 3 month old Community Based Organization located in Busia Uganda and trying to link peasant farmers to Agro ecotourism opportunities and culture. We are trying to end poverty and also ensure no hunger amongst our communities by running 3-day resident workshops that introduce participants to hands-on low-cost sustainable crop production techniques, low-cost high quality feed production for livestock including use of the black soldier fly and earthworms for poultry and pig production and Agroforestry.

It's composed of 24 members, largely women, who work together, save their food in a communal food granary, save their diverse indigenous seed in a community seed bank and save some money every month for insurance in times of adversity including benevolence and gladly share this knowledge with visitors during workshops.

Sitting on 6.5 acres of land, the project has begun to establish a permaculture design with much interest in having a food forest and we are working toward acquisition of clean energy solutions including the solar energy supply and eco stoves. Members of Moram Organics are reported to be happier, healthier and more hopeful for a better future!

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Study from Wycliff in Kyangwali refugee settlement

I have spent the past 6 months in Kyangwali refugee settlement, looking at the forest restoration.

Each refugee household is allocated a piece of land measuring 30 by 30 meters and nowadays it has reduced to 20 by 50 because of the increased population. This is standard in all the settlements. Since the Ugandan refugee policy shifted from a humanitarian approach to a self reliance where the food rations were reduced and stopped in settlements in western Uganda, the refugees grow their own food. Allocation of land to refugees was one of the measures to promote this self reliance. In my findings (not yet published), fruit trees were the most grown, mainly the grafted ones most preferred in Kyangwali with *Artocarpus heterophyllus* (jack fruit) as the most common species. There are implementing partners for UNHCR mainly environment with Nsamizi organisation in most of the western Uganda refugees.

Your project is missing?

If you want to share your work with the roundtable network, please send us your organization or project description to vorstand@gen-r.de and we will add it to this online document here.

Coordinating these efforts is the motivation and reasoning behind the establishment of Generation Restoration e.V.

Documentation of in-person Roundtable in Uganda, August 2024

Check out the results here

<https://genr.world/generation-restoration-roundtable-uganda-2024/>

Several action points and challenges have been identified by the participants that will be the basis for our next roundtables.

Challenges

- scalability, resistance to change, lack of knowledge, comfort zoning, issues of policy and relations
- context of communities
- information gap
- conflicting interests (commercialization)/funding?
- mindsets
- competition of money and transformative process
- duplication of work
- getting funders/donors
- capacity building (implementation process/decision-making process/ training participants)
- integration (sufficient quantifiable data/sophisticated software)
- climate change (extreme weather while pursuing regenerative solutions)
- timing

Action points

- networking (share the knowledge/experience)
- more training's
- engaging the local community (communities of practice)
- mapping of key stakeholders
- get accessibility to long-term funding (what can you achieve in only one-year? (UNHCR))
- study
- PPPs (Public-private partnerships)
- policy advocacy to the government
- set clear goals
- financing/existing capacity (maybe among each other?)
- awareness creation and outreach

- climate change mitigation (continued)

Be part of Generation Restoration!

Important Links:

- Save the Date: Online Roundtable on 24 February 2025, 9am EAT ([Registration here](#))
- [Join WhatsApp Group](#) of the Roundtable
- [Join LinkedIn Group](#) of Generation Restoration
- Share your projects with us (send them to vorstand@gen-r.de)
- [Subscribe for news](#) at www.GenR.world
- distribute the information among your personal and professional network



Let's grow together!

SAVE THE DATE - register now!

Next Roundtable: online

24.02.2025, 9am EAT

Registration form:

<https://form.campai.com/aceuxnhhU38d>