

Thank you for joining the Mushroom Workshop!



Mushroom Workshop with Peruth at Mikrofarm Gräfelfing



A Cooperation between Mikrofarm Gräfelfing, Rwamwanja Rural Foundation and Generation Restoration e.V.



Mikrofarm Gräfelfing



Rwamwanja Rural Foundation



Generation Restoration

Rwamwanja Mushroom Growers Association

A consortium of refugee-led organizations elevating mushrooms and pioneering a cooperative to maximize income, food security, nutrition, and resilience.

PROBLEM

Of the 500,000 refugees in the Southwest region, 62% face food insecurity and less than half have access to land for agricultural production. Although Uganda allows refugees right to work, the poverty rate of refugees is more than twice that of host communities (46% and 16% respectively). Already 60% of refugee households adopt negative coping mechanisms, which is likely to increase due to recent cash assistance cuts. With an average stay of a refugee exceeding 10 years, the refugee response must shift to self-reliance.

SOLUTION

Mushrooms are a sustainable solution that uniquely solve the constraints of refugee settlements – they require little space and land, produce quickly (<2 months), strengthen health, and grow on waste materials. Our Refugee Mushroom Cooperative is a network of RLOs collaborating across the mushroom value chain and across settlements to unlock this potential. We train and establish production for community groups, targeting women and the most vulnerable. We empower groups to sell locally, preserve using dehydrators, and create VSLAs. Most importantly, we aggregate, dry, and create value-added products to reach larger markets and maximize income potential.

RESULTS

Since 2022:

- 360 farmers trained, producing, and earning income, ~80% women
- 91 mil US\$ (~\$25,000) revenue generated
- 15,200kg mushrooms produced since
- 1,400 individuals and youth served
- 3 VSLAs created
- Mothers able to breastfeed their children

<https://www.rrfug.org>



Kamwenge
Kyegegwa
kampala
Oruchinga



Thematic areas:
-food security
-nutrition
-income generation
-women's empowerment
-climate-smart agriculture



WHY REFUGEE MUSHROOM GROWERS CONSORTIUM?

The Mushroom Consortium was established as a strategic initiative by the Rwamwanja Rural Foundation to leverage the collective strengths and resources of various stakeholders to achieve common goals within the mushroom value chain in the refugee settlement. Here are the detailed reasons for its formation and its alignment with the common goals, mission, vision, and objectives:

Reasons for Forming the Mushroom Consortium:

Enhanced Collaboration and Synergy:

Unified Effort: Bringing together different stakeholders, including farmers, trainers, NGOs, and market players, creates a unified approach to tackling challenges in the mushroom value chain.

Shared Resources: Pooling resources such as knowledge, technology, and funding improves the overall efficiency and impact of the initiative.

Comprehensive Training and Capacity Building:

Standardized Training Programs: Ensuring all participants receive high-quality, consistent training in mushroom cultivation, value addition, and spawn production.

Skill Diversification: Offering a broad range of skills from cultivation to business management, which enhances the capabilities of the beneficiaries.

Economic Empowerment:

Market Access: Facilitating better access to markets for the products, ensuring higher incomes for farmers and producers.

Value Addition: Promoting the creation of value-added mushroom products to increase profitability and create more job opportunities.

Sustainability and Scalability:

Sustainable Practices: Encouraging environmentally friendly practices and the use of locally available resources for mushroom production.

Scalable Model: Developing a model that can be replicated in other refugee settlements or rural areas to maximize the impact.

Alignment with Common Goals, Mission, Vision, and Objectives:

Common Goals:

Empowerment: To economically empower refugees and host communities through sustainable agricultural practices.

Food Security: To enhance food security and nutrition in the settlements.

Social Integration: To foster better social cohesion between refugees and host communities.

Mission:

Transformative Impact: To transform the livelihoods of refugees and host communities by providing them with the skills and resources needed to thrive through mushroom cultivation and related activities.

Community Development: To drive community development and resilience through collaborative and inclusive approaches.

Vision:

Prosperous Communities: To envision a future where refugee and host communities are economically prosperous, socially integrated, and self-reliant.

Innovative Agriculture: To be a leading model of innovation in agriculture and sustainable development within refugee settings.

Objectives:

Training and Education: To provide comprehensive training programs in mushroom cultivation, value addition, and spawn production.

Economic Opportunities: To create economic opportunities through the development of the mushroom value chain.

Market Linkages: To establish strong market linkages that ensure fair prices and consistent demand for mushroom products.

Community Engagement: To engage and empower communities through participatory approaches and collaborative efforts.

Key Components of the Consortium:**Training Programs:**

Conducting workshops and hands-on training sessions for mushroom cultivation and spawn production.

Providing business and entrepreneurship training to help beneficiaries manage and grow their enterprises.

Research and Development:

Investing in research to improve mushroom yields, develop new products, and optimize cultivation techniques.

Collaborating with agricultural experts and institutions for continuous innovation.

Infrastructure Development:

Establishing mushroom production facilities, spawn laboratories, and value addition units.

Ensuring access to necessary tools, equipment, and resources for mushroom cultivation.

Market and Supply Chain Development:

Building a reliable supply chain for raw materials and mushroom products.

Creating marketing strategies and networks to reach local and regional markets.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Implementing systems to monitor the progress and impact of the consortium's activities.

Using feedback to continuously improve and adapt the initiative.

WHY MUSHROOMS FOR REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

Mushroom cultivation offers several benefits for refugees and host communities, especially in the context of climate change. Here are some key reasons:

1. Low Resource Requirement

•Minimal Land Use:

•Mushrooms can be grown in small spaces, making it feasible in refugee camps and urban areas where land is scarce.

•**Utilizes Agricultural Waste:** They can be cultivated on agricultural byproducts like straw, sawdust, and coffee grounds, helping to recycle waste and reduce environmental impact.

2. Nutritional Value

•High Nutritional Content:

•Mushrooms are rich in protein, vitamins, and minerals, making them an excellent food source to improve the diet of refugees and host communities.

•Supplementing Food Security:

• They can diversify diets and enhance food security, particularly important in areas affected by climate change where traditional crops may fail.

3. Economic Opportunities

•**Income Generation:** Cultivating and selling mushrooms can provide refugees and host community members with a source of income, fostering economic self-reliance.

•**Low Startup Costs:** Mushroom farming requires relatively low initial investment, making it accessible for low-income individuals.

4. Environmental Sustainability

•**Low Water Use:** Mushrooms require less water compared to many traditional crops, an essential feature in areas facing water scarcity due to climate change.

•**Carbon Sequestration:** Some mushroom species can help in carbon sequestration, aiding efforts to mitigate climate change.

5. Climate Resilience

•**Adaptability:** Mushrooms can be cultivated indoors or in controlled environments, making them less vulnerable to adverse weather conditions caused by climate change.

- Short Growth Cycle:** They have a quick growth cycle, allowing for multiple harvests throughout the year and rapid adaptation to changing conditions.

6. Health Benefits

- Medicinal Properties:** Certain mushrooms have medicinal properties, providing health benefits that are crucial in areas with limited healthcare access.

- Mental Health:** Engaging in cultivation activities can have positive mental health effects, providing a sense of purpose and stability for refugees.

7. Community Integration

- Skill Development:** Mushroom cultivation can provide valuable skills and knowledge that enhance the employability and integration of refugees into host communities.

- Collaboration and Cooperation:** Joint agricultural projects can foster cooperation and strengthen social bonds between refugees and host community members.

Implementation Considerations

- Training and Support:** Providing training and resources for mushroom cultivation is essential for success.

- Market Access:** Ensuring access to markets for selling mushrooms can enhance economic benefits.

- Policy Support:** Supportive policies from local governments and international organizations can facilitate the integration of mushroom farming into refugee and host community programs.



RWAMWANJA MUSHROOM GROWERS ASSOCIATION



Our Ambition

We aspire to be the leading refugee-led mushroom cooperative -- building food security and resilience for the 500,000 refugees across the Southwest.

We are seeking support to scale and optimize production, expand our lab capacity, and invest in value addition to maximize income potential.



The problems we address

HUNGER

62% food insecurity in Southwest
42% access to ag land

MALNUTRITION

2% Minimal Acceptable Diet in
Rwamwanja
46% exclusive breastfeeding in
Rwamwanja

POVERTY

46% poverty rate
60% adopt negative coping mechanisms

...through
mushrooms

Nutritious, especially for mothers
Require minimal space
Preserve well into high-value goods

Repurpose waste

Fruit quickly

 **150kg** 
monthly after
just 1 month

What We Do

Our unique model maximizes the potential of mushrooms by cooperating across settlements



Production

Train and establish production for community groups, largely women



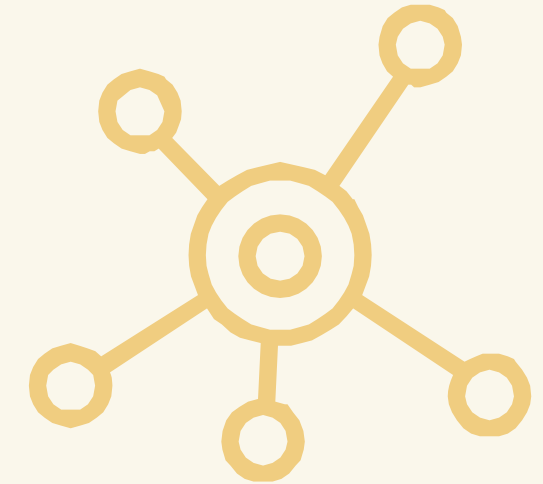
Laboratory

Early-stage lab for grain spawn



Value Addition

Aggregate, dry, and create products, such as fortified porridge



Settlement Cooperation

Share knowledge and resources; target larger customers

Community Group

Settlement Hub

Regional Cooperative

Our Impact to Date

- 360 farmers, ~80% women
- 1,400 individuals and youth served
- 15,200kg mushrooms produced
- 91 mil UGX revenue generated
 - 3 VSLAs created
- Mothers able to breastfeed



Our Goals by 2025

360 → 1,000 farmers

1,400 → 4,000 served with mushrooms

15,200 kg → 70,000 kg mushrooms

91 mil UGX → 800 mil UGX annual revenue

Deliver 50,000+ UGX monthly income pp

Schools in Southwest to serve mushroom porridge

by 2034

**Cooperation across
all settlements**

**Integrated refugee-
host community
production**

**150,000+ UGX
monthly income pp**

**Porridge in WFP
feeding programs**

Our PLANS



Production

- Train 150 farmers and establish production to serve 600 individuals
- Lead ToT to mobilize 20 trainers in 5 settlements
- Optimize production by testing substrate yields



permaculture trainings
and demos at school,

- Buying irrigation system
isiingiro, oruchinga
- Buying tricycle for
transporting agricultural
waste for mushroom
and compost



Value Addition

- Build and equip value
addition hub in
rwamwanja for 2
CBO (e.g., dehydrator,
grinder, storage)
- Bulk order packaging,
inputs (e.g., soyflour)



Cooperation

- Improve quality
control across
settlements
- Invest in sales
and marketing to
target larger
customers

The Right Team to Lead



Uwiringiye Peruth

Founder and Executive Director,
AWAY Foundation *RLO serving
most vulnerable women and youth,*

*Capabilities in leadership,
community development,
and mushroom cultivation*



Bemeriki Bisimwa Founder and

Executive Director, Rwamwanja Rural
Foundation

*Nonprofit improving food security and
livelihoods RLO serving Rwamwanja
through permaculture*

*Capabilities in network development,
mushroom cultivation, and value
addition*



Mutesi Peruth

Founder and Executive Director,
Wemen's Regenerative
Initiative

*Nonprofit improving food
security and livelihoods
In kampala*

*Capabilities in value addition,
M&E, grain spawn*

Partners and Supporters





THANK YOU

*Together, we can strengthen the Refugee Mushroom Growers Cooperative:
mushrooms taught by, grown by, eaten by, sold by, and owned by refugees
to build food security, nutrition, and resilience.*



Generation Restoration unterstützen wirkt nachhaltig



For more information

peruthmutesi6@gmail.com



Was wir jetzt vorhaben

- Regenerative Projekte wie RRF hebeln
- Impact sichtbar machen
- Dialoge für Systemwandel führen

Was ihr jetzt tun könnt

- Spenden
- Mitglied werden
- Sponsoring
- Botschafter sein
- Partner
- Unterstützen

Spenden:

Mitglied werden:

www.bcause.com/generation-restoration

www.mitglied.gen-r.de



[**www.rrfug.org**](http://www.rrfug.org)

Gemeinsam können
wir ganzheitlich
nachhaltig wirken!