

Online-Roundtable 02.05.2025

Regenerative solutions in refugee camps and settlements Documentation & Key Insights



“What if we could transform refugee camps into regenerative communities?” - GenR

Summary

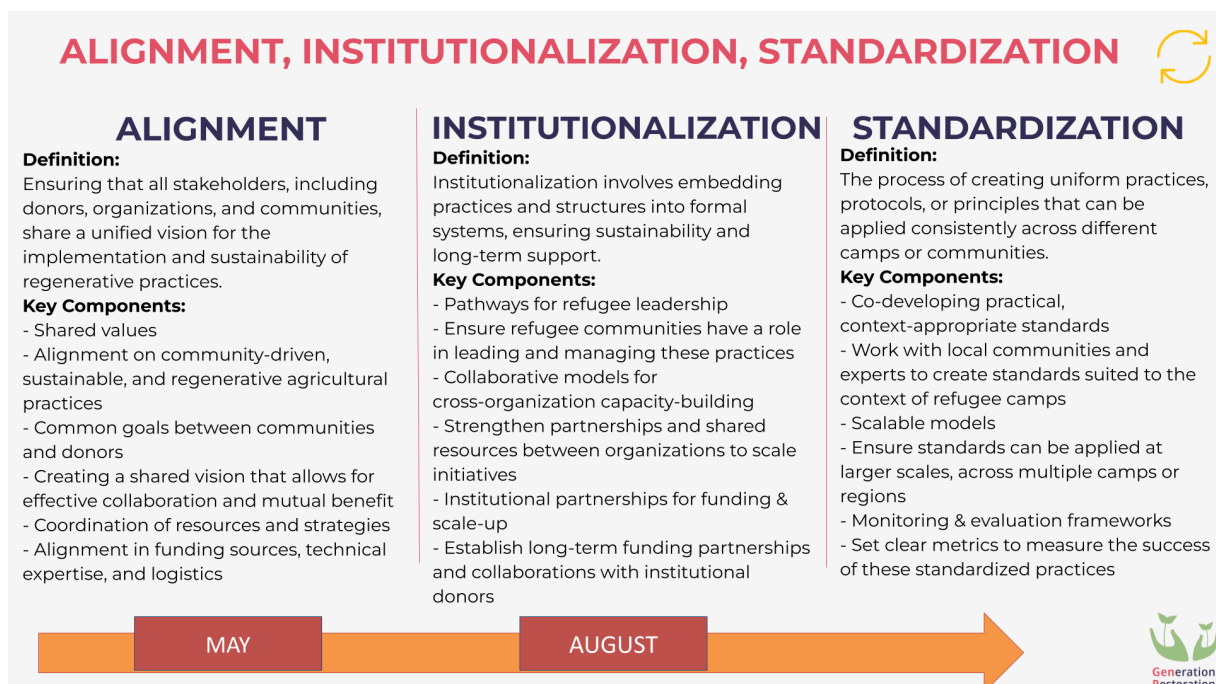
On May 2, 2025, Generation Restoration e.V. hosted an online roundtable with around 15 registered participants attendees from diverse organizations, including representatives from refugee settlements, NGOs, and research institutions. The roundtable took a leap from the critical themes of scaling to the essential topics forming standardization.

Taking the first step from scaling up to standardizing approaches across refugee settlements is intrinsic to GenRs strategy that provides social and financial capital to advance from scaling to standardization and, ultimately, business development. Participants were reminded of the last roundtable's highlights gathered by two working groups that discussed [seed production and conservation](#) as well as [impact assessment and scaling](#).

The goal of this roundtable was also to develop two key documents for the essential topics forming the first part of standardization: alignment.

The overall question was then: How to align internally and externally in terms of sufficient internal capacity development for Regenerative Agriculture in Displacement Settings?

The session introduced the model going forward within the next few months: alignment, institutionalization and standardization (see chart below).



The definition of alignment focuses on the communities themselves but also on donors. Hence, two components of alignment were discussed in the plenum:



Internal Alignment – Coordinating resources and capacity among refugee settlements, host communities and grassroots organizations



External Alignment – Setting the frame for early donor involvement

As the goal was to establish collective key terms with the participants, the plenum was directed by specific questions. The collective key terms for both internal and external alignment will be summarized by GenR and distributed to all actors of interest in the vision to design refugee camps and settlements as regenerative places.



Internal Alignment

Internal alignment remains a critical challenge in refugee settlements and among host communities: While the benefits of regenerative agriculture are rather long-term, short-term success is essential but will not enhance the living conditions of those impacted. The questions posed in the plenum were the following:

- What do you need the community to understand about regenerative practices?
- How are you trying to convey the benefits?
- How can we help?

The participants highlighted several **issues**:

- **Benefit for the community**
Many refugees do not understand the benefits of regenerative agriculture as it needs a long-term strategy and does not yield short-term success.
- **Expectation management**
The long-term nature of regenerative agriculture requires expectation management without too many promises.
- **Ownership**
Without proper ownership towards the solution, acceptance will be lowered. Involvement from the onset is key.
- **Demand side**
It needs a price difference between organic and non-organic fertilizers. Until now, non-organic fertilizers are cheap and provide short-term success.
- **Supply side**
Composting and creating organic fertilizer is difficult as it requires a certain

land area, but refugee settlements in Uganda mostly provide only 2 acres of land.

Several community-driven **solutions** were discussed to address these challenges:

- **Increase practical applications**
In order to increase the understanding and showcase a “before and after”-picture, practical demo sites need to be established
- **Communicate effectively**
Effectively means to be able to communicate with highly educated and less educated groups that require diverse communication channels. TikTok has been mentioned as one possible channel to use.
- **Mindset shift**
Establish local learning centers to initiate a mindset shift and remind the people involved of the farming strategies they had implemented before the introduction of hybrid seeds and non-organic fertilizers.
- **Farmer Cooperatives**
Organizing farmers into networks for knowledge exchange and collective seed preservation.

Key Findings and strategic terms to develop from will be formed in the document “Collective Key Terms to Coordinate Resources and Strategies for Regenerative Solutions in Refugee Camps”. While aligning internally creates a profound basis for ensuring resource building and strategies to enhance engagement, ensuring external alignment with donors must be ensured for a higher degree of sustainable funding.



External Alignment

External alignment remains a critical challenge in refugee settlements and among host communities, due to the need of long-term involvement rather than short-term financial input given the nature of regenerative agriculture and the sociological component that defines living conditions. The questions posed in the plenum were the following:

- Think about your past experiences with funders. What has felt **empowering**? What has felt **extractive** or **uncomfortable**?
- What's your ideal relationship with donors? What level of **visibility** or influence do you want — and what would make it **feel safe** and respectful?

The participants highlighted several **learnings from donor involvement**:

- **Knowledge enhancement**
Many projects include monitoring and data assessment methods that are highly beneficial for impact assessment within the grassroots organizations.

- **Seed fundings**

Many projects receive funding for only 1–3 years, which is insufficient for regenerative processes that require long-term commitment. Developing the project further requires clear strategies that young organizations in refugee settlements oftentimes don't have.

Participants discussed the following **approaches** to improve early donor involvement:

- **Developing localized impact metrics**

Establishing community-specific assessment frameworks rather than relying on generic global models.

- **Strengthening the relationship**

Treat donors as partners and involve them from the onset.

- **Stay visible**

Visibility attracts early donor involvement and creates a networking opportunity, e.g. through targeting specific segments of donors or communicating the search for donors in a networking group.

- **Include the host community**

Convincing that a project does not rely on specific groups or people but that it is providing a benefit to the local region shows commitment.

Key Findings and strategic terms to develop from will be formed in the document “Collective Key Terms to Assess Early Donor Involvement for Regenerative Solutions in Refugee Camps”.

We'd like to express our deep gratitude to all who contributed to the roundtable discussion. This documentation is based on voluntary engagement of this diverse group. Thank you!



Next Online-Roundtable on August 8, 2025, 9 am EAT

Generation Restoration will host the next roundtable continuing with the institutionalization aspect of standardization.



Please register here: <https://form.campai.com/TfPhO3vyZzV>.

In the meantime, discussions can be continued in the [Generation Restoration LinkedIn Group](#), as well as in the working documents (if you do not have access to them yet, write us an email: connect@genr.world).