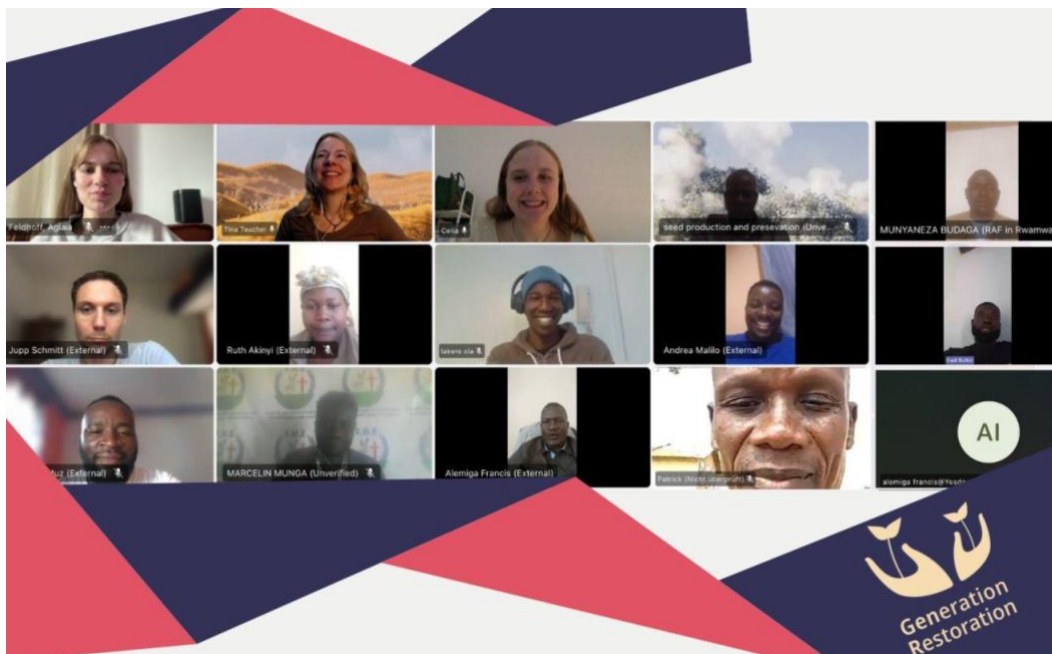


Online-Roundtable 24.02.2025

Regenerative solutions in refugee camps and settlements Documentation & Key Insights



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

Summary

On February 24, 2025, Generation Restoration e.V. hosted an online roundtable with around 20 attendees from diverse organizations, including representatives from refugee settlements, NGOs, and research institutions. To structure the discussions, working documents were provided in advance and completed by two groups, forming the basis for the roundtable. Participants built on these insights, sharing key findings and engaging in in-depth discussions to refine challenges, exchange perspectives, and develop practical solutions.

The session focused on two critical themes:



Seed Production & Conservation – Strengthening local food sovereignty through community-driven seed banking and regenerative agriculture.



Impact Assessment & Scaling – Developing practical and measurable frameworks for tracking the success of regenerative initiatives in refugee settings.

A key challenge discussed was the reliance on external seed supplies in refugee camps, limiting food security and self-sufficiency. Participants explored community-driven solutions, including local seed banks, cooperative farming, and knowledge-sharing networks, to strengthen resilience. The roundtable also highlighted the need for clear impact assessment tools to track and scale regenerative projects. Short funding cycles and lack of standardized metrics make long-term planning difficult. Stronger partnerships with universities, NGOs, and policymakers were identified as crucial for ensuring sustained support. Overall, the discussion reinforced the importance of knowledge exchange, collaboration, and practical, locally adapted solutions to drive lasting impact.



Seed Production & Conservation

Seed production and conservation remain critical challenges in refugee camps and host communities, with many farmers depending on external seed supplies. Participants highlighted several **issues**:

- **Dependence on hybrid seeds and external suppliers**
Many refugee communities rely on imported or hybrid seeds, which are often unsuitable for local conditions and increase long-term dependency.

- **Loss of indigenous seed varieties**
Uganda has lost nearly 40% of its traditional seeds, endangering biodiversity and food sovereignty.
- **Climate-related challenges**
Droughts, floods, and changing conditions increase pests and plant diseases, reducing seed viability.
- **Lack of storage & preservation infrastructure**
Without proper seed banks or cooperative efforts, local farmers struggle to store, preserve, and distribute quality seeds.
- **Limited training & knowledge**
Farmers require better education on seed saving, organic farming, and agroecology.
- **No clear stakeholder authority**
Farmers require clear understanding of who the relevant stakeholders are.

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

- **Community Seed Banks**
Establishing locally managed seed storage systems to ensure year-round availability.
- **Farmer Cooperatives**
Organizing farmers into networks for knowledge exchange and collective seed preservation.
- **Policy Advocacy**
Engaging with governments and NGOs to protect farmer seed rights and promote traditional seed saving.
- **Training Programs**
Providing hands-on education on sustainable farming and seed conservation techniques.
- **Pilot-Cooperations**
Farmers see the need of developing pilot-cooperations that form MoUs (Memorandums of Understanding) and can be scaled subsequently.
- **Strengthening Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)**
Setting clear CBOs with well-defined terms and boundaries is a foreseen need for a structural approach.

Key Findings

1. Local seed production is crucial for reducing dependency on external aid.
2. Indigenous seeds offer better resilience to local climate conditions than hybrid alternatives.
3. Training & investment in seed banks are essential for long-term sustainability.

While securing local seed sources is vital for self-sufficiency, ensuring the scalability and measurable impact of regenerative initiatives is equally important. This led to the second key topic of the roundtable.

Impact Assessment & Scaling

Measuring the success and expansion of regenerative projects remains a major challenge, as many initiatives operate without standardized impact assessment tools. Key **barriers** identified include:

- **Lack of standardized impact metrics**
Many projects focus only on short-term outcomes, making long-term success difficult to evaluate.
- **Data collection challenges**
Limited access to technology, inconsistent baseline data, and low literacy levels hinder effective tracking.
- **Short funding cycles**
Many projects receive funding for only 1–3 years, which is insufficient for regenerative processes that require long-term commitment.
- **Capacity gaps in community organizations**
Local initiatives often lack structured frameworks and expertise to conduct impact assessments.

Participants discussed the following **approaches** to improve impact measurement and scaling:

- **Developing localized impact metrics**
Establishing community-specific assessment frameworks rather than relying on generic global models.
- **Strengthening partnerships**
Collaborating with universities, NGOs, and policymakers to refine data collection and improve evaluation methods.
- **Investing in digital tracking tools**
Implementing simple community-led data collection systems to measure impact effectively.
- **Long-term funding strategies**
Advocating for multi-year financial support to allow regenerative projects to mature before evaluation.
- **Scaling Cooperative Models**
Farmers highlight the need for small-scale collaborations that can grow through structured agreements.
- **Defining Community-Based Organizations**
Establishing clear roles and frameworks for CBOs is key to long-term impact and efficiency.

Key Findings

1. Impact measurement needs to be long-term and integrated into project planning from the start.
2. Scaling requires local adaptation – universal metrics don't always apply.
3. Community-led data collection builds trust and ensures better accuracy.

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



Next Roundtable on May 2, 2025, 9 am EAT

Generation Restoration will host the next roundtable continuing with the standardization of the working documents and how to provide actionable steps. Please register here:

<https://form.campai.com/Ke8nkyTq-XnS>

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).