

RE4R: PRODUCTIVE USES OF ENERGY FOR LIVELIHOODS

29 October 2020

**Practical
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ENERGY4IMPACT
ACCELERATING ACCESS TO ENERGY



Renewable Energy For Refugees (RE4R)

A five year project working to deliver sustainable renewable energy investments through market-based approaches in humanitarian settings, working directly with refugees and host communities in Rwanda and Jordan to improve their health, wellbeing and security.

Location: Kigeme, Nyabiheke and Gihembe refugee camps in Rwanda and Irbid in Jordan

Expected number of beneficiaries: 60,000

Project dates: April 2017 - February 2022

Donor: IKEA Foundation

RE4R Interventions

Rwanda

Solar Home Systems for households & small enterprises



Renewable biomass cooking technologies for households



Solar community street lighting



Solar mini-grid for institutions and community facilities



Productive usages of energy for livelihoods

Jordan

Solar water heating systems and energy efficiency upgrades to households



Onsite PV and energy efficiency upgrades for public schools



Skills training and capacity building



National level advocacy

Global Activities

Research and data programme

Learning on private sector delivery models and livelihoods

Project learning and knowledge

Policy advocacy

Communications and press releases

Monitoring, evaluation and learning

RE4R Partners

Project Partners: Practical Action, UNHCR, Norwegian Refugee Council, Energy for Impact, Chatham House and GPA/UNITAR

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RE4R Interventions

Rwanda



Productive usages of energy
for livelihoods

Jordan



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

Global Activities



RE4R – PUE for Livelihoods Overview

PUE for livelihoods

RE4R is helping refugees and their host communities access finance, training, technology and expertise to facilitate renewable energy to power homes, businesses and community facilities. It aims to enable refugees to move from reliance on aid towards economic independence and improved quality of life. The **PUE for Livelihoods** component is providing entrepreneurship training to refugees and host communities in order to establish businesses and optimize livelihood opportunities. This work is supporting ~150 refugee and host community entrepreneurs with **business mentoring, access to electricity and appliances, technical training and access to finance.**

Beneficiary feedback highlights improvements to quality of life:

- ***Access to finance***
- ***Boosting incomes and opportunities***
- ***Choice and control over spending***
- ***Skills and capacity building***
- ***Entrepreneurs as role models***

*“My advice to young people is to **be brave, start small and not give up.** Let them put their hands up and work hard, because **there are many opportunities.**”*

PUE Overview and Approach

Support to enterprises in Kigeme, Gihembe and Nyabiheke and the host communities ~40 enterprises inside each camp and 10 in host communities, for each camp

PUE Activities

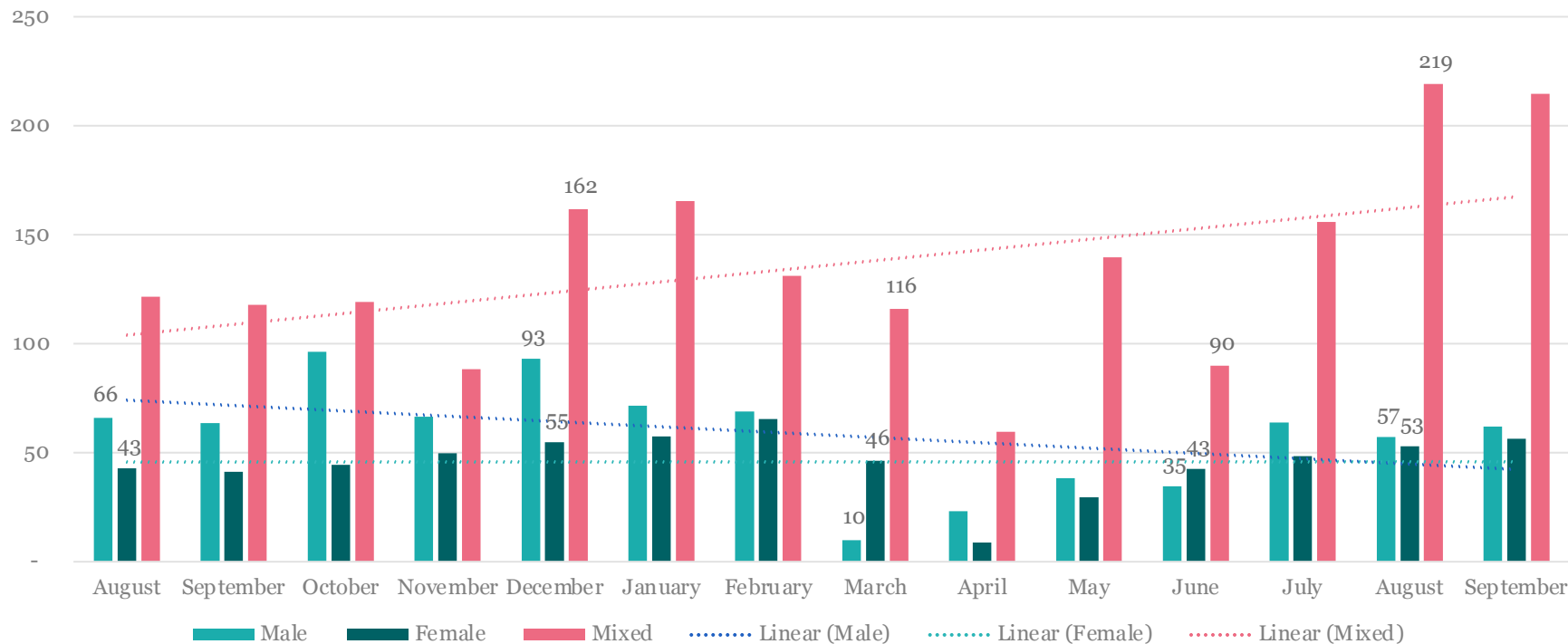
- Mapping of opportunities for livelihood development
- Raising awareness of PUE opportunities
- Entrepreneur engagement & needs assessment
- Develop & deliver PUE strategy for each enterprise
- Practical support for acquisition of SHS/grid connection
- Enhancing financial planning, management & access to capital
- Continuous mentoring
- Develop & deliver post purchase operation and maintenance framework/after sales support strategy



	To date
# PUE clinics established	3
# businesses receiving ongoing mentorship	150
# appliances acquired	92

PUE Trends over Time

Average monthly profit by Gender in USD with trendline



PUE Case Study

Name of the entrepreneur: Nkunda Amata cooperative

Type of business: milk cooling

Business location: Nyabiheke Refugee camp-Host community

Appliances acquired: Milk cooler machine

Supported received: business trainings, one-on-one mentorship and grant financing to procure milk cooler machine

Impact: Enhanced business skills, social and economic benefits for the cooperative members, increased sales by 45% , job creation (5 employees), reduced milk loss



PUE Case Study

Name of the entrepreneur: Mahoro Uwizeye

Type of business: Milling business,

Business location: Gihembe Refugee camp

Appliances acquired: Mill hammer machine

Supported received: business trainings, one-on-one mentorship and grant financing to procure maize mill hammer machine

Impact: enhanced business skills, High quality maize flour, increased sales from 68\$ to 218\$ and job creation (2 employees)



Challenges faced so far

- Concerns of refugees to operate businesses within the host community due to taxes and other operating costs
- Theft of appliances and other equipment
- Mistrust brought by other programmes that did not deliver on expectations
- Low purchasing power among refugees affecting growth projections
- Affordability and lack of financing options – a proportion of the cost of the technology was subsidised by the RE4R project

COVID-19 effect on PUE businesses

- Reduced demand - customers have changed their preferences
- Change in operation – essential businesses only, reduced operating hours, shortage of supplies/raw materials
- Change in business finances - reduced sales/working capital/cash flows
- Additional business costs such as COVID-19 safety measure materials

Mitigation Measures

- Business diversification to essential services like food services
- Reducing non-essential costs for businesses
- Propose a recovery fund for affected businesses
- Linking businesses to suppliers of stock
- Remote support and peer-to-peer learning

Recommendations

1

Refugees have good initiatives that can generate income and improve livelihood opportunities for themselves and their communities

2

To be successful, enterprises need a package of support alongside access to energy – financial, technical, business mentoring etc

3

Mind-set is important - entrepreneurs need buy-in and commitment, alongside realistic expectation management and a need to see results

Tailored support and mentoring is key to translating initiatives into reality

Effective coordination across partners, institutions and programmes to bring these elements together is essential

Structuring teams to build trust and relationships, and open communication set the conditions for successful outcomes

Recommendations

4

Market conditions for businesses within camps are challenging – market development in the host community and beyond increases opportunities and resilience

5

COVID-19 has brought additional challenges and uncertainty in an already challenging context

Include refugees and host communities to participate fully in market value chains

Contingency measures and recovery plans will be necessary to ensure sustainability

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