

# Monthly Newsletter



## Breaking Barriers: Empowering Refugees with Disabilities



Inclusive  
Livelihoods,  
Advocacy, and  
Community  
Impact in  
Refugee  
Settlements

# Monthly Newsletter

30 September 2025



CEO - MUOMBAMUNGU JAMES

## From the Executive Director

The months of August and September 2025 have been a period of progress, advocacy, and partnership for the Association of Refugees with Disability (ARD). From on-the-ground follow-ups in refugee settlements to global platforms, we continue to amplify the voices of refugees with disabilities and ensure their inclusion in all aspects of humanitarian response.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Highlight Story: ARD's Milestones in Inclusive Advocacy Updates

Project Spotlight

Field Updates – Nakivale, Rwanwanja, Kyaka II & Kyangwali

Policy & Advocacy Updates – Regional and National Engagements

Donor & Partner Acknowledgment

Looking Ahead: Upcoming Projects & Plans



Group photo of partners and refugees with disabilities during the Inclusive Employment and Livelihood Workshop in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement

## Highlight Story: ARD's Milestones in Inclusive Advocacy Update

### Follow-Up Reviews in Kyaka II and Kyangwali

As part of the I-ACCESS Project (funded by the Disability Rights Fund), ARD teams visited Kyaka II and Kyangwali Refugee Settlements, one of our branches, in south-western Uganda, to conduct follow-up reviews. -

Engaged HR personnel and CEOs on inclusive employment practices. - Met with community leaders and refugee groups with disabilities to track progress on livelihoods. - Reinforced accountability for equal opportunities in refugee settlements

As part of the I-ACCESS Project funded by the Disability Rights Fund (DRF), ARD conducted follow-up reviews in Kyaka II and Kyangwali Refugee Settlements, engaging CEOs, HR personnel, community leaders, and refugee groups with disabilities to track progress on inclusive livelihoods and employment initiatives. These visits highlighted active partner engagement, reinforced inclusive practices, and strengthened community-led empowerment across the settlements.



# Insight from the Field



A group photo of participants in Kyaka II during the workshop on inclusive employment and livelihood



Awareness campaigns on radio reaching refugee settlements (kyakall)



## Accessibility Challenges Highlighted

During the follow-up reviews, it was noted that in the camps, the cost of reasonable accommodation—such as job aids, braille materials, or accessibility support—is still seen by many as an extra expense. This perception remains a barrier to inclusive employment and participation for persons with disabilities.

## Commitments from the partners

At the I-ACCESS follow-up reviews in Kyaka II and Kyangwali, partners highlighted that the cost of reasonable accommodation and accessibility is still seen as an extra burden, creating barriers to inclusion. In response, stakeholders committed to engaging PWDs in programs, strengthening community participation, and promoting inclusive workplaces where accessibility is treated as a right, not a cost.



During the workshop in Kyaka II

## Awareness

Through the I-ACCESS Project, ARD ran awareness campaigns on REF FM and Britop Radio, reaching large audiences in Kyaka II and Kyangwali. These programs created space for refugees with disabilities to share their experiences, while also raising community awareness on inclusive employment, accessibility, and equal rights.

## Take Note – I-ACCESS Project

- We have received important feedback from our follow-up reviews in Kyaka II and Kyangwali Refugee Settlements.
- Please reach out to our office directly if you need timely updates on the I-ACCESS Project.
- For all engagements, ensure that your approaches promote inclusive employment practices.
- Equal opportunities for refugees with disabilities remain at the center of this project.
- Remember, this is a collective effort—with continued collaboration, we can build workplaces and communities that leave no one behind.

# Global Advocacy: Nurturing Futures Webinar Series

On 30th September, our Executive Director, Muombaumungu James, joined experts from around the world in the Nurturing Futures Webinar Series (Episode Three) hosted by Moving Minds Alliance. - Shared experiences of refugee children with disabilities in crisis settings. - Connected ARD's field realities in Uganda to global policy discussions. - Strengthened partnerships with global actors including UNHCR, LM International, and Newcomers with Disabilities in Sweden. e lives for the better.



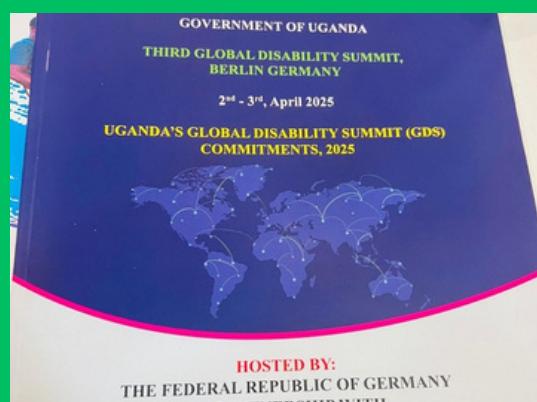
An official poster of the Nurturing Futures Webinar Series (Episode Three) hosted by Moving Minds Alliance.

## Global Disability Summit (GDS) commitments Launch in Uganda

ARD proudly joined the national launch of the Global Disability Summit (GDS) in Uganda in September. Advocated for inclusion of refugees with disabilities in national GDS commitments. - Shared lessons from ARD's grassroots work in Nakivale, Rwamwanja, Kyaka II, and Kyangwali. - Contributed to discussions on inclusive education, accessible healthcare, and employment opportunities



A group photo during the launch of the Uganda GDS Commitments in Kampala



Our ED attends the Uganda GDS Commitments Launch in Kampala

# ■ Looking Ahead

As we approach the final quarter of 2025, ARD is committed to: - Scaling up skills development and livelihoods training for refugees with disabilities. - Strengthening advocacy with the private sector to promote inclusive employment. - Sharing lessons from Uganda to inform regional and global policy frameworks.

# ■ Thank You

We extend our gratitude to our partners, donors, and refugee leaders, including: Disability Rights Fund, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), UN Women/WPHF, OXFAM, IRAP, YARID, NUDIPU, Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR. Together, we are proving that disability inclusion is not charity, but justice and human rights.

*Thank you for reading!*



## Contact Information

For more information about the Association of Refugees with Disability (ARD) or to support our initiatives, please contact us:

**TEL:** +256 200 909 832 | +256 781 503 951

**EMAIL:** [info@ardofuganda.org](mailto:info@ardofuganda.org) / [pwda2017@gmail.com](mailto:pwda2017@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.ardofuganda.org](http://www.ardofuganda.org)

**LOCATION:** Najjanankumbi, Masanyalaze zone, Entebbe road-Kampala, near Train up the child school, P.O. Box 108994 Kampala



[www.ardofuganda.org](http://www.ardofuganda.org)



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