



YOUTH REFUGEES UNITED FOR DEVELOPMENT

(YRUD)

REPORT ON STEP 1 OF PHASE 1 MORINGA YETU PROJECT

Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Isingiro District, Uganda

September–October 2026

Implemented by YRUD

In partnership with ICOSA Moringa™ / The Dymaxion Moringa Cooperative (TDMC)

CURRENT STATUS

Phase 1 – Step 1: ONGOING

Phase 1 – Step 2: NEXT STEP

1. Understanding Moringa Yetu

Moringa Yetu – Nakivale is the name of YRUD's Moringa initiative being developed in Nakivale Refugee Settlement. In Swahili, “Moringa Yetu” means “Our Moringa.” The name reflects a central principle of the project: the Moringa belongs to the community because the project is developed with the community and for the community.

The project is not limited to the planting of individual trees. Its longer-term direction is to build a community-led Moringa cooperative model, beginning with a practical foundation at Nakivale and progressing gradually through nursery development, community engagement, plantlet distribution, cooperative onboarding and, subject to future development and resources, processing and routes to market.

For this report, “Step 1 of Phase 1” refers specifically to the initial field establishment, planting and follow-up work that is currently underway. It should not be interpreted as the completion of Phase 1.

2. Executive Summary

Moringa Yetu – Nakivale is a community-led initiative being developed by Youth Refugees United for Development (YRUD) in partnership with ICOSA Moringa™ / The Dymaxion Moringa Cooperative (TDMC). The partnership was formally signed on 28 August 2026.

This report covers Step 1 of Phase 1. Step 1 is still ongoing: the site has been prepared, 20 seedlings purchased, 15 planted, essential equipment acquired, initial community participation started, drainage improvements undertaken and project documentation begun. Continued monitoring, care, completion of the first planting activities and documentation remain necessary.

Step 2 of Phase 1 will focus on establishing the nursery bed, purchasing the remaining materials required, completing visibility activities and preparing for Phase 2.

Stage	Focus	Status
Phase 1 – Step 1	Initial field establishment, planting and follow-up	ONGOING
Phase 1 – Step 2	Nursery bed, remaining materials, visibility and Phase 2 preparation	NEXT STEP
Phase 2	Community outreach, plantlet distribution and cooperative onboarding	FUTURE

Progress at a Glance

Indicator	Current progress
Moringa seedlings purchased	20
Seedlings planted	15
Seedlings remaining	5
Initial community participation	43 people
Women / Girls / Youth / Children	2 / 6 / 5 / 30
Essential Phase 1 equipment	UGX 593,000
Drainage bricks	470
Drainage brick cost	UGX 214,000
Photos/videos available	Yes
Formal Phase 2 outreach	Not yet started

2. Partnership with ICOSA Moringa™ / TDMC

Moringa Yetu – Nakivale is being implemented through a formal partnership between YRUD and ICOSA Moringa™ / The Dymaxion Moringa Cooperative (TDMC). The partnership was signed on 28 August 2026 by Rona Dixon-Bowden, Founder of ICOSA Moringa™ and TDMC, and Justin Buma, Founder and Executive Director of YRUD.

The partnership aims to establish a community-led Moringa cooperative at Nakivale Refugee Settlement, drawing on the TDMC model while developing an initiative rooted in the Nakivale community. It brings together complementary strengths in technical Moringa knowledge, strategic advice, fundraising and networks, alongside local implementation, community engagement, local procurement and day-to-day project management.



YRUD × ICOSA Moringa co-branded visibility.



Moringa Yetu project identity.

Complementary roles

- ICOSA Moringa™ / TDMC: technical Moringa guidance, strategic advisory support, fundraising collaboration, co-branded visibility and relevant network support.
- YRUD: local implementation at Nakivale, growing space and infrastructure, community networks, local procurement and day-to-day management of nursery, planting, growing and harvesting activities.

3. Phase 1 – Step 1: Initial Field Establishment, Planting and Follow-up

STATUS: ONGOING

Step 1 remains ongoing. Several important activities have already been completed, but follow-up is still required to monitor the planted seedlings, maintain the site, complete the initial planting and continue documentation.

3.1 Site preparation and drainage

The project site has been prepared for the initial Moringa activities. During implementation, a practical drainage need was identified and addressed through the purchase of 470 fired bricks at a cost of UGX 214,000.



Community members working on the prepared project area.



Drainage works and site preparation in progress.

3.2 Moringa seedlings and planting

Twenty Moringa seedlings were purchased for UGX 900,000. Fifteen have been planted and five remain to be planted. The planted seedlings are currently healthy and require continued monitoring and care.



Moringa seedling being planted.

Healthy Moringa seedling following planting.



Another planted Moringa seedling under ongoing monitoring.

3.3 Essential equipment purchased

Equipment	Quantity	Cost (UGX)
Garden hoe 2-in-1	1	25,000
Safety gloves	5 pairs	50,000
Heavy-duty pickaxe	1	30,000
Hand hoe	1	45,000
Spade with metallic handle	1	35,000

Rake – 14 teeth	1	38,000
Wheelbarrow – Reliance	1	250,000
Watering cans – 20 litres	4	120,000
TOTAL		593,000

5. Community Participation

The first implementation activities have already involved members of the surrounding community. Initial participation included 2 women, 6 girls, 5 youth and 30 children, for a total of 43 people. Formal wider outreach has not yet started and will be prepared for Phase 2.

Group	Number
Women	2
Girls	6
Youth	5
Children	30
TOTAL	43



Community participation during the initial Moringa Yetu field activities.

6. Visibility and Documentation

The initial Phase 1 budget included 6 caps, 6 T-shirts and 6 ID badges, with a total allocation of UGX 561,000. Photos and video material are already available and will continue to support progress documentation.



Field documentation from the project site.



YRUD x ICOSA Moringa co-branded visibility.

6. Phase 1 – Step 2: Nursery Bed and Preparation for Phase 2

STATUS: NEXT STEP

Step 2 will create the nursery foundation required to support future plantlet production and distribution.

- Establish the nursery bed at the project site.
- Purchase the remaining materials required to complete the nursery bed.
- Complete additional project visibility requirements.
- Prepare the operational arrangements for plantlet production and future distribution.
- Prepare for wider community engagement and Phase 2 onboarding.
- Continue strengthening documentation and learning systems.

8. Financial Update

8.1 Funds received

Financial item	Amount (UGX)
First transfer – gross	2,603,132
Withdrawal fees/taxes – first transfer	53,132
Net first transfer	2,550,000
Second transfer – gross	511,685
Withdrawal costs – second transfer	19,185
Net second transfer	492,500
TOTAL GROSS RECEIVED	3,114,817
TOTAL FEES/TAXES	72,317
TOTAL NET AVAILABLE	3,042,500

8.2 Confirmed use of funds

Expenditure	Amount (UGX)
20 Moringa seedlings	900,000
Essential Phase 1 equipment	593,000
Project visibility	561,000
Internet & electricity – 2 months	748,800
470 drainage bricks	214,000
TOTAL CONFIRMED EXPENDITURE	3,016,800

Based on the expenditure figures confirmed above, the difference between total net funds available and confirmed expenditure is UGX 25,700. This is a provisional reconciliation figure, not a final unspent balance, because additional minor organizational and operational expenses such as airtime, local transport and paper still require final reconciliation against the Cash Book and supporting records.

9. What We Have Learned

- Drainage and site conditions need to remain part of practical field planning.
- A functioning nursery bed is essential for future plantlet production and distribution.
- Initial community participation is possible, while wider outreach should be structured for Phase 2.
- Continued monitoring and documentation are necessary while Step 1 remains ongoing.
- Administrative and documentation capacity directly affects project efficiency and accountability.

10. Challenges Encountered

- Inconsistent participation and motivation among some members involved in project-related activities.
- No dedicated provision for refreshments for volunteers participating in project activities.
- Limited suitable photography equipment for consistent project documentation.
- No printer for producing necessary project and administrative documents.

11. Digital Project – Initial Beneficiary Survey

YRUD intends to begin a small initial survey involving 10 direct beneficiaries before developing a larger digital solution. The objective is to understand actual needs, challenges, access to digital tools and services, interests and priorities. The findings will help shape a solution around real community needs rather than designing a solution first and asking beneficiaries to adapt to it.

12. Governance and Accountability

YRUD continues to strengthen financial and administrative controls as the project develops. Transactions are expected to be supported by receipts, invoices, vouchers or other evidence and recorded in the Cash Book. The organization has also updated its authorized bank signatories as part of its internal governance and financial control processes.

Under the partnership framework, YRUD leads the day-to-day operational management of the pilot at Nakivale, while ICOSA Moringa / TDMC provides technical, strategic, fundraising and network support.

13. Looking Ahead

Stage	Focus	Status
Phase 1 – Step 1	Plant remaining seedlings, monitor planted seedlings, maintain site and document progress	ONGOING
Phase 1 – Step 2	Establish nursery bed, acquire remaining materials, complete visibility and prepare Phase 2	NEXT STEP
Phase 2	Wider community engagement, plantlet distribution and cooperative onboarding	FUTURE

14. Conclusion

Moringa Yetu – Nakivale has moved from planning into practical implementation. The first step has established an initial field foundation through site preparation, procurement, planting, community participation, drainage improvement, visibility and documentation.

Step 1 remains ongoing. The project is now preparing for Step 2, which will establish the nursery bed, acquire the remaining required materials, complete additional visibility and prepare the foundation for Phase 2.

The signed partnership between YRUD and ICOSA Moringa™ / TDMC provides a complementary framework for technical, strategic and network support, while YRUD continues to lead implementation on the ground in Nakivale.

15. Acknowledgement

YRUD gratefully acknowledges the donors, supporters, advisors and partners who have contributed to the development of Moringa Yetu – Nakivale. The support received has enabled the project to move from planning to practical implementation and to begin building the foundation for the next stage.

Transparency • Community Participation • Responsible Use of Resources • Local Ownership • Sustainability

Digital Development and Online Presence

YRUD is also strengthening its digital presence and exploring how appropriate digital tools can support its work with refugee communities in Nakivale Refugee Settlement.

YRUD's official website is now ready and available at www.yrud.org. The website provides a public platform through which YRUD can present its organization, activities, projects, achievements and ongoing work to community members, partners, donors and other stakeholders.

Alongside the website, YRUD is exploring practical digital solutions that respond to needs identified in the communities where it works. The current approach is to first understand users' needs, access and priorities before developing or expanding digital solutions. An initial needs assessment involving 10 potential direct beneficiaries is being used to better understand how digital tools could support farmers and other community members.

This work forms part of YRUD's broader effort to combine community-based action, documentation and appropriate digital tools to strengthen its programmes and make its work more accessible and visible.

YRUD ONLINE | www.yrud.org

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Together for a better world.