



The Power of Re-invention

"Resilience and Renewal: Congolese Refugees' Artistic Journey from Conflict to Creativity through I-Strive Marketplace"

I-Strive Marketplace

Nestled on the bustling 101 Kampala Road in the heart of Entebbe town, Uganda, the I-Strive Marketplace is a radiant oasis of color, culture, and creativity. The moment you step inside, you are immediately transported into a world where the stories of women refugees in Uganda come to life through their extraordinary arts and crafts.



I-strive
MARKETPLACE

HUGS

**HANDMADE UNIQUE
GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS**

HANDBAGS | PURSES | JEWELS | SANDALS | SHIRTS | DRESSES

101 KAMPALA ROAD ENTebbe TOWN, UGANDA

The Resilient Marketplace

The marketplace is a hub of hope and healing, filled with handcrafted treasures. Every inch of space is adorned with intricate, lovingly made pieces, each with its own unique story. The vibrant array of paintings, handmade baskets, jewelry, and apparel reflects the diversity of talent and tradition from various refugee communities across Uganda. The shelves are like a living gallery, showcasing the rich tapestry of cultures that have found solace and inspiration here.



Highlighting Diverse Refugee Experiences Through I-strive Marketplace



Childhood Dreams

Explore the stories and aspirations of refugee women, fulfilling the dreams of their children despite the challenges they face.



Success Against the Odds

Discover stories of refugees who have overcome immense obstacles to build fulfilling lives.



Inspirational Women

Learn about the bold voices and strength of refugee women who are making a difference.

Challenges Faced by Refugees

1 Forced Displacement

Explore the reasons that force individuals and families to leave their homes behind.

2 Unsafe Journeys

Understand the perils refugees face during their treacherous journeys seeking safety.

3 Loss and Trauma

Discover the emotional toll that displacement and conflict inflict on refugees.

4 Integration Struggles

Learn about the hurdles refugees face while adapting to new cultures and societies.

The Resilience and Strength of Refugees

Building from Scratch

Witness the incredible resilience of refugees as they rebuild their lives from scratch.

Entrepreneurial Spirit

Discover the innovative solutions and businesses created by refugee entrepreneurs.

Education Against Odds

Learn how refugees prioritize education and seek learning opportunities despite challenges.



Refugees Finding Hope and Transformation Through Craftsmanship

Refugees Finding Hope and Transformation Through Craftsmanship in the midst of adversity, a group of resilient refugees have embarked on a journey of hope, transformation, and empowerment. They are refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who have found solace and strength in their newfound skills and entrepreneurial spirit, thanks to the Individuals and Together We Can group.

Telling Their Story

Mama Charlie Motuta - A Beacon of Resilience

Meet Mama Charlie, a Congolese woman who once lived in the Equateur Province. Her life was forever altered by the conflict, forcing her and her family to seek refuge in Uganda. "I am a widow, a mother of six children, and one grandchild. My husband perished in the war, and with no one left to protect us, we fled to Bukavu. However, even there, the war followed us. In 2011, we finally reached Kampala, where I learned that I was HIV positive due to sexual abuse during the war. Life was harsh, but a lifeline emerged when I joined an HIV program, receiving counseling, business management training, and capital to start my craft business. Since then, my life has taken a positive turn."

Ange Bahati - Rising from the Ashes

Ange's story is one of resilience and hope. She was born and raised in Congo, where life was once peaceful until conflict engulfed her hometown in 2015. Ange lost her parents and siblings in a nightmarish night of torture and violence. She managed to escape, finding her way to Kampala, Uganda, as a refugee. Her life depended on the kindness of others who provided food and temporary shelter. It was at a Congolese church in Katwe that she discovered her pregnancy, a result of the war's abuse. Years later, she embarked on a transformative journey, receiving training in crafts and launching her own business, improving the lives of her family along the way.



Telling Their Story

Noella Mukulima - Stitching a New Life

Noella's life took an unexpected turn when war forced her to flee her hometown in Congo in 2018. Alone in a foreign land, she struggled to find her footing until she encountered a Congolese pastor who connected her with a rescue foundation. There, she honed her sewing skills and began her journey towards self-sufficiency. Noella's encounter with I-Strive Marketplace as a client opened doors to support herself and meet her needs.

Beatrice Mbambu - Sewing Through Adversity

Beatrice is a seamstress from Beni, Congo, a city plagued by ongoing violence. Her refugee journey began after surviving abuse that resulted in the loss of her pregnancy. "I lost my husband, my house was in ruins, so fleeing to Uganda was the only option, and I have been here since 2017." Sewing and crafting have become her lifeline, providing not only a small income but also a therapeutic escape from her traumatic experiences.

Telling Their Story

Shulungu Rachel - Crafting a Brighter Future

Shulungu Feza Rachel, hailing from Beni, Congo, faced the brutality of civil war. In 2016, she and her family sought refuge in Uganda, arriving with nothing and facing numerous challenges. Language barriers and daily needs were constant struggles. In 2019, Rachel's life took a positive turn when she discovered a training program for bag design. Selling these handbags in her small store allowed her to send her children to school.

Blandine Kokusa - A New Beginning

Blandine Kokusa, a Congolese single mother, sought refuge in Kampala in 2015 to escape the horrors of war. Life as a refugee and sole provider for her children was incredibly challenging. But, through a rescue foundation, she gained training in handbag making, enabling her to move her family into a new home and enroll her children in school.



Telling Their Story

Rosine Penge - Artistic Resilience

Rosine, born into a large family in Congo, faced adversity when her stepbrother tried to seize her father's school. Her refusal led to a violent attack, prompting her escape to Uganda. She took on various jobs until she found an apprenticeship, enabling her to sell her handicrafts at the market.

Mama Dady - Surviving and Thriving

Mama Dady, a single mother of five, fled to Uganda after experiencing violence during the war in eastern Congo. She established her business in 2017, which has been her source of livelihood ever since.





Telling Their Story

Tumbiwine Enid - Crafting a Future

Tumbwine, a Ugandan-born single mother, transitioned from being a kindergarten teacher to crafting sandals during the COVID-19 pandemic. With her daughters, she adapted to the changing circumstances and now aims to expand her business.

Kajeje Elise - From Surviving to Thriving

Kajeje Elise, a survivor of abduction and torture, escaped the horrors of war in Congo to seek refuge in Uganda. Through resilience and determination, she ventured into jewelry making and crafts, envisioning a future where her products reach a global audience.

Sylvia Namirembe- Against All Odds

I am Sylvia Namirembe, a married mother of three children, consisting of one boy and two girls. My eldest child is a girl who is coping with cerebral palsy. I have faced considerable challenges when it comes to securing employment, as finding a caregiver who can consistently tend to my daughter's needs has proven to be a daunting task. In response to this predicament, I made the decision to embark on a crochet bag business during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to I-Strive Market's support, I am now able to cover the costs of my daughter's daily medication. Looking ahead to the next academic term, I am making plans to enroll her in school, a milestone I had only dreamed of before. Moreover, I can now provide for my family by putting food on our table. I am profoundly grateful for the unwavering support.



Aziza Penge's Story



My name is Aziza Penge, I thank God for this transformation because the life of being a refugee is not easy but we have seen God's hand through I-Strive Market. Since we moved to Uganda we had no hope on how to survive but since life has changed for the better. In 2020, I-Strive Marketplace started buying bags from us, the money we made helped us to pay school fees, food and rent renewing our will to live. We pray for God to bless them and all their resources will not dry. Thank you I-Strive Marketplace.

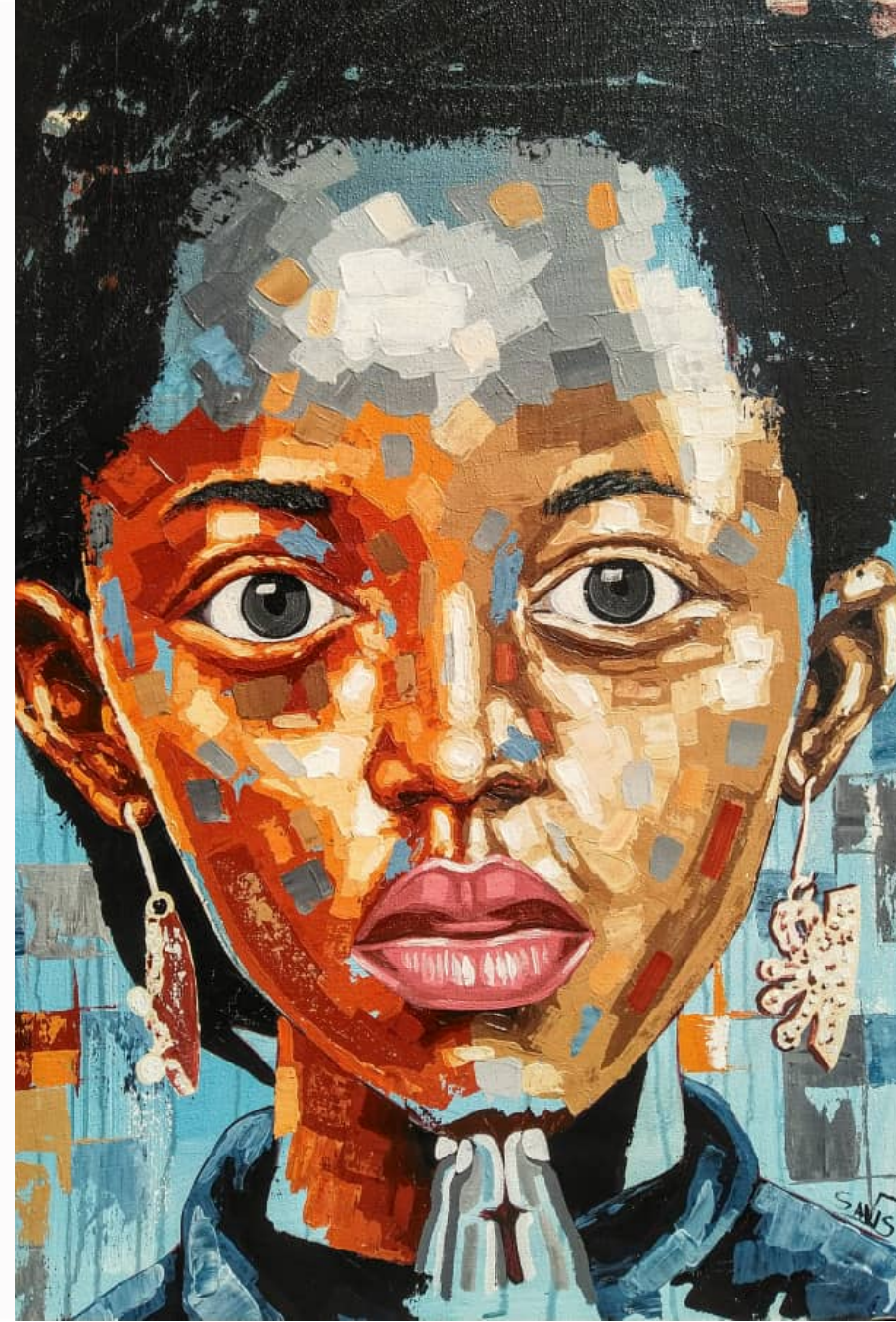


Elia Mambo - One Brush Stroke At A Time

After facing insecurities in my home country, I arrived in Uganda in July 2015 at Nakivale Camp. Being young and alone, I managed to survive for four months until I met a pastor from Kampala who came to do evangelism and heard my story. He offered me help and took me to Kampala, where I joined his church named Bethel and enrolled in secondary school. It was there that I met a mentor who was a talented painter. During the holidays, I honed my painting skills. Once I completed secondary school, I started painting as a way to make a living, using only two colors (black and white) and small canvases. I sold some of my artwork, which enabled me to open my own art studio. Through I-Strive Marketplace, I was able to sell more of my art and showcase my talents to the world.

Telling Their Story

These stories of resilience, transformation, and newfound hope illustrate the indomitable spirit of refugees who, against all odds, have found strength, community, and empowerment through their crafts and entrepreneurial endeavors. Together, they stand as a testament to the power of human determination and the potential for brighter tomorrows, even in the face of adversity.



Thank you for supporting Us!



Elisee kajeje

I wouldn't have managed to support myself in Uganda. But the job has helped not only me but also widows, single mothers, orphans, and students. Not only refugees but nationals also have highly benefited from it.



Ange Bahati

I didn't have many clients but I-Strive Marketplace has been the biggest client I never had. This money helps me to pay rent whenever my husband has no money, to pay school fees, buy food and also have a savings account for me to be able to buy land and have my own house.



Noella Mukulima

I'm now capable to pay my rent and take care of myself and my family. I will always be thankful to I-Strive Market for the support they gave me and new business strategies and also hope in life..

Thank you for supporting Us!



Mama Charlie

Today I can say I am realizing my dreams though I have not yet achieved everything but I'm on my way to because they helped me and today I am able to pay my house and shop rent and take care of my family. For a widow like me who didn't know where to start, I-Strive Market has been the greatest support



Kokusa Blandine

Through I-strive Market I found myself because I manage to pay for the children's schooling I easily pay for the house and other expenses.



Together We Can Group

I-Strive Marketplace has impacted our lives in so many ways. we have achieved almost our goals. We have been able to use our knowledge and skills because of the job you have us, we are able to do more different art pieces each day. Now we no longer misuse our work to do and all this is because of you sir. We truly appreciate this opportunity you given us

A Variety from I-Strive Marketplace



How to Continue the Support

Shop online at

istrivemarketplace.com

Download and Buy
Using the I-Strive
Market Place App from
Google Play Store and
Apple Store

Send an Email Order
to

jaydatabusinessinvestment@gmail.com

Visit the I-Strive Market Place Shop

101 Kampala Road, Entebbe Town, Uganda

Call the I-Strive Market Place Shop

+256 414 672 492

Payment Methods

- Direct Bank Transfer

Bank: Ecobank Uganda

Account Name: Jay Data Business Investments

Account Numbers: 7202501327 (USD) 7202501326 (UGX)

Swift: ECOCUGKA

- Debit / Credit Card
- Airtel Mobile Money
- MTN Uganda Mobile Money



For Your Support

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your support. Your contributions have made a meaningful impact on the lives of refugees and artisans. Together, we are creating opportunities and fostering empowerment through the I-Strive Marketplace. Your generosity is truly making a difference. Thank you!

