



FINANCE FOR WAR REFUGEES

RUFI, Uganda

FACTS*

Founded in 2017
Branches: 4
Employees: 30
Assets: \$1.2 million

*as of Sept. 2023



CLIENTS

5,342 borrowers
72% South Sudan refugees
58% female
82% rural
Average loan: \$130



MISSION

To uplift the living standards of clients by sustainably providing inclusive, cross-border financial services.

ABOUT RUFI

Rural Finance Initiative Uganda Limited (RUFI) was created by RUFI South Sudan, a non-deposit-taking MFI founded in 2008. During the civil war, many of its clients fled across the border to Uganda and settled in refugee camps. RUFI followed its clients and began operations in northern Uganda out of necessity to recover those loans. At first, the MFI simply continued lending to refugees if they were previously RUFI clients. Gradually they expanded services to other immigrants who have been in the country for 5+ years and became established in the Ugandan communities, but still lacked access to funding. The local population also benefits from RUFI. Ugandan MFIs are heavily concentrated in urban areas surrounding Kampala, and a large percentage of the population remains excluded, especially rural women. In addition to finance, RUFI provides clients with training on local norms, financial literacy, and the use of funds.

CLIENT STORY

Agnes (photo left) is a South Sudanese refugee who fled the civil war with her children, leaving behind her husband and her home. Her determination to make it in Uganda, and a loan from RUFI, is how Agnes built her small store where she sells shoes and clothes.

HOW WE HELPED

This first loan of \$200,000 to RUFI is an opportunity to have an impact on a refugee population that is working hard to rebuild their lives. When we visited the MFI in 2023, we saw a strong social and financial performance, as well as a mission-driven, talented team that is facing a larger loan demand than it can meet.