

Annual Report 2024

# Laying the Foundations for Shared Development



Dear Readers,  
Throughout 2024, our social and community-based work unfolded amid conflicts, increasing displacement, and accelerating climate change. These dynamics deepened inequalities and strained support systems, making efforts to strengthen mental-well-being, social connections, and access to essential resources such as sustainable energy increasingly necessary.

During this year, a new project was launched, participatory processes were deepened, and existing initiatives expanded their reach. 2024 marked an important transition in our organisational development: while earlier years focused on building structures, partnerships, and conceptual foundations, this year saw clearer steps towards implementation. Activities in mental health and access to sustainable energy moved into more concrete, operational stages, strengthening the basis for long-term, context sensitive work. This report reflects both what we did and how we worked. Participation, co-determination, and long-term collaboration remained central, with individuals and communities engaged as partners. Presented in a spirit of transparency and accountability, the report offers an overview, and invites reflection.  
Lena and The Hudara Team



...from the RAWABET project



“Nature-based psychosocial intervention is the most appreciated. The psychological support they receive is delivered in a way that nurtures their inner wellbeing, providing a comforting experience. Participants express eagerness to know when the next session will take place...”

In conversation with Farooq, a psychologist working in the Rawabet project.

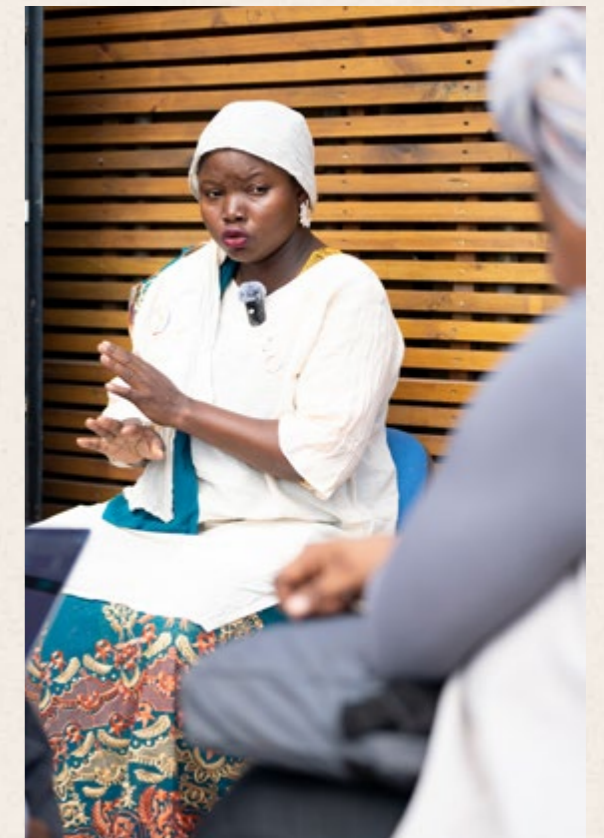
In Mosul, Iraq, young men participating in the Rawabet project gather in a garden to take part in a nature-based psychosocial session focused on “planting seeds of hope.” Guided by Farooq, the group engages in simple, hands-on activities—filling pots with soil, planting seeds, and nurturing new growth—as a way to reflect on resilience, renewal, and their own capacity to rebuild after hardship.

...from the MAESHA project

“Thanks to the training, I now find it much easier to fix certain household appliances. I also really enjoy learning how to assemble the different parts of the solar panels. I truly appreciate it, because it’s knowledge that will be useful for us. [...] Since we’ve learned how to install the systems ourselves, we believe we can play an important role within our community.”

In conversation with Solar Mama Soifiati. She once lived in the Carobolé quarter, which was demolished in 2021 as part of an urban renewal project to clear informal settlements.

Today, she resides with her children in the village of Trévani. Inside their container workshop in Koungou, the Solar Mamas unpack, inspect, and prepare new equipment. The space serves as their regular meeting point and a repair hub where residents bring broken electronics to be fixed. More than just a workshop, it fosters social cohesion and empowers the community by turning technical skills into confidence and independence.



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# ABOUT US

## What we do

At Hudara, we work with people and communities to develop sustainable responses to social and environmental challenges. Our aim is to contribute to a world in which mental well-being, peaceful coexistence, and harmony with the natural environment are accessible to everyone. Our work focuses on three interconnected areas. **HEALING** addresses psychological and social vulnerabilities and strengthens resilience and well-being. **ADAPTING** supports communities in responding to the impacts of climate change and building sustainable livelihoods. **POWERING** promotes access to sustainable energy solutions that improve living conditions and enable long-term social and economic development.

## Who we are

We have come together from various backgrounds and with different interests, inspired by a shared vision of a sustainable and just global community.

Through our project work and research we have years of experience in a variety of grassroots initiatives, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, and research institutions.

Our goal is to broaden debates and actions, strengthen horizontal communication channels, and promote genuine collaboration in all areas of our work. Achieving fair and sustainable outcomes in contexts where power

relations are reproduced requires a shift in how transformation is pursued. People and communities with lived experience must play an active role in this process from start to finish for meaningful change to take place.

From mental health initiatives in Iraq and Germany to the introduction of sustainable energy in Mayotte, Uganda and Rwanda, we work alongside communities to support their leadership and locally driven change. Lasting solutions to crises, conflicts, and climate change can only emerge through genuine participation and co-determination.

## How we come to our projects

We initiate, and collaborate on, projects that allow for a flexible determination of goals as we adapt our approach to the individuals, communities and stakeholders that we work with.

Our approach aims to address problems in a meaningful way together with the affected people, and for this reason, we bring our experience to projects that have a long-term timeline, allowing for...

...continuous and sustained collaboration with communities, stakeholders and partners, fostering trust and mutual understanding between all actors.

...time for capacity building, training and mutual learning, so that solutions can be shaped in collaboration with communities.

...the implementation of well researched, context specific approaches from the very start of a project.

# Organisation structure and roles



Hudara team, Berlin, Germany, July, 2024. Photo: Lea Lin Böhmer.

Hudara is registered as a non-profit association in the register of associations at the Charlottenburg Local Court in Berlin (file number of the register entry HRB 130922 B).

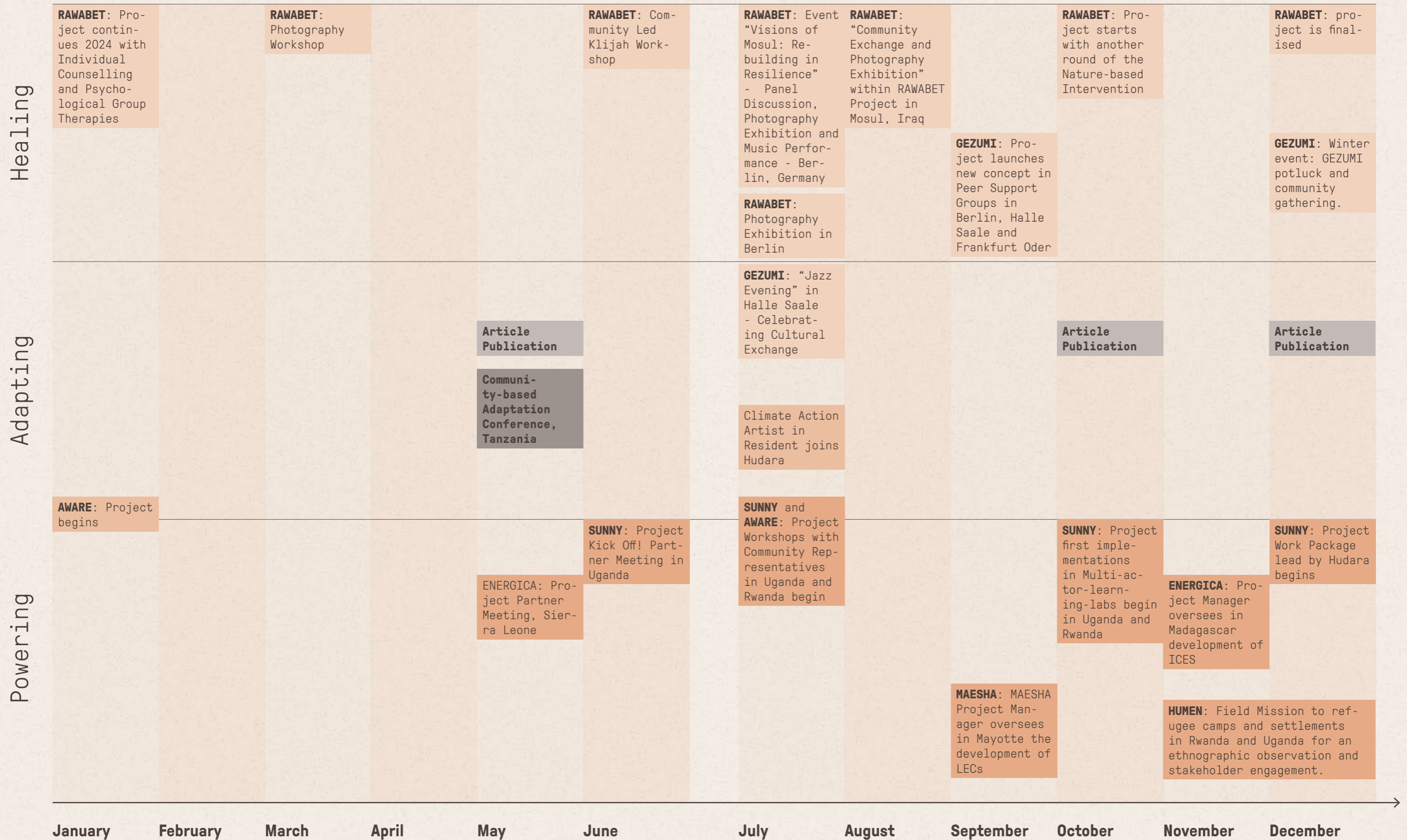
The organisation is managed by Dr. Lena Schmid (Managing Director) and Prof. Dr. Boris Heinz (Head of programmes). In addition to supporting ongoing projects, both are actively involved in project acquisition and fundraising as well as in accompanying research to ensure the effectiveness of our activities and to facilitate continuous learning. Anne van Leeuwen leads the administrative operations, and supports and implements budgeting processes, legal matters, and human resources.

Dr. Feride Nur Haskaraca Kizilay is responsible for the implementation of the GEZUMI project and is being supported by three group facilitators. Irene Pérez Bornstein is the project manager of the MAESHA project and collaborates closely with a large number of partners and persons of concern. She fulfils a similar role in the ENERGICA project. Tim Ronan Britton supports the scientific monitoring of the energy projects and is

engaged in the SUNNY initiative. Clara Tatlow-Devally is our communications manager, responsible for informing the public about our work. Ahmed Salahaldin is the project manager of the RAWABET project, supporting the team in Iraq and overseeing administrative, coordination, and operational tasks at the community center, including planning, implementation, and comprehensive reporting. Kristina Jadranović supports the accompanying research within the RAWABET project as well as conceptual work in the field of mental health. Pia Gleich focuses on community-based adaptation to climate change and is currently involved in proposal writing and research.

Many other people supported our initiatives on a full-time, part-time or voluntary basis in 2024, both in Germany and at the various other locations where we work. The time, commitment and care that our team and supporters invest in Hudara makes the organisation what it is: a humanitarian initiative grounded in an intersectional and inclusive approach, dedicated to humanity, well-being for all and harmony with the natural environment.

# 2024 TIMELINE



# PROJECTS

Hudara supports people and communities in **HEALING** by strengthening individual capacities and fostering creative, supportive, and trust-building environments. Through its work on **ADAPTING** to the challenges of climate change, Hudara enables communities to build resilience around resources, livelihoods, and local infrastructures. At the same time, Hudara is **POWERING** access to sustainable energy that improves well-being and long-term social development.

# HEALING

Our work for mental health  
and social connection

Hudara supports people and communities in HEALING by strengthening individual capacities and fostering creative, supportive, and trust-building environments. The burden is disproportionately high in low-resource and crisis-affected settings, where exposure to poverty, conflict and displacement significantly increases psychological distress. Those who are most affected by hardship often have the fewest resources available to them and face significant barriers to mental health support, making recovery feel distant or fragile.

Through many years of practice and research carried out in close partnership with individuals and communities in these settings, we have learned that the foundations for healing lie within the knowledge, strengths and resources of the communities themselves. By recognising and honouring this resilience, we work together to nurture pathways toward recovery.

Guided by a strength-based and holistic approach, our psychoso-

cial work draws on a wide range of resources, including nature, cultural practices and creative activities. Our interventions are grounded in strong evidence-based practice and informed by a continuous dialogue between research and field experience, ensuring their effectiveness and relevance. We place particular emphasis on local knowledge and capacities when designing interventions, and carefully adapt external approaches to ensure they are meaningful, supportive and culturally appropriate within each context.

→ In 2024, our HEALING work focused on two projects:

Our project work focused on two long-term projects: **GEZUMI**, implemented with refugee women from Ukraine now living in Germany from 2022 onwards, and **RAWABET**, delivered through our community centre in the heart of Mosul, Iraq from 2023 onwards.



# GEZUMI

Our society as a home for people with a migration background

Guided peer support groups for women refugees from Ukraine living in Berlin, Frankfurt (Oder) and Halle (Saale).

## PROVIDING...

- ...support for **mental well-being**
- ...space for **meaningful connections**
- ...opportunities for **dialogue with the local community**

## A NEW HOME

In February 2022, war broke out in Ukraine. By January 2023, more than 7.9 million people had fled the country, with over a million Ukrainian refugees settling in Germany. In addition to the trauma of the invasion and the ongoing war in their homeland, those displaced by the conflict face the challenge of building a new life in a foreign country. Language barriers and cultural differences can make communication and relationship building difficult, while experiences of marginalization can contribute to feelings of loneliness.

## CULTIVATING NEW COMMUNITIES

### → Shared paths of healing

The GEZUMI peer support groups in Berlin, Halle (Saale), and Frankfurt (Oder) offer Ukrainian women a place to meet, share their experiences, and support each other as they adjust to life in Germany. The groups are structured to foster meaningful relationships and encourage participants to draw on their own resilience through empowerment and strength-based healing approaches.

### → Communities coming together

As part of the initiative to support migrant women and refugees from Ukraine, the GEZUMI team also organizes open and free events. These events bring together residents, newcomers, and other communities through cultural evenings, exhibitions, film screenings, and live music. By creating opportunities for shared experiences, the GEZUMI events

← GEZUMI peer support group facilitator with community member, Halle Saale, Germany, July, 2024. Photo: Nataliia Tymoshevskya.

## GEZUMI

foster inclusive spaces and enable meaningful exchange between long-term residents and newcomers. Together, these activities strengthen social connections, promote well-being, and support the long-term inclusion of Ukrainian women within their new communities.



### PEER SUPPORT GROUPS ARE...

groups of people who share similar life experiences, challenges, or identities and come together to provide each other with emotional, social, and practical support. Each group within the GEZUMI Project is hosted by a trained female facilitator from Ukraine, contributing to the creation of a safe space and a sense of community among participating women.



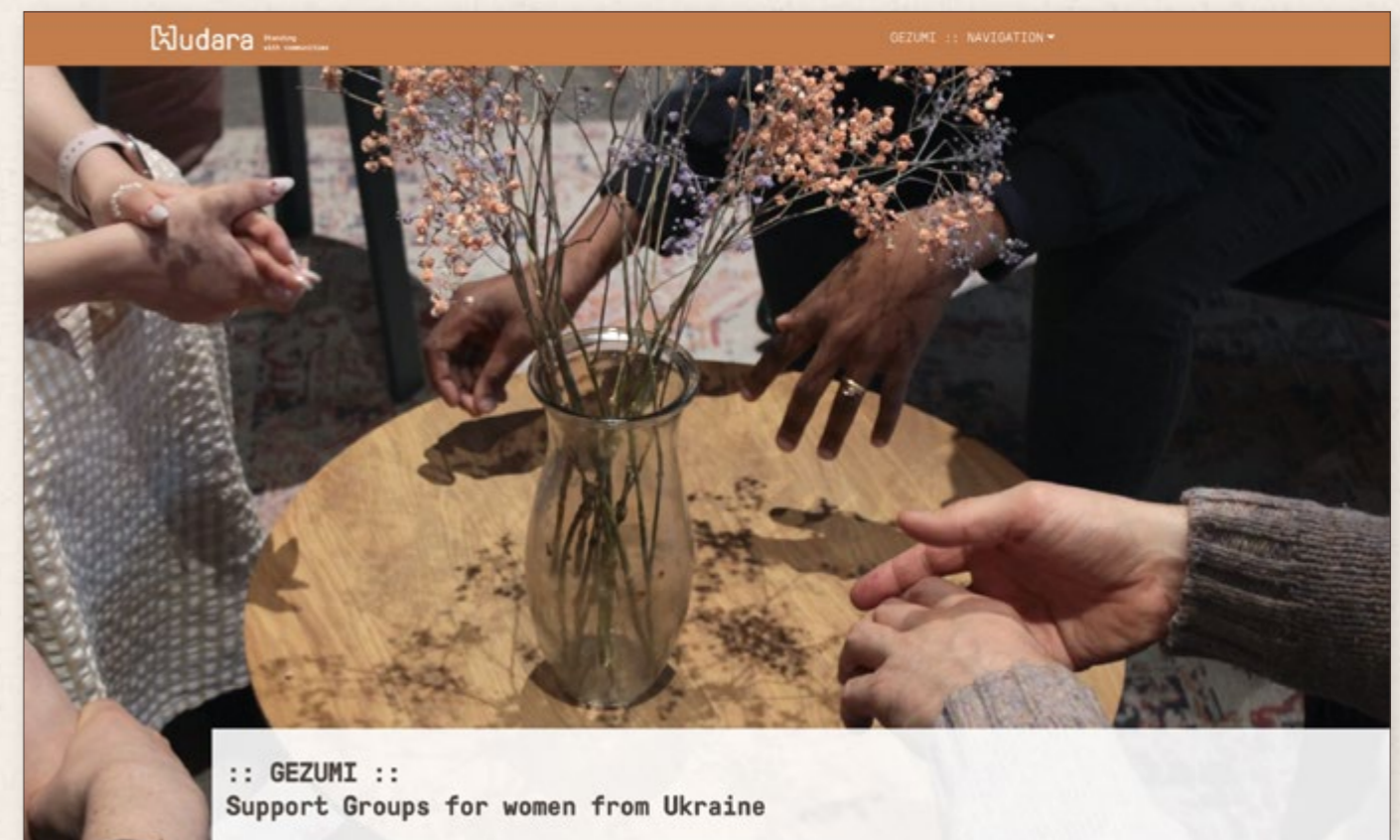
Guests of the GEZUMI Event, Halle Saale, Germany, July, 2024. Photo: Nataliia Tymoshevskia.

## HIGHLIGHTS 2024

### The GEZUMI website: a resource for migrants and refugees in Germany

In 2024 the GEZUMI website was launched, providing access to resources for migrants and refugees living in Germany, from information on how to access mental health supports, to advice on finding a place to live. New materials will be shared to the website based on topics discussed in the groups. Through the website, participants are able to access information on upcoming peer support group meetings and future events.

The website can be accessed here: <https://hudara.org/gezumi/>



Screenshot of GEZUMI website homepage. Retrieved September, 2024.

**GEZUMI**



Nataliia, Berlin, Germany, July, 2024. Photo: Kathrin Harms.



Maryna, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, June, 2023. Photo: Roman Boichuk.

## Facilitators from Ukraine: healing from within

This year we welcomed Maryna and Nataliia to the project. Our two new facilitators bring personal, as well as professional experience to their roles. As women from Ukraine who have been living in Germany for the past few years, Maryna and Nataliia - and Olena (who has been working in the project since the beginning) - are uniquely positioned to offer guidance and support to the Ukrainian women who access support services.

By sharing practical insights and drawing on personal experiences, the GEZUMI peer support group facilitators encourage participants to draw on their own resilience while building meaningful relationships grounded in solidarity, compassion and mutual understanding.



Olena, moderator for the Halle (Saale) support groups, Halle Saale, Germany, July, 2024. Photo: Nataliia Tymoshevskya.

## A new space in Berlin!

In September 2024, we launched our partnership with UA Nest Berlin, a meeting space designed for Ukrainian activists, human rights defenders and community members to come together for inspiration, connection, and co-working. With UA Nest as host for peer support groups for Ukrainian women in Berlin are able to invite a diverse network of women to access our support services, and facilitate further community building in the Ukrainian community in Berlin.



Picture of UA Nest Berlin, Germany. Photo: Google maps.

## TIMELINE 2023-2025

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project kick-off!</li> <li>▪ Identification and training of peer support group facilitators</li> <li>▪ First round of groups</li> <li>▪ Events bringing participants and the wider community together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Adaptation and refinement of the manual and activities to serve the needs of displaced women from Ukraine</b></li> <li>▪ <b>New peer support group facilitators join the project, further training for all facilitators</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Groups begin with new facilitators</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Events and community dialogues bringing participants and the wider community together</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Launch of the GEZUMI website</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Final rounds of peer support groups take place</li> <li>▪ End evaluation and impact report in May of 2025</li> </ul>
2023	2024	2025 →



# RAWABET

“روابط - connections”

## Mosul, Iraq: a city and a people post-conflict

Following the end of the most recent conflict in Iraq in 2017, the city of Mosul entered a prolonged period of readjustment and recovery. Home to diverse religious and ethnic communities, as well as a large population of internally displaced people (IDPs), Mosul continues to face the long-term social and psychological consequences of years of violence. The legacy of a regime that relied on sectarian division to exert power has left deep wounds, undermining trust and social cohesion across communities.

Years of instability, destruction, and displacement have had a profound impact on the well-being of Mosul's

residents. Many people have gone through traumatic experiences and continue to live with psychological distress, uncertainty about the future, and a loss of hope. In a city where social and physical infrastructure has been severely damaged, rebuilding daily life and a sense of normalcy remains a significant challenge.

Since setting up the Rawabet Community Centre in the Summer of 2023, we have provided effective and meaningful support to a diverse population. Offering an interdisciplinary programme of individual counselling and psychological group therapies to the residents of Mosul city, and reaching many people from different backgrounds.

← Rawabet Community Centre staff, from left to right: Noor, Hiba and Farooq, Mosul, Iraq, September, 2024. Photo: Ali Sedeq.



Community Dialogue, Rawabet Community Centre, Mosul, Iraq, May, 2024. Photo: Ali Sadeq Qasim.

...**Individual Counselling** has been applied within the project to tailored support to individuals, especially for those who wish to address sensitive issues that cannot be explored in a group setting. Grounded in a person-centered approach, it created a safe and respectful space for individuals to explore emotions, strengthen coping strategies, and build self-understanding. A trusting relationship with the psychologist formed the basis for openness and meaningful change.

...**Interpersonal Group Therapy**, It is a structured, short-term approach that explores how relationships and social experiences influence mental well-being. Originally developed to treat depression, it focuses on areas such as grief, life transitions, interpersonal conflicts, and social isolation. By framing emotional distress as a treatable condition, it reduces self-blame and encourages help-seeking. Though first designed for individual therapy, it has also been successfully adapted to group settings where participants benefit from shared experiences and mutual support.



Community Dialogue, Rawabet Community Centre, Mosul, Iraq, May, 2024. Photo: Ali Sadeq Qasim.

## RAWABET



Nature-based Therapeutic Intervention in the Rawabet Community Centre garden, Mosul, Iraq, October, 2024. Photo: Lena Schmid



Nature-based Therapeutic Intervention in the Rawabet Community Centre garden, Mosul, Iraq, October, 2024. Photo: Lena Schmid



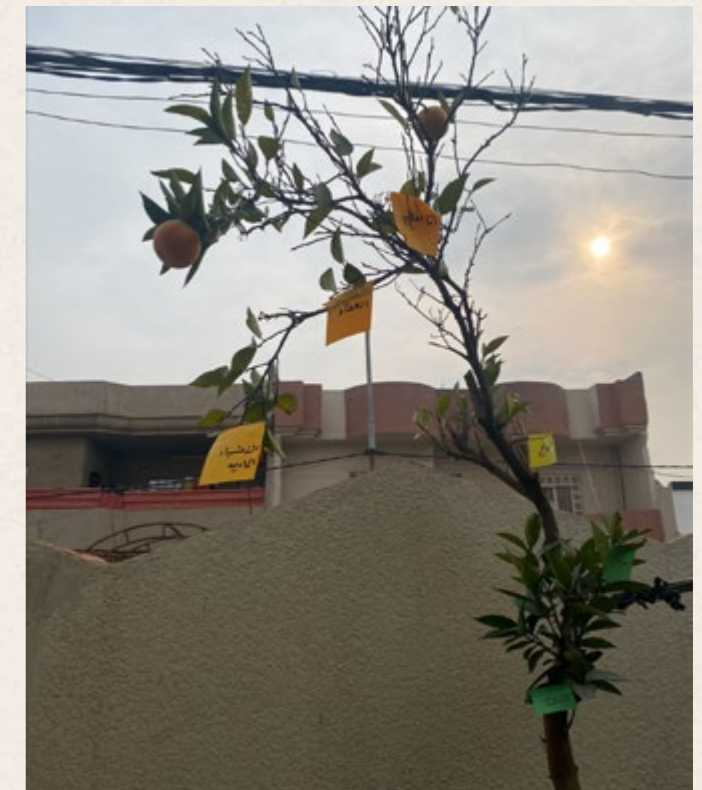
Nature-based Therapeutic Intervention in the Rawabet Community Centre garden, Mosul, Iraq, October, 2024. Photo: Lena Schmid

**...Textile Art-Therapeutic Intervention** combined tradition, creative practice, and psychosocial healing. Participants engaged in embroidery – a craft with deep roots in Mosul – exploring themes such as home, safety, and belonging. The slow, tactile process fostered calm and reflection, while group sharing strengthened emotional regulation, social connection, and a sense of agency and well-being.

**...Nature-based Therapeutic Intervention** was grounded in research highlighting the restorative effects of nature on well-being. Participants engaged in guided outdoor activities such as mindful walking and sensory observation, exploring themes of mindfulness, acceptance, and connection to nature. Group reflection strengthened social bonds and supported the integration of insights into daily life.



Nature-based Therapeutic Intervention in the Rawabet Community Centre garden, Mosul, Iraq, October, 2024. Photo: Lena Schmid



Nature-based Therapeutic Intervention in the Rawabet Community Centre garden, Mosul, Iraq, October, 2024. Photo: Lena Schmid



Body and Soul Intervention with children from the local community Rawabet Community Centre, September, 2024. Photo: Ali Sedeq.

...**Body and Soul Intervention**, focused on strengthening the connection between physical and mental well-being. Recognizing that traumatic experiences can lead to detachment, it aimed to support reintegration of mind and body. Guided by a psychologist, participants practiced progressive relaxation and gentle movement exercises, combined with group reflection on bodily sensations and the links between physical and psychological health.

...**Community Dialogues**, provide a safe, structured space for people of diverse backgrounds to share experiences and discuss common challenges. They encourage reflection and alliance-building to strengthen social cohesion in a divided context. Although sensitive issues and tensions often emerge, the process concludes with joint actions and practical support to address the concerns raised.



Community Dialogue, Rawabet Community Centre, Mosul, Iraq, February, 2024. Photo: Noor Hussain.



Community Dialogue held in the courtyard of the Community Centre, Mosul, Iraq, August, 2024. Photo: Ali Sedeq.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE RAWABET COMMUNITY CENTRE

Throughout the RAWABET project, the Community Centre facilitated 25 Community Dialogues, engaging a total of 705 community members. The dialogues were held across various locations on the west side of Mosul, including mosques, community centres, and private residences where participants felt safe. Participants came from diverse backgrounds, including students, teachers, young people, and members of both host and displaced communities. The discussions addressed key community issues such as school dropout, the use of free time, online blackmail, positive parenting, violence, and early marriage.

Photography workshop at the community centre, open to anyone interested in learning about photography



Photography workshop, RAWABET Community Centre, Mosul, Iraq, March, 2024.  
Photo: Ali Sedeq.



Photography workshop, RAWABET Community Centre, Mosul, Iraq, March, 2024.  
Photo: Ali Sedeq.

RAWABET

A community-led initiative: women from Mosul city make klijah together to share with the local neighbourhood



Women prepare popular pastry Klijah to share with the community, Mosul, Iraq, June, 2024. Photo: Hiba Emad.



Women prepare popular pastry Klijah to share with the community, Mosul, Iraq, June, 2024. Photo: Hiba Emad.

## RAWABET

Picking grapes from the Rawabet community garden and sharing them with the local neighbourhood



Ali helps to distribute grapes from the Rawabet Community Centre's garden to the neighbourhood, Mosul, Iraq, July, 2024. Photo: Hiba Emad.



Sharing grapes from the Rawabet Community Centre's garden with the local neighbourhood, Mosul, Iraq, July, 2024. Photo: Hiba Emad.



Fruit from the grape trees in the Rawabet Community Centre's garden, Mosul, Iraq, July, 2024. Photo: Hiba Emad.

## TIMELINE 2024

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community centre is set up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseline assessment with focus group discussions (FDGs) and key informant interviews (KIIs)</li> <li>Identification of two psychologists and team members. Implementation of training activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of activities and interventions</li> <li>Supervision and trainings for psychologists during the implementation period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAWABET 2024 Programme of individual counselling and psychological group therapies continues throughout the year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAWABET Photography Workshop</li> <li>RAWABET Community Led Klijah Workshop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAWABET Photography Exhibition in Berlin</li> <li>RAWABET Photography Exhibition in Mosul</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End evaluation and impact report</li> </ul>
May	June	July until the end of the year	January	March & June	July & August	December

# POWERING

Our work for access  
to sustainable energy

Limited access to modern energy services remains a defining challenge in low-resource and crisis-affected settings. Hundreds of millions of people worldwide still live without electricity, while billions rely on polluting fuels such as wood, charcoal, or animal dung for cooking, with severe consequences for health, livelihoods, and the environment. For households facing poverty, displacement, or fragile infrastructure, the high cost of connection fees, technologies, and fuels often makes reliable and sustainable energy access unattainable, reinforcing cycles of vulnerability and exclusion.

Through long-term engagement, technical work, and research carried out in close partnership with local actors and communities, we have learned that effective and lasting energy solutions must be rooted in local realities. Sustainable progress is achieved when energy systems build on existing capacities, skills, and market structures, rather than relying on externally driven or capital-inten-

sive models that are difficult to maintain.

Guided by a practical and inclusive approach, our work focuses on low-cost, easy-to-apply, and environmentally sustainable energy solutions that can be produced, maintained, and scaled within local value chains. By prioritising locally available resources, appropriate technologies, and community-based enterprise models, we aim to improve energy access while strengthening livelihoods, resilience, and long-term sustainability.

→ In 2024, our **POWERING** approach was implemented through three projects:

It saw the development of innovative solutions that facilitate decarbonisation and improve access to energy through our running **MAESHA** project in Mayotte, France, the **ENERGICA** Project in Madagascar, Sierra Leone and Kenya as well as the newly started **SUNNY** Project in Uganda and Rwanda.



# SUNNY

Access to sustainable energy for refugee and host communities in Rwanda and Uganda

The SUNNY project is a Horizon Europe Innovation Action designed to demonstrate sustainable, cost-effective renewable energy solutions for refugee and host communities in Africa. Bringing together a multidisciplinary consortium of European and African universities, NGOs, SMEs and local facilitators, SUNNY combines technological optimisation, social innovation, circular value chains and policy engagement. The project operates over 48 months and implements real-life demonstrations in Rwanda and Uganda, targeting both rural host communities and refugee camps.

Globally, nearly 95% of displaced people in camps lack reliable access to electricity, and around 81% rely on high-carbon energy sources due to the absence of renewable technologies adapted to their needs. In this context, energy access is not only a climate mitigation challenge, but also a matter of social inclusion, health, livelihood development, and resilience.

SUNNY responds by tailoring and demonstrating high-TRL off-grid renewable solutions at household, productive use, and community levels. These include modular solar home systems shared between households, hydrogen and biogas cooking solutions, solar irrigation, and refrigerated food storage. Demonstrations are carried out in Mahama camp (Rwanda) and Bidibidi settlement (Uganda) and their surrounding host communities.

→ **Facilitating inclusive innovation: Hudara's role in the Multi-Actor Learning Labs**

Beyond technology deployment, SUNNY establishes Multi-Actor Learning Labs (MALLs) as structured co-creation platforms that bring together refugees, host communities, local authorities, NGOs, SMEs and technology providers to jointly shape the implementation process. Within this framework, Hudara plays a central role in designing and

← Meal being prepared on cookstove, Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, Uganda, June, 2024.

Photo: Boris Heinz.

## SUNNY

facilitating the MALL methodology, drawing on its expertise in social innovation, stakeholder engagement and community-based governance. Hudara further supports community mapping, inclusive recruitment and the integration of gender and social considerations into the learning processes, ensuring that diverse voices are represented and local

needs are embedded into technical design. Through workshops, participatory dialogue formats and capacity-building activities, the MALLs aim at strengthening local ownership, improving technology acceptance, and connecting energy solutions to livelihood strategies and long-term territorial value creation.



### NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

With the integration of the knowledge, capacities, preferences and energy needs of the people on site, SUNNY aims to improve access to energy services for rural communities in Rwanda and Uganda, belonging to the displaced and host community. We are co-designing together...

...solar home systems to ensure access to basic energy needs at a household level.

...sustainable hydrogen and biogas cooking solutions to improve cooking conditions and to reduce health risks and to decarbonise cooking methods.

...refrigerated food storage and smart solar irrigation to improve food security.

Technology developed in the SUNNY project will be upgraded following circular economy and local value chain approaches to create economic activity locally, and to ensure long-term sustainability.

## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

### The launch of SUNNY: paving the way for co-design and collaboration

To kick-off this project, representatives from the 17 partner organisations gathered for the first time in June 2024, in Kampala. Key-note speakers included partners based in Uganda and Rwanda, international partner organisations, as well as persons of concern out of the refugee and host community themselves. Hudara presented findings from recent research in the field of energy access in the region, as well as ideas and suggestions for training, capacity building and collaborative development within the project.

A series of workshops was facilitated in July 2024 as the initiation of participatory activities; the cornerstone of the SUNNY project. Through workshops, collaboration and working relationships between project partners and representatives from the local communities were established. The process of co-design was realised through these workshops, as baseline assessments were collaboratively developed.



Partner Peter Gift, refugee representative, presenting at SUNNY partner meeting, Arua, Uganda, June, 2024. Photo: Boris Heinz.



Hudara team presenting at SUNNY partner meeting, Arua, Uganda, June, 2024. Photo: Reida Dawa.



Workshop addressing energy access with representatives of refugee and host communities, Uganda, July, 2024. Photo: Tim Britton.



Workshop addressing energy access with representatives of refugee and host communities, Rwanda, July, 2024. Photo: Tim Britton.

## TIMELINE 2024-2026

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project kick-off</b></li> <li>• <b>Strategy workshops with partners for project direction and conceptual preparation</b></li> <li>• <b>Set up of organisational and administrative procedures for field work</b></li> <li>• <b>Collaborating with partners on first steps of implementation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community mapping for social network analysis</li> <li>• Identification of the training and capacity building needs</li> <li>• Preparation of training programmes and capacity building</li> <li>• Conceptual preparation of Multi-Aactor Learning Labs (MALLs) implementation for social innovation and co-creation</li> <li>• Co-development and definition of the local value chain and circular approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical set-up and implementation of MALLs</li> <li>• Continuous feedback loops to accompany technology design and upgrades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalisation of MALLs</li> <li>• Scientific publications</li> <li>• Reporting and project closure</li> </ul>
2024	2025	2026	2027



## MAESHA

Demonstration of smart and flexible solutions for a decarbonised energy future in Mayotte and other European islands

The MAESHA project is a large-scale EU Clean Energy initiative demonstrating flexible, renewable energy solutions for geographically isolated island systems. Implemented by a multidisciplinary consortium, it combines technological innovation, market reform, and stakeholder engagement. Mayotte serves as the main demonstration site, with additional European islands acting as replication sites.

Mayotte faces intertwined energy and social challenges. High poverty rates, precarious living conditions, uneven access to basic services, and rapid demographic growth place strong pressure on already fragile infrastructure. In this context, the energy transition is not only a technical decarbonisation task, but also a question of affordability, access, and social development.

In this context, the energy transition cannot be framed solely as a technical decarbonisation challenge.

It is closely linked to questions of affordability, access, and social development. Decentralised renewable energy solutions often represent the most viable pathway to expanding access, improving system reliability, while facilitating livelihood support, productive energy use, and local empowerment.

### → Smart energy, strong communities

MAESHA combines flexible solutions at the system level with a community-based approach to energy and mobility. In addition to the use of technologies for smart grid management, storage, and integration of renewable energies provided by technology project partners, Hudara supports the development of locally anchored energy communities. These initiatives combine the use of renewable energies with job creation, social reintegration programs, and participatory governance structures. Through targeted skills development, locally anchored organizational

← Electric rental bikes are ready for use by locals. Petite Terre, Mayotte, September, 2024. Photo: Hudara.

## MAESHA

models, and inclusive decision-making formats, these initiatives strengthen procedural and recognition justice while contributing to the development of economic and social values.

### The Local Energy Communities designed and currently implemented by the MAESHA project are...

...the **Clean Mobility LEC** offers a sustainable alternative to car transport in Mayotte, where public transport is limited. The project introduced emission-free e-bikes to reduce air pollution, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and traffic. Four young people were trained as e-bike technicians and now manage maintenance, repair and rental through a social enterprise.

...the **Solar Mamas LEC** is managed by four women from the community that bring solar home systems and small solar devices to households without electricity in an informal settlement. The women participated in training to install and maintain solar equipment. Known as the “Solar Mamas,” they run an energy kiosk and repair shop, providing climate-friendly electricity access and energy services to local residents.

...the **Social Housing LEC** is part of a resettlement programme supporting families moving from informal settlements into low-cost social

housing. Residents receive training and integration support over two to three years. Six houses are equipped with solar panels, demonstrating climate-friendly energy access. Income from feeding electricity into the grid funds community activities and system maintenance.

...the **Student Awareness LEC** is set up together with students from the University of Mayotte as ambassadors for climate action and renewable energy. Trained as Climate Fresk facilitators, they run interactive workshops for students, schools and the public using locally adapted materials. The initiative raises awareness of climate change and supports a growing, island-wide community for the energy transition.

...the **Collective Interest LEC** was established by a diverse range of local actors to transform mobility in Mayotte by promoting soft mobility, including walking, cycling and electric transport. As a legal cooperative, it advocates for climate-friendly transport solutions and unites public and private actors, local communities and experts to develop mobility options aligned with the island’s needs.



At Mobhelios, trained technicians manage daily e-bike and bicycle rentals and repairs, forming the Clean Mobility Local Energy Community. Petite Terre, October, 2024. Photo: Hudara



Students gather on campus for Climate Fresk workshops led by Oura, forming the Student Awareness and Mobilizing Local Energy Community. Dombéni, November, 2024. Photo: Hudara



### WHAT IS A LOCAL ENERGY COMMUNITY?

- officially introduced by the EU in 2019
- collective and citizen-driven actions
- contributes to a sustainable energy transition
- designed to foster open, voluntary and democratic participation and governance
- prioritises social, environmental or economic benefits for the local community over financial profit
- decentralised social innovation



The Solar Mamas completed a four-month training in Senegal, learning to assemble and install photovoltaic systems. Back in Mayotte, they form the Solar Mama Local Energy Community. Toubab Dialao, May 2024. Photo: Barefoot College



Street view shows homes in the Talus de Majicova social housing area in Kougou, where former informal housing residents live temporarily and form a Social Housing Local Energy Community. Mayotte, July, 2024. Photo: Hudara

### TIMELINE 2022-2026

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Baseline Assessment Survey with 400 participants, key-informant interviews and ethnographic observations to form the basis of needs assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conceptualisation and setting up based on survey and deep understanding of context, communities and needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planning, first implementations and coordinating</li> </ul>	<p><b>Highlights:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mayotte trip: next steps to implement local energy communities</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitoring success, impact report</li> </ul>
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025



# ENERGICA

Three different contexts,  
requirements and needs - in search for  
tailored energy access solutions

The ENERGICA project is a four year collaboration bringing together 28 partners from 7 European and 9 African countries to demonstrate community-based renewable energy solutions in diverse African contexts. The project aims to tailor and deploy existing technologies through integrated, locally adapted approaches that combine environmental, social and economic sustainability. Three demonstration countries – Madagascar, Sierra Leone and Kenya – represent rural, peri-urban and urban contexts with different energy access challenges.

In Madagascar, solar nano-grids expand rural energy access and support productive uses such as agriculture and water services in regions with very low electrification rates. In Sierra Leone, biodigester and water purification systems address the water-energy-food nexus. In Kenya, smart e-mobility and battery storage solutions support low-carbon urban transitions.

## → Designing Integrated Community Energy Systems (ICES)

Hudara's tasks in this project are to conduct a comprehensive baseline assessment to understand how energy access is embedded in everyday life and local livelihoods, and to identify the most pressing energy needs and structural gaps. Based on these findings, Energy Transition Committees are being established as multi-stakeholder platforms where community representatives, public authorities, and practitioners jointly define priorities and governance arrangements for Integrated Community Energy Systems (ICES). These are energy systems that integrate diverse energy sources, carriers, and technologies – including electricity, heating, cooling, storage, and mobility – at the community level. Its objective is to enhance energy efficiency, flexibility, resilience, and decarbonisation through coordinated planning, management, and operation.

← Installing photovoltaic panels in over 150 villages.

## ENERGICA

Following an initial implementation phase, Hudara carries out a social acceptance analysis to assess how residents perceive the deployed technologies, evaluating experienced benefits, emerging challenges, and their overall contribution to local well-being and development.

### The Diana region of Madagascar

The Diana region in northwestern Madagascar faces severe energy

poverty, reflecting the country's low national electricity access rate of just 17%, with rural access below 5%. Many communities are not connected to the grid due to dispersed populations and limited purchasing power, making expansion economically unviable. As over 60% of residents rely on agriculture and many on fishing, limited electricity access constrains productive activities such as rice processing, ice production, and water pumping, restricting local economic development.



### WHAT IS AN INTEGRATED COMMUNITY ENERGY SYSTEM (ICES)?

An Integrated Community Energy System (ICES) is a technical and systemic concept referring to an energy system that integrates multiple energy sources, carriers, and technologies—such as electricity, heat, cooling, storage, and mobility—at the community level. The aim is to optimize energy efficiency, flexibility, resilience, and decarbonization through coordinated planning and operation.

In off-grid or weak-grid contexts, ICES are often realized through nano-grids, small-scale, localized energy networks that combine generation, storage, and distribution to reliably supply energy to a limited number of users.

- .... Combines generation, storage, distribution, and demand
- .... Often centrally designed or coordinated
- .... Strong emphasis on technical performance and system optimization



Solar-powered ICES hub providing reliable electricity, internet connection and cooling to enable coworking through a nanogrid. Antafiambotry, Madagascar, December, 2024, Photo:Philipp Baslik.



Solar-powered ICES with a rice huller enabling seasonal, community-based rice processing through a nanogrid. Antanananana, Madagascar, December, 2024, Photo: Philipp Baslik.

Waterloo, Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, where only 32% of the population has access to the national grid, many people face unreliable electricity and rely on diesel generators, contributing to pollution and health risks. The peri-urban area of Waterloo near Freetown is particularly affected, with widespread dissatisfaction over energy access impacting agriculture, waste management, and clean water supply. Limited waste collection, untreated wastewater, and dependence on imported fertiliser further constrain environmental sustainability and food security.

In the next phase of the project starting next year, technological development of the individual elements of the system will be conducted. Systems will be developed in parallel with training and capacity building of the local residents, some of them will be employed to operate and oversee the facility. The biogas digester and water purification system will provide the area with a system for organic waste collection, while producing much needed fertiliser, fresh water and energy.



TURNING WASTE INTO WATER AND ENERGY

In collaboration with local communities, partners and stakeholders, the solution of a biogas digester combined with a water purification system was developed. Using organic waste and wastewater, the digester produces biogas, which is supported by solar energy to generate electricity. At the same time, wastewater is treated and purified for safe reuse, while the remaining digestate is processed into fertiliser, contributing to a circular and sustainable resource system.



Bio-digester tank, Freetown, Sierra Leone, May, 2024. Photo: Anne van Leeuwen.



Waste manager, Abubakar, throwing organic waste into a grinder, to be fed into the bio-digester tank, which will turn the waste into biogas and liquid fertiliser, Freetown, Sierra Leone, May, 2024. Photo: Anne van Leeuwen.

## ENERGICA

### Nairobi, Kenya

In Nairobi, Kenya, the ENERGICA project addresses energy in the urban context, with a focus on the transportation sector. Across many African urban centres, emissions from vehicles account for 90% of harmful emissions. In Nairobi specifically the transport sector is responsible for 70% of CO2 and small particles emissions.

One of the most common forms of transport in Nairobi is the boda-boda. Widely used across East Africa, boda-bodas are motorcycle taxis which offer affordable, fast and convenient transport. According to the Kenyan transport ministry, more than 3 million boda-boda riders operate in the highly congested city of Nairobi.



### ELECTRIFYING BODA-BODA

To reduce the pollutant emissions from boda-bodas, access to electric motorcycles and necessary charging infrastructure, including charging stations and batteries, is produced. With the development of a grid model and an energy management system, e-motorcycles for boda-boda drivers will become more accessible, and more affordable than their diesel counterparts.

- ...electric motorcycles with swappable batteries
- ... solar-powered charging and battery swapping stations
- ... integrated energy management system for scalable e-mobility



Partners visit Roam factory during the consortium meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, November, 2022. Photo: Hudara.

## TIMELINE 2022-2026

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Baseline assessment: Insights into Energy access, Awareness of Energy and the environment, Community Life, Support and acceptance of innovative technologies and services, Perceived risks and benefits</li> <li>▪ Preparatory work including the analysis of the social, cultural and environmental contexts, the technical and regulatory framework and the setting up of capacity building and training programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of the context-specific energy approaches and social embedding of the project activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Highlights:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consortium Meeting in Sierra Leone and site visit (May)</li> <li>▪ Visit to Madagascar - solar panel installation (October/November)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitoring, evaluation and replication, including life cycle assessment, social acceptance analysis, SDG based assessment and techno-economic assessment</li> </ul>
2022	2023	2024	2025



# AWARE

## Learning Together about Energy Access Challenges and Potential Solutions

Until recently, energy provision in the displacement context has been dominated by top-down, technology-focused solutions resulting in innovations that do not address the most pressing needs of displaced persons; solutions which are, ultimately, inadequate. There is a significant lack of knowledge on how to design and implement appropriate, sustainable energy access in refugee camps without relying on diesel generators and top-down provision models. Energy supply in many camps remains short-sighted and fragmented, with limited coverage and many residents still lacking reliable access at all.

The AWARE project aims to address this knowledge gap from a bottom-up perspective, by assessing the experiences of those living in displacement settings in Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan, particularly with

regard to access to energy. The project applies a participatory action research approach, to identify solutions that would address community needs effectively, and contribute to improved living conditions sustainably and in the long-term.

### **Assessing experiences with energy services in displacement settings: A Participatory Action Research Approach**

In partnership with a refugee-led organisation, Hudara is conducting participatory action research with refugees who live in camp-like settings in Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan. Through several steps, the lived experience of energy access and its impacts on well-being is explored, to design suitable and realistic solutions for future sustainable energy access initiatives.

← Host community housing in Arua, northern Uganda, June, 2024. Photo: Boris Heinz.



A business in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement. The business is using a self-constructed solar system for electricity access. Madi-Okollo and Terego District, Uganda, November 2023. Photo Tim Britton.



A village in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement with its associated land for farming. Yumbe District Uganda. June 2025. Photo Tim Britton.



## WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH?

Participatory action research is an inclusive and practice-based research approach that generates knowledge through collective inquiry, hands-on experimentation, and close collaboration with communities, enabling context-specific solutions to emerge through ongoing learning and reflection.

- ...Solution oriented research that acknowledges the need for change
- ...Grounded in participation and action from the communities affected by the problem to be addressed
- ...Based on experimentation in an iterative process, as solutions are tried, tested and refined
- ...Change occurs organically through collaboration and mutual understanding
- ...Inclusive knowledge exchange and reflection are central to the process

## MILESTONES IN 2024

- Project kick-off
- Community workshops in Uganda and Rwanda (July)
- Training of community researchers
- Community workshops carried out with several feedback loops
- Shared report writing and recommendations for future initiatives



Team members from CTEN and Hudara next to a community center. In the community space training such as digital literature courses are offered. Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, Madi-Okollo and Terego District, Uganda, November 2023. Photo Tim Britton.

# ADAPTING

Our work for adaptation  
to climate change

Millions of people worldwide are facing increasing risks from extreme weather events, water scarcity, and shifting agricultural conditions. For communities affected by poverty, fragile livelihoods, and limited infrastructure, barriers such as inadequate access to climate information, financing, and resilient technologies significantly constrain adaptation and deepen existing vulnerabilities.

Our experience indicates that successful adaptation depends on how people, institutions, and resources interact within a given context. Adaptive capacity is shaped by access to land and water, local governance arrangements, social networks, and the ability of communities to anticipate and respond to change. By engaging with local authorities, civil society, and community groups, we support adaptation processes that are embedded in everyday decision-making and strengthen long-term risk management.

In practice, our work prioritises flexible and locally grounded adaptation

actions that can be implemented and maintained with available resources. We support approaches such as climate-resilient livelihoods, ecosystem-based solutions, and locally appropriate technologies that align with existing economic activities and social structures. By linking scientific climate knowledge with practical implementation and local value chains, we aim to reduce climate-related risks while enhancing resilience, sustainability, and equity over time.

**→ in 2024, we developed our capacity and build collaborations**

In 2024, we further developed this area of work within our organisation through targeted conceptual development and strategic planning. We focused on building collaborations and partnerships, learning from the experiences of other actors in the field, and translating these insights into concrete project proposals. These efforts also included active fundraising to support the implementation of future activities.

# RESEARCH

We follow an evidence-based approach to understand which measures work, why they work, and which factors influence their effectiveness. Monitoring and evaluation ensure accountability and support the continuous improvement of our programmes. Our research examines individual and contextual factors, differences across participant groups, and variations in outcomes over time. By analysing the effectiveness of our interventions, we refine programme design and strengthen long-term impact.

We combine quantitative and qualitative methods to generate robust insights: quantitative data reveal patterns and measurable outcomes, while qualitative approaches provide deeper understanding of social processes and lived experiences. Participants are actively involved in research processes—from design to data collection and interpretation. At the same time, we reflect critically on epistemic biases and seek to integrate diverse knowledge systems through participatory and context-sensitive research approaches.

## RESEARCH

At Hudara, we build our project work around existing theory and research findings from psychological, social and environmental science. Taking an evidence-based perspective not only ensures the inclusion of previous good practices, but also provides more detailed insights into what practices may be effective depending on context, aims and scope. Monitoring and evaluating our activities are critical to enabling learning, and to hold ourselves accountable for our actions.

### We examine...

- individual and contextual factors
- variations across different sub-groups of the target population
- variations in the magnitude of outcomes and effects over time
- the overall effectiveness of interventions that we have developed

### Adherence to common frameworks

In our research efforts, we adhere to international guidelines that provide a common framework for monitoring and evaluating programs. The specificity of the language used to describe indicators, and the inclusion of psychometrically tested instruments to verify quantitative indicators, work to bridge the gap between

science and practice.

### Quantitative and qualitative insights

We believe in the complementary effect of quantitative and qualitative methods. When collecting and analysing data, quantitative research is about numbers and statistics, qualitative research is about words and meanings. Both are important for gaining different kinds of knowledge. Qualitative methods offer context-specific insights and show how social processes take place in specific environments. Quantitative methods enable generalisations and identify patterns. This combination increases the validity and applicability of our research.



RAWABET social workers are informing a woman from the community and exploring potential participation in intervention and study, Mosul, Iraq, January, 2024. Photo: Ahmed Salahaldin.

### Inclusion of participants of projects in research efforts

Our research requires a strong emphasis on the benefits to participants, which supports their involvement in the design and implementation of the proposed research. Research participants should be empowered to take some degree of involvement and responsibility for the entire research process - from design to data collection and analysis to implementation of findings.

### Being mindful of epistemic biases

We work in contexts affected by human and ecological crises, while many theories, approaches and resources applied during our work originate elsewhere. We therefore reflect critically on epistemic violence in our research and implementation practices and recognise that knowledge is not neutral but can reinforce or challenge injustice. Acknowledging diverse knowledge systems and questioning historically dominant and hegemonic ways of thinking is an ethical and political commitment for us, which we pursue through alternative, constructivist, and participatory research approaches.



Research assistants on their way to conduct a survey within the MAESHA project in Mayotte, France, 2024. Photo: Anna Siegert.

## Enhancing Understanding through Data Visualization: What Can Available Data Reveal about Access to Energy in Displacement Contexts on the African Continent?

Journal Article by Tim Ronan Britton, Philipp Baslik, Lena Anna Schmid and Boris Heinz published in Sustainability in May, 2024.

sustainability
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Review

### Enhancing Understanding through Data Visualization: What Can Available Data Reveal about Access to Energy in Displacement Contexts on the African Continent?

Tim Ronan Britton <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Philipp Baslik <sup>1</sup>, Lena Anna Schmid <sup>2</sup> and Boris Heinz <sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Community Energy and Adaptation to Climate Change, Technische Universität Berlin, Adloner Str. 13789 Berlin, Germany  
<sup>2</sup> Institut für Energie, Ballhausplatz 26, 10803 Berlin, Germany  
 \* Correspondence: t.britton@tu-berlin.de

**Abstract:** The extent of access to energy of displaced persons in settlements and camps on the African continent is largely unknown. A multitude of contextual factors, such as the location, the characteristics of housing, legal status, socio-cultural background, and the availability of humanitarian and public services, impact the living conditions and needed energy services. Limitations in accessing energy services have direct, multilayered, and far-reaching implications, including impacts on health, nutrition, education, protection, and livelihood. The objective of this article is to contribute to a more comprehensive overview of the current state of energy access in displacement contexts on the African continent by identifying and utilizing existing data. After assessing the vast and various available information, setting up a database, consolidating the gathered data as well as assessing quality through a quality assessment method, the currently available information was visualized and discussed. Considerable differences in the access to energy for displaced persons across the countries were found. Access to both electricity and clean cooking ranged from nearly no access at all up to an access rate of 100%, though the averages are 98% of displaced persons without access to electricity and 81% of displaced persons without clean cooking. Overall, the results showed that besides South Africa and countries in the Maghreb region, the access to both clean cooking and electricity for displaced persons is very low. At the same time, the fragmented data availability, the poor data quality, and the inadequate representativity of available data allowed neither solid theoretical conclusions nor the planning of effective practical implementation measures. Novel interdisciplinary research, conceptual frameworks, and indicators are needed for the purpose of comparability and consistency. Future research has the potential to more comprehensively capture the current state of access to energy in displacement contexts and, subsequently, examine how energy interventions in the lives of displaced persons to derive a set of more detailed context-sensitive energy indicators. It is essential that displaced persons themselves are included in the research in a meaningful way.

**Keywords:** humanitarian settings; access to energy; electricity; clean cooking; data assessment

**1. Introduction**  
**1.1. The Context of Displacement and Access to Energy**

Global crises, such as climate change, conflict, and natural disasters, have resulted in a growing number of people who are forced to leave their homes. UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, estimated that in 2024, there will be 136.8 million displaced persons in the world [1]. Displaced persons are "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, either across an international border or within a State [...]". The term displaced persons includes but is not limited to refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), for which relevant definitions can be found in [2–4]. Displacement has implications not only for displaced persons themselves but also for those hosting them, which are often referred to as the

Number of Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and Other Persons of Concern

Figure 1. Evolution of the number of refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and other persons of concern. Own compilation based on data from UNHCR [1].

While cumulative global statistics are relevant to highlight the increasing relevance of the subject matter, it is essential to acknowledge that the lived experiences of displaced persons vary greatly between different host countries and contexts. A multitude of contextual factors, such as the location and the characteristics of housing (settlement, camp-like, urban, rural, etc.) [5], the legal status of displaced persons [7], the socio-cultural background and the availability of humanitarian and public services have a major impact on the conditions of living. In this study, we focus on displaced persons residing in settlements and camps. While in the humanitarian space, there is no universally agreed upon definition for the terms settlement, we recognize that the terms settlement and camp are in many cases used to describe settings with different attributes (e.g., [4,6,8–11]), and we agree that this differentiation adds a valuable dimension to the discourse.

One key factor determining the conditions of living in access to energy [12]. A variety of energy needs exist in displacement contexts. First, energy is needed to enable the operation of humanitarian activities, such as electricity in the offices of humanitarian organizations and fuel for transportation [6,13]. Second, displaced persons have a wide range of energy needs that are embedded in basic areas of life [13], characterized by energy needs on a household level, such as electricity and cooking, energy needs for income-generating activities or for business and energy needs at the community level, such as streetlights and the operation of public facilities such as schools and hospitals [13]. In this article, we focus on the energy needs of displaced persons on an individual, household, and community level as opposed to generalized energy needs that are associated with humanitarian operations.

The critical importance of the availability of clean, reliable, and affordable energy services for a dignified quality of life is reflected in Target 7.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [14], which explicitly includes displaced persons [15]. Nevertheless,

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Check for updates

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## OBJECTIVE

- To develop a comprehensive overview of available data on energy access for displaced people in Africa, reveal critical data gaps, and underscore the need for detailed, context-sensitive evidence to inform interventions affecting health, education, and livelihoods.

## METHOD

- The study used desk-based research to identify available data on energy access in displacement contexts across Africa, drawing on publications, reports, and online sources
- Identified data were compiled into a database and assessed using a data quality assessment framework to evaluate reliability and usability
- The data were then visualised and analysed to identify patterns, compare contexts, and highlight key gaps and limitations in existing evidence

## RESULTS

- 94% of displaced persons lack access to electricity
- 81% of displaced persons lack access to clean cooking
- Overall there is significant disparity depending on context: access to both electricity and clean cooking ranges from nearly no access up to an access rate of 100% across displacement settings on the African continent
- Outside of South Africa and countries in the Northern regions, access to both clean cooking and electricity for displaced persons is very low
- There are major limitations in existing data, including poor quality and fragmentation

## DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Limits of existing data: Current datasets lack detail and often overlook lived experiences, obscuring inequalities
- Value of visual tools: Data visualisation clarifies complex information and supports comparison and decision-making
- Need for improved data collection: Better data quality and inclusivity are crucial for designing context-sensitive energy interventions
- Including displaced populations: Involving refugees and displaced people helps ensure research reflects lived realities and reduces knowledge gaps

# An Energy Transition for All: Investigating Determinants of Citizen Support for Energy Community Initiatives on the Island of Mayotte

Journal article Lukas Otte, Lena Schmid, Tidian Baerens, Moli Tomboanjara, Faiza Ahmed and Boris Heinz published in Energy Research & Social Science in October 2024.



## OBJECTIVE

- To examine the social, economic, and contextual factors that influence citizen support for energy community initiatives on the island of Mayotte, with the aim of informing inclusive and participatory energy transition strategies.

## METHOD

- Through 392 surveys and 16 key informant interviews, this article explores the perception of renewable energies and the willingness to participate in Local Energy Community initiatives, among residents of Mayotte
- With gathered data, an exploratory factor analysis and subsequent multi-variate regressions were conducted

## RESULTS

- Nearly one in three respondents reported that they would actively contribute their work or time to a green energy initiative, while 7.4 % could imagine taking on the role of a leader in an Energy Community
- Environmental awareness was found to be a strong motivator in participation in Local Energy Communities
- Overall there was a high willingness among residents in Mayotte to support, participate and actively contribute to Local Energy Community projects

## DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Strengthening citizen participation: Involving local residents in Local Energy Community initiatives is key to building trust and long-term support.
- Raising environmental awareness: Understanding environmental and energy benefits increases acceptance and willingness to engage.
- Addressing social inequalities: Access to basic services and social inclusion strongly shape support for collective energy solutions.
- Considering socio-economic realities: Energy community models must reflect income, housing, and structural inequalities to ensure inclusivity.

# EVENTS

Hudara's events bring our project work and perspectives to a wider audience while creating spaces for dialogue, exchange, and meaningful community connection. From film screenings and panel discussions to cultural events and live music, they introduce broader publics to the ideas of participation and community dialogue that underpin our approach. Our events engage with the themes that shape our work:

**HEALING** psychological and social vulnerabilities, **ADAPTING** to the challenges of climate change, and **POWERING** access to sustainable energy. Through accessible and open formats, we raise awareness about the issues we address and the projects we implement. All events are free of charge and open to everyone. They strengthen networks, foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders, and translate research and practice into accessible public conversations while increasing the visibility of Hudara and its partners.

# “Impressions from Our City”

Community exchange and photography exhibition, Mosul, August 2024

In Spring of 2024, the Rawabet Community Centre hosted a two-part photography workshop, open to all members of the local community. This workshop was the first of its kind in the Community Centre, with both male and female participants in attendance.

Using smartphones and digital cameras, participants were guided through the basics of photography by teacher and photographer Mahmood. After a lesson in the theory and practice of photography, participants were invited to take their new skills outside of the classroom, and photo-

graph Mosul city from their perspective. Coming together for a second session to review and reflect on one another's images, the group selected a total of 24 images to be displayed in an exhibition in the Rawabet Community Centre.

Celebrating the beautiful photographs taken by community members, Hudara invited the local neighbourhood in August to view the images in the community center. The photographers were there and presented their work and shared their personal reflections.



Photography exhibition, Rawabet Community Centre, Mosul, Iraq, August, 2024. Photos: Ali Sedeq.

EVENTS



Farooq addresses the community at the photography exhibition, Rawabet Community Centre, Mosul, Iraq, August, 2024.  
Photo: Ali Sedeq.

Photographs showed winding side streets, the sun setting over the Tigris river, popular restaurants and coffee shops, and old buildings in repair. The images sparked a deep discussion about the city, with many older members of the community sharing their perspectives, reflecting on how Mosul has changed over time, through conflict, renovation and

re-building. Flowing alongside the city like a long-time companion, the Tigris River emerged as a constant presence in these memories as in the photographs, linking past and present. Together, the images inspired an evening of appreciation for the beauty, resilience and ancient history of Mosul.



Photography exhibition, Rawabet Community Centre, Mosul, Iraq, August, 2024.  
Photos: Ali Sedeq



Pictures taken by workshop participant exhibited in the photography exhibition, Rawabet Community Centre, Mosul, Iraq, August, 2024. Photo: Anonymous.

## EVENTS

# “Visions of Mosul: Rebuilding in Resilience”

Panel discussion, photography exhibition and music performance, Berlin, July 2024

Organised in collaboration with the Spore Initiative, which facilitates cultural projects at the intersection of climate justice, ecological regeneration, and education in dialogue between the Global South and the Global North, and with Café Arakil, an Armenian café and community space, Hudara presented a photography exhibition titled *Visions of Mosul: Rebuilding in Resilience*. The exhibition featured images taken by members of the Rawabet Community Centre in Mosul, Iraq, and created a space for cultural exchange, reflection, and dialogue.

Aiming to raise awareness about our work in Mosul, as well as of Mosul itself; as a place, not only defined by violence, but by life, resilience and growth, we presented selected images from the Community Centre’s photography workshop, alongside an audio-visual “walking tour” of Mosul.

During the event, we were joined by Zilan Sarah Koessler, Kurdish therapist & activist, and Nadine Hattom, Iraqi-born photographer & artist, who reflected on the images and their themes in a panel discussion moderated by Hudara’s Communications Manager Clara Tatlow-Devally.



Event invitation for Visions of Mosul: Rebuilding in Resilience, Spore Initiative and Cafe Arakil, Berlin, Germany, July, 2024. Design: Clara Tatlow-Devally.



Guests view the photographs on display at Visions of Mosul: Rebuilding in Resilience, Spore Initiative and Cafe Arakil, Berlin, Germany, July, 2024. Photo: Orla O Boyle.



From left to right: Zilan Sarah Koessler, Nadine Hattom and Clara Tatlow-Devally during panel discussion at Visions of Mosul: Rebuilding in Resilience, Spore Initiative and Cafe Arakil, Berlin, Germany, July, 2024. Photo: Orla O Boyle.



Audience ask questions during panel discussion at Visions of Mosul: Rebuilding in Resilience, Spore Initiative and Cafe Arakil, Berlin, Germany, July, 2024. Photo: Orla O Boyle.



Guests view the photographs on display at Rebuilding in Resilience: Visions of Mosul, Spore Initiative and Cafe Arakil, Berlin, Germany, July, 2024. Photo: Orla O Boyle.



Oudai Amer plays the Oud at Rebuilding in Resilience: Visions of Mosul, Spore Initiative and Cafe Arakil, Berlin, Germany, July, 2024. Photo: Orla O Boyle.

Speaking on the effects of war and occupation on the physical landscape, Koessler and Hattom drew on their own experiences to explore the relationship between the environment and the psyche in processes of healing. With diverse professional and personal backgrounds, the two speakers bridged concepts of photography and psychology through a shared understanding of the role that natural and built environments

play in shaping cultural, psychological and social processes, in contexts of conflict and rebuilding.

The evening concluded with a performance by Oudai Amer on the Oud. Images of narrow streets, buildings, food and nature from across the city of Mosul formed as the backdrop to Amer's performance. He closed the evening with pieces inspired by some of his favourite musicians from Mosul.

# Jazz Evening

Cultural exchange through art, music and more, Halle (Saale), July 2024

In connection with the GEZUMI peer support groups for Ukrainian women living in Germany, Hudara facilitated an evening of cultural exchange in Halle Saale, hosted by our support group facilitator Olena Salii.

Peer support group participants, local residents, as well as representatives of the mayor's office and migration services in Halle, Saale, were invited to join. Olena opened the evening by introducing Ukrainian culture from her perspective, emphasising the power of cultural exchange.



Event invitation for "Jazz Evening", GEZUMI event at Welcome Treff, Halle Saale, Germany, July, 2024. Design: Lea Lin Böhmer.



Olena Salii addresses guests at the GEZUMI Event at Welcome Treff, Halle Saale, Germany, July, 2024. Photo: Nataliia Tymoshevskaya.

Following this, the evening continued with a diverse program of art, music, poetry from Ukrainian artists and community members. Highlights included paintings by the renowned Ukrainian artist Maryna Shkarupa, as well as a presentation of the photo project "Code of the Ukrainian Woman", by Anna Libova and Nataliya Timoshevskaya, which tells the stories of 12 Ukrainian women who fled to Germany following the outbreak of the war.

## EVENTS



Ukrainian musician Viktor Kabeev is playing at the GEZUMI Event at Welcome Treff, Halle Saale, Germany, July 2024.

Photo: Nataliia Tymoshevskia.



Guests view photographs on display at the GEZUMI Event, Halle Saale, Germany, July, 2024.

Photo: Nataliia Tymoshevskia.

Music from classical musician Volodymyr Kalashnyk, saxophonist Viktor Kabeev, guitarist Maksymilian Sviripa and singer Tetiana Bakumenko brought the event to life, as traditional Ukrainian songs filled the room and created a warm, shared atmosphere.

This intercultural evening of art and music brought Ukrainian people that fled the war as well as those from the hosting communities together in a spirit of interest, shared dialogue, and appreciation of Ukrainian culture.



Artist Maryna Shkarupa with her work at GEZUMI Event, Halle Saale, Germany, July, 2024.

Photo: Nataliia Tymoshevskia



Volodymyr Kalashnyk performing at GEZUMI Event, Halle Saale, Germany, July, 2024.

Photo: Nataliia Tymoshevskia



Olena Salii and singer Tetiana Bakumenko at the GEZUMI Event at Wellcome Treff, Halle Saale, Germany, July, 2024. Photo: Nataliia Tymoshevskia.

# COLLABO- RAIONS

As an organization engaged in community work, collaboration and participation are central to our approach. We actively seek meaningful partnerships also with professionals, artists, and individuals outside the communities we work with, creating spaces for mutual learning, shared reflection, and collective growth.

Through these exchanges, we challenge established ways of thinking, strengthen our methods and practices, and support each other in our shared goal of making mental health, access to energy, and climate adaptation, as well as their importance for well-being and social solidarity, more visible and understandable.

# Climate Action Artist in Residence

The Climate Action Artist Residency, developed by Cultural Vistas, a global non-profit exchange organisation based in Berlin and Washington D.C., connects artists from around the world with organisations that conduct research in the field of climate change. Funded by the Federal Foreign Office, the Climate Action Artist Residency programme facilitates an artistic exploration of climate change and its effects.

This year, Hudara hosted Fijian artist and illustrator Ropate Kama for a three-month artist residency in

Berlin. During this time, he engaged with Hudara's research approaches and practices, gaining insights into topics such as climate change, community participation, and psychosocial interventions. Through regular exchanges with the Hudara team and external professionals, he developed a final project exploring and illustrating themes of climate change, mental health, and community resilience.



Ropate Kama runs a workshop at the Mental Health Arts Space, Berlin, Germany, September, 2024. Photo: Clara Tatlow-Devally

This collaboration was also of significant value to our organisation. Through knowledge exchange with the artist in residence, Hudara team members had the opportunity to reflect on their work and explore new perspectives on research and practices in the fields of climate change and mental health.

Aiming to bring the knowledge gained during his residency back to Fijian

communities, who face the adverse and often devastating effects of climate change, Ropate Kama published a children's colouring book as his finished project. In this book, the artist communicates core issues of climate change and its effects. Children are encouraged to reflect and respond to the story of climate change as it unfolds throughout the colouring book.



Ropate Kama runs a workshop at the Mental Health Arts Space, Berlin, Germany, September, 2024. Photo: Clara Tatlow-Devally



Ropate Kama is presenting his final project in the making to the Hudara team, Impact Hub, Berlin, Germany, September, 2024. Photo: Clara Tatlow-Devally.

# FINANCES

## Balance Sheet

as of December 31, 2024

### ASSETS

#### A. Fixed assets

I. Intangible assets (licenses and similar rights)

II. Tangible assets (operating and office equipment)

#### Total Fixed assets

#### B. Current assets

I. Receivables and other assets

II. Liquid assets (Cash and bank balances)

#### Total current assets

#### Total Assets

### LIABILITIES AND RESERVES

#### A. Reserves

I. Subscribed capital

II. Revenue reserves (retained earnings brought forward)

III. Net income for the year

#### B. Provisions

Other provisions (for uncertain liabilities)

#### C. Liabilities

Trade payables (liabilities from goods and services)

Other liabilities

#### Total Liabilities and Reserves

#### Financial Year (EUR)

#### Previous Year (EUR)

1,00

1,00

3.136,00

4.979,00

**3.137,00**

**4.980,00**

173.986,81

117.565,23

293.519,86

223.429,95

**467.506,67**

**340.995,18**

**470.643,67**

**345.975,18**

#### Financial Year (EUR)

#### Previous Year (EUR)

25.000,00

25.000,00

295.032,84

158.718,56

113.569,52

136.314,28

7.500,00

4.500,00

9.186,53

0,00

20.354,78

21.442,34

**470.643,67**

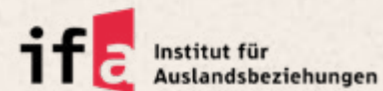
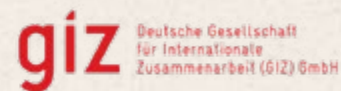
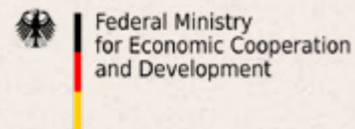
**345.975,18**

**Income and Expenditure Account**

January 1 – December 31, 2024

	Financial Year (EUR)	Previous Year (EUR)
<b>A. Non-material activities (core nonprofit activities)</b>		
Donations and similar income	3.555,85	960,01
Other operating income (grants and funding)	542.674,41	506.626,07
<b>Total income</b>	<b>546.230,26</b>	<b>507.586,08</b>
Personnel costs	236.182,91	258.755,00
Amortization and depreciation of fixed assets	1.843,00	2.962,32
Occupancy costs (rent and facilities)	25.529,56	25.148,63
Insurance, contributions and charges	108,98	25,20
Project-related expenses	130.792,41	53.977,24
Travel and marketing expenses	3.020,35	-1.454,76
Other operating expenses	38.051,86	32.147,24
Other expenses (donations made)	100,00	328,12
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>435.629,07</b>	<b>371.888,99</b>
<b>B. Financial activities (asset management)</b>		
Interest and similar income	3.811,06	1.114,03
Interest and similar expenses	-209,87	-435,29
Taxes on income (e.g. withholding tax)	-632,86	-61,55
<b>Net result – financial activities</b>	<b>2.968,33</b>	<b>617,19</b>
<b>C. Net income for the year</b>		
<b>Net income for the year</b>	<b>113.569,52</b>	<b>136.314,28</b>

# SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS



# COLLABORATORS AND KEY PARTNERS



## Hudara :: Standing with communities

Gemeinnützige Nichtregierungsorganisation

Am Sudhaus 2  
12053 Berlin  
Germany

T +49.(0)30.577.0631.0  
F +49.(0)30.577.0631.09  
E hello@hudara.org

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

[Facebook](#)  
[Instagram](#)  
[LinkedIn](#)

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## Edited by

Boris Heinz  
Lena Schmid  
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Lea Lin Boehmer

## Cover picture

SUNNY and AWARE Project workshop with community representatives, Mahama Refugee camp, Rwanda, July 2024. Photo: Tim Ronan Britton

Berlin, September 2025

