Sample Response

Prompt: Work with a partner to choose and research a refugee-led organization and explore the question: How does one refugee-led organization help refugees build new lives? Then, create a script for a radio-style interview in which a reporter speaks with a spokesperson from the organization, who shares the story of its work and the people it serves.

Introduction: Today we're talking with representatives from Young African Refugees for Integral Development, or YARID, a **refugee**-led organization in Uganda that helps **refugees** build new lives through education, mentorship, and community programs. We'll hear about how YARID supports **refugees** and why their approach is so important.

INTERVIEWER: Why was YARID created, and what makes its mission important for refugees?

SPOKESPERSON: YARID was founded to empower **refugees** to solve problems for themselves and their communities. It was actually started back in 2008 by a few young **refugees**, including Robert Hakiza, a Congolese **refugee** who was only 25 at the time. Together, they basically wanted to create a way for **refugees** in Uganda to connect and address the challenges they were facing after having to **flee** difficult situations in their home countries. And really, the mission is all about helping **refugees** use their own skills to become independent, so that they don't need to rely on outside support. YARID also brings **refugees** and local Ugandans together so the whole community can work on solutions that make a difference. It's really that community approach, bringing **refugees** and locals together to solve problems, that sets YARID apart from other aid organizations.

INTERVIEWER: In what ways do YARID's leaders and community members work together to address challenges faced by refugees?

SPOKESPERSON: YARID's leadership and community members collaborate through programs and activities that help **refugees** gain skills, confidence, and the ability to make choices for themselves. The leaders, who are mostly young **refugees**, mentor their peers and help organize these programs. The sense of connection between everyone involved is really powerful and because they all understand the **plight** they've faced. Community members also get involved through sports, classes, and job-training sessions. Together, they tackle real challenges, like catching up in school or learning new skills for work.

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This teamwork, built on shared experiences and understanding of the challenges they've faced, helps **refugees** feel capable and empowered while strengthening the whole community.

INTERVIEWER: What types of programs does YARID offer to help refugees rebuild their lives?

SPOKESPERSON: YARID provides education, sports, and vocational programs that give **refugees** the skills and confidence to succeed. They focus on areas like literacy, numeracy, sports, vocational training, and job readiness. These skills and experiences help restore a sense of **dignity** for people who have overcome incredible challenges. Programs such as "Bridging the Gap" help children catch up academically and transition into mainstream schools. The organization has seen incredible results in student learning from that program. YARID also supports **refugees** in starting small businesses and getting involved in community projects, so they can put what they've learned into practice and contribute meaningfully to their neighborhoods. Building on these skills and experiences, **refugees** are able to take on new opportunities and rebuild their lives.

INTERVIEWER: How does YARID's growth and impact show the value of refugee-led organizations?

SPOKESPERSON: YARID's growth from sports and small activities to education and job programs highlights the impact **refugees** can have when they lead solutions. During COVID-19 school closures, YARID expanded quickly to meet urgent needs when other programs had to close, which shows the **resolve** of **refugees** to persevere and support their communities. Their work really shows how **refugee**-led organizations can create opportunities like self-employment and support people in becoming independent. The success of their programs is measured by improved literacy, smooth school transitions, job training outcomes, and the overall self-reliance of participants. These results, demonstrating the impact **refugee**-led organizations can have, suggest how they will continue empowering communities and creating opportunities for independence in the years ahead.

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