

Dear Friends,

Despite a challenging international climate, 2025 was a year of resilience – and even growth – for HYT. As we turn our calendars to a fresh year, we would like to reflect on what has made us most proud in 2025, and all that your continued support and encouragement has helped us achieve.

## Vocational Success for Our Graduates

HYT's core mission is to equip the youth of Uganda with skills in low-carbon construction, to be traded for income and decent livelihoods. 2025 did not disappoint. Last year, **HYT managers trained 66 youths in all aspects of our sustainable construction** techniques – taking our all-time total to 700 trained youths.

At the end of 2025, we asked our former trainees about their experiences of finding employment, and whether their new vocational skills had helped in their search. The results were encouraging: **nearly 70% of our graduates had successfully found employment in 2025**, proving that hands-on training in a professional environment was an enormously beneficial experience.



*Daphine on the site of her first management project.*

For some of our graduates, initial training is just the beginning of their journey with HYT. Daphine, one of our star junior managers, has remained with us since 2020 – continuing to grow in confidence and skill with each passing year. 2025 marked the completion of Daphine's second project as a site manager – during which she led a team of four other trainees in the construction of a kitchen, ensuring a key role in furthering HYT's legacy.

## Some Project Highlights from 2025

In July, we were delighted to sign the contract for a second ambitious project with German Development Agency *Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*, (GIZ). HYT has been tasked with providing household latrines for 250 refugee and host-community families in Zone 5 of Bidibidi – the largest refugee settlement in Africa. In a collaboration with GIZ in 2021, **HYT installed 750 latrines for South Sudanese refugee families**, also in Bidibidi. HYT's sustainable latrines will provide safe, dignified and hygienic sanitation for **around 1,250 vulnerable refugees**, and a further 60 refugees will benefit from cash-for-work opportunities on the project. We are immensely proud of our team in Bidibidi, despite challenges of water scarcity and very high temperatures!



*Beneficiaries are carefully selected to ensure latrines are reaching those who need them most.*



When HYT first launched operations in Uganda in 2006, most projects were in Kamuli, near our office in Jinja. 2025, however, saw the completion of our first project in Bwindi, in the far south west of Uganda. It is encouraging to reflect on how far we have come in our 20 years of work in the ‘Pearl of Africa.’ Bwindi is home to the ancient Batwa community of former forest dwellers, who were expelled from their home in the 1990s to make way for tourism. Supported by the Kellermann Foundation and VIP Ski Chalets, and working with the Batwa Development Program (BDP), **HYT built a classroom block, school latrines, six houses and toilets from 10 families** in several Batwa settlements and schools, easing the transition to life outside the forest for these remarkable people.



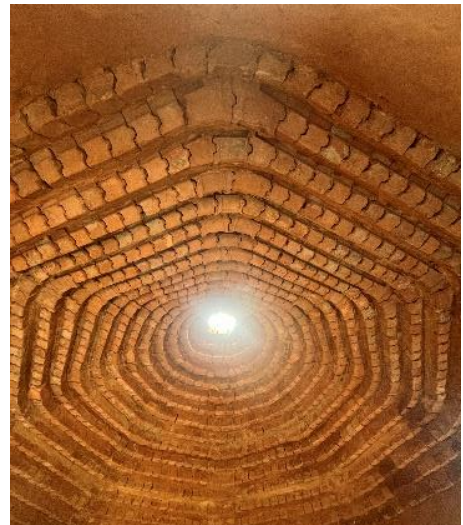
*The office at non-profit Zena Launchpad, with its innovative butterfly roof.*

Some of the Trust’s most visually impressive work has taken shape on the new campus of the Zena Launchpad in Kamuli. HYT has produced five innovative structures which allow for effective ventilation as well as reduced carbon emissions. Our partners are thrilled with the workshop, office building and changing room, for which HYT managers challenged themselves with the striking ‘butterfly’ roofing.

In the search for more sustainable shelters for refugee communities, HYT teamed up with the Swiss University ETH Zürich and Every Shelter to explore how climate friendly blocks could be adapted for even greater impact. The results were highly encouraging. **Using seven different shapes of compressed earth blocks**, the team’s innovation proved that there is potential for an exciting future in sustainable construction.

### **HYT and a Cleaner, Greener Future**

2025 was the year where world leaders abstained from attending global climate conferences. It was the year where anti-green movements were granted space to gain momentum. But HYT fought back – in all the small ways that we could. Across all our people-centred projects, reducing carbon emissions and conserving forested landscape remained central to the Trust’s mission.



*A shelter roof, made entirely of seven different shapes of interlocking blocks.*

Interlocking stabilised soil blocks (ISSBs) avoids the need to burn firewood in the block-production process. Using a mixture of subsoil, cement and sand, first compressed then cured in the sun, HYT produces bricks of an interlocking shape requiring no mortar between courses. This means that each pound donated can go even further, without costing the earth. **HYT successfully saved around 936 tons of carbon dioxide in 2025 – which equates to 597 tons of firewood, or 128 mature trees.**



**An Interlocking Stabilised Soil Block (ISSB) emerging from the compression mould, ready for sun-curing.**

In 2025 HYT's forestry department successfully planted over 4,600 trees and 15 different species. Tree planting helps to absorb the high levels of carbon in our atmosphere. More locally, trees produce fruit for nearby communities, enhance biodiversity, and provide shade from the heat of the sun.

### A Visit from HYT's Director

A highlight for our office team in Jinja was the recent visit from HYT Director, Russell Matcham. Russell's commitment to furthering HYT's cause is a deeply personal one, and is a task he carries out with immense effect. The team in Uganda is grateful for his energies in maintaining partnerships, innovating for growth and overseeing the Senior Leadership Team in its day-to-day operations.

### 2026: The Year Ahead

2026 marks an exciting milestone for HYT, as we celebrate the **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of working in Uganda**. The Trust will maximise the impact of our precious resources, and strengthen further our partnerships. Every pound goes a long way in making a difference for refugees, or women, or children on the edge, or other marginalised people like the Batwa. We hope that you will continue to support us in our efforts – and thank you for following our story to the 20<sup>th</sup> year!



**Russell with the construction team in Koboko, north west Uganda.**


Wishing you the very best for 2026,



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For more information on our current and upcoming projects, please visit us at:

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