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MEDIA RELEASE

RefugeRoot Reaches a Key Milestone for Mothers of Courage with the First Audition of Widow Entrepreneurs in Segbohoue, Benin

RefugeRoot's local team in Benin conducted the first listening, assessment and entrepreneurship-screening session for widows as the Mothers of Courage pilot moves from planning to field implementation.

Segbohoue, Benin | May 2, 2026



Participating widows and RefugeRoot's local team following the first audition session in Segbohoue. All photos: RefugeRoot local team in Benin.

RefugeRoot Foundation of Canada announced today a major field milestone for its Mothers of Courage initiative: the first audition and assessment session for widow entrepreneurs was conducted in Segbohoue, Benin, by RefugeRoot's local team.

The session brought together widows from the community to share their stories, present their skills, describe their needs and discuss their entrepreneurial potential. It gave the local team an opportunity to listen directly to the women, document their realities and begin identifying potential participants for the pilot phase of the project.

Mothers of Courage is designed to support widows through practical training, mentorship, income-generating activities and community-based empowerment. The initiative aims to strengthen the ability of vulnerable women to rebuild stability, increase household resilience and move toward long-term economic independence.

During the activity, RefugeRoot's local team met with participants both collectively and individually. The process was structured as a respectful field-based assessment, allowing each woman to speak about her experience, her current challenges and the type of support that could help her develop or strengthen a sustainable livelihood.

“This first audition confirms that Mothers of Courage is moving from vision to action. The project is beginning with real women, real stories and real opportunities to build hope through practical support,” RefugeRoot said. “We are grateful to the women who participated with courage and openness, and to the local team in Benin for carrying out this important first step with dignity and care.”

Information gathered during the session will help guide the next stages of the pilot, including beneficiary selection, training design, partnership development and the preparation of income-generating activities adapted to the women’s needs, abilities and local context.

The Segbohoue activity marks the beginning of a deeper field engagement for RefugeRoot in Benin. The organization will continue working with local collaborators to ensure that the Mothers of Courage pilot is grounded in community realities, transparency and sustainable impact.

RefugeRoot extends its appreciation to the local team in Benin, the community members who supported the activity and the widows who took part in this first audition.

About Mothers of Courage

Mothers of Courage is a RefugeRoot initiative dedicated to supporting widows through empowerment, entrepreneurship, training, mentoring and sustainable livelihood opportunities. The project seeks to restore dignity, strengthen family stability and create pathways toward economic independence for vulnerable women.

About RefugeRoot Foundation of Canada

RefugeRoot Foundation of Canada is a nonprofit organization committed to serving vulnerable children, widows, families and communities through humanitarian, educational, social and development projects. Through locally rooted partnerships, RefugeRoot works to create sustainable solutions that restore hope and promote dignity.

Notes to Editors

- The activity took place in Segbohoue, Benin, on May 2, 2026.
- Photos are included in this document for publication with attribution.
- Photo credit: RefugeRoot local team in Benin.
- Interviews and additional background information may be requested through RefugeRoot Foundation of Canada.

Media Contact

RefugeRoot Foundation of Canada

Email: info@refugeroot.ca

Website: www.refugeroot.ca

Photo Gallery

Images from the first audition and assessment session for widow entrepreneurs in Segbohoue, Benin.

All photos: RefugeRoot local team in Benin.



Participating widows and RefugeRoot's local team following the first audition session in Segbohoue.



Community gathering during the opening of the first audition and assessment session.



Individual listening and assessment session with a participating widow entrepreneur.



RefugeRoot's local team addresses participants during the field activity.



Documentation of participant information and beneficiary needs during the assessment process.



Members of RefugeRoot's local team and community collaborators in Segbohoue.



Field team members and community collaborators supporting the Mothers of Courage milestone.



Field visit and local coordination connected to the Mothers of Courage pilot.



Community setting in Segbohoue, Benin, where RefugeRoot's local field engagement is underway.