

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

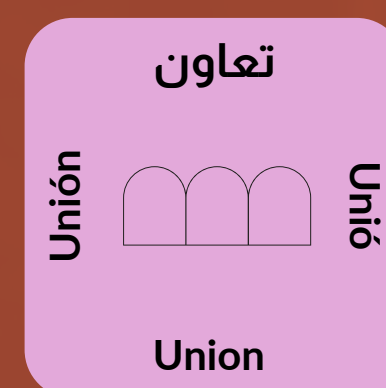
AN OPEN DOOR TO BELONGING

الباب المفتوح للانتماء
KUDWA

KUDWA ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Community-led spaces for belonging, participation, and inclusion
Barcelona • Albacete • Online
2025

This work exists thanks to community members, volunteers, collaborators, and partners who believe in participation, care, and shared responsibility.



KUDWA

Opening Note – A Year of Holding Space

Founder and Director - Razan Ismail

2025 was a transformative year for Kudwa. It was a year in which we consciously chose to centre community over projects, relationships over outputs, and presence over growth. Without specific funding or pre-defined programmes, we allowed ourselves to slow down and listen. Rather than setting an agenda, we created space for the community to take the lead — to propose, shape, and hold what felt necessary in that moment. This shift was not without challenges, but it reaffirmed why Kudwa exists: not as a service provider, but as a shared space rooted in trust, participation, and mutual responsibility.

Throughout the year, we embraced a ***potential-based approach***. Instead of focusing on what communities lack, we focused on what they already hold — experiences, skills, stories, care, and the ability to support one another. This approach proved powerful.

Everything Kudwa carried forward in 2025 was made possible by volunteers and community members who stepped in with commitment, generosity, and a strong sense of belonging. Their willingness to give time, knowledge, and care shaped the year in ways no externally designed project could. Kudwa's work in 2025 is, above all, a reflection of them.



2025 IMPACT

Community leadership in practice

Community members and volunteers took the lead in shaping activities. This resulted in spaces that directly reflected real needs, skills, and experiences, strengthening ownership and long-term engagement.

Knowledge-sharing across migrant experiences

Through workshops, dialogues, and gatherings, Kudwa enabled the exchange of lived knowledge across diverse migrant backgrounds. These spaces valued experience, storytelling, and reflection as forms of expertise, challenging problem-based approaches to migration and inclusion.

Trust-based spaces fostering belonging and continuity

Kudwa's activities in 2025 prioritised emotional safety, accessibility, and care. Participants consistently described these spaces as intimate, familiar, and supportive, contributing to a sense of belonging and sustained connection beyond individual events.



2025 ACTIVITIES



6

Kudwa Kafe

Regular, small-scale dialogue spaces focused on lived experience, identity, belonging, and social reflection. These sessions prioritised intimacy, trust, and collective learning, creating continuity across the year.



12

Expertise Exchange

Community-led workshops covering storytelling, emotional regulation, body-based practices, creative writing, activism, and reflection. These spaces centred lived experience as expertise and encouraged peer-to-peer knowledge sharing.



2

Cultural Events

Public-facing community gatherings using art, memory, and collective expression to create shared spaces of care and visibility.



2

Policy Webinars and reports

Online policy-focused webinars under the Shaping Migrants' Future series, connecting lived experience with EU-level policy discussions.

Both resulted in policy reflections on the Pact of Migration and Asylum, and the EU Action Plan for Anti-Racism.



2

Speaking Engagements

Participation in external events and forums, contributing community perspectives to broader conversations on diversity, inclusion, and migration.

2025 ACTIVITIES - Highlight

Community Knowledge in Academic Spaces

Words Beyond War – Storytelling & Role-Play Sessions at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

In 2025, Kudwa collaborated with UAB on Words Beyond War, a series of community-led storytelling and embodied learning sessions contracted by the university and facilitated by Mostafa Shokry, Kudwa community member and expert in alternative education.

The sessions explored war, migration, and displacement through literature and lived experience, creating direct dialogue between students and people with migration backgrounds. Drawing on works by Tim O'Brien, Viet Thanh Nguyen, and Dina Nayeri, participants reflected on how stories preserve memory, challenge dominant narratives, and shape collective understanding.

One of the highlights was an interactive role-play and storytelling session held at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, where students engaged in embodied exercises centred on empathy, identity, and resilience. The sessions were developed in collaboration with academic partners and the UAB Solidarity Fund, demonstrating how community knowledge can meaningfully enrich academic spaces.

These activities reflect Kudwa's commitment to bridging community experience and institutional learning, positioning lived experience not as testimony alone, but as a form of expertise.

Special thanks to Mostafa Shokry for delivering the workshops!



UAB
Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

2025 ACTIVITIES - Highlight

Sustained Community Dialogue

Kudwa Kafe

Throughout 2025, Kudwa Kafe continued as a regular community space for open, intimate conversations around identity, belonging, language, activism, creativity, and home. Designed as small-scale gatherings, these sessions prioritised trust, accessibility, and continuity over visibility or growth.

Rather than formal panels, Kudwa Kafe created room for lived experience, reflection, and disagreement in a supportive setting. The format allowed participants to return over time, strengthening relationships and reinforcing a sense of shared ownership of the space.

Kudwa Kafe remains one of Kudwa's core practices: a place where community is not only discussed, but actively built through listening, care, and collective presence.

*Special thanks to **Ribale Chebib**, **Tamara Beuer** for organising and keeping this program close to the community!*



2025 ACTIVITIES - Highlight

Rapid Community Solidarity Kudwa Emergency Action

In 2025, Kudwa Emergency Action provided a flexible, community-driven response to urgent situations affecting members of the community. Designed as a rapid solidarity mechanism, it enabled small-scale support, information sharing, and collective mobilisation during moments of crisis.

Rather than operating as a formal aid programme, Kudwa Emergency Action relied on trust, proximity, and community knowledge to respond quickly and with care.

It reflected Kudwa's commitment to solidarity as a lived practice, grounded in responsiveness, dignity, and mutual support.

*Special thanks to **Ribale Chebib**, **Tamara Beuer** for driving this effort, even with little resources!*



2025 ACTIVITIES - Highlight

Mawjat Solidarias – Olas del Mediterráneo

Mawjat Solidarias was a series of community-led events held in July 2025, created as a space for collective mourning, memory, and connection in response to the violence experienced along the Syrian coast. Rooted in Mediterranean identities and shared histories, the initiative brought together community members to honour loss while resisting erasure through care, beauty, and presence.

Over three days, Mawjat Solidarias combined intimate workshops and a public event, moving from grief to collective expression. Activities included an Arabic-language workshop on mourning and care, an art-based space connecting participants to the Syrian coast and its beauty, and a public gathering featuring visual material and collective conversation.

Mawjat Solidarias reflected Kudwa's approach to community work: allowing initiatives to emerge from lived experience, holding space for difficult emotions, and affirming solidarity as a collective and political practice.

Check out the video report [here](#).

Special thanks to Laura Jabbour, Mai Laila, Angham Dayoub, Eissa Baddour, Ziad Haidar, and Sam Darbouli for making this event happen!



2025 ACTIVITIES - Highlight

Migrant Voices in EU Policy

Migrants Shaping the EU Future – Webinar Series

In 2025, Kudwa hosted two interactive webinars under the Migrants Shaping the EU Future series, focusing on the EU Pact on Migration & Asylum and the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan. Designed by and for migrants, these sessions aimed to make complex EU policies accessible, relevant, and open to collective reflection.

Rather than expert-driven presentations, the webinars used plain language, real-life scenarios, and open dialogue to explore how EU policies shape everyday experiences of migration, representation, and racism. Participants were invited to question, share perspectives, and contribute directly to the analysis.

Both sessions resulted in policy reflections grounded in lived experience, linking community insights with EU-level discussions. The series demonstrated Kudwa's commitment to connecting storytelling, participation, and policy engagement, ensuring that migrant voices inform debates that directly affect their lives.

Read reports here:

[EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020–2025](#)

[Reflecting on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum](#)

Special thanks to [Anton Skrelja](#) for his massive commitment to make this series happen!

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2025 ACTIVITIES - Highlight

Community Participation and Institutional Recognition

Trobada and Recognition by the Consell Municipal d'Immigració de Barcelona

In 2025, Kudwa participated in the annual Trobada of the Consell Municipal d'Immigració de Barcelona, contributing to collective dialogue on migration, participation, and inclusion at the city level.

During this process, Kudwa received a **special recognition award** for its sustained participation and engagement as a youth-led, community-based organisation working on migration in Barcelona. This recognition acknowledged Kudwa's commitment to amplifying migrant voices, fostering participation, and building trust-based spaces between communities and institutions.

The recognition reflects not only organisational work, but the collective efforts of volunteers and community members who continue to engage critically and constructively in civic and institutional spaces.

See more [here](#).

Article on participation in the study on the rights of young people of diverse origins [here](#)

*Special thanks to **Soumeya Lerari** for making this possible!*



VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Raksha Daryanani – Workshop Facilitator

“I delivered a storytelling and reflection workshop titled ‘The Stories We Carry’ with Kudwa in Barcelona. It was a powerful evening of shared laughter, reflection, and honesty among participants from diverse migrant backgrounds.

Listening to stories from Colombia, Morocco, Palestine, Brazil, Pakistan, India, Spain, and beyond reminded me how much we have in common. The space allowed people to reflect on the stories they carry – and how they can be changed.

Kudwa offered more than a platform; they created care, structure, and trust. This experience reaffirmed why storytelling matters and why community-led spaces like Kudwa are essential.”



Ali – Community Member

“I needed time to find myself, and when I was ready, Kudwa was still there. Over time, I’ve come to understand the meaning behind the name ‘Kudwa’ more deeply – the realness behind it makes me believe in this work even more.

Even during painful moments, like what is happening in Syria, Kudwa remains a source of inspiration and connection. I felt the need to say this.”

Chaima – Participant

“It was a very enriching experience. The dynamic and the venue felt like being in a living room, talking with friends who understand your experiences. It was a really special time.”



2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

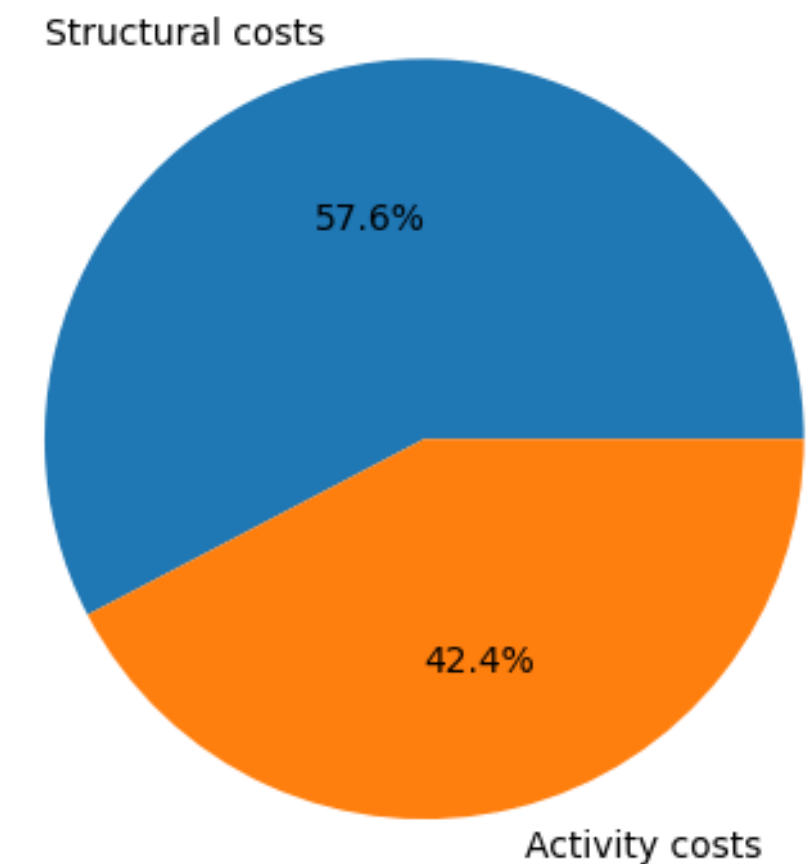
2025 was a year without core funding. Kudwa operated through limited service-based income, organisational reserves, and strong volunteer commitment, ensuring continuity of community-led activities.

Total expenditure exceeded income in 2025. The gap was covered through existing reserves, in-kind contributions, and unpaid volunteer work, allowing Kudwa to continue its activities despite the absence of project funding.

Sustainability Outlook – 2026

In 2026, Kudwa aims to strengthen its financial sustainability while preserving its community-led approach. Priorities include securing modest project-based funding, developing service and collaboration agreements, and continuing to rely on volunteer engagement and partnerships to keep activities accessible. The focus will remain on maintaining depth, care, and continuity rather than scaling beyond available resources.

Kudwa 2025 – Expenses Breakdown



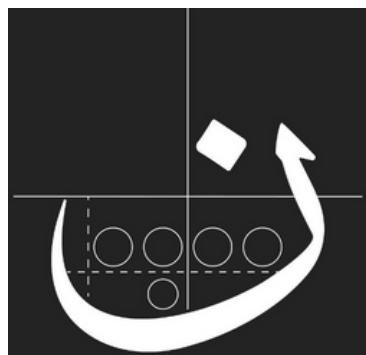
2025 PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Community Spaces

We are grateful to the spaces that opened their doors and made our activities possible:

- **Calabria 66**, for hosting workshops and community activities
- **Nun Cultural Café**, for welcoming Kudwa Kafe as a regular community space
- **Ateneu del Clot**, for hosting the cultural events of Mawjat Solidarias

These spaces provided more than venues: they enabled safety, continuity, and a sense of home.



KUDWA 2025



**Federació
d'Entitats de
Calàbria 66**



ATENEU DEL CLOT

Institutional and Organisational Allies

We also thank the institutions and organisations that collaborated with us, invited our participation, and recognised the value of community knowledge:

- **Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona**, for academic collaboration and contracted activities
- **Bayt al-Thaqafa**, for continued collaboration and trust
- **Consell Municipal d'Immigració de Barcelona**, for institutional dialogue and recognition
- **International Organization for Migration**, for inviting Kudwa to share our community expertise.
- **San Izequiel Moreno**, for collaboration and support in Zaragoza

Consell Municipal d'**Immigració** de Barcelona

UAB
Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

OIM
ONU MIGRACIÓN

bayt al-thaqafa
FUNDACIÓ BAYT AL-THAQAFÀ

**fundación
san
ezequiel moreno**

KUDWA ALBACETE GROUNDWORK

– LAYING THE

2025 was a year of listening, mapping, and relationship-building for Kudwa in Albacete. Rather than launching activities prematurely, the focus was on understanding the local context, identifying existing initiatives, and building trust with individuals and organisations working on diversity, youth, and social inclusion.

During this period, Kudwa launched two social media campaigns — Por una Alba diversa and Puertas Abiertas — as entry points for conversation around diversity, belonging, and openness. These campaigns aimed to signal presence, values, and intention, while starting to connect with local voices and concerns.

Throughout the year, several connections and partnerships were established, laying a solid foundation for future activities. While these collaborations did not yet translate into public events in 2025, they are expected to come to fruition in 2026, enabling Kudwa to develop community-led initiatives grounded in local realities.

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2025 MOMENTS



MAIN CHALLENGES FACED

- The absence of stable funding restricted the ability to scale activities or initiate new programmes, affecting both reach and long-term planning.
- Existing evaluation tools were not always sufficient to capture longer-term outcomes of community-based work, particularly changes related to trust, participation, and sustained engagement.
- Activities were concentrated mainly in urban settings, which may have limited engagement with migrant communities in rural or less connected areas where support networks are often weaker.



KUDWA 2025



LESSONS LEARNED

2025 confirmed that community work does not always require expansion to be meaningful. Scaling down allowed Kudwa to deepen relationships, strengthen trust, and reinforce community leadership. The lack of funding, while challenging, also created flexibility to experiment, listen more closely, and focus on engagement rather than outputs. This period reinforced the value of depth, adaptability, and community ownership as foundations for sustainable growth.

LOOKING AHEAD

2025 reaffirmed Kudwa's role as a community-led space shaped by potential-based participation, trust, and shared responsibility. In a year without structural funding, the commitment of volunteers, facilitators, and community members made it possible to continue creating spaces for reflection, dialogue, and connection.

Looking ahead to 2026, Kudwa will focus on sustaining what already works: community-scale, accessible activities rooted in lived experience and collective knowledge. The priority will be to strengthen partnerships, secure modest and aligned funding, and continue supporting community leadership without compromising care or values.

We remain committed to building spaces where people are not defined by what they lack, but by what they contribute — and to doing so together.

KUDWA 2025



POINT OF GRATITUDE!

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the volunteers who sustained Kudwa throughout 2025. Their time, care, skills, and emotional labour made every activity possible. Beyond logistics and facilitation, they held space, supported one another, and embodied the sense of community that defines Kudwa. This work exists because of their commitment and belief in collective action.

STAY CONNECTED

Kudwa is a community-led, self-managed association working to create spaces of belonging, participation, and shared responsibility with migrants, refugees, displaced people, and allies.

Our work is sustained through collaboration, care, and trust.

We welcome continued dialogue with partners, institutions, and community members who believe in inclusive, community-driven approaches.

Contact

Website: kudwa.org

Email: info@kudwa.org - razan@kudwa.org

Social media: https://linktr.ee/kudwa_rolemodel

Donate here! or scan the QR

Together, we continue building spaces where community leads the way.

DONATE HERE!



