



REFUGEPOINT

2018 fourth quarter report

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A LIFELINE FOR FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

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In October, RefugePoint's Nairobi office hosted Laurie Franz, a RefugePoint board member (far left), and JC Nkulikyimfura, the Executive Director of the Agahozo Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda (center), for a two-day visit. Laurie and JC were able to meet with RefugePoint clients to gain a deeper understanding of RefugePoint's self-reliance initiatives.

Creating Lasting Solutions

On December 17, 2018, United Nations member states voted overwhelmingly to affirm the new Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The goal of the GCR is to forge a stronger, fairer, more predictable response to global refugee movements. The GCR comes at a time when the number of refugees globally is the highest ever recorded (over 25.4 million refugees globally).

RefugePoint is particularly enthusiastic as the GCR aligns closely with the mission that we have pursued since our founding, and will continue to pursue. This includes expanding opportunities for refugee self-reliance and expanding access to third-country solutions such as resettlement and other pathways of admission. RefugePoint also shares the goals of supporting host communities and easing pressure on countries hosting large numbers of refugees.

The GCR is the most significant international agreement on refugees of our generation —

arguably the most significant since the 1951 Refugee Convention, which is the foundation of international refugee law. While the governments of the world affirmed this Compact, it belongs to all of us and it is incumbent on us to find ways to support its aims. RefugePoint will redouble its efforts to create and expand solutions for refugees and to support the humanitarian community to do the same.

One way that RefugePoint is contributing to supporting the GCR is through the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI), which is committed to operationalizing the vision of the GCR by expanding effective programming to facilitate self-reliance, developing an evidence base to support such programming through measuring refugees' progress, and advocating for funding mechanisms and building environments that enable self-reliance. **Read more about the RSRI on Page 6.**

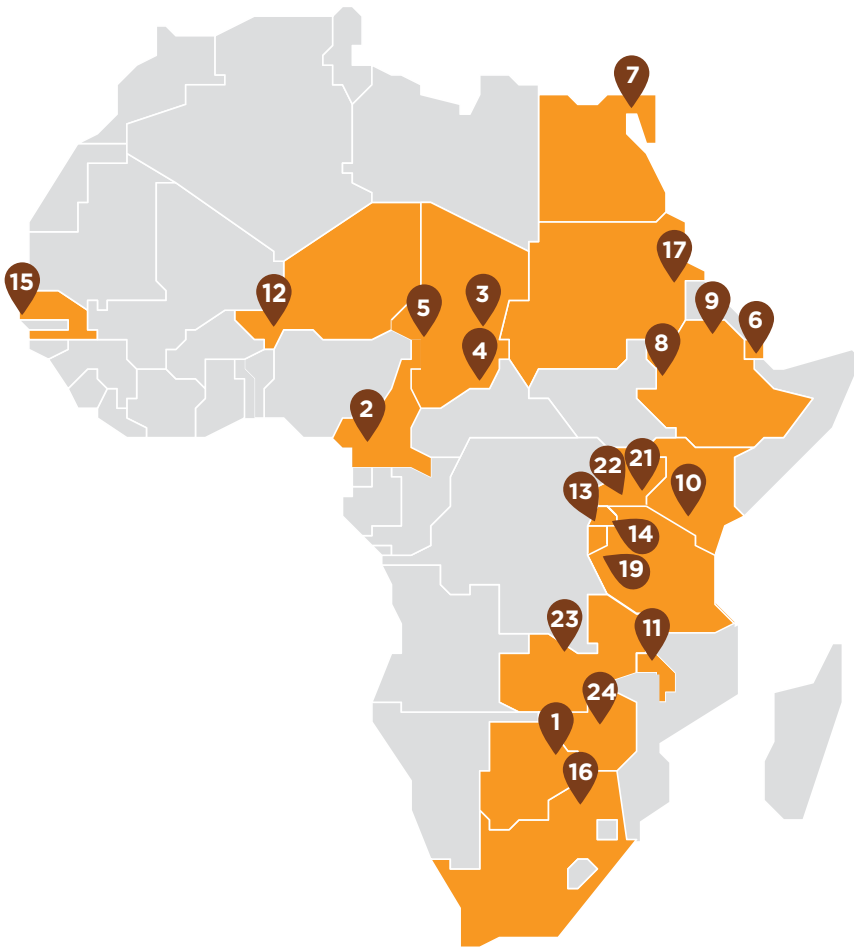
Lasting Solutions: Resettlement

Identifying and resettling the most at-risk refugees to countries worldwide

Providing lasting solutions for the most at-risk refugees remains at the core of our work. During this quarter, RefugePoint staff referred 1,224 refugees for resettlement from 24 locations across Africa. Our staff also contributed to additional resettlement efforts by leading identification exercises to find at-risk refugees, and completing quality review procedures for resettlement cases. Through these activities, we helped to facilitate the resettlement process for another 1,564 refugees this quarter.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

At the start of the quarter, our Expert in Cairo, Egypt, reviewed the case of a Sudanese refugee who had been detained in Southern Egypt due to his religious beliefs. The refugee was captured because of his conversion to Christianity and his participation in church activities. The case was flagged as an emergency case because governing officials stated that he would not be released unless he was resettled outside the country. The Expert assisted with the drafting of the resettlement referral, reviewed the case immediately, and submitted the case to Sweden the same day. *(Continued)*



4th Quarter RefugePoint Programs Locations

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 1. DUKWI, BOTSWANA | 9. SHIRE, ETHIOPIA | 17. KASSALA, SUDAN | *NOT SHOWN |
| 2. YAOUNDE, CAMEROON | 10. NAIROBI, KENYA | 18. GENEVA, SWITZERLAND* | |
| 3. EASTERN CHAD | 11. LILONGWE, MALAWI | 19. KASULU, TANZANIA | |
| 4. SOUTHERN CHAD | 12. NIAMEY, NIGER | 20. ANKARA, TURKEY | |
| 5. N'DJAMENA CHAD | 13. HUYE, RWANDA | 21. KAMPALA, UGANDA | |
| 6. ALI SABIEH, DJIBOUTI | 14. KIBUYE, RWANDA | 22. NAKIVALE, UGANDA | |
| 7. CAIRO, EGYPT | 15. DAKAR, SENEGAL | 23. SOLWEZI, ZAMBIA | |
| 8. ASSOSA, ETHIOPIA | 16. PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA | 24. TONGOGARA, ZIMBABWE | |

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Sweden accepted the case the very next day, only two days from the date of the first interview. Thanks to the dedication and efficiency of the Expert and all those involved, this was one of the fastest case processing timelines she has ever witnessed.

Our Expert in Niamey, Niger, worked with a group of refugees who escaped from the Bani Walid detention camp in Libya. The group endured terrible experiences, including being forced by smugglers to live underground. They had little hope for freedom and described the experience as “enduring hell.” Their captors set very high and unrealistic ransom prices in exchange for their liberation, and did not seem to care if the refugees lived or died. The group decided to escape, despite the risks involved. Many were successful, but many did not survive or were injured in the process. They escaped during Ramadan, and sought refuge in a local mosque, where the Sheikh, moved by the spirit of Ramadan, kept them safe from the smugglers. Eventually, the group arrived in Niamey, Niger, where our Experts helped to process their resettlement cases and move them to safety.

Our Expert in Lilongwe, Malawi, drafted a partnership agreement between UNHCR and a local non-governmental organization (NGO) to increase support for LGBTI refugees, an often neglected and extremely at-risk group in Malawi. The partnership provides access to a safe house, medical screenings, and psychosocial counseling, as well as sensitization training for service providers. Because of the Expert’s work networking among partners on this issue, another local NGO agreed to provide financial assistance to all LGBTI asylum seekers who are forced to live outside the Dzaleka camp. The Expert hopes that the momentum and coordination gathered among these groups will help lead to policy changes for more sustainable impact.

Our Expert in Assosa volunteered on Christmas Day at a local prison where many refugees are held. Volunteers spent the morning cooking and serving lunch to the prisoners. The Expert was touched by the joy and relief that the prisoners expressed at seeing their efforts, and she intends to continue her involvement volunteering at the prison.

Since 2005, RefugePoint has referred

42,889

refugees for resettlement to:

AUSTRALIA	FRANCE	SWEDEN
BELGIUM	IRELAND	UNITED KINGDOM
CANADA	NETHERLANDS	UNITED STATES
DENMARK	NORWAY	
FINLAND	PORTUGAL	

Lasting Solutions: Self-Reliance

In addition to referring refugees for resettlement, RefugePoint focuses on equipping urban refugees in Nairobi to become self-reliant. We achieve this through stabilizing support services to ensure access to food, shelter and medical care, and empowerment through counseling, skill building, and livelihoods assistance.

In October, RefugePoint’s Nairobi office hosted Laurie Franz, a RefugePoint board member, and JC Nkulikyimfura, the Executive Director of the Agahozo Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda, for a two-day visit. Laurie and JC were able to meet with RefugePoint clients to gain a deeper understanding of RefugePoint’s self-reliance initiatives.

This quarter, RefugePoint submitted the first nine client referrals to the Canadian High Commission for participation in the Economic Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP). The EMPP is a pilot project that aims to increase opportunities for refugees to participate in Canada’s economic immigration programs. The project aims to nominate 10 to 15 refugees in high-demand occupations to access work-based visas to Canada, connecting them to Canadian employers and putting them on a path to permanent residency. In doing so, refugees will gain legal protection under international law, and local communities will benefit by filling critical gaps in employment shortage areas. Of the hundreds of candidates who applied and were screened based on criteria provided by the government of Canada, nine of the candidates (Nairobi-based candidates as identified by RefugePoint and UNHCR), were referred to the Canadian High Commission.

The resettlement team also traveled to Kakuma this quarter, to interview more potential participants. Candidates were identified by RefugePoint and UNHCR for the screening, and five candidates were shortlisted and are currently under review for submission to the government of Canada.

RefugePoint’s Nairobi office launched the first phase of its new program database system following a year long development process.

In November and December, RefugePoint’s Nairobi office conducted medical outreach and provided eyeglasses to 65 refugees in Kasarani and Githurai, and also held two Business Strengthening Workshops (BSW’s), reaching 38 participants. A representative from the Nairobi City Council facilitated a session at each of the BSW’s, which focused on demystifying the license acquisition process and encouraged entrepreneurs to abide by county laws to avoid harassment.



RefugePoint’s Urban Stabilization Path

.....
COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR
OUTREACH

Q4 **273**
YTD **4,026**
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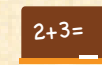
EMPOWERMENT &
STABILIZATION



Health Services
Q4 **525**
YTD **3,056**



Food Assistance
Q4 **741**
YTD **2,760**



Education Support
Q4 **317**
YTD **907**



Group Counseling
Q4 **93**
YTD **549**



Businesses Launched
Q4 **42**
YTD **190**

.....
GRADUATED CLIENTS
TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q4 **44**
YTD **571**

Lasting Solutions: Self-Reliance Initiative

In addition to the direct services that we provide to urban refugees in Nairobi to achieve self-reliance, we also work to make larger scale impact through field building and systems change. One way that we aim to achieve that is through the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI), co-founded by RefugePoint and the Women's Refugee Commission, which promotes opportunities for refugees around the world to become self-reliant and achieve a better quality of life. The Initiative aims to collectively reach five million refugees with self-reliance programming in five years and, in the process, to identify the most effective models and measurements to aid global expansion of self-reliance opportunities.

Refugee Self-Reliance Index Pilot

The Self-Reliance Index was jointly developed in 2017 by the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI) Community of Practice to measure the progress of refugee households toward self-reliance over time. The third and latest version of the Index, was piloted in Jordan, Kenya and Mexico during the last quarter of 2018. In November, RSRI lead Kellie Leeson, along with academic advisers, Lindsay Stark and Ilana Seff, travelled to Jordan to carry out a second pilot phase. Over the course of five days, the Index was revised based on client interviews and the input of program staff from partner agencies including Mercy Corps and Danish Refugee Council. Following the November pilot in Jordan, the revised Index will be tested in Jordan and Kenya in early 2019.

Self-Reliance Knowledge Exchange

In November, RefugePoint hosted Patrick Poulin, Acting Regional Director of U.S. Programs at the International Rescue Committee, for a week-long peer learning and knowledge-exchange visit to Nairobi. Patrick studied RefugePoint's case-management approach, which forms the foundation of the Urban Refugee Protection Program in Nairobi. Patrick offered invaluable suggestions based on his experience of resettling and providing case management to refugees in 13 offices across the Pacific West region in the U.S. The RSRI plans to facilitate similar peer learning and advisory visits across its member network in 2019.



A focus group discussion during Patrick Poulin's peer learning and knowledge exchange visit in Nairobi.

Advancing Refugee Child Protection

At RefugePoint, refugee children are prioritized in all of our programs, and we collaborate closely with partners to fill critical gaps in refugee child protection. During this quarter, our staff conducted child protection assessments for 220 vulnerable refugee children in 21 locations, and reviewed child protection assessments for an additional 291 children.

Field Highlight

During her mission to Durban, our Expert based in Pretoria, South Africa, interviewed a single woman, her two children, and an orphan that the mother had taken on as her own earlier that year. The woman had fled sexual and gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo and was later reunited with her husband in South Africa.

A few years ago, the woman, her husband, and her young son were severely beaten in their home. They were found by the eldest daughter when she returned home from school. Unfortunately, the father did not survive the attack and the mother was left to raise the children on her own. The event traumatized the family, and they continued to face protection concerns in Durban.

Earlier this year, their case was submitted for resettlement, and was accepted on an urgent basis by Sweden. The family was scheduled to travel in November, but at that time the mother, who was HIV-positive, was hospitalized due to her deteriorating health. Two weeks later, the mother died in the hospital, leaving behind her 18-year-old daughter, 12-year-old son, and the 18-year-old orphan for whom she was caring. The thought of losing their opportunity to start a new life in Sweden compounded the children's grief over the loss of their mother. The children desperately wanted to leave South Africa, where they had lost both of their parents.

After hearing that their case had been accepted for resettlement, family members who had previously been strangers to the children attempted to claim custody of the children in order to be included in their resettlement case. Despite making the case more challenging, the Expert remained loyal to the wishes of the children, which was that they did not want to travel to Sweden with strangers. The Expert worked with other caseworkers to complete a Best Interest Assessment (BIA) for the children, and it was deemed that the three of them should be considered a family unit (including the unrelated orphan) and be allowed to travel to Sweden. Despite the fact that they do not normally accept unaccompanied minors, Sweden accepted the case on the basis of the BIA conclusions. The family was scheduled to travel to Sweden in January to begin their new lives.

Thought Leadership

RefugePoint has sustained success in mobilizing private funding that allows us to take risks, experiment and share our learning. As such, we are well positioned to be a thought leader in reimagining the future of refugee response. This section focuses on our efforts to change the status quo and influence policy to make lasting solutions accessible to refugees around the world.

Complementary Pathways

In November, Marty Anderson, from RefugePoint-Geneva, traveled to Brussels, Belgium, to attend the final meeting of a working group on “complementary pathways,” generally defined as any other legal pathway, aside from resettlement, that a refugee may be able to take to travel from their country of asylum to a safe and final new home country. These complementary pathways can take many forms, but the most prominent are work visas, student visas, and family reunification visas (for those that already have family in the destination country). The concept of complementary pathways is still relatively new and untested, and much is being done at the policy level to promote their uptake.

At the working group meeting, Marty gave a presentation summarizing RefugePoint’s experience with our first pilot project related to complementary pathways, the Economic Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP). In partnership with the government of Canada and the NGO Talent Beyond Boundaries, RefugePoint is seeking to identify refugees in Kenya who may be eligible for work visas to Canada, where they will fill jobs for which there is currently a skills gap. We’re aiming for a relatively modest number of beneficiaries, only 10-15 in total, with a strong focus on using this initial experience to inform subsequent programming, hopefully leading to many more beneficiaries in the future. The idea of the working group meeting, attended by representatives from many NGOs, several governments, UNHCR, International Organization for Migration, and others, was to share lessons learned to date, in order to make it as smooth and simple as possible for other partners to develop similar programming in other parts of the world. Though still unproven, there is much hope that more refugees will benefit from complementary pathways in the future, and we’re excited to be a part of the earliest stages of testing and refining the concept.

Annual High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges

Also during the last quarter of 2018, UNHCR held its last annual High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges in Geneva (which will be every other year in the future, making space for the high-level Global Refugee Forum, the first of which will be in 2019). The theme of this year’s Dialogue was “Engaging with Cities,” so Paul Karanja, Refugepoint’s Program Coordinator of Urban Refugee Protection in Nairobi, Kenya, traveled to Geneva to participate in the event, alongside Marty Anderson. It was clear from the discussions that municipal governments are becoming increasingly important partners in refugee protection. RefugePoint already works closely with the local government of Nairobi in health, livelihoods, and other programs, and we are now actively considering how we may grow these collaborations in the future.



Destin a former RefugePoint client who was resettled to Texas, returned to the Nairobi office last quarter to give thanks for the assistance he received and to tell us about his life in the U.S.*

Rescuing Lives

A Long Journey to Safety

Destin*, a former RefugePoint client, was resettled to the U.S. in 2016 with his wife and eight children. He now lives in Texas and works for Toyota. Destin recently returned to Kenya to visit family, and stopped by the RefugePoint office to offer his gratitude for RefugePoint's support.

“We are happy, we are settled, and we are well fed,” Destin said, smiling. “We lack for nothing. My children are in school, I have a car and a job, and I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for RefugePoint. That is why I had to come back and say thank you.”

Before fleeing from his home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in 2012, Destin worked in a government corporation. After he was falsely accused of supporting a rebel group, due to his ethnicity, Destin felt that he and his family were in danger. Destin first fled alone, seeking safety in Nairobi, Kenya. His family later joined him in December 2012.

Upon his arrival in Nairobi, Destin was suffering from a heart condition and was advised by some of his friends and neighbors to seek medical assistance from RefugePoint.

He began receiving assistance from RefugePoint in August 2013, after his case was highlighted to the medical team.

Destin received medical assistance, support with food and rent, and counseling. Destin's wife was identified for livelihoods support and received a business grant after completing RefugePoint's business skills training. “I could not believe that a single organization could give someone so much assistance, but RefugePoint assisted me in every way that they could, and I will be forever grateful.”

“Everyone at RefugePoint is so professional and so good at their job, it amazes me, and it gives me the motivation to assist others like I was assisted,” Destin told Jacob, RefugePoint's Kenya Country Director.

“Since going to America, my life has changed more than I could have ever imagined. The very first assistance I received when I arrived was medical assistance. They treated me until I was completely healed. After that, I was assisted to get a job and I have been working ever since. I work very hard because I have the opportunity to do so now.” **Name changed for protection*

Staffing & Finances

FINANCIAL UPDATE

RefugePoint ended the fourth quarter of 2018 with \$6,544,166 in revenue against expenses of \$5,714,968.

On November 6, RefugePoint succeeded in securing \$1 million to support an emergency campaign with Focusing Philanthropy. These campaign funds support the evacuation of refugees, including many unaccompanied minors, from dangerous detention centers in Libya and the surrounding region and their resettlement to countries in the European Union and elsewhere. RefugePoint is working hand-in-hand with UNHCR on these efforts to protect refugees seeking dignity and safety. Thank you to all of our donors who supported this campaign and recognized the urgency of this crisis, as well as Focusing Philanthropy, a devoted partner in working to support and protect refugees in life-threatening situations.

This #GivingTuesday, RefugePoint set out to raise \$40,000 to support self-reliance programming; however, with astounding response from our staff, board, and supporters, we doubled our goal, raising more than \$80,000.

STAFFING UPDATE

In November 2018, Tamara Omazic joined the RefugePoint team, assuming the new role of Institutional Relationships Officer. Tamara serves on the development team, managing organizational relationships and contributing to strategic, sustainable growth. Previously, she managed fundraising and communications at the PAIR Project, a Boston-based nonprofit providing legal aid to asylum seekers. Tamara has experience across the fundraising spectrum in the field of equitable access to education, and she lived a past life as a business journalist.

Staff and board members participated in an internal competition to encourage friends and family to participate, and the results were incredible. Staff referrals contributed to 9% of our Giving Tuesday goal!

Several private family foundations made significant contributions in the final quarter of 2018, including The Shapiro Foundation, who generously committed \$525,000 over three years to support our mission and strategic growth. Additionally, several long-time supporters made contributions in the final quarter of 2018, including a \$500,000 donation from an anonymous supporter whose lifetime total reached \$4.5 million since their first gift in 2005. Additionally, the Horace W. Goldsmith foundation donated \$100,000, the eleventh gift from the foundation to RefugePoint since 2008. The Elmo Foundation also donated \$60,000, bringing their lifetime total to more than \$500,000. Thank you to all of our donors whose support has allowed the organization to grow to better meet the needs of the refugees we serve.

Tamara graduated cum laude from Emerson College in Boston with a Bachelor's degree in Writing, Literature and Publishing, and also holds a Fundraising Certificate from the Lily Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Forced Migration and Refugee Protection through the School of Advanced Study at the University of London with a dissertation focus on local integration of refugees.