



REFUGEPOINT

2016 first quarter report

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A LIFELINE FOR FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

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Amy Slaughter, RefugePoint's Chief Strategy Officer, presented about RefugePoint's self-reliance efforts at the 2016 Solutions Alliance Roundtable in Brussels.

Creating Lasting Solutions

Refugee assistance has historically been about emergency response rather than planning for the long-term. Though the “emergencies” often drag on for decades, they are still treated as emergencies and are not included in the funding and expertise that goes into long-range human and economic development. In 2014, the international community came together to create The Solutions Alliance, which was designed to bring humanitarian and development actors together. The Solutions Alliance includes UN agencies, governments, financial institutions, NGOs, academia and the private sector, to develop strategies for responding effectively to displacement.

In February 2016, RefugePoint participated in the Solutions Alliance Roundtable, in Brussels. The meeting focused on the need to foster national alliances at the field level to create solutions tailored to each situation. Ensuring that refugees are included in the development plans of their host countries was also highlighted.

At the Roundtable, Amy Slaughter, RefugePoint's Chief Strategy Officer, presented RefugePoint's model for transitioning refugees away from aid and supporting them to resume lives of dignity and self-reliance. Key to those efforts is the measurement tool RefugePoint developed to monitor clients' progress toward and achievement of self-reliance.

It was gratifying to sense the broad interest in this topic and the recognition that the refugee field at large will soon need the tools and models that RefugePoint has been working to develop over the past decade. The scale of global displacement and the large numbers of refugees entering Europe have raised visibility for refugee self-reliance among policy makers. Whereas indefinite aid was once the norm, it is now understood that new “exit strategies” from aid must become the norm. RefugePoint is demonstrating some of these key new strategies.

Lasting Solutions: Resettlement

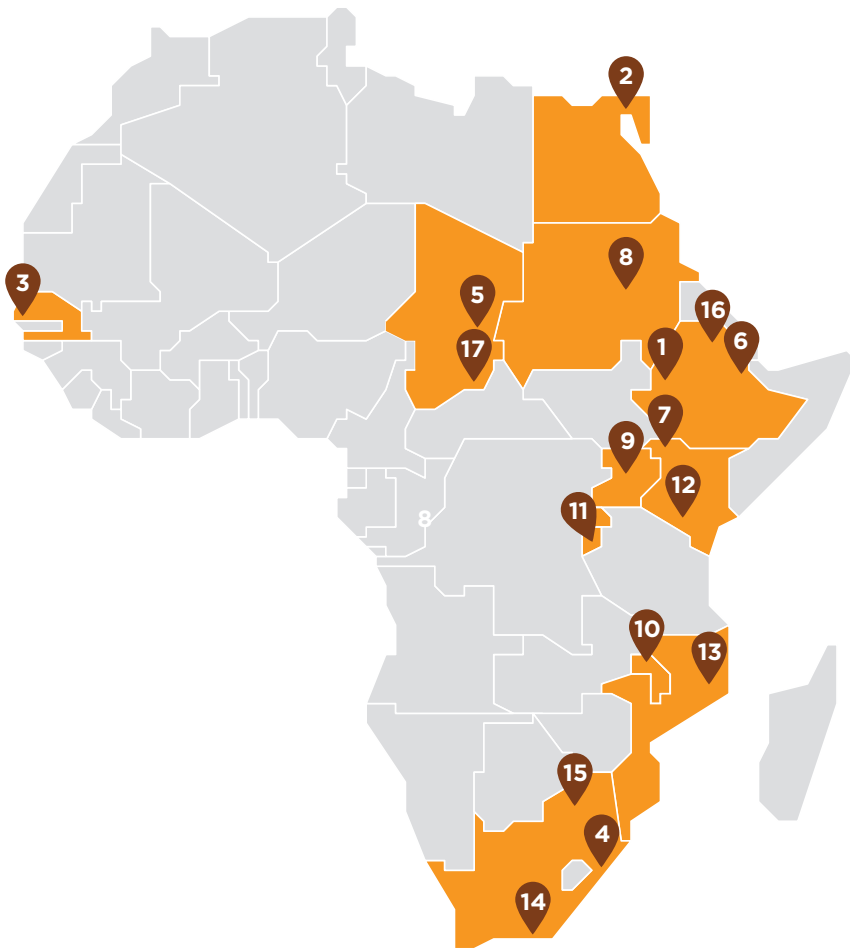
Identifying and resettling the most vulnerable refugees to countries worldwide

Providing lasting solutions for the most vulnerable refugees remains a core part of RefugePoint's work, and resettlement is where we have the most immediate leverage. During this quarter, our staff referred 1,107 refugees for resettlement from 17 locations across Africa.

Our staff also facilitated additional resettlement by leading exercises to identify vulnerable refugees, and conducting quality review of resettlement cases for submission. Through these activities, we helped to facilitate the resettlement process of an additional 639 refugees this quarter.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

In the first quarter of 2016, RefugePoint expanded to four new countries (Cameroon, Guinea, Niger, Senegal) in an effort to promote equitable access to lasting solutions for refugees, regardless of where they have fled. By sending our Experts to under-resourced locations such as these, we can strengthen infrastructure, build staff capacity and offer technical assistance in locations where refugees are often overlooked. *(Continued)*



1st Quarter RefugePoint Resettlement Locations

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 ASSOSA, ETHIOPIA | 7 KAKUMA, KENYA | 13 NAMPULA, MOZAMBIQUE |
| 2 CAIRO, EGYPT | 8 KHARTOUM, SUDAN | 14 PORT ELIZABETH, S. AFRICA |
| 3 DAKAR, SENEGAL | 9 KYAKA, UGANDA | 15 PRETORIA, S. AFRICA |
| 4 DURBAN, S. AFRICA | 10 LILONGWE, MALAWI | 16 SHIRE, ETHIOPIA |
| 5 EASTERN CHAD | 11 MUYINGA, BURUNDI | 17 SOUTHERN CHAD |
| 6 JIJIGA, ETHIOPIA | 12 NAIROBI, KENYA | |



A RefugePoint Social Worker interviews a new client who has hopes of being resettled to the U.S.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Our Resettlement Expert in Niger is the first to be placed in the country in several years. As the only resettlement staff in the country, he has nationwide responsibilities. Though based in the capital, Niamey, he travels “on mission” to as many as five other locations throughout the country. As a result of this design, he is able to extend resettlement opportunities to a number of populations that have not had access in the past, including refugees from neighboring Mali, Chad, and Nigeria.

In Dakar, Senegal, our Expert is based at the UNHCR Regional Office for West Africa that oversees refugee processing across the region.

Acting as a liaison between UNHCR Country Offices and the Regional Office, our Expert reviews cases processed across the region and submits them to governments for consideration, in particular the US and Canada. In the first quarter, our Expert reviewed 455 individual resettlement referrals from Sudanese refugees living in Chad, many of whom fled in 2003 and are still unable to return home. He also travels “on mission” to interview refugees in need of resettlement and prepares resettlement referrals.

Since 2005, RefugePoint has referred

33,694

refugees for resettlement to the following countries:

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

Lasting Solutions: Urban Stabilization

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

RefugePoint’s medical unit is a key component of our stabilization to self-sufficiency model. The unit provides clinical services, health education, and hospital referrals to our clients and the broader refugee community in Nairobi. More than 10,000 refugees are reached each year through our Community Volunteer Worker (CVW) program that sends trained refugees (often former RefugePoint clients) to conduct home visits and provide relevant health information to newly arrived refugees. CVWs also link refugees with local City Council Clinics where they can access basic health care with the help of the National Health Insurance Fund, now made available to all refugees in Nairobi. Additionally, our three full-time medical staff receive a small number of clients at our clinic to provide basic screenings, tests, and referrals, as well as providing access to prescription medications.

This quarter, our staff partnered with the Kenyan Ministry of Health and the National Council of Churches of Kenya to host three health outreach events for refugees in Kasarani, Githurai, and Kayole. Before the events, RefugePoint staff conducted a needs assessment in each community to identify areas of interest in order to design events that were tailored to the needs of each community. More than 400 refugees participated in the events, and all were screened for lifestyle diseases (i.e. diabetes, high blood pressure) and communicable diseases (i.e. hepatitis, tuberculosis), and referred for follow up as needed. Led by our staff, discussion topics included myths and misconceptions about HIV/AIDs, advantages and disadvantages of family planning, and reproductive health for men, women, and young adults.

In January 2016, we formalized our newest partnership with the US-based NGO Watsi, a crowd-sourced medical funding scheme where clients connect with donors online to access resources needed to pay for medical treatment. Once referred by a doctor, both refugees and Kenyans with certain medical conditions are eligible for life-changing medical care they cannot afford themselves. Our first client to access the program was a refugee child in need of reconstructive colon surgery.



RefugePoint’s Urban Stabilization Path

OUTREACH

Q1 **3,888**
YTD **3,888**

EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



Medical Services

Q1 **1,055**
YTD **1,055**



Food Assistance

Q1 **661**
YTD **661**



Education Support

Q1 **59**
YTD **59**



Group Counseling

Q1 **167**
YTD **167**



Businesses Launched

Q1 **69**
YTD **69**

LASTING SOLUTIONS

Resettlement Referrals



Q1 **10**
YTD **10**

GRADUATED CLIENTS

Q1 **258**
YTD **258**

Advancing Refugee Child Protection

At RefugePoint, we prioritize safety for refugee children in all of our programs, and collaborate closely with partners to fill critical gaps in refugee child protection. During this quarter, staff conducted child protection assessments for 274 vulnerable refugee children in 14 locations, and reviewed child protection assessments for an additional 295 children.

Field Highlight

Kung Fu Club in Kiziba Refugee Camp

Two of our four Child Protection Experts are based in Rwanda, working with refugee children who have fled alone or with their families from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. Based in UNHCR field offices in Byumba and Kibuye, our Experts specialize in the processing of “Best Interest Determinations” (BIDs) for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and other vulnerable refugee youth. These BIDs are very intensive individual assessments that guide decisions about a child’s care arrangements, needs, and future options.

Using a child-centered approach to the prevention and response of violence, abuse, and neglect of children, our Experts work to strengthen and build protection mechanisms in refugee camps and other refugee communities. Working closely with UNHCR and other implementing partners, they have developed and strengthened systems ranging from the identification and registration of UASC and vulnerable children, to the continued monitoring and follow-up of at-risk children.

Just last month, our Child Protection Expert in Kibuye received an award from the UNHCR Youth Initiative Fund to facilitate a refugee-led Kung Fu Club in Kiziba Refugee Camp. With his leadership, the Kung Fu Club has purchased uniforms, equipment, and will benefit from expert instruction for one year. Additionally, our Expert has worked with the leaders of the Kung Fu Club to design an educational, community outreach component to teach club members about issues related to child protection and sexual and gender based violence.





Rescuing Lives

A Long Journey to Safety

Hitching rides on long-distance trucks, and walking for many miles during the day, our client Zakuani* and his wife Nyantabara*, fled from Congo and arrived to Nairobi, Kenya in December 2014. Zakuani and his family fled Congo due to war waged by MaiMai militia after he witnessed the merciless killing of his own mother.

Four months after their arrival in Nairobi, Zakuani's wife, Nyantabara, gave birth to a little girl, Zara*, who suffered from a serious medical condition, which required urgent reconstructive surgery on her colon. The family faced a dilemma of wanting to provide the absolute best care to their newborn baby, but being unable to afford the high costs of such a surgery. After numerous visits to public hospitals, the family was unable to find help. In January, RefugePoint formalized a partnership with the US-based NGO Watsi, a crowd-sourced medical funding scheme where clients can connect with donors online in order to get assistance to pay for expensive medical treatments. When RefugePoint heard about Zara's condition, our medical team flagged the case to Bethany Kids Hospital, Watsi's implementing partner in Kenya.

Zara received the necessary medical

intervention and became RefugePoint's first client to access the program.

With the first surgery completed, Zara is under observation and is scheduled to continue with treatment. "From the bottom of our hearts, we are more than thankful to RefugePoint for their help so far. You're the only ones who came and saw our girl and were determined to help. We were so happy! We have faith and hope that she will be better because of the love you have shown us as a family. We are sure that when she's old enough she will come to personally thank you. Thank you so much," said Zakuani during a RefugePoint check-in visit.

In addition to the medical services provided to Zara, RefugePoint conducted business skills training for Zakuani and gave him a small business grant which enabled him to start up a retail business selling African print fabrics called kitenge. Zakuani and his wife Nyantabara are now more peaceful and are able to better support themselves and their family's needs as a result of their livelihoods activities. The couple works as a team, with Zakuani selling the fabric and his wife tailoring the fabric to create beautiful and fashionable traditional attire.

**Names changed for anonymity*