



REFUGEPOINT

2016 fourth quarter report

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A LIFELINE FOR FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

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Mushkaad Abdi, a 4-year old refugee from Somalia, was reunited with her family in the U.S. in February 2017, after two years of separation. Mushkaad was chaperoned on her journey by RefugePoint Kenya board member, Sheikha Ali. Above, as Mushkaad cleared customs during a temporary hiatus of the travel ban, an officer removed his American flag pin and put it on her dress.

Creating Lasting Solutions

Our quarterly reports typically maintain focus on the events and outcomes of the previous quarter. However, we would be remiss to publish a report this month without discussing the Executive Order (EO) issued by the President on January 27th titled “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States”.

The EO suspends all new refugee arrivals to the U.S. for 120 days, reduces the overall number of refugees who are able to enter the U.S. this year from 110,000 to 50,000, and halts Syrian refugee admissions until further notice. This will create hardship and disruption and will force innocent people into dangerous and life threatening situations.

With swift and significant opposition to the EO, this new policy serves as the backdrop for how we will move forward to identify and resettle at-risk refugees. While the EO bars refugee entry into the U.S., it does not halt all resettlement activities globally. In anticipation of policy changes under a new Administration, we have been creating contingency plans. Our Resettlement and Child Protection Experts are still at work in their duty stations across Africa. We are exploring how to redirect some of our emergency cases to other countries with which we work.

We are also working with established networks to denounce the EO and identify strategies to mitigate its effects. As a member of Refugee Council USA— a coalition of 23 agencies dedicated to refugee protection and resettlement — RefugePoint is participating in an organized, collective response and advocacy strategy.

In this midst of this damaging policy change regarding resettlement, it has become even more essential that we continue our work to improve the lives of refugees who cannot resettle. The vast majority of refugees remain stuck in their host countries indefinitely, typically without basic rights or the ability to earn a living legally. Our Urban Refugee Stabilization Program in Nairobi, Kenya offers a range of holistic services to help refugees recover their health, get children into school, and build livelihoods to support themselves. Thanks to our private funding, we identify refugees in high-risk conditions and help them to achieve a better quality of life while awaiting a more permanent solution. As the U.S. curtails its resettlement program, options like these are more important than ever.

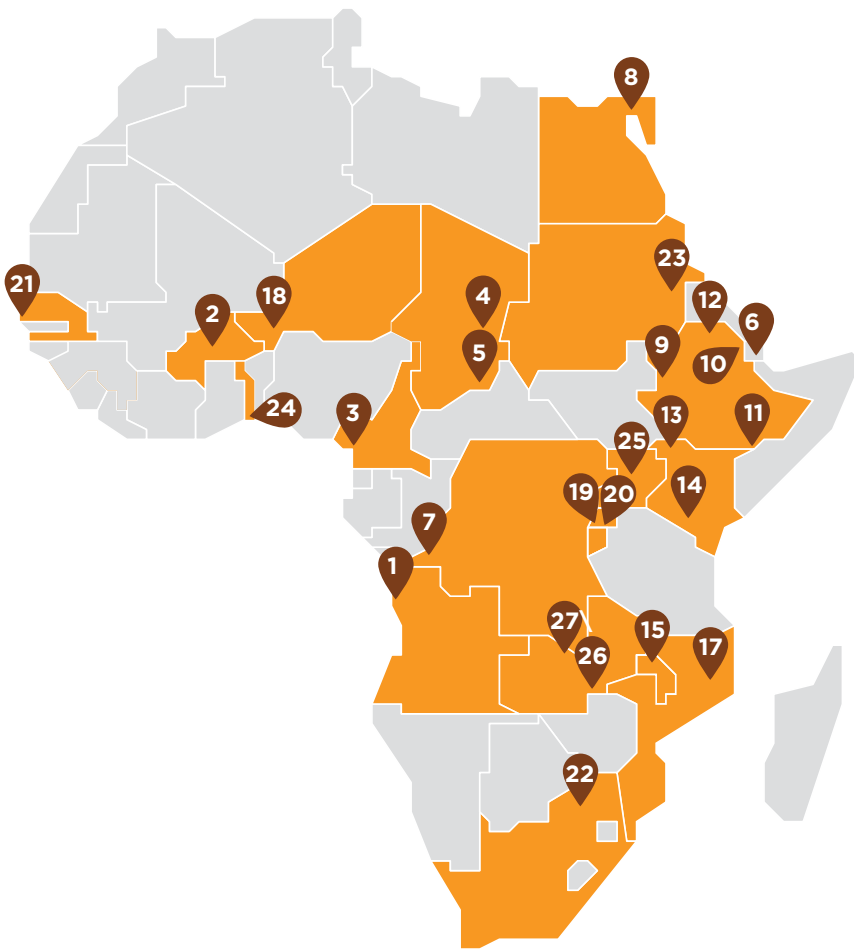
Lasting Solutions: Resettlement

Identifying and resettling the most vulnerable refugees to countries worldwide

Providing lasting solutions for the most vulnerable refugees remains at the core of our work, and resettlement is where we have the most immediate leverage. During this quarter, our staff referred 1440 refugees for resettlement from 20 locations in Africa. The total also includes 13 individuals referred by our Expert working to build NGO referrals systems in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Our staff also facilitated additional resettlement by leading identification exercises to find vulnerable refugees, and conducting quality review of resettlement submissions. Through these activities, we helped to facilitate the resettlement process for another 1087 refugees this quarter.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

This year, RefugePoint placed six staff in four UNHCR operations across Ethiopia to increase capacity and strengthen systems for refugee resettlement and child protection. Since 2009, RefugePoint has maintained a staff presence across Ethiopia to assist and refer refugees from throughout the region. Home to over 761,000 refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan, Ethiopia is the largest refugee-hosting nation in Africa, and fifth in the world. Living in 24 camps along the borders, refugees are considered for three durable solutions: voluntary repatriation, resettlement and local integration. *(Continued)*



4th Quarter RefugePoint Programs Locations

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. LUANDA, ANGOLA | 9. ASSOSA, ETHIOPIA | 17. NAMPULA, MOZAMBIQUE | 25. KYAKA, UGANDA |
| 2. OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO | 10. JIJIGA, ETHIOPIA | 18. NIAMEY, NIGER | 26. LUSAKA, ZAMBIA |
| 3. DOUALA, CAMEROON | 11. MELKADIDA, ETHIOPIA | 19. BUTARE, RWANDA | 27. SOLWEZI, ZAMBIA |
| 4. EASTERN CHAD | 12. SHIRE, ETHIOPIA | 20. KIBUYE, RWANDA | |
| 5. SOUTHERN CHAD | 13. KAKUMA, KENYA | 21. DAKAR, SENEGAL | |
| 6. ALI SABIEH, DJIBOUTI | 14. NAIROBI, KENYA | 22. PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA | |
| 7. KINSHASA, DRC | 15. LILONGWE, MALAWI | 23. KASSALA, SUDAN | |
| 8. CAIRO, EGYPT | 16. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA | 24. LOME, TOGO | |



Children play in a refugee camp in Jijiga, Ethiopia.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Given the extreme vulnerabilities and protection concerns of refugees in Ethiopia, resettlement remains the only option for thousands of individuals and families. The U.S. receives the largest number of submissions, and the sizable populations living in camps allows for referrals to be identified and referred more quickly than in other, more isolated, locations.

In the eastern town of Jijiga, Ethiopia, our Resettlement Expert worked with Somali refugees facing ongoing food insecurity and water shortages against a backdrop of violence, persecution, and secondary migration. Displaced for more than two decades, refugees from Somalia have been leaving the camps in search of work, and risk trafficking, torture, rape, and servitude in an attempt to travel across Sudan and Libya and cross the Mediterranean. Last quarter, a famous Somali singer travelled to the camps near Jijiga to spread awareness about the risks of secondary migration. Our Expert attended the visit and refugee talent show, and

reported that the singer made a memorable experience for refugees who too often feel forgotten. In 2016, our Expert in Jijiga referred over 600 individuals for resettlement, with nearly 40% of her referrals being submitted in the fourth quarter.

Less than 300 miles north of Jijiga is the town of Ali Sabieh, Djibouti, in the heart of the Horn of Africa. For the first time in RefugePoint history, a Resettlement Expert joined the UNHCR operation in Ali Sabieh to help re-build a resettlement system that was halted from 2012 to 2015. One of just three resettlement staff working in the operation, our Expert was tasked with identifying and referring only a few hundred of the most vulnerable people in need of resettlement from over 16,000 refugees from Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Yemen. With continued violence at home and limitations to integration in Djibouti, resettlement to the US is the last hope for many families.

Since 2005, RefugePoint has referred
37,525
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 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.

Alongside our growing staff in Nairobi, RefugePoint engages twenty-five “Community Navigators” (CNs) to assist in identifying new clients and monitoring clients’ wellbeing and progress. Many of the CNs are former clients themselves, who received medical care, counseling, food or rent, and even livelihoods training before demonstrating self-sufficiency and graduating from our program. CNs act as Community Counselors, Community Health Workers and Community Translators, all of whom have been trained by RefugePoint to assist with day-to-day interventions and service delivery. Living and working in the communities in which our clients live allows CNs to have a keen and accurate sense of needs, obstacles, and resources in refugee neighborhoods. They are the first to find out when new families arrive in Nairobi, and the first to respond when families need guidance about where to receive medical services, how to enroll their children in school, and how to survive in a new city.

In November, the Nairobi staff conducted a three-day empowerment and skill-building workshop for CNs. The main objective was to disseminate best practices from each unit to enable CNs to support efforts by the Medical staff, Social Work team, Counselors, and Livelihoods Officers. The workshop gave each unit a chance to address specific themes and establish guidelines for inter-unit collaboration with CNs. It also allowed for the Community Navigators to provide feedback about their experiences working with our clients, and offer insight on the successes and challenges they faced throughout the year. Workshop topics included: RefugePoint’s client outreach strategy, community data collection, business start-up and monitoring, best hygiene practices, basic counseling skills, and fraud mitigation.

Recognizing the significant contributions of the Community Navigators, RefugePoint hosted a Wellness Day in December to promote mental and physical wellbeing, and prepare for another busy year ahead.



RefugePoint’s Urban Stabilization Path

COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR OUTREACH

Q4 **773**
YTD **10,805**

EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



Health Services

Q4 **954**
YTD **3,035**



Food Assistance

Q4 **786**
YTD **1,292**



Education Support

Q4 **128**
YTD **471**



Group Counseling

Q4 **69**
YTD **494**



Businesses Launched

Q4 **39**
YTD **238**

GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q4 **30**
YTD **457**

Advancing Refugee Child Protection

At RefugePoint, we prioritize refugee children in all of our programs, and collaborate closely with partners to fill critical gaps in refugee child protection. During this quarter, our staff conducted child protection assessments for 489 vulnerable refugee children in 22 locations, and reviewed child protection assessments for an additional 423 children.

Field Highlight

In 2016, Child Protection Experts worked in eight locations across Africa to identify, interview, and refer vulnerable refugee children for resettlement to a safe third country. With professional backgrounds in human rights law, social work, and child welfare, our Experts in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Zambia worked alongside UNHCR staff, governments, NGOs, and other implementing partners to increase capacity and strengthen systems for child-centered case work. Through detailed assessments, our staff used child friendly interviewing techniques to determine the best possible situations for unaccompanied and separate minors, child-headed households, children with disabilities, and families with children experiencing domestic violence, abuse, alcoholism, and neglect.

In Melkadida, Ethiopia, RefugePoint's Child Protection Expert worked closely with Save-the-Children and UNHCR to develop a case referral system for children at risk. A comprehensive list of unregistered children was collected in five refugee camps, and a monitoring system was developed to share weekly action reports with partners. Save-the-Children's Child Protection Information Management System has now been shared with UNHCR and our staff to ensure consistent and up to date reports on the status of children and families.

In collaboration with UNHCR, our Child Protection Officer from the Nairobi Urban Refugee Protection Program conducted a short-term mission to Assosa, Ethiopia to process a backlog of resettlement cases that required Best Interest Determinations for children in families awaiting resettlement. Located near the border of Sudan and South Sudan, Assosa has been home to Sudanese refugees who fled violence and persecution in the early 1990's, and have experienced multiple displacements after returning home and then escaping violence in recent years. For children separated from their families, special consideration is made to reunite them with relatives, seek out safe and long-term caregivers, and/or determine if resettlement is the best solution for the child. Whether a part of their families case or assessed as an unaccompanied minor, children's needs for safety and protection are among the highest of priorities in our work.



Rescuing Lives

A Long Journey to Safety

Tesfaye and his family, including his wife and six children, are refugees in Kenya. Tesfaye has been a refugee for 20 years, having escaped persecution in his home country of Ethiopia. In December 2016, the family was elated to be informed that their resettlement case processing was finally coming to an end and that they would be resettled to the U.S. in a period of less than 2 months.

After 20 years of struggle, and surviving torture that left him with permanent physical injuries, Tesfaye could finally see the hope of a new beginning for his family - an opportunity to live in safety and dignity.

Tesfaye's journey as a refugee has been extremely difficult. He originally fled to Kenya in 1997, began his family, and lived in Kenya until 2010, when he was deported back to Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, Tesfaye was detained for nearly one

year in a prison where he was tortured. Relatives contributed money for Tesfaye's release from prison and for the treatment of his torture wounds. In 2011 Tesfaye returned to Kenya, and to his wife and children, but surviving has not been easy. Despite working hard, and running a small food stand with the help of a business grant, the family continues to live in very poor living conditions.

Talking with Tesfaye on January 30, he was vaguely aware of a new presidency in the U.S., but did not know that a new policy may affect his travel plans. Tesfaye and his family will undoubtedly need to wait longer to travel, or may lose their chance altogether to be resettled. This will certainly come as a heavy blow to a family who has already endured so much hardship. **Name changed for anonymity*