



**REFUGEPOINT**

# 2017 first quarter report

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**A LIFELINE FOR FORGOTTEN REFUGEES**

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Participants of the *Measuring Refugee Self-Reliance* convening (March 20-22) in Nairobi, Kenya, pose for a group photo. Participation included 25 representatives from 15 organizations, including Trickle Up, UNHCR, Mercy Corps, IKEA Foundation, University of Oxford, International Rescue Committee, Danish Refugee Council, West Asia North Africa (WANA) Institute

## Creating Lasting Solutions

The refugee landscape continues to change, with more than 80% of refugee crises persisting over 10 years, and 60% of refugees now residing in urban areas. The sheer number of people on the move - 65 million forcibly displaced people, which includes 21 million refugees - provides an urgent call to action. Refugees report that they want to be self-reliant and request support to get back to their independent lives.

Numerous agencies grapple with the challenges of implementing and measuring refugee self-reliance programs. In June 2016, RefugePoint and the Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) established a partnership to accelerate progress by convening a global self-reliance Community of Practice. A diverse range of participants began engaging in quarterly discussions to review existing tools and indicators of success.

As a result of the Community of Practice meetings, a workgroup was established. From

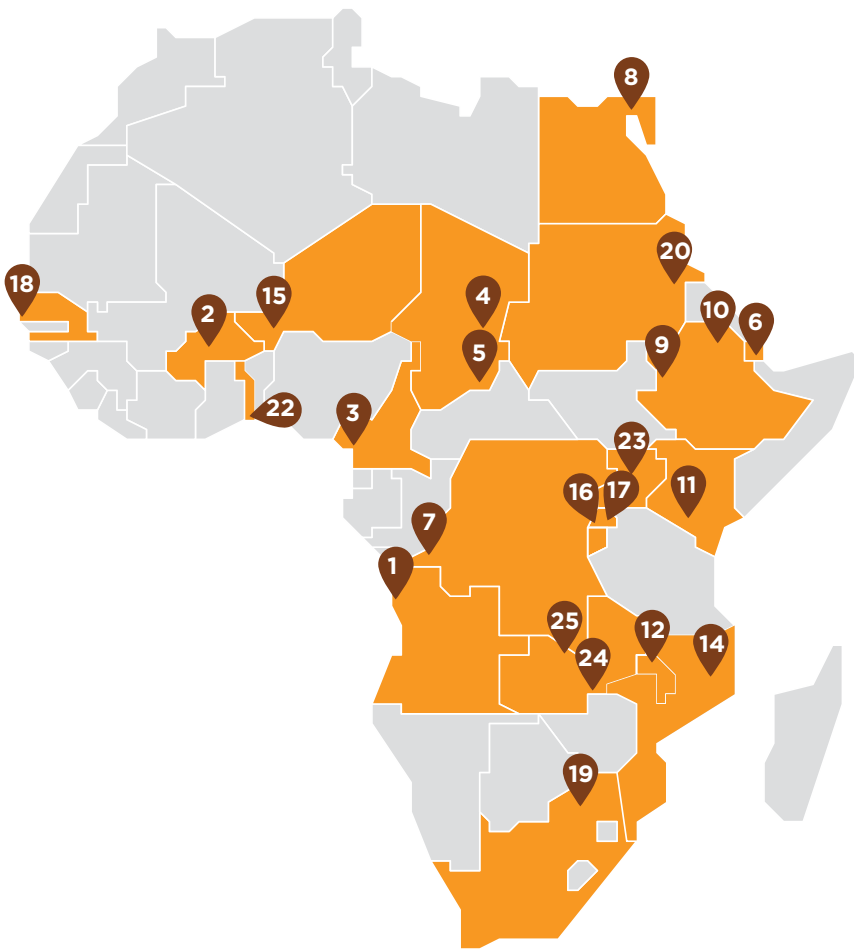
March 20-22, 2017, RefugePoint and WRC hosted the *Measuring Refugee Self-Reliance* workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. Workshop participants included 25 representatives from 15 organizations, including: Danish Refugee Council, IKEA Foundation, International Rescue Committee, Joint IDP Profiling Service, Mercy Corps, RefugePoint, Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat, Samuel Hall, Solutions Alliance, Trickle Up, United States, State Department, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, United Nations, High Commissioner for Refugees, University of Oxford, Refugee Studies Centre, West Asia-North Africa Institute, and Women's Refugee Commission.

Outcomes of the convening included the drafting of a definition of self-reliance and principles to guide self-reliance programming and measurement. Lastly, the workgroup agreed on a set of core domains deemed essential for measuring progress toward refugee self-reliance.

# Lasting Solutions: Resettlement

Identifying and resettling the most vulnerable 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 453 refugees for resettlement from 12 locations in Africa. This total includes 29 individuals referred by our Expert in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Our staff also contributed to additional resettlement efforts by leading identification exercises to find vulnerable refugees, and completing quality review procedures for resettlement cases. Through these activities, we helped to facilitate the resettlement process for another 816 refugees this quarter.*



## NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

This quarter, our staff faced unprecedented challenges resulting from travel bans issued by President Trump. With the proposed reduction in the number of US resettlement slots available to refugees, UNHCR operations must prioritize the most vulnerable cases for the more limited number of slots. Many resettlement countries have unique quota requirements reserved for particular demographic profiles, such as language skills or educational backgrounds. *(Continued)*

## 4th Quarter RefugePoint Programs Locations

- |                              |                             |                            |                     |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. LUANDA, ANGOLA            | 9. ASSOSA, ETHIOPIA         | 17. KIBUYE, RWANDA         | 25. SOLWEZI, ZAMBIA |
| 2. OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO | 10. SHIRE, ETHIOPIA         | 18. DAKAR, SENEGAL         | *NOT SHOWN          |
| 3. DOUALA, CAMEROON          | 11. NAIROBI, KENYA          | 19. PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA |                     |
| 4. EASTERN CHAD              | 12. LILONGWE, MALAWI        | 20. KASSALA, SUDAN         |                     |
| 5. SOUTHERN CHAD             | 13. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA* | 21. GENEVA, SWITZERLAND*   |                     |
| 6. ALI SABIEH, DJIBOUTI      | 14. NAMPULA, MOZAMBIQUE     | 22. LOME, TOGO             |                     |
| 7. KINSHASA, DRC             | 15. NIAMEY, NIGER           | 23. NAKIVALE, UGANDA       |                     |
| 8. CAIRO, EGYPT              | 16. HUYE, RWANDA            | 24. LUSAKA, ZAMBIA         |                     |

## NOTEWORTHY EVENTS (CONTINUED)

This means that children at-risk, refugees with urgent medical concerns, victims of torture, and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence are not guaranteed priority status in this process, often leaving them in dangerous situations. In light of recently proposed policy changes, RefugePoint Resettlement Experts have adapted their work as highlighted below:

In Cairo, Egypt, our Expert facilitated the resettlement of a LGBTI refugee from Sudan whose referral was submitted to the US late last year. In recent months, the client expressed increasing concern that a policy change in the US might make it impossible for him to resettle, even though his application had already been approved. He worried that his medical and security checks would not be approved in time for departure before a ban was in place. The week before the ban, however, he was cleared for travel and departed for Dallas, Texas to begin his new life.

In Kassala, Sudan, the reduction of the resettlement ceiling allowed only 15% of the annual target for submissions to be met in the first quarter. With the US historically accepting 70% of all refugees referred from Kassala, the operation has been forced to prioritize only a few hundred individuals to fill the reduced number of slots. Despite the narrowing options for resettlement, our Expert has been working closely with the Case Management Focal Point to determine how to best identify refugees in need of resettlement, and develop more efficient internal referral pathways.

In Ali Sabieh, Djibouti, our Expert is the focal point for all resettlement activities for nearly 20,000 refugees in the area. In addition to interviewing clients and writing referrals, he travels to refugee camps to counsel refugees on the unlikely prospects of resettlement and the importance of recognizing alternatives. Without the possibility of local integration or repatriation to their home country however, resettlement remains the greatest hope for many refugees to build a safe future.

In spite of the challenges, our Experts have continued to prioritize capacity building within their operations in order to strengthen systems that will support the case-writing and review process. In the first quarter of this year, RefugePoint Experts conducted 11 trainings with over 200 participants, meeting 84% of our training target for the entire year. Topics ranged from the Consequences of Early Marriage, to Resettlement Processes and Referrals, and Guiding Principles in Sexual and Gender Based Violence Case Management. Trainings were offered to a range of partners and staff in Burkina Faso, DRC, Niger, Rwanda, Sudan, Togo, Zambia, as well as Malaysia. In addition to formal trainings, RefugePoint Experts provided on the job training and mentorship to colleagues and other NGO partners.

Since 2005, RefugePoint has referred

38,196

refugees for resettlement to:

AUSTRALIA

BELGIUM

CANADA

DENMARK

FINLAND

FRANCE

IRELAND

NETHERLANDS

NORWAY

PORTUGAL

SWEDEN

UNITED KINGDOM

UNITED STATES



# 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.*

Integral to our holistic self-reliance model is our Livelihoods Unit, dedicated to identifying, training, granting, and monitoring small businesses run by refugee entrepreneurs. Our staff uses a Case Management approach to provide individualized and ongoing support to our clients and their businesses. Each month, the Livelihoods team hosts a weeklong Business Training for stabilized clients who are ready to begin empowerment activities aimed towards achieving self-reliance. Once their basic needs have been met, clients are assessed for their readiness to start or expand a small business. Some clients have prior experience selling goods as street vendors, while others are skilled in tailoring or hairdressing, and some have no business experience at all. Utilizing participatory methods, the training prepares clients for success in the informal economy in Nairobi.

Day 1 of the training is designed to encourage clients to get to know one another, set ground rules for participation, and start brainstorming ideas for becoming an entrepreneur. Participants discuss traits of successful business owners, and reflect on their own skills and potential for entrepreneurship. Trainees discuss market trends and consider how to maintain business viability in an unstable urban environment. Refugee clients are asked to document their monthly household expenses, and set goals on a six-month income-generating calendar. Day 2 begins with participants brainstorming an ideal business location, and learning about the business environment in Nairobi. Clients discuss marketing and networking approaches for selling their products or services and also discuss strategies for maximizing sales and minimizing risk. Through interactive role-playing and demonstration exercises, participants learn about important business skills and common business scenarios. Day 3 of RefugePoint's Business Training covers basic money management skills, cash flow and inventory management, record keeping, and the importance of savings. Clients are asked to begin thinking about what they would need and the resources that would be required to start or expand their current business.

With the support of our Livelihoods staff, refugee clients spend the final two days drafting a business plan to submit to the RefugePoint Livelihoods panel for review for funding consideration. Our clients are eligible for up to \$200 USD to either launch or expand their business. Based on the decision of the panel, clients may be awarded, full, partial, or delayed grants (if the client needs more planning support). So far this quarter, refugee clients have launched 50 businesses.



## RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization Path

### COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR OUTREACH

Q1 **2436**  
YTD **2436**

### EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



#### Health Services

Q1 **966**  
YTD **966**



#### Food Assistance

Q1 **647**  
YTD **647**



#### Education Support

Q1 **264**  
YTD **264**



#### Group Counseling

Q1 **136**  
YTD **136**



#### Businesses Launched

Q1 **50**  
YTD **50**

### GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q1 **29**  
YTD **29**

# 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 108 vulnerable refugee children in 10 locations, and reviewed child protection assessments for an additional 376 children.*

## Field Highlight

In Cairo, RefugePoint's Child Protection Expert conducted an interview with an Eritrean child who had attempted to flee Egypt and cross the Mediterranean in search of safety. On his fourth attempt, he was shot by authorities in the leg, and thrown overboard by smugglers. The child survived, and was detained after he washed ashore. He was admitted to three different hospitals, but continued to receive inadequate care for his wound, leading to the amputation of his leg. When he met with our Expert, he spoke of his difficulty sleeping, experiencing recurring nightmares, and waking up realizing he had lost his leg, again and again. Though he was given crutches, he did not receive psychosocial support or medical follow-up. Our Expert made an urgent referral for follow-up, and supported resettlement efforts. Just this month, she was told that the child would be fitted for a prosthetic leg, and resettled to Norway in the coming weeks. Not only was she thrilled to see that urgent steps were taken to intervene on his behalf, she was able to tell the child the news herself.

After a brief mission by our Child Protection Officer from Nairobi to Assosa, Ethiopia last fall, an ongoing need for child-centered casework was noted in the area along the volatile border between Sudan and South Sudan. To meet the need, RefugePoint deployed a full-time Child Protection Expert to Assosa in January to bolster resettlement activities, paying special attention to the needs of children. Many of the children have been separated from family, and are awaiting reunification with relatives. With ongoing violence and escalating instability caused by drought and famine, over 50,000 refugees have fled to western Ethiopia, heightening challenges for those who have been there for many years, alongside newly arrived refugees who were more recently displaced. Responsible for conducting Best Interest Determinations for separated and unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable children, our Expert is working closely with UNHCR and Save-the-Children in Assosa to resolve a backlog of cases awaiting resettlement.



*Photos: Nancy Farese on behalf of RefugePoint*





# Rescuing Lives

## A Long Journey to Safety

As we discussed at the *Measuring Refugee Self-Reliance* workshop in Nairobi in March, many refugees tell us that they want to be self-reliant and request support to get back to their independent lives in their new homes. Henri\* is one such client. Henri completed business training and received a small start-up grant of \$200 USD. Henri decided to start a business that none of our other clients had ever attempted to do before – he wanted to peel, cut, and package mixed vegetables to sell as a convenience item. Unlike items like fabric, second-hand shoes, or quick-selling things like tea, our Livelihoods team wondered if the demand for such a product, which spoils quickly, would succeed.

Every day, at three in the morning, Henri walks to the local market to buy vegetables, including carrots, beans, and eggplant. The journey to the market takes Henri three hours. He makes much of the trip in the dark in unsafe sections of the city, but he has arranged to walk each day with a

group to ensure greater protection.

With his wife, Henri prepares and packages the vegetables in small plastic bags sealed with wax from a candle. Once prepared, Henri walks around his neighborhood and sells the packaged vegetables to schools, households, offices, hotels, and restaurants. Henri has a diverse group of clients, including people from Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, and Kenya.

When he began his business, Henri used to sell five bags of vegetables per day. Each bag of vegetables sells for about 50 cents. Now, just a few months later, Henri sells 50 bags each day and he is not able to meet demand for his product. Henri is hopeful that he will soon be able to hire others so that he can keep pace with the demand. *\*Name changed for anonymity*