



**REFUGEPOINT**

# 2019 second quarter report

689 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**A LIFELINE FOR FORGOTTEN REFUGEES**

[info@RefugePoint.org](mailto:info@RefugePoint.org)  
[www.RefugePoint.org](http://www.RefugePoint.org)



*In May, 33 RefugePoint Experts and many members of RefugePoint’s Boston and Nairobi teams gathered in Naivasha, Kenya, for a week-long Expert retreat. Pictured above, Experts participate in a closing activity led by Sonasha Braxton, Senior Program Officer of Mental Health and Wellness, where each person tossed a ball of yarn to a fellow colleague, and gave a compliment to that person, and then shared what they learned at the retreat. By the end, a beautifully interconnected web was created.*

## Creating Lasting Solutions

In May, 33 RefugePoint Resettlement and Child Protection Experts and many members of RefugePoint’s Boston and Nairobi teams gathered in Naivasha, Kenya, for a week-long Expert retreat. With the largest team of Experts in RefugePoint’s history, working across 19 countries, this retreat was crucial to strengthening internal cohesion and connectivity and to honing skills and sharing best practices, while building an ongoing learning community.

Additional objectives of the retreat included: ensuring that all had an understanding of current policies and procedures; showing appreciation and recognizing individual and collective impact; and fostering a sense of rejuvenation and general well-being. Sessions included, among others: RefugePoint’s Mission, Vision and Values; Child-Friendly and Trauma-Informed Interviewing; Complementary Pathways; Security and Physical Health; Communications and Fundraising; Operational Reporting; and Professional Wellness.

Staff also had the opportunity to connect through engaging ice-breakers, a photo contest, a boat tour of Lake Naivasha, evening social events, and afternoon hippo viewing! Experts gave extremely positive feedback about the retreat:

“Best retreat yet! I felt a greater sense of RefugePoint family - really building and solidifying the internal cohesion and connectivity.”

“Staff from headquarters generally made clear efforts to show appreciation for all RefugePoint Experts. This was evident and appreciated in the group discussions and breakout sessions. I also enjoyed that staff personally met with Experts to show their interest and appreciation.”

“I felt appreciated and that the work I do counts.”

“I personally returned to my duty station feeling rejuvenated and ready to continue implementing RefugePoint’s mission, vision, and values.”

# 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 1,086 refugees for resettlement from 23 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 1,052 refugees this quarter.*

## NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

This quarter, several RefugePoint Experts focused on an especially vulnerable group: LGBTIQ refugees. In Senegal, there is a community of LGBTIQ individuals, mostly from The Gambia and the surrounding area, who are at high risk of violence, including arrest imprisonment, torture, and forced return to their country of origin. Due to the lack of appropriately trained and dedicated staff, these cases would otherwise not be processed. However, the team of RefugePoint Experts in Dakar worked together to resettle the individuals in this community to Canada. *(Continued)*



## 2nd Quarter RefugePoint Programs Locations

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

## NOTEWORTHY EVENTS (CONTINUED)

The team has provided much-needed support, and they are in touch almost daily due to protection concerns. The individuals in this group are routinely evicted from their homes and face physical security threats in the streets. In June, the first LGBTIQ resettlement candidate was resettled to British Columbia, and another group of LGBTIQ Gambians will soon follow. One of the community members aspires to establish an LGBTIQ advocacy organization aimed at helping other LGBTIQ refugees in Canada and around the world.

Our Expert in Lilongwe, Malawi, volunteered to become the Resettlement Unit Focal Point for LGBTIQ cases in Malawi. She was able to interview and submit two urgent resettlement cases to Canada. She also advocated for a private space to conduct interviews in the office to ensure protection and confidentiality.

Our Experts also managed other complicated cases this quarter. Our Expert in Kasulu, Tanzania, interviewed and referred a woman with legal, physical, and safety needs for possible resettlement submission to Canada on an urgent basis. At the age of five, the woman had witnessed the murder of both parents. She then spent a few years in an orphanage until she was adopted. As a minor, the woman was sexually assaulted and conceived a child as a result. She was then forced to flee to Tanzania with her son and was

separated from her adoptive mother and siblings. Vulnerable once again, the woman was raped and stabbed on various separate occasions. Her half-sister was also abducted and forced to marry a man who repeatedly raped her until she was rescued. Prior to the interview with our Expert, the woman had attempted suicide twice. Our Expert hopes the case will be accepted by Canada so that the woman, her son, and her half-sister can begin a new life.

An Expert in Dakar dealt with the complicated case of a young woman from the Central African Republic. Her father, who was her only caregiver, was killed in 2013 in the Notre Dame de Fatima Church attack in Bagui, Central African Republic. She was captured by the Seleka rebels and was forced to be a sex slave. After escaping, the woman went to live with nuns. She now engages in survival sex, trading sex for basic needs such as food or shelter. After having an ectopic pregnancy, the woman was told to abstain from intercourse in order to heal. However, because of her extreme need, she has continued to engage in survival sex and faces dire health risks as a result. Recognizing that she is facing immediate protection risks, our Expert followed up with her and her doctors and helped her to access funds to cover medical costs. Her case was submitted under urgent priority, and we are hopeful that she will be resettling to Canada shortly.

Since 2005, RefugePoint has referred

44,783

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.*

This quarter we supported the first group of beneficiaries (four clients) to apply and pay for County Council business licenses. Business licenses are a mandatory requirement for all businesses operating from permanent structures in Nairobi. Two of the clients run barbershops, and the other two manage small grocery shops.

In April, the International Labor Organization hosted a week-long course on market-based livelihoods interventions for refugees and host communities. The Livelihoods Program Manager and the Senior Programs Officer attended the course, and they will integrate lessons learned into RefugePoint's Livelihoods program.

RefugePoint also participated in the Economic Inclusion Exchange meeting hosted by UNHCR. The meeting aimed to share livelihoods programming information and opportunities within the region. UNHCR shared their new graduation approach project, which aims to reach 5,000 households in five years within Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Congo, and Ethiopia.

Also in April, the Child Protection and Counseling teams took advantage of school holidays to teach children in many different age groups about life skills. Session topics included self-awareness, self-esteem, and how to manage difficult situations with others.

In June, RefugePoint participated in a street cleaning event organized in the Kayole neighborhood to recognize World Refugee Day. The event was planned by Africa2Africa in partnership with Nairobi government officials and featured local religious and governmental leaders, and refugee-led Community-Based Organizations.

Many of the refugees whom we serve have been victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). RefugePoint, in partnership with RefuSHE, held separate one-day orientation and awareness-building sessions. Participants were trained on community-based approaches to SGBV prevention, identification, and response. The forums were held in Ruiru and Kasarani and reached 73 households and 137 households respectively.



## RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization Path

### COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR OUTREACH

Q2 **1,050**  
YTD **9,480**

### EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



#### Health Services

Q2 **673**  
YTD **1,143**



#### Food Assistance

Q2 **822**  
YTD **822**



#### Education Support

Q2 **65**  
YTD **446**



#### Group Counseling

Q2 **163**  
YTD **300**



#### Businesses Launched

Q2 **52**  
YTD **93**

### GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q2 **166**  
YTD **211**

# 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.*

In June, the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI) organized a session on 'Enhancing Refugee Self-Reliance' at the annual InterAction Forum held in Washington, D.C. Over 500 participants from the international development and humanitarian community attended this year's forum. The session, which focused on promoting interagency collaboration to assist refugees in becoming self-reliant, featured an expert panel and was followed by interactive breakout sessions. The panel was moderated by RSRI lead consultant, Kellie Leeson, and featured remarks from Emily Arnold Fernandez, Executive Director at Asylum Access; Kari Reed, Director of Policy and Advocacy at Mercy Corps; and Simar Singh, Senior Programs Officer at RefugePoint.

In July, the UNHCR held its annual NGO Consultations in Geneva, an event attended by several hundred NGOs working with refugees all across the globe. In collaboration with the Women's Refugee Commission and under the auspices of the RSRI, RefugePoint organized an interactive session on 'Facilitating and Measuring Self-Reliance and Economic Inclusion.' The session was designed to promote programs, a new measurement tool, and advocacy needed to support refugees towards self-reliance.

The four-hour session occupied the single largest block of time on the week's agenda, highlighting the importance of the topic and RefugePoint's central role in it. Kellie Leeson, RSRI lead consultant, moderated the session.

Speakers included Theresa Beltramo (UNHCR), Mary Wangui (RefugePoint), Solenne Delga (Danish Refugee Council), Galo Quizanga (HIAS), Alejandra Macias Delgadillo (Asylum Access) and Dale Buscher (Women's Refugee Commission). Amy Slaughter and Simar Singh, from RefugePoint, led interactive breakout sessions following the panel presentations.

The session also featured the official launch of the Poverty Alleviation Coalition (PAC), which is a coalition composed of the UNHCR, The World Bank Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI) and 11 NGOs, all working together to increase self-reliance, and the economic and social inclusion of refugees in host communities. Several members of the PAC are also members of the RSRI and learnings from the PAC will be incorporated into RSRI discussions. The PAC is also considering adopting the Self-Reliance Index as its primary self-reliance measurement tool.

# 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 236 vulnerable refugee children in 23 locations and reviewed child protection assessments for an additional 284 children.*

## Field Highlight

Our Expert in Niamey, Niger, worked with two children under the age of 10, who were evacuated from Libya with their paternal aunt. The children last saw their father in 2015 and their mother in 2017. Their father was deported back to the first country of asylum, where he has no legal status. The mother may have been kidnapped by a militia group and is presumed dead.

The children were living with their grandmother and two older siblings. One day, their paternal aunt picked them up and left the other two siblings with their grandmother. The three of them began a journey, intending to travel to Europe via the Mediterranean Sea.

The journey was long and challenging. In the hands of smugglers, they experienced many traumatic events. Upon attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea, they were arrested and detained. War eventually erupted where they were detained, and they were evacuated to their country of asylum. They spend their days idle without any opportunities to attend school or participate in activities to keep their minds busy.

Our Expert in Niamey, who is working with these children, faces some difficult decisions. Because child protection requires making decisions that will affect the lives of children forever, every possibility must be assessed. Sending the children to a third country with their aunt would not only mean giving up the opportunity to live with their father, but might also mean that they would never see him again. Deciding to send the children back to their father would put the children at risk of being deported back to their country of origin if the father's status is rejected, which is likely given the circumstances. Separating the aunt from the case might be considered because the aunt technically committed a crime by taking the children without the consent of the grandmother. This crime might hurt their case in resettlement, but at the same time, would mean separating them from the only semblance of stability they now have. Returning the children to their country of origin would mean risking their lives due to the significant dangers in the environment. The most important factor in making a final decision will be considering what is in the best interest of the children.



*In April, RefugePoint assembled a delegation of Board Directors and other partners to visit the UNHCR Headquarter Office in Geneva. The delegation included:(left to right): Ed Shapiro, Amy Slaughter, Keith Ennis, Sasha Chanoff, Barrie Landry, Sarah Gauger, Vilas Dhar, Julia Dhar, Laurie Franz, George Lehner, Dan Draper, Roger Swartz, Sofia Kouvelaki.*

## 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.*

In April, RefugePoint assembled a delegation of Board Directors and other partners to visit the UNHCR Headquarter Office in Geneva. Led by Marty Anderson, RefugePoint's Director of International Programs/Geneva Representative, the delegation spent two full days in meetings with senior UNHCR staff, including Grainne O'Hara, the Director of International Protection, and Vincent Cochetel, the Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean Situation.

Conversations focused on the global refugee crisis and how RefugePoint and the UNHCR can continue to support each other's work to improve and expand solutions for refugees. Specific meetings covered child protection, resettlement, complementary pathways, self-reliance, and the Central Mediterranean Situation.

RefugePoint's delegates offered their expertise by exploring how to leverage private philanthropy to spark innovation so that refugees not only survive but thrive.

Several of the discussions touched on our new, joint pilot program to identify unaccompanied and separated refugee minors in countries of asylum who may be eligible to join family members already in Europe, the United States, and other countries.

Currently, though refugees are technically eligible to access such immigration channels, there are very few programs designed to help them do so. The result is that thousands of children remain unnecessarily separated from their families. The pilot program will focus on refugees within the countries of the Central Mediterranean Situation with family links to six European countries and the United States. Our hope is that the pilot will become a model for a global system to help refugee children reunite with their families.



# Rescuing Lives

## A Long Journey to Safety

Joyce's\* peanut butter and roasted peanuts are go-to snacks in RefugePoint's Nairobi office. Joyce, a refugee from South Sudan, learned in July that she would be resettled to Canada.

In 2004, Joyce arrived in Kenya and stayed in Kakuma Refugee camp until 2005 when she received a scholarship from the Sudanese Women's Association to study English in Nairobi. In 2008, when she completed her basic English course, she enrolled in a dressmaking course. Joyce completed the course but didn't pursue tailoring because she did not have access to a sewing machine.

Joyce learned about roasting nuts and making peanut butter from a friend she was living next to in Nairobi. "We eat a lot of nuts back at home in South Sudan, so I already knew how to roast them, but my friend taught me a quicker, more simple method of preparing them. I learned from observing her and helping her as she made them. Soon we started a business together selling roasted peanuts. Because our peanuts were so good, there was a high demand for our products, and everyone else had to look for customers."

"In 2011, I went to Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), and they purchased a machine for me to grind peanuts to make peanut butter. After some time, business became difficult. In 2015 I went back to RefugePoint to seek help. When they first assessed me and came to my house for a home visit, they found the peanuts I had just prepared.

I had no clients, so my caseworker suggested that I bring my products to the RefugePoint office to try to make some sales.

RefugePoint invited me to attend the business training and soon after gave me a grant of \$200 (20,000 KSH)."

Joyce learned about the importance of saving money and was encouraged to expand her market by going to sell her product in nearby offices. "From the time I received my RefugePoint business grant, I have never suffered a major financial blow. I feel like RefugePoint held my hand and showed me the way to build and grow my business." Joyce's small business of selling nuts and peanut butter allows her to pay her rent and cover her food costs.

In December 2018, Joyce's case was submitted for resettlement, and she was resettled to Canada in July. "When I went for my interview, I was very nervous at first and wondered what I would say and how I could speak. Then I remembered all that I had learned from RefugePoint. I have gained so much confidence through my interaction with RefugePoint, both as my clients and as my caseworkers. That helped to calm my nerves, and I went in for my interview with confidence. I did my interview in English, the little English I had learned," she said with a smile.

"When I go to Canada, I will be strong and confident because that is how I have learned to be through RefugePoint. I am grateful, and I consider RefugePoint like my sister." *\*Name changed for protection*

# Staffing & Finances

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

RefugePoint ended the second quarter of 2019 with \$4,055,814 in revenue against expenses of \$3,278,911.

For the third consecutive year, RefugePoint is thrilled to partner with Focusing Philanthropy on a matching campaign. The campaign will help refugees stabilize, earn an income, and reside safely in the countries to which they have fled. Focusing Philanthropy committed to add \$1 for every \$1 raised by RefugePoint donors, for up to \$250,000 in matching support toward the overall campaign goal of \$500,000.

Lisa and David Issroff of the Issroff Family Foundation generously hosted the Focusing Philanthropy campaign kick-off event at their Manhattan home. RefugePoint's Founder and Executive Director, Sasha Chanoff, spoke alongside our newest Board Director, Sandra Uwiringiyimana, a renowned author and co-founder of the Jimbere Fund. RefugePoint is incredibly appreciative to the Issroff's for hosting and to the 60 members of our community who took time out of their busy days to attend the event and participate in a rousing discussion.

## STAFFING UPDATE

We are happy to announce that Inna Shrayer joined RefugePoint as our new Finance Manager in the Cambridge office late last quarter. Inna brings over 20 years of accounting experience, with over 15 years in nonprofit accounting. She joins us most recently from the Community Training and Assistance Center in Boston, where she worked for five years as the Accounting Manager.

We are also happy to announce the hiring of our 2019-2020 Newman's Own Fellow, Taylor Hazan. Taylor recently graduated from Kenyon College with a double major in English and Anthropology.

The responsiveness of our community was incredible: we succeeded in reaching our fundraising goal of \$250,000 before the end of the quarter. Thank you to all of our donors who contributed to the campaign, including Martha Davis, Jon and Mindy Gray, The Isabel Allende Foundation, Oliver Stanton, Melissa and Tom DiTosto, Hendrik Kranenburg, Gillian Sorenson, Addie Guttag, Charles and Rita Bronfman, Stephanie Dodson Cornell and James Cornell, Rick and Patti Wayne, Deborah Brill, Charlie Walsh, Noubar and Anna Afeyan, Ruben Vardanyan, and Wendy Ettinger.

The 2019 Spring Appeal saw unprecedented success, raising more than \$160,000 around World Refugee Day. Thank you to our supporters who participated, especially those who increased their gifts and gave earlier than usual to support our growth and sustainability.

During her time with us, Taylor will be supporting RefugePoint's monitoring, evaluation, and learning processes and systems.

In the Kenya office, we are pleased to announce that Mary Kariuki has transitioned into the role of Training Manager. Mary holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education, Commerce, and Economics and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Entrepreneurship. Mary has worked for RefugePoint since August 2014 as a Livelihoods Associate.