



REFUGEPOINT

2021 third quarter report

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A LIFELINE FOR FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

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Waiting for her resettlement interview at Goudoubo Refugee Camp. Photo by Nancy Farese.

Quarterly Highlight

In October, RefugePoint reached a major milestone—since 2005, we have helped 100,000 refugees access a pathway to safety! Helping 100,000 refugees represents more than 15 years of work, growth, learning, and innovation. In this time, we’ve trained more than 8,000 partner agency staff to assist refugees more effectively. Through advocacy, capacity building, global policymaking, and other activities, we’ve contributed to a global system that has resettled more than 1 million refugees since 2005.

In 2005, we assisted nearly 100 at-risk refugees in Nairobi to access the United States Refugee Resettlement Program. In the following years, we began working with other governments and established a partnership with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), which enabled us to utilize their global infrastructure to send staff to work in their offices and under their security umbrella across Africa and around the world.

After observing that orphaned and unaccompanied children are overlooked in the

resettlement process, we added a specialization in child protection to our staffing capacity. This expertise opened the door to build a new program to reunite unaccompanied children with surviving family members in destination countries. We also initiated the Economic Mobility Pathways Project to identify refugees in Kenya and connect them with job opportunities in Canada, a program that is now expanding. Today, we are continuing to innovate and pilot other new projects and pathways to safety as well.

All of these initiatives are built on the resettlement expertise that we began to develop in Nairobi in 2005. These programs have now collectively reached over 100,000 refugees with our services for resettlement and other pathways. We are grateful for the opportunity to play a key role in building new and more effective ways to help refugees relocate to safety. More than 1% of humanity is forcibly displaced. The programs we are building today will play a key role in helping more people in the coming years find a pathway to safety and dignity.

Self-Reliance: Helping refugees improve their lives

Direct Services

Providing lasting solutions for the most at-risk refugees remains at the core of our work. 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, medical care, and empowerment through counseling, skill-building, and livelihoods assistance.

During the third quarter, Kenya experienced a significant surge in COVID-19 cases. In response, we closed the physical Nairobi office and suspended fieldwork while continuing to support clients remotely. In late September, as COVID-19 cases dropped, we resumed fieldwork and returned to the office. Despite these disruptions, we began supporting 38 new clients, supported 137 vulnerable refugees to become stable, and helped 225 clients graduate from the Urban Refugee Protection Program (URPP). Throughout the quarter, we reached over 2,200 refugees and Kenyans with public health information.

In a continued effort to become more refugee-centered, we participated in a strategic planning exercise with the Refugee-Led Organization Network of Kenya (RELON-KENYA). Additionally, URPP program staff completed training in trauma-informed interviewing techniques while managers continued fraud mitigation discussions and activities.

Although uncertainty has persisted around the governments' decision to close the refugee camps in the country, the operating environment in Kenya improved slightly as the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) and UNHCR resumed the issuance of registration documentation. There was also a significant increase in new arrivals to Kenya this quarter, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), due to the ongoing civil instability in the country.

By the end of September, less than 4% of the adult population living in Kenya had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The low vaccination rate is due to both a lack of access to the vaccine in Kenya as well as significant vaccine hesitancy amongst refugee communities. We worked to share accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccines through our team of Community Navigators as well as through our bulk SMS messaging system.



RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization Path

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

Q3 **2,200**
YTD **5,170**

EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



Patients Receiving Medical Assistance

Q3 **390**
YTD **634**



Food Assistance

Q3 **336**
YTD **1,460**



Education Support

Q3 **240**
YTD **240**



Counseling

Q3 **98**
YTD **308**



Businesses Launched

Q3 **35**
YTD **106**

GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q3 **29**
YTD **269**

Field Building and Systems Change

In addition to the direct services that we provide to urban refugees in Nairobi to achieve self-reliance, we also work to make large-scale impact through field building and systems change. One way that we aim to achieve that is through the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI), which promotes opportunities for refugees around the world to become self-reliant and achieve a better quality of life. The RSRI, co-founded by RefugePoint and the Women's Refugee Commission, 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 the global expansion of self-reliance opportunities.

In July, RefugePoint supported the Refugee Led Organization Network of Kenya (RELON-KENYA), a network of refugee-led organizations (RLOs), to conduct a strategic planning meeting for its member organizations. The meeting brought together 20 RLOs based in Nairobi, Kakuma refugee camp, and Dadaab refugee camp. Mary Wangui, RefugePoint's Training Manager, facilitated a session on self-reliance programming at the meeting.

The Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI) compiled a progress update for the joint pledge made by the Initiative and 15 partners at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum. Highlights from the progress update include:

- The Self-Reliance Index has been used by 21 agencies in 14 countries to assess the self-reliance status of 5,000+ households.
- Six operational agencies have reached 143,967 refugees, other displaced populations, and host community members in 19 countries with self-reliance programming.
- Several groundbreaking research projects are underway that are contributing to a growing base of evidence on pathways to refugee self-reliance.

In September, Simar Singh, RefugePoint's lead for the RSRI, presented the progress update at a global stock-taking meeting organized by UNHCR.

The global roll-out of the Self-Reliance Index (SRI) continued in the third quarter of the year. From July through September, SRI trainings were delivered to agencies working in Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malaysia, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uganda. In September, Ned Meerdink, RefugePoint's Senior Program Officer in Fieldbuilding, along with academic advisors to the RSRI, traveled to Barranquilla, Colombia, to provide in-person SRI training to HIAS and to conduct additional validity testing on the SRI.

The RSRI also launched the SRI Working Group, a new forum for agencies implementing the SRI to discuss application of the SRI in their programs and to share learning generated through use of the tool. The first meeting of the Working Group was held in August and was attended by representatives from 15 agencies.

Additionally, RefugePoint explored a referral and training partnership with The Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration (ORAM) and continued discussions regarding a support partnership with the Department for the Support of Palestinian Refugees (DSPR).

Resettlement & Other Pathways:

Helping refugees relocate to safety

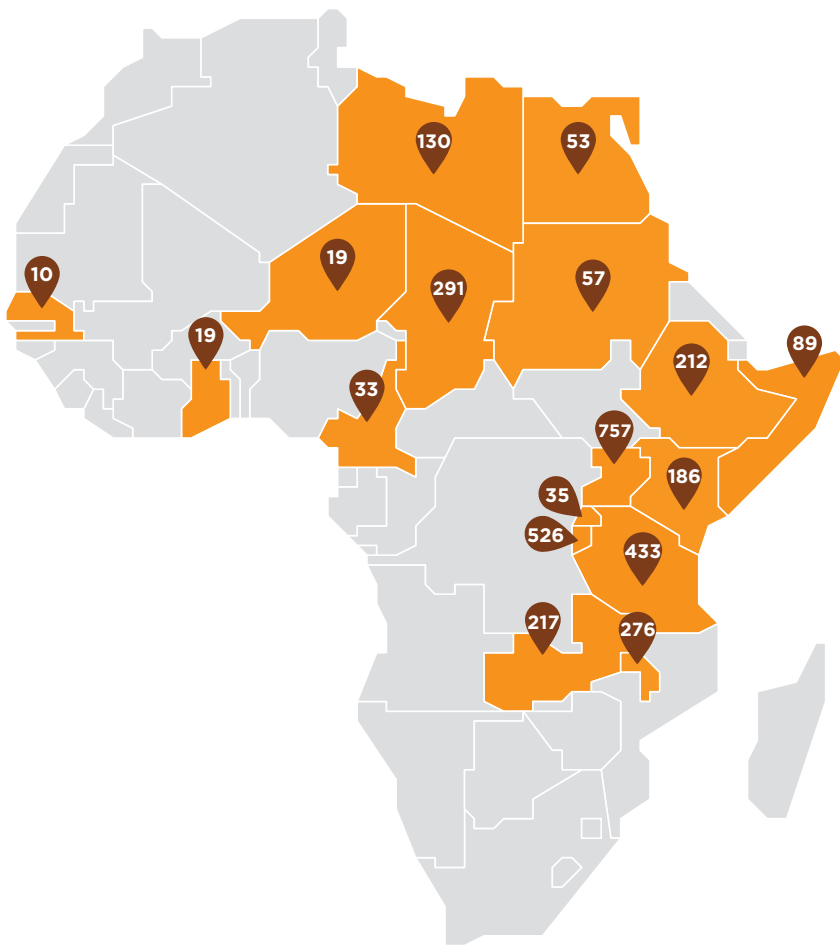
Direct Services

In addition to equipping refugees to become self-reliant, we also work to relocate refugees to safety through resettlement and other legal migration pathways, such as visa programs for employment, education, and family reunification.

This quarter, RefugePoint helped 3,611 refugees access pathways to relocate to safety from 66 locations in 22 countries worldwide. RefugePoint staff has assisted 2,286 refugees in accessing resettlement services this quarter, as well as an additional 334 refugees in pursuing alternative pathways, such as economic mobility and family reunification.

The Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has been extremely devastating for the Afghan people, creating a humanitarian crisis on a global scale. Following the evacuations from Kabul airport, there has been an outpouring of support from the American public for our allies and other at-risk Afghans. In an effort to support and expand access to resettlement and other pathways to safety, RefugePoint quickly sought out opportunities to assist government and non-governmental actors working with Afghan refugees who were forced to flee their homes. At the height of the evacuations, we began an urgent recruitment process and prepared our Experts for deployment to provide legal, counseling, and child protection support to evacuees in their pathways to the U.S. As needs continue to emerge, we will continue to respond in kind.

Our Economic Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP), Canada's model for economic mobility, continues to reach significant milestones as we scale up access to economic mobility for refugees. We intend to submit approximately 125 candidates between 2021 and 2022, following the announcement from the Canadian Immigration Minister that 500 places will be made available for labor mobility. *(Continued)*



Refugees Assisted in the 3rd Quarter

Countries where RefugePoint assisted refugees to access resettlement and other pathways to safety.

1. BURUNDI - 526
2. CAMEROON - 33
3. CHAD - 291
4. EGYPT - 53
5. ETHIOPIA - 212
6. GHANA - 19
7. IRAQ* - 94
8. KENYA - 186
9. LEBANON* - 119
10. LIBYA - 130
11. MALAWI - 276
12. NAURU* - 8
13. NIGER - 19
14. PAPUA NEW GUINEA* - 2
15. RWANDA - 35
16. SENEGAL - 10
17. SOMALIA - 89
18. SUDAN - 57
19. TANZANIA - 433
20. TURKEY* - 45
21. UGANDA - 757
22. ZAMBIA - 217

*NOT SHOWN ON MAP

So far, we have helped about 85 candidates apply for jobs in Canada. The candidates are currently at different stages of job matching with Canadian employers and provinces. The project also onboarded other partners and an additional province, New Brunswick, where two offers for Personal Support Workers were made. This is a significant step in scaling up this pathway to other locations and creating opportunities for more refugees.

Field Building and Systems Change

In addition to helping refugees relocate to safety through direct services, RefugePoint also hosts trainings, develops tools, and makes policy recommendations to improve global systems related to resettlement and other pathways. During the previous quarter, our staff have trained 430 individuals from UNHCR and partner organizations on topics ranging from child protection to complementary pathways.

Alongside training and other capacity-building activities for UNHCR and other partner organizations, a core focus of our Field Building activities has been piloting new pathways to help refugees relocate to safety. In recent years, we have led major new initiatives related to family reunification and economic mobility as well as contributed to other projects involving education and humanitarian visas. Building on this unique experience and learning, we've been helping to cultivate a small network of global leaders working on resettlement and other pathways. As a group, we have focused on designing new pathways in response to the emergencies in Afghanistan and Central America. After several months of collective work, we've developed new sponsorship initiatives that we hope will grow beyond these initial pilot projects into a truly global system for welcoming more refugees into our communities.

Sometimes, Systems Change work involves helping the global resettlement community stay true to its purpose as it inadvertently drifts away from core values. Earlier this year, we released our report: Preserving the Humanitarian Nature of Resettlement, in which we presented an analysis of recent resettlement data and used it to make the case that refugees everywhere who need resettlement should have access to it. Though this may seem straightforward, the past few years have shown an erosion of this principle. Destination countries have layered restrictive integration criteria on top of UNHCR's traditional needs-based resettlement categories while other pathways have grown in a way that sometimes compete with existing resettlement programs. In September, we hosted a webinar to officially launch our report and were joined by senior leaders from other organizations who share our concern. Our hope is that our ideas can be the basis for improved accountability in the future to ensure that resettlement is – as has always been intended – meeting the needs of refugees.

Helping refugees relocate to safety



Quarterly: Q3 2021

3,611

Refugees assisted in accessing resettlement and other pathways to safety this quarter.

Annually: 2021

9,033

Refugees assisted in accessing resettlement and other pathways to safety this year so far.

Lifetime: Since 2005

102,153

Refugees assisted in accessing resettlement and other pathways to safety since 2005.

Cross-Cutting Protection Priorities

Child Protection

RefugePoint prioritizes refugee children in all of our programs and we collaborate closely with partners to fill critical gaps in refugee child protection. This quarter, our staff conducted and reviewed child protection assessments for 473 refugee children.

RefugePoint's Child Protection Experts work in numerous locations across Africa and the Middle East, ensuring that children at risk have access to resettlement, and providing safer environments and access to resources. While operating amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional activities like child-friendly spaces and after-school programs have remained limited. Our Expert in Niger conducted a thorough mapping exercise in which he gathered data from each UNHCR field office throughout the country to develop a better situational understanding of the children they are supporting. He noticed a surge in unaccompanied children and hopes this exercise will inform UNHCR's priorities and programs in the future.

In Nairobi, our child protection staff offered fifteen children a three-day life skills session during the school holiday. The workshop educated the children on stress, time management, and personal goal setting. During routine conversations, most parents expressed their inability to pay school fees or purchase school materials due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) includes any support that people receive to protect or promote their mental health and psychosocial wellbeing (physical, economic, social, mental, emotional, cultural, and spiritual determinants of health). It is a key component of wellness for staff and crucial for the self-reliance of clients.

In August, URPP staff participated in small group discussions to help gauge learning reception and knowledge application, as related to previous training in the Trauma-Informed Care series on Becoming a Trauma-Informed Organization and Trauma Psychoeducation. In September, 77% of URPP staff participated in the third training, Trauma-Informed Interviewing and Communication, which focused on autobiographical memory and credibility, the effect of trauma-related conditions on interviews, unconscious bias, and managing trauma responses.

Also in September, Dr. Sonasha Braxton, RefugePoint's MHPSS Senior Technical Advisor, presented her work on Ubuntu-Centered Trauma-Informed Interviewing: Decolonizing Interview Praxis, at a conference on African Immigrant Health, encouraging systems change and reinforcing the link between MHPSS and anti-racism work.



Expert Story: Family Reunification

In 2019, RefugePoint began a pilot project in which it deployed a group of Experts to build a family reunification program at the UNHCR offices where they worked. Our Family Reunification deployments are unique from traditional refugee resettlement, as our Experts often work directly with a variety of parties outside of UNHCR, including lawyers, government offices, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) like the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), who provide pro-bono legal support to refugees and are an integral partner in the project.

Each refugee that our Family Reunification Experts support has unique needs. Unaccompanied children account for a large portion of the Experts' caseloads, yet they also work with numerous spouses and siblings seeking to reconnect with their families. Some of our clients need assistance looking for parents or other family members, while others simply need help acquiring a specific document or assessment so that they can submit applications to reunite with their loved ones abroad.

Experts refer many refugees to IRAP for additional legal support. The work is varied and complex, but our Experts play an integral role by helping refugees navigate the complicated legal and bureaucratic systems of each country.

RefugePoint Experts also engage in continuous outreach in refugee communities to provide information about the family reunification process, including eligibility, documentation requirements, and how long it may take. Recently, two of our Family Reunification Experts based in Ethiopia co-hosted an event alongside an organization that works to educate refugee populations on the dangers of attempting to reunite with their families abroad without the assistance of UNHCR. The risks include human trafficking, detention, torture, and other unimaginable atrocities. Conversations like these can build stronger connections between refugees and those working to support them, and the attendees will continue to educate their own families and community members about opportunities for family reunification.

Staffing & Finances

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

In Q3, RefugePoint had a primary focus on fundraising for our expanded services to support Afghan refugees. Thank you to all of the new and current donors who have supported this important work! We are also excited to announce an expanded matching campaign with Focusing Philanthropy to support our work to grow and improve pathways to safety for Afghan refugees and other vulnerable populations.

RefugePoint received grant awards from several foundations to support our programs in Q3. We are excited to renew our partnership with The ELMA Relief Foundation, which awarded us a multi-year grant in support of our three-year strategic plan.

Thank you to Alchemy Foundation for awarding us a multi-year grant to support refugee-led organizations! We were also excited to receive grants from the MCJ Amelior Foundation and the Morrison & Foerster Foundation.

Lastly, we are excited to share that we now accept donations of cryptocurrency! You can donate 25+ different types of crypto to support our work [here](#).

FINANCIAL UPDATE

RefugePoint ended the third quarter of 2021 with \$10,970,049 in revenue against expenses of \$5,239,716. This significant variance is largely the result of accruing a large multi-year grant commitment in 2021. Most of this grant is allocated for future year spending.

STAFFING

Dakotah Manson, our new Development Associate, joined our Headquarters Office in July.