



REFUGEPOINT

2022 second quarter report

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Caroline* started a small business through our livelihoods program and can now meet most of her basic needs.

*Name changed for protection. Photo: Chris Jensen

Quarterly Highlight

In 2021, RefugePoint launched a [three-year strategy](#) (2021-2023) to map out our organizational goals and our vision for the humanitarian field at large. In it, we highlight the importance of reimagining what refugee response looks like in partnership with refugees themselves, and driving large-scale systemic change to support long-term solutions.

At the halfway point of our three-year strategy, there are two overarching points that we've learned:

The first is that our strategic objective of expanding access to resettlement and other pathways to safety is more necessary than ever. As of May, 2022, there are more than [100 million people](#) who have been forced to flee their homes. Our strategy includes expanding the reach of resettlement and building new resettlement-related programs. In the past few years we've built labor mobility and family reunion programs, and helped to launch the Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans, which has now expanded to include Ukrainians.

The second is our strategic objective of recognizing self-reliance is a key to the future of humanitarian response. The Ukraine crisis, just like so many others before it, has highlighted the importance of enabling refugees to become self-reliant. The vast majority of refugees are stuck for one or two decades outside of their home country. Our strategic objectives include pioneering self-reliance programming and measurement through our Urban Refugee Protection Program in Nairobi. We've found that the impact and learning from this program can play a pivotal role in defining better strategies for the field more broadly.

As we look to the future, the time frame through 2027 will likely bring about some of the most significant changes in humanitarian response that have occurred in decades. Enabling refugees to be the lead participants in programs that impact their lives, unlocking opportunities for them to innovate and earn an income, and centering the value of dignity in humanitarian response are all possible on a global scale. [Read the full blog post](#) by RefugePoint's CEO, Sasha Chanoff.

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 second quarter of 2022, RefugePoint's Urban Refugee Protection Program (URPP) began supporting 114 new refugees and Kenyans. By the end of the quarter, the URPP was providing support to 1,001 clients receiving core services such as rent assistance and medical support. Seventy-nine clients reached a point of self-reliance during the quarter and graduated from the program.

Between May and June, we focused on preparing clients to ride out potential economic and psychosocial shocks during the August general election. We prioritized fieldwork and physical connection with clients as we shared information and guidelines on preparing themselves and their loved ones for these possible shocks. We also increased the frequency of some interventions, for example, providing medical assistance to 1,544 individuals (97% of our annual target during the quarter). In collaboration with our Accountability and Oversight Committee, we reviewed channels through which clients accessed our programs and decided to add two new channels. One new channel is an SMS-based platform that will enable community members to contact the organization directly. The second new channel is equipping refugee-led Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to identify and refer individuals to the URPP.

This quarter, clients faced further challenges because of the sky-rocketing cost of living, as rising fuel prices created ripple effects throughout the economy. The cost of staple foods and other essential items increased beyond the reach of many families. The increased pressure on household incomes forced many refugees to make difficult choices, including pulling some children out of school. Unfortunately, families often chose to prioritize their sons' education over that of their daughters. Many small business beneficiaries saw sales and profits dip due to the rising cost of commodities. With these challenging economic conditions, there was also a notable increase in sexual and gender-based violence among the refugee community.



RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization Path

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

Q2 **2,574**
YTD **6,362**

EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION

Clients Receiving
Medical Assistance



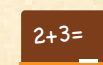
Q2 **1,544**
YTD **3,597**

Food Assistance



Q2 **685**
YTD **934**

Education
Support



Q2 **250**
YTD **250**

Counseling



Q2 **99**
YTD **229**

Businesses
Launched



Q2 **35**
YTD **92**

GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q2 **79**
YTD **151**

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 April, the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI) convened the first meeting of its [Steering Committee](#), which was created to provide oversight and guide the strategic direction of the Initiative. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from INGOs, NGOs, refugee-led organizations, think tanks, advocacy organizations, and the UNHCR.

Also in April, the RSRI participated in the [2022 Migration Summit](#). Simar Singh, RefugePoint's Senior Program Manager and RSRI Lead, spoke on a panel alongside representatives from the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) and the IKEA Foundation on [multi-sectoral approaches to programming](#). Ned Meerdink, RefugePoint's Senior Program Officer, spoke on a panel focused on [measuring the impact of programming](#), alongside representatives from Harvard University, MIT Abdul Latif Jameel World Education Lab (J-WEL), Paper Airplanes, and RAND Europe.

During the quarter, RefugePoint launched a [call for proposals](#) to fund, strengthen, and expand the work being undertaken by refugee-led community-based organizations in Nairobi, Kenya. Out of 38 applications, two organizations,

[L'Afrikana](#) and [Africa 2 Africa Mediation](#), were selected as inaugural grantees. The grants will support L'Afrikana to provide psycho-social training to young refugee women who are survivors of gender-based violence and Africa 2 Africa Mediation to expand a livelihoods program supporting refugees living with disabilities.

In May and June, RefugePoint organized two peer-to-peer learning sessions for 16 community-based and refugee-led organizations in Nairobi. During these sessions, participants shared learning and experiences on topics such as the Kenya Refugee Act of 2021 and the prevention of sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace. RefugePoint staff supported the planning, development, and facilitation of the sessions.

In June, Martin Anderson, RefugePoint's Geneva Representative and Mary Wangui, RefugePoint's Training Manager participated in [UNHCR's global NGO consultations](#) in Geneva, Switzerland. Mary shared lessons learned from RefugePoint's experience supporting refugee-led and community-based organizations in Nairobi in meetings focused on Localization, which was one of the main themes of the consultations.

Resettlement & Other Pathways:

Helping refugees relocate to safety

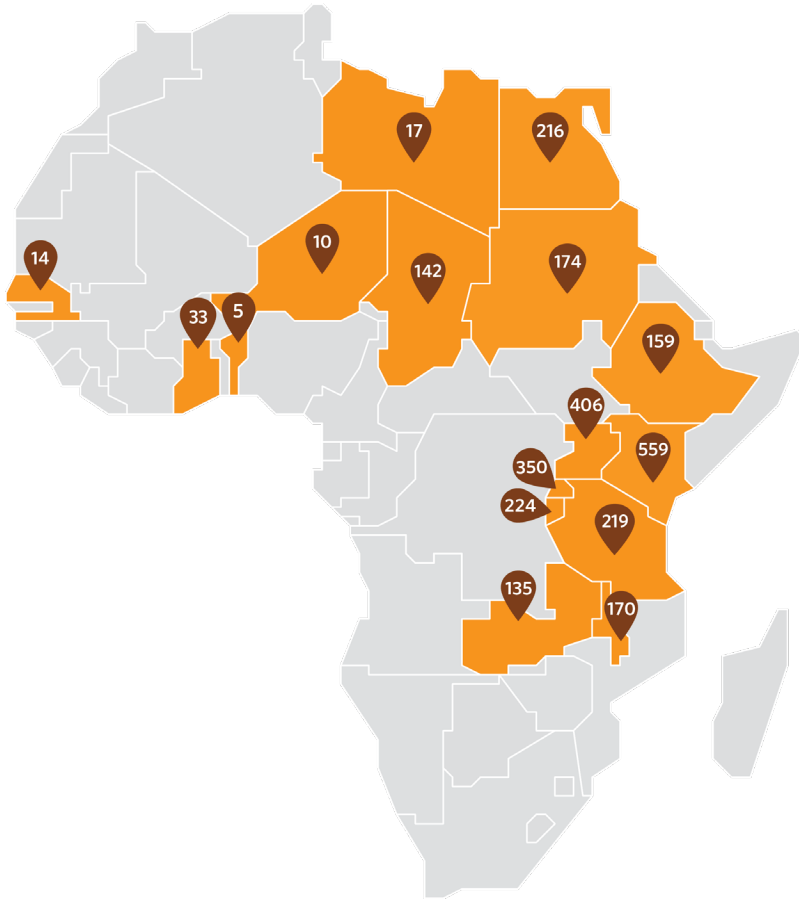
Direct Services

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 family reunification, employment, and education.

This quarter, RefugePoint helped 3,302 refugees access resettlement and other pathways to safety from 75 locations in 25 countries worldwide.

As part of the RefugePoint-UNHCR Collaboration Project, 43 Experts in 25 different countries worked with thousands of refugees to help identify pathways to safe, new countries. With the increase in resettlement slots in the U.S. and other countries, our Resettlement Experts are working hard to utilize every single resettlement spot available. Experts in Sudan, Ethiopia, and Zambia celebrated completing the first round of application submissions for 2022. One Resettlement Expert based in Ethiopia shared that being able to tell seven families that they'd been admitted for resettlement to France was "one of [her] favorite days at work."

RefugePoint's program in Nairobi, Kenya welcomed a new Resettlement Manager, the first position of its kind, to support the scaling up of resettlement submissions. To support these activities, we updated the Memorandum of Understanding with UNHCR allowing for further collaboration and paving the way for a deeper partnership. The Economic Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP) finalized CVs for 89 new job candidates—the final processing step prior to being matched with employers. The EMPP also continued working with other applicants through different immigration processing stages. *(Continued)*



Refugees Assisted in the 2nd Quarter

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

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. BENIN - 5 | 16. PAKISTAN* - 18 |
| 2. BURUNDI - 224 | 17. PAPUA NEW GUINEA - 14 |
| 3. CHAD - 142 | 18. RWANDA - 350 |
| 4. EGYPT - 216 | 19. SENEGAL - 14 |
| 5. ETHIOPIA - 159 | 20. SUDAN - 174 |
| 6. FIJI* - 3 | 21. TANZANIA - 219 |
| 7. GHANA - 33 | 22. TURKEY* - 86 |
| 8. GUATEMALA* - 49 | 23. UGANDA - 406 |
| 9. IRAQ* - 91 | 24. UNITED STATES** - 162 |
| 10. KENYA - 559 | 25. ZAMBIA - 135 |
| 11. LEBANON* - 34 | |
| 12. LIBYA - 17 | *NOT SHOWN ON MAP |
| 13. MALAWI - 17 | **COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP FOR AFGHANS |
| 14. NAURU* - 12 | |
| 15. NIGER - 10 | |

Based in Virginia, RefugePoint’s Sponsorship Team continued to facilitate the matching of Afghan newcomers with Sponsor Circles through the [Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans \(SCP\)](#). Welcoming Afghans who spent much of the last year on military bases in Kosovo, Albania, Qatar, The UAE, Denmark, The Netherlands, and Mexico, the program has resettled more than 150 individuals with Sponsor Circles in 20 states. Processing is expected to continue until the end of August 2022.

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 trained 1,111 individuals from UNHCR and partner organizations on topics ranging from child protection to resettlement and other pathways.

During Q2, RefugePoint Experts have supported partner staff through training, capacity building, and other processes that will ensure refugees can access long-term solutions as quickly and efficiently as possible. Experts in Sudan, Türkiye, Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda trained interpreters, UNHCR staff, and partner staff on a range of topics. Our Complementary Pathways Expert in Senegal devised an analytical process that will help identify candidates eligible for labor mobility pathways in West Africa, and hopes that it can be adjusted to identify refugees eligible for other pathways to safe, new countries.

During the same period, the Sponsorship Team continued to elevate the visibility of the Sponsor Circle Program among both partners and Afghan newcomers. In addition to conducting two information sessions with International Rescue Committee (IRC) staff, the team helped facilitate the inclusion of SCP messaging in IRC’s Cultural Orientation curriculum and the script IRC uses during intake processing.

In addition to all of our other long-standing work on resettlement and other pathways to safety, we began a new research project in Central America. This project aims to identify local NGOs that are well-positioned to identify refugees who may be eligible for pathways to the U.S. and Canada. So far we have had fruitful conversations with UNHCR, resettlement country governments, and many local partners, and we look forward to building on this solid foundation.

RefugePoint in Nairobi participated in a government-convened stakeholders meeting to give recommendations for regulations to the Refugees Act 2021. We made suggestions regarding access to territory, child protection, documentation, social and economic inclusion, and self-reliance, among others. Hopefully, RefugePoint’s and other stakeholders’ recommendations will significantly inform the drafting of regulations to improve the protection environment, increase social and economic integration of refugees and their attainment of self-reliance in Kenya.

Quarterly: Q1 2022

3,302

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

Annually: 2022

5,167

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



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 485 refugee children.

During Q2, our Child Protection Experts continued to advocate on behalf of at-risk children and provide the support needed to resettle unaccompanied and separated children abroad. Two Experts working in Tanzania supported clearing a backlog of child protection assessments needed for resettlement. The assessments were nearly impossible to complete during the height of the pandemic.

At the URPP in Nairobi, the child protection team assisted 80 children with psychosocial support, home assessments, and other services during Q2. We observed an increase in the number of children needing case management and reports of children facing different forms of abuse. Our team also facilitated Child Protection training for CBO leaders at the [RefuSHE](#) office.

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 April, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) program continued its participation in the World Health Organization's [Quality Rights e-training](#) which focused on rights-based mental health, recovery, and community inclusion. In May, RefugePoint's MHPSS Senior Technical Advisor, Dr. Sonasha Braxton, presented on refugee children and trauma at William James College's [Annual Children's Mental Health Matters Conference](#) with over 300 global attendees. The professional development series benefitted from sessions on "Quilombos of Lambada–Black Consciousness & Joy (Acts of Healing and Resistance)", "Food, Ritual, and Sensorial Experiences", and "Emotional Emancipation Circles."

An additional 21 URPP, UNCP, and HQ staff were certified as gatekeepers in Suicide QPR First Aid, an emergency mental health intervention, as part of the ongoing professional development series in June. MHPSS staff also participated in the launch of [WHO's World Mental health report](#), an essential guide for global mental health decision makers and joined the Adapting WHO Guidelines Working Group.



Gado Wakodire and her family arrived in Kenya in 2012 after fleeing ethnic conflict in Ethiopia. *Name changed. Photo: Tobin Jones*

Expert Story: Family Reunification

According to the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), family unity is a human right. Since the summer of 2019, RefugePoint has been working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to develop a robust family reunification system for refugees who are separated from their loved ones abroad. One central obstacle these refugees face is that many countries require them to provide official documents like birth certificates, marriage certificates, and passports for family reunification applications. Without these documents, the procedure can be delayed or applications denied, which leads to more permanent separation. In the rush to flee their homes and make the dangerous journey to safety, documentation is easily forgotten, lost, or destroyed in transit. Moreover, their status as refugees makes returning home or reapplying for documentation dangerous or impossible.

After more than two years working to reunite families—many of whom are unaccompanied and separated children—our Experts discerned that this lack of documentation was a key problem.

RefugePoint Experts gathered feedback from focus group discussions with refugees while working on individual cases with refugees in countries of asylum and in receiving countries. Many Experts have met with representatives from European embassies and consulates in order to advocate for more flexible documentation requirements.

Late in 2020, RefugePoint sent our first Family Reunification Expert to work in a European destination country, where many refugees have family members with whom they are trying to reunite. In addition to providing the same advocacy on the other side of the family reunification process, she also supported a series of trainings on family reunification for counselors supporting refugee cases. Throughout 2021, she conducted consultations with refugees trying to reunite with their family members about their experiences, in particular with regards to documentation requirements. She documented the findings from these conversations with refugees for use in advocacy with government authorities.

Staffing & Finances

Development Update

In Q2, the development team traveled to Nairobi to visit the URPP and meet with our staff—an important visit to inform our reporting to our institutional and individual donors. We also hosted our first virtual 5K to raise funding for RefugePoint, as part of our World Refugee Day fundraising campaign. Thank you to everyone who participated and to all of our supporters who donated! We hope to make this an annual event. We were also awarded a generous grant from the Isabel Allende Foundation to support our work globally. We are grateful for the foundation's continued support.

Financial Update

RefugePoint ended the second quarter of 2022 with \$2,934,940 in revenue against expenses of \$4,393,630. Note, the reduction in revenue compared to Q1 is the result of treating our UNHCR grant as a conditional grant, whereby revenue is not recognized until earned. This should have no bearing on the final year-end total grant revenue. Additionally, revenue is less than expenses through Q2 due to funding accrued in 2021 that was intended for 2022 expenditures. Large grants are expected to be received in Q3 and Q4. We are on track to finish the year strong.

Staffing

During Q2, we onboarded Diana Karua (Senior Officer, Communications), Julia Rose (Manager, Resettlement), Irene Kariuki (Deployment Program Coordinator), and Esther Muchiri (Senior Officer, HR/URPP) at the URPP in Nairobi. We hired Kari Diener (Executive Director, RSRI) and Lindsay Buller (Program Officer, Third Country Solutions - Central America) in our Boston office.

Press

[‘Our house is your house’: Meet the Florida rabbi hosting a family of Ukrainian refugees](#), by Jodi Rudoren, Forward

[The State Department makes it easier for anyone to help resettle refugees](#), Joel Rose, NPR

[Expanding refugee access to third-country solutions: International leaders launch the Global Task Force on Refugee Labour Mobility](#), Government of Canada

[More Afghan evacuees in Philly now finding homes, even as resettlement collides with the housing crisis](#), Jeff Gammage, Philadelphia Inquirer

[Sponsor Circle opens hearts and homes to Afghan refugees](#), Cathryn J. Prince, Christian Science Monitor

[ICCE TIG Week: The Self-Reliance Index: Supporting the Self-Reliance of Displaced Persons Through Data](#), Amy Gray, Ned Meerdink, and Simar Singh, American Evaluation Association

[I will never stop fighting for Afghan women](#), Humaira Rasuli, WBUR

[Tipping point: why we need new solutions for refugees](#), Maysa Jalbout, Philanthropy Age