



REFUGEPOINT

2022 third quarter report

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A group of women and girls wait to mill their maize at a refugee camp in Ethiopia. Photo: Nancy Farese

Quarterly Highlight

At the beginning of the year, RefugePoint had 37 Resettlement, Child Protection, and Family Reunification Experts working across 29 UNHCR offices in 21 countries worldwide. As the year has progressed, the laudable but lofty resettlement targets in the U.S. and elsewhere have required an even more robust workforce. In June, UNHCR asked RefugePoint and other resettlement partners to upscale their programs in an effort to fill every available resettlement spot.

During Q3, the RefugePoint deployment program has grown both in size and geographic reach. By the end of 2022, we will have almost doubled in size, with approximately 69 Experts contributing to the worldwide effort to find safe, long-term solutions for refugees. In addition to adding resources in countries where we are currently working, some Experts will be deployed to seven countries where RefugePoint has never worked before. Most notably, we are sending Experts to support the resettlement of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

In September, as part of this upscaling,

RefugePoint launched a [Pilot Traineeship Program](#) in collaboration with UNHCR to deploy experts in refugee resettlement around the world. As the number of refugees grows, so does the need for skilled caseworkers who can support them in accessing resettlement to safe third countries. This casework requires a special combination of technical training and experience working with refugees in countries of asylum, which can be difficult experience to gain. The Traineeship Program addresses this gap by providing the unique blend of technical skills and on-the-ground experience necessary to become a resettlement caseworker.

Our inaugural cohort of trainees underwent three weeks of intensive training at our offices in Nairobi before traveling to UNHCR offices across Africa to gain additional resettlement casework experience. We're thrilled that the program will prepare a new wave of qualified resettlement professionals for the field as a whole, enabling our community to support more refugees to access resettlement as a lifesaving and long-term solution.

Self-Reliance: Helping refugees improve their lives

Direct Services

Providing lasting solutions for 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.

By the end of Q3, RefugePoint's Urban Refugee Protection Program (URPP) had supported 1,322 refugees and Kenyans with core services, such as rent support, medical care, and livelihoods training.

During the quarter, the August general election impacted our operations in Nairobi, continuing into September when the Supreme Court in Kenya gave a verdict on a petition challenging the outcome of the presidential election. As a precaution, we suspended small business grants during the entire quarter. However, we implemented all other program services without interruption. Additionally, we supported the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) and UNHCR in holding election sensitization and education forums across Nairobi, targeting the refugee community.

We observed continued high demand for medical, food, and rent support from the community. There was a steady flow of new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo, with many opting to stay in Nairobi.

Also this quarter, a former beneficiary of our education program received a full scholarship to study political science at Sciences Po University in Paris, France. We helped him fulfill his immigration and visa requirements to make the trip possible.

Based on observations that healthcare was the biggest challenge to our beneficiaries' self-reliance, we expanded the Business Development Skills curriculum to include a session on healthcare and finances. Clients were encouraged to maintain a valid National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) coverage after graduating from the URPP, and use it to save for healthcare emergencies. We also strengthened anti-fraud messaging and practices when interacting with clients.

The Ministry of Health reported several medical outbreaks, including Swine Flu, antibiotic-resistant pneumonia, mumps, and measles in Nairobi. We increased our bulk SMS messaging to clients, keeping them aware of these situations and educating them on ways to stay safe.



RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization Path

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

Q3 1,275
YTD 7,637

EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION

Clients Receiving
Medical Assistance



Q3 343
YTD 3,739

Food Assistance



Q3 721
YTD 1,209

Education
Support



Q3 251
YTD 251

Counseling



Q3 72
YTD 301

Businesses
Launched



Q3 0
YTD 92

GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q3 139
YTD 281

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, the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative academic advisors traveled to Jerash Refugee Camp in Jordan to conduct validity testing of the Self-Reliance Index (SRI) with their partner, Sitti Social Enterprise. The exercise conducted in Jordan helped the RSRI team glean additional insights about how the SRI works in different contexts.

During the quarter, the RSRI team deepened engagement with the EU-UNOPS Lives in Dignity Grant facility—an initiative that promotes development-oriented approaches to displacement crises. The SRI is promoted by the facility as a key tool for measuring impacts of self-reliance programming. Additionally, the RSRI is providing training and support to Lives in Dignity grant recipients around use and adaptation of the tool in Myanmar, Niger, Peru/Ecuador, Sudan/South Sudan, and Uganda.

In July and September, RefugePoint organized two peer-to-peer learning sessions for 20

community-based and refugee-led organizations in Nairobi. During these sessions, participants shared feedback, learning and reflections on various topics including writing fundraising proposals. RefugePoint staff supported the planning, development, and facilitation of the sessions.

Also during the quarter, RefugePoint worked closely with L'Afrikana and Africa 2 Africa Mediation, two refugee-led community-based organizations in Nairobi, Kenya. The two agencies were selected as recipients of financial and technical support from RefugePoint to strengthen their programming to support refugees. In September, RefugePoint conducted a 'Livelihoods Training Of Trainers' for staff of L'Afrikana and Africa 2 Africa to prepare them to deliver livelihoods and business development skills training to their respective program clients, who include refugees living with disabilities, teenage girls, and young mothers.

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 4,007 refugees access resettlement and other pathways to safety from 111 locations in 35 countries worldwide.

Q3 was characterized by the upscaling of our RefugePoint-UNHCR Collaboration Project (UNCP). The increase in global staffing has resulted in more refugees being identified, referred and submitted for resettlement to safe, new countries. Experts working in Rwanda, Tanzania, Guatemala, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Niger all reported that the increased capacity will help them meet (and possibly surpass!) the quotas their operations have been given, ensuring that every resettlement spot is utilized. A number of our Experts are also working to facilitate the processing of resettlement cases to the U.S. that had stalled after 2016.

RefugePoint's Economic Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP) saw several promising new initiatives this quarter. We began working with two new employers which will allow for more refugee clients to access job opportunities in Canada with greater speed and efficiency. At the end of the quarter, we had over 50 candidates who have received job offers and are making their way through the different steps in the immigration processes. Two candidates departed for Canada within the quarter.

(Continued)

Refugees Assisted in the 3rd Quarter

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. BANGLADESH* - 24 | 19. NAURU* - 11 |
| 2. BURKINA FASO - 1 | 20. NIGER - 132 |
| 3. BURUNDI - 379 | 21. NIGERIA - 1 |
| 4. CAMEROON - 200 | 22. PAKISTAN* - 150 |
| 5. CHAD - 144 | 23. PAPUA NEW GUINEA* - 1 |
| 6. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC* - 1 | 24. RWANDA - 333 |
| 7. EGYPT - 354 | 25. SAUDI ARABIA* - 7 |
| 8. ETHIOPIA - 56 | 26. SENEGAL - 10 |
| 9. GAMBIA - 5 | 27. SOUTH AFRICA - 13 |
| 10. GUATEMALA* - 64 | 28. SUDAN - 427 |
| 11. INDONESIA* - 3 | 29. TANZANIA - 442 |
| 12. IRAN* - 90 | 30. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO* - 5 |
| 13. IRAQ* - 131 | 31. TURKEY* - 85 |
| 14. JORDAN* - 268 | 32. UGANDA - 170 |
| 15. KENYA - 91 | 33. UNITED STATES* - 87 |
| 16. LEBANON* - 49 | 34. ZAMBIA - 122 |
| 17. LIBYA - 47 | 35. ZIMBABWE - 49 |
| 18. MALAWI - 75 | |

Our Kenya resettlement program continued to develop a new database to strengthen case identification, referral, management and reporting systems within the program. The team also welcomed a new Resettlement Senior Officer, increasing the team’s capacity to identify and refer more clients for resettlement.

The United States’ Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans came to a close in September, concluding RefugePoint’s first engagement in refugee sponsorship programs. Throughout the quarter, we helped to match 49 individuals from Afghanistan with sponsor groups in communities across the U.S., bringing the total during the 12-month project to 601 people.

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. This quarter, our staff trained 311 individuals from UNHCR and partner organizations on topics ranging from child protection to resettlement and other pathways.

In addition to direct services for refugees, our Experts around the world are also making efforts to build and expand the resettlement system as a whole, as well as opportunities for other pathways to safety. An Expert in Ethiopia has been supporting the expansion of resettlement processing to a new field office within the country. They have been working to put systems and procedures into place that will make resettlement more accessible for refugees in need, and who never previously had the opportunity to seek resettlement. Additionally, our Experts in Chad, Sudan, and at UNHCR’s Headquarters are strengthening connections between different partners so that their colleagues can identify opportunities for refugees to access family reunification or other pathways to safety. Finally, our Experts are training and mentoring colleagues in various technical areas. One of our Resettlement Experts in Rwanda hosted a training session on LGBTQIA+ terminology and concepts and gave guidance about how to interview LGBTQIA+ refugees for resettlement and other third country solutions.

In August, the Economic Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP) team conducted labor-mobility field building initiatives by briefing and training NGOs in Central America who are exploring the possibilities of implementing labor mobility in their region. Through these sessions, key learning from RefugePoint’s experience with the EMPP in Kenya was shared to inform program design and help build partner’s capacity to implement similar programs in their regions.

Beyond the immediate impact of our contribution to the Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans, the program was a model for the more recent and much larger Ukrainian sponsorship program, and for the U.S.’s new, permanent sponsorship program that will launch in the coming months.

Quarterly: Q3 2022

4,007

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

Annually: 2022

9,956

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 589 refugee children.

Many of the youth our Experts work with have been separated from their families, leaving them particularly vulnerable to violence, abuse, and exploitation. RefugePoint Experts work to assess these children's protection concerns, and collaborate with partner organizations and government agencies to provide long-term solutions as well as urgent interventions like housing, counseling, education, and monetary support. Our Experts train UNHCR partner organizations to identify, assess and refer at-risk children for these needed services.

In Q3, our Child Protection Expert in Cairo, Egypt trained around 50 child protection partner staff in conducting child protection assessments. This training and capacity building will lead to more children receiving quality assessments and referrals to vital services.

Additionally, Kenya launched the Children Act 2022 in Q3, which emphasizes children's right to parental care, including alternative care services like kinship and foster care. The new act gives priority to family-based care as opposed to the institutionalization of children, which resonates with our approach in working with families. The options aim to maintain the family unit and keep refugee children in their communities.

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.

During July, foundations were laid for Community-Based Needs and Asset Mapping (CBNAM), an exercise in systems change moving Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) into a place of greater community involvement and ownership. In Nairobi, Dr. Sonasha Braxton hosted an all-day MHPSS discussion about the project with the Accountability and Oversight Committee (AOC), and relevant URPP programs. The result was authentic community collaboration in the planning process. This represented an intentional MHPSS and organizational strategy of actively engaging community members in identifying, defining, and addressing MHPSS issues and solutions in their own communities.

Dr. Braxton met with the National MHPSS working group, during which the CBNAM was officially presented and operational partnerships were created with HIAS, UNHCR, Department of Refugee Services, and a number of organizations focusing on refugee mental health. In September, an MHPSS drop-in was held for new UN Collaboration Project staff to learn about mental health insurance coverage and to participate in peer support sessions.



Children playing at a refugee camp in Burkina Faso. Photo: Nancy Farese

Expert Story: Capacity Building

Among the greatest capacity gaps in refugee protection are the staff and expertise to conduct Best Interest Procedures (BIPs) for at-risk children. These procedures are essential for moving forward with any services or solutions for a child who is orphaned or separated from family. Best Interest Determinations (BIDs) are intensive individual assessments regarding a child's care arrangements, needs, and future options.

In the absence of capacity to conduct these Determinations, children must wait until they are 18 to become eligible for any solutions. This story is from one of our Child Protection Experts in Turkey:

In August, I conducted the first in-person Best Interests Procedure (BIP) trainings since the COVID-19 pandemic. The trainings, which I offered in three field locations within Turkey, resulted in the training of 109 partners and nine UNHCR staff in child protection case management. Each training lasted four days.

These trainings were vital as many of the individuals who participated had never received BIP training, yet were already involved in Child Protection case management. To provide

participants with a strong foundation in BIP concepts, we focused on legal frameworks, BIP tools and their application, and child-friendly interviewing skills among others. Our survey results showed that participants' understanding of BIP concepts improved by 21% throughout the course of the training.

During the training, I ensured adequate time for experience sharing, case studies, and group work to help participants relate the concepts with real-life cases they've encountered in the field. One of the caseworkers who participated in the training from ASAM Bursa Province said that the training deepened her understanding of the four-factor analysis in evaluating the best option for a child in a Best Interest Determination (BID) report. Like many of her colleagues who participated in the trainings, her BID and Best Interest Assessment (BIA) report writing skills have significantly improved. The quality of reports that I reviewed after the training dramatically improved in structure and quality of the recommendations and case care plan for children at risk. This results in safer and more secure, long-term situations for refugee children, as well as the ability to help more refugee children reach safety.

Staffing & Finances

Development Update

During Q3, we received a generous grant from the Five Together Foundation to support our self-reliance work.

Financial Update

RefugePoint ended Q3 of 2022 with \$3,642,461 in revenue against expenses of \$6,760,235. Note, the negative variance between revenue and expenses is the result of accrual accounting regulations. It reflects several multi-year gifts that were fully accrued in prior years. We expect this to even out by year-end and are on track to finish strong this year.

Staffing

During Q3, we hired Alison Pappavaselio as our Social Media Strategist and Ibrahim Vicks as our Finance and Operations Officer in our Boston office. Maimuna Dubow Jelle joined as the Development Manager, Tabitha Njuguna as the Front Desk Program Assistant, Vallerie Akoth Ochieng as a Senior Resettlement Officer, and Yukabeth Awino Otieno as a Logistics Associate in our Nairobi office.

Press

[Charities Aiding Immigrants and Refugees Fare Better When They Raise Money From Private Sources](#), by Holly Hall, Inside Philanthropy

[New model to enlist regular Americans to resettle refugees](#), by Julie Watson and Amy Taxin, AP News. Published on ABC News, Fox 13 Memphis, and more.