



REFUGEPOINT

2016 third quarter report

689 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

A LIFELINE FOR FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

info@RefugePoint.org
www.RefugePoint.org



South African President Jacob Zuma addresses the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly. (Photo credit: GCIS & GovernmentZA via Flickr / Creative Commons) <http://bit.ly/2e46pWW>

Creating Lasting Solutions

On September 19th and 20th this year, two historic meetings were held in New York. The first was the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Summit on Refugees and Migrants. It was the first time ever that the UNGA convened heads of state on this topic, indicating the gravity and urgency of the global trends we are witnessing. Rapidly increasing numbers of forced migrants – 65 million – is coupled with rapidly declining opportunities for returning home to countries still at war. The gathering was billed on the UN's website as “a unique opportunity for creating a more responsible, predictable system for responding to large movements of refugees and migrants.” Time will tell whether that indeed is the result.

The immediate outcome of the Summit was the adoption by 193 member states of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which reaffirmed existing commitments to protecting the human rights of refugees and migrants and laid out a two-year plan for negotiating more specific “Global Compacts” to guide equitable responsibility-sharing among UN member states. Hammering out the responsibility-sharing mechanism for hosting and supporting refugees and migrants is where the real work will need to be done. Critics of the event were disappointed

that few new commitments were made and that the states failed to take up the Secretary General's challenge to accept 10% of all refugees each year for permanent resettlement or other forms of lawful admission.

The meeting on the 20th was the Leaders' Summit on Refugees hosted by President Obama. The goal was to garner increased global commitments for: humanitarian funding, refugee education and employment, and refugee resettlement. The White House has reported that among other commitments, participating countries committed to increasing the number of refugees resettled (or otherwise legally admitted) in 2017 to 360,000 – a huge increase over the 82,000 that were resettled worldwide in 2015.

RefugePoint participated in planning meetings in preparation for these two historic summits and now participates in follow up meetings to determine how best to operationalize these increased commitments. We will continue to support and inform the work of the UN and governments with our innovative approaches to resettlement and self-reliance, which both figure prominently in the new Global Compacts being developed.

Lasting Solutions: Resettlement

Identifying and resettling the most vulnerable refugees to countries worldwide

Providing lasting solutions for the most vulnerable refugees remains at the core of our work, and the resettlement of refugees provides immediate, visible leverage. During this quarter, our staff referred 1,479 refugees for resettlement from 20 locations in Africa. RefugePoint staff facilitated additional resettlement by leading identification exercises to locate vulnerable refugees, and by conducting quality reviews of resettlement submissions. Through these activities, we helped to facilitate the resettlement process for 940 refugees this quarter.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

To ensure equitable resettlement, the first step is to identify the most vulnerable refugees in a given population, those who are most in need of resettlement. Despite significant global efforts, this step is often a major gap in the resettlement process given the overwhelming number of refugees and the limited number of resettlement slots. By prioritizing women and girls at-risk, unaccompanied or separated children, victims of torture, and those with heightened medical concerns, RefugePoint works to ensure that the most at-risk refugees are referred for resettlement to a safe country as quickly as possible.

(Continued)



3rd Quarter RefugePoint Programs Locations

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. LUANDA, ANGOLA | 9. MELKADIDA, ETHIOPIA | 17. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA (NOT SHOWN) |
| 2. DOUALA, CAMEROON | 10. SHIRE, ETHIOPIA | 18. KIBUYE, RWANDA |
| 3. MEIGANGA, CAMEROON | 11. ALI SABIEH, DJIBOUTI | 19. DAKAR, SENEGAL |
| 4. EASTERN CHAD | 12. NZEREKORE, GUINEA | 20. PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA |
| 5. SOUTHERN CHAD | 13. KAKUMA, KENYA | 21. KINSHASA, DRC |
| 6. CAIRO, EGYPT | 14. NAIROBI, KENYA | 22. LOME, TOGO |
| 7. ASSOSA, ETHIOPIA | 15. LILONGWE, MALAWI | 23. KYAKA, UGANDA |
| 8. JIJIGA, ETHIOPIA | 16. NIAMEY, NIGER | 24. SOLWEZI, ZAMBIA |



A photo captured by a RefugePoint Resettlement Expert depicts a child in a refugee camp in Zambia.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS (CONTINUED)

In Zambia, there are more than 26,400 refugees, the vast majority of whom fled ongoing violence in the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo, and only a few hundred of whom can be referred for resettlement each year. Since last year, RefugePoint has maintained a staff presence in Zambia to interview individuals and families at-risk, assess their needs, and prioritize them for resettlement, a process often referred to as “profiling”. This quarter, our Resettlement Expert visited 55 households and identified 45 families (162 individuals) in need of resettlement to a safe, third country. These cases are now being prioritized and will be submitted to

countries such as the U.S., Canada, and Australia for resettlement consideration.

The staff position in Zambia is unique among our 38 Experts working throughout Africa this year. Unlike most Resettlement Experts who focus on the final step of preparing a case for consideration by government representatives, our Resettlement Expert in Zambia focuses on the initial step in the process, identifying those refugees most in need of resettlement and ensuring they are referred onward to a resettlement country government.

Since 2005, RefugePoint has referred

36,045

refugees for resettlement to the following countries:

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| AUSTRALIA | NETHERLANDS |
| BELGIUM | NORWAY |
| CANADA | PORTUGAL |
| DENMARK | SWEDEN |
| FINLAND | UNITED KINGDOM |
| FRANCE | UNITED STATES |
| IRELAND | |

Lasting Solutions: Self-Reliance

In addition to referring refugees for resettlement, RefugePoint focuses on helping urban refugees in Nairobi to become self-reliant. We achieve this through stabilizing services such as the provision of food, shelter and medical care, and empowerment through group counseling, skills building, and livelihoods assistance.

Integral to RefugePoint's Urban Refugee Protection model is our Livelihoods program which includes a comprehensive training, monitoring and mentorship curriculum dedicated to supporting refugee entrepreneurs throughout Nairobi.

Once clients have been stabilized with lifesaving interventions they are assessed on their ability to engage successfully in income generating activities. Once selected, they are invited to participate in a four-day business skills workshop to learn about established business practices including inventory and financial management, marketing, review of business models, assessment of market demand, and record keeping. During the workshop, clients develop business plans outlining their intentions to launch new businesses, expand existing businesses, or collaborate with others in the informal economy. Clients with approved business plans are granted up to \$200 to support development of the business.

For the first three months, clients in the Livelihoods program receive monthly food distributions as a supplement to offset challenges that may accompany new business initiatives. RefugePoint staff and Community Volunteer Workers visit clients regularly to monitor progress and provide technical assistance to new business owners. Staff also facilitate the formation of support groups for clients who are new to the business sector.

This quarter, RefugePoint clients started 48 businesses upon successful completion of the business skills training, increasing the total to 209 small business launched this year. Despite an increasingly difficult environment for refugees in Nairobi, our clients have demonstrated that self-employment is a significant step towards self-reliance, where even minor income generating activities make a difference in a family's level of security, community integration, and hope for a better future.



RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization Path

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER WORKER OUTREACH

Q3 **5,676**
YTD **10,451**

EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



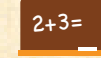
Health Services

Q3 **1,381**
YTD **2,522**



Food Assistance

Q3 **701**
YTD **932**



Education Support

Q3 **118**
YTD **351**



Group Counseling

Q3 **176**
YTD **456**



Businesses Launched

Q3 **48**
YTD **209**

GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q3 **45**
YTD **716**

Advancing Refugee Child Protection

At RefugePoint, we prioritize refugee children in all of our programs, and collaborate closely with partners to fill critical gaps in refugee child protection. During this quarter, our staff conducted child protection assessments for 287 vulnerable refugee children in 18 locations, and reviewed child protection assessments for an additional 401 children.

Field Highlight

Finding Lasting Solutions for Refugee Children from DRC in Zambia

In addition to our Resettlement Expert, this quarter RefugePoint deployed two Child Protection Experts to Solwezi, Zambia to bolster ongoing efforts to find solutions for refugees from the DRC, in particular vulnerable refugee children. One of the two staff is a veteran RefugePoint Child Protection Expert. The other is a Child Protection Expert placed with RefugePoint as a result of a cost-sharing initiative with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Together, staff in Zambia are working to increase capacity in areas where a lack of child protection casework has led to a bottleneck in the resettlement process, stalling resettlement for many at-risk refugee children. Of the more than 26,400 refugees living in Zambia, just over half are children, and more than 500 are unaccompanied or separated from their families. Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) and Best Interest Determinations (BIDs) are necessary for them to access sustainable solutions such as resettlement. Our Experts use child-friendly interviewing techniques and other methods to complete the child protection assessment process for these children.

In addition, this quarter, our Child Protection Experts organized a training on “Strengthening Child Protection: BIDs, BIAs, and Standard Operating Procedures” with participation from more than 20 key stakeholders, including UNHCR staff and implementing partners. The training addressed gaps in current child protection procedures, aligning partners to collaborate effectively on the identification of children at-risk, interagency referrals, and the best interests process. Next quarter, RefugePoint Experts will host a follow up conversation with the Government of Zambia to solidify national policies and procedures and thereby ensure that best practices are extended throughout the country.





Rescuing Lives

A Long Journey to Safety

“Let me tell you about when I started selling milk. When I started out I would sell only one crate of milk, which would only give me 18 shillings (about 18 cents). I did this everyday and it was discouraging because I had so many children to take care of, but I strengthened myself and put in a lot of effort. I started multiplying my profit, and now I sell milk with a profit of up to 15,000 shillings (\$148 USD). It’s unbelievable to me but I encourage people to stick to their business and persevere, that way they will see the fruits of their jobs.”

These are the words of Joseph*, who along with his wife Beatrice*, and nine children, escaped from Congo in 2012 and made their way to Nairobi, Kenya. Four of the children that Joseph and Mary began caring for were orphans of war. Arriving in Nairobi as refugees, they encountered enormous challenges. In fact,

Beatrice contemplated taking the children back to Congo despite the ongoing war because she felt hopeless in Kenya.

After becoming involved with RefugePoint services, including business trainings for both Joseph and Beatrice, the family’s wellbeing improved dramatically. Joseph says, “RefugePoint really helped in regards to business. I was trained on how to start up a business and grow it, how to save, and how to do book keeping. Now I have really grown in business such that my children all go to school. My children are really doing well in school now and even their health is good. Happily, Joseph and his family were recently resettled to the US, where the family will undoubtedly use many of the business skills they learned in Nairobi to succeed in their new home! *Names changed for anonymity