



REFUGEPOINT

2017 second quarter report

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A LIFELINE FOR FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

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Creating Lasting Solutions

With ongoing legal battles all the way to the Supreme Court regarding which portions of the President's Executive Order will be upheld, the past few months have been tumultuous for the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program.

On June 26th a Supreme Court decision upheld portions of the Executive Order and suspended travel for refugees who "lack any bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States." This was a significant setback for refugees.

Alongside Refugee Council USA, a coalition dedicated to protecting and welcoming refugees and to promoting excellence in the U.S. Refugee Assistance Program (USRAP), we took a stand in opposition to the Supreme Court ruling and the impact that it would have on refugees, and disseminated educational materials through our website, social media, and email lists.

Thankfully, a subsequent court ruling determined that grandparents, grandchildren,

brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins of persons in the United States will now be included in the definition of "bona fide relationships" in order to enter the U.S. In addition, relationships established between refugees and U.S.-based resettlement agencies will also be sufficient for entry into the U.S. The USRAP, however, has surpassed the Administration's 50,000-person cap, and the program has been suspended until October 27.

The suspension of the USRAP has immediate impact on our work as highlighted in this report. For example, RefugePoint's Resettlement Expert in Egypt has indicated that large families are particularly impacted because the U.S. is the only country that regularly accepts families of six or more. She has interviewed many Sudanese and Somali refugee families with six or more members and these cases have been on hold since last year because of the uncertainty surrounding the U.S. program and the lack of any other resettlement options.

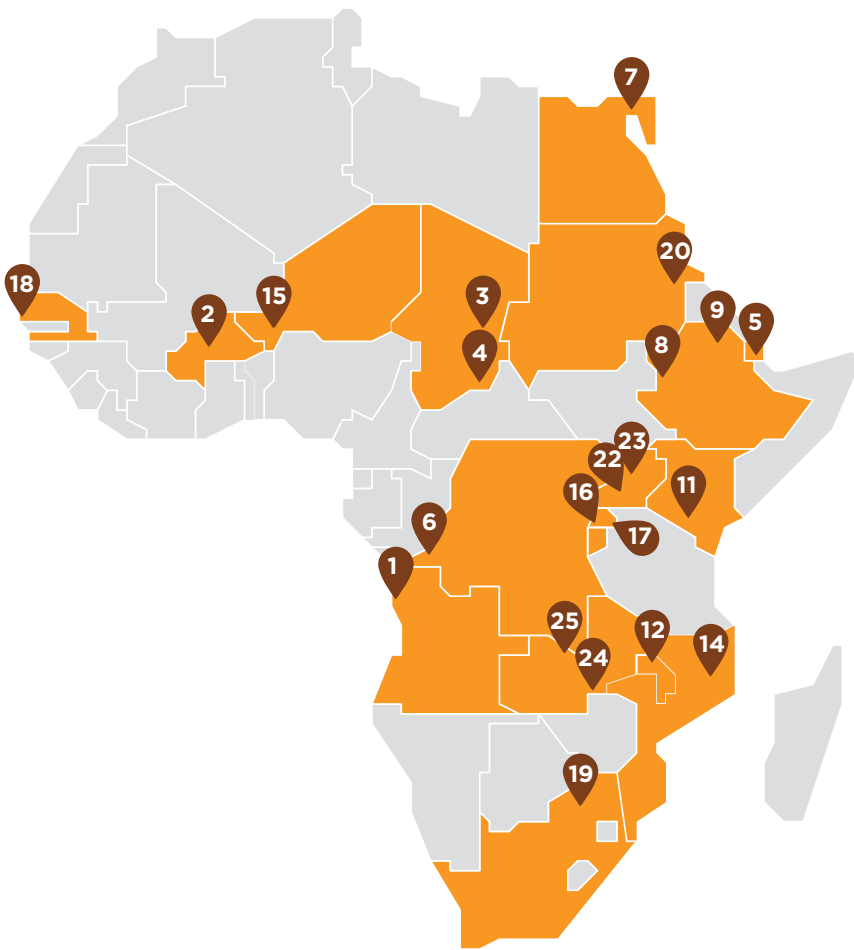
Lasting Solutions: Resettlement

Identifying and resettling the most vulnerable 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 216 refugees for resettlement from 12 locations in Africa. Our staff also contributed to additional resettlement efforts by leading identification exercises to find vulnerable refugees, and completing quality review procedures for resettlement cases. Through these activities, we helped to facilitate the resettlement process for another 492 refugees this quarter.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

This year, RefugePoint Experts in East and North Africa have worked closely with UNHCR to identify refugees who have been forced to flee their homes due to the growing crisis in South Sudan. More than three million people have been displaced by the conflict, and one-half have crossed an international border and are in need of protection. As the world's fastest growing displaced population, South Sudan's neighbors are struggling to accommodate the millions of refugees in need of food, water, shelter, sanitation, and most importantly, safety. In Ethiopia, refugee camps along the border are overflowing with the influx of newly arrived families, the majority of whom are women and children. *(Continued)*



2nd Quarter RefugePoint Programs Locations

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. LUANDA, ANGOLA | 9. SHIRE, ETHIOPIA | 17. KIBUYE, RWANDA | 25. SOLWEZI, ZAMBIA |
| 2. OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO | 10. DUHOK, IRAQ* | 18. DAKAR, SENEGAL | *NOT SHOWN |
| 3. EASTERN CHAD | 11. NAIROBI, KENYA | 19. PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA | |
| 4. SOUTHERN CHAD | 12. LILONGWE, MALAWI | 20. KASSALA, SUDAN | |
| 5. ALI SABIEH, DJIBOUTI | 13. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA* | 21. GENEVA, SWITZERLAND* | |
| 6. KINSHASA, DRC | 14. NAMPULA, MOZAMBIQUE | 22. KYAKA, UGANDA | |
| 7. CAIRO, EGYPT | 15. NIAMEY, NIGER | 23. NAKIVALE, UGANDA | |
| 8. ASSOSA, ETHIOPIA | 16. HUYE, RWANDA | 24. LUSAKA, ZAMBIA | |

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS (CONTINUED)

In response to the crisis, UNHCR in Assosa, Ethiopia opened a camp for Nuer refugees who had outnumbered the population of local communities. RefugePoint’s Resettlement Expert helped to spearhead the relocation efforts, serving as the Deputy Convoy Team Leader. With UNHCR colleagues, RefugePoint staff led planning exercises to establish the safe and dignified relocation of individuals from overcrowded camps to the new location near the border. He coordinated logistics, advised on the construction of camp facilities, and recommended security designs to deter sexual and gender-based violence in the camp. So far, more than 2,500 refugees have been registered at the new camp, which is expected to host a total of around 30,000 refugees, primarily from South Sudan.

Since 2014, RefugePoint has maintained “Roving Experts” throughout Chad to support UNHCR Resettlement efforts in multiple locations across the country. This quarter, our Expert in Eastern Chad worked in three offices along the border with Sudan to review Resettlement Registration Forms (RRFs) before referring cases to the regional hub in Dakar, Senegal. Approximately 80% of the more than 390,000 refugees in Chad fled from neighboring Sudan, where there is little prospect of returning home or fully integrating into the local host community. For Darfuris who escaped violence and persecution in western Sudan in 2004 and again in 2013, resettlement to a safe, third country remains the only lasting solution.

Refugee women and girls are of particular concern due to high divorce rates, domestic violence, child marriage, child labor, female genital mutilation, and other forms of sexual and gender based violence. Scarce resources and limited access to food, water, and livelihoods creates heightened danger. UNHCR identified 65,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad in need of resettlement, though because of capacity shortages, less than 4,000 are expected to be resettled in 2017.

With the implementation of the latest travel ban, Sudanese refugees can no longer be resettled to the U.S. As resettlement slots are reduced, refugees like those from Darfur remain in limbo in camps across the continent.



Photo: Nancy Farese on behalf of RefugePoint

Since 2005, RefugePoint has referred

38,514

refugees for resettlement to:

AUSTRALIA

BELGIUM

CANADA

DENMARK

FINLAND

FRANCE

IRELAND

NETHERLANDS

NORWAY

PORTUGAL

SWEDEN

UNITED KINGDOM

UNITED STATES

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.

Integral to RefugePoint’s holistic service model is our Social Work team. Often, a Social Worker is one of the very first staff members that a new client interacts with. By offering food, rent, and education support, our Social Work team empowers clients to transition from risky circumstances like unsafe housing, survival sex, and eating just one meal a day, to stabilization, and ultimately, self-reliance. Using a case management approach, clients are assigned a case manager who works with them to develop a plan to support their progression to graduation from RefugePoint services. Working closely with our Medical team, Counselors, and Livelihoods Program, Social Workers coordinate services and monitor client progress.

Within the Social Work Team, the Child Protection Officer pays special attention to the heightened vulnerabilities of children, especially those living alone, with a non-relative caregiver, or in a child-headed household. Through child-friendly interviewing techniques and child-centered case planning, our Social Workers determine the best possible arrangement for children to be cared for, protected, and resettled if necessary. In addition, RefugePoint’s Education Officer ensures that children are enrolled in free primary school and have uniforms and backpacks. In 2017, RefugePoint started supporting secondary school opportunities by awarding scholarships and developing partnerships to expand education for refugees.

In June, RefugePoint’s Nairobi office hosted the Nairobi Child Protection Forum (NCPF). Founded in 2009, NCPF was created to strengthen government and community-based responses to child abuse and neglect among children in Kenya. The Forum works closely with the Department of Children Services, the Department of Education, the Kenyan Police, Children’s Courts, hospitals, NGOs, and faith-based organizations to provide a platform child protection issues. RefugePoint co-chaired the meeting with the African Network for Prevention and Protection of Children from Abuse and Neglect. More than forty participants from fifteen agencies were in attendance. Topics of discussion included partner response and intervention, child trafficking, information sharing systems and dissemination of best practices, identification and referral systems, and an online platform for questions related to child protection. NCPF members were invited to participate in a 40-hour course on Child Protection offered through Daystar University in Nairobi.

RefugePoint’s Urban Stabilization Path

COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR OUTREACH

Q2 **4198**
YTD **6634**

EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



Health Services

Q2 **1193**
YTD **1830**



Food Assistance

Q2 **573**
YTD **830**



Education Support

Q2 **29**
YTD **293**



Group Counseling

Q2 **86**
YTD **222**



Businesses Launched

Q2 **62**
YTD **112**

GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q2 **176**
YTD **205**

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 81 vulnerable refugee children in 15 locations, and reviewed child protection assessments for an additional 400 children.

Field Highlight

This quarter, RefugePoint expanded our presence in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA), deploying a Child Protection Expert to the Kurdistan region of Duhok, Iraq. Since 2014, ethnic cleansing by the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq (ISIS) has forced more than half a million people to flee to Dohuk, risking captivity in the process. The Yazidi community has been a primary target for ISIS attacks and men are frequently kidnapped and women and children are captured and sold into slavery. Human trafficking, exploitation, and sexual and gender-based violence are endemic. In collaboration with UNHCR, the government of Canada has agreed to resettle 1,200 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Iraq by the end of July 2017, paying special attention to separated children from Kurdistan.

Focused primarily on the needs of children who have fled without a parent or guardian, or have been separated along the journey, RefugePoint's Expert in Dohuk is working to identify Iraqi children for resettlement to Canada this year. Before her arrival, casework was on hold because it required further review by someone with experience in Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) and Best Interest Determinations (BIDs). Upon arrival, RefugePoint's Child Protection Expert began interviewing children to understand the risks and dangers they were facing. In addition to preparing necessary documentation, our Expert developed a tool for assessing risk for children who were separated from their family and held captive before being reunited with family members. Given the heightened risk of trauma and abuse, maintaining a child-centered perspective is critical. In partnership with the Community Based Protection Officer, our Child Protection Expert will deliver a BID training in the next quarter for UNHCR and partner organizations to ensure that staff are familiar with best practices and procedures for child-centered casework.



Photos: Nancy Farese on behalf of RefugePoint



Photo: Nancy Farese on behalf of RefugePoint

Rescuing Lives

A Long Journey to Safety

Our Resettlement Expert in Pretoria, South Africa recently interviewed a young Somali man who is a teacher by profession. He fled to Somalia after the school where he taught was targeted and attacked by the Al-Shabaab militia because they refused to adopt a curriculum approved by the group.

In South Africa he was a victim of a number of xenophobic attacks. In 2013, he decided to return to Somalia, hopeful that the country would be stable as a result of the newly elected President.

On the day that he arrived in Somalia, he was abducted by Al-Shabaab and held hostage for several weeks. With intervention from elders of his hometown, his release was secured.

He returned to South Africa and while attempting to make a living, he fell victim to numerous robberies and frequently experienced hostility from the local population.

During the last robbery, he narrowly escaped being shot. Although he was being considered for resettlement to the U.S., the case is now on hold due to the suspension of the U.S. Refugee Assistance Program. **Name changed for anonymity*