



Second Quarter Report 2026

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Kavira and her family outside their home in Nairobi. Photo: Chris Jensen, RefugePoint

NGO Referrals: Reaching Refugees the System Overlooks

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention. The Convention established a universal legal definition of a refugee and provided a moral framework for resettlement that offers not just relocation but also permanence, safety, legal status, and the chance to rebuild a life.

Unfortunately, each year, fewer than 1 percent of the world's refugees access this life-changing pathway. Historically, most refugees considered for resettlement are identified through the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Refugees can't apply for resettlement themselves. For decades, RefugePoint has asked a practical question: who is being missed, and who else could help reach them?

In June, we released a major report, with HIAS and the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), that helps answer that question. *NGO Resettlement Referrals: Learnings from the Equitable Resettlement Access Consortium (ERAC)* shows that nonprofits, refugee-led organizations, and community-based organizations can work alongside UNHCR to identify and refer refugees who might otherwise be overlooked.

This finding builds on decades of RefugePoint's experience. Since our founding, RefugePoint has directly or indirectly contributed to almost 17 percent of all resettlement referrals worldwide.

Founded in October 2022 with funding from the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, ERAC spent two years proving what a wider network of organizations could do. Between January 2023 and the program's abrupt suspension in January 2025, ERAC referred 1,282 people to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program from 13 host countries across the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, North Africa, Southwest Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa.

Along the way, ERAC established 13 new NGO partnerships, many with organizations that had never done resettlement work before. ERAC also expanded access to resettlement in places where it was not previously accessible. The people these partners reached were often those with the most urgent need for resettlement. An "Urgent" classification means a person faces a serious, time-sensitive threat to their safety, one that requires fast review because delay could cause lasting harm. In one location, 88 percent of those submitted for resettlement were classified as Urgent, and every single one was approved.

The full report distills this experience into concrete guidance. NGO referrals work best when built on a shared framework of quality, integrity, strong local partnerships, and close coordination with UNHCR. Alongside that finding come 15 recommendations for sustaining and scaling the approach.

As resettlement quotas contract and funding across the refugee protection sector is cut, this model matters more than ever: it demonstrates that a network of trained NGOs can expand access when the traditional system pulls back.

A photograph of a smiling couple, a woman and a man, sitting together. The woman is on the left, wearing a blue and white patterned top with gold embroidery and a colorful beaded necklace. The man is on the right, wearing a plaid shirt and a similar beaded necklace. They are in front of a yellow pillow with a floral design. The background is a warm, indoor setting with a wooden chair and a yellow wall.

Self-Reliance

For refugees who remain indefinitely in the country to which they've fled, we help them move from vulnerability towards self-reliance.

[Read more →](#)

Direct Services

Providing lasting solutions for refugees is at the core of our work. RefugePoint focuses on equipping urban refugees and Kenyans experiencing extreme vulnerabilities in Nairobi, Kenya, to become self-reliant through our Urban Refugee Protection Program (URPP). We partner with individuals and families to first address basic needs such as food, shelter, physical and mental health, and education. Once clients are stable, we support their path to self-reliance through counseling, skill-building, and livelihood assistance.

The URPP expanded access to protection and self-reliance services this quarter by strengthening case management, launching a livelihoods mentorship pilot, and improving refugees’ access to essential government services. From January to June, the URPP served 1,330 clients, marking an expansion in the program’s reach. This growth is the result of a new case management approach piloted by the team that aims to increase their capacity to support existing clients and newly identified households.

Building on this pilot, the Livelihoods team launched a mentorship initiative for 24 refugee entrepreneurs, combining business coaching with phased grant disbursements to strengthen business management skills and promote sustainable livelihoods.

The URPP also strengthened community-based protection through a community mapping exercise, which identified the local resources, services, and support networks available to refugees in a given area. The team shared its findings with local government administrators, who confirmed the results and pointed to additional resources, giving the URPP a fuller picture it can use to connect refugees to the services they need and close gaps in local protection.

To mark this year’s World Refugee Day, the URPP partnered with the Department of Refugee Services and the Social Health Authority (SHA) to improve refugees’ access to government services. RefugePoint staff organized a table at a weeklong outreach event, working alongside refugees to enroll in the SHA and collect refugees’ identification documents. These efforts help to increase access to health care and other essential public services.

Despite regional Ebola outbreaks, flooding, and demonstrations that disrupted normal operations, the URPP maintained essential services while prioritizing staff and client safety. When one refugee entrepreneur lost his photography equipment in the March floods, RefugePoint provided an additional business grant and a laptop, enabling him to restart his business and continue building toward self-reliance.

RefugePoint’s Urban Stabilization Path

Clients Graduating to Self-Reliance

Q2

81

YTD

190

Community Health Outreach

Q2

3,478

YTD

8,361

Empowerment and Stabilization



Food Assistance

Q2 380
YTD 637



Rent Support

Q2 282
YTD 467



Medical Assistance

Q2 274
YTD 574



Counseling

Q2 78
YTD 177



Education Support

Q2 28
YTD 66



Business Grants

Q2 55
YTD 100



From left: Peggy Wanjiku (RefugePoint RLO Engagement Finance Consultant), Joseph Nyaga (RefugePoint RLO Engagement Senior Manager), Mapembe Lokenya and Hubert Senga (co-founders of Generation Aid, based in Kakuma), Ann Kagika and Eunice Ayany (RefugePoint RLO Engagement Officers) after Generation Aid signed the 2026 RLO Grant Agreement at the RefugePoint Nairobi office on May 25, 2026. Photo: Carolyn Njunge.

Field Building & Systems Change

In addition to the direct services RefugePoint provides to urban refugees in Nairobi, Kenya to achieve self-reliance, we work to make large-scale impact through field building and systems change. At the global level, we do that through RefugePoint's policy work to advance host country solutions and through the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI). The RSRI, a strategic initiative of RefugePoint, co-founded with the Women's Refugee Commission, aims to reach millions of refugees each year with high-quality, holistic self-reliance programming. Through its network of more than 700 organizations, the RSRI also works to advance the knowledge, tools, standards, and legal frameworks that support self-reliance and embed effective self-reliance approaches in humanitarian and development responses to displacement.

This quarter, the RSRI strengthened refugee leadership through the second round of grants from the Refugee-Led Organization (RLO) Insights Fund. Much like the 2025 inaugural cohort in East Africa, the 2026 Fund supports research designed and led by refugee- and migrant-led organizations, recognizing refugees not just as research participants but as experts, knowledge producers, and agents of change. Building on the momentum of the RLO Learning Exchange held in Bogotá in October 2025, this year's four projects explore how mutual aid, community participation, social networks, refugee leadership, and municipal-level governance can strengthen self-reliance and improve outcomes for displaced communities in Colombia.

The RSRI continued to advance evidence-based approaches to self-reliance by hosting its ongoing 12 Months, 12 Domains learning and webinar series throughout the quarter. The RSRI also welcomed the publication of a new World Vision International report about how they used the Self-Reliance Index (SRI) to examine the relationship between household self-reliance, food insecurity, and child well-being across eight countries. Developed in partnership with the World Food Programme, In the Shadow of Hunger: The Power of Self-Reliance to Protect Children and Restore Hope demonstrates how using holistic measurement tools like the SRI can generate actionable evidence to inform more effective policies and programs for refugees.

For the first time, RefugePoint's RLO Engagement program partnered with Kakuma-based RLO Generation Aid to equip 300 young women with digital skills and connect them to online income opportunities. This initiative expands RefugePoint's partnerships with RLOs beyond urban areas and increases access to sustainable livelihood opportunities for refugees in Kakuma through a refugee-led partnership. The program also launched a peer-to-peer learning initiative for the 2026 cohort, comprising 14 RLOs, to strengthen their organizational systems, promote knowledge exchange, and create networking opportunities that foster collaboration and collective learning. In addition, the program started a capacity-strengthening project with seven women-led RLOs, providing tailored training and direct mentorship in program design and operational management. This initiative helps to equip the RLOs with tools to independently deliver and sustain high-quality, impactful interventions within their communities.



Resettlement & Other Pathways to Safety

We help refugees who cannot remain safely where they are to permanently and legally relocate to a safe, new country through various visa channels and government programs.

[Read more →](#)

Direct Services

In addition to equipping refugees to become self-reliant, we 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 3,553 refugees access pathways to safety, including resettlement, family reunification, employment, and sponsorship from 55 locations in 39 host countries worldwide.

This quarter, RefugePoint Resettlement Experts deployed to UNHCR operations around the world continued to identify and process urgent cases of refugees facing extreme vulnerabilities. Their efforts ensure that limited resettlement capacity reaches those who need it most. In Chad, a significant share of submissions involved female-headed households and families with urgent medical needs. Experts submitted cases to a range of resettlement countries, including Australia, Canada, Finland, New Zealand, and Sweden. In Bangladesh, Experts exceeded their allocated resettlement quotas despite an increasingly difficult operating environment.

In Asia, a RefugePoint Expert supported an emergency resettlement case for a young Afghan woman at imminent risk of deportation. The Expert submitted the woman’s case on an urgent basis, enabling her to travel safely to Canada before deportation could occur. In Chad, RefugePoint’s Family Reunification Expert facilitated several successful departures, including six family reunification cases to Ireland, three to France, and two to Italy.

RefugePoint’s Family Reunification (FR) team, which helps refugees in Kenya legally reunite with family members abroad, referred 23 cases to specialized legal partners for legal advice and application support. The team reached 97 community leaders through outreach sessions in Kenya, strengthening awareness of and access to reunification pathways. In Nairobi, the team hosted a donor visit showcasing collaborative work with local refugee-led organizations.

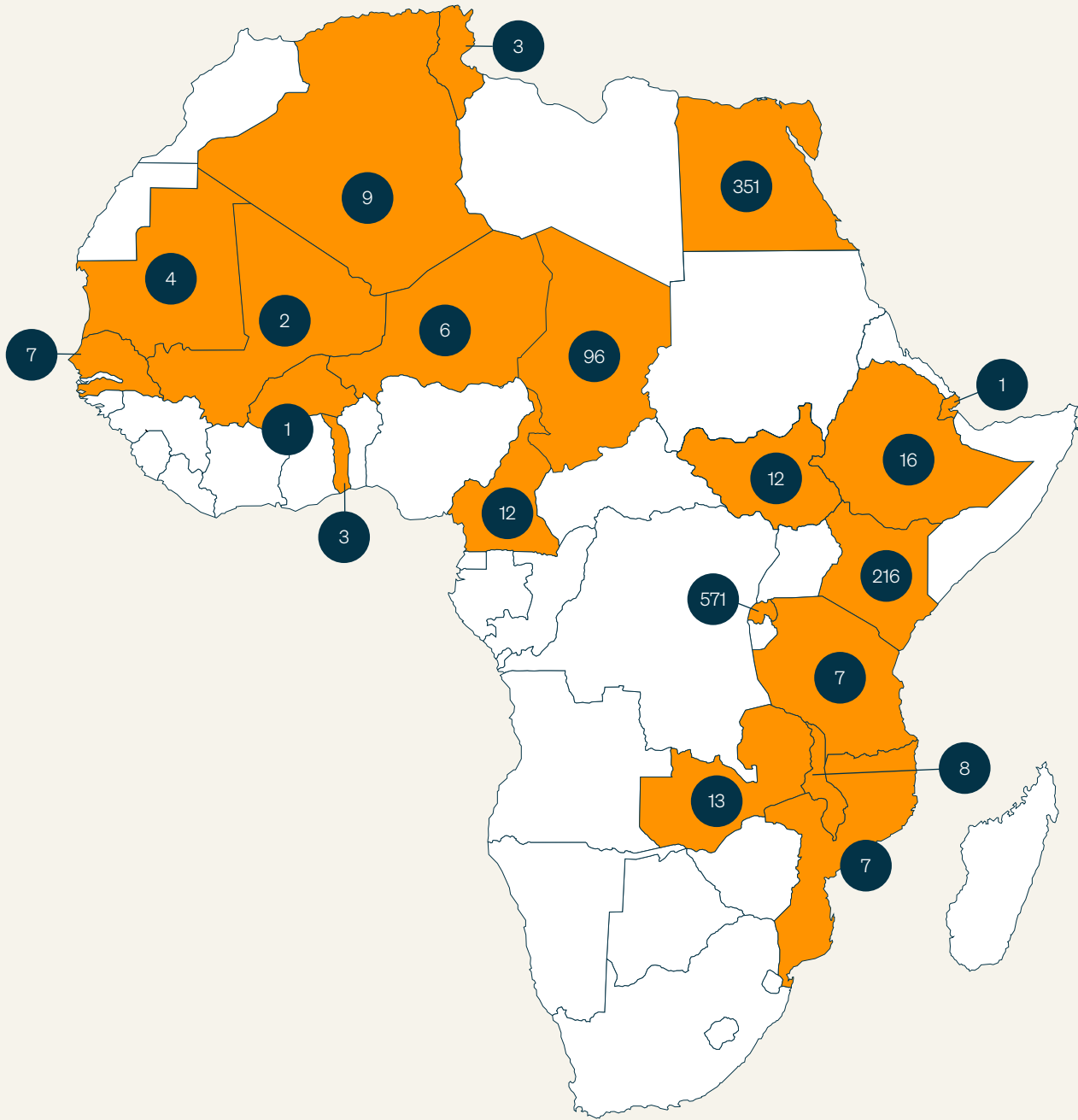
This quarter, RefugePoint staff in Kenya submitted 85 individuals for resettlement to Canada, 58 of whom were people whose pathway to safety was obstructed by the suspension of the U.S. resettlement program. The team also provided counseling and referrals to others affected by the ongoing suspension.

Refugees assisted in accessing resettlement and other pathways to safety in Q2

3,553



*To protect refugees’ confidentiality, RefugePoint does not collect personal data for those accessing third-country solutions. As a result, totals might include some double-counting and are not unique client counts.



Refugees Assisted in Q2

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

* Country not shown on map

1. Algeria	9	16. Honduras*	20	31. Senegal	7
2. Bangladesh*	1,153	17. India*	14	32. South Korea*	1
3. Burkina Faso	1	18. Indonesia*	7	33. South Sudan	12
4. Cameroon	12	19. Iran*	1	34. Tanzania	7
5. Chad	96	20. Kenya	216	35. Thailand*	249
6. Colombia*	53	21. Malawi	8	36. Togo	3
7. Costa Rica*	11	22. Malaysia*	7	37. Tunisia	3
8. Cuba*	12	23. Mali	2	38. Uruguay*	4
9. Djibouti	1	24. Mauritania	4	39. Zambia	13
10. Dominican Rep.*	24	25. Mexico*	4		
11. Ecuador*	36	26. Mozambique	7	Total:	3,553
12. Egypt	351	27. Niger	6		
13. El Salvador*	6	28. Pakistan*	501		
14. Ethiopia	16	29. Peru*	83		
15. Guatemala*	22	30. Rwanda	571		

Some countries of asylum are not disclosed for protection purposes.

Field Building & Systems Change

In addition to helping refugees relocate to safety through direct services, RefugePoint hosts trainings, develops and shares tools to enhance capacity across our partners, and makes policy recommendations to improve global systems related to resettlement and other pathways. During the second quarter of 2026, our staff trained 434 individuals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), partner organizations, and local refugee communities on topics ranging from child protection to resettlement and other pathways.

Through its role as Secretariat of the Global Family Reunification Network (FRUN), RefugePoint and its partners hosted six community of practice events on legal pathways and family reunification data, and contributed to a sector-wide report on best practices for reuniting unaccompanied children with their families, intended to promote high-quality, effective approaches across the field.

RefugePoint also invested in strengthening the capacity of partner organizations to deliver services directly. In India, technical support to a partner agency helped them increase the number of people participating in family reunification information sessions from 141 to 271 this quarter. In Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Mauritania, RefugePoint provided technical assistance and training that expanded local organizations’ capacity to manage family reunification and labor mobility cases, extending RefugePoint’s reach without requiring direct involvement in every case. Chad’s national family reunification network also grew stronger this quarter, with RefugePoint Experts supporting efforts to convene different institutions and authorities that play a role in family reunification. Together, they worked to address visa processing challenges and identify solutions for vulnerable cases.

On labor mobility, RefugePoint continued building government and institutional partnerships in new destination and departure countries, laying the groundwork for expanded employment pathways. RefugePoint also contributed to sector-wide dialogue, joining a panel at the 9th Annual Migration and Mobility Working Group Meeting on Pathways and Inclusive Economic Opportunities for Vulnerable Populations in Nairobi to share its approach to protection-centered labor mobility programming.



In June, representatives from the Landry Family Foundation joined RefugePoint, the Refugee-Led Organization Network (RELON) Kenya, and Youth Voices Community for a working session on advancing family reunification and deepening collaboration across the three organizations. Photo: Carolyne Njung'e.

Partners and individuals trained by RefugePoint staff

Q2 Impact

434



Cross-Cutting Protection Priorities

Child Protection

RefugePoint prioritizes refugee children in all our programs and collaborates closely with partners to fill critical gaps in refugee child protection. During the second quarter of 2026, our staff conducted and reviewed child protection assessments for 118 refugee children.

Child Protection Experts deployed around the world strengthened protection systems through technical support, case management, and capacity building, while improving Best Interests Procedures (BIP) for children at risk. In Rwanda, RefugePoint Experts reviewed Best Interests Assessments (BIAs) and Best Interests Determinations (BIDs) to raise the quality of interventions and ensure that children with specific protection needs were appropriately considered for resettlement. In Pakistan, RefugePoint Experts provided coaching for caseworkers that strengthened child-centered approaches for children affected by gender-based violence (GBV) and established standardized practices for information-sharing. In Thailand, an Expert convened government authorities, UNHCR, NGOs, and partners to strengthen referral systems and improve coordinated responses for at-risk children and their families. Together, these efforts helped to identify, assess, and protect at-risk children while supporting long-term solutions.

In Nairobi, the Child Protection team participated in a community forum to raise awareness of available support pathways for GBV cases, including connecting with local police and paralegals. By the end of June, the local police GBV unit had followed up on three cases, supporting caregivers as they pursued justice for their children.

Q2 Impact

Children supported through child protection casework

118



Community Based-MHPSS Senior Associate, Anne-Marie Manishimwe, participating in a panel discussion during the 2nd global mental health conference on child and adolescent mental health in Cape Town, South Africa.

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 well-being. MHPSS encompasses 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.

This quarter, RefugePoint advanced community-centered and trauma-informed care through initiatives grounded in the belief that healing emerges when people reclaim their own narratives. In Nairobi, a photovoice project with 16 participants used participatory action research to invite refugee community members to document their lived experiences through photography and share their stories in facilitated dialogue. Participants decided which pictures to take, what to share, and what meaning to draw from their experiences. This approach honored the power of narrative and choice while giving RefugePoint insight into community resilience and the ways people heal.

At South Africa's Bold Ideas for Bright Futures Global Child and Adolescent Mental Health Conference, Community-Based MHPSS Senior Associate, Anne-Marie Manishimwe, represented RefugePoint as a panelist, emphasizing community co-creation and lived experience as forms of expertise. Together, these initiatives centered community voice while honoring culturally grounded healing.

New Futures for Refugee Youth in Zambia

For many refugees in Zambia, the desire to build a better future through education is met with overwhelming barriers. High tuition costs, education-related expenses, and study permit fees place vocational and post-secondary education out of reach for many. Unlike Zambian citizens, refugees generally cannot access government student loans or grants, as scholarship opportunities remain extremely limited.

Even for those who complete their studies, the path to employment remains uncertain. Under Zambian law, refugees are classified as foreign nationals and must obtain employment or self-employment permits. Because most occupations they pursue are not designated as critical skills roles, graduates often struggle to secure formal employment or establish businesses, which limits their opportunity to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

To help address these challenges, through their deployment to UNHCR Zambia, a RefugePoint Expert facilitated a partnership with an accredited vocational institution that provides practical, market-relevant skills training, offers German language instruction, and has connections that can open future labor mobility opportunities for refugees.

Through this collaboration, refugees from Lusaka, Maheba Refugee Settlement, and Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement received 10 scholarships covering tuition, accommodation, and meals. The Expert promoted the call for applications and led a competitive selection process to identify qualified candidates. The scholarship recipients, ages 19 to 30, all met the academic requirements, with most exceeding the minimum qualifications. They enrolled in electrical technology, bricklaying and masonry, and plumbing and pipe fitting programs. Students expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity, particularly the practical, hands-on training that helps them develop skills for future employment and greater self-reliance. Thanks to our Expert's efforts, we have laid the groundwork for offering additional scholarships to refugee youth in the future.



Left: Graziella, a former RefugePoint Expert, and RefugePoint's current Expert (far right), with Fountain Gate Crafts and Trade School (FGCATS) scholarship finalists, the FGCATS director (back left), and staff members. Photo: Peter Muzanga, Lecturer, FGCATS.

Finances

As of June 30, RefugePoint’s year-to-date revenue stands at \$5,794,654 against expenses of \$6,265,467. Although this represents a negative variance from a year-to-date perspective, fundraising is typically stronger in the third and fourth quarters, and we expect a positive variance by the end of the year.

Year-to-Date Revenue

\$5,794,654

Development

In the second quarter, RefugePoint’s CEO, Sasha Chanoff, participated in the Giving List Women Summit’s opening panel, “Lost and Found: The Opportunities in Disruption.” He spoke about the opportunity for collaboration and shared resourcing, especially in this fragmented landscape, alongside Lehmah Gbowee of the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, Alex Jakana of the Gates Foundation, and Dr. Anna Malaika Tubbs. In April, RefugePoint hosted an event with IRAP at the Skoll World Forum: *Who Decides What Works? Lessons from Refugee-Led Solutions*. Moderated by our Chief Program Officer, Simar Singh, panelists from IRAP, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, and RefugePoint shared lessons from their experience on how shifting power toward affected communities strengthens resilience, improves outcomes, and helps navigate political headwinds.

In early June, RefugePoint convened partners, funders, board members, and friends of RefugePoint for a reception at our office in Geneva, Switzerland. This occurred during RefugePoint’s second quarter board meeting in Geneva. RefugePoint also welcomed two long-term donors to Kenya in June for a curated learning journey, where they spent time with our staff, clients, and partners, and gained a deeper understanding of our work. Our next learning journey is scheduled for February 2027.

We would like to welcome:

Erica Marcus-Raina

Director, Third Country Solutions

Carolyne Njung’e

Senior Associate, Communications

Mugambi Kithamba

Senior Officer, Labor Mobility

Leona Ekina

Senior Officer, Graphic Design

Anthony Irimu

Senior Officer, Family Reunification

Gilbert Omari Nyangwachi

Intern, AI-Assisted Ethical Evaluation

Paul Nyamora Manyansa

Senior Officer, Labor Mobility

