



Second Quarter Report 2024

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Introduction

This quarter, RefugePoint began supporting individuals to access lasting solutions in several countries we had not previously operated in, particularly in Latin America. Our new staff in Colombia supported 2,376 people during the quarter, most of whom had fled Venezuela. We strive to increase access to durable solutions for refugees around the world, and our aim is not just to expand our operational footprint, but also to multiply our global impact through systems change. We are well positioned to do this through our strategic relationships with key decision-makers in the sector (within governments, UNHCR, and other organizations) and our seat at the table in high-level policy settings. In addition, the strength of our direct service work gives us a credible, influential voice in global refugee policy and best-practice conversations.

In June, RefugePoint staff led conversations at two of the most significant conferences in our field. The annual Consultations on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways brought together NGOs, UNHCR, States, and other actors working on resettlement, family reunification, labor mobility, and more. At the event, RefugePoint was one of three speakers in a plenary session on follow-up from the Global Refugee Forum. We used the opportunity to highlight the important role that refugee-led organizations can play as the foundation of support systems for many pathways to safety.

Later in June, RefugePoint staff attended the annual UNHCR-NGO Consultations. The theme of the Consultations was Inclusion, Solutions, and Gender Equality, which sits at the intersection of our work on refugee self-reliance in host countries and access to resettlement and other pathways in third countries. RefugePoint's Chief Program Officer, Simar Singh, spoke on one of the plenary panels on solutions and inclusion. RefugePoint also moderated a session on capacity-building for complementary pathways and family reunification. Lastly, we facilitated small group discussions to develop recommendations from the week for UNHCR's Executive Committee.

Before these events in Geneva, RefugePoint hosted and moderated a panel on elevating and resourcing proximate leaders at the Skoll World Forum in Oxford. This discussion furthered the conversation that began in our 2023 session on centering refugee voices in humanitarian action and philanthropy.

Collectively, RefugePoint's involvement at these events influences actors and organizations in the refugee response sector to become more refugee-centered. Through this work, we continue to push for new standards and accountability around increased and equitable access to solutions.





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 in Nairobi, Kenya to become self-reliant through our Urban Refugee Protection Program (URPP). We achieve this by providing stabilizing support services to ensure access to food, shelter, medical care, and empowerment through counseling, skill-building, and livelihood assistance.

Several challenges marked this quarter in Nairobi, including large demonstrations against the 2024 Finance Bill in Kenya, which resulted in police violence and disruptions across the city. In April and May, the city experienced heavy rains and flooding that displaced 900 refugees, in addition to dozens of Kenyans, and killed more than 300 people. During this time, we provided emergency and supplemental stabilization support to our core clients, enabling them to relocate to safer neighborhoods.

Throughout the quarter, the URPP continued the capacity-building training in business skills to empower clients to start or expand their businesses. Forty-four clients who attended the training received grants of up to \$600 to support their business endeavors.

The URPP initiated a six-month pilot study, the Clean Energy Initiative, to test the correlation between our clients' use of traditional energy methods, such as firewood and kerosene, and respiratory problems. RefugePoint supported 32 clients to purchase liquid petroleum gas cooking stoves to test the impact of these clean energy alternatives. The study results will determine the project's impact and scalability.

In May, the education program finalized placements for the apprenticeship and vocational skills training. The program aims to bridge the skills gap for young refugees and Kenyans by equipping them with hands-on skills that increase their chances for employment and entrepreneurship. This quarter, two students from the program enrolled in vocational schools. The program now has nine trainees specializing in film production, auto mechanics, plumbing, catering, hairdressing, and beauty services.

In addition, RefugePoint commemorated World Refugee Day by hosting an exhibition where refugee entrepreneurs displayed and sold their products to staff and tenants in our office building.

RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization Path

Clients Graduated to Self-Reliance

Q2

84

YTD

182

Community Health Outreach

Q2

2,810

YTD

6,040

Empowerment and Stabilization



Food Assistance

Q2 **564**
YTD **1,307**



Rent Support

Q2 **319**
YTD **748**



Medical Assistance

Q2 **1,011**
YTD **1,668**



Counseling

Q2 **144**
YTD **237**



Education Support

Q2 **276**
YTD **538**



Businesses Launched

Q2 **28**
YTD **65**

Field Building & Systems Change

In addition to the direct services we provide to urban refugees in Nairobi, Kenya to achieve self-reliance, we also work to make large-scale impact through field building and systems change. One way 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 May, the RSRI and RefugePoint partnered with the Refugee-Led Organisation Network of Uganda (RELON Uganda) and Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT) to lead the second of a series of Refugee-Led Organization (RLO) learning exchanges. Co-designed and co-facilitated with RLOs, these country-level learning exchanges aim to equip participants with the knowledge, tools, and access needed to build community and take their shared learning forward to influence national, regional, and global discussions on refugee self-reliance.

This two-day learning event took place in Kampala, Uganda, and brought together more than 50 refugee leaders and representatives from the Government of Uganda, UN agencies, the international NGO community, donors, and the private sector. Participants discussed challenges and opportunities for RLO involvement in local decision-making, with a focus on how local policies can contribute to self-reliance outcomes.

In June, the RSRI published findings from a pilot research project led by Dr. Evan Easton-Calabria to explore how self-reliance programming can better account for climate risks and hazards, such as understanding how an extreme weather event like a flood affects refugee self-reliance in a given context. The findings from this pilot research indicate that valuable and actionable work remains to be done to better consider climate risks when designing and implementing self-reliance programming.

This quarter, RefugePoint onboarded 25 RLOs to its 2024 peer learning cohort. The cohort will meet throughout the year for learning sessions facilitated and supported by RefugePoint that promote peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and networking among the participating RLOs. The first learning session of the year focused on mental health and psychosocial support programming for refugees.

RefugePoint also issued grants to three RLOs that serve refugees with self-reliance programs in Nairobi. Selected through a competitive call for proposals, the RLO grantees will receive financial support to expand their programming and capacity-strengthening support to strengthen their operations.



The second day of the RLO Convening in Kampala, Uganda. Leaders from various RLOs, RefugePoint staff, featured speakers, and organizers gathered for a photo. The second day of the convening gave refugee leaders an opportunity to present the recommendations they developed to other participants in order to receive feedback.



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 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 9,461 refugees access pathways to safety, including resettlement, family reunification, employment, sponsorship, and other pathways, from 106 locations in 30 countries worldwide.

In Kenya, RefugePoint’s Labor Mobility team referred 63 candidates for healthcare, construction, hospitality, and food service jobs under Canada’s Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP) and began screening new candidates for more opportunities. RefugePoint’s Nairobi Resettlement team submitted 95 urban refugees to be considered for resettlement to Canada and the U.S., and assisted 18 vulnerable refugee children with Best Interest Assessments to support their resettlement submissions.

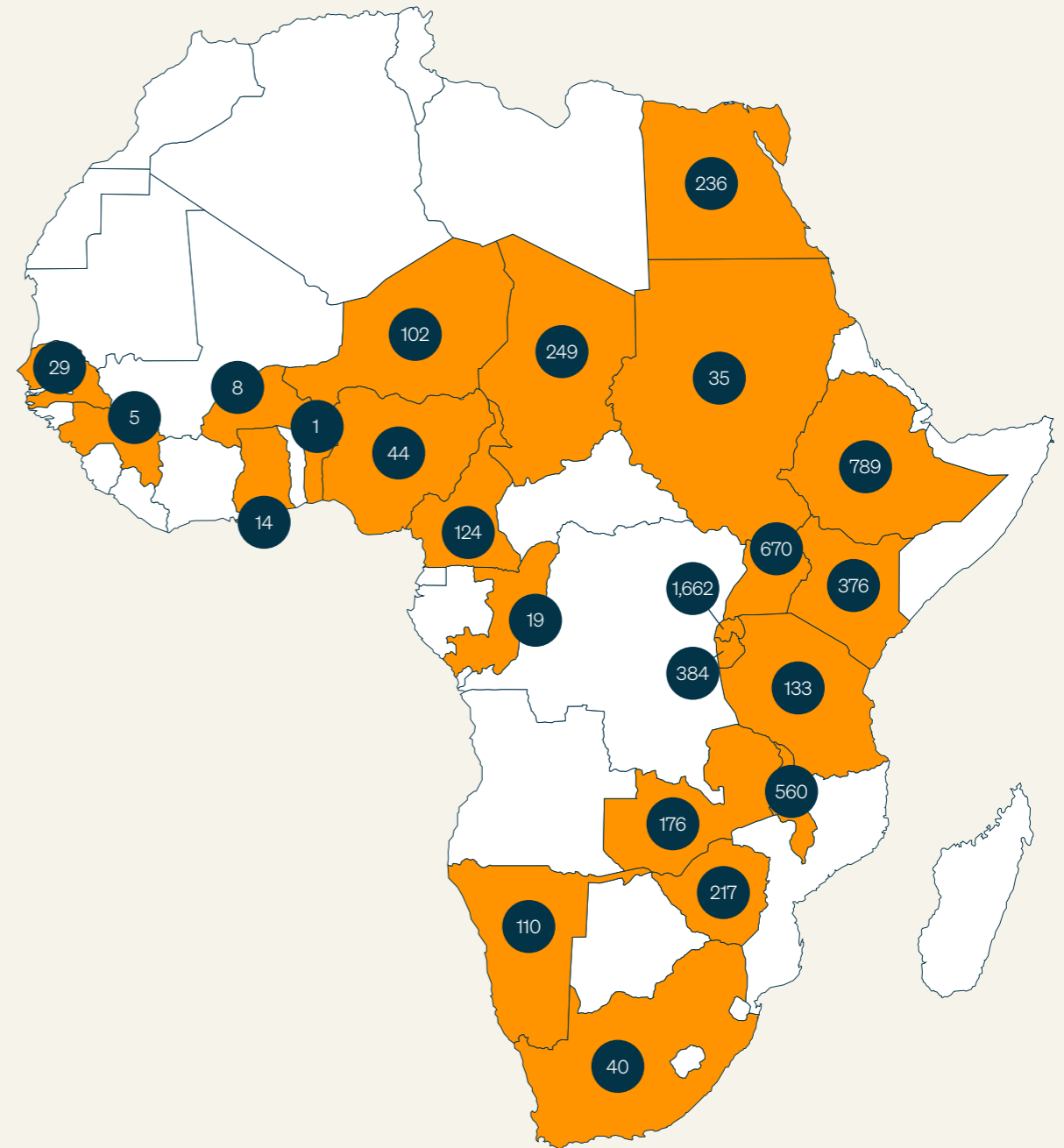
RefugePoint continued mapping actors and assessing needs in Kenya to inform its Family Reunification Navigation Assistance Program, which assists refugees in Kenya who wish to reunite with family in other countries by informing them of their options and providing reliable guidance throughout the family reunification process. This quarter, staff counseled 174 refugees in Kenya to assist them in applying to reunite with family in safe countries. Eleven individuals submitted applications that are now pending processing by governments. One client’s application was already approved, leading to a visa interview. In addition, RefugePoint and the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) began partnering to support refugees in Kenya who are separated from their loved ones. Going forward, RefugePoint clients who meet eligibility criteria to be reunited with relatives in the U.S., France, Belgium, and the UK may be referred to IRAP for legal assistance to complement RefugePoint’s navigation assistance.

RefugePoint’s Deployment Program is on track for another record-breaking year. In 2024, Experts have already supported nearly 14,000 individuals to access pathways to safety across 32 countries of asylum. This past quarter, multiple Experts went on missions away from their duty stations to interview refugees where there is little or no resettlement infrastructure. These missions promoted equitable access to resettlement and resulted in resettlement submissions for at-risk refugees in Benin, Namibia, Nigeria, and the Republic of Congo.

With a growing footprint in the Americas to respond to the situation in Venezuela and support other populations on the move, RefugePoint deployed three Experts to support UNHCR Colombia—a location where RefugePoint hasn’t had a presence before. We deployed additional Experts to Guatemala, while others continued their assignments in Trinidad and Tobago.

Refugees assisted in accessing resettlement and other pathways in Q2

9,461



Refugees Assisted in Q2

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

1. Benin	1	13. Kenya	376	25. Trinidad-Tobago*	21
2. Burkina Faso	8	14. Malawi	560	26. Turkiye*	222
3. Burundi	384	15. Namibia	110	27. Uganda	670
4. Cameroon	124	16. Niger	102	28. Vietnam*	4
5. Chad	249	17. Nigeria	44	29. Zambia	176
6. Colombia*	2,376	18. Pakistan*	174	30. Zimbabwe	217
7. Congo-Brazzaville	19	19. Rwanda	1,662		
8. Egypt	236	20. Senegal	29	Total:	9,461
9. Ethiopia	789	21. South Africa	40		
10. Ghana	14	22. South Sudan	35		
11. Guatemala*	306	23. Tanzania	133		
12. Guinea	5	24. Thailand*	375		

* Country not shown on map

Field Building & Systems Change

In addition to helping refugees relocate to safety through direct services, RefugePoint also 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 2024, our staff trained 322 individuals on topics ranging from child protection to resettlement and other pathways.

In June, RefugePoint led efforts to launch an interagency Family Reunification Working Group to enhance coordination, capacity-building, and partnerships in Kenya. In addition, staff exchanged insights on family reunification with the Norwegian Refugee Council Uganda, Together Now, UNHCR Uganda, and UNHCR's East, Horn of Africa, and Great Lakes Regional Bureau.

The NGO Referrals Program expanded through a new partnership with Caritas Nigeria to refer highly vulnerable people for resettlement to the U.S. Caritas Nigeria joins a growing network of NGOs that strives to expand equitable access to resettlement by identifying and bridging gaps in global refugee resettlement. With support from the Resettlement team, RefugePoint conducted a partner onboarding mission, during which we trained 24 Caritas Nigeria staff to identify and refer cases for resettlement.

The Nairobi Resettlement team engaged 37 colleagues from the URPP in training on international protection and due diligence. The training aimed to increase the capacity of the URPP team in understanding refugees' protection needs and strengthening resettlement referrals.

RefugePoint's Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Coordinator, Sylvia Kamencu joined a RefugePoint Board and donor visit to Nova Scotia, Canada. Sylvia enjoyed seeing how the EMPP alumni are doing and how they are positively impacting their communities as newcomers. She also met with Canadian partners and employers to discuss further collaboration opportunities and areas for program improvement.

This quarter, RefugePoint deployed five Experts to begin building the resettlement pipeline with UNHCR South Sudan. In the past, resettlement has not been widely accessible to refugees in South Sudan. RefugePoint Experts are now making inroads to ensure access to this life-saving opportunity for those most at-risk.

To support UNHCR Colombia, RefugePoint deployed three Experts who serve as casework reviewers. These Experts ensure casework quality and deepen UNHCR caseworkers' capacity through training and mentorship.

RefugePoint Experts also supported UNHCR and partner staff with training on topics such as Resettlement, Child Protection, and Complementary Pathways. Altogether, RefugePoint held 16 trainings in Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Nigeria, and Rwanda, reaching 322 participants.



RefugePoint staff from our Boston and Nairobi offices travelled to Ogoja, Nigeria to onboard Caritas as an official partner to RefugePoint and the Equitable Resettlement Access Consortium (ERAC). Training on Resettlement was delivered to Caritas staff and RefugePoint had the opportunity to visit Anglophone Cameroonian refugee communities to learn more about the local context and their specific needs.



In June, the RSRI and Washington University in St. Louis partnered with Malteser International Americas and IQartil to lead a training on the Self Reliance Index (SRI) in Santa Marta, Colombia. The four-day training led practitioners through a series of sessions focused on using the SRI to measure the impact of Malteser International's programming, understanding the tool's scoring mechanisms, and supporting data collection logistics. The success of this training demonstrates the broad utility of the SRI and its use as a holistic measure of self-reliance in diverse contexts. Photo: Malteser International Americas.

Cross-Cutting Protection Priorities

Child Protection

RefugePoint prioritizes refugee children in all our programs and we collaborate closely with partners to fill critical gaps in refugee child protection. During the second quarter of 2024, our staff conducted and reviewed child protection assessments for 589 refugee children.

This quarter, RefugePoint staff supported 589 children with child protection assessments and other vital casework. This casework is essential for these children to access long-term solutions as they often result in referrals for resettlement. In many locations around the world, the child protection workforce is limited, and there are too few staff to conduct the essential child protection casework required to help refugee children reach safety. By deploying our Child Protection Experts around the world, we have identified lasting solutions for children, many of whom have had cases pending for years.

The long-term contributions of our Child Protection Experts are realized through capacity-building and mentorship. This quarter, RefugePoint Experts in Ethiopia, Guatemala, and Rwanda trained 130 participants on child protection casework and interviewing techniques.

On June 16, RefugePoint Experts celebrated the International Day of The African Child. In preparation for this international celebration, our Child Protection Expert in Uganda trained 24 teachers and heads of schools in Child Protection Best Interests Procedures, skills that advance the protection of both national and refugee children. Other Child Protection Experts across the continent helped lead and participated in celebrations, ensuring the festivities included refugee children. One of our Child Protection Experts in Rwanda mentioned that he “worked to put children in charge and at the center of the celebration marking this day.”



As part of a Community-Based MHPSS initiative, participants from community-based organizations, RLOs, and NGOs discussed the implementation of an MHPSS Community Based Needs and Asset Mapping Exercise led by Dr. Sonasha Braxton and Ann-Marie Mashimwe.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

During the second quarter, RefugePoint held several MHPSS training sessions across the organization. Fourteen new UNCP staff completed MHPSS training, orienting them to programmatic resources and the basics of MHPSS. Dr. Sonasha Braxton, RefugePoint’s MHPSS Senior Technical Advisor, conducted a number of training sessions for Nairobi staff, covering topics such as strength-based approaches, the physiological and somatic impacts of trauma, and trauma-informed interviewing with children.

External Experts conducted two professional development exercises for MPHSS staff. Diane Ghogomu offered a training on Afrocosmic Communication and Margaret Marion led a training on Narrative Approaches to Intergenerational Trauma.

The Community-Based MHPSS team in Nairobi held a community health training for caregivers, focusing on adherence to medication, self-care, and coping mechanisms. In addition, the team held three focus group discussions with a total of 36 individuals who provided vital input towards a Community-Based Needs and Asset Mapping Exercise. The groups consisted of program leads, representatives from local and international organizations, and refugees with the lived experience of receiving mental health and psychosocial support. This process promoted collaboration and ensured inclusivity and refugee-centeredness.

Children assisted in Q2

589



Staff trained in child protection & other pathways

322



A Day in Tongogara Refugee Camp

As a Resettlement Expert working in the Tongogara Refugee Camp in Zimbabwe, my role is interviewing and reviewing the cases of refugees who are eligible for resettlement. Many of the people I work with are survivors of violence and torture who are unable to return to their home country or integrate into their new community, two of the three legal “durable solutions.” Tongogara Refugee Camp was established in 1984 to accommodate Mozambican refugees fleeing the civil war in their country. It is now home to more than 16,000 refugees, mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Mozambique, and Rwanda.

In May, I witnessed an extraordinary moment as a large group of refugees prepared to leave the camp for resettlement. Their faces were radiant with joy, reflecting rekindled hope after years of uncertainty. It was a deeply moving experience for me, standing amid the palpable happiness of those boarding buses bound for a new life. Equally touching was the camaraderie among those staying behind, their pride and support evident as they bid farewell to friends embarking on this transformative journey.

These departures involved about 100 individuals, a testament to the collective effort to provide a fresh start to those who had endured unimaginable hardships in their countries of origin. I learned that it is customary for departing refugees to hold celebrations where neighbors and loved ones rise early to share their joy and bid them farewell. Preparation for departure involves selling nearly everything they own, keeping only essential belongings for the journey ahead. The impact of this moment was profound for me, as I witnessed firsthand the hope in the faces of those who had persevered through adversity.

Many refugees fleeing conflict in their homelands, such as the DRC, Rwanda, and Burundi, wait for over a decade for this chance to resettle in the United States and other countries. For those remaining in the camp, seeing their friends leave intensified their faith in the resettlement process.

Each resettlement is more than a statistic; it is a testament to the indomitable spirit of refugees who, against all odds, dare to dream of a better future.



Finances

RefugePoint ended the second quarter with revenues of \$6,121,862 and expenses of \$6,033,373.

Development

This quarter, RefugePoint's CEO had the opportunity to speak to leaders in the global philanthropy community at the Skoll World Forum in Oxford, England, and the Aurora Humanitarian Forum in Los Angeles. At both events, he focused on the crucial role refugees and those with lived experience have in humanitarian action and philanthropy, and the importance of elevating refugee leaders.

In May, RefugePoint hosted a luncheon in Washington, DC, highlighting the importance of family reunification for refugees. In June, the development team led a group of board members and donors to Nova Scotia, where they met with former refugee clients, experienced aspects of RefugePoint's labor mobility work, and learned about multiple RefugePoint programs, including Resettlement, Labor Mobility, and Family Reunification.

For World Refugee Day, June 20, and the weeks preceding it, RefugePoint led [a campaign focused on the unique passions and skills of refugee clients](#). As part of this campaign, RefugePoint held our third Annual Virtual 5K to raise funds for vital programs.

We would like to welcome:

Shelby Quackenbush

RSRI Communications Manager, Boston

Kayla Slagter

Associate Director of Development, Boston

Allison Gillespie

RSRI Network Engagement Coordinator, Boston

Alexandra Strang

Global Family Reunification Coordinator, Geneva

Nelson Kamau Kagumere

MER/IT Intern, Nairobi

Eunice Ayany

Field Building Senior Associate, Nairobi

Press and Publications

[Dollars, cents and the migrant story you aren't reading](#), by **John L. Micek, Mass Live**

[My time with the Scrabble kings of Liberia](#), by **Sasha Chanoff, WBUR (Cognoscenti)**

[The cost to reunite: Refugee program gives new hope to families with relatives in peril](#), by **Arcelia Martin, The Dallas Morning News**

[Sponsorship immigration offers alternative path for refugees to come to Mass.](#), by **Khari ThompsonTiziana Dearing, WBUR**

[Building Businesses, Rebuilding Lives: A Holistic Approach to Supporting Refugee Entrepreneurship](#), by **Jacinta Mwikali Mutie, Paul Karanja, and Patrick Guyer, The Next Billion**

