



REFUGEPOINT

2016 second quarter report

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A LIFELINE FOR FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

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At the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement in Geneva in June, RefugePoint's Program Coordinator for Resettlement, Janet Ouma, shared her deep knowledge of African refugee issues with governments and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

Creating Lasting Solutions

The “graduation approach,” aimed at moving people out of extreme poverty and into sustainable livelihoods, has been proven effective in working with the ultra poor globally, but had not been tried until recently with refugees. RefugePoint is among the first to pilot this approach with refugees, using our unique set of holistic services and intensive case management for urban refugees in Nairobi. As one of few early demonstration projects, our Nairobi program is receiving substantial interest on the part of UNHCR, donor governments and other service providers looking to replicate successful models of assistance.

Underpinning our graduation model in Nairobi is a tool we developed and continue to refine called the Self-Reliance Measurement Tool (SRMT). The SRMT allows us to: 1) effectively identify refugees who are at-risk, qualifying them to access our intensive core services; 2) assess needs at various points in time, allowing staff to tailor the type and intensity of services needed,

generating both internal and external referrals, and, 3) measures progress of refugees and their families over a 24 month period, so that we are able to graduate clients as they achieve a measure of self-reliance. Administered during home visits, refugee households receive a score between 1-4 in the following eight categories: 1) Food, 2) Shelter, 3) Non-food Items, 4) Economic Well-being, 5) Health, 6) Mental health 7) Protection, and 8) Child Protection. The average score of all categories is used to determine entry to and exit from the program. Scores for individual categories allow staff to tailor services for each family.

The SMRT allows to us test our hypothesis that even though the environment is not very conducive to refugee integration in Nairobi, nonetheless refugees find ways to survive and we can support them to do so more effectively and obtain a better quality of life while awaiting more favorable solutions.

Lasting Solutions: Resettlement

Identifying and resettling the most vulnerable refugees to countries worldwide

Providing lasting solutions for the most vulnerable refugees is at the core of RefugePoint's work, and supporting the resettlement of refugees offers visible impact. During the quarter, RefugePoint staff referred 1,174 refugees for resettlement from 18 locations in Africa.

Staff also supported refugee resettlement by leading exercises to identify refugees who are at greatest risk and by enhancing the quality and efficiency of systems and processes that have been established for refugee resettlement. Through this approach, RefugePoint has facilitated the resettlement of an additional 1,168 refugees during the quarter.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

RefugePoint placed a Resettlement Expert in Luanda, Angola. As the first, long-term presence in the country, RefugePoint staff is spearheading a resettlement program for protracted Congolese refugees who fled violence and persecution more than thirty years ago. Because of difficulties in determining who qualifies for resettlement, the first task has been to strengthen processes for identifying and prioritizing refugees at-risk.

(Continued)



2nd Quarter RefugePoint Programs Locations

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. LUANDA, ANGOLA | 9. MELKADIDA, ETHIOPIA | 17. BYUMBA, RWANDA |
| 2. MUYINGA, BURUNDI | 10. SHIRE, ETHIOPIA | 18. KIBUYE, RWANDA |
| 3. MEIGANGA, CAMEROON | 11. CONAKRY, GUINEA | 19. DAKAR, SENEGAL |
| 4. EASTERN CHAD | 12. NZEREKORE, GUINEA | 20. PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA |
| 5. SOUTHERN CHAD | 13. KAKUMA, KENYA | 21. KHARTOUM, SUDAN |
| 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 two refugees walking home after school in Uganda.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS (CONTINUED)

While most refugees in Luanda come from the Democratic Republic of Congo, we have identified more than 100 Somali women and children who were previously unknown to UNHCR and require immediate assistance. As they are unable to return home or integrate into local communities, RefugePoint staff will process the most vulnerable among them for resettlement to a safe country. In West Africa, Resettlement Experts were placed in Guinea and Togo to support the processing of already identified case loads who have been awaiting resettlement for decades. Despite efforts to encourage repatriation to countries of origin and local integration where refugees are living

currently, many refugees from the Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Sierra Leone cannot return home, and cannot establish safe and sustainable means of livelihood in their country of asylum. Women-at-risk, survivors of torture, and those needing specialized medical care are at even greater risk for violence and exploitation. Working closely with the UNHCR/West Africa Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal, RefugePoint staff has bolstered limited resettlement activities in the region and initiated resettlement activities for refugees who would otherwise not have access to resettlement for years to come.

Since 2005, RefugePoint has referred

35,929

refugees for resettlement to the following countries:

AUSTRALIA

BELGIUM

CANADA

DENMARK

FINLAND

FRANCE

IRELAND

NETHERLANDS

NORWAY

PORTUGAL

SWEDEN

UNITED KINGDOM

UNITED STATES

Lasting Solutions: Self-Reliance

RefugePoint supports urban refugees in Nairobi to regain self-reliance. We do this by providing stabilizing services such as food, shelter and access to health care. Subsequently, we support refugee self-reliance by delivering mental health services to address trauma, conducting business and life skills trainings, and issuing grants and providing on-going technical assistance for starting small businesses

In April, and for the first time, RefugePoint counselors and Community Volunteer Workers hosted a life skills workshop for youth between the ages of 13 to 17. Because free education in Kenya is limited to primary school, most refugee families cannot afford to send children to secondary school. As a result, youth struggle to find continuing education or employment opportunities. More than 80 refugee youth from Somalia, Ethiopia, and countries from the Great Lakes Region attended the workshop to discuss healthy relationships, healthy coping strategies, effective communication skills, and other life skills. Risk reduction strategies such as this are especially important for this age group.

RefugePoint counselors administer other stabilizing and resiliency-based program services as well. The services are designed to improve the overall wellbeing and mental health of refugees. In addition to individual cognitive therapy, counselors conduct group-counseling services for refugees with similar backgrounds and experiences. For three months, groups meet weekly to address issues related to post-traumatic stress disorder and compounded stress. Support groups are held in neighborhoods throughout Nairobi and are designed to strengthen social networks and increase access to already existing community resources. Some clients join six-week sessions to focus on managing emotions, building self-awareness, setting goals, and improving communication skills. “Networking groups” have been introduced this year, providing an opportunity for clients who have graduated from RefugePoint services to support others in need by leading peer-support networks. To launch the groups, trained counselors facilitate three sessions. After this introduction, refugee leaders within the community facilitate meetings for graduated clients to remain connected. At the end of the second quarter, groups were continuing to meet regularly with facilitation from community leaders.



RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization Path

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER WORKER OUTREACH

Q2 **6,383**
YTD **7,043**

EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



Medical Services

Q2 **1,315**
YTD **1,828**



Food Assistance

Q2 **642**
YTD **812**



Education Support

Q2 **183**
YTD **242**



Group Counseling

Q2 **187**
YTD **333**



Businesses Launched

Q2 **92**
YTD **161**

GRADUATED CLIENTS

Q2 **156**
YTD **414**

Advancing Refugee Child Protection

RefugePoint prioritizes refugee children in all programs, and collaborates closely with partners to identify and fill gaps related to child protection. During this quarter, staff conducted child protection assessments for 198 vulnerable refugee children in 18 locations, and reviewed assessments for an additional 257 children.

Field Highlight

Child Protection Expert in Cairo

RefugePoint has maintained child protection staff in Cairo, Egypt since 2011 in response to the ongoing need. With nearly 130,000 Syrian refugees seeking asylum in Egypt, African refugees struggle to access social services and are not receiving priority consideration for resettlement. This year, RefugePoint has two staff working with Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Somali refugees in Egypt, including more than 1,000 unaccompanied and separated children.

In collaboration with UNHCR/Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region, our Child Protection Expert in Cairo has successfully reunited children and families who have been separated for years. In one case, RefugePoint staff helped an Eritrean child to reconnect with his father in Israel after 11 years of separation. The family has been recommended for resettlement to a safe, third country. With a new program from the United Kingdom targeting children-at-risk, our Resettlement Expert also prioritizes unaccompanied and separated children, and conducts Best Interest Assessments for children in need of resettlement.

Risks associated with migration across the Mediterranean Sea continue to be of concern in the MENA region. Refugees are forced to risk human trafficking, detention, and death in favor of immediate needs and longer-term hopes of finding safety in Europe. Through targeted education campaigns, staff publicizes alternatives to onward migration and raises awareness about the resettlement process. For thousands of refugee children and families, resettlement to a new country remains the most viable solution.





Rescuing Lives

A Long Journey to Safety

When you suffer extreme violence and attacks in your home country, flee in search of safety, and instead find yourself targeted and then shot in the location to which you have fled, it is difficult to imagine a safe place.

For Okot*, that place, at least temporarily, was Nairobi. Okot fled his home country because of political and ethnic violence. Back home, Okot had worked as a teacher for five years, while also keeping a small retail shop and tending livestock. After his family suffered and his town was attacked, Okot had no choice but to flee.

Arriving in Nairobi in 2009, life continued to be a struggle as Okot dealt with constant pain from a gunshot wound and also suffered from breathing problems. Like many refugees, Okot entered into the RefugePoint system after seeking medical assistance. From there, he was

referred to other of our holistic services, like food assistance and counseling.

Through the counseling program, Okot was able to heal from post-traumatic stress and he began living a more normal life. However, Okot was not safe in Kenya and continued to fear for his life. Thankfully, Okot was recently granted resettlement to the United States: a ticket to start afresh.

Okot says he will pursue his dream of having a family and he also hopes to enroll in school so that he can gain skills to work in a field he's always been passionate about: Information Technology!

**Names changed for anonymity*