“We see ourselves as innovators in the humanitarian space. We identify gaps and challenges, and devise responses that directly impact people’s lives and shape humanitarian response on a broad level. Our work is about enabling refugees in life-threatening situations to survive, support themselves, transition off of humanitarian aid, and ultimately contribute to their new communities.”

-Sasha Chanoff, RefugePoint’s Executive Director, as featured in Geneva Global, “How Two Leaders Are Changing the Refugee Sector.”

While visiting Nairobi in 2018, a refugee named Grace welcomed me into her home with a confident smile. As I began to congratulate her on running a successful business, which allowed her to support her children, she apologetically cut me off to attend to her cell phone, buzzing with customer calls.

In West Africa, a RefugePoint Resettlement Expert working on the evacuation of unaccompanied children from Libya met Oba, an eight-year-old trafficking victim separated from his mother. Oba handed the Expert a piece of paper with his mother’s phone number. Over phone static, our staff person told the mother that her child was safe—that they’d soon be reunited in Europe, where she fled. Oba and Grace are now able to lead healthy, dignified lives.

There are many more stories like these for us to tell. As you can see, 2018 was a groundbreaking year for advancing lasting solutions for refugees like Oba and Grace.

The UN affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees, a new set of guidelines hailed by some as the most significant commitment to refugees in our lifetime. Two of its objectives are refugee self-reliance and third-country solutions like resettlement—the very same solutions RefugePoint advances.

In many ways, we are at the center of progress. We announced, in collaboration with many partners, a goal of reaching five million refugees in five years with programming that puts them on a path to self-reliance—a goal that we hope will precipitate a paradigm shift in humanitarian response. We are working with the UN Refugee Agency to address the dire situation in Libya and the Mediterranean by resettling thousands of refugees to European Union countries. We have the biggest team of Child Protection Experts in our history. We are piloting with the Canadian government a labor mobility project to connect refugees with companies in desperate need of employees.

The number of refugees continues to grow, and the average time they spend displaced increases as more governments close their doors to them. However, in the face of unprecedented refugee crises, our staff and supporters are rising to the challenge. We couldn’t do it without you, thank you.

Message from RefugePoint’s Executive Director, Sasha Chanoff

REFUGEEPOINT 2018 ANNUAL REPORT
Resettlement involves permanently relocating refugees to a safe country where they can rebuild their lives.

Self-reliance involves stabilizing refugees in the countries to which they have fled and helping them regain the ability to meet their own essential needs.

Our work to improve resettlement and self-reliance outcomes involves:

**DIRECT SERVICES**  
Providing services to meet the needs of individuals and households.

**FIELD BUILDING**  
Supporting other organizations to accelerate and expand programs reaching refugee populations.

**SYSTEMS CHANGE**  
Influencing policy and decision-makers to drive large-scale change.
Much like the year before, 2018 was a challenging year for resettlement globally. Nationalistic and xenophobic trends continued to make it difficult for resettlement states, including the U.S., to maintain the robust programs we had come to expect in previous years. Only 50,000 refugees were able to benefit from resettlement globally in 2018, less than 5% of the 1.2 million who needed resettlement.

Despite this challenging context, RefugePoint had one of its most successful years ever. We helped an estimated 9,000 refugees access resettlement, a benchmark we had reached only twice before, in 2015 and 2016 (when global resettlement was far more robust than it is currently). This partially reflects the fact that RefugePoint’s resettlement program has continued to grow even as resettlement in general has contracted, which can be attributed to the high quality of our programming. It also reflects the adaptability of our program, as we have managed to shift resources to places, populations, and activities where we can be impactful, even in challenging times.

In 2018, RefugePoint also focused on exploring complementary pathways, which include other legal pathways, aside from resettlement, that a refugee can access in order to become established in a safe home country. These complementary pathways allow refugees to relocate for employment, education, and family reunification.

Although access to these pathways is still being tested, there is hope that more refugees will benefit from complementary pathways in the future, and we’re excited to be a part of the earliest stages of testing and refining program designs.

In April, we launched a complementary pathways project in Canada called the Economic Mobility Pathway Project (EMPP). The year-long pilot, funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), is being implemented in partnership with Talent Beyond Boundaries and is designed to identify 15 refugees in high-demand occupations to access employment in Canada. The pilot connects skilled refugees to Canadian employers in need of talent, and puts them on a path to permanent residency.

Connecting refugees to international job opportunities opens labor mobility as a complementary solution to traditional refugee resettlement. At the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement in Geneva in June, the EMPP received positive attention, and there was enthusiasm for complementary pathways, seen as a way to offset the decline in traditional resettlement numbers. As we engage in such efforts, we continually reinforce the message that this work must in no way undermine core refugee protection mandates.

After witnessing the murder of her entire family in the Congos and escaping captivity, Anne fled to Nairobi and became a RefugePoint client at the age of 16. When we first met Anne, she was extremely ill, undernourished, and out of school. However, what Anne still had was hope; hope to start a new life and pursue an education.

RefugePoint helped make those dreams come true. First, we provided Anne with essential, life-saving services through our Urban Refugee Protection Program in Nairobi to help her to heal, both mentally and physically. RefugePoint services included medical support, emergency food support, and mental health counseling. Next, we advocated for Anne’s resettlement, and in September 2015, just days before her eighteenth birthday, Anne was resettled to the U.S. through the unaccompanied minors (UAMs) foster care program.

Today, Anne, now 21, is fluent in English, has earned her high school diploma, lives independently, and is currently enrolled in a four-year college where she is studying Community Health. Anne was able to get her driver’s license and purchase her first car, and she is contributing to the community working as a certified nursing assistant (CNA).

After her resettlement, Anne wrote to RefugePoint to say that she “couldn’t have asked for a better life” and expressed special appreciation to RefugePoint’s child protection and counseling teams for their constant support during her time in Nairobi.
Tens of thousands of refugees, from Eritrea, Somalia, and Ethiopia, including large numbers of unaccompanied children, are risking their lives in the hands of human traffickers as they escape persecution and attempt to migrate to Europe via the Mediterranean Sea. For those who survive crossing the Sahara desert en route to Libya—the most common final stop before the Mediterranean crossing—many are detained by smugglers, while others are forced into unsafe detention centers where they lack access to basic sanitation, food, and water. While awaiting opportunities to cross the Mediterranean Sea, sometimes for years, many of the refugees are subjected to torture and abuse. As a result, many refugees die in detention centers, and thousands more drown as they are crossing the Mediterranean.

In 2018, 15 RefugePoint staff members worked alongside the UN Refugee Agency on the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) to evacuate refugees, including many unaccompanied minors, from dangerous detention centers in Libya to a safe center in Niamey, Niger. Once in Niger, the refugees are processed for resettlement to Canada, the U.S., or European Union countries. Our Experts working at the ETM reported that the inhumanity and dangers these refugees faced in Libya, especially the children, are unimaginable. Grace, a RefugePoint Child Protection Officer who worked at the ETM, said: “We had about 295 children at the ETM when I was there, all unaccompanied minors. These children were those who had attempted to go to Europe. The boys were running away from forced recruitment into the military, and the girls were running away from being forcefully married as minors.”

In November, we received excellent news from one of our RefugePoint Experts working at the ETM that she was able to participate in a humanitarian flight coordinated by UNHCR Nigeria, which allowed 51 refugees to be resettled to Italy to begin new lives in safe environments!

“”This was one of the best moments I’ve been able to be a part of here in Niger. I got to participate in a humanitarian flight to Italy, through which 51 refugees will be able to start a new life. I know almost all of the refugees by name, and I know their families, kids, wishes, and also their concerns. I’m really happy. This is a picture of the plane taking off!” –RefugePoint Resettlement Expert working at the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) in Niamey, Niger.

In December, Hortense Minishi (far right), Senior Resettlement Officer, spoke about her role in the Economic Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP) at the Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Migration in Marrakesh, Morocco. In 2018, RefugePoint leaders also presented various aspects of RefugePoint’s work at high-level meetings, including the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement, the Annual Consultations with NGOs, the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges in Geneva, and a working group focused on complementary pathways.

We hosted 36 trainings and trained 895 partner agency staff on resettlement and related casework in 2018.

In 2018, RefugePoint worked in 26 locations in 20 countries. We expanded our work to four new locations in three new countries.

We hosted 36 trainings and trained 895 partner agency staff on resettlement and related casework in 2018.

In 2018, 15 RefugePoint staff members worked alongside the UN Refugee Agency as part of the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) to evacuate refugees, including many unaccompanied minors, from dangerous detention centers in Libya to a safe center in Niamey, Niger.

In 2018, RefugePoint’s resettlement and child protection experts helped an estimated 9,000 refugees to access resettlement.
We know that self-reliance is key to refugees regaining control of their own feet—to take care of their family and those of their family. Much momentum was built in 2018 to advance self-reliance. In September, we launched the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI), which is a joint effort by a coalition of organizations, government agencies, foundations, research institutes, and other partners to promote opportunities for refugees to become self-reliant and achieve better quality of life. The initiative aims to improve standards of practice for refugee assistance, transitioning more quickly from emergency relief to sustainable development. As a milestone towards this paradigm change, the RSRI aims to collectively reach five million refugees with self-reliance programming in five years and, in the process, to identify the most effective tools which were co-created by RefugePoint and its partners.

The Self-Reliance Index represents an important step in the humanitarian community aligning around common goals and impact measurements. Eventually, the coalition hopes the tool will be widely adopted and will lead to improved program design, policies, and funding practices. Ultimately, the SRI is expected to help shape how refugee assistance is delivered to lead to better, more sustainable outcomes for refugee families.

In 2018, the SRI was field-tested in three very different refugee contexts: Jordan, Mexico, and Kenya. Based on client interviews and the input of staff from partner agencies, including Mercy Corps, Danish Refugee Council, and the International Rescue Committee, the Index was improved over the course of the year.

The first group of AVSP participants was trained in a variety of skills, including motor vehicle mechanics, hairdressing, fine arts/painting, music, tailoring, garment making, and driving.

Dilek is the first graduate of RefugePoint’s Apprenticeship & Vocational Skills Program (AVSP), launched in August, which offers vocational skills training to our clients and helps to foster self-reliance. Since many refugees do not have the opportunity to obtain vocational skills through hands-on job experience, this program offers clients an opportunity to do so. Unlike traditional vocational training programs that offer courses in general topics to a large group of beneficiaries, RefugePoint works on a case-by-case basis to match individuals talents and interests to suitable training opportunities. After being awarded sponsorships, participants are assisted to identify experts within their communities willing to offer skills training. Depending on the field of study, the training lasts between two months to two years.

Dilek’s Apprenticeship

“I am inspired by Leonardo da Vinci, the guy who painted the Mona Lisa. He was very gifted, and he really inspires me. I hope to develop my skills and one day be like Leonardo da Vinci. I developed a passion for art when I was a little kid. I saw an artist drawing someone’s portrait, and I decided, ‘If this guy can do it, so can I.’ I started by drawing cartoons and eventually I began drawing realistic pencil portraits. From there, I began painting.”

In 2018, the SRI was field-tested in three very different refugee contexts: Jordan, Mexico, and Kenya. Based on client interviews and the input of staff from partner agencies, including Mercy Corps, Danish Refugee Council, and the International Rescue Committee, the Index was improved over the course of the year. The Self-Reliance Index represents an important step in the humanitarian community aligning around common goals and impact measurements. Eventually, the coalition hopes the tool will be widely adopted and will lead to improved program design, policies, and funding practices. Ultimately, the SRI is expected to help shape how refugee assistance is delivered to lead to better, more sustainable outcomes for refugee families.

Our Urban Refugee Protection Program (URPP) in Nairobi continued to support clients in Nairobi with direct services, including 1,747 core clients. In 2018, we provided medical care to 2,148 clients, education assistance to 317 clients, food assistance to 1,249 clients, and offered small business training and start-up grants that put 190 clients on the path to self-reliance. In August, the URPP launched the Apprenticeship & Vocational Skills Program (AVSP), which offers clients the opportunity to learn vocational skills through hands-on job experience and helps to foster self-reliance (see Dilek’s story, opposite page).
During RefugePoint’s business training, clients are encouraged to set personal goals that they can work to accomplish within the first three to six months of launching their businesses. Soni, a single mother of two young children, knew exactly what she aimed to achieve: the ability to pay her rent and cover her son’s school fees. Within just two months of receiving a small business grant and launching a business selling vegetables, fruits, and a popular fried dough snack called mandazi, Soni achieved both of those goals.

Soni and her family fled their home country of Congo after facing insecurity there. While fleeing, Soni became separated from her husband and has not heard from him since. After Soni and her children arrived in Nairobi in 2014, she struggled to meet her family’s basic needs and relied on income from unstable jobs.

In 2018, a RefugePoint Community Navigator in Soni’s neighborhood identified the family for assistance. After conducting an assessment, RefugePoint began providing the family with food assistance and school fees for Soni’s eleven-year-old daughter. At that time, Soni was selected to participate in RefugePoint’s livelihoods program, through which she completed business training, developed a business plan, and was granted $200 to launch a fruit and vegetable stall.

“The biggest lesson that I learned from RefugePoint’s business training is about the importance of savings. Before the training, I always used all of my profit. I wasn’t aware that I needed to divide my income into profits, money to re-invest in the business, and savings. I also learned a lot about having a plan for my business and setting goals,” Soni shared with us.

“There are many other fruit and vegetable stalls in my neighborhood. What sets mine apart is that I also sell mandazi, and customers are drawn to my stall because my mandazi is the best. I wake up and go to the market every morning by 4:30 to buy the fruits and vegetables for my stall, and then I come home and immediately start making the mandazi before I get the kids ready for school. My clients start purchasing mandazi as early as 5:30 in the morning, so I always need to get up very early and make sure everything is ready by then. Running a food business has been very beneficial for our family. We never go to sleep hungry, and now we have a well-balanced diet.”

Soni is now working hard to achieve her next target: purchasing a bed and mattress for her children. This is what self-reliance looks like.
Refugees graduated from our Urban Refugee Protection Program services in Nairobi in 2018.

Countries in which the Self-Reliance Index tool was piloted in 2018, including Mexico, Kenya, and Jordan. Lead consultant Kellie Leeson (left), helped to train the Mercy Corps outreach teams in Mafraq and Irbid.

Partners participating in the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI), which launched in September 2018. Partners include organizations, government agencies, foundations, and research institutes. The RSRI aims to promote opportunities for refugees to become self-reliant and achieve a better quality of life.

Refugees reached in Nairobi, Kenya, 2018 through outreach and education efforts.

"For the well being of the world, we have to devote ourselves to those who are displaced from their countries."

Kim Campbell, Former Prime Minister of Canada, speaking at the Better Lives Now event in New York on September 20, where we launched the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative.

Refugees reached in Nairobi, Kenya, 2018 through outreach and education efforts.

Average client family size we serve in Nairobi, Kenya.
In September, RefugePoint proudly announced that Sasha Chanoff (Founder and Executive Director) and Amy Slaughter (Chief Strategy Officer), received the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship / World Economic Forum Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award. This award recognizes the world’s leading social entrepreneurs. All recipients received their awards during the World Economic Forum Sustainable Development Impact Summit in New York City, co-chaired by the President of Ghana, the Prime Minister of Denmark and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

In October, we launched RefugePoint’s new website to provide visitors with a better sense of who we are, highlighting our mission, vision, and values as an organization. Visitors can now explore an interactive map that highlights where we work, get a better sense of the impact our work has had over the past 14 years, and read success stories featuring our refugee clients. We are excited at the possibilities presented by our new website to educate a wider audience about RefugePoint’s work, and we look forward to using it as a tool to help even more at-risk refugees.

In November, Barrie Landry and the Landry Family Foundation, longtime generous supporters and champions of RefugePoint, sold a private collection of Hudson River School paintings to benefit RefugePoint and other philanthropies that support the global refugee crisis. The paintings were offered by Christie’s in the American Art sale in New York. RefugePoint is extremely grateful for Barrie Landry’s longtime support of RefugePoint and the global refugee crisis, and we commend her for her innovative philanthropic efforts.

In November, RefugePoint, in partnership with Focusing Philanthropy, raised $1,000,000 to help evacuate unaccompanied refugee children and others at great risk in Libya and in the region, resettling them to European Union countries. RefugePoint is working hand in hand with the UN Refugee Agency on these efforts to protect refugees seeking dignity and safety whose lives hang in the balance. Focusing Philanthropy, a charitable organization that supports effective nonprofits on the front lines of the world’s greatest challenges, matched all donations to reach the $1,000,000 goal.
Every RefugePoint donor is a valued member of a global community, working with us to create a safer and brighter future for refugees. We are grateful for all of your generous gifts. The following donors provided outstanding support ($1,000–$9,999) in 2018.

We also thank our monthly sustainers for their consistent support and recognition that serving refugees is a complex and ongoing process.

We could not have achieved all that we did in 2018 without the integral donors who generously invested ($50,000+) in our mission to make long-term, systematic change.

Financial Statement

Condensed Audited Statement of Activities for the years ended Dec. 31, 2018 and 2017 (in thousands)

Operating Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Grants</td>
<td>3,076</td>
<td>2,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Grants</td>
<td>2,738</td>
<td>2,543</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperative Agreements &amp; Contracts</td>
<td>2,391</td>
<td>1,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarly Gifts &amp; Other</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Operating Revenues</td>
<td>6,349</td>
<td>4,484</td>
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Operating Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>4,242</td>
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Supporting Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>277</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Supporting Services</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>640</td>
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Excess (Deficiency) of Operating Revenues Over Operating Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess (Deficiency) related to Funds with Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>1,219</td>
<td>825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess (Deficiency) related to Funds with Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>1,219</td>
<td>825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Operating Activities (Net)</td>
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<td>(19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets (Loss)</td>
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<td>(290)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</td>
<td>3,303</td>
<td>5,073</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR

6,349  5,302

**Complete financial statements, audited by Alexander Aronson Finning CPAs, are available upon request.**

EXPENSE RATIOS

**Programs (16.7%)**
- Fundraising (4.3%)
- G&A (7.0%)