



**REFUGEPOINT**

# 2017 fourth quarter report

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**A LIFELINE FOR FORGOTTEN REFUGEES**

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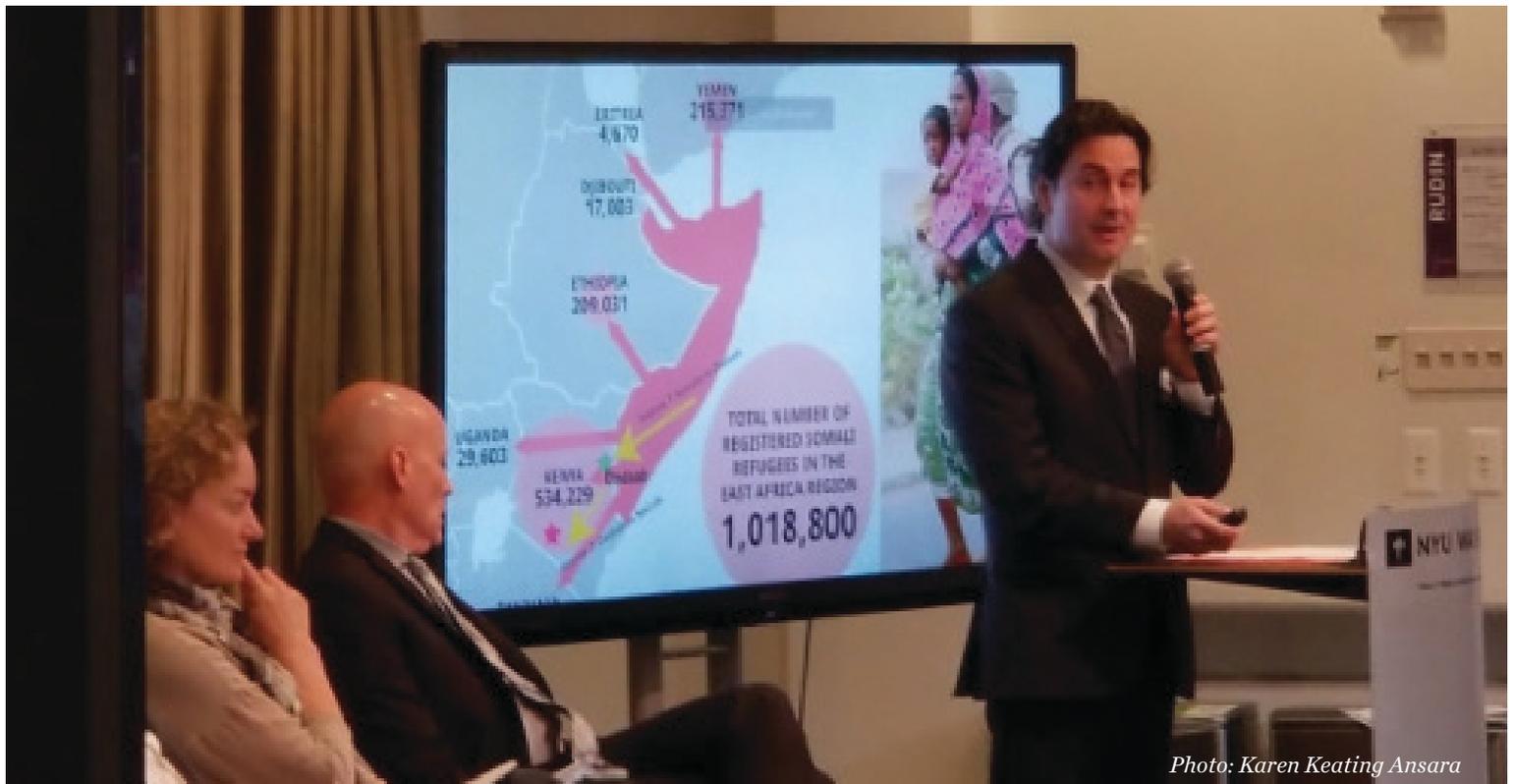


Photo: Karen Keating Ansara

## Creating Lasting Solutions

In November 2017, RefugePoint staff conceptualized and helped to produce a panel discussion in New York titled *Systems Thinking as a Response to the Global Refugee Crisis*. The event was hosted by the Tri-State Area Africa Funders Network in partnership with Fidelity Charitable, the B Team, Focusing Philanthropy, the New England International Donors, and the New York University Social Entrepreneurship Program.

At a time when the world is witnessing the highest levels of human displacement ever recorded, and with more than 22 million refugees worldwide who remain refugees for an average of 17 years, the current “care and maintenance” approach to humanitarian assistance, which focuses on providing emergency aid year after year, is no longer fit for purpose. Many countries in Africa are hosting their third generation of refugees born in exile. This panel discussion posed the question: Can models of systems change address the burgeoning needs of this community?

A group of stakeholders from philanthropic, government, nonprofit and business sectors gathered to discuss the importance of collective action as a response to the global refugee crisis. The Self Reliance Initiative, an effort co-led by RefugePoint and Women’s Refugee Commission, was highlighted. The initiative focuses on promoting opportunities for refugees to become more integrated, socially and economically, as they become self-reliant and begin adding value to their host communities.

The interactive panel was moderated by Jeff Walker, author, Chairman of New Profit, and Vice-Chair in the UN Envoy’s Office for Health Finance and Malaria, and featured IKEA Foundation’s Patricia Atkinson, RefugePoint’s Sasha Chanoff, The State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration’s Katherine Perkins and Women’s Refugee Commission’s Dale Buscher. Outcomes of the event included additional funding commitments, the possibility of creating a high profile launch event for the Self Reliance Initiative, and organizing similar panel discussions to harness collective action among additional stakeholders.

# Lasting Solutions: Resettlement

Identifying and resettling the most at-risk refugees to countries worldwide

*Providing lasting solutions for the most at-risk refugees remains at the core of our work. During this quarter, RefugeePoint staff referred 373 refugees for resettlement from 13 locations in Africa. Our staff also contributed to additional resettlement efforts by leading identification exercises to find at-risk refugees, and completing quality review procedures for resettlement cases. Through these activities, we helped to facilitate the resettlement process for another 976 refugees this quarter.*

## NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

While the number of resettlement referrals was more limited during Q4, our Expert in Assosa, Ethiopia, took on tasks outside of the scope of regular casework and began prison monitoring, where he discovered a population of minors who are serving or awaiting sentences in adult prisons. The Expert, guided by the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, wrote a report for the UNHCR, recommending that provisions be made to address basic material and legal support, lack of segregation of juveniles from adult inmates, and provision of psycho-social support.

The office took these recommendations seriously and provided sleeping mats, buckets, soap, and hygiene kits to 69 refugee prisoners. *(Continued)*



## 4th Quarter RefugeePoint Programs Locations

- |                         |                             |                          |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. DUNDO, ANGOLA        | 9. LILONGWE, MALAWI         | 17. GENEVA, SWITZERLAND* |
| 2. EASTERN CHAD         | 10. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA* | 18. TUNIS, TUNISIA       |
| 3. SOUTHERN CHAD        | 11. NIAMEY, NIGER           | 19. KYAKA, UGANDA        |
| 4. ALI SABIEH, DJIBOUTI | 12. HUYE, RWANDA            | 20. SOLWEZI, ZAMBIA      |
| 5. CAIRO, EGYPT         | 13. KIBUYE, RWANDA          |                          |
| 6. ASSOSA, ETHIOPIA     | 14. DAKAR, SENEGAL          |                          |
| 7. DUHOK, IRAQ*         | 15. PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA  |                          |
| 8. NAIROBI, KENYA       | 16. KASSALA, SUDAN          |                          |

\*NOT SHOWN

## NOTEWORTHY EVENTS (CONTINUED)

The UNHCR/Assosa sub-office also followed through on the recommendation that the prison partner with the Assosa University School of Law to provide pro-bono legal counsel to refugees in need. The expert is continuing to monitor the process formally, and hopes to play an active role in 2018 through continued prison monitoring, and by helping to write reports.

Our experts in Tunisia, Niger, and Senegal, along with their UNHCR colleagues, have been responding to the urgent needs of over 14,500 migrants and refugees who were being held captive by smugglers in and around the coastal city of Sabratha in Libya. Authorities transferred the refugees from various locations in Libya to official detention centers where humanitarian agencies were able to assist them.

Libyan authorities estimate that there may be a few thousand more refugees being held by smugglers, and if confirmed, this would bring the total number of refugees being held in the coastal city of Sabratha in Libya to 20,500, including those in official detention centers. Since the onset of this humanitarian crisis, RefugePoint Experts have been on the ground to support Emergency Transit Mechanisms (ETM) in many locations to which refugees have been transferred, and are conducting assessments to assess needs and risks.

The ETM includes tasks such as identifying refugees in detention centres in Libya, negotiating their exit and transport to another country of transit (Niger for the moment), and ensuring their protection while working towards lasting solutions.

The operation in Niamey, Niger continued to receive evacuees from Libya. In times of urgent need, effective communication is essential. Facing a lack of suitable interpreters, our Resettlement Expert in Niamey, who speaks most of the languages of the evacuated refugees, served as the primary communicator in connecting traumatized clients with needed supports. In a week's time, he interpreted in Tigrigna, Oromo, Amharic, Somali, French and English for individuals with critical psychosocial needs which developed as a result of their experiences in captivity.

A major gap in the ETM is the limited staffing for child protection services. Our Expert based in Tunisia estimates that of the expected 1,400 individuals who will be evacuated from Libya to Niger in 2018, 50% will be unaccompanied minors who will require assessment and best interest determinations (BIDs). We are determining how RefugePoint can best support response efforts.

Since 2005, RefugePoint has referred

39,358

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.*

RefugePoint, in collaboration with education scholarship partners Xavier Project and the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) held a comprehensive education camp in December to bring all of the children involved in the urban refugee scholarship program together in order to share ideas about how to increase access to education among refugee children. The three-day event involved about 300 students, including 28 children receiving educational scholarships from RefugePoint, and included topics such as opportunities for secondary education scholarships and an overview of the gaps in access to secondary education for refugees in Kenya.

The students participated in group work sessions, where they brainstormed simple projects on how to increase access to secondary education among refugee children. They were required to identify one challenge that they considered a hindrance to school access, and to outline specific ways on how they would tackle it. Some of the innovative ideas included developing a platform where refugees abroad can connect and contribute educational resources, and promoting mentorship and lobbying the Kenyan government to accelerate the issuance of birth certificates, mandates and alien cards that are required for school enrollment. This may involve amending the Refugee Act (2006).

The children presented their projects before a panel of judges from all of the partner agencies and the winners received awards and were encouraged to continue developing their innovative ideas. The partners agreed to look into some of the ideas to see how they could incorporate them into future program designs. On the last day of the camp, the children engaged in various sporting and team building activities.

The first of its kind, the event was very successful. The partners had previously been holding the education camps separately but decided to pool resources this year to cut costs and to strengthen collective efforts to support urban refugee protection initiatives.

## RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization Path

### COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR OUTREACH

Q4 **1258**  
YTD **10419**

### EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



#### Health Services

Q4 **951**  
YTD **2818**



#### Food Assistance

Q4 **549**  
YTD **1171**



#### Education Support

Q4 **13**  
YTD **329**



#### Group Counseling

Q4 **124**  
YTD **393**



#### Businesses Launched

Q4 **43**  
YTD **199**

### GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q4 **70**  
YTD **302**

# 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 66 vulnerable refugee children in 10 locations, and reviewed child protection assessments for an additional 265 children.*

## Field Highlight

Our Child Protection Expert in Assosa, Ethiopia, noted the pervasive trend of both intentional and unintentional separation of children from their biological family members among Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees. Due to the conflict in their countries of origin, caregivers often send children to be cared for by distant relatives, or leave them as they move to find a safe haven. Care arrangements for children among these populations are sometimes fluid, and this may be destabilizing for children.

Our expert in Assosa worked with a 17-year-old orphan living with his 20-year-old brother. The child had attended school through 5th grade, but then dropped out a few months ago because he only owned one set of clothes and felt embarrassed to go to school everyday wearing the same outfit. As part of the BID panel, our expert recommended to protection partners that they provide the child with clothing, shoes and other materials in order to facilitate his return to school. The partners agreed, and the expert is continuing to monitor the situation, which illustrates the need for additional support for children living in the camp. The expert is continuing to build capacity and systems through the facilitation of trainings, attending Working Groups and working on standard operating procedures related to child protection initiatives.

During a home visit with a young unaccompanied Sudanese girl, the child disclosed to our Child Protection Expert in Cairo repeated incidents of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) by a perpetrator who is well-known and powerful within the refugee community. Given the urgency, our Expert finalized the best interest assessment (BIA) paperwork and held an emergency best interest determination (BID) panel meeting to discuss the child's case and assess possible resettlement countries for submission of the case. Her colleagues held discussions with representatives from the United Kingdom (UK) and the UK officials were interested in the case and wished to arrange for the child to depart from Egypt within two weeks. Unfortunately, it takes longer than two weeks to obtain the required exit permits from Egypt and the UK predicted that it would not have departure slots available past the second week of December. After persistent follow-up and continued assistance from the Expert and her colleagues, the exit permits were arranged for the child to depart at the beginning of January 2018. This success was partly due to the Expert's coordination of partners and UNHCR colleagues, who collaborated and came together to help this child find a safe haven, away from the perpetrator's continued presence.



# Rescuing Lives

## A Long Journey to Safety

In 2013, Esther\* and her ten children were forced to flee their home country of Congo after her husband, a human rights activist, was abducted, and the rest of the family was brutally attacked. In Nairobi, Esther and her children lived with a friend in a one-room home and were barely able to afford one meal per day. Although Esther was earning a small income through selling cassava leaves, a traditional vegetable, and contributing her income towards rent and food, the living situation for the family was unsafe.

A year after her arrival to Nairobi, a RefugePoint Community Navigator introduced Esther to RefugePoint, where Esther and her family were assessed to be at significant risk, and received a wide range of services, including food assistance, group counseling sessions for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), assistance in finding a new and improved housing situation, and assistance with non-food items like mattresses, blankets and bed sheets. Additionally, Esther completed RefugePoint's business skills training and received a grant of Ksh. 13,000 (\$130 USD),

which enabled her to grow her small business of preparing and selling traditional vegetables and fish.

Esther used some of the grant money to purchase a freezer to store her prepared food products for next-day deliveries. This saved Esther half a day's work, as she no longer had to wake up early, travel to the farm to collect vegetables, and process the vegetables before delivery.

Esther continued her engagement with RefugePoint, attending business mentorship sessions, which allowed her to brainstorm ways to build her business with other RefugePoint clients. In September 2017, Esther received an additional grant of Ksh. 20,000 (\$200 USD), which she used to buy oil, dried fish, and kitenge cloth, to expand her business. Esther's business is currently doing well. She says that the greatest skills she learned from the RefugePoint business training were networking and identifying her competition. She has now established a wide customer base, and relies greatly on referrals.

*\*Name changed for anonymity*