

REFUGE POINT

2023 first quarter report

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Dr. Kinyua, a locum ophthalmologist, performing an eye test on a patient at RefugePoint's medical outreach event in Ruiru.

Quarterly Highlight

Physical and mental health are key components for refugee self-reliance. RefugePoint regularly facilitates medical outreach events throughout Nairobi, reaching different refugee communities each time. The main purpose of these events is to promote the uptake of health services and access to health facilities. They also aim to create awareness of communicable and non-communicable diseases and their prevention through health education. The outreaches allow RefugePoint to assess community health trends by comparing data collected throughout Nairobi.

During Q1, RefugePoint partnered with the Kenyan Ministry of Health (MoH) to provide community health services in Huruma and Ruiru, areas in and around Nairobi. The medical outreach in Ruiru primarily targeted Ethiopian, Sudanese, Congolese, and Burundian refugee communities who live in Kiambu county, along with the local Kenyan population. It also helped integrate these communities into the Kenyan MoH system.

During the outreach in Ruiru, we offered screening for cervical, breast, and prostate cancers. These screenings were offered in response to requests from refugees in that community that were identified through a participatory assessment last year. Ninety-nine women were screened for cervical and breast cancer and 57 men for prostate cancer with no cases detected. We continue to partner with the MoH to implement the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2022 pillar one, which focuses on prevention, early detection, and cancer screening.

In total, we supported 1,161 individuals with medical services in Huruma and Ruiru. Eight hundred and nine individuals were screened for diabetes and hypertension and 119 individuals were referred for specialized care. We performed 458 vision tests, out of which, 253 individuals received corrective glasses. Two hundred and sixty-seven individuals were treated for eye infections, and 41 were referred for specialized ophthalmic treatment.

Self-Reliance:

Helping refugees improve their lives

Direct Services

Providing lasting solutions for at-risk refugees remains at the core of our work. 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, medical care, and empowerment through counseling, skill-building, and livelihoods assistance.

As 2023 began, Kenya was still experiencing a major drought, resulting in a severe food shortage. The economic situation remained tenuous as inflation was driven higher by the drought and increased fuel costs. Many families, including refugee households, struggled to meet their daily needs as incomes dipped while cost of living remained high. Amidst the backdrop of these challenges, through our holistic Urban Refugee Protection Program (URPP) in Nairobi, we supported clients to reach stability and self-reliance.

The URPP health unit supported 1,519 clients during Q1, primarily through medical outreaches. Other patients were provided medical consultations and prescriptions. The counseling unit conducted several group counseling sessions for men, women, and youth. For the first time, we initiated a therapy group for caregivers of clients living with mental health challenges.

The Kenyan education system started a competency-based curriculum and RefugePoint supported an additional 22 learners as they entered junior high school. In total, RefugePoint supported 123 individuals with education support. Due to the large number of refugees identified in need of support in Q1, RefugePoint began providing cash for food, rather than waiting for our standard food distribution.

During Q1, RefugePoint increased the potential size of business grants to \$800 due to the increased cost of living, which clients greatly appreciated. The increased grant amount enabled individuals to purchase necessary assets and materials for their businesses and rent well-situated business premises. Though the business environment was challenging in Q1, clients remained hopeful that the situation would improve as the government works to stabilize the economy.



RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization Path

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

Q1 **5,030**
YTD **5,030**

EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



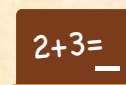
Clients Receiving
Medical Assistance

Q1 **1,519**
YTD **1,519**



Food Assistance

Q1 **663**
YTD **663**



Education
Support

Q1 **123**
YTD **123**



Counseling

Q1 **309**
YTD **309**



Businesses
Launched

Q1 **46**
YTD **46**

GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q1 **212**
YTD **212**

Field Building and Systems Change

In addition to the direct services that we provide to urban refugees in Nairobi to achieve self-reliance, we also work to make large-scale impact through field building and systems change. One way that 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 January, the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI) team and steering committee members Amy Slaughter (RefugePoint), Dale Buscher (Women's Refugee Commission), and Kellie Lesson (Women's Refugee Commission) published an article in the latest issue of Forced Migration Review magazine. The article, [Measuring and Facilitating Self-Reliance](#), focuses on how self-reliance has emerged as an increasingly important component of refugee response and outlines the conceptual underpinnings of the Self-Reliance Index (SRI).

In March, the RSRI launched the Self-Reliance Index (SRI) [e-learning modules in Arabic](#).

These modules are a comprehensive training tool to help organizations understand and utilize the SRI, and are also available in English, Spanish, and French.

The RSRI also hosted a special virtual screening for its Community of Practice of The Neighborhood Storyteller, a film by HOME Storytellers, to kick off Women's History Month. The event featured [a discussion](#) with Francisco Alcalá Torreslanda and Alejandra Alcalá, co-founders of HOME Storytellers.

Resettlement & Other Pathways:

Helping refugees relocate to safety

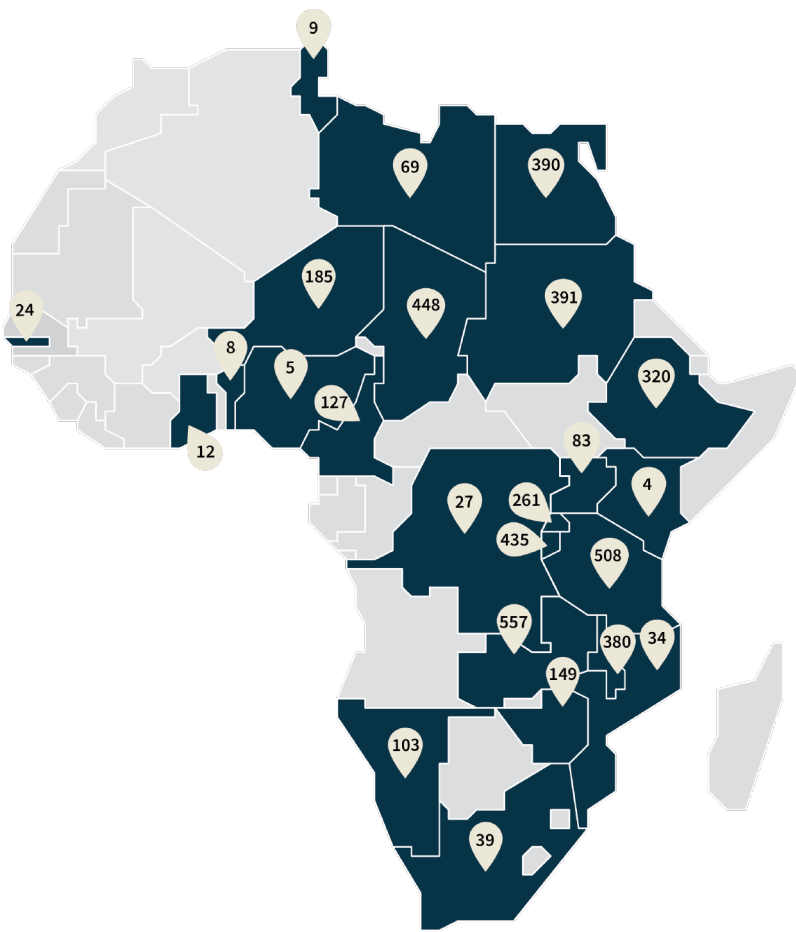
Direct Services

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 5,718 refugees access resettlement and other pathways to safety from 108 locations in 34 countries worldwide.

During Q1, RefugePoint continued working to connect people and families in need of protection to opportunities to rebuild their lives and reunite with loved ones through resettlement, labor mobility, and family reunification. Among those supported by the resettlement program were three minor siblings seeking to be reunited with their uncle in the U.S., after their parents were killed in their country of origin. This submission, if accepted, will mark a new beginning for these children who have suffered violence, hardship, loss, and family separation due to conflict.

RefugePoint's economic mobility program focused on supporting refugees pursuing healthcare jobs in Canada. In January, 26 candidates who had received provisional job offers in 2022 had their offers confirmed by MacLeod Group in Nova Scotia—the employer who has made the highest number of job offers in the program so far. The program also onboarded a French language training component to provide more support to Francophone candidates. *(Continued)*



Refugees Assisted in the 4th Quarter

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. BANGLADESH - 173* | 18. NAMIBIA - 103 |
| 2. BENIN - 6 | 19. NIGER - 185 |
| 3. BURUNDI - 435 | 20. NIGERIA - 5 |
| 4. CAMEROON - 127 | 21. PAKISTAN - 186* |
| 5. CHAD - 448 | 22. RWANDA - 261 |
| 6. CONGO KINSHASA - 27 | 23. SAUDI ARABIA - 8* |
| 7. EGYPT - 390 | 24. SENEGAL - 24 |
| 8. ETHIOPIA - 320 | 25. SOUTH AFRICA - 39 |
| 9. GHANA - 12 | 26. SUDAN - 391 |
| 10. GUATEMALA - 59* | 27. TANZANIA - 508 |
| 11. IRAQ - 52* | 28. THAILAND - 16* |
| 12. JORDAN - 295* | 29. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - 25* |
| 13. KENYA - 4* | 30. TUNISIA - 9 |
| 14. LEBANON - 242* | 31. TURKEY - 96* |
| 15. LIBYA - 69 | 32. UGANDA - 83 |
| 16. MALAWI - 380 | 33. ZAMBIA - 557 |
| 17. MOZAMBIQUE - 34 | 34. ZIMBABWE - 14 |

The year started strong for the RefugePoint-UNHCR Collaboration Project. RefugePoint Experts in Tanzania learned that because of their strong resettlement work in Q1, they would be able to extend resettlement opportunities to an additional 3,000 refugees in 2023. Additionally, Resettlement Experts in Burundi and Rwanda noted that expansions in criteria for group processing of refugee cases allowed for greater and quicker access to resettlement. Complementary Pathways Experts in Tunisia and France worked on the UNIV'R scholarship program, which will provide an additional pathway for refugees to pursue education and build brighter futures. The program provides refugees with an opportunity to pursue a Master's degree in France. Finally, RefugePoint's Resettlement Expert in Guatemala is coordinating the appeals process for cases that received negative decisions, advocating for their reconsideration.

Field Building and Systems Change

In addition to helping refugees relocate to safety through direct services, RefugePoint also hosts trainings, develops tools, and makes policy recommendations to improve global systems related to resettlement and other pathways. This quarter, our staff trained 156 individuals from UNHCR and partner organizations on topics ranging from child protection to resettlement and other pathways.

RefugePoint has recently begun operationalizing a new program to support and train non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to make referrals and direct submissions to the U.S Refugee Admissions Program, with partners HIAS and IRAP. Hannah Bensusan joined RefugePoint in January to act as the project's technical lead, and consortium members worked to establish systems and harmonize key policies, procedures, and tools as a foundation for training and equipping new NGOs to work in resettlement. In addition to continuing its referral work in Nairobi, RefugePoint carried out partner mapping and identification, met with current and prospective partners, and formalized strategic partnerships to operationalize the program.

In March, RefugePoint hosted the EU-Passworld project meeting in Nairobi, where participants from Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, and the U.S. came together to explore strategies for the identification, referral, and screening of refugees. The meeting included community visits, working sessions, and dialogue with refugees participating in complementary pathways programs in Kenya.

Training is a foundational field-building tool. One of RefugePoint's Resettlement Experts in Malawi recently gave a presentation on the legal foundations of resettlement casework and how to gather the important information during an interview with a refugee. An Expert in Sudan trained interpreters on translating for individuals with particularly vulnerable backgrounds, including LGBTIQ+ refugees. Finally, Complementary Pathways Experts are working together to prepare for the Global Refugee Forum, to be held in December 2023, where they are advocating for pledges that will solidify more creative collaboration between host and receiving countries and encourage flexibility to facilitate family reunification.

Quarterly: Q1 2023

5,718

Refugees assisted in accessing resettlement and other pathways to safety this quarter.

Annually: 2023

5,718

Refugees assisted in accessing resettlement and other pathways to safety this year so far.



Cross-Cutting Protection Priorities

Child Protection

RefugePoint prioritizes refugee children in all of our programs and we collaborate closely with partners to fill critical gaps in refugee child protection. This quarter, our staff conducted and reviewed child protection assessments for 396 refugee children.

RefugePoint Child Protection Experts continue to advocate on behalf of the refugee youth they are supporting. One Expert working in Bangladesh is establishing a system to more easily refer children and their families to the resettlement team. Additionally, our Child Protection Expert in Malawi advocated for an assessment of child protection needs in the camps they work in and is now a part of a multifunctional team working to improve housing conditions. Through the advocacy of the URPP Social Work team, one child who needed a hearing aid obtained one from well-wishers in Switzerland.

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 wellbeing (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.

RefugePoint's MHPSS team continues to grow, as we have prepared for the onboarding of four new locum counselors. They will be providing mental health and psychosocial support to URPP clients when our regular counselors are not available. We have also been preparing for the onboarding of a community liaison who will serve as a project coordinator for new community-based mental health projects. Our new UNCP staff and other interested parties, participated in MHPSS onboarding and introduction to trauma-informed interviewing and communication. RefugePoint has taken up "trauma-informed practice" as a guiding principle within our five-year strategy and therefore MHPSS continues to identify ways of integrating this into various aspects of RefugePoint's work.



Staff from RefugePoint, Danish Refugee Council, and ICMC in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Supporting Refugees in Cox's Bazar

Over a million Rohingya refugees have fled genocide in Myanmar since the early 1990s. A new surge of violence in 2017 has forced hundreds of thousands more to flee to Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, now considered the largest refugee camp in the world. However, the Bangladeshi government halted all refugee resettlement in 2010, leaving nearly [a million Rohingya refugees](#) stuck without hope of returning to their still-dangerous home or resettling to a new one.

In 2022, the Biden Administration expressed a commitment to resettling Rohingya refugees to the U.S., and UNHCR began the process of restarting its resettlement program in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. In September, RefugePoint sent three Experts—two in Resettlement and one in Child Protection—alongside three additional Experts from partner organizations to help rebuild a resettlement system from the ground up.

In February, Zack Gross, RefugePoint's Associate Director for Deployment Programs, joined

representatives from partner organizations Danish Refugee Council and International Catholic Migration Commission on a joint monitoring mission to Cox's Bazar. They visited the refugee camps our Experts work in and met with UNHCR and partner staff to learn from one another and ascertain how we can best support the crucial resettlement work in Bangladesh.

During the mission, UNHCR recognized that the Experts deployed to Cox's Bazar were crucial for not only meeting but exceeding the 2022 resettlement quotas. With new systems and tools being put in place, and with the relentless support of RefugePoint and partner organizations, thousands more Rohingya refugees will be able to benefit from resettlement in 2023 and reach new countries where they can begin rebuilding their lives in safety.

Staffing & Finances

Development Update

In Q1, RefugePoint launched a \$1.5M matching campaign with Focusing Philanthropy. Through this campaign, Focusing Philanthropy will provide a 1:1 match for donations more than \$1,000 made directly through the [2023 Resttlement and Dignified Lives for Refugee Children campaign](#).

Financial Update

RefugePoint ended Q1 with \$1,461,603 in revenue against expenses of \$3,225,520. This variance is in part due to revenue recognition standards which will even out as the year progresses. Additionally, a significant portion of RefugePoint's individual and grant funding is received in Q3 and Q4.

Staffing

In March, RefugePoint's Boston office welcomed Teresa Vargas as our new Staff Accountant.

During Q1, we recruited and onboarded the following staff at our Nairobi office: Mediatrix Onyango, Training and Technical Manager, UNCP; Winnie Mwendu, Associate, Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting; Rebecca Okech, Officer, Child Protection; Oscar Mokera, Temporary Associate, Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting; and Ufinfete Ahmed, Community Navigator.

Press

[N.S. healthcare recruitment trip to Kenyan refugee camp leads to 65 job offers](#), Karla Renić, Global News Canada

[Press release: Healthcare Workers Coming to Nova Scotia from Kenya](#), Nova Scotia Government

[Talent Beyond Boundaries](#), The Immigration Conversation, Fragomen Podcast

[The State Department launches a new way for ordinary Americans to resettle refugees](#), Joel Rose, NPR

[Biden Administration Invites Ordinary Americans to Help Settle Refugees](#), Miram Jordan, New York Times

[Americans can sponsor refugees directly under new program](#), Ted Hesson, Reuters

[New program lets private citizens sponsor refugees in US](#), Rebecca Santana, CBS Austin

[Measuring and facilitating self-reliance](#), Amy Slaughter, Kellie C. Leeson, and Dale Buscher, Forced Migration Review

[How Americans can sponsor refugees – and why they should](#), Op-Ed by Sasha Chanoff, Boston Globe

[Labour Mobility: An Alternative Pathway for Refugees](#), Bahati Ernestine Maganjo, Beyond Sciences Initiative