

REFUGE POINT

2023 second quarter report

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Mama Juma, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, outside her home in Nairobi, Kenya. She has built a business and is on the path to self-reliance with support from RefugePoint. Mama Juma is one of RefugePoint's many clients featured in our Case for Support. Photo: Tobin Jones

Quarterly Highlight

On June 1st, RefugePoint welcomed refugees, donors, board members, and team members from around the world to our new office in Boston to celebrate the launch of our five-year strategy. At the event, we distributed our [2023-2027 Case for Support](#), which outlines our five-year strategy and our plan to transform refugee response. Central to our strategy is the collective reimagining of what refugee response looks like in partnership with refugees themselves, so that their voices, strengths, and needs guide our strategy.

The Case for Support highlights the fact that in the face of the world's largest refugee crisis in history, innovative, inclusive, long-term responses are needed now more than ever.

“This five-year strategy is about transforming refugee response. Making solutions more available to people so that they can live their lives with

agency in safe and supportive environments. We have a number of different strategies to do this that will, in the next five years, enable millions of people to become self-reliant, to move to countries where they can rebuild their lives, reunite with family members, and to do so much more. We aim to raise \$70 million dollars over five years to do this on a global scale with partners. So, we encourage all of you to become part of a movement to transform humanitarian response, so we can unlock and unleash the potential of people who are otherwise subjected to such terrible atrocities but have such hope and aspiration for a better future,” Sasha Chanoff, CEO, shared at the event.

To learn more about how RefugePoint will build responsive and impactful programs that advance lasting solutions for refugees over the next five years, [please read our Case for Support](#).

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, Kenya 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.

The cost of living in Nairobi continued to soar this quarter, which disadvantaged many refugee families. More refugees sought assistance at RefugePoint's Kenya office, while core clients lobbied to be supported for longer periods of time than usual. Political demonstrations continued throughout the city, which severely impacted clients' businesses. Due to this instability, our team reduced the number of client home visits to ensure the safety of staff and clients. During this period, our staff reached out to clients to prepare and help them cope with the violence witnessed in the streets, which can result in re-traumatization.

Despite these challenges, RefugePoint assisted 12 children to attend school for the first time. We also awarded 40 business grants to clients. One client who received a similar grant in the past now runs a thriving clothing business. By promoting her products on social media, she's able to be self-reliant and meet her household needs. Another client used his grant to expand his business by hiring two employees at his growing restaurant.

RefugePoint's new Child Protection Officer, Rebecca Okech, assessed eight households with child protection concerns to ensure their safety and determine next steps for advancing the children's best interests. Our team also participated in Community-Based Protection (CBP) meetings and discussed, among other things, the standard operating procedures for preventing and responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Our staff also participated in the CBP task force on refugee-led organizations' (RLOs) engagement. Additionally, our Nairobi office hosted four students from the University of British Columbia for experiential learning.



RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization Path

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

Q2 **4,440**
YTD **9,470**

EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



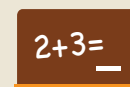
Clients Receiving
Medical Assistance

Q2 **593**
YTD **1,972**



Food Assistance

Q2 **723**
YTD **878**



Education
Support

Q2 **325**
YTD **325**



Counseling

Q2 **85**
YTD **189**



Businesses
Launched

Q2 **40**
YTD **86**

GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q2 **64**
YTD **220**

Field Building and Systems Change

In addition to the direct services that 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 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.

The Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI), UNHCR, and co-convening partners introduced the [Mega Pledge of Economic Inclusion and Social Protection](#) at the Global Refugee Forum Formal Preparatory Meeting in May, with a more in-depth introductory meeting in June. This pledge aims to galvanize concrete commitments from a wide range of stakeholders to advance the self-reliance of refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people, and host communities.

This quarter, the RSRI also published a [learning brief](#) on using the Self-Reliance Index to adapt organizational processes and programming. In addition, the team hosted a [joint webinar](#) with Building Markets to discuss how refugee-led small and medium-sized enterprises can accelerate local economic development.

In our engagement with refugee-led organizations (RLOs), RefugePoint disbursed grants to three

RLOs based in Nairobi, up from two grantees last year. [Youth Voices Community](#), [Umoja Refugee Group](#), and [Oak Solutions Centre](#) have all received financial grants to support self-reliance programs of their choice.

RLO peer-to-peer learning sessions have had significant interest this year with an active cohort of 20 refugee-led organizations, including youth and women-led organizations and groups representing minority communities. Peer-to-peer learning sessions are capacity-sharing sessions where RLO leaders meet bi-monthly and exchange learning around training areas prioritized at the beginning of each year in a training needs assessment. The learning exchanges have helped to improve networking and coordination among RLOs in Nairobi and nationally.

Resettlement & Other Pathways:

Helping refugees relocate to safety

Direct Services

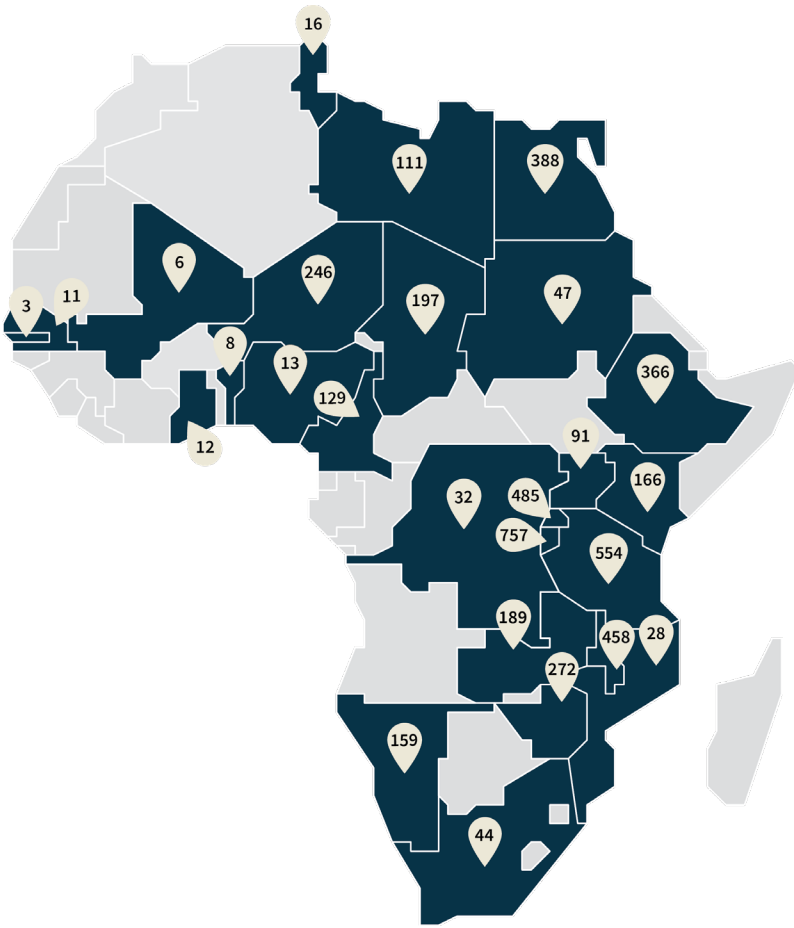
In addition to equipping refugees to become self-reliant, we also work to relocate refugees to safety through resettlement and other legal migration pathways, such as visa programs for family reunification, employment, and education.

This quarter, RefugePoint helped 5,893 refugees access resettlement and other pathways to safety from 104 locations in 37 countries worldwide.

This quarter, RefugePoint achieved 91% of our target for resettlement submissions to the U.S. under the Equitable Resettlement Access Consortium (ERAC) project, while continuing resettlement referrals to Canada. Our team focused on strengthening systems, standardizing processes, and harmonizing tools to support expanded NGO resettlement referrals to the U.S., in addition to conducting anti-fraud training for all staff and formalizing partnerships to strengthen referrals to the program.

RefugePoint's labor mobility program welcomed two new staff in May, increasing the program's processing capacity. For the first time in the history of the program, we were excited to [send out a diversified call for applications](#) under Canada's Economic Mobility Pilot Program (EMPP) to include qualified refugee chefs, carpenters, hotel front desk staff, and construction workers, in addition to healthcare staff, thus expanding access to labor mobility. In mid-June, we celebrated the launch of Canada's federal labor mobility pathway and the additional opportunities it affords for refugees.

The conflict in Sudan has led to an outflow of refugees towards neighboring Chad, Egypt, and Ethiopia, all countries where RefugePoint has multiple UN Collaboration Project (UNCP) Experts working on resettlement. (Continued)



Refugees Assisted in the 2nd Quarter

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. BANGLADESH* - 263 | 20. MOZAMBIQUE - 28 |
| 2. BENIN - 8 | 21. NAMIBIA - 159 |
| 3. BURUNDI - 757 | 22. NIGER - 246 |
| 4. CAMEROON - 129 | 23. NIGERIA - 13 |
| 5. CHAD - 197 | 24. PAKISTAN* - 138 |
| 6. COMOROS* - 1 | 25. RWANDA - 485 |
| 7. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - 32 | 26. SAUDI ARABIA* - 9 |
| 8. EGYPT - 388 | 27. SENEGAL - 11 |
| 9. ETHIOPIA - 366 | 28. SOUTH AFRICA - 44 |
| 10. GAMBIA - 3 | 29. SUDAN - 47 |
| 11. GHANA - 12 | 30. TANZANIA - 554 |
| 12. GUATEMALA* - 61 | 31. THAILAND* - 60 |
| 13. IRAQ* - 95 | 32. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO* - 12 |
| 14. JORDAN* - 237 | 33. TUNISIA - 16 |
| 15. KENYA - 166 | 34. TURKEY* - 55 |
| 16. LEBANON* - 174 | 35. UGANDA - 91 |
| 17. LIBYA - 111 | 36. ZAMBIA - 189 |
| 18. MALAWI - 458 | 37. ZIMBABWE - 272 |
| 19. MALI - 6 | |

* = COUNTRY NOT SHOWN ON MAP

In Chad, the influx of Sudanese refugees impacted resettlement casework as key staff members were drawn to help in the emergency response in the East of the country. Despite the obstacles, our Experts in Chad assisted almost 200 individuals with resettlement casework and supported 20 individuals on their applications for education mobility scholarships to France. On the receiving end in France, RefugePoint's Expert in Paris organized a meeting with scholarship recipients from previous years to provide them with an opportunity to connect and share their experiences.

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 176 individuals from UNHCR and partner organizations on topics ranging from child protection to resettlement and other pathways.

During Q2, RefugePoint continued to share our expertise and insights to support our partners and influence systems and policies related to resettlement and other pathways to safety. UNCP Experts were instrumental in leading training sessions and providing coaching to UNHCR staff and partners. A Child Protection Expert in Rwanda facilitated training on referral pathways to ensure that refugee children in need of specialized services, such as access to education, food assistance, or shelter, are connected with service providers. RefugePoint Experts in Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Chad trained UNHCR staff to utilize an internal case management system and database. These efforts supported identification of refugees in need of resettlement and improved case interviewing and processing.

RefugePoint also contributed to initiatives to build and strengthen labor pathways outside of Kenya. In April, the Canadian High Commission in Kenya invited RefugePoint to share our experience and learning on labor mobility with a Romanian delegation that is exploring resettlement and complementary pathways programs. In June, we participated in a convening of partners engaged in the effort to launch the U.S. labor mobility program. There, staff had an opportunity to offer insights from RefugePoint's experience assisting refugees in Kenya pursuing labor mobility pathways to Canada.

Across resettlement and other pathways, RefugePoint continued to provide leadership ahead of the Global Refugee Forum. Our staff are supporting the development of pledges that solidify commitments to expanding and improving access to resettlement, labor mobility, and family reunification, with an eye toward lasting solutions and refugee-centeredness.

Additionally, at the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement in Geneva, RefugePoint staff engaged with a multitude of stakeholders, including refugee leaders, to explore how lessons learned in recent crises could help to ensure that more refugees find solutions through resettlement and complementary pathways.

Quarterly: Q2 2023

5,893

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

Annually: 2023

11,507

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 421 refugee children.

During Q2, RefugePoint's Nairobi child protection team facilitated an online training on child protection and Best Interests Procedures (BIP) for our UNCP Resettlement Experts to increase knowledge around child protection issues and ensure resettlement is conducted through a child protection lens. RefugePoint's Urban Refugee Protection Program (URPP) Community Navigators in Nairobi, Kenya received training on identifying and referring unaccompanied minors and separated children. It is critical to ensure that Community Navigators can identify children at-risk and their categories during pre-screening home visits. We held seven case conferences to address several complex child protection issues during the quarter.

UNCP Child Protection Experts across duty stations reported an increase in partner output of child protection assessments as a result of their previous trainings and mentorship. The increase in partner capacity has led to more at-risk children being able to access resettlement and other pathways to safety. In Q2, RefugePoint Experts conducted six different trainings on Child Protection in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe, which will lead to more children accessing resettlement this year.

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.

During Q2, we expanded our team engaging in direct MHPSS work through the hiring of three temporary counselors and one community liaison in Nairobi. These staff will serve as focal points for community-based mental health initiatives in RefugePoint's URPP. Approximately 30 direct service staff (including Community Navigators, counselors, and social workers) engaged in a professional session on understanding substance abuse. Internal training on trauma-informed interviewing with minors as well as mental health and psychosocial support for LGBTIQ+ populations provided additional learning and engagement to address training needs. RefugePoint's MHPSS Senior Technical Advisor, Dr. Braxton, attended the Mental Health America Conference, as well as the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Conference, where through networking and a series of meetings, she identified opportunities for coalition building and widening the MHPSS community of practice.



Refugee camp in Chad, where the author works.

A Refugee's Reality in Chad

Written by a [RefugePoint Resettlement Expert](#)

One story that recently touched my heart deeply was Lory's* (name changed for protection). Lory is a young woman from the Central African Republic (CAR), where she has faced many hardships and was eventually forced to flee her home. Lory has one child and is a caregiver to two stepchildren, her orphaned niece, and her husband, Francis* (name changed for protection), who has a disability. Francis faces significant mobility challenges, requires crutches to walk, and struggles to move more than 200 meters.

Between 2013 and 2020, Lory and her family endured instability and violence in their home country. They were forced to flee their village multiple times, seeking shelter in the open countryside, where they lived in dire conditions with little food and water, surviving on wild plants and fruit. When they finally returned to their village, thinking the situation had improved, they faced another attack by rebel groups that shattered their hopes and dreams.

Carrying her husband on her back, Lory and the children walked several kilometers to the Chadian border. But just before crossing into Chad, Lory was attacked and faced sexual violence. Despite the

incident, they continued their journey; their legs swollen and sore from the long, three-day walk to Chad. Unfortunately, Lory didn't find the safety and peace she expected. In 2022, a male refugee tried to assault her niece and stepdaughter in their tent. They were able to scare this man away, but the girls constantly fear being raped in the camp.

Like Lory, many other refugees in Chad are facing a dire situation as they no longer receive the food assistance from emergency relief organizations they used to rely on. Instead, each person gets a meager cash transfer of 3500XAF (around \$5) per month. Due to delays, they must sometimes wait two to three months to receive this amount. Lory works as a farm laborer for the host community to feed her family of six.

Lory longs for a chance to start over, to rebuild her hopes and dreams. As one of RefugePoint's Resettlement Experts, I have the privilege of listening to Lory's story and submitting her case to a resettlement country for consideration. This makes me love this job and gives me energy every morning despite the challenges and dangers of working in southern Chad.



RefugePoint Experts and UNHCR staff participating in RefugePoint's World Refugee Day virtual 5k fundraiser in Burundi.

Staffing & Finances

Development Update

As of Q2, RefugePoint had raised \$5,086,698 against expenses of \$6,086,744. This negative variance is mainly due to a number of larger gifts expected in Q3 and Q4 of this year and multi-year grants allocated for use in 2023 that were received in previous years.

Financial Update

In Q2, RefugePoint hosted our 2nd annual World Refugee Day virtual 5k fundraiser. More than 30 staff and supporters participated in the U.S., Kenya, Burundi, and elsewhere, with 76 donors contributing.

Staffing

During Q2, Layth Sabbagh joined the Boston office as the UNCP Program Officer.

The following staff joined our Nairobi office: Alice Ishimwe Nzibonera and Nancy Abuba Solomon as Community Navigators, Nancy Adhiambo Otieno as Livelihoods Associate, Jessica Kavulani Masibo as Communications Associate, and Quinter Atieno Odhiambo and Beatrice Waithera Ngechu as Labor Mobility Program Assistants.