



First Quarter Report 2025

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Introduction: 20 Years of Lasting Solutions

This year marks RefugePoint's 20th anniversary. Since our founding, we have directly helped over 179,384 refugees access resettlement and other pathways to safety, and thousands more to achieve self-reliance and inclusion in their host communities.

In addition, we've successfully demonstrated new life-changing, refugee-centered approaches that have been adopted by other organizations and funders. These include innovations around self-reliance programming and measurement, as well as other pathways to safety, such as economic mobility and family reunification. Our groundbreaking pilot programs have significantly influenced the direction these solutions have taken, reaching millions of people worldwide.

Over the past two decades, a lot has changed for refugees. In 2005, when RefugePoint opened its doors, there were about 9.5 million refugees globally, according to the UN Refugee Agency. Today, there are at least 43.7 million.

At this time of increasing forced displacement, reduced immigration opportunities, and growing anti-refugee sentiment, RefugePoint is distinctly positioned to reach people who fall through the cracks of assistance. For example, because we work with dozens of receiving countries, if any one government reduces resettlement opportunities, we can help refugees in life-threatening situations get to another.

Funding cuts are already hitting refugee families and communities in devastating ways. Our private funding enables us to respond quickly and nimbly to the changing needs of refugees. While many organizations have been forced to close or operate with limited staff, RefugePoint is still able to help refugees access safety and stability. Read on to learn about our impact so far in 2025.

Joshua* (left), an 18-year-old refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, is the first in his family to finish high school—a milestone that has fueled his dreams of opening a beauty parlor and pursuing his passion for music. With RefugePoint's support, Joshua enrolled in a vocational course and is making strides towards self-reliance. Photo: Diana Karua



Self-Reliance

For refugees who remain indefinitely in the country to which they've fled, we help them move from vulnerability towards self-reliance.

[Read more →](#)

Direct Services

Providing lasting solutions for refugees is at the core of our work. RefugePoint focuses on equipping urban refugees in Nairobi, Kenya to become self-reliant through our Urban Refugee Protection Program (URPP). We achieve this by providing stabilizing support services to ensure access to food, shelter, medical care, and empowerment through counseling, skill-building, and livelihood assistance.

This quarter presented significant challenges due to policy shifts and the termination of foreign aid funding by the U.S. government. These changes led to substantial programmatic reductions across the global refugee support system, further exacerbating the vulnerabilities of refugees by limiting access to critical life-saving and self-reliance support.

In response, the URPP prioritized the continuation of holistic programming to advance and deepen clients’ self-reliance, and to mitigate the impact of these disruptions and address emerging gaps.

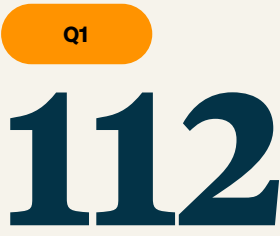
In February, the URPP’s Livelihoods Program launched its first Business Development Skills Training of the year and issued 20 business grants aimed at establishing or strengthening refugee-owned businesses. These interventions contributed to improved livelihood outcomes, with clients reporting increased sales and progress on their paths to self-reliance.

The URPP also made progress in integrating refugees into the national health system by supporting their registration for equal access to services. By the end of the quarter, 463 individuals had successfully transitioned to the new system, with some accessing inpatient care. In addition, the URPP facilitated enrolling 134 new children in school and provided food assistance to 518 clients, of which 45 were new clients added in the first quarter, resulting in tangible improvements in both health and self-reliance outcomes.

Recognizing the critical role of mental wellness in achieving self-reliance, the URPP expanded its Counseling Program by hiring an additional counselor. This has strengthened the capacity to provide mental health and psychosocial support, helping clients recover from trauma and rebuild their lives with hope and dignity in their host country.

RefugePoint’s Urban Stabilization Path

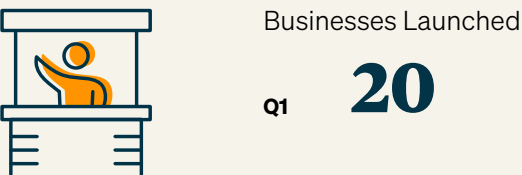
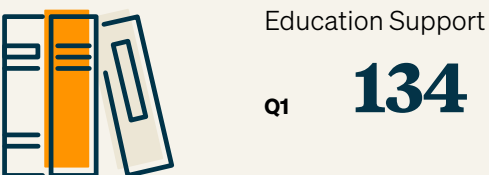
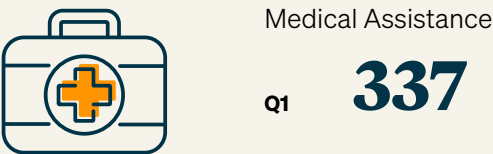
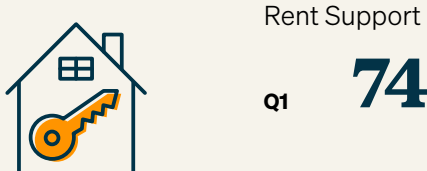
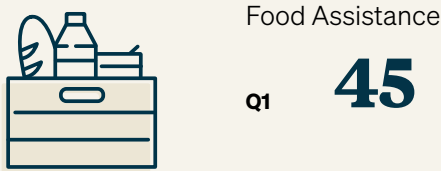
Clients Graduated to Self-Reliance



Community Health Outreach



Empowerment and Stabilization



Field Building & Systems Change

In addition to the direct services 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 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.

During the first quarter, RefugePoint strengthened global systems supporting refugee self-reliance by advancing collaboration, sharing field insights, and launching new platforms for connection and learning. The URPP led the revitalization of the Livelihoods Theme Group, an interagency platform that fosters collaboration, knowledge exchange, and coordination among stakeholders focused on refugee self-reliance. RefugePoint's leadership in this initiative helped advance field-building goals and enhance collective impact at a sector-wide, systems level.

In January, RSRI Executive Director Kari Diener presented global Self-Reliance Index (SRI) data from urban and non-camp-based settings at the 20th International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Conference in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The RSRI also published the SRI Cycle 3 Learning Report, capturing insights from the global use of SRI 2.0 and highlighting updates reflected in the new SRI 3.0.

Responding to U.S. executive orders that disrupted humanitarian funding and pathways to self-reliance, the RSRI surveyed Community of Practice members and curated a list of bridge funds and other funding resources to support affected organizations. In March, the RSRI launched the RSRI Hub, a new virtual platform for connection, collaboration, and resource sharing among more than 300 global organizations.

In February, the RSRI hosted a special learning call on the inaugural RLO-Led Insights Fund, where recipient refugee-led organizations (RLOs) shared findings from their self-reliance research projects. In Kenya, the RSRI completed grant agreements for RLOs we partnered with in 2024, celebrated graduations for participants of training programs, and began screening and identifying RLOs for 2025 grants and capacity-strengthening initiatives.



Kari Diener, RSRI Executive Director, delivering a presentation on the measurement of self-reliance at the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) conference in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in January.



Resettlement & Other Pathways to Safety

We help refugees who cannot remain safely where they are to permanently and legally relocate to a safe, new country through various visa channels and government programs.

[Read more →](#)

Direct Services

In addition to equipping refugees to become self-reliant, we 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 3,092 refugees access pathways to safety, including resettlement, family reunification, employment, and sponsorship from 94 locations in 30 countries worldwide.

As executive orders brought the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) to an abrupt halt, RefugePoint’s Kenya-based staff worked swiftly to expand access to resettlement and alternative pathways for refugees to safe countries. The resettlement team prioritized referrals to Canada, aiming to submit 100 refugee cases in 2025. The labor mobility team screened 221 new applications from refugees in Dadaab, Kakuma, and Nairobi, resulting in 45 candidates being referred for jobs in health care, construction, food service, plumbing, welding, and carpentry. Meanwhile, the family reunification team counseled 70 cases and referred 52 individuals to legal partners for family reunification applications in the United States and European Union (EU) countries. The team also completed a Best Interests Determination (BID), leading to a separated child gaining approval to reunite with family, and are now working to secure necessary child custody orders.

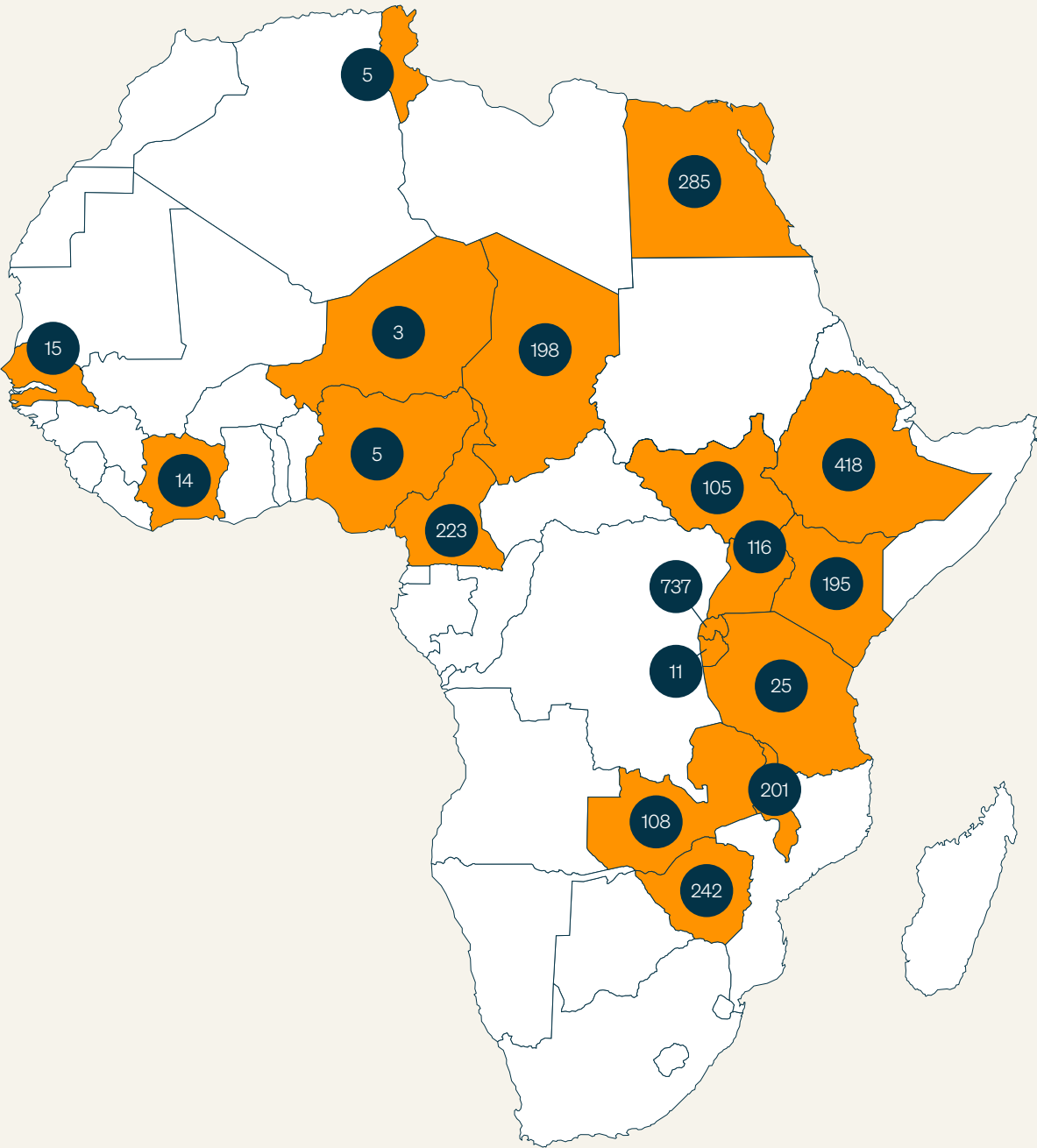
Around the world, RefugePoint Experts deployed to UN Refugee Agency operations adapted to widespread disruptions in resettlement processing. Experts prioritized resubmitting cases with urgent protection needs to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and EU countries. In Chad, an Expert focused on highly vulnerable single women and survivors of gender-based violence; in South Sudan, Experts developed an assessment tool to identify cases facing heightened risks; and in Uganda, an Expert participated in a “Persons with Special Needs” verification to prioritize resettlement for those most at risk.

As traditional resettlement options narrowed, Experts also supported refugees in accessing complementary legal pathways. In Ethiopia, an Expert facilitated applications for Italy’s education scholarship program and Canada’s humanitarian pathways for those displaced from Sudan. In West Africa, collaboration with a legal NGO enabled the reunification of a family in Niger with siblings in the United Kingdom. In India, an Expert assisted 41 refugees with family reunification processes.

Staff also engaged in outreach and information-sharing to prevent exploitation and raise awareness of legal pathways. In Kenya, outreach efforts reached Dadaab, Kakuma, and neighborhoods in Nairobi. In India, RefugePoint’s Expert engaged refugee leaders in Delhi, Mewat, and Jammu to strengthen understanding of rights-based family reunification options.

Refugees assisted in accessing resettlement and other pathways in Q1

3,092



Refugees Assisted in Q1

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

* Country not shown on map

1. Afghanistan*	1	15. Malawi	201	29. Zambia	108
2. Bangladesh*	22	16. Malaysia*	1	30. Zimbabwe	242
3. Burundi	11	17. Niger	3	Total:	3,092
4. Cameroon	223	18. Nigeria	5		
5. Chad	198	19. Pakistan*	1		
6. China*	6	20. Papua New Guinea*	4		
7. Colombia*	18	21. Rwanda	737		
8. Côte d'Ivoire	14	22. Senegal	15		
9. Ethiopia	418	23. South Sudan	105		
10. Guatemala*	22	24. Tanzania	25		
11. India*	47	25. Thailand*	174		
12. Iran*	6	26. Tunisia	5		
13. Kenya	195	27. Turkiye*	167		
14. Laos*	2	28. Uganda	116		

Field Building & Systems Change

In addition to helping refugees relocate to safety through direct services, RefugePoint hosts trainings, develops and shares tools to enhance capacity across our partners, and makes policy recommendations to improve global systems related to resettlement and other pathways. During the first quarter of 2025, our staff trained 167 individuals from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and partner organizations on topics ranging from child protection to resettlement and other pathways.

Robust field building and systems change activities continued across resettlement and other pathways this quarter. In Kenya, RefugePoint, HIAS, and the Directorate of Children's Services hosted an interagency training on March 19, strengthening knowledge on family reunification, best interests procedures, and child custody among participants from UNHCR, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya, and RefuSHE. RefugePoint also coordinated joint messaging and discussed emerging resettlement trends with UNHCR and HIAS through Kenya's Resettlement Working Group.

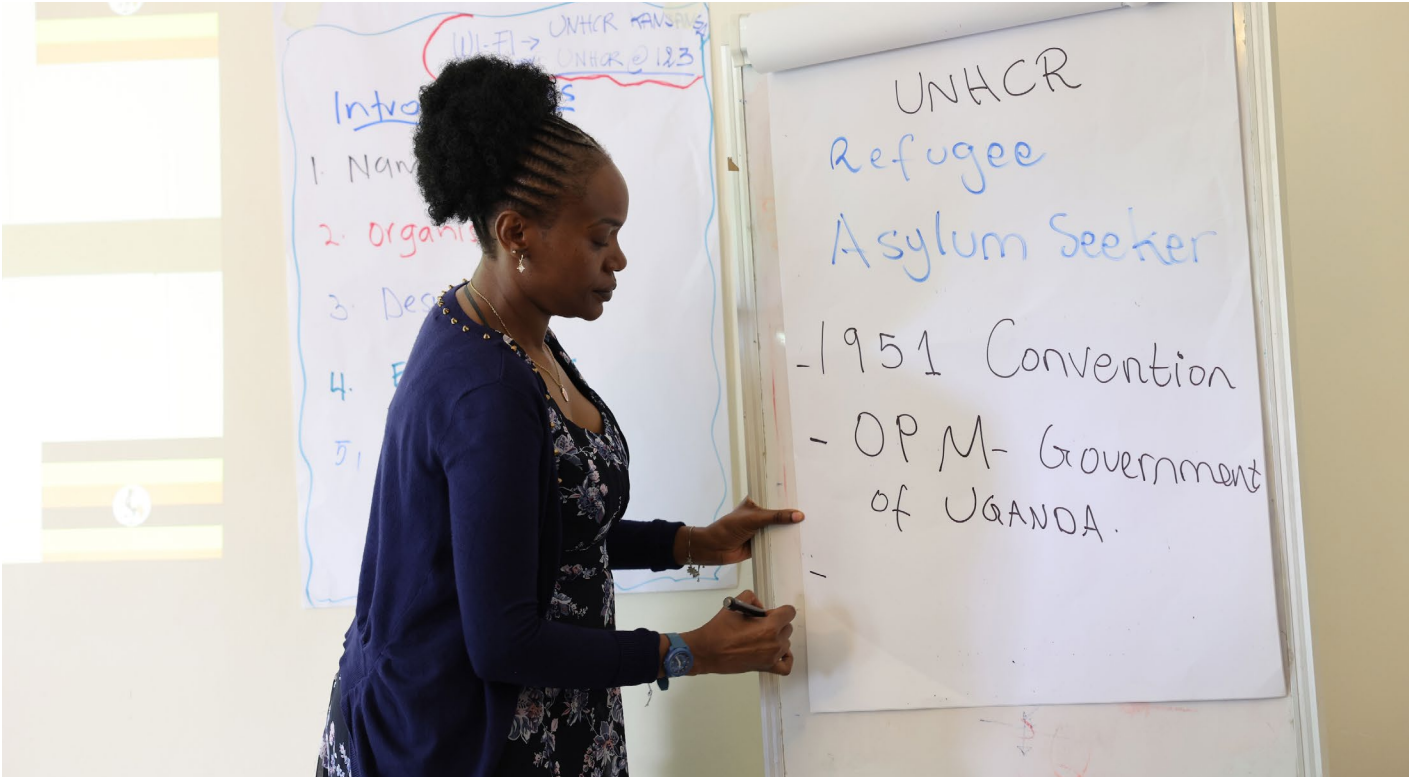
Elsewhere, RefugePoint Experts strengthened systems in their duty stations. In Colombia, Experts trained UNHCR colleagues on effectively highlighting refugees' needs in resettlement referrals. In Ethiopia, an Expert advocated for greater partner engagement in identifying resettlement cases to better reach vulnerable refugees. An Expert for UNHCR's West and Central Africa region designed a survey to inform a new strategy on complementary pathways. In India, RefugePoint's Expert provided training to UNHCR and ActionAid staff on family reunification.

At the global level, the Family Reunification Network (FRUN) welcomed six new Advisory Group members, including two refugee leaders, and launched working groups focused on unaccompanied and separated children as well as refugee-led and diaspora engagement. This expansion strengthens FRUN leadership at a time when access to family reunification is increasingly vital. A FRUN event brought together several NGOs and refugee-led organizations (RLOs) to introduce pro bono resources, resulting in multiple FRUN members being matched with free legal assistance to support their organizations and family reunification efforts.

Finally, following the suspension of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and the termination of U.S. government funding for the Equitable Resettlement Access Consortium (ERAC), RefugePoint continued engagement with ERAC members and partners to underscore the importance of NGO resettlement referrals.



An interagency Best Interest Determination (BID) panel training held by RefugePoint on March 19. A BID is a formal process used to identify and assess the most appropriate durable solution for a refugee child at risk, ensuring their safety, well-being, and long-term best interests.



A RefugePoint Child Protection Expert facilitating a session during a three-day workshop, Dialogue on Aligning National and Humanitarian Child Protection Systems, held in Kampala, Uganda. The dialogue brought together local council leaders, refugee representatives, government officials, and humanitarian partners to strengthen alignment between Uganda's national and humanitarian child protection systems.

Cross-Cutting Protection Priorities

Child Protection

RefugePoint prioritizes refugee children in all our programs, and we collaborate closely with partners to fill critical gaps in refugee child protection. During the first quarter of 2025, our staff conducted and reviewed child protection assessments for 289 refugee children.

Child Protection Experts deployed to UNHCR operations have been instrumental in strengthening systems to safeguard at-risk children and youth. In Rwanda, one Expert joined a monitoring team at a UNHCR transit center receiving unaccompanied and separated children fleeing violence in Eastern Congo. In Malawi, another Expert supported the emergency response to Mozambican asylum seekers in the southern region. In Türkiye, a Child Protection Expert developed a facilitation guide for Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with children, as part of an interagency risk and protective assessment and mapping initiative.

In Kenya, the Child Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programs conducted a meaningful support session for caregivers of children with disabilities. Caregivers gained valuable insights and practical strategies to navigate the unique challenges they face; they also enrolled in ongoing psychoeducation sessions for continued support.



Burundian dancers during a Creative Arts Awareness Campaign in Rongai, a neighborhood in Nairobi, Kenya.

Photo: Dr. Sonasha Braxton

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 well-being (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.

In February, 13 Experts participated in a Decolonizing Humanitarianism training that examined the colonial foundations of humanitarian work, its ongoing power dynamics, and strategies for creating more equitable practices. In March, we launched two key community-based mental health and psychosocial support pilot programs. The first, Community Conversations, took place in the Rongai, Kitengela, and Kawangware neighborhoods of Nairobi, where self-identified community leaders engaged in two-way learning on mental health. These dialogues drew on cultural wisdom, proverbs, and lived experiences to encourage critical thinking and equitable exchange. The second program, a Creative Arts Awareness Campaign in Rongai, brought together 50 participants in an event that used music, dance, and poetry to promote mental health literacy, community resilience, and the therapeutic value of artistic expression.

To support implementation grounded in community realities, we also held two needs and asset mapping focus groups—one with organizational stakeholders and individuals with lived MHPSS experience, and another with program managers. Finally, all URPP staff participated in an internal training on psychological safety, with 82% attendance, underscoring the organization’s commitment to trauma-informed care.

Children assisted in Q1

289



Staff trained in child protection & other pathways

167



Chantal's Story: From Kitenge to Self-Reliance

My name is Chantal, and I am a businesswoman from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In 2016, I was forced to flee my home due to violence. One early morning, gunshots erupted outside our house. My husband went to check, only to find people running in terror. We followed, escaping into the forest. Tragically, as my husband tried to gather our cattle, he was shot and killed. I had no choice but to keep moving with my five children. For two weeks, we walked through the forest at night, hiding during the day to avoid being seen. Eventually, truck drivers transported us to Nairobi, Kenya.

In Nairobi, we found temporary shelter with our fellow Congolese, but the space was too small for my children and me. I needed to find a way to survive. Without money or knowledge of the local language, I started washing clothes and cleaning houses. The work was inconsistent, but I did whatever I could to feed my children.

Soon after, I discovered that a few people in Nairobi were selling kitenge (African fabric). I found my way to Eastleigh, where the fabric was sold, bought a few pieces, and started selling them to my neighbors. Eventually, I started seeing profits.

In 2023, I received assistance at RefugePoint, where I was given rent support, food, and medical insurance. RefugePoint also provided business training and a grant, enabling me to expand my business significantly. The assistance enabled me to focus on growing my business, securing my children's future, and relocating to a safer and more comfortable home. My sales improved, and I was able to pay for my children's school fees. I no longer feel helpless. My journey has not been easy, but I have learned to love my business and work hard daily.

Finances

RefugePoint finished the first quarter with YTD Revenue of \$3,288,136 against YTD Expenses of \$3,108,076.

Development

In the first quarter, we announced our upcoming event: Finding Refuge Together, RefugePoint’s 20th Anniversary Celebration at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, on October 14, 2025. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Nadia Murad will be our headline speaker and Champion of Change Awardee. We will also honor Barrie Landry, a Boston philanthropist and legacy donor; Isabel Allende, an award-winning author and long-time RefugePoint donor; and the law firm Goodwin as our Corporate Goodwill honoree.

We believe that it’s more important than ever to uplift and celebrate refugee resilience and contributions, and Finding Refuge Together will do just that —through dance, music, cuisine, storytelling, and video—with a goal to raise more than \$2 million to help refugees find lasting safety. We hope you will join us! Tickets will go on sale in June.

We would like to welcome:

**Mahtab
Motazedian Luong**

Development Officer

**Washington
Kariuki**

Mental Health & Psychosocial
Support Officer

Clinton Odera

Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning
(MEL) Manager, Direct Services

Anne Kagika

Intern, Community-Based
Protection

