



REFUGEPOINT

2022 first quarter report

689 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

info@RefugePoint.org
www.RefugePoint.org



Quarterly Highlight

Since 2019, RefugePoint has supported hundreds of refugee families around the world to reunite in safe, new countries. Over the last three and a half years, RefugePoint's family reunification work has spread both geographically and conceptually.

Our Family Reunification Experts identify individuals in need of family reunification, process their casework, and provide countless urgent protection interventions. We have started to deploy Experts across Europe to work on advocacy, policy, and coordination to expand access to family reunification and allow more refugees to reunite with their loved ones in Europe.

We are addressing barriers to family reunification in Europe by identifying procedural gaps, increasing coordination between sending and receiving countries, documenting best practices, advocating with governments and international institutions, drafting policy papers, and providing technical support to complex cases.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began, our Family Reunification Experts in Europe have been responding to the needs of Ukrainian refugees, looking at what can be done to ensure that refugee families are able to reunite as quickly as possible. With women and children accounting for approximately 90% of Ukrainian refugees, the need for future reunifications will undoubtedly be massive.

While our Experts continue to provide critical support for family reunification efforts for Ukrainian refugees across Europe, we're not losing sight of the countless refugees around the world separated from their families, many of whom have been separated for years. RefugePoint remains committed to ensuring that family reunification, a right enshrined in international law, is equitable and accessible to all.

Self-Reliance: Helping refugees improve their lives

Direct Services

Providing lasting solutions for the most 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.

In the first quarter of the year, the cost of living in Nairobi continued to soar. Coupled with the rising cost of fuel, refugees expressed difficulties in meeting their basic needs.

Kenya will have its general elections in August. Typically, the three months prior to the elections is a period of intense campaigns, and the period immediately following the election may cause anxiety in the general public. In Q1, we implemented several interventions that allowed us to reach many clients ahead of the elections since we anticipate that service delivery may be disrupted due to security concerns.

During the first quarter, we reached 3,788 refugees with public health information (close to 50% of our annual goal of reaching 8,000 refugees). We also helped 2,144 people to access medical assistance, surpassing our annual goal of reaching 1,600. Additionally, we reached 706 clients with food assistance (more than 50% of our annual goal of reaching 1,200), 253 clients with rent assistance (more than 60% of our annual goal), and 192 clients with education assistance (close to 80% of our annual goal).

In early 2022, we also worked to provide more clients with access to medical insurance through the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF). We had an annual target of enrolling 1,200 people with NHIF in 2022 and managed to enroll 1,179 in Q1 alone.



RefugePoint's Urban Stabilization

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

Q1 **3,788**
YTD **3,788**

EMPOWERMENT & STABILIZATION



Health Services

Q1 **2,144**
YTD **2,144**



Food

Q1 **706**
YTD **706**



Education

Q1 **192**
YTD **192**



Counseling

Q1 **130**
YTD **130**



Businesses

Q1 **57**
YTD **57**

GRADUATED CLIENTS TO SELF-RELIANCE

Q1 **51**
YTD **51**

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.

In January and March, the RSRI convened its community of practice for learning calls where partners shared updates and exchanged knowledge. The meetings featured presentations from the RSRI team as well as partner agencies Cohere, HIAS, Refugee Integration Insights, and YARID.

The RSRI was featured in UNHCR's Global Compact on Refugees newsletter. The newsletter highlighted the progress made by RefugePoint and partners towards a joint pledge to promote refugee self-reliance through measurement, programming, and advocacy.

The Self-Reliance Index (SRI) was included as a recommended impact measurement tool in the FY 2022 NGO Guidelines issued by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). In March, RefugePoint's Senior Program Manager, Simar Singh, and Senior Program Officer, Ned Meerdink, presented the SRI to 30 PRM staff based around the world. The meeting was an opportunity for PRM staff to learn about how agencies are using the SRI tool to strengthen and track the impact of their self-reliance programs.

The RSRI is just one way that we engage in field building and drive systems change. In February, RefugePoint organized a peer-to-peer learning session for 13 community-based and refugee-led organizations in Nairobi, Kenya. During these sessions, participants shared learning and experiences on topics such as improving organizational visibility through media. RefugePoint staff supported the planning, development, and facilitation of the sessions.

As part of a field-building partnership, RefugePoint conducted a training of trainers session for Health and Social Economic Development Africa (HESED) in Nairobi, Kenya. Grace Ndirangu, RefugePoint's Livelihoods Program Manager, and Jacinta Mutie, RefugePoint's Senior Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting Officer, facilitated sessions on business analysis for livelihoods clients and building Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems to support livelihood programming. RefugePoint staff also accompanied HESED staff to conduct onboarding assessments for their clients and supported them to conduct a business skills development training.

Resettlement & Other Pathways:

Helping refugees relocate to safety

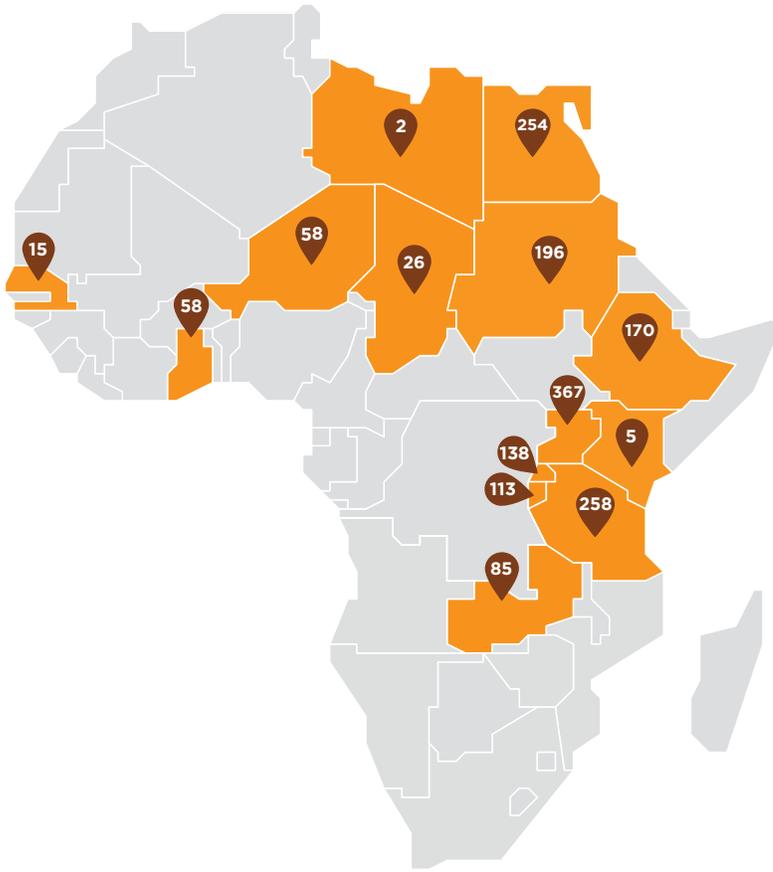
Direct Services

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, sponsorship, and education.

This quarter, RefugePoint helped 2,402 refugees access pathways to relocate to safety from 52 locations in 21 countries worldwide.

Q1 2022 marked two years since the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily halted the refugee resettlement system, and our Experts are celebrating increased interest from countries that had not welcomed many refugees due to pandemic and political restrictions. Resettlement Experts in Sudan worked with their UNHCR colleagues to submit applications after the U.S. increased the number of places available. After over a year of conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region disrupting UNHCR's refugee support system, our Expert there has finally begun to see his office submit more cases for resettlement.

Our resettlement program in Nairobi, Kenya, continued to adapt in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other setbacks relating to case processing. In order to remain responsive and attentive to the protection needs of refugees in Nairobi, the program continued to implement a dual processing model, including both virtual and in-person client interviews. Unfortunately, around 200 clients remain stuck in the resettlement pipeline as the effects of the pandemic continue to linger and impact many key processes relating to submissions. *(Continued)*



Refugees Assisted in the 1st Quarter

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. BURUNDI - 113 | 14. RWANDA - 138 |
| 2. CHAD - 26 | 15. SENEGAL - 15 |
| 3. EGYPT - 254 | 16. SUDAN - 196 |
| 4. ETHIOPIA - 170 | 17. TANZANIA - 258 |
| 5. GHANA - 58 | 18. TURKEY* - 39 |
| 6. GUATEMALA - 44 | 19. UGANDA - 367 |
| 7. IRAQ* - 135 | 20. UNITED STATES* - 328 |
| 8. KENYA - 5 | 21. ZAMBIA - 85 |
| 9. LEBANON* - 106 | |
| 10. LIBYA - 2 | *NOT SHOWN ON MAP |
| 11. NAURU* - 3 | **COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP FOR |
| 12. NIGER - 58 | AFGHANS |
| 13. PAPUA NEW GUINEA* - 2 | |

The first quarter of the year started with the exponential growth and expansion of the Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans, a community-led resettlement initiative that allows everyday Americans to take on the responsibility of welcoming Afghan newcomers to their communities. By the end of Q1, the program had helped 328 Afghan newcomers relocate into communities across the United States.

In March, two clients and their families relocated from Kenya to Canada through the Economic Mobility Pathways Project, and more than 100 clients are in various stages of the process. We also onboarded new employers to the program, increasing the odds of a successful match and, ultimately, the number of clients who are able to benefit from the program. The beginning of 2022 was promising for our Complementary Pathways Experts deployed to UNHCR, who work to support refugees reuniting with their families, applying to pursue higher education, and seeking work through labor mobility programs.

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. During the first quarter of the year, our staff trained 85 individuals from UNHCR and partner organizations on topics ranging from child protection to resettlement and other pathways.

RefugePoint is continuing to expand the reach and impact of the still-new Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans (SCP), now operating from a domestic processing facility in Virginia as a part of Phase Two of Operation Allies Welcome. Through informal discussions and presentations to Afghan newcomers and partners and posted messaging and signage throughout the domestic facility, as well as via WhatsApp communication channels, the SCP is establishing a firm presence as a complement to traditional resettlement. Beyond the SCP, RefugePoint is engaged in ongoing, high-level discussions regarding the planning and design of a private sponsorship pilot with an anticipated roll-out later this year. Similarly, through the Economic Mobility Pathways Project in Kenya, RefugePoint has continued to share key learning and experiences in global discussions on labor mobility in order to inform policy formulation and to center refugee voices in these policy discussions. Our learning and experience have continued to guide and inform the design and implementation of our and our partners' programs both regionally and globally.

After observing that Niger's refugee support system is shifting towards a more community-oriented approach that integrates refugee and host communities, our Child Protection Expert based there has participated in high-level meetings and provided training related to community-based child protection. Finally, after several years of Experts advocating from Sudan, Ethiopia, and Germany, it appears that the German government is developing more flexible documentation requirements that have long made it difficult for refugees there to reunite with their families in Germany.

Quarterly: Q1 2022

2,402

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

Annually: 2022

2,402

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 473 refugee children.

Collaboration between UNHCR caseworkers and partner organizations is especially essential for child protection work. One of our Child Protection Experts facilitated several three-day trainings in Uganda to help build the capacity of her colleagues to assess children's needs and develop solutions.

In Nairobi, Kenya, 20 out of 23 primary school pupils that RefugePoint is supporting with education assistance passed their national exams. One student was awarded a full scholarship through a partnership with Jimmy Wanjigi Alpine High School.

In consultation with UNHCR, HIAS, RefuSHE, and the government, RefugePoint's Child Protection Officer in Nairobi, Kenya, supported seven cases of children to access new care arrangements after it was determined that those who had been caring for the children had been doing so in order to access resettlement.

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.

In January, staff in RefugePoint's URPP were surveyed for feedback on the last Trauma-Informed Care training of 2021. Eighty percent of staff rated the training as very good or excellent and demonstrated increased confidence in understanding the complexities of self-care and applying self-care principles. Q4 2021 reports revealed that 98% of RefugePoint Experts expressed satisfaction with MHPSS support.

In February, a robust professional development series was created for clinical staff and other interested staff, with 12 speakers from Black, Asian or Latinx backgrounds presenting on varied MHPSS topics throughout the year. The first of the series was a Suicide Question Persuade Refer (QPR) First Aid training, in which 35 staff in RefugePoint's United Nations Collaboration Project (UNCP) and the Urban Refugee Protection Program (URPP) were certified. Also in Q1, Dr. Sonasha Braxton, RefugePoint's Senior Technical Advisor, MHPSS, presented at the FXV Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University on the intersection of MHPSS and child protection in refugee contexts to approximately 30 graduate students in the Child Protection Certificate Program.



Refugee Story: Olivier

Education support is one of the core services that RefugePoint's Urban Refugee Protection Program offers to its clients in Nairobi, Kenya. This vital component of support is not only crucial for children to attain an education, it also enables refugee families to engage in livelihoods and other activities aimed at boosting their self-reliance. Nzinga, a mother of nine, fled the civil war in Congo with her family and arrived in Kenya in 2015. Determined to give her children an education, she engaged in a small business selling African fabric and bags. With the small income she earned, she was able to enroll some of her children, including her son Olivier, in school.

Even though life was difficult back at home, Olivier was determined to perform better than all the other students in his class. "I performed very well in mathematics and English and got 395 marks out of 500 and was the third student overall in my school in the 2022 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE)," says Olivier.

"I remember being very anxious the day the KCPE results were released. I wanted to know how I had

performed and what marks I had attained. That evening, my sister dialed the USSD code to check my results and I couldn't believe it! I was very happy! I didn't even sleep! My whole family was happy and we stayed awake long into the night celebrating the results," recalls Olivier.

Olivier is one of the many refugee children performing exceptionally well in school. However, due to a lack of scholarship opportunities, many like Olivier fail to move onto secondary school or higher education where they can pursue their studies.

"I am hopeful that I'll get someone to assist me to further my education. I want to become an accountant or a lawyer when I complete my studies," Olivier shared with us.

In his free time, Olivier enjoys listening to the piano, which he says is his favorite instrument. "I have never actually played one, but I like the sound of it, and I think I would really enjoy playing it," says Olivier with a smile on his face.

Staffing & Finances

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

In Q1, RefugePoint was grateful to receive generous grants from the Open Society Foundations, The Sigrid Rausing Trust, the Thorne Cox Family Foundation and others. These grants will support our work to help refugees access pathways to safety globally.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

RefugePoint ended the first quarter of 2022 with \$3,610,259 in revenue against expenses of \$2,067,032.

STAFFING

In January, Abigail Lewis-Bowen joined the team as Operations and Tech Officer, Martha Odima joined the team as Human Resources Clerk, and Christine Shimwe joined the team as Office Coordinator.

In February, Taylor Smith joined the team as Manager, Philanthropic Partnerships.

In March, Grace Mbugua joined the team as Senior Officer, Resettlement, Valentine Musoni joined the team as Clinical Officer, and Rukiya Jama joined the team as a Community Navigator.

PRESS

[Tapping Community Volunteers to Resettle Afghan Refugees](#), by Heather Beasley Doyle, Tufts Now

[A rabbi decided to sponsor an Afghan refugee family. When he needed a hand, he brought in a mosque and a church](#), by Sydney Page, Washington Post

[Self-Reliance Evidence Review - December 2021](#), Relief Web

[Millions of people have fled Ukraine. We need a plan to reunite families](#), by Sasha Chanoff, WBUR: Cognecenti

[United States Will Welcome Up to 100,000 Ukrainian Refugees](#), by Miriam Jordan, Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Michael D. Shear, New York Times

[As millions of Ukrainians flee the war, family reunification and resettlement efforts are underway here](#), by Rupa Shenoy and Hafsa Quraishi, WBUR