REFUGE POINT

2022 Annual Report

RefugePoint advances lasting solutions for refugees and supports the humanitarian community to do the same.

> **I have hope in what I am making with my hands. I believe in it, I believe in myself."**

After her brothers were kidnapped and her father was killed, Safiya was forced to flee her home in Ethiopia while she was still a young girl. She eventually arrived in Nairobi after years of displacement, yet encountered challenges in the new city as well. Safiya and her two young boys received rent, food, and health support from RefugePoint, which allowed her to invest more time in her business making and selling traditional Oromo beadwork. Crafting beautiful handwoven designs, she sells her work to the Oromo community in Nairobi for special occasions like weddings. She's now able to afford rent with her earnings and is working towards self-reliance.

Photo: Chris Jensen

Where We Work

We work around the world to help refugees access resettlement and other pathways to safety. Our flagship program in Nairobi, Kenya helps refugees reach a point of stability and self-reliance. RefugePoint staff based in Nairobi, Boston, and Geneva work to drive large-scale impact through field building and systems change.

In 2022, RefugePoint deployed Experts in Resettlement, Child Protection, Family Reunification, and Complementary Pathways in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Central America, and Europe. We helped develop a community sponsorship program for Afghans and Ukrainians in the U.S., partnered with the Canadian government to build a labor mobility program, and expanded our resettlement program in Kenya.

Self-Reliance

In recent years, fewer than 2% of refugees have been able to access the three long-term “solutions” envisioned by the refugee response system. Those solutions are: return home, legally settle in the country to which they have fled, or resettle.

Most refugees are stuck in limbo in their host countries for decades. They are often dependent on aid and denied the right to work, move freely, own property, and access public services.

For refugees who are stuck in the country to which they’ve fled, we help them move from vulnerability towards self-reliance. First, we provide services like housing, mental health counseling, food support, and health care. These services help to stabilize the refugee household. We then empower people to support themselves by providing business training and small business grants.

Our work to improve self-reliance outcomes for refugees involves three tactics:

DIRECT SERVICES
Providing a holistic range of services to refugees;

FIELD BUILDING
Supporting other organizations to expand programs to reach more refugees;

SYSTEMS CHANGE
Influencing policy and decision-makers to drive large-scale change.

I can go to work, get money, the kids get food, and I can pay school fees. This is very important. I’m very happy and my family is happy too.”

Dieudonne and his family were forced to flee their home in Burundi to escape the violent conflict. With RefugePoint’s support, him and his wife purchased a motorcycle and started a business as a moto-taxi, known as a Boda Boda in Nairobi. Dieudonne now supports his family of seven with the business.

Photo: Chris Jensen

When my house burned down, I lost everything. But RefugePoint stood with me. My case worker Carol walked with me and helped me through everything."

After fleeing from conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mama Juma spent eight years in refugee camps before arriving in Nairobi, Kenya. In 2018, RefugePoint began supporting Mama Juma with food, rent, and business development training to help her find stability. This support allowed her to leave an abusive relationship and find a place to live independently with her children. Determined to improve her situation, Mama Juma enrolled in beauty school. She dreams of being a hairdresser and hopes to gain skills vital to earning a good income.

CLICK HERE TO HEAR FROM MAMA JUMA DIRECTLY.

Photo: Tobin Jones

2022 SELF-RELIANCE HIGHLIGHTS:

Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI)

The RSRI, co-founded by and housed within RefugePoint, is a global forum for learning, action, and collaboration on refugee self-reliance. The RSRI aims to transform humanitarian response to better address the needs and aspirations of refugees, while supporting the peace, stability, and prosperity of their hosting communities. As of 2023, the RSRI network includes 100+ agencies, including international and national non-governmental organizations, refugee-led and community-based organizations, funders, government agencies, private sector actors, and academic and research institutions. In 2022, the Self-Reliance Index, a tool developed by the RSRI and partners to measure the progress of refugee households toward self-reliance, 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.

41

Agencies are using the Self-Reliance Index in over 25 countries

A group discussion amongst RLO leaders during a peer-to-peer learning session at RefugePoint's Nairobi office.

Photo: Mary Wangui

Promoting Refugee-Led and Community-Based Efforts:

RefugePoint has long recognized the vital role that refugee-led organizations (RLOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) play in responding to the needs of their own communities. Over the past few years we have prioritized actively and intentionally engaging with these groups. RefugePoint partners with them to share and exchange knowledge, skills, learning and resources—to support and strengthen the important work that they are doing to support self-reliance programming in refugee communities, and also to inform and enrich our programs. In 2022, we launched a call for proposals and selected two CBOs to fund in order to strengthen and expand their work in Nairobi, Kenya. In addition, we held six bi-monthly peer-to-peer learning sessions. These sessions are largely refugee-led and allow shared learning amongst the 16+ participating CBOs.

“In French they say, ‘I feel I am ‘fière’ (proud) of my life now. I’m no longer seeking assistance, I’m confident in my business and now I have my own money. There was a time we couldn’t even afford to buy drinking water, but because of this business I can pay rent, buy my own food, pay school fees for my two children, and take care of my family.”

Umutoni, an entrepreneur and mother of two boys was forced to flee her home in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2016. In 2019, Umutoni enrolled in RefugePoint’s Business Development Skills training, where she learned how to prepare a business plan and budget, and presented her business idea to our staff. Umutoni used her grant to purchase equipment and ingredients and now sells Congolese delicacies in Nairobi.

Photo: Diana Karua

466
Clients graduated to Self-Reliance

126
Businesses launched

1,382
Individuals received food assistance

8,642
Individuals received health and medical support

251
Young refugees received education support

432
Clients provided with therapy and support groups

Resettlement and Other Pathways to Safety

RefugePoint has long been a leader in refugee resettlement. We are among the very small number of NGOs globally trusted by governments to identify refugees for their resettlement programs and to train UNHCR staff and other NGOs to do similar work. We are also one of just three deployment partners working with UNHCR on global resettlement casework.

In addition to the millions of refugees in need of resettlement each year, many others are eligible for a variety of other pathways to safety (often referred to collectively as “complementary pathways” to resettlement), including family reunification, economic mobility, sponsorship, and more. In recent years, RefugePoint has been a global leader in developing new programs to help refugees access these pathways.

Alongside partner organizations, we helped to create the world’s first program to identify refugees, especially children, in need of family reunification; we were among the first NGOs in the world to help qualified refugees apply for jobs in safe, new countries; and we were among the founding partners in the United States’ first private sponsorship program.

Gado Wakodire* and her family arrived in Kenya in 2012 after fleeing ethnic conflict in Ethiopia.

**Name changed | Photo: Tobin Jones*

2022 RESETTLEMENT AND OTHER PATHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

Family Reunification

RefugePoint is committed to identifying unaccompanied refugee children and adults who've been seperated from their families, and supporting them to resettle safely or reunite with family. RefugePoint Family Reunification staff conduct direct casework to increase access for refugees to family reunification. This includes identifying unaccompanied children and refugees who have been separated from family, conducting case management, completing best interests procedures, and providing referrals to partners for legal services or to address other protection-related needs. In 2022, RefugePoint Experts assisted 303 refugees with family reunification-related casework.

At the global level, RefugePoint is engaging in systems building to ensure that family reunification is prioritized in the refugee response system and easier for more refugees to access. In 2022, RefugePoint deployed Experts across Europe to work on advocacy, policy, and coordination to expand access to family reunification, supporting separated Ukrainian families and thousands of others.

Economic Mobility

RefugePoint's economic mobility program connects refugees to job opportunities that allow them to relocate to a safe, new country. RefugePoint partners with the Government of Canada, UNHCR, and Talent Beyond Boundaries to help qualified refugees living in Kenya to immigrate to Canada through work-based visas. In addition to our direct casework in Kenya, we engage in capacity building of partners who are implementing economic mobility programs for refugees. Additionally, we are supporting the building of systems globally by sharing our learning through our engagement in the Global Task Force on Labor Mobility to ensure that economic mobility pathways are as refugee-centered as possible.

In 2022, RefugePoint onboarded a number of new employers to the program, increasing the chances for successful matches. We also hosted a two-week convening for economic mobility partners in Kenya, which provided the opportunity for international partners to connect with program candidates in Kenya and sought to cultivate partner engagement in developing and strengthening systems in economic mobility to allow for future scaling. By the end of the year, 89 clients had been offered a job in Canada and either departed or are planning to soon.

RefugePoint and partner staff, Canadian government officials, and Canadian employers visited Kakuma Refugee Camp to speak with economic mobility candidates, develop partnerships for scaling economic mobility and to conduct job interviews.

Photo: Diana Karua

100 Million Displaced

In May, 2022, the world surpassed a sobering number: more than 100 million people have been forced to flee their homes. 26 million of those individuals are refugees. This number has increased since then, but it emphasizes the necessity for access to resettlement and other pathways to safety.

“I have no words to explain how excited I am. My daughter has never seen me in real life, and we only see each other when I call on video. I can’t wait to meet my daughter. To hold her in my arms for the first time even though she’s six years old and going to school.”

DANIEL, FORMER REFUGEPOINT COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR AND REFUGEE FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

Daniel was recently resettled to the U.S. and reunited with his family, including his wife and daughter, after more than seven years apart. Daniel’s story has a special place in our hearts at RefugePoint, because Daniel was a member of our team, and served as a RefugePoint Community Navigator for four years.

RefugePoint’s team of Community Navigators are refugees who live and work in the many various areas of Nairobi, and who have been engaged and trained by RefugePoint to provide valuable information about health and wellness to their respective communities. Community Navigators are an essential part of the RefugePoint team.

Photo: Diana Karua

Refugee Sponsorship in the U.S

Following the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, RefugePoint joined a number of other organizations to design and implement the Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans. The program allowed everyday Americans to welcome Afghan evacuees to their communities. In 2022, RefugePoint's Sponsorship team facilitated the matching of Afghan newcomers with Sponsor Circles in welcoming communities across the country.

Beyond the immediate impact of our contribution to the Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans, the program was a model for the recent and much larger Ukrainian sponsorship program, Unite for Ukraine. The success of these two programs informed the design of the U.S.'s new permanent private sponsorship program, the **Welcome Corps**. The Welcome Corps aims to mobilize 10,000 Americans to welcome refugees through private sponsorship in 2023. RefugePoint has provided guidance to various stakeholders involved in the program's development to help ensure its success.

PRESS HIGHLIGHT

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, THE WASHINGTON POST

UN Collaboration Project Expansion

RefugePoint's global partnership with UNHCR allows us to send staff to dozens of countries and support thousands of refugees each year. In 2022, RefugePoint's deployment program grew both in size and geographic reach. In 2022, the program doubled its number of staff. We began 2022 with Resettlement, Child Protection, and Family Reunification Experts working in 21 UNHCR offices and ended the year with Experts working in 51 locations worldwide. Experts worked in Bangladesh to support the resettlement of Rohingya refugees, Pakistan to support Afghan refugees, and various other locations across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Central America.

A UNCP trainee verifies client details before conducting resettlement interviews at the RefugePoint Nairobi office.

Photo: Diana Karua

Grace Muthoni, a Senior Resettlment Officer at RefugePoint, explaining the resettlement process to a UNCP trainee.

Photo: Diana Karua

In September, as part of this upscaling, RefugePoint launched a Pilot Traineeship Program targeting people with lived experience in forced displacement in collaboration with UNHCR. As the number of refugees grows, so does the need for skilled caseworkers who can support them in accessing resettlement to safe third countries. Our inaugural cohort of trainees underwent three weeks of intensive training at our offices in Nairobi before traveling to UNHCR offices across Africa to gain additional resettlement casework experience. We're thrilled that the program will prepare a new wave of qualified resettlement professionals for the field as a whole, enabling our community to support more refugees to access resettlement as a lifesaving and long-term solution.

“This opportunity is a big one for us… Life was not easy. Working as a hairdresser to provide for my siblings was tough. I would often wonder, ‘What is their future? What is our future?’ But this resettlement means a lot to us.”

HENRY

Henry and his younger sister Daniella were separated due to war in the Democratic Republic of Congo when they were both children. In 2015, Henry, his sister Prisca and his mother fled their home and made the long journey to Kenya. With the help of the Congolese community in Nairobi, they managed to find Daniella who had arrived years earlier, and the family was reunited. A few years later, the children’s mother passed away and Henry was left with the responsibility of providing for the family. RefugePoint supported Henry and his siblings with counseling, food support, school fees and more. In October 2022, Henry received a call that their resettlement case had been approved by the Canadian government. Henry and his siblings departed for Canada soon after.

Photo: Diana Karua

2,058

Number of individuals trained by RefugePoint Experts

93

Number of experts deployed by RefugePoint

16,978

Refugees assisted with resettlement and other pathways to safety

Since 2005 – 119,745

Financial Statement

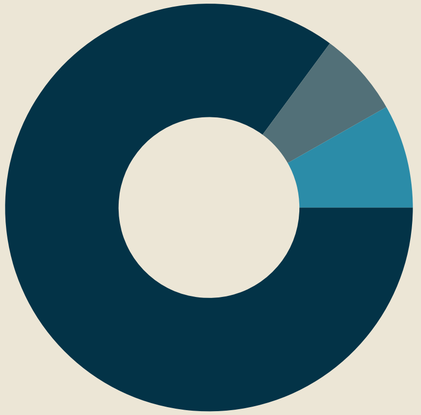
Condensed Audited Statement of Activities for the years ended Dec. 31, 2022 and Dec. 31, 2021 (in thousands)

	2021	2022
Operating Revenues		
Contributions & Grants	8,968	10,098
Contributed Goods and Services	85	81
Cooperative Agreements & Contracts	3,459	2,671
Interest Income and Other	73	10
Total Operating Revenues	**12,584**	**12,860**
Operating Expenses		
Program Services		
Third Country Solutions	5,760	3,665
Host Country Solutions	2,588	2,547
Total Program Services	**8,348**	**6,212**
Supporting Services		
General and Administrative	805	667
Fundraising	660	528
Total Supporting Services	**1,465**	**1,195**
Excess (Deficiency) of Operating Revenues Over Operating Expenses		
Excess (Deficiency) related to Funds without Donor Restrictions	5,441	2,680
Excess (Deficiency) related to Funds with Donor Restrictions	(2,316)	3,055
Non-Operating Activities (net)	355	282
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	3,126	5,735
Net Assets at beginning of year	11,791	6,056
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	**14,916**	**11,791**

Per generally accepted accounting principles, all multi-year gifts are fully recognized in the first year of the gift. This may lead to occasional year-on-year variances in fundraising, which is normal for organzations using accrual-based accounting. This was the case in 2022; RefugePoint received several large, multi-year grants that will be used to support program expenses through 2027

*Complete financial statements, audited by AAFCPAs, are available upon request.

Expense Ratios

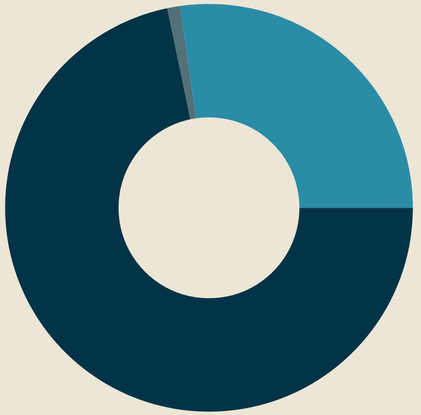


PROGRAMS **85.1%**

FUNDRAISING **6.7%**

G & A **8.2%**

Revenue Sources



Operating Revenues

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS & GRANTS **71%**

CONTRIBUTED GOODS & SERVICES, INVESTMENT & OTHER INCOME **1%**

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS & CONTRACTS **27%**

Supporters

RefugePoint is very grateful for our supporters who invested in our work in 2022.

$250,000+

Landry Family Foundation
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
UNHCR
Focusing Philanthropy
MacKenzie Scott
The Foundation to Promote Open Society
The ELMA Relief Fund
Anonymous

$50,000 - $249,000

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$10,000 - $49,000

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$1,000 - $9,999

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