



grantee partners

2023



portfolio overview

This portfolio presents the refugee-led organizations supported by the Resourcing Refugee Leadership Initiative (RRLI) during 2022-2023.

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Cover image: Tomorrow Vijana

about RRLI

RRLI's mission is to resource refugee-led organizations (RLOs) to uplift communities and combat systemic exclusion within the refugee response sector. We believe when we center the people who have been forcibly displaced, we also center innovations, solutions and movement-building, leading to immediate and long-term improvements in communities. Through these efforts, RRLI envisions a world in which all people who have experienced forced displacement have agency over their lives and access to solutions that rebuild their lives with dignity.

www.refugeeslead.org | [@refugeeslead](https://www.instagram.com/refugeeslead)



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FOCUS AREAS

On the pages featuring each organization supported by RRLI you will find the following icons at the top of each page. These icons briefly summarize the main areas of forced displacement response that the organization prioritizes in their work.



Asylum & Legal Services, such as asylum or resettlement case support, unlawful detention, and labor disputes.



Emergency Support, such as temporary housing, food packages, mutual aid, and other emergency provisions.



Arts & Culture, which can include programs that support or showcase artistic and cultural expression.



Physical & Mental Health, such as psychosocial support, dentistry, eye exams, or medical assistance.



Education & Training, such as formal education, language classes, or training in specific hard or soft skills.



Advocacy & Rights, which refers to advocacy efforts to advance refugees' legal rights on a regional level.



Employment & Livelihoods, including job placements, co-operatives, and entrepreneurship support.



Community Integration, which can include programs that bring together refugee and local communities.

FOCUS AREAS



El DANO supporters at a demonstration in Medellín



EL DERECHO A NO OBEDECER

2,069

Community members supported in 2022-23

El Derecho a No Obedecer (“EL DANO” / “The Right to Not Obey”) is a Venezuelan youth-led initiative that promotes and advocates for social and cultural integration among migrants, refugees, returnees and their host communities. They create spaces for conversation between various stakeholders, such as the refugee community, host community, government, private sector, and academia; convene networks that act upon the recommendations of these stakeholders; and support large-scale mobilization efforts through strategic advocacy and communications, social media outreach, and research.

Last year, El DANO trained 247 people in narratives against xenophobia and strengthened the integration capacities of 1,822 individuals through citizen conversations and artistic and cultural encounters. They also published two reports on xenophobia and integration, and developed two digital campaigns—one for International Migrants Day and the other for World Refugee Day—by mobilizing 13,520 people and reaching 190,714 people through social media networks. These initiatives have been integral as El DANO has increased visibility on the challenges facing refugees and migrants in communities across Colombia and advocated for the protection of rights of these individuals. The

efforts by El DANO have also provided tools for integration of large groups of people, ensuring effective cultural and social integration of migrants and refugees in Colombia.

El DANO's efforts have been transformational in terms of promoting cooperation and mutual understanding amongst different stakeholders and groups across the country. For example, in Cartagena, by transforming narratives, holding conversations and spaces for artistic and cultural encounters, and training individuals on human rights, other actors reaffirm that El DANO played a leading role in steering integration efforts and bringing together the host population and the refugee and

displaced populations around common objectives. Importantly, rather than treating community members as passive individuals, the focus of El DANO has been to strengthen community advocacy processes so that in the future they would continue to be the ones to carry out their own community development processes and defend their own rights. In the past year, they also collaborated with 60+ civil society organizations to successfully influence state institutions to provide accurate and timely information on the current conditions of the Venezuelan refugee, migrant and returnee population in Colombia.

**EL DERECHO A
NO OBEDECER**

ELDERECHOANOBEDECER.ORG





Children participating in an RU childcare program

12,835
Community members supported in 2022-23

REFUGIADOS UNIDOS

Refugiados Unidos (RU) is a Venezuelan refugee-led organization that advocates for the recognition and protection of the rights of displaced communities in Colombia, and promotes the development of refugees, migrants and displaced persons by strengthening their capacities and empowering them as citizens of the world. In addition to providing legal services, Refugiados Unidos uses a holistic approach by facilitating access to humanitarian aid, community strengthening and psychosocial services.

Last year, Refugiados Unidos supported 12,835 community members through its two main programmatic areas: legal strengthening and empowerment, and community development. In terms of legal assistance, Refugiados Unidos supported 3,829 people by providing free, timely and dignified legal advice, which allows individuals to claim their rights, access the asylum system and regularization mechanisms in Colombia, and obtain nationality, identification documents and formal work opportunities. These services are especially critical for individuals facing significant risks due to their identity, such as people at risk of statelessness, unaccompanied children, asylum seekers, LGBTIQ+ identifying individuals and elderly people. Refugiados Unidos also

reached over 2,000 individuals through legal empowerment workshops to inform individuals about their rights and enforcement mechanisms, as well as undertook various strategic litigation and advocacy efforts to instigate systemic change in the community.

Through their community development programs, Refugiados Unidos provides key livelihood, psychosocial and humanitarian assistance to community members. They supported 570 people through workshops on employability skills and entrepreneurship to build livelihoods, with 112 entrepreneurs receiving seed capital for their business ideas. Refugiados Unidos helped 301 individuals with job application processes, while also supporting eight organizations in topics such as

financing and community leadership in order to accelerate community-led initiatives for individuals and families. RU supported over 3,000 community members with psychosocial workshops and care, including by providing tailored programs to meet the specialized needs of women and children. Refugiados Unidos has been on the frontline of providing emergency support to refugees, displaced persons and migrants by ensuring essential needs such as shelter, food, hygiene and clothing are met to facilitate adaptation and integration in the community and maintain stability in their new environment. To this end, they provided 31 rental subsidies, 430 clothing kits, 434 hygiene kits and 4,073 nutritional kits, and further supported 1,642 individuals with nutritional screening services.



REFUGIADOSUNIDOS.ORG



FOCUS AREAS



New Vision staff welcoming a visitor from StARS



NEW VISION

New Vision is a refugee-led community-based organization founded in 2017 in Cairo, Egypt to strengthen the capacity of migrants and refugees to improve the quality of their lives. New Vision provides legal, psychosocial and education support services. Among other programs, New Vision offers adult education that supports labor market entry, income-generating activities for women, children's creative expression programs, and legal services that support registration with UNHCR, access to birth certificates and referrals to other community services.

Last year, New Vision established a preschool program through its community school in Cairo for 47 displaced children aged three to seven. As most of the children are living with single parents, this initiative allows children to attend kindergarten while their parents pursue employment to sustain their livelihoods. For example, a single displaced mother from Sudan arrived in Cairo with her five children. She was not able to register her children for school or cover their school fees and she did not have UNHCR identification to get education grants for her children. By enrolling her children in New Vision's kindergarten program, her children are now finally able to access formal education while she is employed during the day.

New Vision's kindergarten program is investing in displaced children's futures

As some children never had the chance to attend preschool due to the conflict in Sudan, New Vision's kindergarten program is investing in displaced children's futures. Importantly, New Vision is providing a safe and healthy learning environment in comparison to discrimination they may face when attending the host country's schools, while also educating children whose parents are unable to obtain financial assistance from UNHCR partners to cover school fees and education grants due to their legal status. Through this

1,031

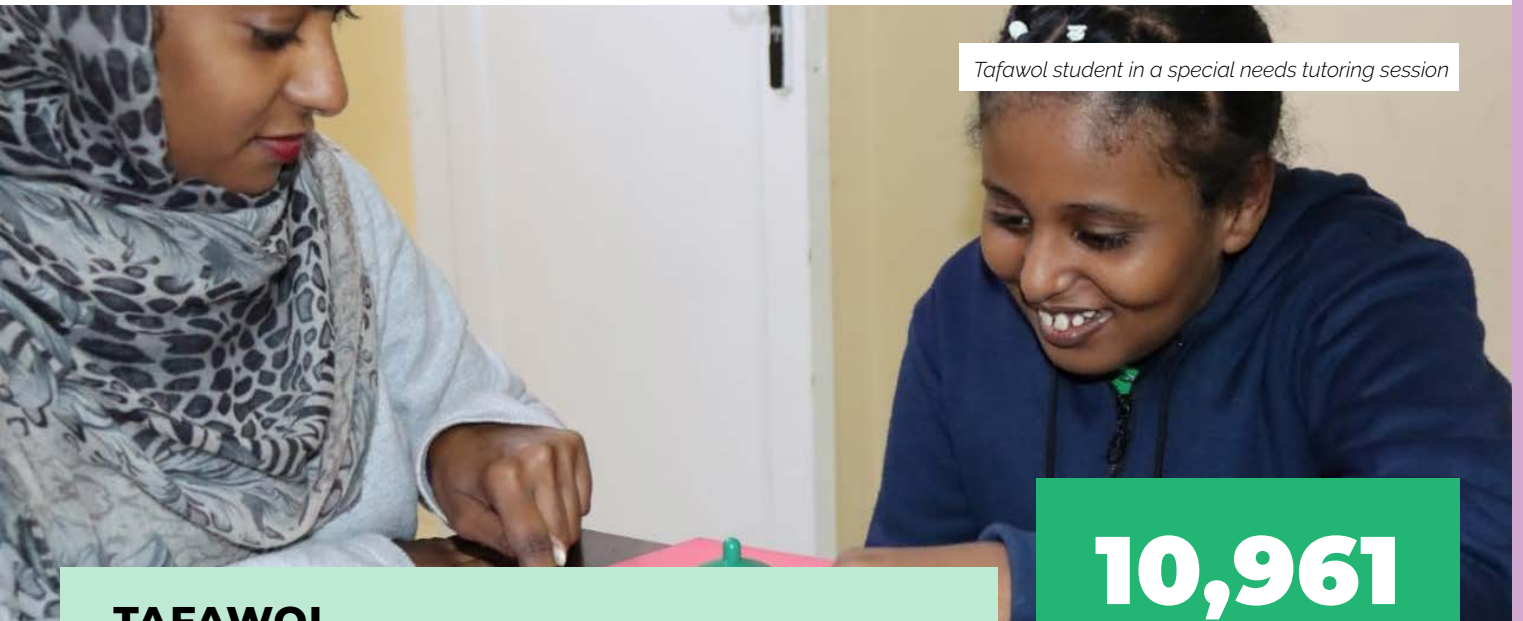
Community members supported in 2022-23

initiative, community members are also more engaged in their children's education through meetings and participation in planning their future, as New Vision works collaboratively with parents to develop a curriculum that meets the needs of their children. The initiative also enables New Vision to hire displaced staff and teachers, who have difficulties accessing job opportunities due to strict local laws. Beyond educational activities, New Vision also provided key psychosocial support and legal aid to community members, demonstrating the holistic nature of RLOs' services.



[NVISIONCENTRE.WIXSITE.COM/N-VISION](https://nvisioncentre.wixsite.com/n-vision)





Tafawol student in a special needs tutoring session

TAFAWOL

10,961

Community members supported in 2022-23

Founded in 2016, Tafawol is a refugee-led community-based organization which started as a small initiative that supported children with special needs inside local school settings. They have since expanded into a multi-site, full-service refugee support agency that provides a wide breadth of services, including a year-round school and speech training for migrant children with disabilities, legal aid, employment skills training for migrant women and single mothers, a kindergarten, online education video production, and psychosocial support programming.

Last year, Tafawol established the first-of-its-kind physical therapy clinic in the community for migrant children with disabilities by delivering over 1,000 free and reduced physical therapy sessions for 484 children. For example, a 5-year-old child was struck by a rock, causing brain trauma and paralysis of the lower body and requiring three consecutive brain surgeries. The public hospital provided a limited number of physical therapy sessions and their parents were not able to afford two additional operations to restore body movement. After receiving 10 physical therapy sessions through Tafawol, the child is able to walk alone with minor assistance, a vast improvement from a few months prior when they were not even able to stand

on their own. This story highlights how RLOs are filling service gaps in the community, especially for displaced families who face barriers to accessing essential medical treatment.

In the past year, Tafawol doubled the number of registered students for their school and educational programs to 372 students, providing learning opportunities and resources for students where cost, cultural discrimination and bureaucratic obstacles would otherwise prevent them from receiving a formal education. Tafawol also conducts various employment skills training programs, including by providing entrepreneurship training in tailoring, sewing, financial management and the creation of small businesses

for 630 migrant women and single mothers, thus improving the financial prospects for refugee women in the community and providing a space for mutual support and empowerment. Additionally, Tafawol provided pro bono legal services and legal awareness sessions for 2,300 community members. These services has been critical within the context of the increasing number of refugees fleeing from Sudan into Egypt since April 2023, as Tafawol has delivered 16 legal awareness and know-your-rights sessions for 321 individuals arriving from Sudan, in addition to providing individualized screenings and referrals to other civil society organizations within the community.



TAFAWOL-EGYPT.COM



FOCUS AREAS



Tawasul school students in their biology class

TAWASUL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

19,119

Community members supported in 2022-23

Tawasul Community School is a refugee-led organization based in Cairo, Egypt, whose mission is to develop well-rounded, confident and responsible individuals who aspire to achieve their full potential. They do this by providing a welcoming, happy, safe, equitable and supportive environment to access educational opportunities, as well as through the provision of legal services and counseling. Tawasul runs the largest refugee community school system in Cairo with four sites and a variety of programs.

In the past year, Tawasul supported over 4,000 families through its community school and community-based organization. 1,620 students benefited from education services, extracurricular activities, free textbooks and breakfast, and financial aid. These services are critical because many refugee parents face significant financial setbacks and are unable to send their children to school. To alleviate these financial barriers, Tawasul is supporting children and their families by covering tuition, transportation and textbook expenses. A single mother with a family of five was suffering from cancer and was unable to enroll her two children at school. As she was left without a means of income due to retirement and failed surgeries to treat her condition, Tawasul supported

the family by paying the tuition and transportation fees of the two children and providing textbooks and school uniforms free of charge.

Tawasul is supporting children and their families by covering tuition, transportation and textbook expenses.

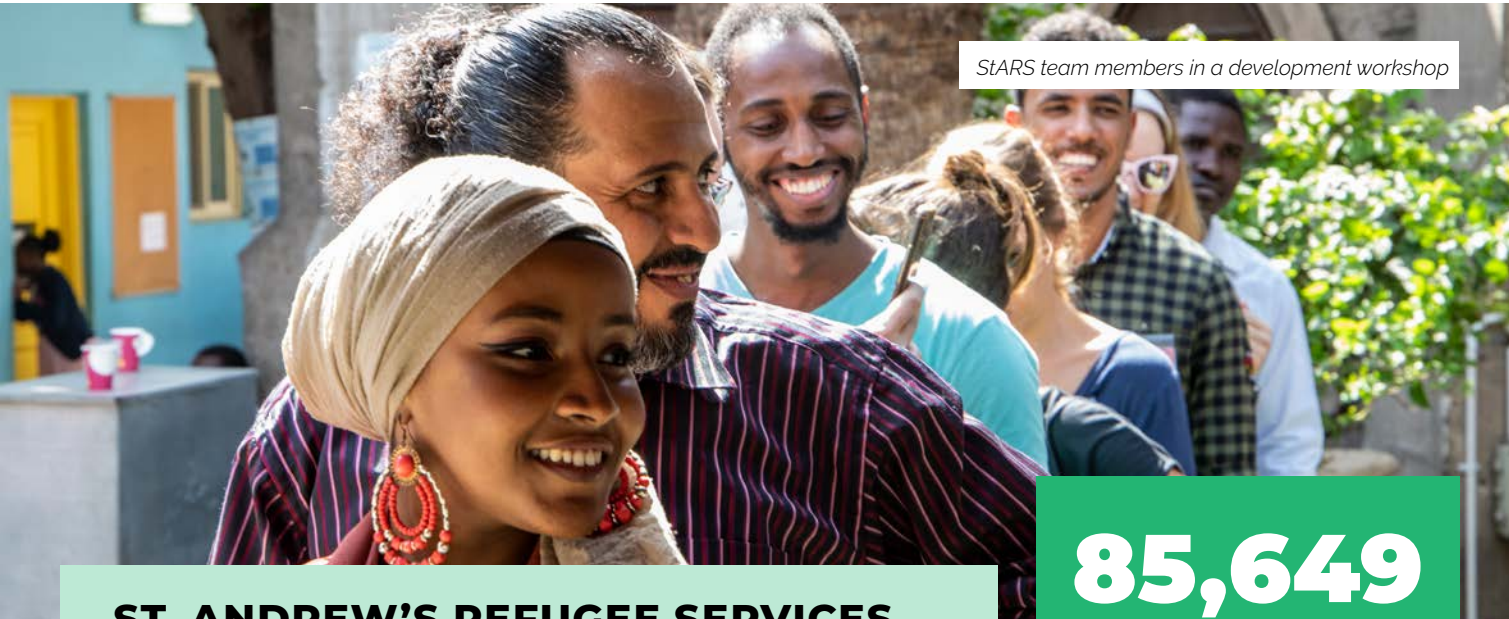
Tawasul also supported around 3,000 families through its community-based organization. This includes vocational training programs such as cooking classes for single mothers—enabling them to generate through group cooking and food delivery services—English, Arabic and math classes, basic computer literacy courses, and

electrical installation training. These programs have been integral for building livelihoods for displaced community members and ensuring their long-term integration. For instance, one Eritrean refugee who was not able to obtain employment for four years attended training on electrical installations and electronics through Tawasul's technical school. Now he operates his own electronics shop to build his livelihood, and he also trains and hires other refugees in the community to work with him.



FAISEL-SCHOOL.EDUCATION





StARS team members in a development workshop

ST. ANDREW'S REFUGEE SERVICES

85,649
Community members supported in 2022-23

St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) is a refugee-led organization providing wraparound services to tens of thousands of displaced people in Egypt annually in the form of legal aid, psychosocial support, education, medical services, professional development, and community outreach. StARS is unique in providing a holistic approach to achieving the short- and long-term wellbeing of displaced populations in Egypt, regardless of their legal status, age, gender identity, or any other characteristic leading to service exclusion.

In the past year, StARS supported over 32,000 individuals and 53,000 dependents with a wide range of services. Crucially, between April and June 2023, StARS screened 2,571 cases of adults and families, representing over 10,000 individuals displaced due to the conflict in Sudan. StARS has played an integral role during this period by providing cash assistance and legal aid, facilitating access to housing, delivering psychosocial support, and assisting unaccompanied children and youth who arrived in Egypt without any documentation. Notably, StARS has worked with numerous local RLOs to strengthen their capacity, which has been integral as RLOs have been at the forefront of mobilizing and responding to this

emergency by providing housing, raising funds and non-food items such as clothes and blankets, and referring individuals to other services providers or partner RLOs in the community.

The rise in costs and increasing economic challenges have made StARS as an integral source of support for refugee communities in Cairo. For example, many participants of StARS' unaccompanied and youth programs dropped out to seek employment opportunities due to trouble covering rent and food expenses, but these opportunities are fraught with risks of exploitation. StARS modified their class schedules accordingly to ensure participants can continue to study, participate in extracurricular activities and interact

with peers, as well as provide a space to report any exploitation, harm or abuse they may be facing in their employment. Additionally, StARS provides nutrition boxes and cash assistance to unaccompanied children and youth to ensure they are healthy and encourage them to stay enrolled in their education, thereby investing in their long-term future. More broadly, StARS has played a vital role in supporting over 40 RLOs and refugee community schools situated across Cairo to expand its reach, undertake a decentralized approach to service delivery, and accelerate community-led support for affected communities.



STARS-EGYPT.ORG



FOCUS AREAS



Preschool kids playing a classroom game together



CARE THE DISPLACED CHILDREN

462

Community members supported in 2022-23

Care the Displaced Children (CDC) is a newly established refugee-led preschool and education center offering educational programs to refugee children coming from countries such as Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Somalia. They are seeking to address an important and unmet need for refugees in Indonesia: access to kindergarten and preschool. The founders, who are educators, lawyers and advocates for the rights of forcibly displaced people, are well-connected to the community and have long, personal histories working with other displaced people in Indonesia.

Currently, CDC offers kindergarten and primary school programming for 80+ displaced children free of charge. The organization provides classes four days a week for these children, which is meeting a critical need in the community since these children are not permitted to attend local kindergarten or pre-schools. There remains a waiting list of more than 35 children, once again highlighting the necessity of CDC's services to forcibly displaced children and families in the community. The impact of the organization is immense, as many children were not able to be educated in their home country. For example, one 11-year-old student from Sudan was not able to write their name when they

were enrolled at the primary school. Six months later, he got the first position in his class, marking a significant amount of progress in a short period of time.

The impact of CDC's programming is also far-reaching, as they hire displaced youth and adults to work as teachers in the school

Educating children in the community is also critical as it prepares them for their long-term integration when they are resettled into a third country, such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the United States. The impact of CDC's

programming is also far-reaching, as they hire displaced youth and adults to work as teachers in the school, providing them with an opportunity to build a livelihood and ensuring the curriculum and programming are community-centered according to the needs of displaced children. CDC aims to continue expanding their programming by enrolling children on the waiting list and also offering English language classes for adults and parents to ensure successful long-term integration.



CDCINDONESIA.ORG



HELP FOR REFUGEES

134

Community members supported in 2022-23

Founded in 2017, HELP (Health, Education, and Learning Program) for Refugees is a community-based learning center in South Jakarta, Indonesia. Each year, they provide education and health-care services to over 100 refugee children, youth and adults in their community. HELP's center offers mathematics, science, and Indonesian and English language courses, as well as ad-hoc health clinics and distribution of food packages and sanitation packages. The center, which has students and volunteer teachers from over 12 nationalities, is a bridge between the refugee and Indonesian communities in Jakarta.

HELP provides education to 134 students aged 5 to 55 years from ten different countries, namely kindergarten, primary school, adult English classes, and a new computer literacy program. During the past year, HELP was approached by Pearson Education and was offered to implement their EdExcel iPrimary Curriculum, providing students with a stronger foundation in math, science and English. Since the curriculum is globally recognized by more than 160 countries, this partnership enables HELP to arrange examinations and formal certification to their students, which can support further education and applications for university and employment. HELP

offers students the opportunity to take the EdExcel Key Stage 1 exam, which certifies that they have demonstrated the necessary knowledge and skills to succeed in 7th grade and beyond. This is a major milestone as it is the first time young students have been able to access an internationally recognized certification while living as refugees in Indonesia. By delivering a form of education that culminates in graduation and certification, HELP is preparing refugees for more opportunities when they resettle abroad, often the only sustainable solution for refugees in Indonesia in an extremely challenging context.

Last year, HELP piloted a computer literacy program and the first cohort of

students graduated for both the children and adult classes. This program equips students and their families with essential computer skills, such as the most commonly used computer applications and internet navigation, which are essential for their future success in the digital age. Furthermore, as HELP's team is composed of 18 refugee volunteers, they are also providing refugees living in Indonesia with an opportunity to find a community and have a sense of purpose and belonging while supporting education programs for fellow refugees and investing in their long-term future.



HELP4REFUGEES.OR.ID



FOCUS AREAS



RLC teachers participating in a training workshop



REFUGEE LEARNING CENTER

481

Community members supported in 2022-23

Established in 2015, Refugee Learning Center (RLC) is a refugee-led community center providing education to displaced children and adults who are not able to enter the education system in Indonesia. In 2017, RLC expanded their services to include access to a General Educational Development program, which was the first formal secondary education opportunity to be offered to refugees in Indonesia. Today, RLC reaches over 480 refugees in the community with daily programs and services, including education, vocational training, recreational activities, and emergency support.

RLC has become one of the most sought-after educational centers in the community, with students achieving remarkable accomplishments after receiving educational programming from the centre. Last year, 13 students successfully obtained General Education Development certificates, setting them up for a successful long-term future. Many graduates from RLC are actively engaged in volunteer work and have secured online employment to provide for their families, demonstrating the quality education that RLC provides to community members in Indonesia.

Last year, RLC launched a new vocational program to support over 70 women, and also established a new Refugee Skill Training Centre to enhance

employability skills of refugees within the community and achieve financial security. By supporting individuals to receive craft training as well, refugees are able to sell their products within Indonesia to build their livelihoods. For example, RLC provided training on cookie production for one family, and then facilitated the visit of some community members to taste their products. Afterwards, the visitors arranged for the family to obtain an oven, allowing the family to diversify and increase their cookie production, leading to a significant increase in their monthly income.

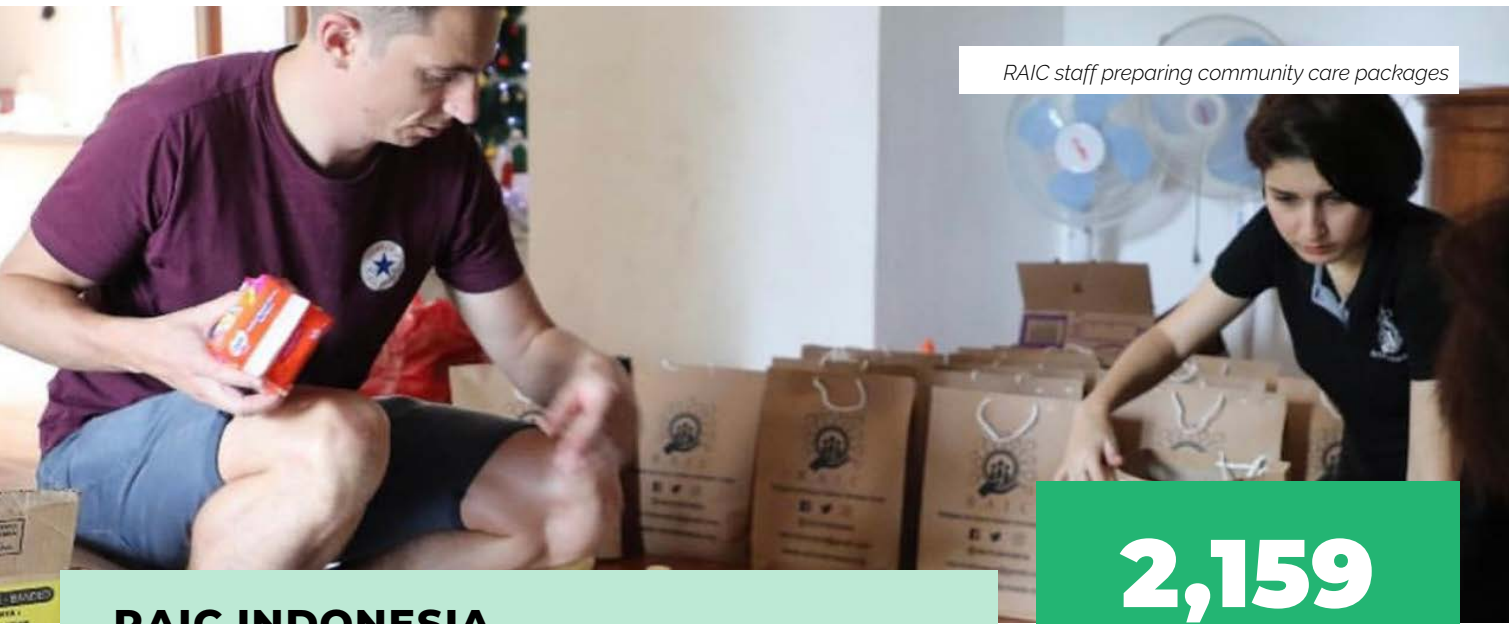
In the past year, RLC launched language classes spanning from basic to advanced levels, tailored to the needs of community members.

In addition, RLC provided textbooks to all students—relieving families of a considerable financial burden—facilitated recreational activities to support the wellbeing and growth of children, and provided 100 families with hygiene kits and food packages to meet basic needs and provide stability. Through these initiatives, RLC is not only meeting immediate needs but also investing in the long-term future of refugees in Indonesia by ensuring they have the necessary education, employment and language training and skills to successfully integrate in the community and build their own livelihoods.



REFUGEELEARNINGCENTER.COM





RAIC staff preparing community care packages

RAIC INDONESIA

2,159
Community members supported in 2022-23

Refugees and Asylum Seekers Information Centre (RAIC) Indonesia is a refugee-led organization founded in 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia. They aim to ease the burden for those fleeing persecution by responding to immediate humanitarian needs, providing specialized assistance and opportunities, and collaborating with refugee communities to identify and access long-term solutions. As one of the leading organizations engaging with Indonesia's refugee community, RAIC provides comprehensive and holistic support in the form of legal aid, refugee resettlement, healthcare, psychosocial support and emergency assistance.

Last year, RAIC supported 2,100+ refugees through a wide range of services and programs. For example, their mental health program, Cope, reached 57 new refugees in the community, as RAIC facilitated peer-to-peer mental health support and delivered 1-on-1 sessions with volunteer mental health practitioners. Notably, a major accomplishment of the past year was the opening of RAIC's first ever physical space, the Cope Community Centre, which will be a place for community members to gather and to conduct various activities that support mental health and connection for refugees. They also distributed 3,840 food and hygiene packages, including by introducing new

child support packages for families, and provided rental assistance and dental care treatments for community members in need of support.

A major accomplishment of the past year was the opening of RAIC's first ever physical space, the Cope Community Centre

One of the main pillars of RAIC's work is their private sponsorship program. Although UNHCR facilitates refugee resettlement in Indonesia, many community members have been rejected for refugee resettlement due to their nationality or gender. As such,

RAIC's private sponsorship program is a vital lifeline as this is the only possibility for refugees to move to a country where they might have the right to move freely, work, and send their children to school. Last year, RAIC supported 19 refugees in Indonesia navigating the private sponsorship application process to Canada, giving them an opportunity to build a new life. RAIC also continues to provide guidance on the resettlement process for community members, including through their YouTube videos, and will update and expand online resources to provide accessible information on private sponsorship pathways for refugees in the coming year.



FOCUS AREAS



Photo exhibit by Ettijahat fellow Mohammad Nour



ETTIJAHAT - INDEPENDENT CULTURE

306

Community members supported in 2022-23

Ettijahat – Independent Culture was founded in 2011 with the mission to support and empower independent Syrian artists and cultural practitioners principally in Lebanon and other countries where displaced Syrians reside. Ettijahat supports the production of art and knowledge, refugee-led artistic initiatives, and the success of artists through scholarships and advocacy for work rights and protections for refugees and other marginalized populations. Ettijahat believes that an investment in culture is an investment in accessible education, a more equitable labor market, and means for marginalized people to earn decent livelihoods..

Over the past year, Ettijahat directly supported 300+ community members by providing institutional professional training, academic scholarships, legal assistance, and production support to Syrian refugee artists and cultural practitioners in Lebanon. These interventions promote the growth and stability of Syrian artists in Lebanon, strengthen their social protection, professional and personal development, and enable Syrian refugees to access opportunities that have been denied to them due to conflict. To achieve this, for example, Ettijahat ran its fourth edition of AJYAL, a program for Syrian and Palestinian-Syrian art students by providing financial support to 15 students to

pursue bachelor's and master's degrees in areas such as theater, music, film and visual arts, investing in their education and long-term futures.

Through their MAHARAT program, Ettijahat also provided training opportunities for 20 young professionals in performing arts techniques. The training taught key artistic skills and provided on-site practical experience in collaboration with prestigious artistic organizations and institutions, therefore connecting them with potential employers, investing in their careers, and improving their ability to contribute to public life and the labour market in their host countries. For example, participants of the program

have successfully gone on to become sound engineers and production managers for major event companies and productions, thereby allowing them to build long-term livelihoods. In the 2022 edition of their Laboratory of Arts programme, they also supported 17 artistic productions by enabling artists to promote their work on international platforms and ensure long-term stability. Moreover, through their SANAD program, Ettijahat collaborated with a local service provider to support 40 individuals with financial support and legal consultations with lawyers, with 27 of them obtaining legal status and therefore supporting their long-term stability and integration in host countries.



ETTIJAHAT.ORG





An Oshana project artisan with her crochet design

MAKANI

263
Community members supported in 2022-23

Makani is a social enterprise that supports women to find freedom and confidence through arts and opportunity. Their arts program provides a space for women to process trauma, gain confidence, and address common concerns by producing short films and participating in theatre productions. The opportunity program consists of social enterprise activities and supplemental education and training programs to develop literacy, English language and digital skills. Through skills and confidence gained in these programs, women engage in advocacy to support the health and wellbeing of refugees in Lebanon.

Makani's impact on the community in the past year has been transformational. Their Oshana project supports 40 refugee women by providing them with a dignified income, a supportive community, and a creative outlet for trauma through the creation and international sales of embroidery and crochet. Through this project, Makani is not only able to support families in a challenging context, but also supports women to improve their mental health, reclaim their self-belief, confidence and independence, and stand up for themselves and their rights within their homes and personal relationships. Their children also benefit from this initiative, as their mothers are not only able to cover

expenses for rent, food and school, but they are also more emotionally resilient and able to cope with the anxiety and trauma of displacement.

Makani's impact on the community in the past year has been transformational

Another impact of Makani is through the Dream Project, which enables 12 refugee women to access training, education and opportunities to fulfill career aspirations. Supporting women to study for qualifications in various fields and helping with start-up costs for small women-led

businesses are part of Makani's objective to address gender and refugee justice. Last year, Makani also collaborated with an NGO called Intisar to run theatre therapy workshops. 34 women have been supported through these workshops, allowing them to improve their mental health in a safe and supportive environment. Furthermore, Makani conducted a series of Syrian block printing workshops, providing a creative and therapeutic group activity for refugee women, as well as protecting an integral part of Syrian cultural heritage, tradition and identity, which has been endangered by the conflict in their homeland.



MAKANI.ORG.UK



FOCUS AREAS



B&Z supports local residents after the Beirut blast



BASMEH & ZEITONEH

Basmeh & Zeitooneh (B&Z), established in 2012 provides holistic support to refugees in Lebanon and Iraq. B&Z provides wide-ranging support in the form of emergency relief, education, livelihoods and protection services, aimed at lifting entire families and providing long-term solutions for refugees. B&Z strives to provide accessible, dignified and holistic solutions to empower and increase the agency and independence of refugees..

Last year, B&Z supported over 483,142 people with comprehensive support, including community-based legal assistance, specialized care for girls and women who experienced sexual and gender-based violence, non-formal education, psychosocial services for children and youth, financial investments in small and micro enterprises, and assistance with vertical farming and the provision of input supplies for farmers. The impact of these interventions has been significant, as 87% of individuals shared that financial support received from B&Z for their businesses improved their living conditions and level of safety. Moreover, 93% of individuals shared that services they received through B&Z's community-based legal empowerment programming have

improved their sense of security for them and their families.

In the past year, B&Z enhanced the preparedness and sustainability of RLOs through the Fostering Refugee Leadership (FRL) project in Lebanon by providing tailored technical and financial support. The program aims to foster an inclusive framework by enabling refugee leadership in responding to community needs, supporting the development of community-led interventions, and improving the sustainability of the impact of these interventions. 39 RLOs received structural, technical and capacity development support, as they gained necessary tools and resources that strengthened their organizational structures and interventions. 15 of the RLOs received grants of \$20k USD

483,142

Community members supported in 2022-23

each, while 2 additional RLOs received \$10k each from B&Z. This financial support aims to improve the organizational and individual capacities of the RLOs, allowing them to carry out projects that make a tangible difference in their communities in the areas of livelihood development, education, vocational training, legal assistance, psychological support, research, advocacy and much more. The FRL project demonstrates how B&Z is playing a critical role in providing RLO-to-RLO support to accelerate refugee leadership and advance community-led initiatives across Lebanon.



BASMEH & ZEITONEH
RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

[BASMEH-ZEITONEH.ORG](https://www.basmeh-zeitooneh.org)





Founder of a women-led business shows her wares

KANDAAKIAT

103
Community members supported in 2022-23

Kandaakiat Organization for Women Empowerment and Development (KOWED), a refugee, women-led organization operating in Kampala and the Kiryandongo Settlement, envisions a society where women are collectively and individually self-reliant and free from injustice. Their workshops and programs focus on vocational training, livelihood skills development, women's rights education, women's health education, food security and environmental sustainability, including through a robust agriculture program. Their programs offer a space for women to discuss various issues with each other and to tackle feelings of isolation in these settlements.

Last year, KOWED supported over 100 refugees in total by teaching shoemaking and other crafts to build self-reliance, providing training in vegetable growing to promote sustainable food production in the neighborhoods, and facilitating access to renewable energy and eco-friendly solutions within the community by training refugee women to produce briquettes. KOWED successfully trained 45 refugees in financial literacy, group formation, management and business planning by providing them with essential entrepreneurial and financial management skills. Another key highlight from the past year is that KOWED supported the establishment of two Village Savings and Loan Associations

(VSLAs) and provided start-up capital for 12 women-led businesses, stimulating self-employment across the community.

These initiatives are providing community members with valuable skills and knowledge and promoting economic resilience and self-reliance, as refugees are equipped to start their own businesses, diversify their livelihoods to withstand economic shocks and adapt to changing circumstances, or find employment within the community. The establishment of VSLAs enables access to credit and financial services, fosters financial inclusion and provides a safety net during emergencies, while supporting women-led

businesses challenges traditional gender roles by increasing the participation of women in economic activities and decision-making processes. Moreover, sustainable food production training enables refugees to gain access to nutritious food, reduce reliance on external food aid, improve food security, as well as foster cohesiveness and unity amongst refugees and host communities as they visit and interact with each other to learn about farming techniques and exchange knowledge. By promoting renewable clean energy skills training, KOWED is also improving environmental consciousness amongst refugees and contributing to sustainable energy use and conservation.



KANDAAKIAT4WOMEN.ORG



FOCUS AREAS



Opening of a new community learning center



TOMORROW VIJANA

3,900

Community members supported in 2022-23

Founded in 2014, Tomorrow Vijana operates in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement (Nkoma/Katalyeba), where nearly 80,000 mostly Congolese refugees live. Tomorrow Vijana helps youth rebuild their lives by ensuring they have access to education, youth vocational and life skills, psychosocial support/counseling, empowerment programs for women and girls, livelihood and environmental protection, and capacity-strengthening for small groups.

Last year, Tomorrow Vijana established one of the first refugee-built and -owned community learning centers in the Rwamwanja settlement. The center accommodates 230 people and provides a space to invest in lifelong digital skills, as well as deliver educational services and English language courses for community members. Over 60 refugees were hired to construct the learning center, creating livelihood opportunities and financially supporting 320 individuals. The establishment of this center marks an important milestone of refugees' contribution to the community, expands Tomorrow Vijana's ability to provide holistic support to refugees, and is equipping youth in the settlement with essential skills and fostering a brighter future.

Tomorrow Vijana established one of the first refugee-built and -owned community learning centers in the Rwamwanja settlement

Tomorrow Vijana conducted two boot camps – one focused on enhancing job readiness skills for over 150 participants, with 20% of graduates now either self-employed or employed by others, and the other on enhancing agribusiness and agroecological skills for 59 young farmers. They provided English language packages to 130 learners and extended information and communications technology services to 156 learners, equipping youth with essential lifelong skills. Tomorrow Vijana also supported 92 individuals through

their Women Employment Initiative, which aims to enhance resilience within individuals, families and communities through group discussions, individual case support, farming and recreational activities, family engagement sessions, and psychoeducation support. They also support ten refugee-led groups on a monthly basis on topics such as organizational planning and resource mobilization, and assisted five of these groups to register as community-based organizations, highlighting how RLOs are accelerating refugee-led efforts across the community.



TOMORROWVIJANA.ORG





YARID staff during a parade for World Refugee Day

YARID

9,387

Community members supported in 2022-23

Established in 2007, Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID) is a refugee-led organization providing community-driven services and solutions for over 9,000 refugees in Uganda. Their core programs support women and youth to learn new skills and start businesses, meet urgent and basic protection needs of refugee families, prepare community members to apply for jobs, equip the next generation with digital skills through ICT training, and support community members through English language training and educational programs.

In the past year, YARID supported over 9,300 refugees in Kampala through a wide range of services, including vocational programs, information and communication technology training, job readiness support, and protection services. In their job training program, YARID helps refugees from all backgrounds grow skills relevant to the private sector, such as English language acquisition, resume building, cover letter development, interview skills and more. This program has been significant, as one refugee from South Sudan was unsuccessful in finding employment in the community. After attending YARID's job training program, he eventually secured a full-time position at an international organization, allowing

him to build a livelihood and support his family, including by paying for his sister's education costs.

YARID has multiple programs designed to promote sustainable income generation for communities, including skills training programs, provision of grants for entrepreneurs to launch their businesses, and investments in five village saving and loan associations (VSLAs). The impact of these interventions has been crucial as, for example, YARID provided startup capital to one refugee from the DRC for their soap-making business. The sales from her production allowed her to open a small shop and cover her basic expenses, including educating her children, which she was not able to

do before. Another refugee who was unable to continue her university education in Congo benefitted from YARID's vocational training and capital support, as she learned new skills in tailoring, arts and crafts, and briquette making and is now able to make products, earn an income and meet her basic needs. YARID also offers an information communications technology program which helps start-up businesses and promising entrepreneurs thrive through training on topics such as computer literacy, internet security, smartphone use, website development, and use of services like Google Suite.



YARID.ORG





GET INVOLVED

RRLI is seeking support from **values-based, like-minded donors and grantors who wish to contribute to an equitable, decolonized, and community-led movement for effective and sustainable refugee responses.** If you share these values, please reach out to us so that we can collaborate in supporting frontline refugee-led organizations (RLOs) who understand their communities' experiences and needs best. We need your participation in this journey.

Around the world, communities organize to advocate for better lives and futures for themselves, their children, families, loved ones, and neighbors. Refugee communities are no different; refugee-led organizations ("RLOs") around the world work to improve the lives of community members and fight for sustainable solutions to the

challenges they face, from legal status to access to education to addressing basic needs.

But, these RLOs face significant challenges: the overwhelming majority (over 99%) of humanitarian funding goes to international actors, and less than 1% goes to local actors. Even less of that funding goes to refugee-led organizations, who may face barriers to funding such as lack of registration or inability to open a bank account.

The Resourcing Refugee Leadership Initiative (RRLI) came together two years ago with the mission of shifting power and resources to refugee-led organizations. During this time, our agenda for change has resonated with many, resulting in progress. Since 2021, we have committed or distributed over \$10,000,000 in multi-year resources to 17 RLOs operating in five countries. As we reflect on this progress,

we express our gratitude. The strength of movement leaders worldwide and the support of key allies have led to an emergence of more equitable and effective refugee responses.

Our conviction that RLOs should be uplifted has only strengthened, as the impact of these grants has been extraordinary. This does not come as a surprise. When we support refugee-led organizations in the ways they request, addressing the issues they prioritize, remarkable outcomes are achieved. With our convictions clear, we are eager to propel our movement even further.

So, we ask you to join us on this journey of creating a world where organizations led by refugees themselves are able to lead solutions to their communities' challenges; where these organizations are sustainably resourced and able to participate in decisions affecting their communities. We want



to hear from you if you identify with or are interested in the following:

- **You understand the importance of leadership from within refugee communities**, as change is best created by those who have firsthand knowledge of what their community needs and are accountable to those communities as members themselves.
- **You believe in equitable partnerships**, where power dynamics shift from historically advantaged individuals to historically excluded individuals in every interaction.
- **You have a systems change mindset** and are committed to examining and dismantling the structures and methods of

financing and engagement that fail to recognize the profound knowledge and expertise of local organizations led by refugees.

- **You recognize the need for meaningful engagement with individual refugee-led organizations**, as the success of individual RLOs contributes to the development of a robust movement for local leadership and community ownership of responses.

If this resonates with you, we would like to connect with you and sincerely appreciate your partnership in this movement for change. With your support, we can get critical funding to refugee-led organizations serving their

communities around the world and help the sector understand the undeniable value and role of RLOs in addressing the needs of their own communities.

You can reach us at info@refugeeslead.org. We are happy to answer any questions you might have about our work. We look forward to hearing from you.



rrli

#refugeeslead