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The parable is familiar:

A poor man walks up to two fishermen and says, "I'm hungry. Can you help me?" The first fisherman gives him a fish. The second says, "I'll do better than that – I'll teach you how to fish."

But our poor man is a refugee. He says, "I know how to fish. I'm just not allowed to."

This is the reality for millions of refugees worldwide. On paper, refugees fleeing persecution or civil war have the right to live safely, seek employment, put children in school and build a new life in a new home. In practice, few countries honor these rights.

Asylum Access was founded to change this.

Asylum Access empowers refugees to rebuild their lives using five tools:

Legal Aid

We help refugees obtain legal status, the first step to accessing all other rights. We also help refugees access safe and lawful employment, obtain owed wages through labor dispute mediation, access healthcare and education, and seek protection from further injustice.

Community Legal Empowerment

To empower refugee communities, we organize trainings and support groups addressing refugee rights, economic empowerment, and healing trauma. We train refugee leaders to provide basic rights-based assistance within their communities, and facilitate refugee community organizing for self-advocacy.

Policy Advocacy

We advocate for changes in law and policy that improve refugees' access to rights. Working with local governments and UN field offices, we develop and promote solutions to systemic rights violations, with a focus on safety, freedom of movement, and the right to work.

Strategic Litigation

We establish legal precedents for refugee rights through test cases in local and regional courts. In doing so, we not only impact refugees' lives today, but also reinforce rule of law so future refugees can rely on the protection of a strong legal system.

Global Policy Advocacy and Movement-Building

We advocate with policy decision-makers to include refugee rights as a key component of international refugee assistance, in addition to humanitarian aid. We also engage and support other refugee rights advocates, universities and thought leaders to build a global refugee rights movement.













MORE THAN **16,000** REFUGEES RECEIVED LEGAL INFORMATION, ADVICE & REPRESENTATION

A DECADE OF ADVOCACY, IMPACTING 1,000,000+ REFUGEES WORLDWIDE

- PANAMA - FCLIADOF

LANDMARK VICTORY IN ECUADOR AGAINST A RESTRICTIVE REFUGEE LAW

GROWING OUR REFUGEE WORK RIGHTS NA CAMPAIGN & RELEASE OF GROUNDBREAKING REFUGEE WORK RIGHTS REPORT

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

REFUGEE RIGHTS INITIATIVES LAUNCHED IN INDIA & INDONESIA USING OUR **REFUGEE RIGHTS TOOLKIT**

SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY TO INCLUDE THE RIGHT TO ASYLUM
IN THE ASEAN HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION

MAJOR ADVOCACY STRIDES TOWARD
AN URBAN REFUGEE POLICY IN TANZANIA

ECUADOR

Ecuador continues to host Latin America's largest refugee population and has recognized an estimated 160,000 mostly Colombian refugees. Though often praised for its willingness to provide safe haven to refugees, and to comply with international legal instruments such as the 1951 Refugee Convention, the Ecuadorian government also has enacted restrictive measures that limit refugees' access to legal status and, as a result, their rights.

HIGHLIGHTS >>



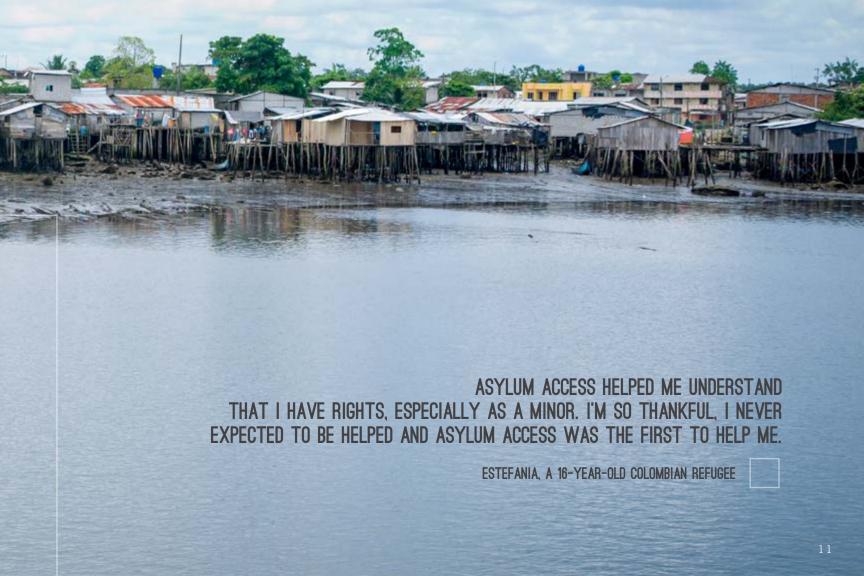
We won a landmark victory when Ecuador's Constitutional Court struck down key provisions of a restrictive refugee law, Decree 1182, that imposed serious barriers for refugees seeking safety in Ecuador.

Operating in 8 locations across the country, we provided direct legal assistance that reached 14,380 refugees.

We provided livelihoods workshops to refugees in partnership with employment skills training organizations, and coordinated efforts with the Ministry of Labor and the Social Responsibility Consortium to raise awareness among employers about refugee rights.

With the Nduna Foundation, we launched the Good Neighbor Award, recognizing Ecuadorians whose superlative efforts helped refugees integrate locally in two provinces. Building on our regional advocacy work, Asylum Access Latin America was established and is coordinating operations across the region. (Look for new offices opening in Panama and Mexico in the coming year!)

We led the Cartagena +30 Civil Society Initiative to make recommendations to governments throughout Latin America on the future of refugee rights in the region. With 23 collaborating organizations, we published "Cartagena Initiative +30: International Protection and Effective Integration – Civil Society Recommendations from the Front Lines of Asylum and Statelessness in Latin America and the Caribbean." Report findings were presented at a hearing before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.





THAILAND

Thailand is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and has no domestic legislation governing refugees. Thailand's best-known refugees are the 140,000 Myanmarese living in refugee camps along the border, but an estimated 8,000 or more live in hiding on urban margins, fearful of arrest and deportation.

Thailand does not officially recognize refugees' right to protection. As a result, refugees live under constant threat of arrest, exploitation and detention. In Bangkok, refugees come from over 20 countries, including China, Somalia, Pakistan, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Syria and many more.

HIGHLIGHTS >>

WITH THE STRONG SUPPORT OF ASYLUM ACCESS, I AND MY KIDS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SECURED REFUGEE STATUS. IT HAS BOOSTED OUR CONFIDENCE AND GIVEN US HOPE FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE. IT HAS ALSO GREATLY REDUCED OUR BURDEN OF LIVING IN BANGKOK MENTALLY AND FINANCIALLY.

JANE. A REFUGEE LIVING IN THAILAND

ND ON

We are collaborating with the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand and other civil society organizations to advocate for an amendment to Thailand's Immigration Act. If adopted, the new Immigration Act would stop the routine detention of refugees, and allow them to live freely in Thailand while awaiting resettlement in another country.

To empower urban refugees to address the challenges of life in Bangkok, where they regularly face arrest and detention simply for being refugees, we organized Democratic Collective Action groups. One of these groups, composed of several Asylum Access Thailand interpreters, is advocating with the UN Refugee Agency, seeking policy changes to improve the UN Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process that decides the fates of thousands of refugees each year.

We provided direct legal counsel and representation to nearly 200 refugees this year at our office in Bangkok.

We co-created the Bangkok Asylum Seekers and Refugee Assistance Network (BASRAN) to coordinate services for the urban refugee population in Bangkok, engaging faith-based organizations, refugee service providers and the UN Refugee Agency.

Our Know Your Options trainings help refugees to identify and utilize coping mechanisms in an environment where they have little access to rights. 92% of this year's participants said the trainings have meaningfully impacted their lives in Bangkok's challenging context.

TANZANIA

Tanzania hosts over 100,000 refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Somalia. Although Tanzania is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, refugees are required to live in camps where they face severe constraints on their right to move freely and to seek safe and legal employment. As a result, many refugees decide to live in towns and cities and are a particularly vulnerable population: often invisible, with few resources and no rights.

HIGHLIGHTS >>

We provided direct legal assistance reaching over 836 refugees, mostly at our office in Dar es Salaam, but also through mobile clinics.

As part of our continued efforts to advocate for an "urban refugee policy" that would allow refugees to live and work in Tanzanian communities instead of camps, we lead a network of civil society organizations that makes recommendations to the Tanzanian government regarding integration of refugee rights into law and policy.

We published *Immigration Detention in Tanzania: A Prison Survey Report* following research conducted on 389 individuals in regional prisons. The report has allowed Tanzanian and global policymakers to better understand where and how refugees are detained in Tanzania, and to prevent unnecessary immigration detention.

Through education and training, we help refugees build their skills in entrepreneurship and investment, and ensure they understand relevant laws. We also help them understand the process to obtain legal status, their rights under Tanzanian and international law, and the long-term options available to them. Specialized Women's Empowerment sessions focus on the particular needs of refugee women.

ASYLUM ACCESS STARTED PROCESSING MY PERMIT APPLICATION AND I STILL COULD NOT BELIEVE IT...

THAT I COULD BE ABLE TO DO BUSINESS OPENLY.
THAT I COULD BE ABLE TO WALK IN THE STREETS FREELY
AND ABOVE ALL, THAT THE FEAR OF BEING ARRESTED
OR BEING HARASSED WILL SOON BE OVER.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START THANKING YOU.

TAMIA, A REFUGEE FROM
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



GLOBAL POLICY ADVOCACY

Asylum Access's Global Policy Advocacy efforts complement national advocacy efforts, bringing refugee perspectives from the ground directly to key global decision-makers in Geneva, New York, and Washington, DC. Our advocacy currently focuses on two cornerstone issues: Ensuring refugees' rights to access safe, lawful employment and self-employment in the formal sector; and promoting refugees' access to legal empowerment in first countries of refuge.

HIGHLIGHTS >>

As the leading organization advocating for refugee work rights around the globe, we welcomed an announcement this year by the UN Refugee Agency that it would make refugee work rights a top priority in its five-year strategic plan for livelihoods.

We released the first ever comparative study on access to employment and corresponding rights for refugees around the world, *Global Refugee Work Rights: Taking the Movement from Theory to Practice,* in collaboration with the Refugee Work Rights Coalition (see page 18). Key findings were presented to policymakers and advocates at an event hosted by the United Nations Foundation in Washington D.C.

Our Global Policy team was invited to speak as experts on refugee rights issues around the world, including at the UN Refugee Agency, Northwestern University and the American Bar Association. Together with the UN Refugee Agency and fellow nonprofit HIAS, we organized and moderated the only global roundtable on using strategic litigation to make human rights a reality for refugees. Finally, we raised refugee economic rights at the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Commission on the Status of Women.



REFUGEE WORK RIGHTS COALITION

The Refugee Work Rights Coalition was initiated by Asylum Access in 2013 to connect advocates seeking to improve refugees' access to safe, lawful employment.

As described in the Global Refugee Work Rights report (see page 16), most refugees face serious legal or *de facto* barriers to employment and entrepreneurship, despite international and regional legal protections on rights related to work.

Advocates across the globe are working to dismantle these barriers. The Coalition brings their efforts together for the first time, enabling coalition members to learn from each other, support complementary efforts, share resources, and celebrate successes.

Specifically, the Coalition:

» Advocates for and facilitates legislative change to ensure that domestic laws and policies enshrine refugees' right to work as set forth in international and regional human rights law;

- » Monitors and evaluates states' observance of existing domestic labor protections, when applicable;
- » Fosters and strengthens collaboration between policy advocates, legal service providers and livelihoods officers in developing strategies to promote the right to work and increase economic opportunities for refugees;
- » Increases UNHCR's and other refugee service providers' capacity to promote refugees' right to work;
- » Creates a network of information sharing to expound the social, economic, legal and/or political landscapes that enable or inhibit refugees' access to work;
- » Develops partnerships with nontraditional actors such as economic development and private sector actors to explore new and innovative approaches for implementing livelihood initiatives;

- » Builds public awareness and support for refugees' work rights;
- » Ensures the active and on-going involvement of refugees in the setting of goals, objectives and activities for the Coalition.

For a copy of Asylum Access and the Coalition's seminal report, *Global Refugee Work Rights Report 2014: Taking the Movement from Theory to Practice*, please visit www.asylumaccess.org.



JOHN'S STORY

John came to Asylum Access Tanzania with a unique request. He wanted us to keep his savings. Without refugee status, John was not allowed to work or open a bank account in Tanzania and scraped by - barely - collecting and selling used plastic bottles.

We helped John get a residence permit in Tanzania, and he participated in our business trainings. He began making cheap handicrafts — sandals costing around \$3 and he kept saving. With 6 of our other clients, he started a small, informal community bank, and with a loan from this group, he bought more expensive materials and is now making higher-end crafts with a better profit margin — he's added purses, handbags and baskets in addition to sandals. And his sandals? They now cost \$15.

REFUGEE RIGHTS TOOLKIT

The Refugee Rights Toolkit is an openaccess, online platform that offers practical advice and capacity development to refugee rights leaders around the world.

Made possible with support from the United States Institute of Peace, Foundation for a Just Society, Google, and other funders, the Toolkit provides the tools to replicate the Asylum Access model in many different local contexts.

As a key component of the Toolkit, a mentorship program supports selected refugee rights advocates in major refugee-receiving countries beyond Asylum Access's direct reach. Through a long term, learner-driven relationship, Asylum Access staff and collaborating experts in refugee legal aid and rights advocacy provide these advocates with regular, individualized mentoring and skillsbuilding training.

By incorporating a mentorship aspect into the Refugee Rights Toolkit, Asylum Access actively facilitates the growth and expansion of the global movement for refugee human rights.

We invite you to browse the Toolkit at www.refugeerightstoolkit.org.

FEATURED INITIATIVE: SUAKA

Suaka, the Indonesian Civil Society Network for Refugee Rights Protection, was created in October 2012 by a group of individuals and NGOs seeking to strengthen refugee rights in Indonesia's civil society space.

The network, led by existing NGOs Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) and the Jakarta Legal Aid Institute (Lembaga Bantuan Hukum / LBH Jakarta), initially started with the aim of providing legal assistance for asylum seekers in the UN Refugee Agency's refugee status determination process.

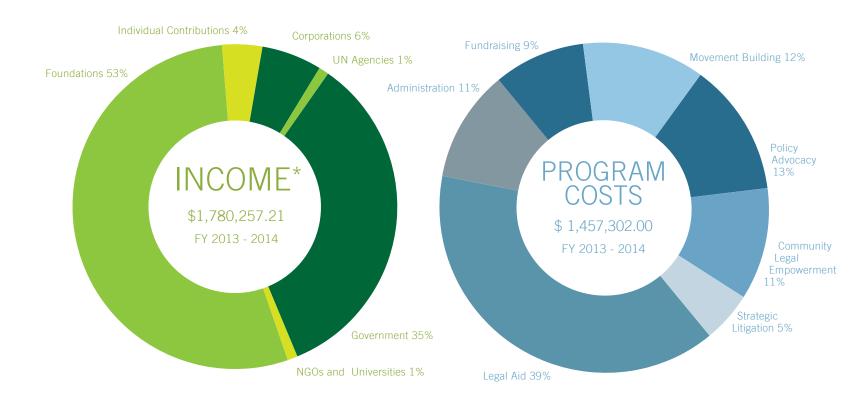
Today, Suaka trains Indonesian legal aid lawyers to represent refugee clients, carries out public awareness campaigns, and advocates for the inclusion of refugee rights in human rights discussions.

The development of Suaka's legal aid program has benefited from information and materials available in the Asylum Access Refugee Rights Toolkit. Using Toolkit resources, Suaka has trained volunteer legal advisors who work with asylum-seekers in Indonesia, and has developed "Self Help Kits" that are now being translated into key languages.

By Sunili Govinnage



FINANCIALS FISCAL YEAR 2013 - 2014



SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENSE

FISCAL YEAR 2013 - 2014*

Income**

Total Income

Contributed Support		Salaries, Benefits and Taxes	\$1,040,921.00
Individual Contributions	\$75,127.00	Contract Services	\$51,411.00
Corporations	\$98,290.00	Equipment, Maintenance and Facilities	\$12,917.00
NGO and University Partnerships	\$1,300.00	Rent and Utilities	\$94,293.00
Government	\$628,275.66	Operations	\$129,985.00
UN Agencies	\$20,000.00	Special Event	\$4,270.00
Foundations	\$951,231.55	Travel and Meetings	\$123,505.00
Other Revenue			
Honoraria	\$750	Total Expenses	\$1,457,302.00
In-Kind Donations	\$3,778.32		
Savings Interest	\$1,504.68		

\$1,780,257.21

Expense

^{*}Includes some multi-year funding agreements. The financial data presented here was obtained from our unaudited financial statements. Actual figures are subject to minor changes upon finalization of the annual audit. If you would like further details about our audited financial statements, please contact us at +1.510.891.8700 or info@asylumaccess.org.

**Revenue is reported on an accrual basis.

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\$500,000 and up

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\$10,000 - \$24,999

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