



## ANNUAL REPORT 2014



### **URBAN REFUGEES**

is a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) dedicated to improving the lives of urban refugees living in developing countries.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>3</b>
WE SUPPORT	
WE CONNECT	
WE ADVOCATE	
<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	<b>7</b>



- In 2014, our team defined the overall strategy of the organization. We oriented our project around 3 main pillars:
    - SUPPORTING urban refugee community groups through a capacity building program
    - CONNECTING together the main stakeholders of the humanitarian space working on urban displacement topics
    - ADVOCATING for policy change at the national, regional and international levels
  
  - With UNHCR's recent mainstreaming of the urban dimension of displacement, it is more than ever time to think together about best avenues to assist refugees in urban settings. Many challenges remain unsolved and we strive to bring about a space where those issues can be discussed and where change can happen, on the ground.
-

## ► WE SUPPORT:

This year was focused on building our capacity building program for urban refugee community based organizations. Given the very limited assistance of aid agencies in cities, those organisations provide the bulk of the assistance to their communities. The core idea is thus to build a capacity building program to support refugee-led organisations to develop their capacity to organise, plan and advocate for themselves. We have already identified 3 CBOs who could benefit from such a program in Uganda, Kenya and Thailand.

We also created an online toolbox to support the work of refugee community based organizations by providing them with links to useful services online:

### Tool Box

This toolbox aims to support the work of refugee community based organizations by providing them with links to useful services online. If you are managing a community based organisation and you would like to request a training to use those services, please get in touch with our team at [contact@urban-refugees.org](mailto:contact@urban-refugees.org)

### Education / Courses

#### COURSERA

Coursera is a for-profit educational technology company that offers massive open online courses.  
[www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org)



#### KHAN ACADEMY

Khan Academy is a non-profit educational organization created to provide a free, world-class education. Micro lectures are available in the form of YouTube videos.  
[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)



## ➤ WE CONNECT:

This year, our Platform expanded reaching over 60 organizations in 30 countries, including INGOs, NGOs, academics, refugee community based organizations, urban planners and research centers.

Our main idea is to help the humanitarian community adapt to the challenges of protecting refugees in cities. We use a collective impact strategy to create global connections between key stakeholders and help them work together towards shared goals.



## ➤ WE ADVOCATE:

This year, we attended the UNHCR Global Consultation and had the opportunity to have a booth to recruit more Platform participants.

At the beginning of the year, we joined the Urban Refugee Task Team of UNHCR and are now very much involved in the work of the team

We also attended the Ditchley Park conference organized by the IRC, where donors and some NGOs were invited to share views on how to tackle the challenges of urban displacement

We also entered the International Detention Coalition and the Australian Refugee Rights Alliance.

---

## ➤ **THE TEAM:**

The team expanded with 3 new volunteers. Volunteering policies and processes were put in place. The Advisory Board also expanded with Brendan Rigby, specialist in crowd funding and Erin Mooney, specialist in urban IDP matters who advise our team regularly.

## ➤ **LEGAL:**

A bank account was opened at the Société Générale. The possibility to incorporate in the USA as a 501 (c) 3 was investigated as it offers more possibilities in terms of fundraising.

## ➤ **STRATEGY:**

A strategic plan was drafted for 2014 - 2016 giving priority to the advocacy and capacity building components of the URBAN REFUGEES project.

## ➤ **FUNDRAISING:**

A first fundraising campaign was organized on the website Startsomegood in May. More than 4000 Euros were also identified as private donations.

## ➤ **IN KIND SUPPORT:**

This year, the organisation received the in kind support of the Global Consulting Group who drafted a fundraising strategy document.

---

## ➤ WEBSITE:

A new website was created this year, with the aim of simplifying the core message of the organisation:



## ➤ SOCIAL MEDIA:

The social media audience of the organization grew during the year, reaching 1500 followers on Twitter and 1000 on Facebook.

## ➤ PRESS APPARITIONS:

- On IRIN at the occasion of the release by UNHCR of its Alternative to camps policy and UNHCR innovation on urban refugees.
- On the Ashoka website, in relation to social entrepreneurship.
- On RSD Watch, in relation to our discussions launched on our Debate Forum.

## ➤ AWARDS:

- Deloitte Melbourne selected our project for their social innovation competition.
- Cordes Foundation awarded a grant to our Founding Director to attend the event Opportunity Collaboration in November.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

6

## **HEAD OFFICE:**

URBAN REFUGEES  
Square Lekain Bat F3  
786000 Maisons Laffitte, FRANCE

## **MANAGING OFFICE:**

URBAN REFUGEES  
6 rue de Belleville  
75020 PARIS

## **CONTACT DETAILS:**

Sonia Ben Ali  
sonia.benali@urban-refugees.org  
+336 99 46 42 82

## **LEGAL STATUS:**

Association de 1901 (French equivalent to a not-for-profit organization)  
Declared at the Prefecture of Saint Germain en Laye on 04/12/12  
Number W783004064

## **WEBSITE:**

[www.urban-refugees.org](http://www.urban-refugees.org)



