## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board Statement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Background</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director’s Statement</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlights of RCK Activities in 2013</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview of Programmes in 2013</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Legal and Social Justice Programme</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Advocacy and Capacity Enhancement Programme</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Information and Research Programme</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Institutional Support and Development Programme</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Statements</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Living conditions in Dadaab Refugee Camp.*
The year 2013 was an interesting year as RCK advanced its work in protecting the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and other forced migrants. The year saw RCK rejuvenate its activities from border monitoring, free legal aid assistance, training of different actors on forced migration issues to sensitizing the refugee communities. This went a long way in ensuring that all parties in the forced migration sector were informed which ensured that the rights of forced migrants were observed.

The year 2013 presented various challenges, ranging from attempts by the Government of Kenya to institute a strict encampment policy through issuance of an unprecedented directive on relocation of urban refugees to the camps, renewed focus for the repatriation of Somali refugees through signing of a Tripartite Agreement, to the Westgate Mall terrorists’ attack in Nairobi in which 69 persons lost their lives and scores were injured. Despite such challenges, RCK was able to weather the storm and deliver on its mandate and goals.

RCK continued to impact the lives of refugees and asylum seekers through the provision of free legal aid and psychosocial services. Due to the increasing need for legal aid, RCK, through the assistance of UNHCR
managed to open a new satellite in Garissa. The office will provide more support to the RCK operations in Dadaab, particularly on court representation of refugees and asylum seekers as well as in conducting protection monitoring visits to the environs in the North eastern transit corridor.

In light of the changing dynamic trends of global displacements, RCK took the opportunity to engage in regional and international advocacy as well as to increase its partnership base through networking at the international level. The Executive Director represented RCK in various high profile meetings and advocacy dialogue forums. Through these meetings, the work of RCK was recognized and its contributions in the forced migration sector were profiled globally. It was also through such meetings that RCK was able to source for new funding opportunities and so enable RCK to improve in its programming.

As a Board we are particularly proud that RCK was nominated by UNHCR for the international pilot initiative on capacity development of national NGOs for emergency response. Through this programme, five of the staff were trained in Kampala, Uganda, by UNHCR and the International Medical Corps (IMC). This is a testimony of the recognized capacity that RCK has in responding to emergencies and humanitarian crises. We note with appreciation that RCK was among the ten globally nominated NGOs to participate in this pilot initiative.

RCK wishes to thank all its partners, locally and internationally, for their invaluable support in enabling us to provide the crucial service to our persons of concern. Let’s continue keeping hope alive for those who feel that they have lost it.

Samuel Kabue
Board Chairman
2013 provided a very challenging environment for refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs. Kenya held its general elections in March and prior to the elections there were vigorous campaigns around the country with politicians pledging to resettle IDPs who had been displaced during the post-election violence (PEV) of 2007/2008. With the entry of the new Government, a resettlement and compensation scheme was adopted that saw compensation given to some IDPs and forest evictees. Rhetoric from the Government indicating an end to the IDP problem in the country presented a challenging working environment for RCK. The IDP situation in Kenya continued to be deplorable with the Government denying the existence of the IDP camps after the purported closure.

Also during the year, insecurity-related and inter-ethnic conflicts within Kenya saw a sharp rise in the number of cases of internal displacement including Inter-ethnic conflicts in Moyale, Samburu, Pokot and Turkana. The clashes were attributed to competition over political representation, land and resources. This saw a large number of persons fleeing the areas to avoid the conflicts and ensuing retaliatory attacks among the communities.

The Government of Kenya issued a directive that all urban refugees should relocate to the camps: the Somali were to relocate to Dadaab refugee camp while the remaining nationalities were to relocate to Kakuma refugee camp. RCK in partnership with Kituo Cha Sheria successfully instituted a civil proceeding against the Government challenging the directive. The court termed the Government directive as unconstitutional and ordered the immediate halt to the implementation of the directive, it further asked the Government to resume registration of refugees in urban areas. Despite the court order, the Government did not resume the registration of urban refugees, further complicating the protection environment. Refugees and asylum seekers were not able to access the Government-issued refugee certificate except in special circumstances.

On a positive note, Kenya successfully held its 2013 elections peacefully with little incident, except for the increased xenophobic attitudes that were witnessed towards the refugees and asylum seekers community originating from Kenyans, which RCK was able to follow up diligently.

The Governments of Kenya, the Federal Government of Somalia and UNHCR signed a Tripartite agreement to provide legal framework for the voluntary return of Somali refugees. Through the agreement, Kenya shall repatriate Somali refugees in phases; however before the commencement of the repatriation exercise, the refugees are to be sensitized on what to expect in Somalia and more so manage their expectations.

On a sour note, Kenya witnessed one of the worst terrorist attacks since the 1998 bombing of the US embassy in Kenya. Armed gunmen allied to Al Shabaab attacked Nairobi’s Westgate Mall killing over 69 Kenyans and foreigners. The attacks were further complicated with reports that some of the gunmen were of Somali origin and that one of the suspects’ phone calls could be traced to a refugee camp. This saw an increase in the harassment of Somali refugees and asylum seekers by Government security agencies. This also saw an increase in xenophobic attitudes towards refugees living in urban centres. Nevertheless, RCK intervened on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers through the provision of legal aid, interventions at the detentions centres and psychosocial support.
The year 2013 was an exciting and equally challenging year for RCK as well as other refugee agencies. The organization managed to work under a very strenuous asylum environment where the refugee protection space was significantly curtailed. However, we were able to achieve our goals and objectives as set out in our 2013 operational plan.

To start with, the Government of Kenya through the Department of Refugee Affairs issued a directive on 18th December 2012, stating that all urban refugees should relocate to the respective camps and that refugee agencies should stop providing assistance to refugees living in urban areas. As challenging and unprecedented as the directive was to the protection needs for refugees, it provided RCK with an advocacy opportunity in ensuring that the rights of refugees and asylum seekers are safeguarded. RCK was instrumental in providing legal and technical assistance to Kituo Cha Sheria in successfully initiating a court proceeding against the Government regarding the relocation directive. The directive was quashed by the High Court which declared it unconstitutional.

Executive Director’s Statement

RCK took an active role in advocating with the Tripartite Parties to guarantee that the rights of Somali refugees are protected during the return process and it is conducted with safety and dignity.
In the same breath, the Government of Kenya initiated discussions on the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees which culminated in the signing of a Tripartite Agreement by the Government of Kenya, Federal Government of Somalia and UNHCR on 10th November, 2013. RCK took an active role in advocating with the Tripartite Parties to guarantee that the rights of Somali refugees will be protected during the return process and that the return will be conducted in safety and dignity. In addition, RCK took upon itself to educate and inform media practitioners as well as partner refugee agencies on the provisions of the Tripartite agreement. The dynamic asylum regime in which we operated in 2013 necessitated enhanced provision of legal aid, psychosocial counselling as well as protection monitoring. RCK continued to provide legal aid through our outreach legal clinics in the urban areas which have seen an increase in the number of clients we were able to attend to in the year. Following the Westgate Mall terrorist attacks, RCK enhanced its protection monitoring, particularly at the police station and detention facilities. We were able to intervene in numerous cases where refugees had been arrested by law enforcement officers during the security operations.

On the advocacy front, RCK continued to be actively involved in enhancing our advocacy initiatives at the national, regional and international level. During the year, RCK was engaged in lobbying for the establishment of permanent courts in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps. We are proud to note that a Senior Resident Magistrate was posted in Kakuma permanently, a development that will see increased access to justice by refugees and the host community. Additionally, RCK’s contribution to the lobbying and enactment of the IDP Act 2012 and the draft National IDP Policy was positively noted in global forums such as the UN High Commissioner’s Dialogue on protection of IDPs and was cited as a case study for best practice on lobbying for development of a national policy framework on protecting IDPs during a regional workshop on the Kampala Convention in Dakar, Senegal. It is such positive contribution that makes RCK an advocacy model on forced migration issues.

The year 2013 also saw RCK generate periodic publications as well as a report on the advocacy process it undertook when lobbying for the development and enactment of the IDP Act 2012 and draft National Policy on Internal Displacement. The report dubbed ‘Behind the Scenes: Lessons Learnt from Developing a National Policy Framework on Internal Displacement in Kenya’, focused on highlighting the advocacy engagement that went into the preparation of the IDP Policy and IDP Act 2012 as well as the challenges and lessons learnt from the process. The publication of the periodical ‘Refugee Insights Newsletter’ coupled with the ‘Behind the Scenes’ report provides a pool of information that is vital to the advocacy of the rights of IDPs, refugees and other forced migrants.

In conclusion, despite the few challenges experienced in 2013, RCK managed to further its networks with partners both locally and internationally. To this end, RCK wishes to thank all its partners generous financial and technical support during this year, we look forward to a prosperous new year.

Lucy W. Kiama
Executive Director
In 2013, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya engaged in a number of activities that were geared towards achieving its organizational goals and strategic objectives. RCK worked towards protecting the rights of refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other forced migrants.

The Legal Aid programme achieved and surpassed their targeted outputs for the year while at the same time providing quality services. Testimonies from grateful beneficiaries have spurred RCK to endeavour to reach even more clients. In pursuit of even better services, RCK conducted training on refugee protection targeting pro-bono lawyers, court users committees (CUCs), paralegals as well as translators and monitors. The aim of these training sessions was to provide the groups targeted with the requisite knowledge on refugee rights in order to fulfil RCK's mandate and increase its relevance and reach.

The psychosocial team registered significant growth in its service provision. It provided psychosocial support and counselling to more than 2,357 refugees and asylum seekers. More specifically, 27 refugee women were given training on entrepreneurship and equipped with business skills; ten given start-up capital and grants for their businesses. This was done as a way of empowering the women to provide for their families at the same time creating economic independence. In Nairobi, an essay competition for children in Kayole Primary School during the Day of the African Child was conducted where over 300 entries were received. The theme was entitled 'Eliminating harmful social and cultural practices affecting children'. In Dadaab, the psychosocial team held one debate involving two schools with the participation of over 60 children and teachers. The debate dealt with peaceful co-existence, reconciliation, peace building and community cohesion.

The Advocacy and Capacity Enhancement Programme in line with its advocacy initiatives successfully secured a meeting with the Inspector General of Police to discuss and chart a way forward concerning the high rates of arbitrary arrests, illegal detentions and harassment of refugees by law enforcement officers following the encampment directive. Following the signing of the Tripartite Agreement for the repatriation of Somali refugees on November 10th, the Urban Refugee Protection Network (URPN) established an Inter-Agency Task Force on Voluntary Repatriation (VolRep) with the programme participating in three meetings. It developed the draft objectives of the task force and conceptualized the draft concept note on the Return Help Desk (RHD).

The programme represented RCK by participating in the 54th session of the Africa Commission on Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) held in Banjul, Gambia as well as the NGO Forum preceding the Commission session. RCK jointly worked on a resolution on forced migration that was adopted by the NGO Forum participating in the ACHPR session. The joint statement was co-signed by the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the Consortium for Refugees (South Africa). RCK also followed on its application for observer status where it was directed that feedback on the application will be given during the 55th session of the ACHPR in 2014.

As part of the Programme's follow up on the implementation of the IDP Act, the programme successfully secured a meeting with the Directorate of Special Programmes and established that plans are underway
to finalize the establishment of the National Consultative Coordination Committee (NCCC) by the end of January 2014. The programme will continue to lobby for the establishment of the NCCC in 2014 and thereafter the implementation of the Act.

It has been a good year for the Information and Research Programme as well. RCK received favourable media coverage based on various RCK officers being invited to discuss issues on refugee rights and protection. In addition, RCK used social media platforms to further enhance its media presence in the year 2013. Coupled with frequent visitors on the redesigned RCK website, the use of social media helped the programme attain its goals for the year. On the research front, the Information and Research Programme has continued to publish information resources. One notable research that was carried out during the year was the refugee status determination (RSD) research dubbed ‘Quality of Service Delivery to Eastern Congolese Persons of Concern in Kenya’. The research focused on the challenges faced by Congolese refugees during RSD and as to why there were high rejection cases within the community. Among these are daily media highlights on refugees and other forced migrants issues which are circulated to members of staff and the publication of RCK newsletters issue numbers 22 and 23. Bi-monthly e-bulletins were also produced which focused on current RCK activities on the protection of refugee and other forced migrants’ rights.

The highlights for the Monitoring and Evaluation programme were the successful documentation of RCK activities through the capturing of lessons learnt as well the long and short term impact/outcome of RCK services to refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and other forced migrants. Another highlight was the monitoring and evaluation missions to Dadaab, Kakuma and Nairobi. Through these monitoring visits, beneficiaries of RCK services were engaged through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and one on one interviews. The FGDs and interviews focused on obtaining information on the impact of RCK services to the communities, their challenges and areas where RCK can improve on. It is through the work of monitoring and evaluation that RCK maximises its resources and is able to stay relevant by taking up opportunities that are highlighted by the M&E activities.
CK continued to carry out its mission to promote the welfare and dignity of refugees in Kenya. The Legal Aid and Social Justice Programme worked toward providing legal aid and psychosocial assistance, the Advocacy and Capacity Enhancement Programme contributed toward influencing policy, enhancing the capacity of relevant stakeholders in providing protection for refugees and internally displaced persons. The Information and Research Programme continued to raise awareness on displacement issues and kept abreast of the latest developments and trends in displacement.

**Legal and Social Justice Programme**

The goal of the Programme is to ensure that asylum seekers, refugees and IDPs access legal aid services and live in dignity. This is aimed at enhancing displaced persons’ access to legal justice and psychosocial support. As a result, the Programme operated with two main broad strategic objectives:

- To enhance access to justice for asylum seekers and refugees through the provision of legal aid, monitoring and capacity building.
- To improve access to counselling and psychosocial services to vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees.

The Legal and Social Justice Programme, continuously maintained engagement with the county officials during its visits to the police/detention centres, community forums/meetings as well as the monitoring missions and training workshops that the team was involved in together with the advocacy team. The continued engagement enabled RCK to keep in touch with the latest developments in protection of refugees. This in turn improved service delivery to our beneficiaries as RCK was always ready to intervene in cases.

**Legal Aid and Representation**

A total of 9,936 refugees and asylum seekers sought legal aid. Out of these, 176 (81 men and 95 women) were elderly while 139 (89 women and 50 men) were persons living with disabilities.

In Dadaab 2,179 (982 male and 1,197 female), Nairobi 6,247 (male 2,493, female 3,754) and Kakuma 1,487 (male 714 and female 77) clients were provided with legal assistance. This is a 14% increase of 3,537 clients compared to those attended to in the year 2012.

In Nairobi, out of the reported number of 6,247, a total of 4,984 clients (1,969 male and 3,015 female) were attended to during the outreach legal clinics, representing 80% of the total number of clients seen by legal aid.

The high number of beneficiaries reached was attributed to the improved consistency by beneficiaries in attending legal aid clinics and outreach clinics as compared to 2012. RCK prepared monthly outreach clinic programmes which were shared with beneficiaries. This gave the beneficiaries ample time to prepare
and attend the outreach clinics. The high number of clients was also attributed to the relative security in the camps and in particular, Dadaab. Previously, security incidences in Dadaab camp that involved IED explosions would lead to suspension of movement of aid workers except for those who provided life-saving services. In 2013, there were minimal explosions in the camps.

In addition, RCK deployed one additional lawyer to Garissa and two more in Dadaab camp. The deployment of additional officers improved intervention and follow up of cases in the two offices owing to the increased capacity to handle more clients.

RCK intervened on behalf of 1,750 (950 Male and 800 Female) refugees and asylum seekers represented in Court and at the police stations on asylum and immigration related charges. All these persons were released. The cases were from Kajiado, Kakamega, Nanyuki, Kisii, Nairobi, Busia, Bungoma, Narok, Mwingi, Isiolo, Thika, Kitale, Nakuru, Naivasha, Eldoret, Kapenguria, Moyale, Lodwar, Nyeri, Marsabit, Kakuma, Dadaab, Garissa and its environs.

The large number of concluded cases reflects good networking over the years by RCK with the police, community leaders and agencies. RCK received referrals for court cases from the networks which ensured that asylum seekers and refugees received the necessary legal representation. Additionally, the Dadaab and Kakuma mobile courts were scheduled on a monthly basis which ensured consistency in hearing of cases and subsequently, timely conclusion of cases.

One public interest litigation challenging the Government’s decision through the acting Commissioner for Refugee Affairs directing all refugees residing in the urban areas to relocate to the camps was instituted under the auspices of the urban protection refugee network of which RCK is a member.

According to the acting Commissioner, the general national security was compromised, and as a result the Government decided to put in place a strict encampment policy. The petitioners argued that the Government directive did not indicate the rationale for taking such drastic measures against refugees residing in urban areas. The directive also failed to take into account the various classes and categories of refugees resident in urban areas. These included refugees who were professionals or business people, those who married Kenyans, those residing with their families, those who required and those who were currently undergoing medical treatment that was unavailable in the refugee camps among others. The petitioners relied on various national and international legal instruments that guaranteed these rights.

On 26th July 2013, the court in its landmark judgment quashed the Government directive stating that it threatened the rights and fundamental freedoms of the petitioners and other refugees residing in urban areas and was a violation of the freedom of movement, right to dignity, the right to fair and administrative action, and it further violated the State's responsibility towards persons in vulnerable situations.

1 Outreach clinics are mobile legal aid clinics that are established within specific residential areas in and around Nairobi that have a large concentration of asylum seekers and refugees. Vulnerable refugees can easily access these legal aid clinics.
Some 22 pro bono lawyers were engaged during the year. The advocates were able to represent over 600 refugees and asylum seekers across the country. This promoted timely intervention for refugees in transit routes and border towns where RCK was not present.

A total of 111 GBV cases were represented in court and at police stations (Nairobi 6, Daadab 85 and Kakuma 20). In Dadaab, 22 cases were concluded (15 in police stations and 7 in court). In Kakuma there were 20 ongoing cases by the end of the year while in Nairobi, 4 cases are pending. Survivors of gender-based violence were given pre- and post-trial counselling to prepare them for trial and help them integrate in the society after the legal process.

**Refugee Status Determination (RSD)**

Some 493 asylum seekers were represented during the Refugee Status Determination process (RSD). 218 of these clients were attended to in Nairobi. Out of these numbers, 90 (48 male and 42 female) asylum seekers were assisted to draft RSD appeals; 78 asylum seekers were assisted to re-open and review their asylum cases; 57 were assisted to fast track their RSD while three minors were assisted to fast track their RSD on asylum claims. Out of all interventions 15 persons were provided with identification documents by UNHCR and were referred for resettlement to third countries. The cases are pending consideration for resettlement with partner organisations.

In Kakuma 275 asylum seekers were represented during the RSD process. Out of these numbers, 103 (55 female and 48 male) asylum seekers were assisted to draft RSD appeals; 89 (42 male and 47 females) asylum seekers were assisted to re-open and review their asylum cases; 83 (23 male and 60 female) asylum seekers were assisted to fast track their RSD.

**Legal representation: child protection cases**

The sum of 200 child protection cases were represented in courts and police stations. Of the total, 92 were from Nairobi, 84 were from Dadaab and 24 in Kakuma. In Dadaab, 25 were concluded (11 in court and 14 at the police stations). There were 5 convictions, 2 acquittals, 3 dismissals and 1 withdrawal of cases in court. In Kakuma, 10 cases were concluded and the judgments are expected to be read in Lodwar Law Courts once a date is set. In 4 cases, RCK watched brief and prepared clients through pre-trial counselling. The clients were provided with psychosocial support and social assistance. In Nairobi, a total of 45 custody cases were concluded and orders granted by the court in favour of RCK clients. The cases involved parents who were in the process of resettlement. Most resettlement countries require single parents to have a legal document granting a parent sole custody of the child.
Below is one of the success cases that RCK handled in Dadaab refugee camp.

A child named X\(^2\) is of the tender age of four years. Her mother passed away when she was born due to birth complications. The child never met her father since he deserted the child’s mother when she revealed she was expecting child X.

It was not easy for the child’s relatives to take over and properly care for the child. The child was moved from one home to the other more than twice within the first two years of her life. She did not know any stable home. It was not until the year 2012 when one of the partner organizations placed her in the care and custody of her (child’s) care giver.

The care giver was trained on child protection, child safe guarding, parenting skills and positive discipline, and subsequently the child was placed under her care. Since placing the child in the care giver’s custody, the child enjoyed the privileges of having and belonging in a family. The care giver had three other sons who considered the child in question as their baby sister. The child properly and quickly adapted to their way of life. She in turn received unconditional love from the care giver and her family. Due to the trauma that she went through as a result of being moved from one home to another during her formative years, the child’s development was rather stunted as compared to her peers.

In one of the partner networking meetings that RCK participated, the partner organization mentioned that the care giver was in a resettlement process with high chances of success and feared that the child who was now a part of her family would be locked out of the process since the care giver was not legally recognized as the child’s guardian. The care giver was deeply concerned about this since she has grown to care and love the child.

The child had been under the care giver’s care for two years. The partner organization also conducted home visits to ascertain the child’s condition, and following which it highly approved of the family and recommended that the child stay with the care giver’s family.

RCK was tasked with finding a legal and permanent solution to safeguard the child by ensuring that the child is not locked out of the resettlement process and/or separated from the only family she had known. RCK took the matter to court under a certificate of urgency seeking Guardianship Orders for the care giver.

Thanks to the manner in which the matter was argued and the evidence presented to the magistrate which was provided to RCK and partners, the matter was heard and determined the same day. The guardianship certificate was issued to the applicant who was the care giver.

This decision by the magistrate was indeed good news, and yet again proved that inter-agency collaboration yielded results. This also meant that the child had a permanent and legal home which will always ensure security and love. The care giver now had no worries about having to part with the child she had known and grown to love for two years.

The case, having also been the very first of its kind in Dadaab has also set a very good precedent for other similar cases. The decision has indeed left the mother with a permanent smile and satisfaction, and the child will most definitely appreciate the same when she is old enough to understand.

\(^{2}\) name withheld for confidentiality purpose


**Protection monitoring scheme**

A total of 20 detention/protection monitors were retained in Nairobi. In addition, 15 protection monitors, 14 border monitors, 3 repatriation process monitors and 20 paralegals were recruited and retained in Dadaab while 15 protection monitors were retained in Kakuma. The last quarter of the year saw an increase in the RCK monitors coverage areas to include: Diif, Damajale, Abdisugal, Degelema, Kulan, Kharura, Elwak and Dadajbulla. In the month of November, RCK carried out refresher training for all protection monitors in Nairobi and Dadaab, border monitors and protection associates. The training was aimed at enhancing their capacity in dealing with protection matters with a reference to voluntary repatriation issues noting that the plans for voluntary repatriation were underway.

The protection monitors were instrumental in giving crucial and timely information on protection concerns and refugee migration trends. The protection monitors were able to intervene and refer over 400 cases to RCK and other relevant authorities such as police stations.

**Psychosocial Support**

RCK continued to provide psychosocial support to refugees and asylum seekers. 2,357 clients were counselled: 1,884 Nairobi (764 male and 1,120 female) and 473 Dadaab (132 male and 341 female). Some of the issues that came up during counselling included GBV issues, where both men and women brought cases of domestic violence; emotional abuse by one partner and rape cases.

Custody issues also came up for counselling i.e. where one partner would want to forcefully take the children or one partner refused access for the other to see the children. Livelihood challenges also continued to cause distress for families and both men and women who accessed counselling expressed such issues. With limited livelihood opportunities in the camps, families struggled to supplement other needs not provided for within their rations. Elderly people also accessed counselling services especially those left with the responsibility of taking care of grand children, or older children with special needs. The counselling process focused more on clients rebuilding their self-esteem, confidence, acceptance and re-integration in the camps. A person-centred approach was used in these counselling sessions. The approach believes that if a client is given a conducive and warm environment (acceptance, empathy and unconditional positive regard) they will have a potential to steer themselves towards actualization. Cognitive behavioural therapy was also employed to help clients adopt positive attitudes and behaviour to enable them cope with the daily stresses.

A total of 1,153 clients were profiled and referred to other agencies for issuance of social assistance. This represented 463 in Dadaab (337 female and 126 male) and 690 in Nairobi (230 male and 460 female). The assistance included mats, mattresses, jerricans, house rent as well as financial assistance to needy and vulnerable clients. Emergency social assistance helped to mitigate the effects of GBV on clients as well as improve livelihoods. In the course of the year in Dadaab refugee camp, RCK noted that beneficiaries
increasingly sought assistance, especially financial assistance as the rations with which they were provided by World Food Programme was not enough to cater for their needs.

Some 26 Community Based Counsellors (CBCs) were engaged and retained in Nairobi and Dadaab; 16 in Nairobi (9 male and 7 female) and 10 in Dadaab (6 females and 4 males). In addition, a training session was conducted in Nairobi for 10 CBCs (7 male and 3 female) on basic counselling skills and monitoring. The CBCs were instrumental in providing trauma counselling for refugees within the communities before referring the clients to RCK legal clinics. CBCs also participated in other RCK activities such as assisting in translation during community awareness forums and legal aid clinics. The community-based counsellors scheme played a role in complementing the work of other community workers whose work only involved protection monitoring or translating but not counselling. This was expressed during a debriefing with translators, where translators from other camps expressed the need to also have CBCs working with them in the other camps, as the CBC scheme is only currently in Nairobi under the urban programme and Kambioos camp in Dadaab.

RCK, in collaboration with partners, mobilized 34 (31 female and 3 male) refugees from Nairobi and Dadaab camp to participate in the Women on Repatriation Day. The women were given an opportunity to air out their views on repatriation to Somalia. In attendance was the Somali ambassador to Kenya, the acting Commissioner for the Department of Refugee Affairs, UNHCR country representative and representatives from non-governmental organizations. The women were able to share their feelings and grievances on repatriation for advocacy on improvement of essential structures in Somalia.

**Group therapy sessions**

RCK conducted 106 group therapies. Of the total, 31 sessions were carried out in Nairobi for a total of 289 clients: (200 female, 55 male and 34 children (21 girls and 13 boys), while 75 in Dadaab, 627 adults (187 male, 440 female) and 18 children therapies; (89 boys and 145 girls) were conducted. The sessions were aimed at establishing triggers of emotional wounds and coping mechanisms.

Group therapy sessions targeted women, men and children who had undergone various forms of GBV including rape, domestic violence, and emotional abuse. In addition, the sessions also targeted victims of torture. These sessions enhanced the support network for the clients who connected with common issues and people with whom they could establish trust and share with, when outside the sessions.

RCK conducted 15 family therapies. They included therapy sessions for 5 couples in Nairobi (5 male and 5 female) and 10 sessions in Dadaab (10 women, 7 men and 53 children (36 girls and 17 boys). Most of these sessions were held for families of children GBV survivors and families that faced insecurity and economic issues. The sessions were aimed at providing psychological support for families undergoing traumatic experiences. All the sessions are ongoing.
Home visits

RCK conducted 443 home visits. These included 313 in Dadaab and 130 in Nairobi, hence reaching a total of 1,837 clients as follows: 1,074 children (433 boys, 641 girls) and 763 adults (537 female, 226 male). Out of that, vulnerable cases were identified and referred to partners for assistance. For instance, 43 were referred to UNHCR for documentation, 31 to Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), 12 to Refuge Point, 34 to National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), 10 to Heshima Kenya. In Dadaab, 64 were referred to UNHCR, 25 to Danish Refugee Council (DRC), 87 to the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA), 56 to Terres des Hommes (TDH), 60 to Lutheran World Federation (LWF), 21 Save the Children (SCI). Home visits provided a reliable platform for profiling vulnerable cases and verifying information provided by clients at the legal clinic. In addition, home visits were conducted before emergency social assistance was given or distribution of any non-food items. This helped to ensure that the genuine cases received the necessary assistance.

Trauma counselling

RCK provided 440 clients with individual trauma counselling: 103 were attended to in Dadaab (70 female and 33 males), while 337 (237 female and 100 male) were attended to in Nairobi. Out of that, 86 clients were referred by CBCs to RCK psychosocial counsellors for specialized counselling. CBCs were instrumental in identifying needy cases, case follow up and referral of clients.

A refugee child plays at the RCK's Child friendly space during children therapy in Nairobi.
Individual counselling provided clients with an opportunity to share their experiences with the counsellors and address some of their issues. Most clients who benefited from counselling services gave positive feedback that they were in a position to deal with trauma and aid those who were affected by trauma; some were able to handle family disputes with the guidance of counsellors and it was noted that some students who benefited from the sessions were able to return to school.

**Child friendly counselling space**

Some 273 children accessed the child friendly space during children therapy in Dadaab and Nairobi. 137 children in Dadaab (89 girls and 48 boys) and 136 children in Nairobi (87 girls and 49 boys) accessed the child friendly spaces. In Dadaab RCK purchased play therapy toys for use in the field and established mobile child friendly spaces. The mobile facility was carried round the camps. The child friendly spaces were useful in giving children a safe space where they could talk about their issues freely, at the same time engaging children and getting to explore their issues.

RCK provided counselling to 192 children: 55 children (36 girls and 19 boys) were counselled in Nairobi while 135 children (88 girls and 47 boys) were provided with counselling in Dadaab. Some of the child related issues that came up during counselling included: female genital mutilation, forced marriage, Somali children from specific clans being discriminated by other Somali children, forced custody, early marriage, social assistance which included uniforms, among other needs. There was a need to engage community workers more, in identifying child protection cases in the camps, unlike adults as children cannot easily identify their need to seek psychosocial services.

**Distribution of hygiene kits**

A total of 65 women were provided with the hygiene kits across the Dadaab camps. Women faced a myriad of challenges during their menstruation as they were not able to move freely and go about their day to day tasks due to lack of sanitary wear. As a result, some of the women were not able to provide for their children, forcing them to go hungry at times. In addition, the women could not freely socialize with the rest of the community during such times because they were afraid of soiling their clothes and thus affecting their self esteem. School going girls would miss school during this period, and as a result their studies were affected as they missed classes for at least four days every month. This translated to about two weeks of every school term. The hygiene kits provided a liberating opportunity for the women and also helped them live with dignity.

**Debriefing sessions**

RCK conducted two debriefing sessions for ten translators. The debriefing session is an opportunity for the community workers to discuss work related challenges and vent out any pressing issues. The
main objectives for the debriefing sessions were to provide an opportunity for participants to vent their feelings, to share challenges and discuss the way forward, to educate the translators on psychological self care, and to allow the team to have fun and rejuvenate. The translators appreciated the opportunity and they were also happy to meet and interact with other translators from other camps. Debriefing sessions evidently have positively affected the lives of translators as the sessions have helped them work on their attitudes towards clients and improve on their capacity to articulate clients’ issues effectively.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

Focus on the repatriation of Somali refugees dominated the protection space for Somali refugees and sidelined discussions on other protection concerns for both Somali and other groups of refugees. In addition, the increased insecurity within the country enhanced rhetoric from Government officials and politicians on the need for stricter and securitized asylum regime.

Another challenge experienced was that due to the continued suspension of registration by DRA, RCK continued to come across many cases of arrests and detention of unregistered asylum seekers. It is a big challenge to offer the necessary assistance or referrals without necessary documentation.

Lack of CRIs (Core Relief Items) presented a more pressing problem in the refugee camps. Many clients presented social assistance problems and sometimes would not appreciate counselling services without their social needs being met.

In Dadaab, CBCs encountered insecurity challenges especially while intervening on cases of early marriage. The parents who gave away their girls would not allow CBCs to offer counselling or profile such cases.

Lessons learnt

Maintaining cordial relationships with law enforcement agencies was important in enhancing the refugee working environment. The law enforcement officers would frequently inform RCK of detained asylum seekers and refugees. This ensured that displaced persons in detention facilities were able to access legal representation.

The community outreach clinics proved to be a huge success with many clients turning up, thereby enhancing the ability to reach vulnerable clients with serious protection concerns who, due to various reasons such as lack of transport, would hardly venture out of their neighbourhoods. RCK was able to extend immediate interventions including home visits and referrals to partners for further assistance.

Engaging public schools in activities during the Day of the African Child ensured that the message was sent out to many more children as opposed to a small school population.
Advocacy and Capacity Enhancement Programme

The Advocacy and Capacity Enhancement Programme goal is to promote the welfare and dignity of refugees in Kenya and the region by advocating for rights-based policies, laws and practices for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other categories of forced migrants.

Policy Influence

The programme continued to engage in the Urban Refugee Protection Network (URPN) and it participated in 22 URPN meetings and six Legal and Advocacy sub-group meetings. The key issues discussed were litigation against the Government directive on relocation of urban refugees; development of a contingency plan in preparation of 2013 General Elections; strategies to enhance protection and detention monitoring after the Westgate Shopping Mall terror attack and signing of the Tripartite agreement. The petition against the Government directive issued resulted in a favourable judgement by the High Court on 26th July 2013 which found the said directive unconstitutional as it posed a threat to refugees’ fundamental rights and freedoms. As part of the advocacy efforts to highlight the findings of the protection and detention monitoring, RCK successfully secured a meeting with the Inspector General of Police to discuss the high rates of arbitrary arrests, illegal detention and harassment of refugees by law enforcement officers, following the encampment directive. The meeting resulted in a commitment from the Inspector General to collaborate and work on training police officers on protection of refugees and asylum seekers. In addition, RCK submitted a letter of complaint to the Director General of Internal Audit of the Police Service highlighting further instances of reported harassment of refugees by police officers during security operations following the Westgate mall siege. The Director General of Internal Audit promised to institute an investigation unit to look into the complaints highlighted by RCK.

The signing of the Tripartite Agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees on November 10th 2013, saw the URPN establish an Inter-Agency Taskforce on Voluntary Repatriation (VolRep). The programme participated in six meetings including those held in Nairobi and Dadaab. It developed the draft objectives of the urban taskforce and conceptualized the draft concept note on the Return Help Desk (RHD).

The Programme participated in six monthly Child Protection Working Group meetings. A key agenda of the meetings was the current status of refugee children in Nairobi. RCK contributed to the development of the legal analysis of the report on the Child Rights Situational Analysis for refugee children living in urban areas. The survey report was launched on December 10th 2013.

With regard to protection and assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), the Programme remained active within the Protection Working Group on Internal Displacement (PWGID) and it convened five PWGID
Advocacy sub-group meetings. Key issues handled were sensitization on The IDP Act and monitoring of its implementation; a validation workshop on the popular version of IDP Act, 2012; and one meeting with KNCHR, NRC, IDMC to discuss implementation of the IDP Act. As a result, the programme managed to finalize the development of a popular version of the IDP Act, 2012 and published a brochure on the IDP Act, 2012 both of which were disseminated to various actors during the sensitization forums throughout the year.

As part of our advocacy efforts to engage with the regional economic communities and human rights systems, the programme participated in the 54th session of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) held in Banjul, Gambia as well as the NGO Forum that came before the Commission session. RCK jointly worked on a resolution on forced migration that was adopted by the NGO Forum participating in the ACHPR session. The joint statement was co-signed by International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) and the Consortium for Refugees (South Africa). RCK also followed up on its application for observer status where it was directed that feedback on the application will be given during the 55th session of the ACHPR in 2014.

The Programme participated in a number of regional and international advocacy forums which included the High Level Panel on Global Initiative on Repatriation of Somalis in Geneva; Internal Displacement

High Level Panel on Global Initiative for Somali Refugees in Geneva, Switzerland
Monitoring Centre’s (IDMC) one year anniversary workshop on the Kampala Convention in Dakar, Senegal; International Detention Coalition Workshop in South Africa; two ICVA Board meetings in Geneva; and one UNHCR Annual Consultation meeting in Geneva. In addition the programme reviewed and contributed to four NGO statements submitted to the UNHCR excomm meetings.

Throughout the year, the Programme actively lobbied the Judiciary on the establishment of permanent courts in Kakuma and Dadaab. This resulted in the posting of a permanent Senior Resident Magistrate in Kakuma as well as an increase in the frequency of the mobile court sessions in Dadaab.

Since 2012 the programme has continued to conduct advocacy on access to education for refugees and specifically registration for national exams. The programme successfully intervened on behalf of refugee children who were denied the opportunity to register for KCPE exams due to the Government Directive and also for students who had sat for KCSE but had no birth certificates that would allow them to access their final results.

As part of our follow up on the implementation of the IDP Act, the programme successfully secured a meeting with Director of Special Programmes and established that plans were underway to finalize the setting up of the National Consultative Coordination Committee by the end of January 2014. The programme will continue to lobby for establishment of NCCC in 2014.

**Capacity Enhancement**

As part of our continued capacity building initiative of various state and non-state actors on the protection of refugees, IDPs and other forced migrants, the programme conducted various training courses lecture’s and community forums.

**Training of state and non-state actors on protection of refugees, IDPs and other forced migrants**

The programme in partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and UNHCR, conducted seven training sessions for various court user committees on protection of refugees and other forced migrants through partnerships in Kisii, Kisumu, Garissa, Nairobi, Isiolo, Voi and Thika. During these training sessions 183 participants were trained (137 men and 46 women). As part of advocating for durable solutions, particularly promotion of local integration, the programme facilitated two UNHCR sensitization training courses on durable solutions for 67 immigration officers in Nakuru, Eldoret and Mombasa.

In line with our advocacy efforts to build the capacity of police officers on protection of refugees, the programme conducted 1 training for senior police instructors in Nyeri, sensitizing 33 police instructors (25 men, 8 women). The programme also facilitated a series of five lectures on protection of refugees, IDPs and other forced migrants in Kiganjo Police Training College, sensitizing 2,200 police recruits. An additional lecture was conducted on protection of refugees at the CID training school sensitizing 25 (22 men, 3 women) senior police officers. In Dadaab, RCK conducted three training sessions for law enforcement
officers where 90 police officers (65 male and 35 female) were trained. A month after the training, 8 out of the 11 trained officials referred at least one case to RCK, indicating a 72.7% success of the training. This also demonstrated that the participants had retained the knowledge acquired in the training session.

The programme carried out two training courses for media practitioners in Nairobi on refugee protection and the Tripartite Agreement for 52 participants (12 female and 40 men). During one of the training sessions, two media stories related to refugee protection were published in the Standard and on one FM’s website as a result of the training. In addition, the programme conducted one sensitization session for Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) staff as part of RCK’s commitment to raise awareness among agency staff on the provisions of the Tripartite Agreement. The programme will continue to conduct similar sensitizations in 2014.

As part of our capacity building efforts towards the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA), the programme conducted three training sessions for 24 newly recruited DRA officers who were designated as Refugee Status Determination (RSD) officers. The training conducted focused on protection of refugees, especially on the RSD process and on interviewing skills.

On awareness creation on the IDP Act, 2012, the programme conducted three sensitisation workshops for 54 (32 male, 27 female) County Government officials in Garsen, Eldoret and Kitale. Additionally, the programme conducted four community forums sensitizing 137 IDP and community members (79 male, 58 female) on the IDP Act, in Garsen, Eldoret, Kitale, Laikipia, Nakuru and Busia.

Training on Basic Counselling Skills

Two basic counselling skills training sessions were conducted during the year. One session was conducted in Dadaab for nine staff (3 male and 6 female). In Nairobi, 23 staff were trained (15 female, 8 Male). The training aimed at equipping staff with skills to offer basic counselling to clients. At the end of the session, the staff were more informed on specific psychosocial activities and the legal team challenged to do the same.

RCK also conducted a basic counselling skills training for 33 community workers (7 female and 26 male) in Nairobi and Dadaab. The community workers were first taken through an introduction on trauma, identifying traumatized clients and what to do. This formed a critical foundation in enhancing their understanding of psychosocial problems. This is an important aspect of counselling. The community workers were then taken through basic counselling skills such as active listening and a non-judgmental attitude, among others.

Training on Business Skills for Refugee Women

A two day business skills training was conducted for 27 refugee women aimed at providing livelihood opportunities for them. Two meetings were held for 57 women to discuss business and micro grants for two different communities (Somalis and the Great Lakes). The women were equipped with business skills,
proposal writing skills and thereafter issued with certificates. The aim of the training was to enhance the coping mechanism for traumatized clients, by supporting them with economic empowerment.

Business startup goods were provided to ten refugee women survivors of SGBV. The goods included cloth materials (vitenges), shoes, perfumes, soaps, beaded handbags and clothes. The businesses are ongoing. The startup capital enhanced the economic independence and resilience of the women enabling them to cater for their families' social needs. Despite the successes witnessed during the year, some women identified and trained in 2012 opted to relocate to the camps due to increased harassment by law enforcement officers.

Lastly, the programme facilitated two lectures on the practical implementation of refugee law sensitizing 140 university students. The lectures were held at Kenyatta University and Strathmore Law School. The lectures focused on demystifying issues of refugee protection to the law students.

**Community Education Forums**

With regard to sensitization of the refugee communities, the programme conducted 65 community forums: 26 were carried out in Dadaab, 32 in Kakuma and 7 in Nairobi. The forums provided an opportunity for RCK to ascertain key issues of concern affecting the refugees and host community which included: concerns over lack of documentation due to the non-resumption of registration by DRA, increased cases of arbitrary arrests and extortion of urban refugees by police officers; increased cases of early marriages and GBV within the camps. In addition, two training sessions for 91 (71 male 20 female) community leaders and two training sessions for 56 (51 male and 5 female) Maslaha leaders were conducted in Dadaab.

In Kakuma, a legal aid awareness week was held and was attended by 100 host community and 100 refugee participants (123 male and 77 women). Awareness was raised on several topics on refugee protection but with a focus on protection of children. The Children's Act was emphasized as there were many cases on child custody, child neglect and early forced marriage that were pending. All these issues were addressed during the awareness week.

A debate competition aimed at promoting peaceful co-existence, peace building and reconciliation was held between two primary schools in Dadaab. The motion of the day was "youth can promote peace better than elders" with Furaha and Hilal proposing and opposing respectively. 60(44 male and 16 female) participated. The students participated in the debate, with each school selecting 30 students to represent their schools. Of a particular importance was the fact that students blended the contributions of every individual in efforts aimed at peaceful co-existence and respect for the rights of individuals was touted as the adhesive that kept the fabric of the society together.

As part of the celebrations for the Day of the African Child, an essay competition was held for children in Kayole Bondeni primary school in Nairobi and 300 entries were received. The theme was 'Eliminating harmful social and cultural practices affecting children.' Awareness was raised on the plight of refugee
children and the need to promote peaceful co-existence among Kenyan and refugee children through the competition.

Seven trauma awareness sessions were conducted in Dadaab, reaching a total of 359 beneficiaries (186 women and 173 men). Participants were taken through the signs and symptoms of trauma, causes of trauma and trauma management as well as the role of the community in supporting traumatized persons. The sessions provided a platform to discuss the importance of psychosocial services which has been lacking over the years.

Lastly, RCK participated in three Safe Security and Field Environment (SSAFE) training courses conducted in Dadaab for at least 60 UNHCR staff. Three sessions on stress management were conducted, where staff was taken through practical stress management techniques at the work place. Role plays were conducted on how to manage stress in the Dadaab work environment.

**Monitoring**

The programme conducted five border protection monitoring visits in Coast, Eastern, Nyanza and Western regions.

In the Coast region, two protection monitoring visits were conducted in the following areas: (Mombasa-Voi-Taveta) and (Mombasa, Malindi and Kiunga). These areas noted high incidences of human trafficking and smuggling; poor coordination between the relevant Government actors and limited/lack of contact or collaboration with DRA with actors in the transit routes.

*Participants during community forum in Dagahaley refugee camp, Dadaab.*
The programme in partnership with UNHCR, conducted Protection monitoring along Isiolo- Marsabit-Meru border route. The main issues noted were the high rates of arrests related to human trafficking and smuggling; improved coordination between Government actors following RCK training in May; DRA office in Isiolo in need of financial support to enhance outreach and intervention for displaced persons.

In the Nyanza region, the programme in collaboration with UNHCR, conducted a protection monitoring mission to Kisii, Isibania, Migori and Kisumu. Protection issues highlighted included the influx of Burundian refugees from Tanzania as a result of the closure of refugee camps in Tanzania. Good relations were noted between the Immigration office and UNHCR with regard to training Government officers and facilitating the transport of refugees to the camps or Nairobi;

Protection monitoring visits conducted in the Western region in partnership with IRC revealed information gaps in the Kisumu immigration office on issues of refugee protection; there were minimal cases of refugees reported in Mbita.

As part of our continued engagement with the trained peace committee members and in order to monitor the potential for conflict during the March 4th general elections, RCK engaged 14 peace monitors to monitor the general elections in Uasin Gishu and Molo District. There were reports of tension and fear of violence but peace meetings and enhancement of security helped to quell these and maintain peace.

As part of our periodic protection monitoring to refugee reception centres, the programme conducted two monitoring visits to the DRA office in Shauri Moyo and Nakuru to ascertain the impact of the Government directive on service provision to refugees particularly registration of new arrivals. During the monitoring mission in Nakuru, the programme facilitated a Focus Group Discussion with Sudanese community leaders from the area and ascertained there was great need to conduct a sensitization forum with refugee community on their rights, documentation process and the presence of DRA office in Nakuru.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

The year was particularly challenging due to the issuance of the December 18th Directive by the Government. This, however, did not limit the ability of the programme in advocating for the improvement of the protection of asylum seekers and refugees in Nairobi and other urban areas.

The development of collaboration and partnerships in preparing advocacy messages and developing strategies proved especially useful in challenging the arbitrary directive as well as in dealing with arrests and detentions.

The partnership and synergy developed through the public interest litigation and subsequent engagements has demonstrated the ability of the programme in contributing its collective strength in lobbying and sensitization and will continue to be pursued as a case for future best practice.
**Information and Research Programme**

The goal of this programme is to raise awareness and increase public understanding and that of policy makers on issues that relate to refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs.

The strategic objective of the Programme is to publicize knowledge on asylum seekers, refugees, IDP issues and strengthen support for RCK work by conducting research and sharing information on the situation in the refugees’ country of origin and issues of displacement, peace and security.

**Research and Publications**

In 2013, RCK engaged in three research projects; two were completed while the third is under review by the Study Advisory Group (SAG) at the time this report was written. The completed research projects titled ‘Taking Stock: Domestication of the International Refugee Convention’ and the ‘Level of Implementation of the Kenya Refugee Act 2006’ examined the extent to which the Kenyan Government has domesticated international legal instruments and how well it has implemented the provisions of the Refugees Act 2006 and as read with the 2009 regulations. One research project was carried forward to 2014. The research project focused on the possible reasons for Congolese rejection rates on their refugee status determination (RSD) applications despite the reported increase in civil conflict in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo which is the country of origin. This project is expected to be completed early 2014.

The programme successfully launched the documentation study ‘Behind the Scenes: Lessons Learnt from Developing a National Policy Framework on Internal Displacement in Kenya’. After its launch and subsequent dissemination, the study has been used as a reference material by various actors.

Two articles by RCK staff appeared in Oxford University’s forced migration review (FMR) this year. The first one entitled Detention in Kenya: Risks for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Kenya was published in the FMR issue number 44. The second article entitled, Asylum space in Kenya: evolution of refugee protection over 20 years appeared in the FMR online platform. The articles showcased RCK protection and legal aid work as well as the critical advocacy role that RCK played in the adoption of the Refugees Act, 2006. Given the FMR’s global audience, RCK was able to highlight its work on a global platform.

**Increasing awareness and promoting a consistent corporate image of RCK**

**World Refugee Day**

The World Refugee Day (WRD) was commemorated on the 20th of June 2013 with two community forums at Kabiria and Eastleigh. The forums provided an avenue to sensitize the communities on their rights. The forums were attended by over 100 people. The theme for the commemoration was “One family torn
apart by war is one too many”. The celebrations brought together over 3,300 people. Newsletters and brochures and other publications were disseminated to refugees, partners and other participants at the celebrations.

**International Women’s Day**

International Women’s Day was commemorated on 8th March, 2013 with 47 women from the Great Lakes region in Kitengela area in Kajiado County. The women were informed on their rights and responsibilities as displaced women according to the Laws. During the event, RCK distributed information materials in the form of newsletters and brochures. The women expressed and shared the challenges they faced as refugees in Kenya and how they were able to overcome them.

![A community awareness session organised to celebrate the International Women’s Day in Kitengela, Kajiado County.](image)

**16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence**

RCK celebrated the 16 days of activism celebrations with children from various schools in Nairobi in which 250 children presented songs, poems and skits on gender-based violence (GBV). The Theme was ‘Safety in schools; teachers and students unite to keep our schools SGBV free’. The activity was carried out jointly with members of the GBV Working group. Awareness was raised with school children on GBV response and prevention through engagement in fun activities.
Acquisition, production and dissemination of information materials

The Information and Research Programme procured and produced a number of information, education and communication (IEC) materials aimed at enlightening refugees and the general public on the rights and duties of refugees. This year, the IEC materials used were T-shirts and banners all with thematic messages. These materials were disseminated in various fora in which RCK was represented.

Some 332 polo and round neck T-shirts were produced with messages on various themes on displacement. The polo T-shirts were used to highlight refugee issues through the slogan “Keeping Hope Alive” while the round neck T-shirts underscored women’s rights in internal displacement. These T-shirts were disseminated to partners and beneficiaries.

Refugee Insights Issue No.22 and 23 were also produced in 2013. Their central themes were on internal displacement and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) respectively. Articles in the former issue focused on the plight of internally displaced persons in Kenya, especially those left in the camps after the 2007/08 post-election violence whereas articles in the latter publication focused on issues related to SGBV. 500 copies of the Child friendly booklet were produced and printed. The booklet is a guide on the relevant legal provisions that focus on children.

A total of 1400 copies of the SGBV booklet were produced and printed. The booklet is a compilation of relevant legal provisions focusing on SGBV. Six e-bulletins were developed and shared. The bulletins highlighted current issues at different times of the year i.e. relocation of urban refugees. Current contacts stand at 1,016 with some regularly writing back to appreciate the work.

Some 4,000 copies of the Refugee Act popular version were reprinted (English, Swahili, Oromo and Somali) and 567 were distributed. In addition, 1,500 copies of the IDP Act popular version and IDP brochure were produced and disseminated during monitoring visits to IDP hosting areas, with 50 disseminated to partners and refugees during the UN Women open day. 936 posters were produced and 536 were disseminated. The poster covered various thematic areas such as IDP challenges, GBV protection, reporting rape cases and trauma/counselling. Six banners were produced for the Dadaab field office on trauma healing, counselling and RCK schedule and location, while 1000 RCK brochures were reviewed and printed and 500 IDP Act brochures were developed and printed.

The Programme also collected, analysed and disseminated daily media monitoring articles. These articles were shared with RCK staff and partners with the aim of providing an assessment of the refugee/IDP environment which in turn highlighted protection areas for intervention by RCK and partners. An analytical report was produced on a weekly basis on various threats and opportunities for RCK, drawn from media reports and trends of events that have a bearing on forced migration.
**Utilization of mainstream and social media and other ICT resources**

During the year, RCK staff members were invited to give interviews to various television and radio stations. The topical issues covered during the interviews ranged from refugee rights to the Somali refugee repatriation exercise. There were 29 media appearances in stations such as the CCTV, Pamoja FM, KTN, KBC, K24, Iqra FM, Q FM, One FM and Dadaab FM. Through these interviews the interests of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs were represented and shared with the general public.

In the social media, with a following of 211 individuals and organizational bodies, RCK was able to voice legal and advocacy issues on twitter. In the same breath, RCK following on Facebook has grown with a current membership of 475 members. RCK was able to interact with techno-savvy refugees with relevant up to date information. A case in point is where a refugee wrote to complain that he was not given an opportunity to translate for a fellow refugee. He was promptly informed that RCK policy required that translators be trained and inducted on refugee protection before they can be allowed to work.

The RCK website received a total of 14,736 visitors per month. Major searches included job searches, staff profile and general information on RCK. The programme initiated a process of revising the RCK website to make it more interactive and user friendly and less vulnerable to cyber hackers. The website will be launched early 2014.

**Resource material acquisition and use**

The Programme acquired 165 new resource materials, 89 of these resources were donated by an RCK board member, for RCK staff use. They were mainly books and journal articles. The rest of the resources included issues No. 42, 43 and 44 of FMR, International Commission of Jurists’ publications and the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) research studies 1-3.

**Challenges and Lessons Learnt**

The Programme experienced gaps in fundraising for research activities and highlighting challenges in the protection of forced migrants, which are key to informing RCK legal and advocacy initiatives. The programme plans to address this by engaging aggressively with stakeholders and the media to ensure the fulfillment of its goal of raising awareness and increasing public understanding and that of policy makers on issues that relate to refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs.
Institutional Support and Development Programme

The goal of this Programme is to ensure that RCK has an efficient and effective finance and human resource management system. It offers support to other Programmes, and ensures that the organization's resources are aligned with the mission of the organization.

The Programme also provides opportunities for the RCK staff to train in relevant areas of refugee protection so that they can respond to the emerging concerns of forced migrants and thereby realize the organization's vision.

Improving the capacity of staff members

To enable the staff contribute to the overall efficiency and effectiveness of running the organization and implementing its programme activities, the Programme provides opportunities for staff to participate in relevant activities, meetings and training sessions by RCK partnering with institutions and other stakeholders. In 2013 these included:-

- Three RCK staff attended an RSD training workshop conducted by Northwestern University in the USA. The staff later shared their newly acquired knowledge with other staff members.
- Four RCK staff members attended an NGO capacity strengthening workshop in Entebbe, Uganda. Areas covered during the training included logistics, security in emergency operations, human resource, emergency response, funding and finance.
- One staff member attended a training organized by UNHCR in Dare-Salaam, Tanzania on project management.
- An in-house training was conducted covering issues of change management. The training has enabled RCK staff cope with change in policies and systems, further improving reporting internally and to donors.

Staff team building and debriefing activities

RCK management acknowledges the need to create a conducive working environment for the staff in order to increase productivity. Regular team building and debriefing activities were organized to ensure that shared goals were developed to which all team members were committed in order to enhance team synergy. Towards this objective, the following activities were undertaken during the year:-

A planning workshop with RCK staff and board members was conducted to set the organization’s annual goals on the basis of the environment that RCK was working in. A PEST (Political, Environmental, Social and Technological) analysis was used to scan and map out gaps in the protection of displaced persons that in turn, informed RCK's activities for the year. Refugees were invited to participate in the process where they provided useful information that further informed interventions. This resulted in a comprehensive Annual Operation Plan.

Eight debriefing and team building sessions were organized as in previous years by allowing the staff to share highlights and challenges of their day to day experiences in the field of refugee and IDP protection. This facilitated mitigation of any possibility of secondary psychological trauma.
Challenges and lessons learnt

The year was not without challenges, the organization experienced inadequate funding for training/workshops meant for staff development. This led to many staff members missing out on some training and workshops which were important in helping them advance their knowledge on forced migration issues.

One notable lesson learnt during the year was the importance of teamwork and planning, which helped the organization achieve its targets for the year and more so the synergy between programmes ensured that RCK beneficiaries benefitted fully on RCK services.

Monitoring and evaluation

In order to plan better, the M&E office continuously analysed clients’ statistics obtained from RCK legal aid clinics. Through the analysis, trends of cases reported were established which informed RCK strategy in handling refugee issues; for example, cases of insecurity and GBV were reported during the year; as a result, increased information on such topics was shared during community awareness forums and meetings with community elders.

Four programme and financial monitoring visits were conducted in Dadaab (2) and Kakuma (2) offices and an evaluation was done in the Nairobi office. Issues on current project status, personnel management and financial management were discussed and addressed. The aim of these visits is to track and improve the implementation of various activities. This ensures that project activities are undertaken as specified in the Work-Plans. The impact of these activities are tracked.
As part of evaluating activities of RCK Programmes ten Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) were held in Nairobi, Dadaab and Kakuma. Refugees gave their views on the services rendered to them by RCK, how they benefited from them and how their lives had changed due to the assistance received. The refugees also indicated the challenges they faced that led them to seek RCK assistance, i.e. lack of documentation and insecurity for refugees residing in Nairobi. These issues were linked to xenophobia and the urban directive on relocation as well as a misunderstanding of the voluntary repatriation of refugees.

One notable outcome during the year was on RCK legal aid and court representation. During an FGD in Dadaab, it was noted that RCK, through one of its pro-bono lawyers, represented a Somali woman who had been a victim of domestic battery. Through RCK’s intervention, the client’s husband was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison. Additionally, she underwent counselling and currently she lives a normal life. Another notable outcome during the year was feedback received from RCK beneficiaries from the Great Lakes Communities in Nairobi and Kakuma. They expressed challenges in accessing documentation which prevented them from receiving services. RCK followed up on this issue by initiating a research on the process of refugee status determination.

These M&E visits and sessions are meant to assist RCK to provide better services to its beneficiaries as well as plan its future activities.

RCK employs the use of suggestion boxes where refugees and staff provided an avenue to give feedback on RCK services and the working environment. During the year, RCK received feedback from 39 clients where 31 reported to have been satisfied with RCK services and recommended that RCK improves on escalating referral mechanism and giving feedback to clients. Through such feedback, RCK was able to enhance on its services to refugees by making follow up calls to clients as well as giving one on one feedback on cases.

The year 2013 was not without its challenges: violence that was experienced in some parts of the country hindered planned activities such as monitoring of refugees and asylum seekers transit routes. Despite such challenges, RCK was able to implement 99% of all 2013 planned activities.

**RCK Funding Initiative**

The RCK activities for the year were funded by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Danish Refugee Council (DRC) for various projects including the IDP Peace building project and the Great Lakes Civil Society Project and Research projects. Other funders included United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT), Sigrid Rausing Trust, Dutch Council for Refugees (DCR), American Friends Society Centre (AFSC), Global Fund for Women (GFW) and the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC).
The renewed violence in Southern Sudan pitting the former Vice President Riek Machar and President Salva Kiir may result in a large displacement of people in South Sudan, leading to an influx of refugees to the Kakuma refugee camp, which may later lead to a humanitarian crisis in Kakuma due to overstretched resources. The violence which started in mid-December had already seen thousands of South Sudanese flee their homes to neighbouring countries of Ethiopia and Kenya in a period of one week.

The voluntary repatriation exercise of Somali refugees remains firmly on the agenda of RCK and through its various networks and partnerships will continue to monitor the manner of implementation. We shall pursue the return in safety and dignity for all Somali returnees.

The violence in South Sudan and the planned repatriation of Somali refugees, provided a glimpse on what to expect come 2014 on its advocacy engagements with the Government and legal aid assistance to refugees.

RCK looks forward to continue implementing its 2014 activities according to the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan. The legal aid team in Nairobi, Dadaab and Kakuma will also continue its approach of using outreach legal clinics to expand its reach.
REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board of the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) has pleasure in presenting its report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013.

ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE

The Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) is a registered national Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that works for the protection of refugees, asylum-seekers, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and stateless persons in Kenya and the wider East African region.

RCK has continued to carry out its mission to promote the welfare and dignity of refugees in Kenya. The Legal Aid and Social Justice Programme worked towards providing legal aid and psychosocial assistance, the Advocacy and Capacity Enhancement Programme contributed towards influencing policy, enhancing the capacity of relevant stakeholders in providing protection for refugees and internally displaced persons. The Information and Research Programme continued to raise awareness on displacement issues and kept abreast of the latest developments and trends in displacement.

LEGAL AID AND REFFERAL PROGRAMME

The goal of the Programme is to ensure that asylum seekers, refugees and IDPs access legal rights and live in dignity. This is aimed at enhancing displaced persons access to legal justice and psychosocial support. As a result, the Programme operated with two main broad strategic objectives:

- To enhance access to justice for asylum seekers and refugees through the provision of legal aid, monitoring and capacity
- To improve access to counseling and psychosocial services to vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees

A total of 9,936 refugees and asylum seekers were attended to. This is an increase of 3,537 clients compared to those attended to in the year 2012, a notable 14% increase. A total of 4,984 clients (1,969 male and 3,015 female) were attended to during the outreach legal clinics representing 80% of the total number of clients attended to. In addition, RCK intervened for a total of 1,750 (950 Male and 800 Female) refugees and asylum seekers represented in court and at the police stations on asylum and immigration related charges, which represents 125% of the total targeted clients. 493 Refugees and asylum seekers were represented during the Refugee Status Determination process (RSD), which represents 164% of the target. 218 of these clients were attended to in Nairobi, 90 (48 male and 42 female) asylum seekers were assisted to draft RSD appeals. 22 pro bono lawyers were engaged during the year. The advocates were able to represent over 600 refugees and asylum seekers across the country. A total of 20 detention/protection monitors were retained in Nairobi. In addition, 15 protection monitors, 14 border monitors, 3 repatriation process monitors and 20 paralegals were recruited and retained in Dadaab and 15 protection monitors retained in Kakuma.

RCK conducted 18 monitoring visits to assess the situation of persons of concern along migration corridors. RCK continued to provide psychosocial support to refugees and asylum seekers. 2,357 clients were counseled; 1,684 Nairobi (764 male and 1,120 female) and 473 Dadaab (132 male and 341 female), which translates to 157% achievement against the target for the whole year. 26 Community Based Counselors (CBC's) were engaged and retained in Nairobi and Dadaab; 16 in Nairobi (9 male and 7 female) and 10 in Dadaab (6 females and 4 males), which represents 153% of the target set for in the year.

The goal of the programme is to advocate for the development and adherence to rights-based policies, laws and practices for the protection of refugees and other forced migrants. The program continued to engage in the Urban Refugee Protection Network (URPN) and it attended 22 URPN meetings and 6 Legal and Advocacy sub-group meetings. As part of the advocacy efforts to highlight the findings of the protection and detention monitoring, RCK successfully secured a meeting with the Inspector General of Police to discuss the high rates of arbitrary arrests, illegal detention and harassment of refugees by law enforcement officers following the encampment directive.

The programme participated in 6 monthly Child Protection Working Group meetings. A key agenda of the meetings was the current status of refugee children in Nairobi. As part of our advocacy efforts to engage with the regional economic communities and human rights systems, the program participated in the 54th session of the ACHPR held in Banjul, Gambia as well as the NGO Forum preceding the Commission session.
REFUGEE CONSORTIUM OF KENYA

REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD (CONTINUED)

LEGAL AID AND REFERRAL PROGRAMME (CONTINUED)

The programme participated in a number of regional and international advocacy forums which included: High Level Panel on Global Initiative on Repatriation of Somalis in Geneva; IDMC’s one year anniversary workshop on the Kampala convention in Dakar, Senegal; International Detention Coalition Workshop in South Africa; 2 ICVA Board meetings in Geneva; and 1 UNHCR annual consultation meeting in Geneva. In addition the programme reviewed and contributed to 4 NGO statements submitted to the UNHCR excomm meetings. Throughout the year, the programme actively lobbied the judiciary on the establishment of permanent courts in Kakuma and Dadaab.

The programme in partnership with IRC and UNHCR PDU conducted 7 trainings for various court user committees on protection of refugees and other forced migrants through partnerships in Kisii, Kisumu, Garissa, Nairobi, Isiolo, Voi and Thika. During these trainings 183 participants were trained (137 men and 46 women). The programme carried out 2 trainings for media practitioners conducted in Nairobi on refugee protection and the Tripartite Agreement sensitizing 52 participants (12 female and 40 men). As part of our capacity building efforts towards the DRA, the program conducted 3 training sessions for 24 newly recruited DRA officers who are designated as RSD officers.

INFORMATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The goal of this programme is to raise awareness and increase public understanding and that of policy makers on issues that relate to refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs.

In 2013, RCK engaged in three research projects: Two of these projects have been completed while the last one is under review by the Study Advisory Group (SAG) at the time of this report writing. One research project was carried forward into 2014. International world days like Refugee Day, Women’s day were celebrated as a forum to increase awareness and promote a consistent corporate image of RCK. The Information and Research Programme procured and produced a number of information materials with the aim of enlightening the refugee and general public on the rights and duties of refugees. This year, the materials ranged from T-shirts to banners all with thematic messages. These materials were disseminated in various forums conducted by or in which RCK was represented. 4000 copies of the Refugee Act popular version were reprinted (English, Swahili, Oromo and Somali) and 567 were distributed. In addition, 1500 copies each of the IDP Act popular version and IDP brochure were produced and some were disseminated during monitoring visits to IDP hosting areas.

During the year, RCK staff members were invited to give interviews to various television and radio stations. The topical issues during the interviews ranged from refugee rights to Somali refugee repatriation exercise. There were 29 media appearances in stations such as the CCTV, Fanoja FM, KTN, KBC, K24, Luqa FM, Q FM, One FM and Dadaab FM. Through these interviews the voice of refugees and IDPs was given a platform through RCK highlighting its work in the field.

In the social media, with a following of 211 individuals and organizational bodies, RCK has been able to voice legal and advocacy issues on twitter. In the same breath, RCK following on Facebook has grown with a current membership of 475 members.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

The goal of this programme is to ensure that RCK has an efficient and effective finance and human resource management system.

The programme is supported by the organisation budget of Shs. 120 million over RCK’s suboffices, Nairobi, Kakuma and Dadaab. The operating volume remained relatively the same as in 2012. The average staff capacity over the year was 50 employees.
To enable staff contribute to the overall efficiency of running the organisation and implementing its programme activities, the programme provides opportunities for staff to participate in relevant activities, meetings and training sessions by RCK partnering with institutions and other stakeholders.

Four programme and financial monitoring visits were conducted; two in Dadaab office and two in Kakuma office whereas an evaluation was done in the Nairobi office. Issues on current project status, personnel management and financial management were discussed and addressed. The aim of these visits is to track and improve the implementation of various activities. This ensures that project activities are undertaken as specified in the work-plans and the impact of these activities are tracked.

### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<td>2011 Receipts</td>
<td>2012 Receipts</td>
<td>2013 Receipts</td>
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<td>MIVA- Project transport support</td>
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<td>882,300</td>
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<td>African Women Development Fund</td>
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<td>Swedish Development Corporation</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>113,141,361</strong></td>
<td><strong>117,020,044</strong></td>
<td><strong>117,350,551</strong></td>
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

The Organisation's auditor, PKF Kenya, has indicated willingness to continue in office.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

[Signature] 23 MAY 2014
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR
TO THE MEMBERS OF REFUGEE CONSORTIUM OF KENYA (RCK)

Report on the financial statements
We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) set out on pages 8 to 18 which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2013, statement income and expenditure and general fund and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management board's responsibility for the financial statements
The management board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium sized Entities and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion
In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) as at 31 December 2013 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities.

Certified Public Accountants
PIN NO: P051130467R

NAIROBI
24th June 2014

579/14

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Erik Noguna, Michael Mburugu (*Indian, **British)
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REFUGEE CONSORTIUM OF KENYA (RCK)
Annual report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2013

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND GENERAL FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant income</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>106,447,381</td>
<td>134,872,649</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19,543,901</td>
<td>3,849,846</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>125,991,282</strong></td>
<td><strong>138,722,495</strong></td>
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EXPENDITURE

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<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project expenditure</td>
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<td>(106,447,381)</td>
<td>(134,872,649)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>(1,622,793)</td>
<td>(3,243,294)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus for the year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>17,921,108</strong></td>
<td><strong>606,552</strong></td>
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Movement in general fund

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At start of the year</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,081,025</td>
<td>474,473</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
<td></td>
<td>17,921,108</td>
<td>606,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At end of year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>19,002,133</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,081,025</strong></td>
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The notes on pages 11 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

### Statement of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2013 Shs</th>
<th>2012 Shs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment and vehicles</td>
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<td>10,424,435</td>
<td>9,264,417</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
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<td>Receivables</td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Funds</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>General fund</td>
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<td>19,002,133</td>
<td>1,081,025</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Asset grants - deferred income</td>
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<td><strong>Current liabilities</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>34,772,286</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>63,119,272</td>
<td>45,117,728</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The financial statements on pages 8 to 18 were approved and authorised for issue by the Management Board on 23/MAY/2014 and were signed on its behalf by:

*Chairman*

*Executive Director*

The notes on pages 11 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Vision of RCK is a world where refugees and other forced migrants enjoy their rights and live in dignity.

The Mission of RCK is to protect and promote the rights and dignity of refugees and other forced migrants through enabling programmes on legal aid, advocacy and awareness creation.