



Refugee Consortium of Kenya
Advocacy and Policy Development Centre



2012

Annual Report and Financial Statement

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Board Statement



“RCK was also able to develop a computerised client database system which has facilitated prompt data analysis and retrieval of RCK client information”.

The year 2012 was a very exciting and dynamic year for the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK). The organization was able to achieve important milestones in line with its mission of protecting and promoting the rights and dignity of refugees and other forced migrants.

To begin with, RCK succeeded in lobbying for the enactment of the legislation on internal displacement through the Protection, Prevention and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons Act, 2012. RCK also played a key role, in partnership with other stakeholders, in lobbying for the fast tracking of the approval of the IDP Policy by the Kenya Cabinet as well as in the review of the Refugees Bill, 2011.

In 2012, RCK achieved an 84 percent increase in terms of the clients that RCK attended to in the legal aid programme. This is a notable increase in the numbers of beneficiaries, assisted compared to the previous year and is a testament to the fact that more and more refugees are coming to RCK seeking legal counselling services and that RCK is living up to its passion and motive of *Keeping Hope Alive for Refugees*.

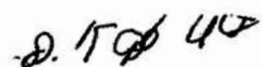
In order to be able to monitor and evaluate the impact of the services that RCK offers to refugees, the management established a monitoring and evaluation unit. RCK was also able to develop a computerised client database system which has facilitated prompt data analysis and retrieval of RCK client information. The Management and Board developed and approved 14 organizational policies during the year.

Although there was a significant reduction of funding globally by donors for refugee protection, RCK succeeded in mobilizing adequate funding to enable it to carry out its various activities under the 2012 Annual Operational Plan.

However, the year was not without its challenges. The operational environment in Kenya also was not friendly to refugee protection, given that there was heightened insecurity in the country following increased cases of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) attacks in Nairobi and other major towns in Kenya. This situation led to the arbitrary arrests of refugees, extortion and harassment of refugees by law enforcement officers who linked the rising insecurity in the country to the presence of refugees and persons without proper documentation. The just-concluded general elections and dynamic policy changes have also had an impact on the work of RCK. For instance, in December 2012, the Government of Kenya announced a new directive implementing a strict encampment policy which requires that all refugees residing in urban areas be relocated to Dadaab and Kakuma camps. This was a devastating blow to the policy of protecting the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in the country. It is commendable that RCK in partnership with other partners within the Urban Refugee Protection Network (URPN) have already taken advocacy and legal initiatives to challenge the directive and to call on the Government to reconsider the directive.

All in all, the year 2012 presented opportunities for networking and the creation of useful contacts for RCK. Throughout the year, as RCK executed its activities, partnerships were forged between RCK and various state and non-state actors. These partnerships will enable RCK to further the cause of promoting the rights of refugees, asylum seekers as well as those of other forced migrants.

RCK wishes to thank all its partners for their support during 2012 and hopes that the same will be extended for the coming year.



Dr. Samuel Kabue

Board Chairman

Background

At the end of 2012, there were 611,381 registered refugees in Kenya. There are, however, estimated to be thousands more undocumented refugees and asylum seekers as a result of the periodic suspension of registration in Dadaab since the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) entered Somalia in October 2011 and since the issuance of the Government press statement calling for the relocation of all refugees residing in urban areas to the camps on December 18, 2012.

Throughout the year, there has been increasing political rhetoric for the repatriation of Somali refugees as a result of the alleged liberation by the KDF of certain areas in Somalia from the militant group *Al Shabaab*. This rhetoric has increased especially as witnessed in media statements since the election of Somalia President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud in September, 2012.

Since the Kenya Defence Forces' incursion into Somalia, several explosions of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) have occurred both in the camps and in urban areas, resulting in a general environment of insecurity and one instance of counter-attack targeting people of, or perceived to be of, Somali ethnicity in Eastleigh, Nairobi.

The arbitrary interpretations of the relocation and encampment directive caused an increase in the number of cases of arbitrary arrests, illegal detention, extortion and harassment of refugees by law enforcement officers in urban areas.

Also during the year, insecurity-related and inter-ethnic conflicts within Kenya saw a sharp rise compared to 2011 in internal displacement. Hundreds of people were displaced following inter-ethnic conflicts in the Tana Delta involving the Pokomo and Orma communities. These people were displaced as they fled the area to avoid the conflict and ensuing retaliatory attacks between the communities. In Baragoi, cattle rustling and the killing of civilians as well as a large contingent of police officers pursuing the armed raiders resulted in the displacement of thousands of residents fleeing the area. The residents fled the area in fear of reprisal attacks from the affected communities as well as a possible backlash from the security forces sent to the area to contain the situation. In Baringo county, armed cattle raids in the area also witnessed incidences of displacement among the affected communities seeking refuge elsewhere.

The year also saw a kick-off in the political campaigns in anticipation of the general elections due on March 4, 2013 and a heightened sense of fear of a potential recurrence of the post-poll chaos of 2007/2008. The resettlement of IDPs and the cases involving prominent Kenyans at the International Criminal Court (ICC) were major issues featured in the political campaigns. This brought into sharp focus the need for enhanced advocacy for peacebuilding among affected communities and the establishment of proper mechanisms to prevent violence and internal displacement. RCK, throughout the year, advocated with the relevant ministry to have all IDPs resettled before the next elections.

Management of RCK

RCK has a governance body composed of professionals from various human rights fields. The Board is responsible for overall governance of the organization. The Executive Director oversees the day to day activities and running of the organization. The Executive Director is accountable to the Board. The organization's activities are carried out through four Programmes: Legal Aid and Social Justice, Advocacy and Capacity Enhancement, Information and Research, and Institutional Support and Development. Each Programme is headed by a Programme Officer and Assisted by Assistant Programme Officers. The Programmes are also assisted by programme associates, interns and volunteers depending on their needs.

Members

Justice Mbogholi Msagha	-	Patron
Dr. Sam Kabue	-	Chairman
Abi Gitari	-	Member
Enid Burke	-	Member
Jane Kiragu	-	Member
Wambui Kimathi	-	Member
Ursula Pandikow	-	Member
Anthony Hombe	-	Treasurer
Lucy Kiama	-	Executive Director

RCK Mission Statement

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.

The core values of RCK encompass integrity and fairness, compassion, commitment and professionalism, respect for human rights, respect for community knowledge, cultural diversity, gender equality and equity, team spirit and participation, accountability and transparency.

RCK Strategic Objectives

Within the 5-year strategic plan period running from 2012 to 2016, RCK works towards its mission and vision through four strategic objectives

Strategic Objective 1	Enhancing access to justice and psychosocial support to refugees and other forced migrants.
Strategic Objective 2	Advocate for rights-based policies, laws and practices for the protection of refugees and other forced migrants.
Strategic Objective 3	Inform and empower targeted groups on protection of refugees and other forced migrants.
Strategic Objective 4	To strengthen the institutional capacity of RCK to deliver on its mission

Unique Role of RCK

RCK is distinct in the role it plays in refugee welfare and protection of their rights. It focuses on refugee and forced migrant's issues using a human rights-based approach. Through the Consortium's emphasis on networking with other local, regional and international organizations dealing with refugees, it has been able to cover a plethora of issues. These include legal protection of refugees, policy development, civic education, research and information dissemination, refugee empowerment and capacity building to promote the welfare of refugees. RCK focuses on advocacy regarding refugee issues and collaboration within and outside the sector while still realizing the importance of the services delivered by others to alleviate the plight of refugees. RCK is and will remain a learning organization on the trends and emerging issues affecting refugees

Executive Director's Statement



"This is certainly a dynamic and challenging mission but one which we embrace and whose objectives we will continue to strive towards in 2013".

RCK experienced another vibrant year in 2012 which ended with the dramatic announcement of a government directive by the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA). We therefore experienced a very busy year-end, in addition to the already eventful 2012.

In December, the DRA issued a directive that all asylum seekers and refugees from Somalia should report to Dadaab refugee camps, while asylum seekers from other countries should report to Kakuma refugee camp. The directive went further to say that UNHCR and other partners serving refugees should stop providing direct services to asylum seekers and refugees in the urban areas and transfer the same services to the refugee camps.

Our programme teams immediately went into action by assessing the directive, meeting with DRA officials to understand the implications of the directive, monitoring and documenting human rights abuses, and of course making legal interventions for refugees. Due to effective advocacy and coordination with other agencies, a court injunction stopping the directive was obtained until full hearing of the matter.

Prior to this arbitral directive, RCK had experienced a year within an environment of political and legislative reforms, heightened xenophobia against refugees due to rising insecurity, and election anxiety. This environment had an adverse impact on the work and activities of all our programmes. For instance, RCK was not able to conduct one of its border monitoring missions planned for Liboi due to insecurity in the area.

However, despite the challenging environment, our legal aid outreach clinics that are conducted by our Legal Aid and Social Justice Programme surpassed targets set for the year. This was due to both a concerted effort to increase our visibility and accessibility as well as enhancement of our staff's capacity. Issues raised by our clients included: delays in the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process, appeals for RSD rejections, insecurity, medical healthcare needs, police harassment, family reunification, access to education, Sexual Gender-based Violence (SGBV) including forced marriage, child custody and kidnapping, access to documentation, discrimination based on sexual orientation and identities, and access to durable solutions.

The team also provided legal representation to clients in court and at police stations on asylum and immigration-related charges, including court representations of refugee children in a variety of cases, and refugee women who experienced SGBV. Pro-bono lawyers assisted us by providing legal representation to clients who live outside of our service areas and we thank these lawyers for their commitment to providing legal representation to those who would otherwise have gone without. RCK continued to provide psychosocial assistance to refugees and asylum seekers and we are pleased to announce that the number of persons provided with individual psychosocial support increased by 28 percent and that the number of couples who received counselling doubled compared to 2011. This indicates that communities have come to understand and appreciate the importance of counselling and that the increased number of RCK psychosocial staff enhanced the organization's ability to provide these services. In our Nairobi office, children were provided with counselling in our new child-friendly therapy counselling room.

Throughout the year, the Advocacy Programme engaged in the review of the Refugees Bill, 2011, and lobbied for the amendment to delink refugee status from criminality. The Programme also successfully lobbied for enactment of the Protection, Prevention and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons Act, 2012.

In addition, the Programme's staff attended various workshops and conferences on forced migration issues organised by Organisations for Islamic Corporation (IOC) in Turkmenistan, International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) in Geneva, Switzerland, and the European Union (EU) –Africa Strategic Partnership in Barcelona, Spain, International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) in Calcutta India, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Great Lakes Project in Kampala, Uganda, Africa Union (AU)-Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) in Kampala, Uganda and International Detention

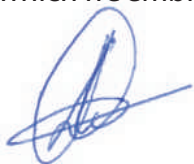
Coalition (IDC) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Based on the experiences of advocacy for IDP Act 2012 and National Policy on the Prevention of Internal Displacement, Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Kenya, the advocacy team developed a documentation study titled "*Behind the Scenes: Lessons Learnt from Developing a National Policy Framework on Internal Displacement in Kenya*". This project documented the best practices with regard to developing policies on internal displacement. Early in the year the team also conducted a study of Somali refugees in the Dadaab refugee camp in order to obtain detailed information on specific refugee issues e.g. motives for flight, insecurity in Dadaab, and durable solutions. The study report is titled "*Asylum under Threat: Assessing the protection of Somali refugees in Dadaab refugee camps and along the migration corridor*". The findings of the study garnered wide interest in the refugee situation in Kenya and will continue assisting us and other partners in advocacy endeavours for the protection of refugees.

The Information and Research team provided timely information to other Programmes, to NGOs concerned with refugees and other forced migrants' issues as well as the media. During the year, the Programme partnered with both print and electronic media houses to raise awareness on the IDP Bill, 2012 before it was assented by the President, calling for the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework on internal displacement. In addition, radio shows on refugee protection were conducted specifically targeting Somali refugees in Dadaab camp. The year saw an increase of 80 percent in media engagement compared to the previous year. In the same spirit of creating awareness, Newsletter issues numbers 20 and 21 of the *Refugee Insights* were produced. The newsletters focused on RCK work on protection, intervention and empowering of refugee communities regarding their rights and responsibilities. These were shared with RCK partners and refugees and asylum seekers alike. Yes, you can now "like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. This year the team also worked closely with the legal programme by setting up a client database and took the lead in organizing RCK participation in International Women's Day and World Refugee Day events.

Programmes and financial verification visits were carried out in the field offices of Kakuma and Dadaab camps by the Institutional Support and Development Programme. These visits were carried out on a quarterly basis to ensure that programmes are done as stipulated in the year

plans and funds were used effectively. In addition, the Programme assisted in organizing training courses on trauma, supervisory and time management skills for all staff members.

In conclusion, I wish to thank sincerely all the RCK staff for their professionalism, dedication, and compassion throughout the year. I also wish to thank our development partners for their continued support. It is through their support that we are able to protect and promote the rights and dignity of refugees and other forced migrants in Kenya. This is certainly a dynamic and challenging mission but one which we embrace and whose objectives we will continue to strive towards in 2013.

**Lucy Kiama****Executive Director**

Development Partners in 2012

The achievements of RCK in 2012 would not have been made possible without the valuable support of our national and international development partners and agencies.

These included:

- ❖ The Government of Kenya
- ❖ United Nations High Commission for Refugees
- ❖ Danish Refugee Council
- ❖ PSO through the Dutch Council for Refugees
- ❖ Refugees United
- ❖ American Friends Society Committee
- ❖ Sigrid Rausing Trust
- ❖ Global Fund for Women
- ❖ United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
- ❖ International Rescue Committee
- ❖ United Nations Children's Fund
- ❖ African Women Development Fund

Highlights of RCK Activities in 2012

In 2012, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) was engaged in a number of activities geared towards protection of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other forced migrants.

The Legal Aid and Social Justice Programme reached and surpassed their targets for the year. The Programme facilitated court representation for cases involving refugee children and women, in addition to legal aid outreach clinics that were conducted in refugee hosting areas. There are testimonies of jubilant beneficiaries that were satisfied with the services rendered to them by the Programme. Training for pro-bono lawyers, Court Users Committees (CUCs), paralegals as well as translators and monitors were conducted. The aim of these training sessions was to provide the groups targeted with the requisite knowledge on refugee rights in order to fulfil the mandate of RCK and increase its reach.

The psychosocial team registered growth in its service provision. It provided psychosocial support and counselling to more than 1200 people. More specifically, the team handled more than 650 cases of vulnerable persons. Ten refugee women were given training on entrepreneurship and equipped with business skills, and given start-up capital and grants for their businesses. This was done as a way of empowering the women to provide for their families. In Nairobi, the team established a child-friendly space in which children can play with various toys while their parents are assisted in the legal aid clinic. The room provides a comfortable environment for children to express themselves freely.

The Advocacy Programme focused on the development of the IDP Bill which was assented into law on 31st December, 2012 by the President of the Republic of Kenya. It also facilitated the drafting of an IDP policy that was approved by the Kenya Cabinet on 25 October 2012. However, a lot remains to be done in light of implementation of the newly enacted law and the fact that Kenya is not yet a signatory to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention). As part of the advocacy efforts towards enactment of the IDP Bill, the Programme also organized press conferences calling on the Government to fast track the adoption of a legal framework on the protection of IDPs. An open letter to the President calling on him to assent to the IDP Bill was also published in Kenya's daily newspapers.

The Programme participated in consultations with various stakeholders and policy makers on the review of the Refugees Bill, 2011. It had fruitful engagements with the Commission on the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) that was spearheading the review process and looks forward to engaging with the relevant parliamentary departmental committee that will be reviewing the Bill in 2013. At the regional and international levels, the Programme was also fully engaged in contributing to the International Covenant

on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) alternative stakeholders' report, Universal Protection Review (UPR) alternative stakeholder's report as well as making presentations at various international forums on forced migration in Barcelona, Spain; Calcutta, India; Geneva, Switzerland and Kampala, Uganda. The aim was to profile the issues of forced migration at the regional and international forums.

It has been a good year for the Information and Research Programme as well. RCK received favourable media coverage which involved RCK officers being invited to participate in various media forums and programmes to discuss issues on refugee rights and protection of IDPs. In addition, RCK used the social media to further enhance its media presence in media circles in the year 2012. Coupled with frequent visitors on the redesigned RCK website, the use of social media helped the Programme to witness an increased visibility of RCK activities and new people contacting RCK with queries on the work we do. On the research front, the Information and Research Programme has continued to publish information resources. Among these are daily media highlights on refugees and other forced migrants issues that were circulated to members of staff and the publication of Refugee Insight newsletters, issue numbers 20 and 21. Bi-monthly e-bulletins were also produced which focussed on current RCK activities on the protection of refugee and other forced migrants' rights.

The highlight for the Institutional Support and Development Programme was the establishment of the monitoring and evaluation office. The office took charge and successfully developed a computerised client database system in Nairobi. The system will facilitate data analysis, ease access and retrieval of RCK client information. Another highlight was the monitoring and evaluation missions to Dadaab, Kakuma and Nairobi. Through these monitoring visits, beneficiaries of RCK services were engaged in Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and one-on-one interviews. The FGDs focused on obtaining feedback regarding RCK services on the beneficiaries' both short term and long-term impacts.

Overview of Programmes in 2012

RCK 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 and psychosocial assistance, the Advocacy and Capacity Enhancement Programme influenced policy, enhanced the capacity of relevant stakeholders to provide protection for refugees and internally displaced persons and the Information and Research Programme continued to raise awareness on displacement issues.

Legal Aid and Social Justice 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:

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

The year 2012 was marked with reported cases of terror-related attacks in various parts of the country especially refugee-hosting areas such as Eastleigh and Garrissa. This saw an increase in police swoops, security operations and arrests leading to a larger number of refugees seeking legal representation in police stations and courts of law.

The terror attacks led to the Kenyan community wrongly associating insecurity with the refugees' in the country, resulting in increased xenophobia. This was highlighted by the media where incidences of attacks in churches and public service vehicles resulted in retaliatory attacks by the host community.

During the year, the legal aid clinics surpassed targets set for the year. This was partly associated with increased reporting of cases by refugees at the legal aid clinics, visibility efforts, networking and referrals, increased and regular visits to the camps and community outreaches in Nairobi, enhanced capacity in terms of staffing and prompt follow-up of cases. Other developments in the course of the year included the opening of the UNHCR sub-office in Alinjukur which effectively saw the split of services between the two offices: Dadaab sub-office which comprises IFO, IFO 2 and Dagahaley refugee camps and the Alinjukur sub-office which comprises Hagadera and Kambioos refugee camps. Increased rhetoric on repatriation of refugees to Somalia was also noted during the year. According to an assessment by NGOs' working with refugees, Somalia was not safe for the return of its nationals. RCK issued a statement against repatriation and called for dialogue. With reports of increased pacification of areas within Somalia, especially during the third quarter of the year, it is anticipated that the repatriation process will begin soon.

The task for RCK will be to ensure that no refugees are forced to return against their will, especially if they have genuine fears or other protection concerns. RCK will continue its advocacy on repatriation and capacity-building for communities to be able to integrate once they are back home.

Legal Aid and Representation

In an effort to enhance the protection of refugees and asylum seekers through free legal aid and psychosocial support, the legal aid clinics attended to 9,345 refugees and asylum seekers: in Dadaab 2141 (1601 female and 540 male), Nairobi 6,093 (3,505 female 2,587 male) and Kakuma 1111 (601 female, 510 male). This is an increase of 3537 clients compared to those that the clinic attended to in the year 2011. A notable 84 percent increase. This was attributed to the number of community forums conducted in the urban areas and within the camps sensitizing the members of the refugee community on their rights. The increase was also attributed to insecurity in the camps, particularly Kambioos which currently does not have a police post, compelling clients to come to the clinic to report such incidences. Another factor was the community outreach legal clinics in Nairobi that were mainly held in refugee residential areas and through various partnerships. RCK continued its partnership with The International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP) and International Rescue Committee (IRC) and attended to clients at CISP offices in Buruburu every Monday and at IRC in Eastleigh from Monday to Wednesday. The community outreach activities were in response to the challenges faced by needy clients in accessing the RCK office, due to resource constraints and security concerns. A total of 87 community outreach clinics were conducted in the following areas in Nairobi: Kitengela(5) Ongata Rongai(2) Kayole(4) Kawangware(3), Zambezi(3), Ruiru(3), Githurai(5) Umoja(10), Jamhuri(4), Kasarani (8), Kabiria(1) and Eastleigh(39).

RCK also sought to achieve gender parity and to respond to the specific needs of both refugee women and men. 4707 females and 3034 males attended the clinics. One of the observations in 2011 clinics was that few women were able to access RCK services because of the distance and the myriad domestic responsibilities they had. This challenge was overcome through bringing the legal and counselling services within the communities' environs.

During the year, 29 translators were trained on basic interpretation skills, refugee protection and processes and basic counselling skills while emphasizing on the importance of confidentiality. The list of trained interpreters was circulated to various partners who were free to contract the translators or use them on a need to need basis. The training session improved service delivery to refugees by various agencies and even by the courts that have been able to use the trained interpreters. Regarding gender parity, RCK ensured that every week there were two female translators engaged in the clinic, especially on Tuesdays which is a women-only day. The female translators were helpful, especially during SGBV interviews, where sometimes women found it difficult to open up to men. The female translators based at the police stations in the camps were especially instrumental in assisting female GBV survivors in reporting their cases.

Representation during Refugee Status Determination

RCK assisted a total of 347 (2 were minors) asylum seekers either to draft appeals or prepare for RSD interviews at UNHCR. This was an increase of 57 percent compared to 127 asylum seekers assisted in 2011. Of this total, 208 asylum seekers (including the 2 minors) in Kakuma were assisted and their cases fast tracked; 80 percent of these cases were Congolese. RCK assisted 139 asylum seekers either to draft appeals or prepare for RSD interviews at UNHCR. The number comprised of 115 Ethiopians and 24 Congolese. RCK also sat in on two RSD interviews for Congolese asylum seekers who needed to have a legal counsel present. One case for an Ethiopian asylum seeker was perused in order to facilitate his appeal for RSD. An Iranian, who was being held at the Industrial Area Remand Prison, charged with unlawful presence and who had indicated that he was yet to be granted asylum was represented by RCK. RCK worked with UNHCR to fast track his application for asylum. Two minors, who had previously been rejected, had their cases reactivated and have since acquired mandates. Six clients with protection concerns were fast tracked for RSD, resulting in the issuance of mandates. RCK also held a meeting with UNHCR to discuss the cases of a group of Congolese who had been rejected on second appeals and had petitioned RCK to advocate for their plight at UNHCR. By the time of reporting the cases were still under review.

Legal representation in courts of law and police stations

In a bid to facilitate refugees and asylum seekers to access justice through court representation and police stations, RCK intervened on behalf of a total of 787 refugees and asylum seekers in court and at the police stations on asylum and immigration-related charges. Of that total, 499 were in Dadaab (63percent), 135 in Nairobi (17percent) and Kakuma 153 (20percent) surpassing the annual target of 500 by 287 (a 57% increase above the set target). The year saw RCK-Dadaab make tremendous progress in terms of visibility, networking and developing a good rapport with the police and other law enforcement officers. Consequently, the number of interventions rose because a majority of the cases received by RCK for interventions were referred by the police and other law enforcement officers. RCK received testimonies of overjoyed clients who were released from custody after RCK's intervention. One such client was a young man aged 17 who was released from custody after staying in remand for 2 months and 15 days. This was during mobile court sessions in Dadaab. He was arrested at Garissa for travelling without a movement pass; he was carrying a student card which is no defence to charges of residing outside a designated area. Some 202 child protection cases were also represented in court and provided with pre- and post- trial counselling. The cases were for custody, child maintenance, defilement, child prostitution and unlawful presence. 80 SGBV survivors were represented in court and given pre- and post-trial counselling to prepare them for trial and help them integrate in the society after the legal process. RCK offices handled cases as follows: Kakuma 23 (29%), Nairobi 3 (2%) and Dadaab 55(69%).

RCK also held meetings with public interest litigation consultants to seek legal opinions on an intended suit on access to work permits. This followed a research that had been conducted by RCK on access to work permits where interviews were held with beneficiaries and officials at the Immigration office and followed by an analysis of the legal provisions. The research revealed that access was not procedurally tenable. RCK deemed it necessary to seek judicial intervention by way of public interest litigation. Through the case, RCK was to seek an injunction to unfair administrative action by the Government of Kenya during the process of issuance of Class M work permits to refugees. However, the case was not instituted due to limited funds and change of priorities as a result of the government directive requiring refugees to relocate to the camps.

RCK conducted two three-day training sessions for pro-bono lawyers to extend the reach of RCK legal aid services to border towns and/transit routes. The training sessions were held in Limuru and Nairobi from 28th February – 1st March and the 8th – 10th May respectively. A total of 16 advocates participated, eight of whom were newly recruited from Kakamega, Mombasa, Thika, Nakuru and Nairobi.

Protection monitoring scheme

A total of 50 protection monitors were trained and engaged in Dadaab and Nairobi offices. Dadaab engaged 30 monitors while Nairobi engaged 20. The training focused on issues of statelessness, trafficking in persons and smuggling, in addition to highlights on SGBV, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and International as well as the national law on refugees. Previously, monitors were trained but more recently, new laws have been enacted by Parliament including the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2011 and Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2011, while the Refugees Act is under review. The refresher training offered an opportunity for the monitors to interact with such laws that are expected to affect refugees one way or the other. The protection monitors, to a greater extent, have played a pivotal role in refugee protection by identifying cases for interventions, timely reporting, advocacy at various stations and advice.

A total of 12 protection monitoring visits were conducted. Three visits were carried out along the Nadapal border by the Kakuma office covering Busia, Malaba, Eldoret, Kitale; nine in Dadaab which included: four protection monitoring visits to Garissa and Mwingi, two protection monitoring visits to Liboi, two protection monitoring visits to Amumma and one protection monitoring visit to Bura, Hola, Garsen, Lamu, Malindi and Kilifi. The aim of these visits was to identify protection concerns affecting asylum seekers and refugees in the respective towns and also generate ideas on how such concerns can be mitigated. Two monitoring visits to rehabilitation centres for child offenders were also conducted. The mission was also part of the wider objective to develop partnerships and to enhance the capacities of stakeholders in refugee protection.

In an effort to enhance protection of children through timely assistance, RCK recruited, trained and retained 100 paralegals to monitor child protection issues in the five Dadaab camps. The paralegals were critical in addressing child protection cases in the blocks in the Dadaab camps and section levels: conducting home visits, making referral of cases to other agencies and to our legal aid clinics, and engaging in community mobilization during awareness forums among other activities.

Capacity enhancement of actors in refugee protection

During the year, the mobile court monthly report of February indicated that court cases are lost because of poorly conducted investigations by investigating police officers and poorly filled P3 forms by the medical personnel. In a bid to curb this drawback, RCK conducted 12 awareness sessions on P3/forensic evidence for medical personnel in Kakuma and Dadaab. RCK has noted a remarkable improvement in terms of filling the P3 forms after the training and intends to conduct more awareness sessions on P3 in 2013, as a number of health workers have transferred to other places or left the profession and new staff have replaced them. A total of 54 community awareness forums were conducted on refugee protection and child rights: Of these, 16 community awareness forums were conducted in Kakuma with 301 participants (198 male 101 women). Eight other awareness forums on FGM were conducted, with 800 participants (541 male and 259 female). In Dadaab 30 community awareness forums were conducted on refugee protection and child rights for a total of 985 participants, (622 male and 363 female). Illiteracy among the refugees in the camps is high especially among the new arrivals. Consequently, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, although common, were under reported. Most of those reported were taken to Maslaha (Somali traditional courts) where appropriate criminal justice was not done. Thus the sensitization forums played a big role in enhancing refugee protection.

Twelve training sessions were conducted for law enforcement officers. Of these sessions, five were in Dadaab, one in Nairobi and six in Kakuma. In one of the training sessions in Kakuma for security officers, 30 participants (20 men and 10 women) attended. The main objective of the training was to build the capacity of the law enforcers on child protection and to reduce cases of harassments, arrests, detention and refolement of refugees. Further, it was geared towards curbing cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of refugee children and women by officers by alerting officers on emerging issues such as smuggling and trafficking and the likelihood of refugee children and women being most affected by the crime.

Psychosocial Support

RCK continued to provide psychosocial assistance to refugees and asylum seekers. Some 1284 clients received individual psychosocial support - 915 (71%) in Nairobi (354men, 561 women) and in Dadaab 369 (29%), (139 men, 230 women). This was a 28 percent increase compared to 1006 in 2011. Five community-based counsellors (CBCs) were recruited and trained in Kambioos. CBCs' main role is to identify cases that need counselling in the community and provide basic counselling. They refer clients that need specialized counselling to the office for further attention. They provided individual counselling to 41 refugees. This number has more than doubled in comparison with the number counselled last year.

This indicates that communities have not only come to understand and appreciate the importance of counselling, especially men, but also increasing the number of psychosocial staff has enhanced the ability of RCK to provide these services.

Some of the issues derived from the sessions were: men suffering from frustration due to their inability to provide for their families and relationships issues regarding how to relate with their wives after rape incidents. This was a challenge, especially for men who already had families; they did not know what to do and how to support their wives. Another issue that was predominant in the counselling sessions is discrimination against children with disabilities. Women were becoming increasingly distressed with the circumstances and were anxious about their children's safety. As they receive counselling such women were also provided with legal advice on how to deal with the issue to ensure safety for the children. Some 15 couples were provided with couple counselling in Nairobi. Issues presented include partners refusing to take up roles and responsibilities in the family, poor communication, infidelity, intertribal or clan marriages and child neglect. The sessions provided a forum through which discussions were conducted on child protection, especially for children born out of rape during the conflict in their countries of origin.

Counselling sessions with children brought to light issues such as the need to enhance family therapy in future planning so that we can work together with families in addressing their challenges. This will go a long way in empowering the family unit to better understand family members experiencing difficult times and therefore be able to offer emotional support.

RCK provided 897 clients with emergency social assistance¹. In Nairobi, 215 of these client cases were profiled and provided with emergency social assistance and thereafter referred to partner organizations. In Kakuma a further 33 women who had been rejected by the UNHCR and lacked ration cards were provided with financial assistance, while in Dadaab 649 vulnerable cases were profiled for emergency social assistance. Also in Dadaab 542 clients were assisted (97 men and 445 women) and received core relief items, which included jerricans, mats and clothes. Some 107 Persons Living with Disability (PLWD) were issued with assistive such as crutches, wheel chairs, white cane, sunglasses and sun screen for persons living with albinism. It had been noted in our legal aid clinic that a number of PLWDs were unable to access basic necessities such as food, education, shelter and other social amenities in the camps because of the distance to centres. Social assistance helped clients to adjust as they looked for better and more sustainable means of livelihoods. Social assistance was also aimed at mitigating the risk of exploitation and abuse, especially among women.

A woman living with HIV who had missed her monthly visits to the hospital due to ill health approached an RCK outreach clinic requesting for assistance. RCK paid her rent for two months and bought food for a month, allowing her time to meet her other needs like treatment and focusing on her business. She attended a business training course organized by RCK and was introduced to other organizations so as to apply for a loan that she managed to get from one of the organizations working with refugees in Nairobi. Currently she is engaged in a charcoal-selling business and is doing very well.

1. Small monetary amounts to cater for urgent basic needs

Group therapy sessions

Legal aid conducted 77 group therapy sessions. This was a notable 114 percent increase compared to 36 in 2011. There were 49 conducted in Nairobi and 28 in Dadaab. The group therapy sessions were conducted for different groups, including victims of torture, women who had suffered gender-based violence, children, students, youth, administration and regular police. Group therapy provided a platform for each group to benefit from psychological support from a counsellor, the benefit of group experience as well as a support mechanism after the completion of the sessions. The counselling sessions for administration and regular police officers were focused on enabling the officers to overcome stress related to the current insecurity incidents. Many expressed fear and anxiety of working in Dadaab and considered the environment to be harsh. This feeling arose from the fact that the police were frequently targeted by militia and ended up losing some of their colleagues at work.

A total of 269 home visits were conducted (104 in Nairobi and 165 in Dadaab). Home visits provided an opportunity to assess clients' living conditions and thus helped to make informed vulnerability assessments when profiling their needs. Two business skills training sessions were held in November, with 30 women invited for the training. Out of the 30 participants, 10 were picked for the business startup capital/grants to begin income-generating activities. The women reported that the businesses have elevated their lives and that they were able to meet the needs of their large families, including medical, educational, food and other personal needs.

A child therapy counselling area was established at the RCK Nairobi office with



Children playing in the play room

101 children using the play therapy room in the year 2012. Among the 101, 73 children (43 girls and 30 boys) used the room for play while their parents were being attended to at the legal aid clinic, while 24 (14 boys and 8 girls) used it for counselling. Allowing the children to use the room was a constructive way of engaging the children while their parents narrate their emotional issues. The room was painted in bright, child-friendly colours creating a friendly environment where children were able to express themselves in play, using the toys in the room.

These sessions enabled RCK to understand the children's needs during counselling sessions. In all offices, 306 children were provided with counselling, 108 children in Dadaab were counselled (30 boys and 78 girls) and 198 children in Nairobi (112 girls and 86 boys); this includes children who were counselled at the play therapy room. One of the ways in which the children were mobilized was through a men's group therapy for victims of torture and it became apparent that the effects of gender-based violence went beyond the victim. As the men expressed themselves in different group therapy sessions on the difficulty they have had supporting their children it emerged that there was a need to involve the family members.

A total of 1300 hygiene kits² were distributed to 1950 vulnerable women in Ifo2 and Kambioos. Another 1000 hygiene kits were distributed to internally displaced women and girls in Turkana District. Women mentioned that during their monthly periods 3 to 5 days would be spent indoors with restricted movements as they could not afford to purchase sanitary towels; this was the main reason that they were being provided with the kits. Others mentioned that they would wear two dresses to replace sanitary towels and this left them devastated and held them hostage at home, hence posing a challenge in terms of providing for their families. The hygiene kits provided a liberating opportunity for the women

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

All the achievements made during the year were not without challenges. Monthly meetings for detention monitors residing outside Nairobi were hindered by the prohibitive costs. In addition, these monitors were hampered by inadequate communication facilities at the detention centres and limited access to internet facilities. The high cost of living led to increased requests for emergency social assistance especially for house rent and food. During home visits, refugees expected immediate response to their needs which was not possible as the cases need to be assessed further.

There is need for enhanced confidence-building between refugees and the police. Tango talks³ in the camps are gradually bridging the gap that exists between the communities and the law enforcement officers. The continued engagements between RCK and other service providers in the camp for refugees will see a further decrease in the gaps and more cooperation between the police and refugees.

2. Comprised of panties, sanitary towels, soap, basins

3. Discussions involving the community, police and aid agencies mostly centered on security and other emerging issues

Advocacy and Capacity Enhancement Programme

The Advocacy and Capacity Enhancement Programme advocates for the development of and adherence to rights-based policies, laws and practices for the protection of refugees and other forced migrants.

The Programme's activities in 2012 were undertaken in the context of a changing policy and administrative framework for refugees and other forced migrants, continued xenophobic attitudes towards refugees and a tight legislative schedule for Parliament as part of the constitutional dispensation process.



PWGID Advocacy sub-group members addressing members of the press appealing to the president to fast track the assenting of the IDP Bill

Influencing Policy and Practice

In line with the Programme's specific objective of advocating for a comprehensive legal framework on the protection of refugees and other forced migrants, the Programme engaged in the review of the Refugees Act, 2006 (in accordance with conforming all laws with the Constitution 2010) and lobbied for the development of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Bill, 2012 and National IDP Policy.

The Programme maintained contact with the Commission on the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) on the progress of the development of the Refugees Bill, 2012 and lobbied for amendments to the Bill in collaboration with partners of the Urban Refugee Protection Network (URPN). The forums with the CIC aimed to safeguard the provisions on refugee protection and management in the current Refugees Act, 2006. Key achievements include lobbying for provisions that expand the asylum space such as delinking refugee status from criminality and allowing refugees to seek asylum in Kenya whether or not they are seeking asylum in Kenya for the first time.

With regard to IDP protection, the Programme enhanced its efforts initiated in 2011 to develop the IDP Bill, 2012 as well as the draft National IDP Policy. It did this by engaging with various parliamentarians in a sensitization workshop including members of the Parliamentary Labour and Social Welfare Committee (LSWC) to which the Bill had been committed for review, members of the former Parliamentary Select Committee on the Resettlement of IDPs (PSC) and Hon. Ekwe Ethuro who was the mover of the Bill and the Chair of the PSC. The Programme also engaged with the representatives from the Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MoSSP) by lobbying them to endorse the Bill during the parliamentary debate. These efforts proved successful as the Bill was passed by Parliament on October 4, 2012 as the Protection, Prevention and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and Affected Communities Act 2012. The MoSSP was also committed to endorsing the Bill, proposing that the funding for its implementation be sourced from the Ministry.

The National IDP Policy was also approved by the Kenya Cabinet on October 25, 2012 and will be developed into a sessional paper for debate and approval by Parliament. On December 18, 2012, the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) issued a press statement calling for a strict encampment policy – requiring all refugees in urban areas to relocate to the camps and all agencies serving refugees to cease providing these services. RCK worked tirelessly since its issuance to continue to protect and promote the rights and welfare of refugees together with URPN members through *bilateral meetings with the DRA to better understand the implications of the Directive* and through the monitoring and documentation of rights and abuses and intervening where necessary.

Maintaining and Developing Protection Networks

The Programme continued to engage in and to expand its networks on the protection of forced migrants. The URPN in particular became the focal point for meetings related to strategizing advocacy interventions concerning the review of the Refugees Bill as well as the call for encampment. The URPN sub-group meetings such as the Legal and Advocacy sub-group also provided the forum to discuss key issues including the invocation of the Rwanda cessation clause , the DRA directive on refugee certificates and addressing the increased harassment of refugees in urban areas as a direct result of the relocation directive.

With regard to IDP protection, the Programme participated in several meetings related to the Protection Working Group on Internal Displacement (PWGID) and focused on lobbying for the development of the IDP Bill and its passage in Parliament. The collaboration of partners proved critical in resource mobilisation and in implementing a joint advocacy strategy.

Beyond networking at the national level, the Programme enhanced its engagement with networks at the regional and international levels to profile forced migration issues externally. This included engaging with the African Union (AU) on three issues: to review the draft AU Model Law for the domestication of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (commonly known as the Kampala Convention); to raise awareness among member states of the Conventions on Statelessness and to propose solutions to the problems of citizenship and statelessness beyond ethnicity, social exclusion and political sensitiveness; and to share the Programme's experiences in policy development on internal displacement.

RCK engaged with new actors and human rights mechanisms in 2012. New actors include the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership. The OIC held a conference in Turkmenistan on "Refugees in the Muslim world" where RCK presented the NGO Statement on behalf of the International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA). The EU-Africa Strategic Partnership invited RCK as an expert to make a presentation on alternative forms of protection for forced migrants at a technical meeting on "Access to international protection for Asylum seekers, Refugees and IDPs" in Barcelona, Spain.

RCK engaged with the UN Human Rights Committee (HRC) for the first time in June 2012, profiling forced migration issues in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) alternative stakeholders report at the 105th Session of the HRC. As a result of the issues profiled by RCK, the HRC specifically asked representatives of the Kenya Government to respond to the closure of the Liboi reception centre and the cessation of registration at the Dadaab refugee camps. These are advocacy issues that RCK will continue to lobby for, and profiling them at the international level will support RCK advocacy efforts through support from the international community in applying pressure on the Kenya Government to address these issues. In preparation for the next Universal Periodic Review of Kenya, the Programme participated in the drafting of the annual alternative stakeholders report which was published by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) in September, 2012.

Capacity Enhancement and Awareness Creation

The Programme convened and facilitated six training sessions in Eldoret, Mombasa, Meru, Machakos and Nairobi. The sessions targeted a total of 427 participants comprising officers from the judiciary, police service, children's department, probation, prisons service and civil society representatives.

The marked increase in participants compared to the 172 trained in 2011 can be attributed to collaboration with partners also undertaking training sessions such as the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association (KMJA) and the PWGID.

The training sessions provided an opportunity for the participants to engage with each other on refugee protection issues and among themselves and RCK. Enhanced partnerships improved efficiency and coordination not only on refugee-related issues but in general such as between the children's department and the prisons' department to prevent, for example, the detention of children, or between health practitioners and Court User Committee members to facilitate the provision of evidence for cases of gender-based violence. This year, the Programme also incorporated a monitoring and evaluation component to assess the impact of the training sessions. The results showed that at least half of all participants changed their minds concerning at least one prejudice relating to refugees, by the end of the workshop. The Programme intends to continue documenting behavioural change in future training sessions.

RCK conducted five community education forums in collaboration with the Jesuit Refugee Service in the following areas in Nairobi: Eastleigh, Kayole, Githurai, Dagoretti and Riruta to sensitise refugee communities on the Refugees Act 2006 and to answer to any legal questions that they had in mind. A total of 627 participants attended the community education forums, representing an increase of over 125percent of the targeted participants since 2011; this can be attributed to the diversity of new partnerships and awareness creation methods, including formalizing partnerships with the Moi and Kenyatta Universities to undertake lectures on refugee protection.

Key issues arising during the forums in which RCK took advocacy measures included access to education for refugee children – specifically regarding enrolment for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams and access to work permits. RCK developed a brochure and disseminated a total of 6,400 copies. The brochure clarified the procedures and requirements for applying for work permits for refugees in Kenya and accessing the KCSE for students with foreign certificates.

RCK published two significant studies in 2012: a protection study of Somali refugees in the Dadaab refugee camps entitled.

“Asylum under Threat: Assessing the protection of Somali refugees in Dadaab refugee camps and along the migration corridor” and a documentation of the policy development process of the Kenya IDP Policy entitled “Behind the Scenes: Lessons Learnt from Developing a National Policy Framework on Internal Displacement in Kenya”.

Success Story:

A highlight of the mission to Moyale was the successful intervention of the release of an asylum seeker (from Ethiopia) unlawfully detained at the Moyale police station. The asylum seeker had entered Kenya on September 20, 2012 and had surrendered himself to the Kenya Administration Police along the Moyale border entry point. The RCK delegation interviewed the asylum seeker and made an assessment that he was a person of concern needing protection. The asylum seeker was handed over to a DRA official in Isiolo for documentation and further assistance

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

As we approached the end of the year, a new directive was issued by the Judiciary requiring prior approval by the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) for all training of judicial officers that affected mobilisation and participation of judicial officers. This directive impeded RCK capacity enhancement activities with judicial officers but RCK still managed to train a few judicial officers using the JTI.

Direct engagement with key duty-bearers brought about more progress in allowing RCK to influence Government response. For instance, seeking audience with the Police Commissioner on abusive police operations in Dadaab resulted in commitment to conduct joint investigations on the matter and to holding police officers accountable for their actions.

Research, documentation and analysis have proved critical in advancing certain discourses on refugee protection and RCK intends to continue these activities in 2013. The studies mentioned have profiled RCK internationally and have helped to inform evidence-based interventions.

Continuous capacity enhancement and awareness creation are essential to the Programme and diversifying the course content and monitoring the impact of the training sessions will become increasingly relevant as RCK continues to mature as an educator on refugee protection.

The engagement of RCK with new actors and with alternative human rights mechanisms are instrumental in profiling issues of refugees and other forced migrants at the regional and international level because in so doing we identify alternative means of holding the Kenya Government to account for its responsibilities.

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: publicise knowledge on asylum seekers, refugee and IDP issues and strengthen support for RCK work, conduct research and share information on the situation in the refugees' country of origin on issues of displacement, peace and security. Specifically, it aims to inform decision-makers on asylum matters, on advocacy interventions as well as heighten awareness of refugee issues among the general public. The Programme was also largely involved with the Legal and Social Justice Programme in the setting up of a clients' database. To help develop the database, an intern was brought on board and over 1750 files were inputted into the system.

Publications and public relations activities

The RCK website provided access to information on refugees and other forced migrants and other displacement issues. It saw daily hits between 15 and 30 which translates to an average of 750 persons per month visiting the website. The hits were by visitors accessing information on RCK work and reports such as the "Asylum Under Threat". Current issues on forced migration were highlighted on social media as well, on RCK Facebook and Twitter. This emerging form of social media was instrumental in sharing information on current issues of our day to day work in forced migration. The RCK Facebook account has 300 members, with RCK staff members engaging in discussions with visitors to the page, while RCK Twitter account has 100 followers. Both social networking sites saw an increase of over 55 percent of persons engaging in discussions compared to the previous year. Information updated in the social sites was acquired from Irin news, ReliefWeb and UNHCR websites. During this period daily media highlights were shared among staff members and thus were updated on relevant news on refugee protection. Information was collected from various authoritative sources such as Kenyan local dailies (the Daily Nation and Standard) and various reliable online sources e.g Irin News, UNHCR website, International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and Alertnet.

The most prominent issues discussed in the year included: the plight of IDPs and refugees, the work of NGOs in the protection of refugees and the advocacy work of RCK in influencing various policies. RCK communication strategy is currently being used by RCK staff. The strategy embraces a broad range of instruments that ensure that opportunities available for a two-way communication, public participation and a feedback system from all of RCK publics are utilized.

The RCK newsletter, Refugee Insights, is a publication that highlights issues that were witnessed and captured in the course of addressing the plight of refugees. Issues numbers 20 and 21, with the themes 'Redefining protection' and 'Back to the basics' respectively were published during the year.

The newsletters focused on topics such as RCK work on protection, intervention and empowering refugee communities on their rights and responsibilities. During the same period bi-monthly e-bulletins were produced highlighting current matters on forced migration, current and planned RCK activities. Five e-bulletins were produced while only three were produced in the previous year. The bulletins were distributed out electronically to all RCK partners and refugees alike. The e-bulletin is a news communication that seeks to update partners and other stakeholders on current issues relating to the protection of refugees and other forced migrants.

Increasing awareness and promoting a consistent corporate image of RCK

International Women's Day

This day was commemorated on 8th March with refugee women from the Ethiopian and Somali communities in the Eastleigh area of Nairobi. In line with the theme, *"Empower Rural Women – End Hunger and Poverty"*, the women were sensitised on their rights and responsibilities as provided for by the Refugees Act, 2006 as well as on gender-based violence issues. As part of the celebrations, the women were given food items by RCK. The celebrations were attended by 80 women from both communities. This was a 60 percent decrease in the number of women who attended the celebrations. This decrease was due to the xenophobic attitudes that were witnessed during that period. Dadaab and Kakuma offices also took part in celebrating the day at their respective field offices.



Refugee in Kakuma Celebrating World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day (WRD) was commemorated on the 20th of June with the undertaking of four community forums at Kayole, Kasarani, Ruiru and Jamhuri. The forums created a platform to sensitize the communities on their rights. The forums were attended by over 400 people. This was an increase of 33 percent in attendance compared to the previous year. The theme for the commemoration was *"One person forced to flee is one too many"*. The celebrations brought together over 3,300 people. The Dadaab and Kakuma offices were not left out either as commemorations were also held in the camps together with other agencies. As a build-up activity towards WRD, RCK launched a protection study *"Asylum under Threat: Assessing the protection of Somali refugees in Dadaab refugee camps and along the migration corridor"*. The launch was highlighted by mainstream media (TV channels NTV, K24, Kass TV and GBS TV; newspapers *Standard*, *Nation* and *Sunday Express*; and radio stations Kiss fm, Classic fm, Radio Jambo, One fm, Q fm and X fm). Five RCK officers appeared in the media as part of WRD commemorations to highlight pertinent issues affecting refugees in Kenya including the provisions of the Refugees Act, 2006 and the refugee situation in Kenya. The number of officers who appeared in the media was an increase of 67 percent compared to the previous year. This increase was attributed to the good rapport that was created during 2012 between RCK and the media houses.

16 days of Activism against Gender-based Violence

In line with the global theme, *From peace in the Home to Peace in the "World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!"*, the International Women's Day (IWD) was commemorated through community forums in various refugee-hosting areas around Nairobi and its environs i.e. Ruiru, Kitengela Umoja and Ongata Rongai. The forums highlighted aspects of Gender-based Violence (GBV). Commemorations were also held at Kakuma and Dadaab offices. The women were provided with food items as part of celebrating the day. Women were encouraged to report incidences of GBV and were advised on mechanisms to follow should they encounter similar challenges in future. The same commemorations were also replicated in the camp offices together with other agencies. Although all RCK Programmes were involved in the preparations for the celebrations, the Information and Research Programme took the lead in organizing the forums.

Keeping a pulse on refugee rights through monitoring and reporting

As part of the Programme's specific objective, monitoring visit reports – meant to investigate refugee-related incidences in various refugee hosting towns in Kenya – as undertaken by the various Programmes were compiled and shared out with all staff members and partners. The main aim of the visits was to gather information on protection issues concerning refugees and asylum seekers and to develop relations with key Government and civil society officers in order to improve refugee protection.

The publication, *Asylum under Threat* assessed the varying motives of flight, the mixed reception of asylum seekers, the insecurity in Dadaab and the preferred durable solutions for refugees. Key findings of the report included: arbitrary implementation of the Refugees Act, 2006, the continued refusal by the Government of Kenya to officially re-open the borders which exposes new arrivals to protection violations, insecurity, violence and other protection concerns experienced by refugees in all of the Dadaab refugee camps and the increasing rhetoric to return refugees from Dadaab to Somalia as a result of the supposed “liberated” areas in Somalia. The report highly profiled RCK and generated much interest in the refugee situation in Kenya both nationally and internationally. *Asylum under Threat* has been relied on by partners in the refugee sector as an authoritative study that analyses the legal framework with regard to the current protection environment for refugees in Dadaab and along the migration corridor. It has been shared with the Refugee Council Archive of the Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging at the University of East London and has also been chosen as examination material for continuous assessment tests at Kenyatta University.

The second study, *Behind the Scenes* was formulated as a means of documenting best practices from the Kenyan experience for future policy development initiatives on internal displacement. Partners from the region will attend its launch scheduled for February 2013, including representatives from Rema Ministries in Burundi and the Refugee Law Project in Uganda. Key findings of the study will also be presented as part of a paper entitled “*Continuous Displacement: Politics and the Continuum of Displacement: A Case Study of Kenya's IDP Policy Development Process*” at the 13th Conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM), Calcutta, India in January, 2013.

Protection Monitoring

RCK produced two statements and three press releases, as part of our objective of monitoring the media, political processes and other developments on forced migration. The first statement reproved the Government's plan to relocate refugees to Somalia without due regard to the law and the second statement condemned the abusive police operations in Dadaab refugee camps following the spate of improvised explosive device (IED) attacks in May, 2012. As a follow up to the issuance of this directive, the Programme engaged the Police Commissioner over the documented human rights abuses and a joint investigation was conducted by the Police Department and RCK over the alleged abuses by the police stationed in Dadaab.

The Programme undertook five monitoring missions to various transit routes and border areas to assess the situation of mixed migration and to meet with local actors who interact with refugees and asylum seekers. The key areas in which protection monitoring was undertaken include the following regions: Coast (Mombasa, Malindi, Taveta), Western (Kitale, Bungoma, Malaba, Busia and Kakamega) and Eastern (Isiolo, Marsabit and Moyale).

Challenges encountered by refugees and asylum seekers formed the basis for the various programme activities and planning purposes. Quarterly reports were compiled and shared among staff and partners. This heightened awareness among staff and other stakeholders on forced migration issues in the Eastern African region. The reports were used to identify necessary and timely interventions that were adopted by the Advocacy Programme

Developing strategic partnerships with research and academic institutions

The RCK resource centre was continuously maintained and new resource information materials were acquired and catalogued. RCK established relationships with universities such as Nairobi and Daystar where students studying issues on forced migration can access the RCK resource centre. They represented two more partners compared to those of the previous year. Resource materials during this period were acquired from meetings and training sessions attended by RCK staff; other materials were shared by RCK partners

The most common materials acquired included those on the following thematic areas:

- ❖ The plight of refugees and IDPs in East Africa.
- ❖ Humanitarian plans.
- ❖ Gender handbook.
- ❖ Force migration review.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

The Programme experienced gaps in fundraising for research activities and in the protection of forced migrants which are key to informing RCK advocacy initiatives. The Programme plans to address this gap by engaging aggressively with stakeholders and the media to ensure that the Programme fulfils its goal of raising awareness and increase public understanding and that of policy makers on issues that relate to refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs. More engagements with the media, especially social media will facilitate in reaching out to the youth and targeted adults and in highlighting current issues in refugee and forced migrant's protection needs.

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 organisation'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 organisation's vision. This is in line with staff capacity enhancement aimed at increasing effectiveness and productivity among our staff members. It also ensures that its human resource is well trained, retained and its welfare taken care of.

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 provided opportunities for staff to participate in relevant activities, meetings and training sessions by RCK partnering with institutions and other stakeholders. Several events were organized to motivate and encourage the staff:-

- ❖ In-house training sessions were held on: customer care, trauma management in emergency situations and counselling.
- ❖ All Programme staff were trained in management skills including time management, supervisory skills, delegation and leadership.
- ❖ Two RCK staff participated in counsellors training
- ❖ RCK legal aid team attended training on resettlement procedures at Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and UNHCR.
- ❖ The legal aid team was trained on the use of a metal detector as part of RCK security measures by Brinks Security Company.
- ❖ A staff member was trained on monitoring and reporting mechanisms on child protection in emergencies and best practices on protection.
- ❖ RCK staff in Dadaab were trained on response to Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks and safety measures by United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- ❖ Three RCK staff attended Women in Leadership and Empowerment training in Uganda organized by *Akina Mama Wa Afrika* organisation.

- ❖ The psychosocial team attended a counsellor's conference, a training in play therapy and a meeting on Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2011.
- ❖ Three RCK staff were trained on the use of Sage Pastel accounting software by Gravity Solutions Limited.
- ❖ All Programme staff were trained by an monitoring and evaluation officer and a consultant on system analysis and design in developing an effective database system for managing data.
- ❖ Four staff attended various workshops and conferences on forced migration issues organised by Organisation for Islamic Corporation (IOC) in Turkmenistan, International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) in Geneva, Switzerland, and the European Union (EU) –Africa Strategic Partnership in Barcelona, Spain, International Association for the Study for Forced Migration (IASFM) in Calcutta India and International Detention Coalition (IDC) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Staff team building and debriefing activities

The RCK management appreciates the need to create a conducive working environment for the staff to increase productivity. Regular team building and debriefing activities continued to be organized to ensure that there are shared goals to which all team members are committed and synergy is enhanced. Towards this objective, the following activities were undertaken during the year:-

- ❖ A planning retreat with both RCK staff and board members, mainly to set goals on the basis of objectives and of available resources, resulting in an Annual Operation Plan 2012. The annual planning retreat was also an opportunity for the staff and board members to interact with one another.
- ❖ Four debriefing and team building sessions were organized as in the previous years by allowing the staff to discuss their day to day experiences in the field of refugee and IDP protection to help reduce any possibility of psychological harm.
- ❖ Regular individual debriefing and counselling sessions were also in place, as in the past, to keep check of staff coming from the field and dealing with victims who have undergone traumatic experiences.

Planning Monitoring and Evaluation

RCK allocates time for planning and monitoring to enable the organisation to define goals for the future and decide on tasks and resources to be used in order to attain those goals. In order to plan better, an M&E unit was set up to perform regular monitoring and evaluation of the Programmes' activities and their impacts.

A database was developed to ease storage, analysis and retrieval of client information. These visits were held to evaluate RCK activities among its beneficiaries.

As part of evaluating RCK Programmes' activities, six 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 have changed due to the assistance received. The refugees also mentioned the challenges that they faced and what led them to request assistance from RCK. In order to receive better assistance in future, they gave recommendations on how they would want RCK to assist them and what activities they need to be engaged in more frequently, like training in GBV matters and rights and responsibilities training. These monitoring and evaluation visits and sessions are meant to assist RCK to better provide services to its beneficiaries as well as plan its future activities.

RCK Funding Partners

The RCK activities for the year were funded by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Dutch Council for Refugees (DCR), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Refugees United (RU), The Sigrid Rausing Trust, American Friends Society Committee (AFSC), Global Fund for Women (GFW) and United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFT) and African Woman Development Fund (AWDF).

Year Ahead

The government directive issued at the end of the year on relocation of urban refugees to Dadaab and Kakuma camps, gave RCK a glimpse of what to expect in 2013, especially on its advocacy engagements with the Government and legal aid assistance to refugees. The coming year will see RCK continue with its efforts to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the legal framework for the protection of refugees and other forced migrants as envisaged in the Refugees and IDP Acts as well as the continued implementation of its other programmes.

RCK also intends to provide logistic support to its Programmes to ensure the efficient implementation of project activities in the coming year. At the same time, we also intend to design and institutionalize a systematic and continuous organizational development process that will see improved internal controls and increased work outputs. RCK will also strive to improve its institutional capacity in project design, planning, monitoring and evaluation.

With 2013 being an election year, RCK will also strengthen its ground capacity in peace monitoring and building in areas that were post-election violence hot spots in the years 2007/08 through constant evaluation and capacity building of various stakeholders in these areas. We look forward to a peaceful election and a fruitful follow-up in the coming year.

We also look forward to your continued support and partnership in the year ahead.

RCK Staff in 2012

Nairobi head office

Lucy Kiama	Samuel Agaziva	Dennis Likule
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Rufus Karanja	Hazel Kirangu	Peter Karera
Riva Jalipa	Patrick Njonjo	Henry Akello
Joseph Omolo	David Ngunga	Edmund Lang'at
Anne Gatai	Arthur Nyavuke	Fredrick Hanga
Peter Nyambu	Simon Lijoodi	Simon Konzolo
Zuleka Osman	Caroline Njeri	Catherine Njoroge

Dadaab sub office

Fredrick Koome	Daniel Wabomba	Abdimalik Keisane
Paul Nyaga	Chris Okudo	Sugow Salat
Dinah Makambi	Elizabeth Wangare	Issa Dirie
Norah Dulo	Eunice Njeri	Dahir Aralle
Millicent Oloo	Mary Nzisipa	Abdullahi Bundid
Jane Abudho	Aurelia Munene	

Kakuma sub office

Martin Pepela	Havana Gari	John Areman
Moses Kirui	Pauline Adipo	Delphine Ing'olol

Interns and Volunteers

Caroline Minayo
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Nathaniel Kanyi
Peace Kemuma
Tabitha Njuguna

Rose-Julia Wanjiru
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Umulkheir Mohamed
Nancy Wambui
Ahmed Issack
Joy Kaaria

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Staff engaging in a team building activity during a staff debriefing



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