

## SELF-RELIANCE EVIDENCE REVIEW (SRER)

# Building an evidence base for effective self-reliance programming with displacement-affected communities<sup>1</sup>

### Project Overview

November 2021

### Research Objectives

RefugePoint and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) are working together to conduct an assessment of recent, publicly available evidence of self-reliance programming for refugees. The resulting research briefs will provide a knowledge mapping of existing self-reliance research and evidence. The project will contribute to the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative's (RSRI) [Learning Agenda](#), which outlines core questions to be answered to create an evidence base for what works best to help refugees achieve self-reliance.

The aim of this project is to conduct a cross-analysis of existing evidence on refugee self-reliance in order to:

- Create a consolidated, easily-accessed mapping of existing knowledge and evidence around refugee self-reliance;
- Identify programme approaches and models that help foster self-reliance, which can further facilitate replication and scaling of effective practices;
- Identify outstanding gaps in evidence, which could be filled by data generated by the Self-Reliance Index and other measurement and research initiatives.

### Project Timeline

The project spans from January to December 2021 with research conducted from January – September 2021 and dissemination of results and findings from September -December 2021.

### Research Outputs

The main outputs of this project are a 'living' resource library of over 160+ resources on refugee self-reliance that will be made publicly available – including a detailed mapping of the contents of these resources, as well as a series of seven thematic evidence briefs (as described below).

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<sup>1</sup> Refugees are the primary focus of this research brief. Evidence on other displaced populations (IDPs, asylum seekers, etc.) will be considered insofar as they shed a light on self-reliance and displacement issues that can apply to refugee populations (comparative studies).

## **Evidence Brief 1: Defining Self-Reliance**

In this brief, we present our findings about the definition of refugee self-reliance: How is the concept defined, understood, and used by various stakeholders? What variance exists in the definition, and why does it matter?

## **Evidence Brief 2: Financing Self-Reliance**

In this brief, we present our findings about available funding streams for self-reliance programming for refugees and the related discussion of its value-for-money compared to traditional humanitarian programming: What is the cost of self-reliance programming? Does it have better value for money than traditional programming for refugees? How do we finance self-reliance programming?

## **Evidence Brief 3: Measuring Self-Reliance**

In this brief, we present our findings on the measurement of refugee self-reliance: How is self-reliance currently measured? What measurement tools and frameworks exist? How can measurement be improved?

## **Evidence Brief 4: Programming Self-Reliance Components & Approaches**

In this evidence brief, we present our findings on program models for refugee self-reliance: What types of programs exist to support self-reliance? What works best to facilitate self-reliance for refugees? What evidence is there both around successes and failures?

## **Evidence Brief 5: Programming Self-Reliance Contexts & Populations**

In this brief, we present our findings on programming refugee self-reliance in different contexts and for different populations: What does self-reliance look like in various settings? What does self-reliance look like for various target groups? What does that change in terms of best practices for program models and program components?

## **Evidence Brief 6: Achieving Self-Reliance**

In this brief, we present our findings on outcomes and results of refugee self-reliance: What does success look like? What are the theories of change?

## **Evidence Brief 7: Research Gaps**

In this brief, we present our findings on existing evidence and research gaps around refugee self-reliance: What do we know? What do we not know? How can we learn more?

## **Methodology & Bibliography**

In this brief, we present the methodology for this evidence review and discuss its limitations. The methodology covers the initial research questions and objectives for the project, the methods used for sourcing documents and the scope of the review, the methods used to map, code, and analyze the documents and build the afferent database.

## Contacts

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## Partner organisations

**RefugePoint** advances lasting solutions for at-risk refugees and supports the humanitarian community to do the same. RefugePoint was founded in 2005 to identify refugees who fall through the cracks of humanitarian aid. Initially providing life-saving care to HIV+ refugees in Nairobi, Kenya, over time, RefugePoint developed a unique, full-service response model for assisting urban refugees and facilitating their self-reliance. RefugePoint co-launched and co-leads the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative.

**The Danish Refugee Council (DRC)** assists refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 40 countries across the globe. DRC was founded in Denmark in 1956 and has since grown to become an international humanitarian organisation with 9,000 employees and 7,500 volunteers. We work in conflict-affected areas, along the displacement routes, and in the countries where refugees settle. The range of our work is everything from relief work to strengthen the opportunity for a brighter future for refugees and IDPs.