

SAME SKIES



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Same Skies Switzerland
Same Skies Australia Inc

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Of all the hardships a person had to face, none was more punishing than the simple act of waiting”.

K. Hosseini



Looking back at 2016, I have been thinking about the many ways Same Skies has changed the lives of people. The most obvious answer is that our projects in Indonesia have increased access to education for hundreds of refugee children and adults.

Listening to the refugee volunteers, I know that our work has had a much deeper impact on their own lives though. By believing in their capacities, we have helped them to regain their hope and aspirations, and to take action to better their lives.

Through meaningful engagement they have rebuilt their self-confidence, pride and prestige. They have formed new friendships and reestablished their trust in other people. They have learnt how to support one another and they have regained their sense of community. Having been uprooted from their known social networks and having to navigate an unfamiliar environment, social cohesion is crucial for displaced communities. Thus, it has been a delight for us to see how much more self-reliant the communities we have supported have become.

Having been asked what she liked best about Same Skies, one of our members said: "Witnessing the materialisation of communities who work together, and move from a position of helplessness to one of strength and common purpose and determination".

Conversely, social change often challenges existing power structures, which can lead to conflict and resistance. Taking risks is part of innovation; hence, not everything we tried happened according to plan. We had to be flexible and creative in our approaches, and the most important lesson we had to learn was not viewing failure as a negative thing, but rather as an opportunity to learn and grow. Mistakes have helped us to inform our future planning and decision-making, creating a stronger, more flexible, and experienced organisation.

We are committed to continuous analysis and monitoring of the context, mitigation of risks and evaluation of our impact. We will continue our efforts of discovering and developing better ways of working with refugees to illuminate the vast potential that lies within their communities.

It is my honour to present to you our Annual Report 2016, hoping that it will give you a peek behind the scenes into refugee-led innovation.

Thank you to all our generous supporters for making our work possible!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Frei'.

Julia Frei - Executive Director

A TRUE STORY



IMAGINE YOU ARE JUST A CHILD.

A member of a long-persecuted ethnic minority. Your people are frequently subjected to harassment and abuse, bombings and targeted killings. Your mother was a victim of one of these acts of hate.

Your father, grief-stricken, but determined to protect you and your older sister, arranges your escape. You know nothing of how this was done, or what it has cost, but you remember the late night flight through deserted streets, and the fear in your father's eyes.

Months later - after endless travel, small dirty rooms, hurried meals, hiding from police, languages you can't understand, a voyage by boat, being terrified because you can't swim, closing your eyes tightly and recalling your mother's laughter, you finally arrive in Indonesia, where your father knows other "refugees", a word that you don't understand.

Your father is frequently away, and your sister explains to you that he is going to register with UNHCR, and that hopefully you will soon have a safe place to live.

No one has anything to do, and everyone is sleeping long into the morning. You don't often see fear in your father's eyes anymore, but you see weariness and pain, and sometimes that scares you even more. You know that he is spending all his money, and that it will run out. You miss your mother; you can't even remember her laughter, and sometimes you cry. You want to go to school. Desperately. To be with other children, learning. Your sister is depressed that her high school education has ceased. She had wanted to be a doctor.

Months later - there is an intangible and fragile optimism in the house. Your father has brought a group of strangers home. They are all talking excitedly, and then after a meal together, they are still planning something important as you fall asleep.

A month later - you will be going to school! You are so excited that you can't keep still for even a second. Your sister is even more excited, for she is going to be a teacher at your new school! Your father is part of the committee, a group that was formed after a workshop with people from somewhere else, and the team has found a suitable house to become the new school. Your friends from up the street will be there too! For the first time since your mother was still alive, you feel joy.

PROJECT STATUS

Refugee Learning CENTER



29 Refugee Volunteers provide:

- Regular education for 115 refugee children in 6 different levels
- 3 levels English language classes for 80 children
- 5 levels English language classes for 85 adults
- Soccer training.

www.refugeelearningcenter.com

Refugee Learning NEST



23 Refugee Volunteers provide:

- Regular education for refugee children in 5 different levels
- 3 levels English classes for adults
- 1 Indonesian language class for adults
- 2 online classes
- Soccer training

www.refugeelearningnest.com

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

THE TRUST

"We have built trust and harmony in the community".

"We gained the support of the community members."

THE COLLABORATION

"I enjoyed the collaboration between the community centres".

"We are bringing people together & we gain a sense of belonging in return".

THE TEACHING

"We improved our classes. I'm a teacher for adults because it gets me away from frustration. I am busy fulltime. And now we have more students from other nationalities".

“ Establishing Refugee Learning Center was a major success in itself. ”

THE IMPACT

"One of our families was resettled to the USA and one night the father called me. He was crying because his daughter had been elected as the star of the month in her new school. He told me that the teachers asked her where she had been before and she shared all her experiences from her stay in Indonesia and how we built a successful community-based school. All the teachers were surprised and gave her lots of gifts. Now the father is busy building an Afghani community in the USA and he said he learnt all these things from Refugee Learning Center".

THE SOCIAL PART

"We had a casual get together with all the volunteers. We played truth and dare, cards and a board game. We were chatting and laughing and the whole environment was very enjoyable."

THE FIRSTS

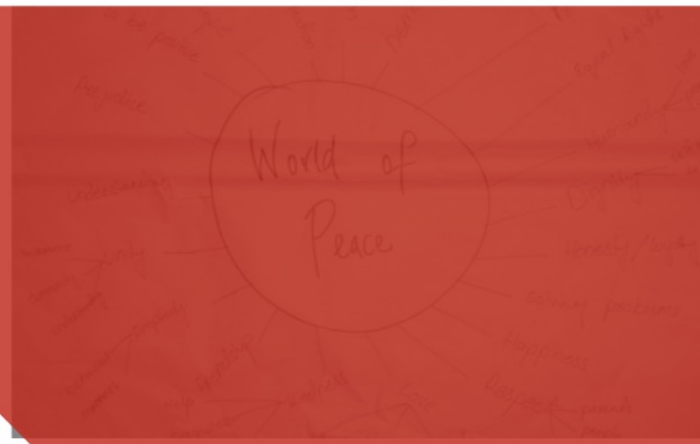
"I will never forget the first day in the new building".

"Launching our first fundraising campaign and reaching our goal was a great success".

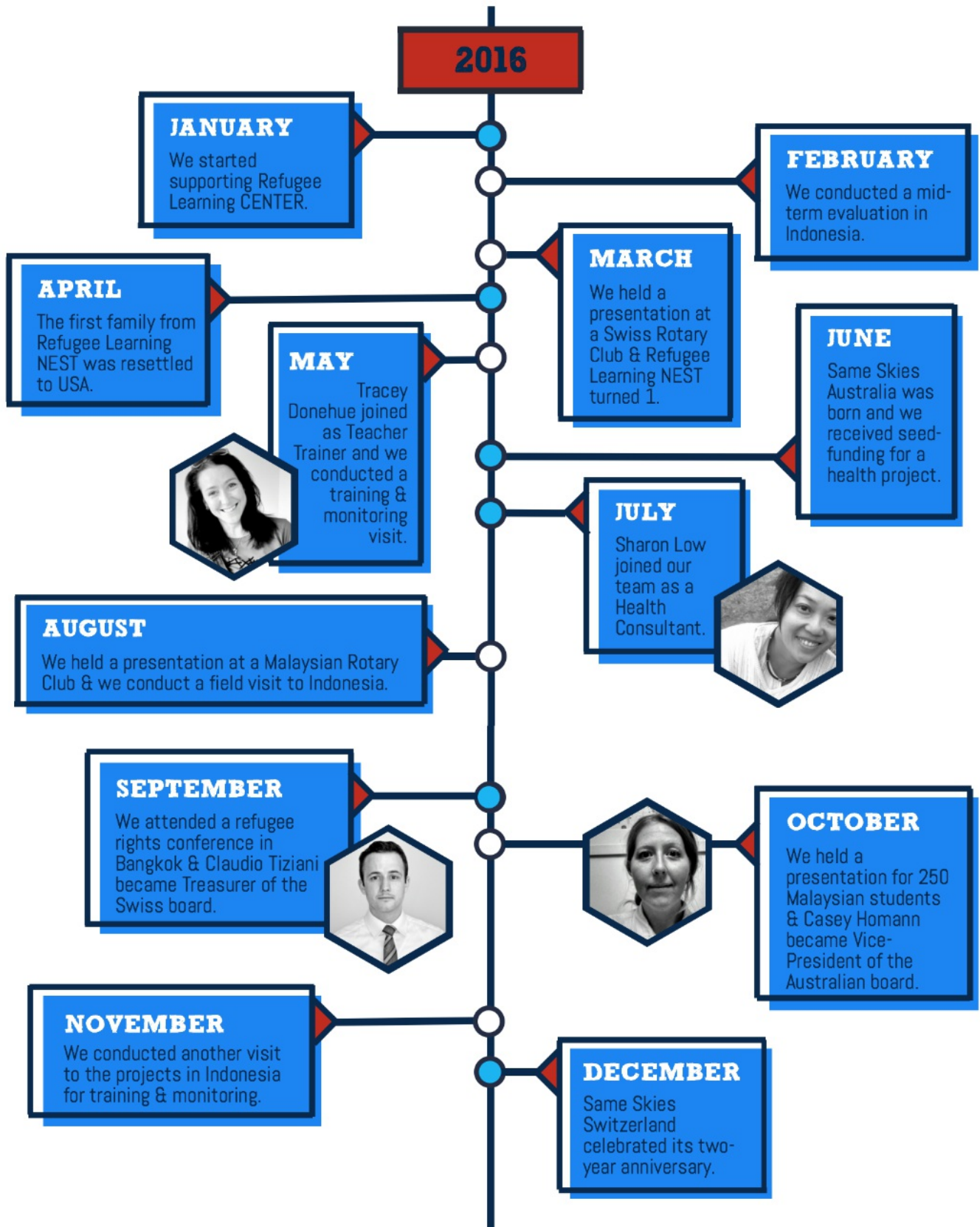
"I felt very proud on the day we presented the results of the first exams".

THE WORKSHOPS

"I enjoyed the workshops held by Same Skies. Everyone gathered in a friendly manner for the group works and we shared our opinions. 'Teamwork & Creating A Good Atmosphere' was very special to me".



2016 MILESTONES



2017 GOALS

After a couple of years developing, testing and refining our approach of refugee protection, the emphasis in the coming years will be on pitching our innovation to a network of diverse international supporters and partners to expand our capacity, and hence our social impact.



Fundraising

In order to be able to create a wider and broader social impact we will place more focus on events for donor acquisition and retention, as well as proposals to foundations,



Communications

To support donor acquisition and retention, and to raise the public profile of the organisation we will improve our external communications, social media and online presence.



Governance

Furthermore, we will restructure our local governing boards and develop an international umbrella to guarantee objective governance and strategic decision-making.



Replication

We are planning to expand our social reach to Malaysia, where we would like to start two projects in 2017. This will allow us to refine our approach in a new context and strengthen our regional presence.



Creating Funds

In order not to depend on external funds in the long run, we will start developing a leadership programme that can help us to disseminate our approach of refugee protection and create an independent revenue stream at the same time.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The statement below reflects all income and expenditures of Same Skies Switzerland & Same Skies Australia Inc. from 1 January until 31 December 2016.

In addition to unrestricted money received from private donors, we received a seed-funding grant from the Pollination Project for a health project.

The funds have allowed us to support Refugee Learning NEST and Refugee Learning CENTER with set-up costs (furniture, educational resources, initial rental payments etc.), as well as with training and coaching throughout the entire year. We have not paid salaries to anyone involved; all activities have been made possible through the generous commitment of international volunteers. We have reimbursed Same Skies volunteers who conducted training and monitoring visits for costs associated with travel and accommodation.

In line with our annual plan, the refugee teams in the two centres have managed to build their fundraising capacity and have started to raise their own money for ongoing costs (which is not included in this statement). As of the end of 2016, these projects are now financially independent from Same Skies, and the community centres will be fully handed over to the teams by March 2017.

Income & Expenditure Statement

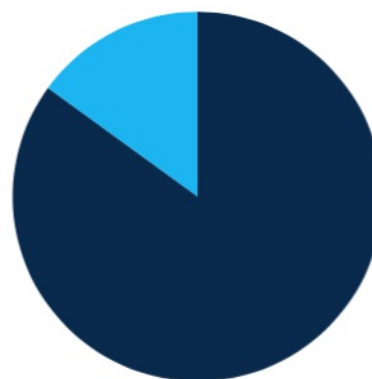
Income (in CHF)	2016	2015
Private Donations	9,238	7,086
Events & Others	1,960	1,665
Grants	966	0
TOTAL INCOME	12,164	8,751

Expenditures (in CHF)	2016	2015
<u>Community Centre Contributions</u>		
Set-up Costs	2,092	3,249
Rent & Ongoing Costs	3,169	3,176
Shipping In-kind Donations	111	12
<u>Capacity-Building Activities</u>		
Workshops	607	262
Transportation	1,777	81
Visa	0	36
Accommodation	1,172	110
<u>Administration</u>		
Communications & Visibility	915	182
Bank & Other Fees	407	174
Accounting & Legal	303	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	10,553	7,282

SURPLUS 1,611 1,469



■ Private Donations (76%) ■ Events (16%) ■ Grants (8%)



■ Direct Costs (85%) ■ Indirect Costs (15%)

Charles Sarasin
Auditor
Winterthur - Switzerland

Audit Report Same Skies 2016

As auditor, I have audited the financial statements of Same Skies, which comprise the balance sheet, income & expenses statement and the underlying transaction details and documents for the period of January 1st – December 31st, 2016.

Management's Responsibility

The management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Swiss laws and the association's statutes. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system ensuring financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The management is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

The auditor's responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on the audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with Swiss laws and auditing standards. The standards require that the auditor plans and performs the audit in order to obtain reasonable assurance 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 risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control system relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control system. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statement for the period of January 1st – December 31st, 2016 complies with relevant laws and the association's statutes. I recommend the financial statements for 2016 to be approved.



Charles Sarasin
Auditor
January 21st, 2017

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to our projects in 2016.

First and foremost, thank you to the refugee volunteers in our community centres, as well as to our internal Same Skies volunteers. You have invested countless hours, and without your dedication and your commitment none of this would have been possible. We are grateful for the time, skills and expertise that you have contributed.

Secondly, thank you to all the local and international stakeholders who support us and coordinate their efforts with us. We acknowledge and value your knowledge, your collaboration and your friendship.

And last but not least, thank you to all of our private and institutional donors. We could not do our work without your generosity and your ongoing support. We greatly appreciate your continued interest in our work.

THANK YOU!



Asia Pacific
Refugee Rights
Network



www.sameskies.org

GET IN TOUCH

connect@sameskies.org

FOLLOW US

www.facebook.com/sameskies.org

www.twitter.com/same_skies

DONATE

Australia: Westpac

BSB: 033608

Account Number: 218623

Switzerland: PostFinance

Account Number: 89-506036-1

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