

Annual report 2018





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Foreword from the board

As the global refugee crisis in the last few years – perpetuated by wars, violent conflicts, and natural disasters – continues to cause millions to be uprooted from their homes, countries continue to shut their doors to the forcibly displaced.

In Indonesia, where according to the data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) approximately 14,000 refugees and asylum seekers¹ reside, resettlement spots have become increasingly rare.² There has been a decrease in the number of resettlements from Indonesia – from 763 in 2017 to 509 in 2018.³ In response, UNHCR has been informing refugees in Indonesia that they may never be resettled, and should prepare themselves for integration in the local community.

On the other hand, due to Indonesia's status as a non-signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocols, coupled with its status as a developing country with the fourth largest population in the world, there is no systematic government assistance or aid provided for refugees. There is no access to livelihood and employment, while access to healthcare and education is extremely limited. Language barriers and the socioeconomic situation of the locals have also furthered misunderstandings, prejudice, and discrimination.

It has thus become more essential now than ever to consider novel approaches to address the situation at hand. Bridges need to be built, differences must be overcome, new strategies must be sought. Humanitarian responses that focus on top-down approaches with little to no involvement of the beneficiaries in decision-making processes are not only ineffective in responding to the specific needs of the community, they are also costlier and less sustainable.

Same Skies' focus on capacity-strengthening enables refugees and asylum-seekers to take initiative, act independently, and maximise local resources. It provides refugee communities a safe space to explore their talents and lived experiences, while also assisting them to overcome and cope with difficult situations. As an Indonesian, I believe that we need to do more in assisting the refugee community "settle" seamlessly and organically, albeit informally, into the Indonesian community. With Same Skies' move to expand its programmes in Indonesia, this will hopefully transpire in the near future.



Shaffira D. Gayatri

Co-founder & Treasurer | Same Skies Indonesia

¹ For simplicity of reading we will hereafter refer to "refugees" only. Nonetheless, we do not exclude people who have been displaced by war and conflict from our projects due to their legal status.

² UNHCR Indonesia: <https://www.unhcr.org/id/en> [accessed 28/03/2019].

³ UNHCR Resettlement Data Finder: <https://rsq.unhcr.org/en/#b4Mt> [accessed 28/03/2019].

The year 2018

Reflections on last year's goals & progress

Goal 1: Board engagement programme

Recap and lessons learnt sessions led to the clear articulation of the Same Skies work approach in the Refugee-Led Action brochure.

Review and articulation of our strategy and values helped to develop our Strategic plan 2019-2022.

Goal 2: Local capacity-strengthening

A Malaysian Country Coordinator and three local trainers were hired in an attempt to strengthen the Malaysian branch. Unfortunately staff retention was unsuccessful due to varying reasons. The recruitment procedure will have to be improved and suitable replacements will have to be recruited in the new year.

The Malaysian board has been strengthened through replacement of inactive members and more frequent interaction.

Goal 3: Dissemination of approach

Transformative Leadership in Action was successfully piloted in Malaysia, resulting in the Refugee Network Center Kuala Lumpur (see pages 8 & 9).

Support of the Refugee Collaboration Network Kuala Lumpur is underway. 20 days of training and mentoring have been provided to the groups (see page 7).

30 days of training and mentoring have been provided to the Rohingya Women Empowerment Project Ipoh (see pages 12-14).

After three more visits to Johor Bahru and several online sessions, the Refugee Empowerment Project has been put on hold, after the main leader moved to Penang. The feasibility of the project will be reassessed in the new year.

21 days have been spent in Indonesia with our partner organisations, Refugee Learning Center and Refugee Learning Nest (see pages 4-5). A total of 43 online mentoring sessions have been provided to the teams.

167 meetings have been conducted online.

Goal 4: Expansion of budget

We raised nearly CHF 18,000 through our new leadership programme, Transformative Leadership in Action, and were granted two institutional grants totalling nearly CHF 16'000.



Milestones

January	<p>Same Skies organised a UNHCR presentation for Malaysian students at KYS Business School.</p> <p>Interviews with applicants for Transformative Leadership in Action commenced.</p>
February	<p>Same Skies launched a crowdfunding campaign.</p>
March	<p>Malaysian Country Coordinator, Amanda, commenced work with Same Skies.</p> <p>International Director, Julia, provided a remote lecture for students at the Centre for Education & Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH) in Geneva.</p>
April	<p>Jamie completed a volunteer assignment as Curriculum & Resource Developer with Same Skies Malaysia.</p>
May	<p>The Refugee Collaboration Network launched its first crowdfunding campaign (which failed).</p>
June	<p>Transformative Leadership in Action started.</p> <p>The Refugee Collaboration Network performed at the Refugee Fest in Kuala Lumpur.</p>
July	<p>The residential session of Transformative Leadership in Action took place in Malaysia.</p>
August	<p>Same Skies Malaysia organised a refugee consultation workshop for CERAH in Kuala Lumpur.</p>
September	<p>Malaysian trainer, Fifi, commenced work with Same Skies.</p>
October	<p>Amanda participated in the Asia-Pacific Refugee Rights Summit in Bangkok.</p>
November	<p>Jamie joined the team in Malaysia for four months as Programme Developer & Coordinator.</p> <p>Sarah & Giulia completed volunteer assignments with Same Skies in Malaysia.</p> <p>Australian board members, Bronwyn & Gerry, held a presentation about Same Skies at the International Conference on Human Rights Education in Sydney.</p> <p>Same Skies launched another crowdfunding campaign.</p>
December	<p>Same Skies Switzerland held a fundraising presentation in Winterthur.</p> <p>The team drafted the Strategic plan 2019-2022.</p>

Report from the Refugee Learning Center team

Since the establishment of Refugee Learning Center back in 2015, our team has done some extraordinary work for the refugees living here.

We started with nothing and within three years we managed to build this wonderful organisation which is providing education to more than 300 refugees with the help of 34 talented volunteers. Our most successful ongoing activities are:

- providing education for children who otherwise would remain illiterate;
- providing education for adults who haven't had the opportunity to study in their homelands; and
- helping our volunteers improve their knowledge and acquire new experiences.

Contributing factors are the willingness and perseverance of the students to achieve knowledge, the support we receive from our partners and the refugee community in general, and the alacrity of our team to do their best for the community.

We are very proud of reaching our fundraising goal of \$6400. With the help of this amount, we were able to pay for our rent, buy new books for all our students, pay for the transportation expense of our volunteers and so much more.

Besides this, something that stood out most for us was the resettlement of some of our students. This was a worthy event in our centre history. Because as soon as these students were enrolled in public schools in the third country, their teachers were impressed with their knowledge and English skills. The parents called us to let us know about this and how the work that we are doing has changed the lives of their children.

It is easy to get caught up with everything happening at Refugee Learning Center every day, both good and bad, that we can sometimes forget about the impact that we have on our students. We literally have the power to change the course of their lives which is both terrifying and amazing at the same time. This is a huge responsibility that can be overwhelming but completely worth it at the end of the day.

During the past few years some of our greatest challenges have been how to provide education and which curriculum to follow for the students. We also wanted to design a system of rules and regulations for all volunteers to follow in order to create a fair and professional environment. Therefore, to be able to complete these tasks, we sat together and discussed for many hours. Communicating our differences can be a real challenge but with the help of honesty and trust in our group, we managed to overcome all hardships.

Our plan for the New Year is for all members and students to respect the rules. Because we need them to improve our learning centre. And to achieve this goal, we must start with ourselves.

Next we want to find a way to not be dependent on online fundraising every six months. We must try to find a way to fund our learning centre that is more sustainable.

You can visit our social media links such as Facebook, Instagram and our website to find out more about our story and mission. You can also make a direct donation through our website. We rely on the generosity of our amazing friends to run this centre so every donation no matter how big or small would be a great help to us. We would also welcome anyone who is willing to volunteer with us. You can send us an email at refugeelearningcenter@gmail.com if you are interested.

www.refugeelearningcenter.com

 www.facebook.com/RefugeeLearningCenter

 www.instagram.com/refugeelearningcenter

 refugeelearningcenter@gmail.com

Interview with Refugee Learning Nest

What are your most successful ongoing activities/services, and what makes them successful?

1. e-Learning
2. Sport trainings (futsal and boxing)
3. Establishment of the Refugee Learning Nest creative thinkers' club
4. Accurate curriculum set out for the entire learning centre
5. Having individual mentors for every teacher
6. Building an additional classroom for more students to engage
7. Having a native Bahasa teacher
8. Having close relationship with Bogor International School

What were your most important events in the previous year?

One of the important events was teacher's day, which was very surprising and joyful for teachers and students. Students involved themselves to organise this event, which was a good experience for the students to get the knowledge of organising different events. This event appreciated the teachers to get courageous towards teaching students.

What are your plans for the coming year?

In the next year we want to provide online classes for the students because it's very helpful for the students to get to know how to use technology. Also different trainings for medical first aid and earthquake evacuation for students and teachers. On the other hand working on the qualities of curriculum to select a specific one.

Hiring more volunteers with commitment that will help this school to achieve the goal to teach the refugee children.

In the end of the year we want the students to be able to communicate in English, and also be able to get enrolled in some high schools/colleges.



How can people support you?

We don't have any specific (main) donor so we publish our fundraising campaign every six months. The campaigns guarantee Refugee Learning Nest sustainability so please support them.

Please like and follow our pages in social media and check our website for more updates.

Our PayPal account has been linked to the website for any financial donations.

www.refugeelearningnest.com



www.facebook.com/refugeelearningnest



www.twitter.com/RefugeeLN



www.instagram.com/refugeelearningnest



KEDAI EMAS
ZENI gold

ZENI GOLD

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Refugee Collaboration Network

Same Skies has been supporting refugee groups in Kuala Lumpur through the Refugee Collaboration Network since August 2017. Two of these groups share their stories:

Yemeni Refugee Union⁴

Our group is made up of Yemeni refugees living in Malaysia and aiming to improve the livelihood of the refugees and upgrade their education, health, and create job opportunities, as well as solving their problems in accordance with UNHCR. We aim to overcome the challenges that face Yemeni refugees in Malaysia. Our centre offers a number of classes and courses to educate both children and adults. We also try to provide access to medical care by making connections with UNHCR. What we have and what we are striving for now is to get a better healthcare system and proper classes that at least meet the standards of A or O Levels.

Unfortunately, to be a refugee in Malaysia means to not be able to work legally, enrol in a university or school, or receive proper health care. In other words, we live to stay alive and just make it through. Therefore, our main big challenge lies upon having in the centre courses that can train both educated and uneducated refugees to be able to gain experiences and improve their skills in different areas of Business, Teaching, Management, IT, and Languages.

We need volunteers who can conduct these courses especially for the languages English and Malay (Bahasa Melayu) because one of the biggest obstacles of getting a job is the lack of English and local languages. Thus, we need volunteers to conduct these courses. Last but not least, we need to make in the centre a health care unit, whereby refugees who can't bear the medical treatment bills of public and private hospitals and clinics would have the ability to be in a good health; we need any bit of health care either from an individual help or an organisation.

 yemenrefugees@gmail.com

⁴ Text written by the refugee team.

⁵ Text written by the refugee team.

FGCCI Community Centre Serdang⁵

We are a community of Pakistani refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia, seeking protection for our lives. During the long period of our applications being processed by UNHCR, we struggle hard for our survival. As refugees and asylum seekers, we do not have access to basic rights like work and study.

We have been working for the welfare of refugee kids by providing them education since 2015. In this crucial situation, it's super challenging for our kids to study. Our centre is facing the problem of less qualified teachers due to lack of money to give salaries to them. Along with this, many of the kids are not even able to attend the school because of the transportation issue. The cost of transport is hard for them to pay. Moreover a big challenge for us is to pay the rental of our place.


Despite all of these obstacles, we try our best to provide a good environment for these kids to study. Sports, debates and many other activities are held within our centre. We also try our best to approach donors to support us in providing food assistance to our community members. Community meetings are held to help people get all information regarding process of UNHCR. We also provide assistance in cases of police harassment. In our current situation, we are in great need of funds to provide salaries to teachers, transport to students and the rent of our place.

Your support will help the refugee kids to pursue their education, with the help of qualified teachers. The money will also be used to do maintenance of the centre. Your one step forward will help many refugees. Donate and become a helping hand.

www.refugeelearningcenter.com

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Transformative Leadership in Action

After months of preparation and anticipation, the pilot of our professional development programme Transformative Leadership in Action kicked off in June 2018.

We were able to recruit a highly diverse team of eleven participants from ten different countries. They brought a variety of professional experiences with them, ranging from NGO work to academia to running their own social enterprise.

During the two-week residential session in Malaysia, they came together to get to know each other and prepare for their practical assignment as a team. We were all warmly welcomed by our partner KYS Business School, which had kindly allowed us to use their campus for workshops, preparations and team building activities. The participants and KYS students met on several occasions to exchange cultural and professional experiences, for example in a session on refugee assistance and protection, co-hosted by UNHCR Malaysia. Samira and Anis, two of our refugee participants, bravely shared their experiences of coming to and living in Malaysia as refugees, which was complemented by two representatives from UNHCR who shared details and statistics on the context. The Malaysian KYS students were very engaged in the session, some leaving with a new perspective on the topic.

Next, the programme participants visited five refugee-led organisations in Kuala Lumpur to conduct community consultations. They invited refugees to share their challenges, strengths and expectations, and left with a wealth of information. The second week was focused on designing a project that could address these needs, utilising the skills and capacities within the communities. The team decided to focus on livelihoods, which had been found to be one of the greatest challenges for refugees in the area. They initiated the planning of a centre – Refugee Network Centre – where refugees would be able to provide and attend Malay and English language classes, vocational workshops to broaden or deepen their skills, and network with successful professionals both from refugee and local communities.

After returning home, participants spent the following months focused on individual and team progress. The participants individually completed online study in topics related to leadership, sustainable project management

and humanitarian approaches and principles, and attended sessions delivered by professionals with extensive experience in these areas. They also participated in individual video conferencing sessions with their leadership coaches to reflect on their experience in the programme, and how they were able to apply it to their professional contexts. They continued to work together remotely on the design and planning of their project, which included their first crowdfunding campaign in December 2018 to secure enough resources to fund the centre's operation for six months.

In November, two refugees were added to the core team in Kuala Lumpur to help manage the centre and the activities provided. The programme came to an end with an assessment of the capacities of this core team, the results of which will be used to define the priorities of the follow up support that Same Skies will provide to the team for another year. We look forward to continuing our work with them.



www.facebook.com/RNCMalaysia

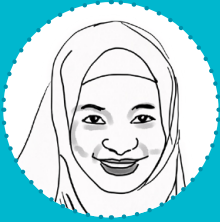


refugeenc@gmail.com



www.instagram.com/refugeenetworkcenter

What programme participants have to say



Amaliah Begum

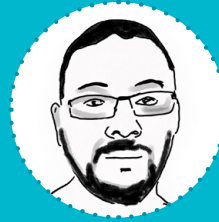
"I was more than blessed to be able to join the very first Transformative Leadership in Action programme from Same Skies! It felt so special since the very beginning. When a UNHCR Indonesia friend informed me about the programme, I just immediately decided to find out more.

Early 2018, I was very eager to learn more in order to support the social business causes I have been working on, including about leadership aspects – yet in a way as practical as possible.

I realised that Same Skies has also supported a centre in Indonesia and this excited me even more. I believed that I could learn much by enrolling in the programme.

The more I corresponded with the team, the more I felt that I definitely should participate. The Same Skies team had been supportive and open both regarding my professional and personal concerns. Within around two weeks, I flew to Malaysia for the residential session and there I was.

I have rediscovered myself through this 7-month programme and this is indeed an invaluable lesson that I will carry on. Thank you very much for such a great initiative, Same Skies. I am looking forward to having "more synergy and collaboration in the future, particularly with the upcoming projects in Indonesia".



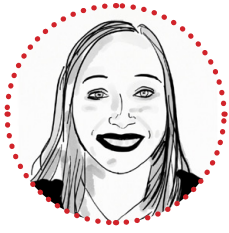
Omar Youcef

"In this programme I learned a lot about leadership and management skills; how to develop a project, execute it, monitor it and evaluate it. I also learned about communications skills, budgeting and funding. But the best part of it was the learning by doing approach, it proved true the belief that there is nothing we can't learn if we do it.

On top of that, we worked in a multi-national team that is rich in culture, knowledge and experience. Moreover, the picture of us, facing the challenges together, solving the problems and challenging each other was really crucial for the success of our project.

Finally, I have to admit that this program has levelled up my existing skills and knowledge in leadership and project management".

The team



Julia Frei

Founder & International Director



Tracey Donehue

Teacher Trainer & Mentor



Jamie Assendorp

Programme Developer
Coordinator



Sharon Low

Health Consultant



Linde Lamboo

Leadership Programme
Coordinator



Anne Seach

Teacher Trainer & Mentor



Sarah Namondo Luma

Public Relations Officer



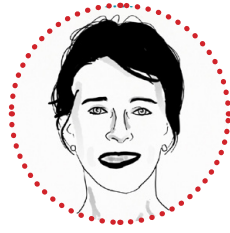
Claudio Tiziani

Treasurer (CH)



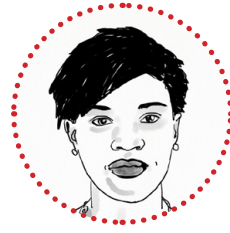
Annina Hunziker

Project Coordinator



Shirley Briggs

Teacher Mentor



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Artisanal Business Coach



Amanda Fernandez

Malaysian Country Coordinator



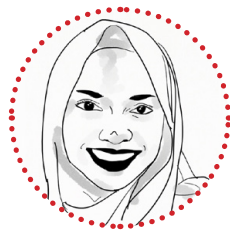
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Artisanal Business Coach



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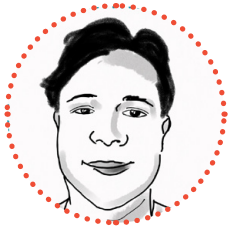
Graphic Designer



Monika Frei

Founder & Secretary (CH)

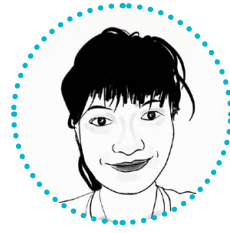
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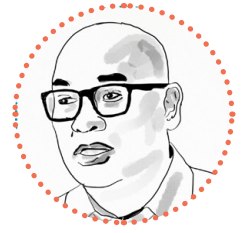
Abbas Hussaini
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Tom Brown
President (IDN)



Janne Siregar
Founder (IDN)



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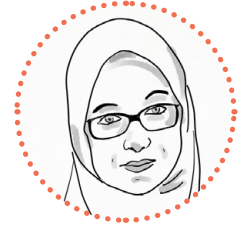
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Casey Homann
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Dhany Soehatomo
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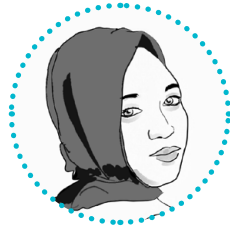
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Secretary (AU)



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Danial Bin Ali Bakri
Vice-President (MY)



Tan Zheng Wei
Committee Member (MY)



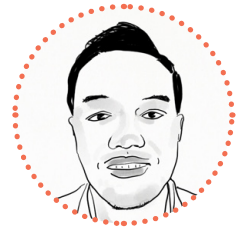
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Supervisor (IDN)



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Noremy Bin Samat
Committee Member (MY)



The Rohingya Women Empowerment Project

This project initially started in October 2017 as a six-month implementing partnership between Same Skies and UNHCR Malaysia. The project was part of UNHCR's Safe from the Start project, which aims to enhance community engagement in Sexual & Gender Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response through livelihoods programming.

The aim of the Rohingya Women Empowerment project was to establish a cohesive support group that provides an avenue for Rohingya women to come together and help each other, discuss their experiences and learn from each other, and eventually create access to income generating activities. Our local refugee partner organisation was the Rohingya Society Malaysia, which helped us find interested women, and provided us with the training facilities during our visits to Ipoh.

After the women had been mobilised and an in-depth assessment had been conducted, it was determined that embroidery and cooking were their main interests.

We started with vocational training in both areas to strengthen the women's skills. Additionally, we worked on team building activities, and provided basic literacy and numeracy training. Our focus was to align the trainings with the women's capabilities, and to strengthen their skills in a practical way.

The Same Skies team usually conducted four-day training visits every three weeks, while the women worked on tasks in the meantime to foster their independence and create a sense of responsibility for the project.

Challenges

After six months, Same Skies had to suspend the work with the group, as the contract with UNHCR had expired, and continuation had to be re-negotiated. At that time, a group of twelve women had been formed, and they were eager to learn and engage more. They shared Same Skies' feeling that the length of the project had been insufficient.

The importance of extension of the project duration, and the detrimental impact on trust and rapport if the project had to be disrupted, had been brought to UNHCR's attention on several occasions - months before the initial contract expired. Even though UNHCR informally expressed a willingness to continue funding the project, no formal decision on project design and budget had been communicated to Same Skies or to the participating women when the contract came to an end in March 2018. The team was forced to leave the women with the promise that UNHCR would review project funding, but without an indication on when a decision might be communicated.

In general, Same Skies felt that the project objectives and duration, as well as performance and impact indicators – all pre-defined by UNHCR without involvement of the community or Same Skies – were not feasible in the given context. Throughout the re-negotiations of the contract (which started in May 2018 – several months after the first contract had expired), the team strongly advised involving the participating women and the community at large in the design of future activities to ensure community buy-in, avoid misunderstandings, and enable sustainability. In addition, Same Skies believed that there were factors that hindered the full participation of the women in the project that should have been further explored in collaboration with the male community members.

Same Skies recommended expanding the project activities to training and mentoring for the entire host organisation, rather than the women only. This was despite and due to concerns about the community leader at the time. To that end, the team proposed to utilise the Same Skies Refugee-Led Action approach to support them in establishing up more sustainable structures.

After three months of fruitless negotiations, Same Skies decided to reject UNHCR funding altogether. Nonetheless, we had made a commitment to the community that we were willing to fulfil though resources sourced through our existing network of private donors.

When our team returned to Ipoh in September 2018, unfortunately the suspected had happened, and most of the women who had previously participated in the project had lost their trust and interest in the project. The team was left with a handful of participants at most. Same Skies kept trying to mobilise more women for the project for several months but finally came to the conclusion that it had to be discontinued because the limited impact no longer justified the invested time, effort and funding.

Reflections on the global policy context and the role of UNHCR

The World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 showed that the global rhetoric is gradually changing towards more localisation and recognition of refugee-led approaches. Nonetheless, the structures and processes of large multinational agencies such as UNHCR still seem to prevent effective implementation on the ground. Despite UNHCR's acknowledgement of the importance of "Community-Based Protection"^{6,7} and a noticeable local willingness to support refugee-led initiatives, the bureaucratic and lethargic structures of final decision-making largely depending on headquarter approval, prohibit the flexibility and risk-taking required to make Refugee-Led Action successful.

In addition, funding for refugee-led approaches such as Same Skies', is far from consistently available. In Indonesia for example, Same Skies has been unable to even discuss the opportunity of developing an implementing partnership with UNHCR because funding for refugee-led initiatives is lacking. Collaboration is limited to a so-called "operational partnership", which translates into informal update meetings for alignment of strategies. Sadly, refugee groups are equally unable to apply for direct funding and support from UNHCR. Although the Global Compact on Refugees⁸ acknowledges that civil society organisations led by refugees contribute to assessment, project planning and implementation, and capacity-strengthening, formal partnerships are neither discussed in UNHCR documents, nor are serious attempts to develop mutual respect and partnership noticeable in practice.

6 Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme; Standing Committee; 57th Meeting (4 June 2013): Community-based protection. Online: <https://www.unhcr.org/51d19cb79.html> [accessed 17 April 2019].

7 Protection Policy Paper: Understanding Community-Based Protection (2014). Online: <https://www.unhcr.org/ngo-consultations/ngo-consultations-2014/Understanding-Community-Based-Protection.pdf> [accessed 17 April 2019].

8 UNHCR (2018): Global compact on refugees. Online: https://www.unhcr.org/gcr/GCR_English.pdf [accessed 17 April 2019].

What we learnt from the challenges

Same Skies is convinced that each community consists of members who have ideas how to better their own lives and those of others, and are eager to take action. Others might find it challenging to commit because of conflicting responsibilities, or because they do not understand the way Same Skies works. It takes time to identify the right individuals and groups to work with, and we have to invest in setting the scene.

When we accepted the initial UNHCR contract, we were under the impression that we were contracted to work with an existing women's group that had requested support in establishing a livelihood initiative that creates revenue streams. When we arrived in Ipoh, we quickly realised that not only was there no women's group, but also that the desire to create one did not stem from the women themselves but rather from the male community leader. Since day one, we felt like we had to invest an incredible amount of time and energy into sparking interest amongst the women, and convincing them of the benefit of their participation.

The final realisation that costs, time and effort outweighed the impact, and that the project had to be discontinued at this point, reinforced our belief that our resources are best placed and our efforts will be most effective and sustainable where community initiatives are born from high levels of self-motivation. The experience has confirmed our conviction that it is not our role to convince communities that we have something to offer to them if they do not have a desire to make changes in their lives. Services and activities of a community initiative must tackle a challenge that is identified and considered significant by the community, not by us. If this is not the case, it is unlikely that people will share their time, skills and knowledge to address it. The challenge should also be ongoing, so that solutions and strategies to deal with it become the group's main objective.

In addition, the experience has reinforced our belief in the importance of establishing mutual trust and respect (and not breaking it). This is important in any context, but when working with people who have fled oppressive governments and/or societies where they faced persecution, building trust and respect is essential before any progress can be made. Communities might be suspicious of the motives of an organisation that is purportedly there to help them.

Trust goes both ways of course, so it is imperative to trust our refugee partners to implement projects and make decisions according to their own set of priorities and values. Often, they are informed by different cultural contexts, so it is important to listen to them, and learn to understand their perspectives. Imposing a rigid structure on them will not succeed; things need to be constantly renegotiated and explained to one another to form a successful relationship.

Further, it is important to acknowledge that community initiatives are not established in a vacuum. Understanding the dynamics of the community is an essential step before any undertaking. In any community it is likely that there are some initiatives and structures in place that can be drawn upon. Some existing structures may also be a source of resistance to a new community initiative because it may be perceived as threatening well-established power relationships. Sensitive strategies need to be employed to manage these conflicts.

Goals for 2019

Strategic plan priority 1:

Enhancing governance, human resource and people management practices.

- Set-up of organisational structure with flexible roles and responsibilities on “Glassfrog” (Holacracy One online management tool).
- Further testing and development of structures and processes based on flat, holacratic leadership theories.

Strategic plan priority 2:

Strengthening branches & operations in Malaysia & Indonesia.

- Extension of Refugee Collaboration Network Kuala Lumpur for one more year.
- Support of the Refugee Network Center in Kuala Lumpur (result of Transformative Leadership in Action 2018) until end of 2019.
- Expansion of mentoring programme, including recruitment of further volunteer mentors, continuation of mentorship of Refugee Learning Center and Refugee Learning Nest and extension of mentoring offer to all project members.
- Assessment of potential re-engagement in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.
- Recruitment of a Malaysian Branch Development Officer and a Teacher/Trainer.
- Establishment of an office in Jakarta, and recruitment of an Indonesian Branch Coordinator.

Strategic plan priority 3:

Scaling-up Refugee-Led Action

- Replication of Transformative Leadership in Action and establishment of a refugee-led learning centre in Jakarta.
- Identification of suitable further involvement opportunities in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Strategic plan priority 4:

Conducting assessments for further expansion into other regions

- Identification of suitable further involvement opportunities in Europe (with focus on Switzerland, since there is already a registered branch) and Australia.

Financial report

The financial statements reflect the consolidated financial performance of Same Skies Switzerland, Same Skies Australia Inc., Same Skies Charitable Organisation Malaysia (Pertubuhan Kebajikan Satu Langit), and Yayasan Same Skies Indonesia from January 1 until December 31, 2018.

Income statement

In CHF	Notes	2018	2017
Income			
Donations	1	62,923	46,924
Training programmes	2	20,997	-
Fundraising events		-	786
Restricted donations	3	3,575	1,448
Other income		45	7
Total income		87,540	49,165
Expenses	4		
Direct cost	4.1	68,877	12,821
- <i>Personnel cost</i>		63,451	11,053
- <i>Operational cost</i>		3,958	1,768
- <i>Other Direct cost</i>		1,468	-
Indirect Cost	4.2	4,979	4,243
- <i>Personnel cost</i>		39	560
- <i>Marketing cost</i>		983	2,432
- <i>Financial expenses</i>		937	704
- <i>Other indirect cost</i>		3,020	547
Total expenses		73,856	17,064
Surplus		13,684	32,101

Balance sheet

In CHF	Notes	2018	2017
Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents		28,484	36,410
Receivables & prepayments	5	24,416	1,429
Fixed assets		3,522	2,433
Total assets		56,422	41,932
Liabilities, funds & resources			
Liabilities		4,399	1,731
Appropriated resources		-	-
Unrestricted fund reserve	6	38,339	8,100
Total liabilities, funds & resources		42,738	9,831
Surplus		13,684	32,101
Total Balance Sheet		56,422	41,932

Notes

1 Donations

- We received 352 unrestricted donations totaling CHF 62,923, of which 63% were contributed by private donors and 37% by institutional donors.
- We not only increased the number of donors in our database to 429 (vs. 250 in 2017; +88%) and the active donors to 254 (vs. 152 in 2017; +72%), but we also increased the average count of donations per active donor by 12%. The reduction of the average amount per donation by 20% slightly offset the positive trend in 2018.
- 85% of the donations were collected by Same Skies Switzerland and Same Skies Australia.
- Two major crowdfunding campaigns in Spring and Winter 2018 significantly contributed to the increase in donations. 6% of the donations were obtained from UNHCR Malaysia partially funding the Rohingya Women Empowerment Project in Ipoh, Malaysia.

2 Leadership programme

- We were able to collect around CHF 21,000 in participation fees through our newly launched Transformative Leadership in Action programme. Although the fees were not able to cover all direct cost of CHF 26,000, the programme participants were able to raise AUD 5,400 in funds for their newly launched project, making the programme almost break even in the first year.

3 Restricted funds

- The restricted donations came from UNHCR Malaysia for the Rohingya Women Empowerment Project in Ipoh, Malaysia.

4 Expenses

- Direct costs account for 93% of our total expenses (vs. 75% in 2017).
- 15% of the expenses were used for ongoing projects in Indonesia, 48% for ongoing projects in Malaysia and 37% for the newly launched Transformative Leadership in Action programme in Malaysia.

4.1 Direct cost

- Personnel cost increased significantly due to the phasing effect of new hires in 2017, as well as dedicated project members and a dedicated Malaysian country coordinator in 2018.

- Due to the intensified project work, the operational and other direct costs increased moderately in relation to personnel costs.

4.2 Indirect cost

- Relative indirect costs decreased significantly by 18%. The main reasons are the increased focus on delivering projects.
- Marketing costs have reduced to a moderate level, as 2017 was driven by the promotion of the Transformative Leadership in Action programme.
- Financial costs were relatively reduced by changing the financial services provider for cross-country money transfers.
- Other indirect costs increased due to one-time accountancy and legal fees in Switzerland to include the organisation in the commercial register. Cash-neutral provisions of office equipment in Malaysia of CHF 1,700 drove indirect costs further.

5 Receivables & prepayments

- The increase in receivable & prepayment relates to outstanding Leadership programme fees of around CHF 6,000, which are paid in installments. The remainder of the Receivables (around CHF 17,000) were outstanding donations raised through the GlobalGiving platform, which will be transferred to Same Skies in January 2019.

6 Unrestricted fund reserve

- The unrestricted fund reserve increase by capitalisation by the 2017 surplus reduced by slight currency translation effects.

7 Accounting principles

- Same Skies consolidates all entities in full as they are closely interlinked by its statutes even without cross equity participation.
- Each entity uses its country currency, but Same Skies applies CHF as consolidation currency.
- Internal transactions have been eliminated.
- As only one person in the executive committee receives remuneration, it is not disclosed in this report.

Audit report

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, 2018.

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 statements for the period of January 1st – December 31st, 2018 comply with relevant laws and the association's statutes. I recommend the financial statements for 2018 to be approved.



Dr. Jan P. Lamboo

Auditor

February 20, 2019

Thank you

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the amazing people who surround our organisation.

We are very grateful for being able to work with incredibly resilient and determined refugees. Many thanks also go out to our dedicated team, our volunteers, board members, donors and supporters all over the world, our many partners and collaborators, and of course our family and friends. Your generous support, efforts and friendship keep us moving forward.

Thank you!

Partners & supporters

Asia Pacific
Refugee Rights
Network



Support us

Switzerland

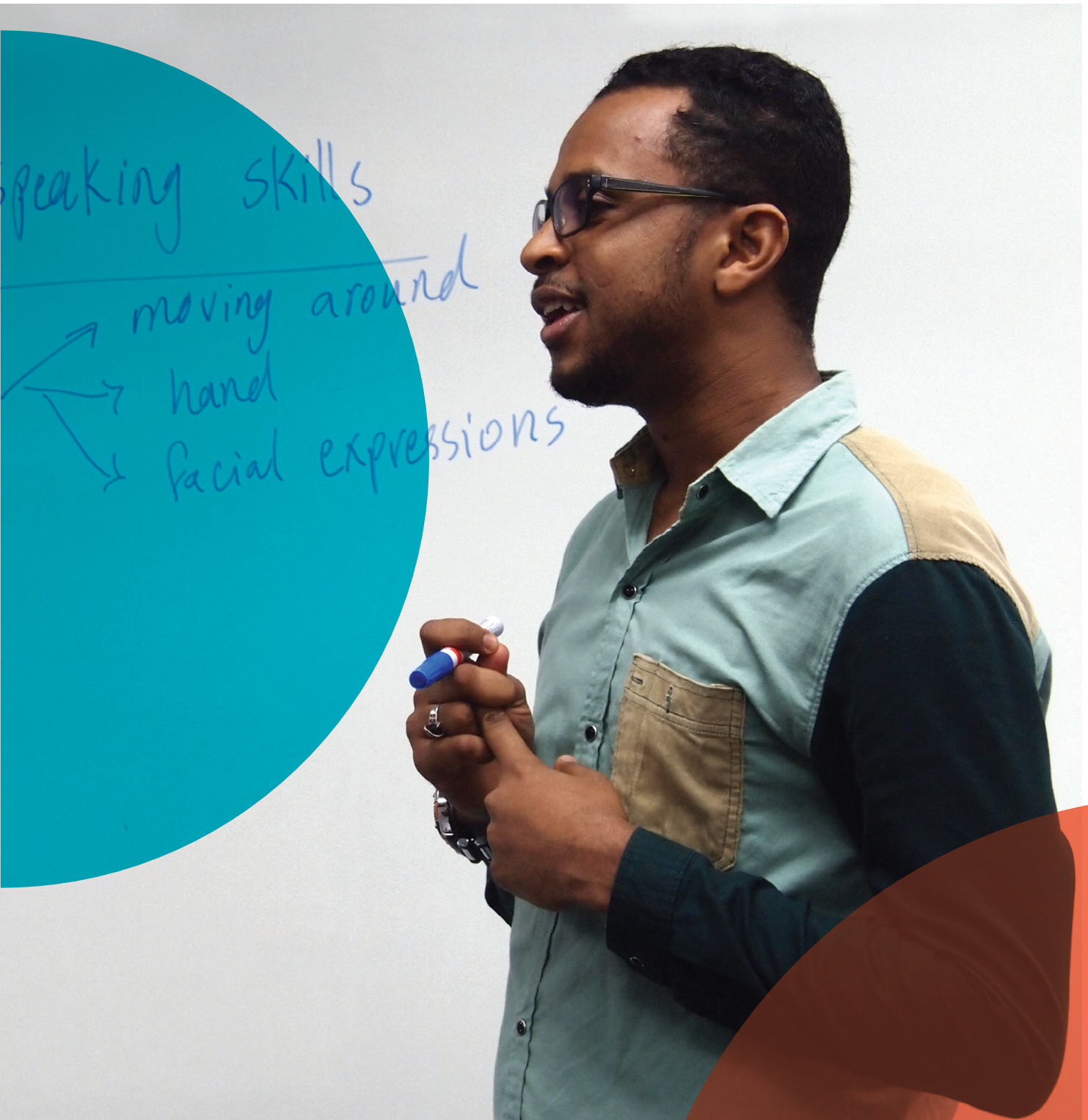
Name: Same Skies
Handelsregister: CHE-250.476.392
Bank: PostFinance
Account: 89-506036-1
IBAN: CH76 0900 0000 8950 6036 1

Australia

Name: Same Skies Australia Inc.
ABN: 76583840547
Bank: Westpac
Account: 218623
BSB: 033608

Malaysia

Name: Pertubuhan Kebajikan Satu Langit
Registration: PPM-030-04-08062017
Bank: Public Bank
Account: 3205570020





www.sameskies.org

**Non-religious, politically
neutral, not-for-profit**

**Same Skies
International**

Switzerland (2014)

Australia (2016)

Malaysia (2017)

Indonesia (2017)

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