

Annual report 2025



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Founders' foreword

In 2025, refugee leaders strengthened their voice and influence at every level of Same Skies' work. We supported our refugee-led partner organisation to secure long-term funding, strengthen their governance, expand their organisational capacity, and share their expertise on international platforms.

From Yogyakarta to Geneva, refugee leaders spoke with clarity, authority, and conviction, demonstrating that people with lived refugee experience are not only responding to displacement – they are helping shape the future of the humanitarian system.

This progress came at a time of profound uncertainty. Across the humanitarian sector, 2025 was marked by unprecedented disruption, with many commentators describing it as the year the old international order began to fracture. We witnessed these tensions first-hand at global meetings in Geneva and Bangkok. While the voices of people with lived refugee experience were more prominent than ever before, the international institutions and mechanisms designed to protect them were simultaneously being weakened, and geopolitical divisions increasingly overshadowed efforts towards collective action.

The widespread funding cuts across the humanitarian sector have accelerated what has become known as the humanitarian reset. For many organisations, this has been a period of significant upheaval. Yet it has also created new momentum behind localisation – the long-overdue shift towards sharing power, resources, and decision-making with local actors, including refugee-led organisations. For Same Skies, this is not a new direction

but a reaffirmation of the principles that have guided our work since the beginning.

Throughout the year, we continued to deepen our partnerships across Southeast Asia while responding to growing interest from refugee-led initiatives beyond the region. We began exploring collaboration with Rohingya Youth Union in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, and engaged with emerging refugee groups in Bangkok, reflecting the increasing demand for trust-based partnerships that centre refugee leadership.

As always, our greatest source of optimism comes from our refugee-led partner organisations. Despite shrinking resources and growing uncertainty, they continue to demonstrate extraordinary resilience, innovation, and leadership. Their work reminds us that the future of humanitarian action will be stronger when refugees are recognised not as beneficiaries, but as leaders, experts, and partners.

To everyone who has walked alongside us – our partners, volunteers, board members, donors, and supporters – thank you. Your trust makes this work possible, and together we look forward to continuing to build a more equitable humanitarian system.

With gratitude,
Bradley Short & Julia Frei



Bradley Short



Julia Frei

2025: From supporting refugee leadership to championing systems change

When Same Skies was founded in 2013, our primary goal was straightforward: to strengthen refugee-led partner organisations so they could better support their own communities. That mission remains unchanged. However, as refugee-led partner organisations have grown in confidence, capacity, and influence, our own role has evolved alongside them.

In 2025, we found ourselves increasingly working beyond organisational support. Rather than simply accompanying individual refugee-led organisations, we began connecting them with one another, facilitating partnerships, creating opportunities for collective advocacy, and opening doors to spaces where refugee leaders have historically been absent. Increasingly, our role has become that of a connector, facilitator, and trusted ally.

This shift coincided with profound changes across the humanitarian sector. As funding cuts and the “humanitarian reset” prompted renewed commitments to localisation, there was growing recognition that refugees themselves must be part of shaping humanitarian policy and practice – not only implementing programmes on the ground. Together with our partners, we sought to ensure that refugee leaders were not invited merely to share personal stories, but recognised as experts with practical solutions and lived experience that can strengthen humanitarian action.

Throughout the year, refugee leaders from our network spoke at international conferences in Yogyakarta, Geneva, and regional UNHCR consultations, engaging directly with donors, UN agencies, governments, and humanitarian organisations. At the same time, Same Skies contributed to global conversations on equitable partnerships, refugee leadership, and locally-led action through workshops, lectures, and peer learning initiatives.

We increasingly see our role as helping to build an enabling environment in which refugee-led partner organisations can thrive – not only through funding and organisational development, but by influencing the systems, partnerships, and narratives that shape their opportunities. Lasting change will not come from stronger organisations alone. It requires a humanitarian system that trusts refugee leaders, shares power more equitably, and recognises refugee-led partner organisations as indispensable partners in responding to displacement.

This transition is still unfolding, but 2025 marked an important milestone. Same Skies is no longer only supporting refugee leadership – we are working alongside our partners to help reshape the systems in which that leadership can flourish.



Refugee Learning Nest girls futsal





At a glance: Same Skies in 2025

Our support enabled **7 refugee-led partner organisations across 3 countries** to expand their reach, strengthen their governance and increase their visibility nationally and internationally (see page 5 onward for details on their work and impact).

Within our 7 refugee-led partner organisations:

98

refugee leaders
supported

2200

people reached through
partner organisations

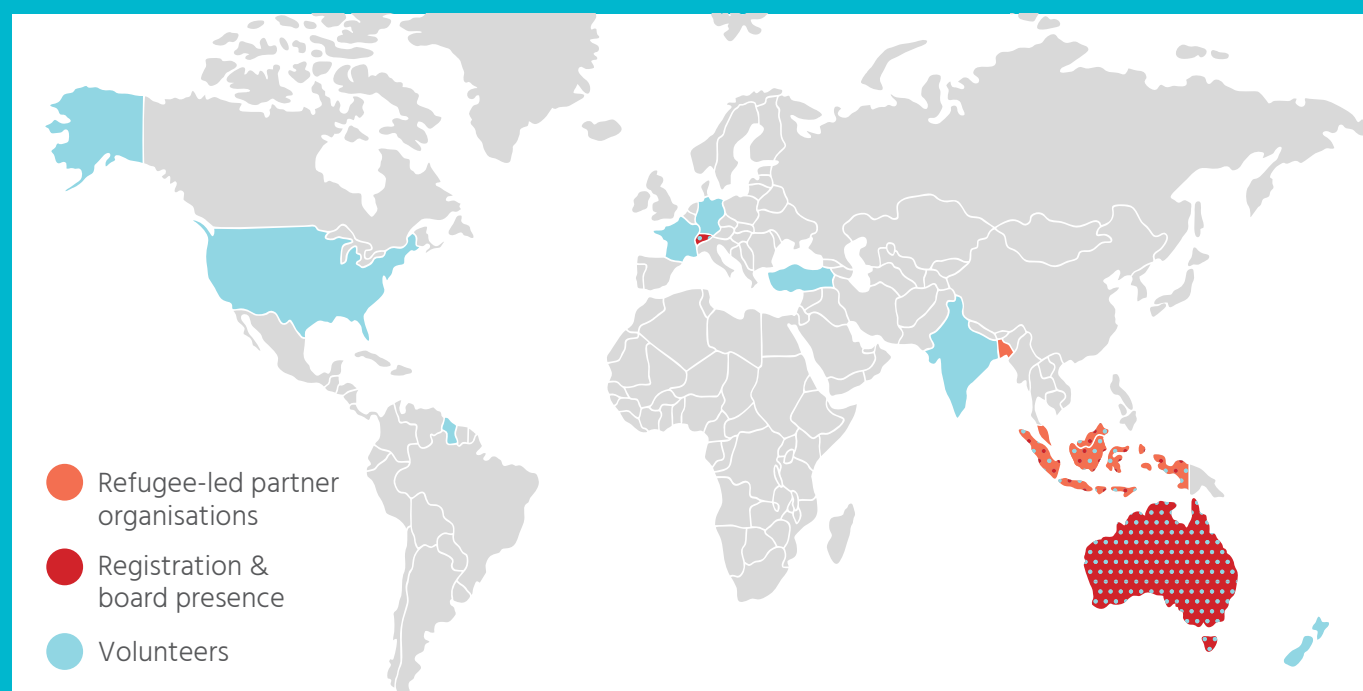
The Same Skies team:

4

staff

43

volunteers &
board members



8 funding applications submitted

CHF 56,386 transferred directly to
refugee-led partner organisations

3 grants secured

3-year grant for Refugee Network
Center facilitated

37% of annual
income redistributed

5 international
conferences attended

Reflections on progress & challenges

Strategic priority 1: Governance

- ✓ New international governance structure co-designed
- ✓ Refugee leadership embedded
- ✓ Board engagement strengthened
- ✓ Two new Swiss board members onboarded

We laid the foundations for a more refugee-led organisation by strengthening the role of people with lived refugee experience in Same Skies' governance. This work culminated in the design of a new international governance structure, with a reconstituted International board to be formally established in 2026. As this process took longer than anticipated, we postponed the development of our next organisational strategy so that shaping Same Skies' future direction can become one of the first responsibilities of the new board – ensuring refugee leadership is embedded from the outset.

We also strengthened the capacity of our governance team to champion Refugee-Led Action internationally. Several board members and volunteers generously self-funded visits to Indonesia, where they spent time with refugee-led partner organisations and gained first-hand insight into their work and the contexts in which they operate. These experiences deepened their understanding and strengthened their ability to advocate for refugee leadership in international forums, including the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review in Geneva. We are sincerely grateful to Alldo, Jo, Monika, Muhanned, Nadine, and Vanessa for their commitment and generosity. We were also delighted to welcome two new members to the Swiss board, Enia and Nadine, whose expertise and enthusiasm will further strengthen our governance in the years ahead.

Strategic priority 2: Communications & partnerships

- ✓ New website developed
- ✓ Pro-bono communications professionals onboarded
- ✓ Communications strategy reviewed & action plan developed
- ✓ 8 institutional funding proposals submitted, with 3 grants secured (37.5% success rate)

We strengthened Same Skies' communications and fundraising capacity, creating a stronger platform to elevate refugee leadership, engage supporters, and secure sustainable funding for refugee-led partner organisations. We submitted eight institutional funding applications during the year, with three successful – a funding success rate of 37.5%. These new partnerships will enable us to continue investing in refugee-led organisations and expand our collective impact in the years ahead.

To support these outcomes, our amazing graphic designer, Jen, worked closely with the team and our refugee-led partner organisations to develop a new website, which will launch in 2026. The redesigned site better reflects our mission and values while placing the leadership, expertise, and achievements of our refugee-led partner organisations at the centre of our story. We were also delighted to welcome two experienced communications and marketing professionals, Muhanned and Nadine, who joined Same Skies on a pro-bono basis. Together, they reviewed our communications strategy, provided valuable recommendations, and developed an action plan to strengthen our storytelling, social media engagement, and fundraising communications.



Strategic priority 3: Refugee-Led Action

- ✓ CHF 56,386 (37% of total income) regranting directly by Same Skies to refugee-led partner organisations
- ✓ USD 50,000 three-year grant from a donor facilitated to Refugee Network Center through Same Skies' fiscal sponsorship
- ✓ Communications and fundraising strengthened

We continued to strengthen refugee-led partner organisations by providing flexible funding, expanding access to resources, and investing in the long-term sustainability of our partnerships. During the year, 37% of Same Skies' total income (CHF 56,386) was transferred directly to our refugee-led partner organisations through grants and material support, ensuring that resources reached the organisations best placed to respond to the needs of their communities. We also facilitated a three-year grant of USD 50,000 to Refugee Network Center through our fiscal sponsorship mechanism, providing long-term, flexible funding to strengthen the organisation's impact and sustainability.

To increase our ability to support refugee-led partner organisations into the future, we also invested in strengthening Same Skies' own organisational capacity. We prioritised communications, visibility, and fundraising, recognising that these foundations are essential for mobilising greater resources and expanding our partnerships. As a result, we postponed the review and redesign of our leadership programme, *Transformative Leadership in Action*, until 2026. While this delayed one important initiative, these investments position us to increase our long-term support for refugee-led partner organisations across the region.



Refugee Network Center team meeting with Mike Paller from Global Whole Being Fund

Highlights: building refugee leadership across Southeast Asia

Strengthening refugee-led partner organisations

- Supported Refugee Network Center to formally register in Malaysia and establish its first organisational bank account.
- Supported Emplace Initiative to register as a Swiss association and establish its own bank account.
- Delivered a three-month baking training of trainers with Refugee Network Center, strengthening livelihoods and local training capacity.
- Visited refugee partner organisations across Indonesia to deepen partnerships and support organisational development.

Influencing policy and humanitarian practice

- Facilitated a regional consultation with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on capacity sharing, advancing more equitable approaches to organisational development.
- Participated in the UNHCR Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting in Geneva.
- Invited by UNHCR to contribute to its regional workshop on the Route-Based Approach in Bangkok.
- Joined International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), expanding our engagement with the global humanitarian community.
- Presented on the localisation of aid at the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies.

Amplifying refugee voices

- Supported refugee-led partner organisations from Indonesia to participate in IASFM20, strengthening regional knowledge exchange.
- Represented Same Skies at the ARC-UNHCR Research Conference on Refugee Studies and Forced Displacement in Malaysia.
- Produced the short film *Refugee-Led Action in Southeast Asia*, which premiered at the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review in Geneva and is now publicly available.

Investing in our team

- Welcomed Marwan as Refugee Outreach Coordinator, strengthening our presence in Malaysia and engagement with refugee-led partner organisations.
- Supported Marwan's recovery following a serious traffic accident and were grateful to welcome him back after several months of medical leave.



IASFM20



The team



Julia Frei
Co-Founder & Director



Bradley Short
Co-Founder & Director



**Izam Zamzuri
Bin Yaacob**
Malaysia Coordinator



Marwan Mohsen
Refugee Outreach Coordinator



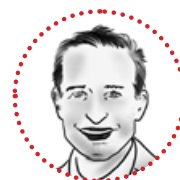
Maneka Dayaratne
Counsellor



Jonas Rembert
Teacher Mentor



Bindiya Mirchandani
Resource Developer



Dennis Waech
Accounting Consultant



Josee Huennekes
Leadership Coach



Claire Bellmann
Leadership Coach



Urs Walterlin
Media Consultant



Shirley Briggs
Teacher Mentor



**Muhanned
Nuaimy-Barker**
Communications Consultant



Kumail Jaffry
Mentor



Annina Hunziker
Project Design Consultant



Matilda Herben
Counselor



Sharon Low
Health Consultant



Anne Lodge
Teacher Mentor



Joanne Robert
Mentor



Aldo Januarydy
President (ID)



Kristina Sutkaityte
Mentor



Callista Candinas
Kneading Peace Volunteer



Jen Vlassis
Graphic Designer



Putri Athira
Secretary (ID)



Sahnaz Melasandy
Treasurer (ID)



Vanessa Smith
President (MY)



Julia Morais
Committee Member (MY)



Edith Favoreu
President (CH)



Hertiana Putri
Committee Member (ID)



Timothy Laurentius
Vice-President (MY)



Sughan Rajandran
Committee Member (MY)



Monika Frei
Secretary (CH)



Yohan Misero
Committee Member (ID)



Harjinder Kaur
Secretary (MY)



Laura O'Neill
Co-founder & President (AU)



Claudio Tiziani
Treasurer (CH)



Ayu Putri
Committee Member (ID)



Cassian Anthony
Assistant Secretary (MY)



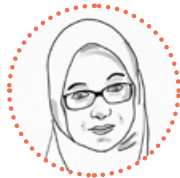
Liaquat Changezi
Vice-President (AU)



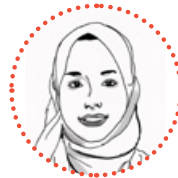
Enia Andriot
Committee Member (CH)



Shaffira Gayatri
Committee Member (ID)



Zulaikha Binti Zulkifle
Treasurer (MY)



Madiha Ali
Secretary (AU)



Nadine Rosinu
Committee Member (CH)



Laetitia Lemaistre
Committee Member (ID)



Naim B. Salleh
Committee Member (MY)



Alyssa Gijbers
Treasurer (AU)

Impact of our refugee-led partner organisations

When we founded Same Skies twelve years ago, there was no concept of refugee-led organisations in the region.

However, in no small part due to the leadership and inspiration of our partners, such as Refugee Learning Nest, Refugee Learning Center and others, these initiatives have been replicated and used as models for other groups to follow. As a result, not only are there many refugee-led organisations providing all kinds of services to their communities, from health to livelihoods to education to advocacy, they are also receiving long-overdue recognition for their essential frontline engagement. Their members now often sit on the same panels and belong to the same networks as Same Skies.

However, gaps remain, especially around access to education, training, livelihoods – in short, a professional life. There is also virtually no political will to address the lack of legal status that refugees have in the majority of countries in the region. Likewise, there is little funding on offer for these projects, as they fall outside of the usual development portfolios aimed at addressing the needs of ‘citizens’. With resettlement places drying up, protracted uncertainty has become the norm, and mental health among refugee communities has suffered. It is therefore such an inspiration to see how the very existence of our refugee partner organisations – the very act of membership, the teamwork, camaraderie and mutual support – is the most effective inoculation against despair and loss of meaning.

Our 2025 partners:

In 2025, Same Skies partnered with seven refugee-led partner organisations across Indonesia, Malaysia and our newest partner country, Bangladesh. Several of these partners have shared their stories and updates on the following pages.

Indonesia:

Emplace Initiative

HELP for Refugees

Jakarta Bersatu Project

Refugee Learning Nest

Malaysia:

Refugee Network Center

Teen Health International

Bangladesh:

Rohingya Youth Union





Emplace Initiative

In January, we successfully organised and hosted the **Ignite Stage** at the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference. In addition twelve refugee youth volunteered at the conference, assisting with logistics, reception, podcasting, photographing and video graphing, note-taking, and coordination across various panels and sessions. Three members presented their research, community and advocacy work. Their presentations addressed topics ranging from refugee youth leadership in Indonesia to barriers in education and the resilience of displaced communities.

In March, we delivered the second cohort of **advocacy training** for Refugee-Led Organizations in Cisarua, Bogor. The training focused on international human rights frameworks, advocacy strategies, and coalition-building.

We also launched the **Transition Living Lab 2025** program, a pioneering collaboration with Just Transition Indonesia, the Institute of Technology Bandung, and the University of Arts London. The Lab emphasises hands-on learning, combining traditional knowledge, cultural practices, and design thinking methods to create innovative pathways for resilience and community empowerment.

Supported by the Refugee Leadership Alliance Fund, Emplace launched the **Youth Lead: Youth Change Mentorship Program**. This program pairs refugee youth with experienced mentors and facilitators, equipping them with resilience and leadership, research and advocacy, and project design skills.

From February to July, we conducted a **research project on Access to Higher Education and Skills Development** under mentoring and supervision of the Mixed Migration Centre, exploring challenges refugee youth face in accessing higher education and skills development opportunities in Indonesia. Findings revealed systemic barriers such as legal restrictions, language challenges, financial limitations, and gender-based obstacles.

We also engaged in multiple **advocacy initiatives** to amplify refugee voices. This included meetings with the Human Rights Watch Directors of Australia and South Asia, interviews with journalists, the Asian-African conference, podcasts and talks, and online panels commemorating Human Rights Day and World Refugee Day. Emplace also joined a film screening and talk show, using creative storytelling to broaden public understanding towards refugees' existence and inclusion.

Written by Emplace Initiative



Jakarta Bersatu Project

The year 2025 included both achievements and challenges. At the beginning of the year, we faced serious budget constraints that affected planning and implementation. However, with the financial support and cooperation of Same Skies, the project was able to stabilise its operations and improve program delivery.

A key development was the addition of an extra classroom. Before, we operated with only one room serving four different activities simultaneously, which significantly limited effectiveness. The additional space greatly enhanced learning conditions and operational efficiency.

Key Achievements

- **Makeup Training:** Two graduation cycles completed: 36 students graduated
- **Ladies' Hairdressing Training:** Two graduation cycles completed: 24 students graduated
- **Barber Training:** Three graduation cycles completed: 15 students graduated
- **Sewing Training:** One graduation cycle completed: 17 students graduated
- **English Language Training:** One graduation cycle completed: 13 students graduated

These outcomes demonstrate our ability to deliver consistent, skills-based education despite limited resources and a challenging operational environment.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Same Skies team for their invaluable financial support, high-quality trainings, constructive feedback, and continuous collaboration throughout 2025. This partnership has been essential in enabling us to serve refugee and immigrant communities in Indonesia effectively.

We look forward to strengthening this collaboration in the coming years to expand access to quality education, vocational skills, and dignified opportunities for displaced populations.

Written by Jakarta Bersatu Project

Refugee Learning Nest

At the start of 2025, we reached an important milestone with the launch of our **General Educational Development (GED) program** [American high school diploma]. The first batch of students was successfully registered and taken to Sampoerna University in Jakarta for their official exams. The program was well received by the community, and more students have shown interest in joining future batches. This reinforces the importance of GED training as a bridge to brighter futures.

Sports activities continued to play a vital role in fostering physical health, teamwork, and confidence among refugee youth. Participation rose from 85 to nearly 120 individuals, mainly due to the launch of a female-only badminton program. This step was a breakthrough in encouraging inclusivity, particularly for young women who had previously lacked such opportunities.

Unfortunately, financial constraints forced us to pause badminton activities in August, and futsal training had to be reduced from 24 hours per week to 20 hours. Despite these adjustments, our students and volunteer coaches showed remarkable resilience.

Refugee Learning Nest maintained its **core academic program** for Grade 1 through Grade 8 students. Classes proceeded smoothly, with students following the regular curriculum and actively engaging in daily learning. Despite reduced allowances, our teaching team demonstrated remarkable dedication, ensuring uninterrupted delivery of lessons.

We continued to support adults in the community through **English classes**, each tailored to different proficiency levels. The classes have become a platform for adults to build confidence, participate more actively in daily life, and prepare themselves for resettlement opportunities or employment in the future. The consistent attendance reflects the community's eagerness to learn and improve.

The greatest challenges are always financial constraints, leading to a reduction in staff allowances, and the reduction of sports activities affects staff and community morale, highlighting the importance of sustainable funding and capacity-building support to maintain and expand our services.

Written by Refugee Learning Nest





Refugee Network Center

Our **English for work programme** benefited 50 adult refugees of various nationalities. Demand exceeded expectations; feedback highlighted significant learner engagement.

We offered a **Mental health training** series in partnership with Amecet and Social Workers Without Borders. Nineteen refugee leaders and community members attended. The focus was on basic mental health support, community-based approaches, and trauma awareness.

We held **Design thinking for refugee entrepreneurs** in Partnership with Almotahida Education Group for fifteen refugee entrepreneurs. The objective was to equip refugees with problem-solving, innovation, and entrepreneurial skills.

In collaboration with Same Skies, we held **baking training for trainers**, preparing ten participants to become trainers for future baking sessions under our livelihood stream.

Visual arts for empowerment was sponsored by Taylor's University Community, and led by our volunteer Lily. 10 refugee artists participated at a Festival at Taylor's University. This included sales of original paintings and a digital showcase of artworks on our e-commerce platform, Caravan Treasures.

Other activities conducted included **Vibe coding for non-coders**, teaching practical Python, AI tools, and coding logic to non-coders aged 13–30, where youth gained future-ready digital skills aligned with remote work trends, and **basic disaster preparedness training** with the Yemeni and Somali communities, conducted by our very own Eddy.

In addition, we began designing a **new website** to enhance accessibility for refugees, and offered honorary sponsorship to the Syrian Cooking Team in exchange for delivering culinary training sessions at our center. New partnerships were forged with Templer Park International School, enabling us to use their facilities and receive sponsorship for training and community activities, Athena Holdings Sdn Bhd, to support refugee-led catering businesses by linking them with corporate clients, and Agents of Hope (USA), with whom discussions were conducted around refugee resettlement preparation and economic empowerment.

Written by Refugee Network Center

Teen Health International

Empowering through health awareness and education

We have consistently delivered crucial health awareness programs, directly addressing critical needs within the refugee community. Our educational initiatives have focused on:

- **Basic Health Rights and Refugee Health:** We conducted sessions to inform community members about their fundamental health entitlements and the specific health challenges faced by refugees in Malaysia.
- **Tuberculosis Awareness:** Our programs provided vital information on prevention, early symptoms, where to seek help and the importance of adhering to treatment, aiming to reduce transmission and improve health outcomes.
- **Sexual and Reproductive Health:** We delivered comprehensive education, covering topics on puberty, menstruation, contraception and family planning, safe practices, and access to relevant services.

Beyond education, we facilitated **direct health interventions** such as health screening for 70 community members, which had a tangible impact on community well-being. In addition, we successfully referred individuals to appropriate medical services for various health conditions, bridging the gap between community members and available healthcare providers.

A significant achievement was our targeted **family planning program**, where 17 women received free contraceptive implants. This initiative directly addresses a critical need, offering women greater control over their reproductive health.

In collaboration with UNHCR Malaysia we **conducted cultural orientation sessions**, which also addressed child marriage, vital in helping newly arrived refugees adapt to their new environment.

Our partnerships with Asylum Access Malaysia have also facilitated essential guidance on the UNHCR registration and protection processes, crucial for refugees navigating complex administrative procedures.

To ensure our programs are responsive and impactful, we undertook a **small-scale research project** focused on understanding the health barriers faced by refugees in Klang Valley through focus group discussions. These sessions gathered valuable qualitative insights, identifying key obstacles like financial constraints, language barriers, lack of physiotherapy centres for stroke patients, speech therapy and fear of accessing services.

We are incredibly proud of the progress made over the past six months and are deeply grateful for the continued support of Same Skies and other partners.

Written by Teen Health International



Community messages of distress & despair

"I'm in so stressful today... police man arrest me and my mother today. So maybe didn't attend tomorrow class... Sorry..

Now I'm at my home but very scared...

I was coming back from grocery shopping with my mother when they stopped us. They checked our cards and told us to sit in their car. They said they would take us to the police station and call immigration to deport us. My mother started crying, and I also started crying. After about an hour, they kept us sitting in the car and kept saying, "Let's go to the police station." Then they took 350 ringgit from my wallet and let us go. But now I'm very scared. My mother and I are alone here. Even my brother doesn't talk to us anymore. I have no one to share my pain with...

My phone is personal, but they were checking my phone even going through my photos".

Refugee training participant in Malaysia

"Actually the topic is very sensitive. I was thinking about it for weeks so that how can i share it with the team. Unfortunately we are almost at the bottom of our bank account's money. Our sports had zero support, still somehow from the education funds we were decreasing some stuff in order to be able to run the sport & do not take a single penny from those poor families but unfortunately we are now at a stage, where either we have to cut 50% of staff.. or cut 50% of the transportation allowance just to survive several months more.

Thats why I'm really burning out, my family concerns, me getting married. finance struggles etc. all are making me become forgetful, losing focus, being sleepless & sometime focusing on a spot for a long time & totally forgetting where am I or what was I talking about".

Refugee leader in Indonesia

"Unfortunately last night I got into a bad accident & my whole body's full scratches & my head hurts since last night. Unfortunately the car who hit me ran away, now I'm just lending or raising money to go to a good hospital, do a full check up, head x-ray, etc.

[After check-up] It was more a mental shock than physical.

I couldn't let it go like how can someone damage me & just go as if nothing happened & it was pretty hard for me to let this go".

Refugee leader in Indonesia

"After he left things have been a little hard to me, as we were together for quite long time, almost 7 years, Every morning, we used to have a friendly conversation about school work, the community, future plans, etc., and in this way, it was much more convenient for me to work, as I could see that there was someone who understood how things worked and everything. But this is how life is here, so I'm just doing my best and also hoping the very best for those who are resettled".

Refugee leader on his friend being resettled

"I feel more and more confused in this world where power is replacing norms and principles, AI being used to transform people into robots, the stop of US funding literally killing people all around the world... I am not losing hope and try to act at my small individual level (last week I joined a demonstration for Palestine in Paris) but I don't see myself advising an organisation as Same Skies on how to position itself in these challenges."

Former Same Skies team member

Community messages of gratitude

"I'm truly happy and proud to be part of the Same Skies family. The report is very detailed, and it was also such a joy to see so many familiar faces after a long time. It really reminded me of the spirit and connection we share. Thank you again to everyone involved. Looking forward to the upcoming team meeting!"

Same Skies Australia board member

"Ich möchte euch einmal mehr meine grosse Wertschätzung für eure Arbeit ausdrücken. Ich finde es toll, dass zwei junge engagierte Menschen ein solches Werk mit Erfolg aufbauen, das so vielen benachteiligten, vertriebenen Menschen Unterstützung und eine neue Perspektive bietet, euch nicht entmutigen lässt durch Hindernisse und kreativ immer weiter daran arbeitet. Euch beiden und allen, die mithelfen, ein grosser Dank."

Translation: "I would like to express my deep appreciation for your work once again. I think it's wonderful that two young, dedicated people are successfully building such a project that offers support and a new perspective to so many marginalised and displaced people, that you don't let obstacles discourage you, and that you continue to work creatively on it. A huge thank you to both of you and to everyone who helps."

**Same Skies-Gönnerin in der Schweiz/
Same Skies supporter in Switzerland**

"danke dasses so mänsche git wie ihr wo sich für das iisetz wo sie glaubed und sich nöd eifach demit abgänd dass das anderi mached und ja im herze eh alli s gliiche wend und wenn nu äntli es paar wenigi mächtigi sziitliche sägned alles für alli sicher bald besser wird. ich ha amigs gfühl es isch total hoffnigslos und wie bi de hydra.. wird ein chopf abgschlage, wachsed 10 nah.. drum gits immer wieder hoffnig wenn mer weiss es git lüüt wo trotzdem wiiterkämpfed"

Translation: "Thank you for being such wonderful people, standing up for what you believe in and not simply accepting that others will do it. Deep down, everyone wants the same thing. If only a few powerful social figures would finally pass on, everything would surely be better for everyone soon. Sometimes I feel completely hopeless, like the Hydra... Once one head is cut off, ten more grow back. That's why it gives hope when you know there are people who keep fighting."

**Same Skies-Gönnerin in der Schweiz/
Same Skies supporter in Switzerland**

"I really, really like what you guys are doing and how you go about it. Respectful, smart and practical. So carry on and I will keep supporting you."

Longtime supporter in Australia



Kneading Peace

2025 was a very challenging, but also meaningful year of growth, creativity, and collaboration for our social enterprise café and guesthouse, Kneading Peace, in Melaka, Malaysia.

Through the dedication of Zam and Marwan, the café continued to create opportunities for refugee skills development, cultural exchange, community building, and awareness raising. It also strengthened its local profile, attracting interest from organisations seeking partnerships, team-building activities, and event hosting.

The year was marked by a serious motorcycle accident involving Marwan, which required hospitalisation and several months of recovery. Despite this setback, Zam, supported by the Malaysian Board and the wider Same Skies team, successfully kept the café operating throughout Marwan's absence. The experience highlighted both the vulnerabilities of a small organisation and the

strength of its people. It reinforced the importance of mutual care, resilient leadership, and strong teamwork, while also exposing the barriers people who seek refuge continue to face when accessing public services, even in times of crisis.

Key achievements in collaboration with Refugee Network Center:

- **14 full days of baking training** were provided to future baking trainers.
- **A full-day cooking demonstration** was facilitated with a chef from Hong Kong.



Statement from Marwan

Being part of Same Skies has been a meaningful journey filled with learning, teamwork, and new experiences. Through daily work at the café, I continued improving my skills in hospitality, customer service, coffee-making, and kitchen operations while helping create a welcoming space for customers and visitors in Melaka. I was also able to represent Same Skies at a conference, and conduct baking training at Refugee Network Center.

One of the most enjoyable parts of the experience has been meeting travelers and local guests. It is rewarding to see how the space brings together people from different backgrounds through food, coffee, and conversation.

This year also came with personal challenges after I experienced a serious motorbike accident that required a long recovery period. Despite this, the support from the team and community gave me motivation to continue moving forward and remain connected to the work and people around me.

I am grateful to continue this journey with Same Skies, and I look forward to contributing more in the future.

Statement from Zam

Cheers to another year of relishing and cherishing our responsibilities with passion. There is a story to share. At Kneading Peace we set up two guestrooms, one on the rooftop and a room with three beds. On that note I invite everyone, we would be glad to have you stay at our Guesthouse if you're ever coming through Melaka city. It's easy, you can book a reservation through Booking.com. We'd love to have you!

The most important thing to share about the rooms – my best friend Zul and I renovated it; both of us have construction work experience, especially in tiling jobs. We did the job with passion, creativity, and made it look nice and clean.

A thing you may not know – my teammate Marwan had a motorbike accident on his way back home from work. It happened in July 2025, broken leg, fingers. Long time to recovery.

It was a little bit hard running the café by myself, but I did well enough. I learned so many things like how to make all the ice cream, and others. Thanks to all the customers who are supporting us as a social enterprise.

Voices from the Same Skies team

Bindiya

A few years back while looking to travel and volunteer at a bakery, I came across a requirement at a pretty neat looking café named Kneading Peace. I read up all about it and Same Skies and loved everything about it right from the name!

I was looking to volunteer and the work Same Skies is doing touched a chord. I'm from India and we were a British colony until 1947. That's when Partition occurred and a part of India became another nation. Several members of my community, including from my family, had to flee from what is now Pakistan into India – they became refugees in their own country, displaced and homeless.

Although by the time my interviews were all complete with the Same Skies team they had stopped taking short term volunteers, they asked me if I could help with their training initiative, as an online volunteer. They were moving from instructor-led training to self-paced online

courses and wanted someone to convert all their courses to be compatible with their training platform.

I readily agreed, having worked for nearly two decades in the IT industry as a Technical Writer. And so it began, not just converting the courses but also researching and completing the content, as I'm also a qualified language teacher. As mutual trust and confidence grew, I was tasked with creating new content for some of the courses independently under Brad's able guidance.

Shortly after that I coached one of the volunteers online in spoken English, and thereafter a small batch of students from Emplace Initiative.

I'm very happy to be associated with Same Skies and look forward to collaborating every time. It is a very gratifying feeling, knowing that I can be of a little help to someone in some corner of the world, and I'm thankful to Same Skies for giving me that opportunity.





Maneka

The work I do as a volunteer counsellor with Same Skies is something I hold very deeply. I came into this work with a strong belief in human rights and justice, but what I have learned through these relationships has moved far beyond belief into something lived, embodied and deeply relational.

This work continually reminds me that safety and opportunity are not distributed equally. The conditions of our lives are shaped by systems we do not choose. What I witness is not abstract. It is felt in the body, in people's stories, in the realities they navigate every day. It has called me to move beyond awareness and into solidarity.

What stays with me most is the depth of human connection across differences. Across borders, language and culture, we share a fundamental need to feel safe, to be seen, to have dignity and to belong. Sitting with people in these spaces reminds me that we are not separate. Their lives are not distant from mine. We are deeply interconnected, in ways that are both confronting and humanising.

I am continually humbled by the resilience I witness. Not loud or heroic, but quiet and steady. People continue to parent, to learn, to care and to hope despite prolonged uncertainty. This has expanded my understanding of strength and challenged how I see the world.

I feel deeply enriched by the knowledge, perspectives and ways of being that refugees bring into the therapeutic space. This work has changed me. It has expanded how I move through the world and deepened my commitment as both a therapist and an activist.

I do not experience this as giving, but as reciprocal. I receive as much as I offer. It reminds me that justice is not only something we believe in, but something we practise through presence, relationship and a commitment to remain connected to one another.



Voices from supporters

Selina & Dennis

Our connection to Same Skies is a personal one: Julia is Dennis' second cousin, and we have followed the work with great interest for over a decade. During this time, we have been fortunate enough to visit Julia and Brad several times in Malacca, Malaysia. Each time, we were impressed anew by what they and their entire team accomplished there. It is not just about the work itself, but about the tangible positive impact on the people we meet. We see people gaining access to education, experiencing structure, and perhaps, for the first time, a sense of normalcy.

These visits, along with the events here in Switzerland and the annual reports, are invaluable to us because they offer a glimpse into a world that is otherwise rarely seen. As Swiss citizens, it is difficult to imagine what it feels like to not truly belong to any country or to live in a country that does not want you or even persecutes you. Many people accept this because their original situation was even more difficult or dangerous. Talking to them and gaining a glimpse into their reality is always enriching and makes us realise how fortunate we are.

What particularly impresses us is how Julia, Brad, and the team confront difficult and tragic situations daily, while simultaneously battling considerable resistance from local authorities and others. Despite this, they maintain their motivation and share this fighting spirit with the people they work with.

What makes Same Skies special is the quality of their work. There are many organisations where money flows, but no one really knows where it goes. With Julia and Brad, it's completely different. They possess enormous expertise regarding local structures, the right contacts, and what kind of support truly makes a difference. Combined with their strong local network, they ensure that every Franc has the greatest possible impact on people who have given up so much. This is the kind of aid we are happy to support.

We are incredibly grateful for the outstanding work and dedication shown by Julia, Brad, and the entire team. Together, they are making a real difference.



Lessons learned

Every year brings new insights that strengthen our approach and shape our future work. In 2025, five key lessons emerged that will guide Same Skies as we continue to support refugee-led partner organisations across Southeast Asia.

1

Meaningful governance reform takes time.

Embedding refugee leadership in organisational governance requires careful consultation, relationship building, and shared decision-making. While the redesign of our international governance structure took longer than anticipated, the additional time has resulted in a stronger foundation for genuinely shared leadership.

2

When trusted, refugee-led organisations consistently exceed expectations.

Our experience continues to demonstrate that unrestricted, long-term funding and equitable partnerships enable refugee-led organisations to respond quickly to changing needs, invest in their own development, and deliver innovative, accountable, and sustainable outcomes. Their achievements repeatedly exceed expectations, demonstrating the value of trusting refugees as leaders, experts, and agents of change.

3

Communications are a strategic investment.

Building visibility, engaging supporters, and securing sustainable funding require dedicated communications capacity. Investing in storytelling and strategic communications is essential not only for organisational growth but also for amplifying refugee leadership and shifting narratives about displaced communities.

4

Small organisations need resilience as well as passion.

The unexpected injury of a key team member highlighted the vulnerability of small organisations to staff disruptions. Strengthening systems, sharing responsibilities, and investing in organisational resilience will remain an important priority as Same Skies continues to grow.

These lessons reaffirm our commitment to trust-based partnerships, shared leadership, and strengthening the capacity of refugee-led partner organisations to shape their own futures. As we look to 2026, we will continue applying these insights to increase our impact and deepen our support for refugee leadership.

Looking ahead: our priorities for 2026

As we enter 2026, we remain committed to strengthening refugee leadership, deepening partnerships, and expanding the impact of refugee-led partner organisations across Southeast Asia and beyond.

Our key priorities include:

Strategic priority 1:

Governance

- Establish the new Same Skies International board, with elected representatives from each refugee partner organisation.
- Develop a new multi-year organisational strategy, led by the newly constituted International board.
- Continue strengthening governance systems to embed refugee leadership at the highest level of organisational decision-making.

Strategic priority 2:

Communications & partnerships

- Launch the new Same Skies website and continue to strengthen our communications and storytelling.
- Secure new funding and strategic partnerships for both Same Skies and our refugee partner organisations.
- Expand collaboration with local stakeholders to increase opportunities for refugee inclusion, integration, and sustainable funding.
- Continue raising the visibility of refugee-led partner organisations through advocacy, public engagement, and international partnerships.

Strategic priority 3:

Refugee-Led Action

- Expand our network to support at least ten refugee-led organisations, including partnerships in new contexts such as Sumatra, Thailand, Bangladesh, Syria, and refugee communities in IOM-supported accommodation.
- Increase our focus on collective advocacy and collaborative fundraising with refugee-led partner organisations.
- Establish a Refugee Women's Leadership Group to strengthen women's leadership and peer support across the network.
- Relaunch and expand our leadership programme, *Transformative Leadership in Action*, to replicate our model and train other organisations.
- Assess the feasibility of integrating climate resilience and climate-smart initiatives into our programmes and partnerships.

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, 2025.

Income statement for the year 2025 (2024)

In CHF	Notes	2025	2024
Income			
Donations	1	149,555	337,002
Training programmes		313	239
Fundraising events		-	-
Restricted donations		-	-
Other income	2	4,011	21
Total income		153,878	337,263
Expenses	3		
Direct cost	4	156,772	189,804
- Personnel cost		92,776	111,712
- Project activities (direct costs)		63,996	78,093
- Other direct cost		-	-
Indirect Cost	5	6,937	10,746
- Marketing cost		1,054	2,359
- Financial expenses		534	962
- Other indirect cost		5,349	7,425
Total expenses		163,709	200,550
Surplus		- 9,831	136,713

Balance sheet as at December 31, 2025 (2024)

In CHF	Notes	2025	2024
Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents		122,532	134,063
Receivables & prepayments		98	101
Fixed assets		4,957	4,057
Total assets		127,587	138,221
Liabilities, funds & resources			
Liabilities		1,647	1,171
Appropriated resources		-	-
Unrestricted fund reserve	6	135,771	337
Total liabilities, funds & resources		137,418	1,509
Surplus		- 9,831	136,713
Total liabilities and reserve		127,587	138,221

Notes

1 Donations

- We received 97 unrestricted donations totalling CHF 149,555 (-56% vs. 2024), of which 19% (vs. 9% in 2024) were contributions of private donors. We received a substantial donation from an international foundation that wishes to remain anonymous amounting to CHF 75,178.00. However, this was significantly less than the contribution last year.
- We slightly increased the number of donors in our database to 640 (+1% vs. 2024). The number of active donors decreased to 72 (-26% vs. 2024). The average count of donations per active donor remained flat at 1.35 (+3%).

2 Other income

- We were able to generate additional income by acting as fiscal sponsor for one of our refugee-led partner organisations.

3 Expenses

- **3.1 Direct vs. indirect cost**
Direct costs account for 96% of our total expenses (vs. 95 % in 2024).
- **3.2 The projects/ refugee groups that benefitted**

4 Direct cost

- With the current funding situation, we had to reduce the spending on direct cost by 17%, i.e. lower personnel and project cost.

5 Indirect cost

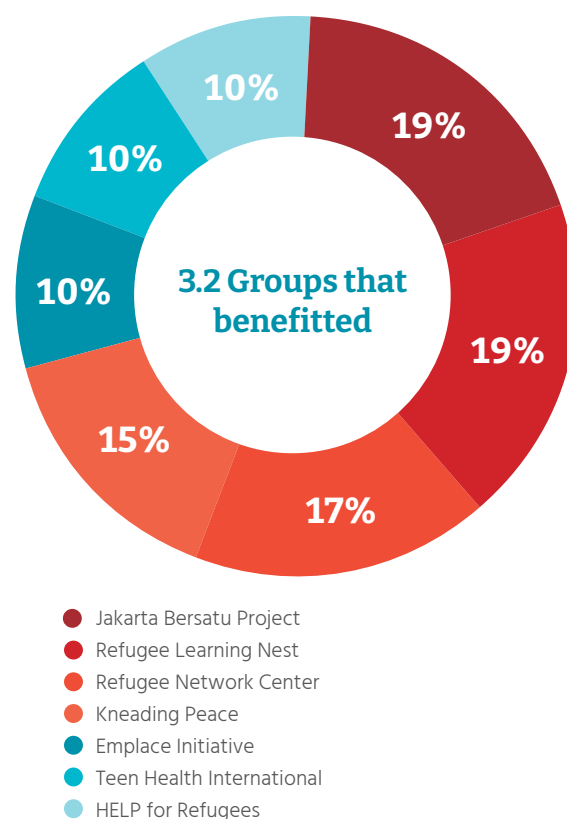
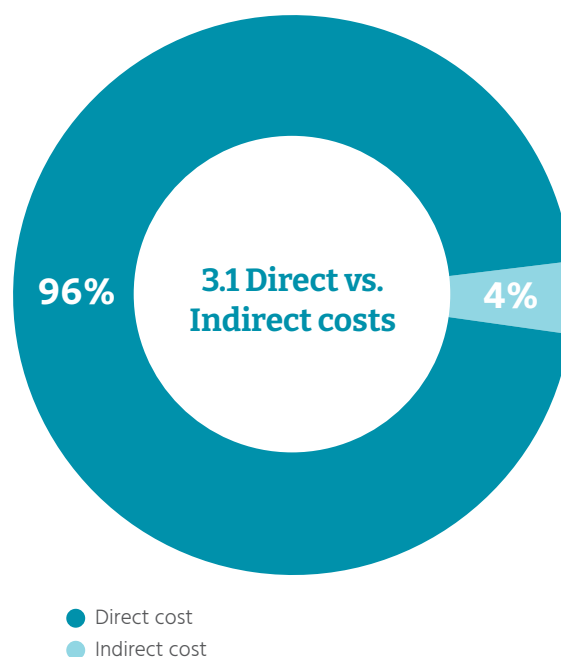
- In line with the above, we also reduced our indirect cost by 35% of the previous year.

6 Unrestricted fund reserve

- The unrestricted fund reserve was reduced by the 2023 deficit through capitalisation.

7 Accounting principles

- Same Skies consolidates all entities in full, as they are closely interlinked by its statutes even without cross equity participation. Same Skies consolidates all entities under Same Skies International entity.
- Each entity uses its country currency, but Same Skies applies CHF as consolidation currency.
- Internal transactions have been eliminated.
- As only one position 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, 2025.

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.

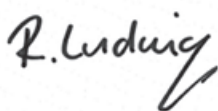
Auditor's responsibility

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, 2025 comply with relevant laws and the association's statutes. I recommend the financial statements for 2025 to be approved.



Ralph Ludwig

Auditor

March 21, 2026

Thank you

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Same Skies team and to our refugee-led partner organisations at Emplace Initiative, HELP for Refugees, Jakarta Bersatu Project, Refugee Learning Nest, Refugee Network Center, Rohingya Youth Union, and Teen Health International.

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers, private supporters, and institutional donors whose trust, generosity, and belief in refugee leadership make this work possible. Your support enables refugee-led partner organisations to respond to the needs of their communities with dignity, expertise, and determination.

Above all, we stand in solidarity with people who seek safety and protection, and with everyone who believes in our shared humanity. We believe that no one should face displacement alone, and that justice, compassion, and

solidarity are stronger than fear, division, and intolerance. In a world facing growing uncertainty, these values matter more than ever.

To everyone reading this: thank you for being part of this journey. Every act of trust, every partnership, every conversation, and every contribution helps build a future in which people with lived refugee experience are recognised not only for what they have endured, but for the leadership, knowledge, and hope they bring to their communities.

Bank details

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

Indonesia

Name: Yayasan Same Skies
Registration:
AHU-0018496.AH.01.04
Bank: Bank Central
Asia (BCA)
Account: 2170561409

Donate through TWINT:







sameskies.org

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

**Same Skies
International**

Switzerland (2014)

Australia (2016)

Malaysia (2017)

Indonesia (2017)

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