



ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

“New Zealanders
from refugee
backgrounds
participating
fully in Aotearoa
New Zealand life.”

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/2019



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CHARITIES REGISTRATION NUMBER

CC28377



ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

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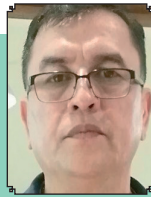
OUR BOARD



Adam
Awad



Ameha
Wondirad



Amin
Vakili



Ibrahim
Omer



Luis
Perez



Maureen
Zaya



Nathan
Diggs



Richard
Bowles



Shahd
EL-Matary

OUR VISION

New Zealanders from
refugee backgrounds
participating fully
in Aotearoa
New Zealand life.



ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

OUR PRINCIPLES

- **Nothing about us without us.** People from refugee backgrounds should be involved in all stages when policies and services are being developed. Their involvement should be meaningful and respectful of them as the people who will be most affected by those policies and services.
- **Focus on strengths, not weaknesses.** Refugees bring knowledge, experience, and many different skills to New Zealand. They have much to contribute.
- **A human rights approach** instead of a welfare approach should be the basis for policy development and service delivery.
- **A shared voice is a strong voice.** While we acknowledge the differences and the importance of independence, we also recognise the great value of coming together to work on issues of common concern.



OUR STAFF

From left (back) are: Batool Arif (office coordinator), Sandra McCallum (interim general manager), Mylène Baland and Susan Clare (Turning the Curve coordinators). Front: Tracey Read (community development worker), Kate Twyford (Open Road coordinator).

Message from our CHAIR



THIS YEAR, our country changed in a way no-one expected, with the tragic and brutal killing of 51 people at the Al Noor mosque and Linwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch. It called into question everything we believed to be true about this country. It left refugee communities feeling vulnerable and, in particular, our Muslim brothers and sisters frightened for the future. ChangeMakers wanted to do something positive and powerful in response and so joined forces with the Wellington City Council and ActionStation Aotearoa to organise a vigil in Wellington. In doing so, we further strengthened our relationship with the council, and I would like to acknowledge outgoing Wellington Mayor Justin Lester for the leadership and compassion he has shown former refugees resettling in the Wellington region. He has stood beside us and shown so much support in so many ways, both emotional and practical.

At a national level, our Government's response to the tragedy was powerful, reaching out to our communities as well as having a powerful impact on the international stage. Prime Minister Jacinda Adern's heartfelt, compassionate response and her strong leadership will always be deeply appreciated – it helped us to start the healing process quickly.

Telling our stories through photos

One of the highlights of the year was a photo exhibition to celebrate World Refugee Day in Wellington in June. The photos by Ehsan Hazaveh showed the lives of six workers from refugee backgrounds. We were able to undertake this hugely successful event by working in partnership with Living Wage Aotearoa. Jacinda Adern and Finance Minister Grant Robertson spoke at the exhibition opening and showed solidarity with those of us who have been forced out of our homelands. We were excited to be able to take the exhibition to Auckland recently, and plan to take it to Hamilton and Christchurch in 2020.

Farewell to Naomi

At the start of this year, we farewelled a long-standing and invaluable staff member, Naomi Tocher. Naomi was one of the original staff of ChangeMakers and worked for the organisation for more than a decade. She was instrumental in creating many positive initiatives, but one of her biggest achievements was to establish the women's driving programme, now called Turning the Curve. Because she always carried communities in her heart, she was able to help create something that truly reflected the needs and ideals of the women in our communities. The driving

programme was based on the advice of a steering group of women from refugee background communities in Porirua, the Hutt and Wellington. We owe Naomi our gratitude for her determination in taking this programme from strength to strength. We miss her and wish her well in her retirement, which we know will be busy.

Discrimination removed from refugee policy

We were heartened by the Government's decision this year to change its policy that discriminated against refugees from Middle Eastern and African countries. The policy stopped people born in those countries applying for refugee status unless they had a family member already in New Zealand. We joined forces with several international and NZ-based organisations and activists – Murdoch Stephens from Double the Quota, Green MP Golriz Ghahraman and former refugee Guled Mire – to create the pressure needed to get the Government to remove the policy. We applaud the Government for its timely decision to rectify a wrong, and look forward to continuing to work with government agencies, NGOs and others who are committed to supporting refugees settling here.

Thank you again to our funders and supporters for continuing to back us. We could not do what we do without you! We also thank the many volunteers who support us, and in particular the ongoing time and commitment of those who help our drivers gain their licenses.

We have had some unexpected changes this year and I want to pay tribute to our staff who have continued to serve our communities with dedication and commitment. Our general manager, Lexy Seedhouse, moved on to pursue other interests after 18 months in the role and we thank her for work and wish her well in her new role. We are grateful to Sandra McCallum for stepping in as interim general manager in October. We were sad to say goodbye to Ellie Clayton and Lucy Anderson, who have moved on after several years with us. I also thank the board members who've served this past year, some who have finished their term and others who joined the board mid-year. The board roles are voluntary and we appreciate and value the time and expertise they give us.

But our biggest thanks goes to our communities for their ongoing belief and support for Changemakers. Without you, we are nothing. We look forward to another year of working together to support the wellbeing of our refugee background communities which, in turn, benefits all New Zealanders.

Ibrahim Omer
Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

2019

Connecting with communities

THE HORRIFIC mosque shootings in Christchurch on March 15, 2019, had a massive impact on former refugee and migrant communities throughout New Zealand. ChangeMakers worked alongside the Wellington City Council and ActionStation Aotearoa to organise a vigil to pay tribute to the victims of the massacre and the people of Christchurch, that was attended by 12,000 people. Funding was immediately made available by local and central government to bring people from our member communities together in greater Wellington to talk about ways to support and strengthen communities. We started these meetings in March and April and some clear messages emerged – people wanted to come together for events where they could socialise, enjoy meeting people from their own and other communities, and support each other. Later in the year, women's



groups met to brainstorm ways they wanted to interact – these included events such as cooking and sharing food, sewing, crafts, recreation and leisure (swimming, gym, exercise), and gardening. We also talked to young people about how to engage with them and this is one of our priorities for 2020. •

Futsal tournament

PLAYERS FROM refugee backgrounds pitted their futsal skills against each other in a World Refugee Day tournament organised by ChangeMakers, Capital Football, the Wellington Phoenix and Better Football on June 23. Eight teams from different nationalities took part, including players from Ethiopia, Colombia, Eritrea, Syria, Afghanistan and Iran. The tournament was won by the "Ethiolions" (pictured) who beat Assyria in the final match. •



Learning to drive

CHANGEMAKERS' DRIVER education programmes, Turning the Curve and Open Road, continue to change the lives of former refugees, empowering them and decreasing their isolation. We could not operate these programmes without our dedicated volunteer mentors and our sponsors, to whom we are deeply grateful.

Turning the Curve, the women's programme, had a busy year – 21 new women joined the programme between December 2018/March 2019, and of these four have got their restricted licence and another three will sit the test before the end of the year. A new intake of 21 women will be picked in December 2019.

The Open Road Programme, which operates in Porirua, had 16 learners gain their restricted licences and two gain their full licence. A further 18 learners are on the programme and most are on track to sit their test before the end of January. Some learners who have been on temporary work contracts have been given permanent work, pay increases and increased responsibility at work after gaining their licence. Another learner was working nights and relying on her husband to transport her late at night or pick her up early in the morning – she is now able to get independently to her work. •



A WOMEN'S festival – held in January in Lower Hutt – celebrated our driving programme, Turning the Curve, and farewelled its founder Naomi Tocher. Women from our different communities came together to eat a delicious feast and dance to music from Africa and the Middle East. •

Photography marks World Refugee Day

PRIME MINISTER Jacinda Adern and Wellington MP and Finance Minister Grant Robertson joined refugee communities to mark World Refugee Day this year at the launch of a photography exhibition at the NZ Portrait Gallery in Wellington on June 20.

The exhibition – hosted by ChangeMakers and Living Wage Movement Aotearoa NZ – featured photography by Ehsan Hazaveh, telling the stories of six refugee-background workers in Wellington. Titled *My Life To Live*, the exhibition celebrated the contribution these workers make to their new home country and their hopes, dreams and struggles.

Hazaveh is an Iranian PhD student. Novelist Elizabeth Knox wrote stories about each of the workers and these accompanied the photos. •



Message from our GENERAL MANAGER



EVERY DAY, I am reminded of the richness that our many former-refugee communities bring to our city. It is a privilege for the Wellington region to become home to refugees on a regular basis. We benefit in so many ways from the wonderful variety of cultures, cuisines and celebrations former refugees bring with them, along with the opportunity to hear and understand their stories of survival and resilience. This is exactly what a contemporary diverse capital city should look like.

Many of the conversations I have with our members leave me in awe of the way they have faced the daunting challenges in their journeys to their new homes. I am amazed at how they take on those challenges and grab hold of every opportunity once they arrive at the places where they will set up their new lives.

I would like to acknowledge the Wellington City Council for the way it has welcomed refugees over many years, and provided important leadership following March 15. The council has shown its willingness to partner with ChangeMakers and other organisations in a way that respects and strengthens.

Resilience

I started with ChangeMakers at the beginning of October in the role of interim general manager. At the end of 2018, I finished 19 years at Mt Cook School in central Wellington, where I started as a classroom teacher and finished as principal. For more than 40 years, Mt Cook School has welcomed refugee-background families who, over time, have become an important addition to the school community and the communities where they live. In my years at the school, I came to really understand the resilience and determination they bring with them – which is fortunate because they need it as they try to navigate their way through our complex and often bureaucratic systems!

For refugee families, their children are often the main point of contact with the new society they find themselves in. Schools are the place where those children make friends, learn about their new country and its cultures, acquire the English language and help their parents interpret their new home. They are a vital part of the resettlement picture.

Barriers to resettlement

I also came to understand the barriers to resettlement that former refugees face every day – language, culture, understanding employment, the education system, the health system, and so on. While we welcome refugees to our shores, we often don't appreciate the daily challenges they face. That is why ChangeMakers is such an important organisation – because it links communities to create the power of a collective voice. Not only that, ChangeMakers is

based on their strengths rather than weaknesses, and recognises the skills and experience refugees bring with them. The board members are all former refugees and the current board has had several young people join, so is well set up for the future.

Priorities for 2020

Looking forward to 2020, ChangeMakers will continue to focus on the key areas that affect our refugee communities. At a Leaders Council Forum in October, we were delighted to attract several young people with a keen interest in prioritising the issues they and their peers face. They are the next generation of influencers and leaders and we will continue to support them to realise their dreams and the aspirations of their communities. The other priorities identified were no surprise, but affirmed that employment, immigration, education, housing, women and youth are still the areas of focus for communities. Each of these brings both opportunities and challenges. ChangeMakers will continue to work alongside our member communities to achieve the best possible outcomes, to realise our vision – *"New Zealanders from refugee backgrounds participating fully in Aotearoa New Zealand life"* – through advocacy, research and community development activities.

We look forward to strengthening and extending our relationships with other NGOs in the refugee sector and will continue to find ways to collaborate to increase our impact and reach on issues that directly affect the lives of our members.

Sandra McCallum
Interim general manager



Sixty women took part in a consultation meeting October in Wellington, organised by ChangeMakers community development worker Tracey Read. The women, from 10 former-refugee communities, were keen to get to know women from other cultures and to be part of a range of activities, from swimming to cooking to sewing.

Our members

- Afghan Cultural Association of Wellington
- African Students' Association of NZ
- Assyrian Association of NZ Inc
- Colombian community
- Eritrean Community in Wellington NZ Inc
- Ethiopian Community in Wellington Inc
- Greater Wellington Oromo Community Inc
- Iranian communities
- Polish Association in NZ Inc
- Rwandan Association Umubano
- Tamil community
- Sudanese community
- Syrian communities
- Ugandan community
- Wellington Myanmar Community Inc
- Wellington Somali Council

Our funders

A huge thanks to our funders, whose generous contributions are vital to our work.



Anglican Diocese



Te Muka Rau



Private donors

Service delivery contracts



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

The Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment funds ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum to provide the following services:

- Strengthening Refugee Voices
- Open Road

Report from the TREASURER



CHANGEMAKERS HAS continued a large growth spurt that began in 2017 and looks set to continue into 2020. Our income has increased by more than 9 per cent from 2018, and 82 per cent since 2017 (from \$203,628 in 2017 to \$370,308 in 2019), allowing us to spend more for the benefit of our communities.

This year, our main activities were the provision of our driver training programmes, a number of community development and engagement activities, research and advocacy. We managed to raise \$370,308 and spent \$409,159 on these activities – drawing on some of our surplus earnings from previous years. And we have started the 2019-2020 financial year in excellent shape, with \$264,028 already raised on July 1 and ready to spend on our activities in the 2019-2020 financial year.

Richard Bowles
Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum Incorporated, for the year ended June 30, 2019

Statement of FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

“How was it funded?” and “What did it cost?”

	Actual this year \$	Actual last year \$
Revenue		
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	196,204	166,756
Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members	-	4,950
Revenue from providing goods or services	165,852	162,823
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	3,095	3,716
Other revenue	5,157	-
TOTAL REVENUE	370,308	338,245
Expenses		
Volunteer and employee-related costs	245,290	219,646
Costs related to providing goods or services	162,344	121,815
Other expenses	1,525	3,711
TOTAL EXPENSES	409,159	345,172
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	(38,851)	(6,927)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum Incorporated, for the year ended June 30, 2019

Statement of FINANCIAL POSITION

“What the entity owns” and “What the entity owes”

	Actual this year \$	Actual last year \$
ASSETS		
Currents assets		
Bank accounts and cash	405,681	131,233
Debtors and prepayments	7,594	56,446
Other current assets		
Total current assets	413,275	187,678
Non-current assets		
Plant and equipment	453	1,978
Total non-current assets	453	1,978
TOTAL ASSETS	413,728	189,656
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses	76,339	38,585
Unused donations and grants with conditions	264,028	38,859
Other current liabilities	-	-
Total current liabilities	340,367	77,444
TOTAL LIABILITIES	340,367	77,444
Total assets less total liabilities (net assets)	73,361	112,212
Accumulated funds		
Accumulated surpluses (or deficits)	73,361	112,212
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	73,361	112,212



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CONTACT US

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