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The trustees present their statutory report together with the financial statements of International Rescue Committee, UK ("IRC UK") for the year ended 30 September 2021 (FY 2021).

IRC UK is affiliated with the International Rescue Committee Inc., a not-for-profit agency based in New York, USA, ("IRC NY"); the International Rescue Committee Belgium ASBL, based in Brussels; the International Rescue Committee Deutschland (gGmbH) ("IRC DE") based in Bonn and Berlin; the International Rescue Committee Sverige Insamlingsstiftelse ('IRC-SV') in Sweden; and associated agencies and offices worldwide. Collectively, these agencies make up the network referred to as the International Rescue Committee ("IRC").

IRC UK works closely with IRC NY to carry out projects throughout the world. The projects

referred to in this report are implemented through the network by IRC NY and through local partners. This trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and the statement of recommended practice (SORP). It also meets the requirements for a directors' report set out in the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements for a strategic report as outlined in 'The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013'.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies and comply with the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Company Limited by Guarantee Registration Number 3458056 (England and Wales)

Charity Registration Number

## A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Laura Kyrke-Smith**Executive Director,
International Rescue
Committee UK

Friends and colleagues,

As we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic across the world, the work of our organisation is more important than ever and I am so proud of the dedication of our staff.

Humanitarian needs continue to grow worldwide. Millions are displaced for longer periods of time, often living informally rather than in refugee camps, making effective support harder, while in the UK economic and other domestic pressures have led to a reduction in humanitarian funding and political engagement in humanitarian crises.

Our teams have continued to step up and deliver. Across the world, we've provided healthcare to people caught up in conflict and crisis and now affected by COVID-19 too. But we've also seen the economic damage of COVID-19 and responded extensively from direct cash assistance to online job readiness trainings. We have also conducted research exploring the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns on refugees' economic opportunities and identifying how businesses can support the economic wellbeing of refugees.

Despite COVID-19 we have been able to adapt and continue delivering programmes in some of the hardest-to-reach parts of the world, from Ethiopia to Afghanistan, from Yemen to Syria. In the UK we have continued to raise awareness and advocate on behalf of the people we serve. We are proud to have become a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee, and to now be able to work with this fantastic group of leading UK charities to increase the impact of our collective support.

We also engaged our UK partners to build support for our work; we were proud to host, for example, a virtual visit for a number of donors to our programmes in Sierra Leone, and we were pleased to be able to take our UK Patron, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, on a virtual visit to our programmes in Nigeria.

Here in the UK, we launched an exciting new programme to provide integration support to 200 resettled refugees in South East England. This programme is our first in the UK, and builds on our expertise of running refugee integration programmes in the U.S. and Europe to help refugees, coupled with our knowledge of the UK context.

I am also proud of the work we have done at an organisational level to advance diversity, equity and inclusion at the IRC. In the UK we have worked hard to deliver on our diversity and inclusion plan, with great progress in areas including the diversity of our Board and our approach to recruitment.

With the help of our fantastic partners and supporters, our teams will continue to respond to crises in 2022, and ultimately to serve our clients to the very best of our ability. Yours,

Laura Kyrke-Smith

Executive Director, IRC UK

## A LETTER FROM THE IRC UK BOARD



**Titilola Banjoko Osiyemi** Chair, International Rescue Committee UK Board

In my first year of being chair of the IRC UK Board, I've been so encouraged to see our impactful programmes and impressed by the work of the IRC.

Considering the ongoing and emerging crises around the world, the role of this organisation is increasingly important.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put organisations like ours under unprecedented pressure, but the IRC has risen to the challenge. For example, the newly launched RISE programme will help refugees rebuild their lives in England – an exciting development and a first for IRC UK. While the pandemic didn't slow down our work abroad, it did highlight the importance of supporting resettlement here at home, just as we have in the U.S. and Europe. This is an important step for us as an organisation, and we know that the programme is sure to grow, making IRC UK one of the leaders in UK resettlement in the years to come.

I've been so encouraged to see the incredible clients we have been working with around the world, the comprehensive UK aid campaign here at home, and so many inspiring programmes. From daily activities in refugee camps ensuring children can continue their education while being supported through the trauma of losing their home, to forming safe spaces for women to share their thoughts freely, and providing the food assistance that saves lives amidst droughts and famine-like conditions, the IRC teams truly make our world a better place. Looking ahead, we will continue to campaign on the right for our clients in the UK and around the world. I'd like to thank our staff and volunteers for their commitment to the work that we do and thank fellow trustees for their volunteering. I also thank our funders and supporters, who continue to lift up our work and enable us to go from strength to strength.

Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic, we are happy that our Patron, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, could continue to see the impact of our economic empowerment work. It is always an incredible opportunity to see how IRC programmes make a real difference on the ground.

As we look ahead as a Board, we see the incredible growth of impact that IRC UK will continue to have on our world, and the growth of the organisation's fundraising arm will surely increase our impact even further in the years to come. Thank you to our funders, our advocates and all our supporters for their continued support of IRC UK.

Sincerely,

**Titilola Banjoko Osiyemi** Chair, IRC UK Board

## **OUR WORK**

The IRC's mission is to help people whose lives and livelihoods have been shattered by conflict and disaster, including the climate crisis, to survive, recover and regain control of their futures.

We serve people in crisis across the globe who have fled their homes or remained in their communities. Our vision is to lead the humanitarian field by implementing high-impact, cost-effective programmes for people affected by crisis, and by using our experience to shape policy and push for change. In particular, we seek improved outcomes for our clients in the following five focus areas:



#### Reduced risk of ill health and better chances of recovery from ill-health



from physical, sexual, and psychological



**Education** in terms of literacy and numeracy, as well as foundational. vocational. and life skills



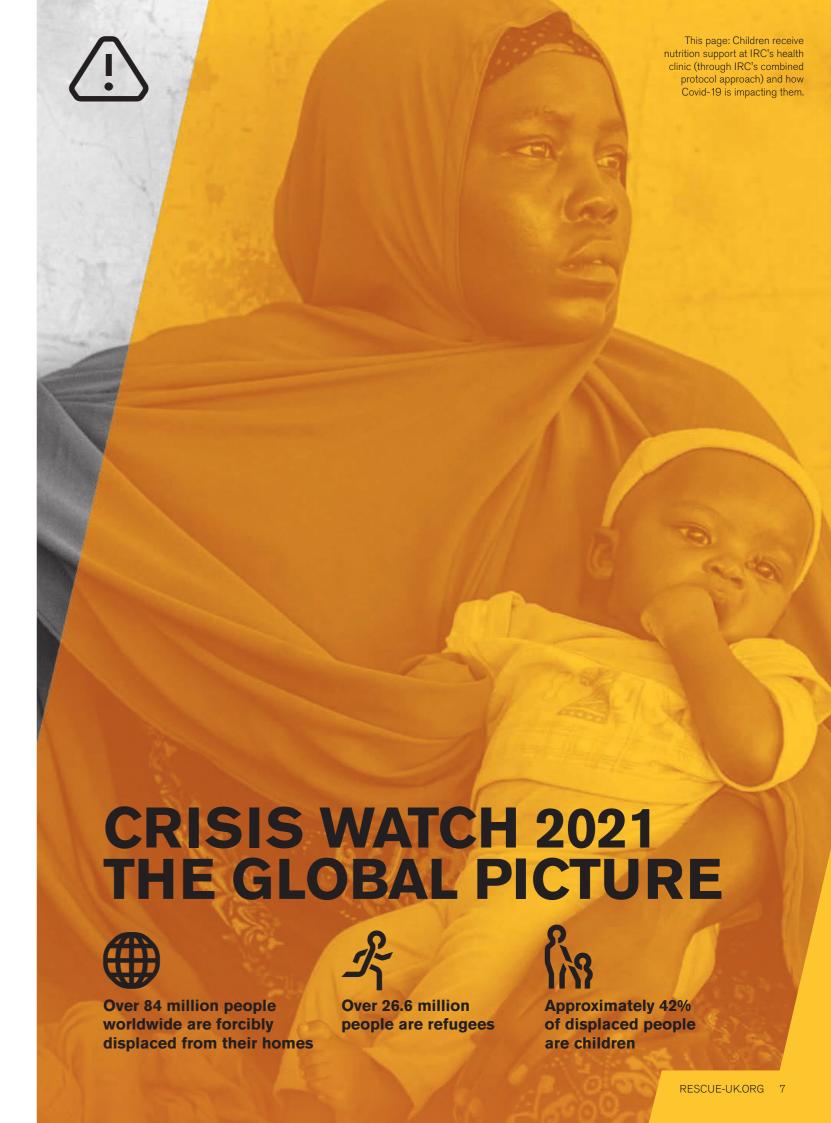
**Economic** wellbeing by addressing basic material needs, income and asset growth



to influence decisions that affect their lives

#### SAFEGUARDING AT THE IRC

The IRC continues to take very seriously our responsibility to protect our staff and clients from exploitation and abuse. The size of our dedicated global Safeguarding Unit more than doubled in 2021, expanding technical support across our global operations. 2021 saw the finish of the IRC's first multi-year Safeguarding Strategy, with an updated three-year Safeguarding Strategy aligned with our global organisational strategy beginning in 2022. Preventing safeguarding violations was the primary goal of this work in 2021, and this will continue into 2022 and beyond. Further detail on our approach to safeguarding is set out on page 41.



## **2021 PRIORITY CRISIS: YEMEN**

In 2021, armed conflict spread to new governorates, while it continued to manifest in sporadic fighting and some escalation in ongoing conflict areas with no end in sight.

The conflict will likely continue in 2022 and could trigger renewed major violence as all sides seek to gain power via military operations given the lack of strong incentives to engage in a political process. Gender-based violence (GBV), discrimination towards women, and early marriages have significantly increased since the start of the war, and there are critical gaps in reproductive health services across the country. With humanitarian access heavily restricted in many areas and humanitarian funding shortfall, the ability of humanitarian actors to meet Yemenis' needs is constrained.

The IRC has worked in Yemen since 2012, and throughout 2021 our teams continued to deliver urgent health and nutrition services to those displaced by the war. The IRC also provided reproductive healthcare to pregnant women and new mothers, water and sanitation services, education for out-of-school children, and psychosocial and case management services for women and children.

30.5

million: Population

20.7

million people in need of humanitarian aid

16.1

million people facing crisis levels of food insecurity or worse in 2021

168th

(of 170 countries) for women's equality

15.6

million people living in extreme poverty

Opposite: Na'aem Ahmed Abdullah, 11 years old, comes from Al Hodeidah. Na'aem lives with her parents and 8 siblings in Al-Sahdah camp. Na'aem wants to be a teacher when she grows up, and believes all children should get an education so they can succeed.



## **2021 PRIORITY CRISIS: AFGHANISTAN**

By late 2021, drought, inflation, and food shortages left nearly half of the population experiencing crisis or worse levels of food insecurity – the highest level ever recorded in Afghanistan.

In 2022, over half of the population will face acute food insecurity, including nearly nine million people who are one step away from famine. More than three million children are at risk of acute malnutrition, at least one million of whom are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition and could die without treatment.

The IRC has worked in Afghanistan since 1988, and we now work in thousands of villages across nine provinces, with Afghans making up more than 99% of IRC staff in the country. In recent years, the IRC has become one of the leaders in women's protection and empowerment in Afghanistan. We also provide uprooted families with cash assistance, tents, clean water, sanitation and other necessities; support over 100 health facilities; help people find employment; and work with local communities to identify, plan and manage their own development projects.

39.8 million: Population

million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance

50%

More than half of the population is affected by acute food insecurity

90%

Over 90% of the country's health clinics are expected to be shut down in 2022

Opposite: Zulaykha\* (name changed), who received emergency cash assistance from the International Rescue Committee (IRC), plays with her son outside the home she is renting



## **2021 PRIORITY CRISIS: ETHIOPIA**

Ethiopia is experiencing a multitude of crises including conflict, severe weather shocks, and COVID-19, which are all driving massive humanitarian needs.

In 2021, flooding, drought, worsening economic conditions and widespread conflict has pushed millions of people into dire need of humanitarian assistance. System failures as a result of conflicts and lack of funds have meant that many of those in need of humanitarian assistance have not yet been reached.

The IRC is working across Ethiopia with refugees, displaced people and host communities impacted by crises to address humanitarian challenges. We are providing healthcare, education, water and sanitation, livelihoods, and protection services to people across the country. We run Early Child Education facilities and safe spaces; conduct a feeding programme; provide GBV counselling services; and distribute cash and non-food items like blankets, hygiene kits and jerry cans.

117.9

million: Population

25.9

million people in need of humanitarian aid

million people internally displaced at the end of 2021

Opposite: Portrait of Misra Hussein Ahmed (22) while teaching students during a class session. Misra lives with her two children in Qoloji camp, located in the was a high-school student with lreams to complete a PhD after her studies; however, since she and her children were displaced, she's Somali and English to elementary schoolchildren in the camp. Misra receives teacher training from the IRC as part of the education program funded by the European Commission's Department for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO). (Edited).

This page: Zainab Bare is a Somali refugee living in Helowyn camp in Ethiopia.



## REFUGEE INTEGRATION IN SOUTHEAST ENGLAND (RISE)

In 2021, the IRC launched its first programme in the UK, working in partnership with local councils to provide integration support to 200 resettled refugees in South East England.

This programme draws on the IRC's expertise in refugee integration, building on our experience of running refugee integration programmes in the United States and Europe, to help refugees rebuild their lives in the UK.

The IRC RISE programme offers resettled refugees the knowledge and confidence to thrive, whilst also equipping their local communities with the skills to better support them. This is achieved through a range of activities, such as group training sessions on cultural orientation, exploring how to understand and navigate local services, as well as mentorship schemes to foster mutual support and progress.

The IRC believes that the integration of women should be a priority in its own right, therefore the RISE programme will focus on supporting refugee women in particular. We know from other countries where we work, that even when refugee women are allowed to work legally, many face discriminatory norms and administrative barriers to accessing employment. Through inclusive, tailored civic and community engagement activities, RISE increases community participation, builds confidence and strengthens the resilience of refugee families, particularly women to take control of their future.

The project targets 200 resettlement scheme sponsored adult refugees aged 18 to 65 through a blend of mixed and gender-specific activities, which address cultural and practical barriers, to ensure full and equal participation of both men and

women. In 2022 we will expand this programme to serve a growing number of clients including newly-arrived Afghan refugees following the fall of Kabul to the Taliban.

### WELCOMING REFUGEES IN THE UK

Moving to a new and unfamiliar country can be a daunting prospect but we know that when welcomed, refugees have much to offer. But even when refugees land safely in Britain, they still face significant challenges on the pathway to rebuilding their lives, such as employment, language, education and access to basic services.

This is why integration support for refugees is so essential. Refugees are an asset to the UK, enriching local communities whilst also making an important economic contribution. They pay their taxes, they support local commerce, and they start their own businesses providing jobs, as well as filling jobs for welcoming employers.

Evidence from other contexts where the IRC work, speak to the economic potential of refugees. In the United States, 84% of refugees enrolled on IRC employment programmes were economically self-sufficient within 180 days. IRC research has also found that refugee women could make a significant contribution to global GDP, if employment and wage gaps were closed in each of the top 30 refugee-hosting countries.



This page: 4-year-old Nasrin was born with a serious heart condition to Kurdish-Syrian refugees



#### **INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESPONDING TO RISING HUNGER**

The humanitarian landscape is changing. Not only are millions displaced, but they are also displaced for longer periods of time, and the majority live in cities and communities rather than refugee camps.

In fact, 60% of the world's refugees and 80% of IDPs live in urban areas. Newly-arrived refugees set about finding work, but unemployment in host countries is often already high. This can lead to tensions with host communities. To counter this, we support boosting collective job opportunities across communities, while encouraging governments to end policies that restrict economic opportunities for refugees, and thus stifle the economy for everyone.

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the livelihoods of women who are overrepresented in informal work such as market trading and other forms of self-employment, as well as sectors disproportionately affected by lockdowns such as retail and personal services like hairdressing. We explored the impact of lockdown on refugees' economic opportunities in Restoring resilient futures: Women's economic empowerment in the face of Covid-19 and displacement, with leading think tank ODI. We found that crises and displacement worsened the impact of the pandemic for women and their economic recovery relies on a combination of services. We promote a model of women's economic empowerment that not only seeks to increase women's use and control of economic resources but also responds to the increasing threat of gender-based violence and supports community and women's organisations' efforts to transform gender discriminatory social norms and laws.

A further devastating consequence of the pandemic-triggered economic downturn is rising hunger. This year, the UK held the presidency of the G7 and included famine prevention as a priority theme. We launched a report, Ending the hunger crisis: Recovery, response and resilience, ahead of the G7 summit to call for G7 leaders to take action and prevent famine by prioritising vital humanitarian responses including humanitarian cash transfers, malnutrition prevention, and response and climate and gender-sensitive food security programming. We called for G7 countries to take diplomatic action to unblock barriers to vital humanitarian services. The G7 leaders responded by including an endorsement of G7 famine prevention plans in the Leaders' statement. However, this was against the backdrop of cuts to UK aid. We joined peer organisations to highlight the consequences of these cuts at a time of rising critical needs.

of the world's refugees live in urban areas

live in urban areas

Opposite: Zahara Adem, 10 (left) and Shenkeron Abdi, 13 are best friends. Zahara and Shenkeron are part of Girl Shine at Helowyn camp, Somali region.



#### **ACTION AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

Violence against women and girls is a global problem of epidemic proportions. Evidence shows that over one-third of women and girls globally will experience some form of violence in their lifetime.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is exacerbated in emergencies, where vulnerability and risks are higher, and family and community protections have broken down.

Restrictions on freedom of movement and association because of COVID-19 have exacerbated a roll-back in gender equality for women and girls in fragile and conflict-affected states. GBV prevention and response services have become difficult or impossible to access in many places, with adolescent girls particularly at risk, as schools and age-appropriate services close, cutting them off from support networks. In a study conducted with IRC clients across 15 of our country programmes in the first few months of COVID-19 lockdowns, 73% of respondents reported a rise in domestic abuse during the pandemic.

Using programming data and expertise, we have continued to engage in national and global advocacy throughout 2020. This includes championing the needs of women and girls in COVID-19 humanitarian response plans for fragile and conflict-affected states. We released a series of reports, briefings, and coordinated civil society letters during the initial months of COVID-19 lockdown highlighting the Shadow Pandemic of GBV in humanitarian crises and the lack of resources for GBV in the United Nations global host communities. To counter this, we support boosting collective job opportunities across communities, while encouraging governments to end policies that restrict economic opportunities for refugees, and thus stifle the economy for everyone.

Refugee women face additional barriers to safe economic opportunities, including a heightened threat of GBV and economic exploitation, particularly high legal barriers to decent work and increased care burdens. We explored the impact of lockdown on refugees' economic opportunities in the report Locked Down and Left Behind: the Impact of COVID-19 on Refugees' Economic Inclusion. The IRC has found ways to maintain women's economic empowerment programming through approaches such as digital training and mobile cash transfers.

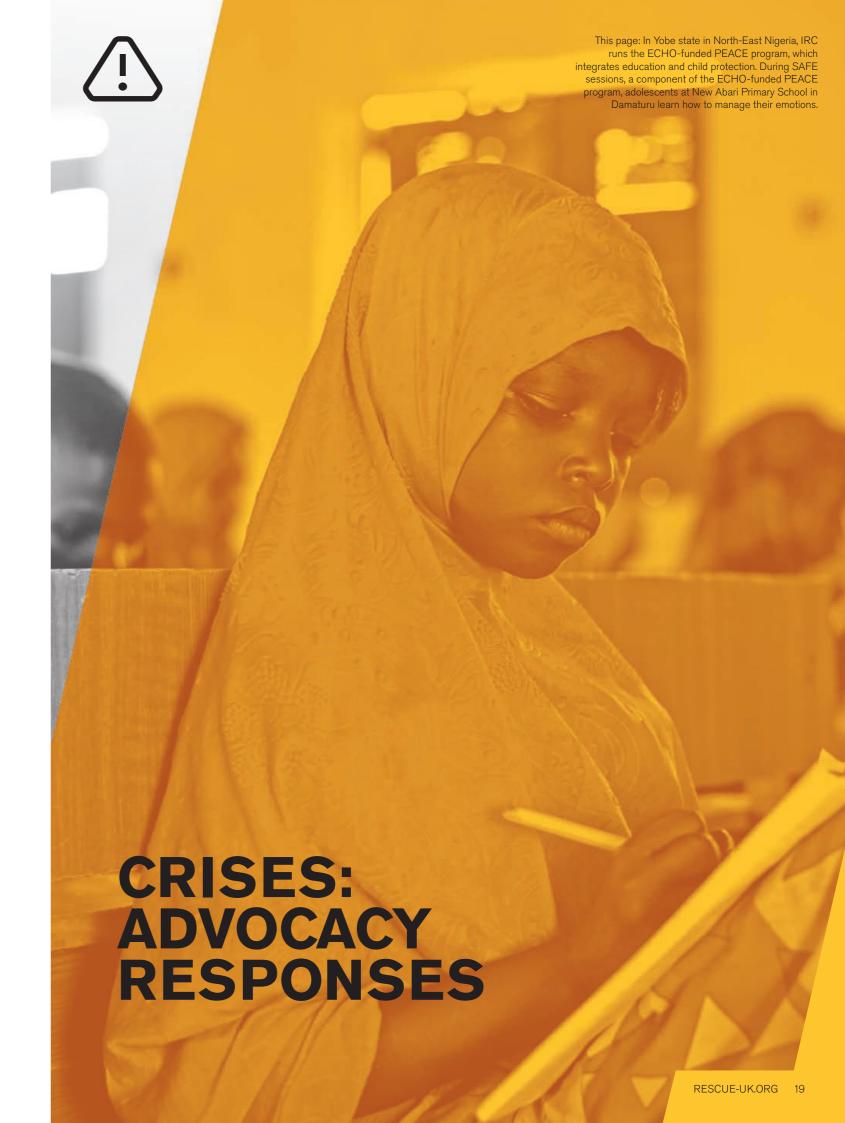
We promote a model of women's economic empowerment that not only seeks to increase women's use and control of economic resources but also responds to GBV and supports community and women's organisations' efforts to transform discriminatory gender norms and laws.

73%

of respondents reported a rise in domestic abuse during the pandemic



Above: IRC Women's Protection and Empowerment staff member Umme speaks with women in Bangladesh, after they lost their shelter and belongings in a Cox's Bazaar fire.







#### **AFGHANISTAN:**

During the crisis, IRC shared our programmatic and policy expertise with Parliamentarians and the UK government, including meeting with high-level Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO, formerly DFID) officials where we were able to highlight the key needs and gaps in the global response. We were able to ensure that our recommendations on supporting women and girls in the response was a key priority, including ensuring humanitarian aid workers were able to go back to work, as well as flexible funding.



#### YEMEN:

IRC worked closely with Crisis Action to share our recommendations with the new Special Envoy setting out areas in which the UN could increase its focus and investment to drive forward the peace process, including the economic crisis that continues to drive the conflict. In June 2021, donors met in Brussels for the annual Senior Officials Meeting with a strong focus on donor efforts to support improved humanitarian access in Yemen. One of the key IRC/ NGO asks was for the development of a joint action plan to coordinate UN and Member state diplomatic efforts, and OCHA was tasked with the development of this plan. We have continued to meet regularly with the FCDO in London to raise operational concerns, including the impact of the deteriorating security situation in southern Yemen on IRC programmes.



## In February 2021, the UK held the presidency of the

UN Security Council during which time it identified the monthly UNSC Syria briefing, led by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and attended by the P5 and UNSC members, as a key moment to elevate concerns about the risks of non-renewal of crossborder aid. We worked closely with the UK Mission in New York and colleagues in the Beirut Embassy to ensure a clear position was adopted at the UN Security Council which permitted cross-border access into Syria to deliver aid. The UK government did support the renewal of access into northwest Syria and the reauthorisation of access into a second area of the northwest and the northeast and supported efforts to ensure that other Council members did too.



#### **ROHINGYA CRISIS/ MYANMAR:**

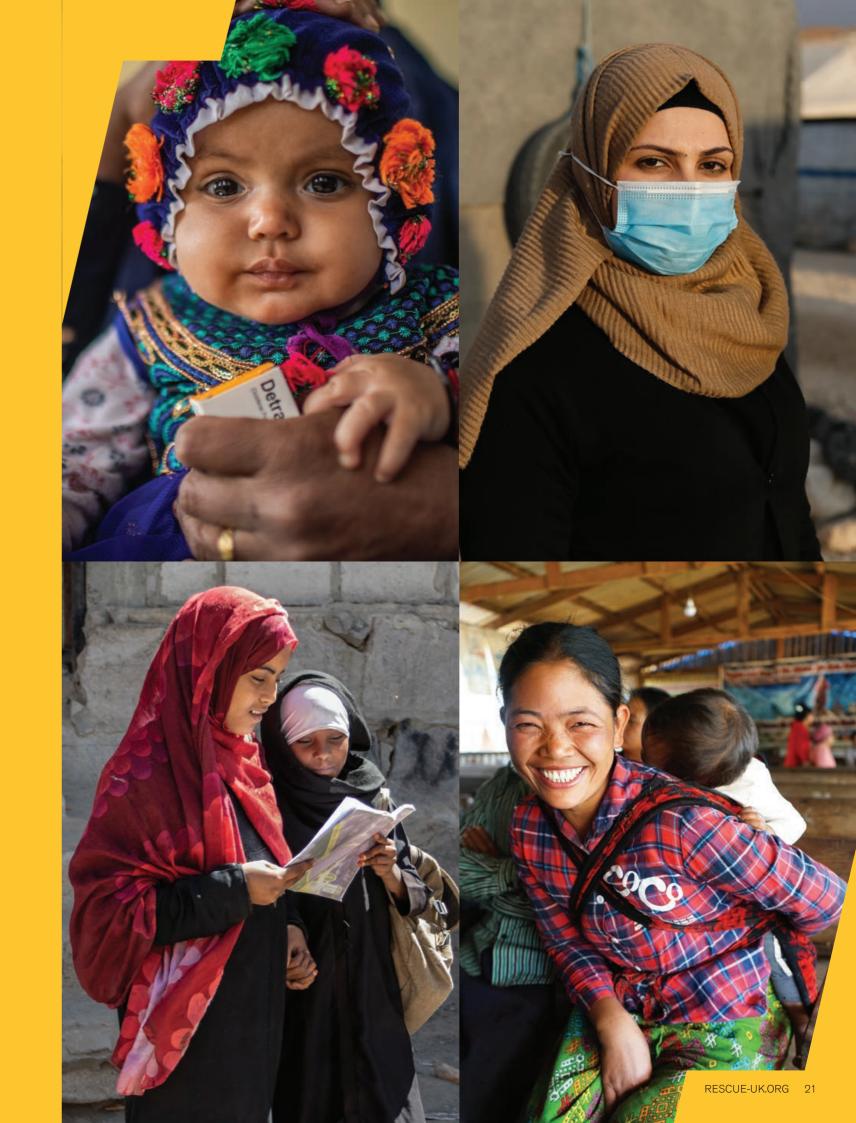
We continue to share our expertise in Parliament, including through the International Development Select Committee, on the Rohingya crisis. We drafted a briefing paper on the current attempts to expedite the relocation of Rohingya refugees from Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char, which we shared with stakeholders in European capitals, as well as their UN representatives in Geneva.

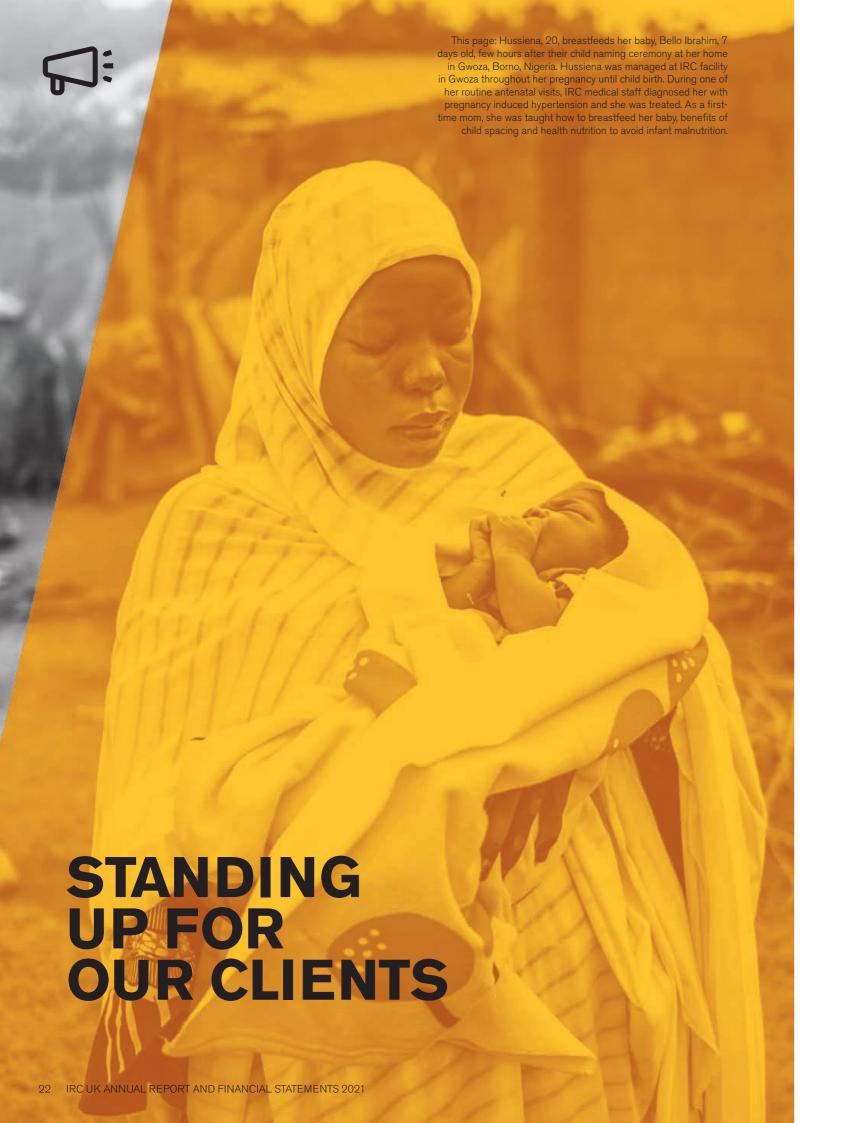
Opposite top left: Afghanistan: Mosina\*, 31, visits an IRC-supported health clinic in Afghanistan with her children Zia\* 6, and Seema\*, for Seema's\* 5-month check up with the clinic's midwife, Abida\* (names changed).

Opposite top right: Syria: IRC staff member involved in the distribution, Lina\*, 27 years old is a Case Processing Officer who works with the IRC in Mahmoudli Camp. At 8:30 am she starts receiving patients for the self-help sessions, psychosocial support sessions and case processing services until 4.00 pm (name changed).

Opposite bottom left: Yemen: Aisha and Na'aem live in Sahdah Camp, located in the Al-Dhale'e Governorate in southwest Yemen. Aisha and Na'aem are best friends, and hope to one day give back to their

Opposite bottom right: Myanmar: Young mother and her baby at displacement camp in Northern Shan State, Myanmar. Years of conflict has forced 100,000 to flee their homes and seek shelter in small camps scattered across the region.





#### **BUSINESS REFUGEE ACTION NETWORK (BRAN)**

With the right opportunities and support, refugees can rebuild their lives, become part of their new communities, and contribute to the local economy - and we all gain from this. That's why the IRC collaborated with business to launch the Business Refugee Action Network (BRAN). BRAN was established in 2018 by founding members the IRC, Virgin, Ben & Jerry's, the Tent Partnership for Refugees, and the B Team.

BRAN identified business-led innovation as one promising route to improving the economic wellbeing of refugees. To this end, a group of businesses in the network have implemented new approaches to employing refugees. The areas explored were: integrating refugees into supply chains, opportunities for entrepreneurship, and facilitating remote work for refugees. This year, the BRAN launched a synthesis report exploring the innovative approaches implemented by Ben & Jerry's, Virgin Megastore Middle East, Levi Strauss & Co., and the social enterprise, NaTakallam. It draws on the feedback and analysis of these innovative approaches generated by wider BRAN membership during BRAN's workshops conducted during 2019 and 2020, and reflects on the impact of COVID-19 on businesses trialing new approaches.

#### **FURTHER ADVOCACY IN SUPPORT OF OUR CLIENTS**

#### **Global Britain Partnership with the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)**

In December 2021, the IRC launched a collection of essays, 'Britain as a Force for Good: 6 Ways to Turn a Slogan into Reality'. This collection brought together eight esteemed authors who each offer constructive and tangible ideas for how the UK can realise its ambition to be a force for good on the global stage. The collection included an essay from Baroness Sugg CBE, former FCDO minister, outlining how the UK could launch its first feminist foreign policy;

and Fatou Jeng, founder of Clean Earth Gambia and UNFCCC youth representative, advocating for the UK to put justice at the heart of its action on climate change. Additional contributions included came from Lord Peter Ricketts, former national security advisor; Sir Mark Lowcock, former Under-Secretary General of UN OCHA; Sir Jeremy Farrar and Alice Jamieson, from the Wellcome Trust; and Ravi Gurumurthy and Kathy Peach, from the innovation foundation Nesta. Our online launch event was chaired by Deborah Haynes, Sky News Security, and Defence Editor, and attended by Members of Parliament, government officials, sector colleagues and other foreign policy think tank directors.

#### Aid campaign

We hosted a number of parliamentarians on a 'virtual visit' to see the Cameroon country programme. This allowed them to hear directly from those delivering assistance to vulnerable communities on the frontline, demonstrating the power of humanitarian assistance in fragile and conflict affect states (FCAS). Following the visit, the parliamentarians raised these concerns with the Foreign Secretary, to highlight the impact of cuts in UK aid on programmes in crisis settings.

#### **Expertise in Parliament**

We continue to regularly provide information and share our expertise to parliamentary committees. This year we submitted a number of responses, including to multiple International Development Committee (IDC) inquiries on the aid cuts; climate change and COP26; and racism in the aid sector. Furthermore, Adnan Junaid, IRC Pakistan country director, gave evidence to the IDC on an inquiry into UK aid to Pakistan. IRC analysis was quoted in the committee's report into "Covid-19" in developing countries: secondary impacts", and our recommendations were adopted, including on increasing funding for frontline organisations.



We are extremely grateful to our philanthropic partners, whose compassionate generosity has helped to drive the IRC's work around the world over the last year.

When the Afghanistan crisis hit in July, our philanthropic supporters stepped up to help the IRC provide for urgent needs, and over the course of the year, members of The Fifty-One continued to provide holistic, flexible support across all of the IRC's work.

Building a Better Tomorrow, a project supporting Syrian refugees in Lebanon funded by The Said and Asfari Foundations, and other generous philanthropists, remained a core part of our work. We appreciate the commitment and collaboration of both Foundations during the last year in responding to the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

We have also continued to raise awareness and build strategic partnerships across the philanthropic ecosystem. This led to the IRC being featured in articles and a panel event with Philanthropy Impact and IRC President and CEO, David Miliband spoke at a 'Coutts in Conversation' event.

For the new year, we look forward to welcoming new partners and working strategically with them to continue mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19 in addition to the ever-present needs of the clients we support.

#### INDIVIDUAL GIVING

The UK public's support for the IRC's work increased again in 2021, with 19,000 donors giving more than £2.58m in 2021 through one-off cash gifts and monthly donations. Particularly notable responses were to our Afghanistan emergency appeal in August, to which the public donated more than £500,000. Our Christmas appeal, which focussed on the added impact of Covid-19 in crisis-affected countries such as Syria and Yemen, raised £830,000. We are so grateful to all of our donors and their continued generosity, particularly during a year when the pandemic has impacted so many of us.

We are particularly grateful for the support of the following philanthropic individuals as well as others who wish not to be named:

Anita Mendiratta

Cressida Pollock and Daniel Luhde-Thompson

Eric Salama

Francesco Garzarelli and Elena Ciallié

James and Hiroko Sherwin

John and Catriona Stares

Nick and Andrea Kukrika

Rasha Mansouri Elmasry and Hassan Elmasry

Scott and Claire Mackin

Susan Gibson and Mark Bergman

The Gulab Jamun Charitable Trust

Robby Walker

Opposite: Dr. Ruth Grace Babirye, Zonal Doctor for zone II, Bidi Bidi refugee settlement at the IRC protection centre where vaccination for the elderly is happening.

RESCUE-UK.ORG 25

## **SUPPORT FOR OUR WORK**



In 2021, our corporate partners have shown once again their commitment to ensuring those affected by humanitarian crises are able to access health care, livelihoods support, cash assistance, education and more.

#### **CORPORATE PARTNERS:**

- Citigroup Foundation
- GSMA Mobile for Development Foundation
- Standard Chartered Foundation
- The Alstom Foundation
- Unilever

#### **CITIGROUP RESILIENT FUTURES**

The IRC's flagship partnership with Citigroup Foundation launched its third project, called Resilient Futures, which has expanded to Mexico meaning that we are now providing vital support to young entrepreneurs in seven countries and four continents.

Amid the global pandemic, the team also had to adapt and pivot, for example, by hosting virtual programmatic visits for our donors. Our most recent event was a bespoke virtual visit to Sierra Leone for Standard Chartered Foundation.

Above: A cleaning and hygiene promotion volunteer and IRC staff member prepare wash and dignity kits to be distributed to families at a Lesvos, Greece refugee reception and identification centre.

We extend sincere gratitude to the trusts, foundations, companies, and organisations that made our work possible in 2021. Their support continues to enable our response to those affected by disaster and conflict across the globe.

Asfari Foundation Bainum Foundation Barbour Foundation Belron Ronnie Lubner Charitable Foundation Bernard van Leer Foundation

Alstom Foundation

Bridgewater Charitable Trust Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust

Calpe Trust

**CHK** Foundation Citi Foundation

Cheruby Trust

COVID-19 Global Impact & Innovation Fund

Dalgleish Trust

Dickety Family Trust Ex Corde Trust

Green Room Charitable Trust

GSMA Mobile for **Development Foundation** 

Hasil Foundation

Henhurst Charitable Trust Hugh Symons Charitable Trust

Intouch Global Foundation

Jacobs Foundation

James Percy Foundation Khalsa Aid

LBM Jem Charitable Trust Mistral Stiftung

Mondelez

Monteverde Charitable Trust O'Neill Family Trust

ORR Mackintosh Foundation

RELX Group

Rest-Harrow Trust

R G Hills Charitable Trust Rhododendron Trust

Saïd Foundation

Seneca Trust

Sightsavers

S M B Trust

Standard Chartered Foundation

The Children's Investment

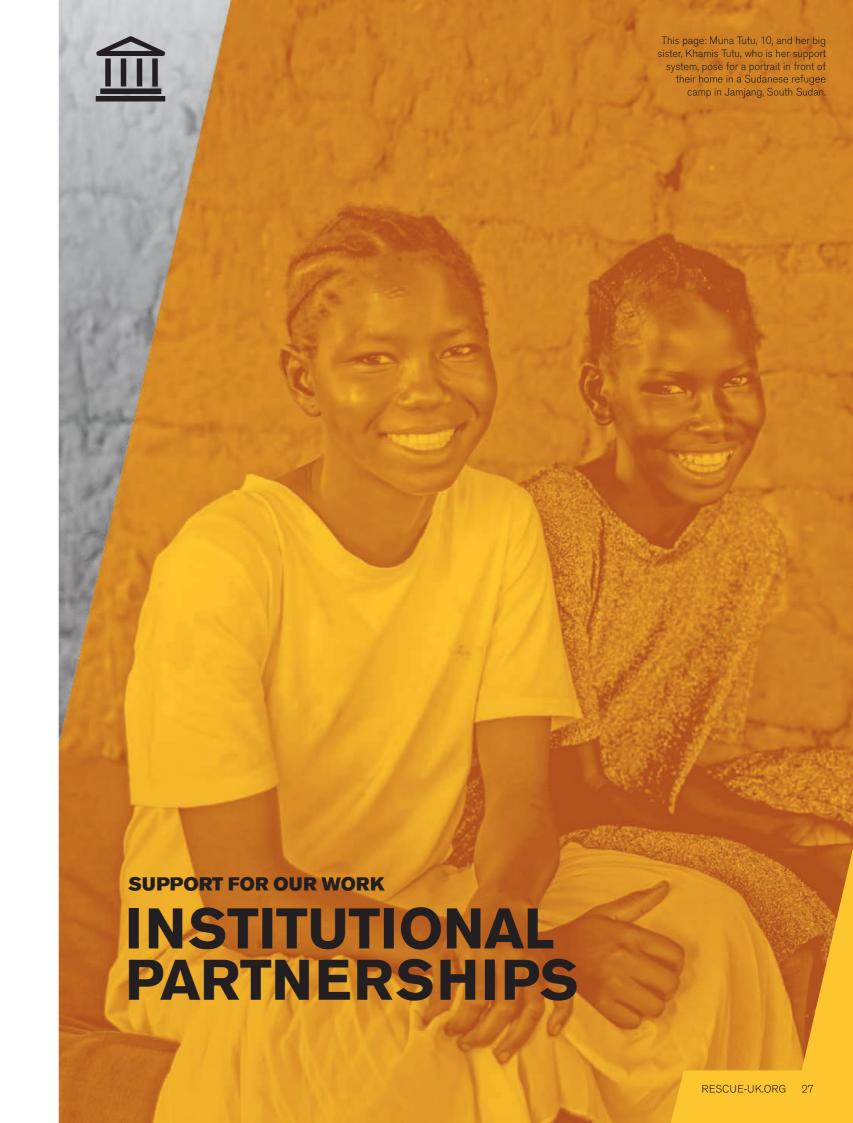
Fund Foundation

The Zennor Trust

Tisbury Telegraph Trust

Touton S.A. Tula Trust

Vovos Better World Fund





We continued to strengthen our relationships with government donors and institutions in 2021. In addition to supporting the IRC's programmes in some of the world's most complex crises, many of these partnerships allow collaboration in thought leadership on the world's most pressing humanitarian problems.



#### **EAST AFRICA: SOUTH SUDAN**

In 2021, South Sudan continued to face protracted widespread violence, severe climate shocks, and the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, with the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) identifying 8.3 million people in current need of humanitarian assistance. South Sudan's economy remains largely subsistence-based and rural poverty is widespread, with at least 80% of the population defined as income-poor and living on an equivalent of less than US\$1 per day.1 Recurrent and unpredictable flooding has led to huge losses of agriculture products and assets, forcing communities to leave their homes with limited access to services and livelihoods. Through Europe Aid funding, the IRC has been working to strengthen the resilience of communities, improve governance and conflict prevention and reduce forced displacements due to loss of livelihoods. To achieve this the IRC has been working to improve the food security of rural smallholders to cope with environmental volatility and insecurity. In 2021, through EU funding, 4,263 farmers adopted climate-smart agriculture practices, 383 farmer groups were established, and 1,165 farmers were trained on horticultural production, giving communities the knowledge to cultivate their own produce. In addition, 508 beneficiaries were supported with training in start-ups, primarily in agriculture-oriented businesses such as local bread making as well as selling fish, grain, and milk.



#### **WEST AFRICA: MALI**

In Mali, the security situation remains very fragile, particularly in Ménaka, where banditry persists, as do targeted killings and intercommunity tensions. Alliances and counter-alliances between members of armed groups that have signed and not signed peace agreements with the regular armed forces seeking to contain the ambitions of radical groups on the Ménaka and Niger borders have weakened social cohesion. This has reinforced suspicions between the different communities against a backdrop of internal struggles for control of natural resources and major trafficking (drugs, weapons, etc.).

In this unstable context, which has seen the number of staff at the Direction Régionale de l'Hydraulique (DNH) in Ménaka drop from three to one, water investments remain very rare, while the situation of access to drinking water for the populations of the Ménaka region remains precarious with, according to the DNH, rates of access to water for the five communes of the Ménaka region are equivalent to 5% for the commune of Alata, 14% for the commune of Tidermene, 17% for that of Anderamboukane, 27% for that of Ménaka, and 34% for that of Inékar. By way of comparison, the national level is 65% with an optimum of 70% in urban areas.

With the support of Agence Française de Développement (AFD) in Mali, the IRC implemented a project to improve access to drinking water and hygiene conditions for the people of the Ménaka region. The project was piloted by the IRC in collaboration with the DNH, which provided technical

expertise and facilitated contact with the government administration. During implementation, the IRC and our partners constructed and rehabilitated 23 water points, enabling 17,880 people to have sustainable access to water. The project also involved training local actors in hygiene promotion.

The local community has been involved in the project from the outset, from design to implementation, and in the management of the hydraulic works. The local communities, partners, and local authorities have been supported through receiving training and participating in sensitisation sessions, which contributes to the sustainability of the work.

The IRC is about to renew its agreement with AFD in Mali to continue and expand our work in the Ménaka region.



#### **GREAT LAKES: TANZANIA**

As of July 2021, the government of Tanzania hosted 282,574 refugees and asylum seekers, with the majority from Burundi (162,823) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (76,928). 85% of the refugees and asylum seekers reside in the three camps (Nyarugusu, Nduta, and Mtendeli) located in the Kigoma region<sup>2</sup>. Among these, an estimated 44% are children in need of humanitarian assistance.

The IRC has been providing education services for girls and boys in Nyarugusu refugee camp since January 2014, and in Mtendeli camp since March 2016. Thanks to funding from the FCDO, the IRC was also able to extend its services to the Nduta refugee camp and continue activities in Nyarugusu and Mtendeli camps through a £5 million 26-month programme that concluded in September 2021. This support allowed the IRC, in partnership with Plan International and Caritas, to make significant investments in the educational infrastructure available within these refugee camps, including by constructing and renovating 83 classrooms across the three camps and in the surrounding host community

for the purpose of addressing the challenges of overcrowding and of improving education outcomes for students. FCDO's funding enabled the IRC and our partners to roll out a Female Graduate Training programme aimed at increasing the number of female educators in Tanzania. A total of 136 women had successfully graduated by the end of the project. Moreover, 800 adolescent girls graduated from IRC's Girls Shine programme, which focusses on increasing the safety and confidence of girls and reducing the risks of gender-based violence (GBV).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, while schools were closed in Tanzania, the IRC and our partners designed and rolled out a radio programme advocating positive parenting techniques, and distributed hygiene kits and home learning materials for children to 31,545 households in the three camps. Once schools reopened in June 2020, the IRC provided critical support for a safe return to school for both teachers and children across all camps by installing handwashing stations in schools and providing training to teachers and educational personnel on the application of the National School WASH guidelines. The IRC also provided increased response capacity for refugees and the Ministry of Health's facilities in the Kigoma region through the recruitment of additional health care workers and the development of new communication products to address misinformation around COVID-19.

The results of the programme assessment conducted in June 2021 show that FCDO's support has increased gains significantly in educational attainment for girls and boys. Transition rates from primary to secondary schools have improved from a baseline of 17.25% in 2019 to 65% by the end of September 2021 for both Burundian and Congolese refugee students. The programme has also reduced barriers and facilitated more equitable access to education for all children in the camps and host communities surrounding them, with an 18% improvement in total enrollment over the lifespan of the project- from 56% of children enrolled in school before the intervention-to 74% at the time of its close.

1 UNDP Report: <a href="https://www.ss.undp.org/content/south\_sudan/en/home/countryinfo.html">www.ss.undp.org/content/south\_sudan/en/home/countryinfo.html</a>
2 UNHCR Inter-Agency Operational Update, Tanzania July 2021





#### MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: SYRIA

Sadly, 2021 marked a decade of conflict in Syria that has resulted in over half a million people killed or missing, and more than half of the country's population being displaced. Ten years of brutal war have undermined Syrians' ability to cope with the latest challenges brought about by COVID-19 and exacerbated the economic crisis. Many civilians have been left living in perpetual conflict zones and displaced multiple times, while the health system has been decimated. Despite reductions to the budget, continued multi-year funding from the FCDO has enabled the IRC to continue to respond to the humanitarian needs of hundreds of thousands of people affected by the ongoing conflict.

The IRC is now into our sixth and final year of the FCDO-funded programme providing humanitarian assistance in Syria, and our ninth overall with the same donor since the beginning of the crisis. During this time the IRC's support has been across three programme areas: health, protection and economic recovery and development. Over the last 12 months, through our health programme, the IRC and our Syrian implementing partners have supported 46 health facilities with supplies, payment of staff salaries and running costs. Through this support

366,164 primary health care consultations have been provided and a further 16,268 consultations for people impacted by some form of trauma. All of the facilities have provided COVID-19 screening and the IRC and our Syrian implementing partners have supported four COVID-19 isolation units providing beds to over 1,800 patients suffering from severe COVID-19 symptoms.

The IRC's protection programme reached 9,145 people with psychosocial support, with a further 2,032 women and girls benefitting from the IRC's support in dealing with sexual and gender-based violence. Regrettably, due to the aid budget cuts, the IRC's FCDO-funded economic recovery and development programme ended at the end of March 2021. Nevertheless, in the last six months of the programme, the IRC distributed £634,860 worth of unconditional cash assistance through 7,135 grants to the most vulnerable heads of households to spend as they need, including 958 people living with disabilities. The IRC's cash for work programme provided a further £203,123 to 799 people engaged in community-based projects including the production of 300,000 masks to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Above: Swasan\* wearing a mustard-colored headscarf and a traditional Syrian dress, sits on a thin mattress in the small room in which she lives with her husband and five children. She vividly remembers the night she and her family had to leave their home in Aleppo. The family has since been displaced for more than five years, unable to return home.



#### **AFGHANISTAN:**

Afghanistan is in a state of humanitarian crisis, with a potential humanitarian disaster looming on the horizon. The flash appeal issued by UN OCHA for the immediate humanitarian needs from September to December 2021 reveals that approximately 24 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. The crisis comes on the back of several interlinking challenges, including the intensified armed conflict throughout 2021, the significant internal displacement and disruption of livelihoods stemming from the conflict, a widespread drought that has worn down coping capacities to the breaking point, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the onset of a harsh winter - and now a gradually developing economic and financial crisis after the takeover by de facto authorities. More than 3.5 million people remain internally displaced from conflict, 635,000 of whom were displaced in 2021 alone. Protection risks, particularly for women, children, and minorities, increase across the country. The weakened banking sector is one of several operational challenges facing actors on the ground in scaling up the response. In terms of humanitarian access, the end of active fighting, for now at least, seems to have resumed access to formerly inaccessible parts of the country.

The unprecedented scale of disruptions and institutional collapse required an agile, adaptable, and guick funding mechanism with minimal delays and budgetary restrictions. The IRC was already implementing a grant from the Swedish International Cooperation Agency (Sida) to deliver emergency response and education in 2021. This was using the Programme Based Approach (PBA), which provides 100% flexibility allowing the quick adaptation to changing contexts and enabling a timely response. The IRC, along with its implementing partner Danish Refugee Council, provided full and reduced cash assistance to 4,951 households who were identified, assessed, and verified through Joint Assessment Teams in six provinces. The IRC also provided cash for non-food items to 1,037 vulnerable households in Khost province. This targeted assistance enabled

people to meet their basic needs without relying on negative coping strategies such as forced child marriage. The post-distribution monitoring findings of the cash assistance indicated that 100% of respondents confirmed that the distribution site was accessible, 63% of respondents reported they waited less than one hour to collect their assistance, and 100% of interviewees reported that they have not paid any money to anyone after the distribution. Additionally, 100% of respondents confirmed they faced no violence or harassment as a consequence of cash distribution, and 92% of interviewees reported that the complaint and feedback mechanism is safe and accessible.

In parallel, the IRC adjusted the education programme based on context changes and frequent disruption of education activities. The IRC's education team pivoted to education system support interventions such as provision of learning materials and equipment needed for public schools, hiring of teachers for schools where lack of teachers is a challenge, and development of an online education application to be provided to students in Afghanistan free of cost.

The flexibility to make changes to the programme was critical in resuming programming quickly and reaching as many people as possible. The ability to re-design activities based on needs and budget flexibility enabled IRC programme teams to reach the most vulnerable people in a timely and efficient way.





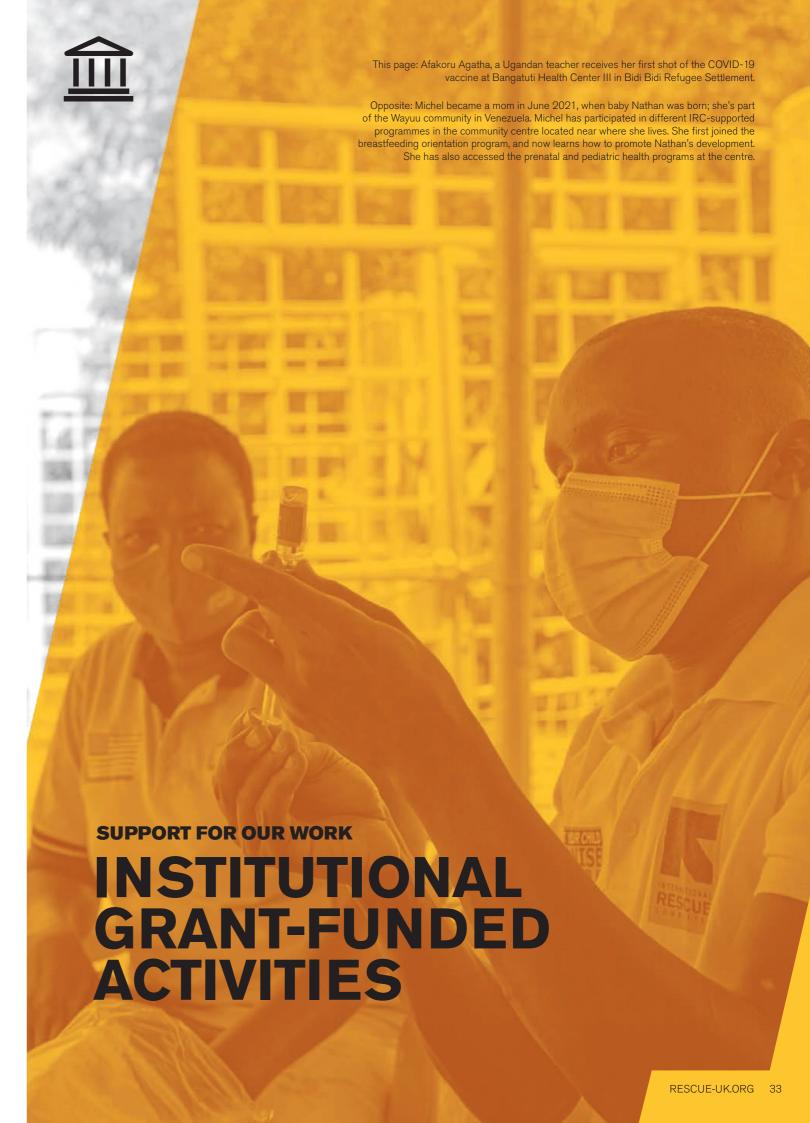
#### **LATIN AMERICA: VENEZUELA**

Living standards in Venezuela have collapsed in recent years at a rate generally only previously observed in war zones, triggering a humanitarian crisis that has driven over five million Venezuelans to leave their home country. Colombia has hosted over 1.6 million Venezuelans, the largest proportion of displaced Venezuelans worldwide, straining the country's resources and affecting the government's ability to address the critical needs of both Venezuelans and Colombians. In 2021, the complex nature of the Venezuelan crisis had, as a result, led to high poverty levels, poor access to health, and protection risks that push people to dangerous coping mechanisms and high-risk survival strategies (like family separation, transactional sex, food rationing, and child labour). With thanks to funding from Sida, the IRC focused on health and protection activities, such as access to quality sexual and reproductive health services reaching more than 11,000 people. The COVID-19 pandemic

has exposed vulnerable populations, and especially women and girls, to a new set of risks. The IRC has adapted our response and strategy through closer coordination with local actors and providing services to beneficiaries remotely. In Venezuela, we worked with three local civil society organisations, which will contribute to the sustainability of projects. This is in line with the IRC's approach to partnerships, through our award-winning Partnership Excellence for Equality and Results System (PEERS), consisting of guidelines and tools for effective, durable, and egalitarian partnerships.

In response to the continuing needs and the IRC's work, Sida provided additional funding in 2021 for a health and protection programme in Venezuela. This funding is again using the Programme Based Approach (PBA) allowing valuable flexibility to the humanitarian context. In Venezuela, from an initial \$600k USD, Sida generously increased its contribution to more than \$1.7 million, allowing the IRC to provide additional and targeted protection services focussing on the psychosocial wellbeing of children and adolescents.







### FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS

#### **Sida Humanitarian Framework Agreement**

The IRC is proud to be a strategic humanitarian partner for Sida since 2011. Our Humanitarian Framework (HFA) partnership with Sida has grown and provides valuable funding to enable IRC and our partners to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance. Building on our trusted relationship with Sida, the IRC signed a new five-year Humanitarian Framework Agreement in March 2021 to deliver humanitarian support based on annual needs-based allocations.

A significant development in this partnership is that after piloting the Programme Based Approach (PBA) for three years, in 2021/22 all 16 IRC country offices delivering Sida funded projects are using the PBA. This 100% flexible funding contributes to the goals set out in the country Strategic Action Plan, and provides greater flexibility as opposed to funding a fixed set of activities. This allows us to implement humanitarian interventions that are responsive and adaptive to the evolving environment and needs of the target populations, as well as maximising our context-specific value add. Countries receiving Sida funding in 2021/22 include Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Columbia, DRC, Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen.

The HFA Rapid Response Mechanism is a key funding source for IRC's emergency response as it provides pre-positioned funding for us to respond to sudden-onset emergencies. This funding has become the backbone of our larger-scale emergency response capacity. IRC emergency responses supported in 2021 include life-saving support to people most impacted by sudden displacement, flooding and cholera outbreaks in northeast Nigeria, water crisis in Syria, drought in Somalia, flooding in South Sudan, flooding and landslides in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, and conflict, drought, and displacement in Ethiopia.

Through the HFA, Sida is funding the IRC to build the skills of front-line staff in complex environments in humanitarian negotiation and humanitarian access management, to ensure we can reach the most vulnerable hard-to-reach populations, as well as further work towards improving protection outcomes with our partner InterAction. Sida also provides support to IRC to host the Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum, an independent platform for INGOs to collectively advocate, coordinate and engage in the response to address the needs and promote the rights of the most vulnerable people affected by the Syria crisis.

#### Irish Aid Strategic Partnership

Gender equality forms a central pillar of Ireland's policy for international development. During the third and final year of our current Strategic Partnership with Irish Aid, the IRC has sustained its commitment to directly address gender-based violence (GBV) in acute emergencies and protracted humanitarian crises, including working with and supporting grassroots women's rights organisations.

Irish Aid has provided the IRC / EUR 5.1 million to deliver life-saving services during the period January 2020 to December 2022 for women and girl survivors of GBV in five of the most protracted, underfunded humanitarian settings in the world: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan. The impacts of COVID-19, new conflicts, displacement, and climate change have not deterred our commitment or ability to maintain these vital, preventative and life-saving services for at-risk women and girls in East and West Africa.

To respond to the needs of women and girls affected by new crises, the partnership also includes an emergency response funding scheme that enables the IRC to establish GBV response services during the earliest phase of an emergency. Over the last 12 months, this emergency funding has helped the IRC to meet the needs of at-risk women and girls affected by crises in the Central African Republic, Kenya, Myanmar, Sudan, and Uganda.



To enhance outcomes for women and girls, through this important partnership IRC is also documenting, consolidating, and sharing learning to promote adaptive and inclusive GBV programming accountable to women and girls in acute and protracted emergencies. The partnership also continues to focus on strengthening leadership to improve GBV prevention and response within the humanitarian system, including by generating new evidence on the funding gaps and other barriers to tackling GBV in emergencies, the impact of COVID-19, and the need to prioritise women and girls affected by violence.

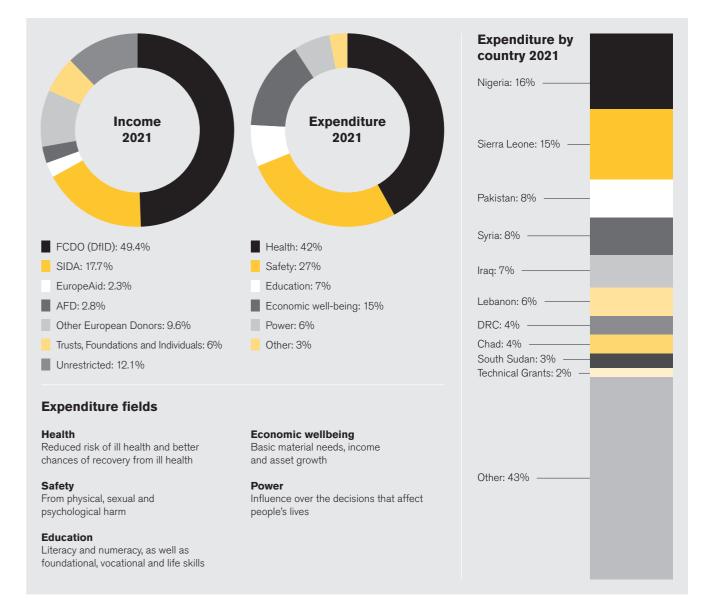
In 2021, Irish Aid increased the funding for the third year of the partnership which has allowed the IRC to increase the scale of emergency response funding scheme projects in new crises, as well as to expand our GBV prevention and response programming to Burundi.

This page: James from the IRC takes care of Peter, held by his mother Abang, at home in Northern Bahr El Ghazal, South Sudan. Anan Abang, 25, is the mother of 2-year-old Peter, who benefitted from IRC's nutrition program. She was displaced as a result of severe flooding in South Sudan.

## **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Statement of financial activities, Year to 30 September 2021 (incorporating income and expenditure account)

Total 2020 funds £'000
2,626
2,020
111,268
111,200
113,913
4,017
36,367
34,403
9,940
18,053
6,883
3,884
109,530
113,547
366
2,784
3,150
2020 £'000
2000
350
2800
3,150
3,150
3,150 0
2,800 3,150 0 3,112
3,150 0



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#### **Executive Director**

Laura Kyrke-Smith (from 1 January 2020 to 30 October 2020; and from 4 October 2021)

Melanie Ward (interim Executive Director, from 1 November 2020 to 3 October 2021)

#### Company secretary

Naima Siddiqi

#### Registered office and principal operating address

100 Wood Street London EC2V 7AN

#### Company registration number

3458056 (England and Wales)

#### Charity registration number

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Standard Chartered Bank 1 Basinghall Avenue London EC2V 5DD

#### Solicitors

Bates Wells Braithwaite 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE

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#### **Advocate**

Join the IRC's online global family at Rescue-UK.org to receive important advocacy alerts and news about the humanitarian issues that are important to you.

#### **Donate**

Give online by visiting our website at Rescue-UK.org

#### Raise money

You can do something amazing for refugees while having fun! And whether you take on a challenge or organise an event, fundraise with friends and family or go it alone, we'll be with you every step of the way.

Rescue-UK.org/Fundraise-Refugees

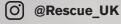
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