



**INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE UK
ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

**HELPING PEOPLE
TO SURVIVE, RECOVER
AND RECLAIM THEIR FUTURE**



Front Cover:
Silva, age 7, a Syrian refugee, writes in a notebook in front of her family's tent at a refugee camp in Greece.

Inside Cover:
Children in the village of Al Agaeab, Yemen, receive hygiene kits. The IRC provides emergency aid, medical care and clean water to millions of people affected by conflict in Yemen.

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David Miliband
David Miliband

MESSAGE FROM THE IRC'S PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,
Last year, the number of people displaced by conflict worldwide surpassed 65 million. In Syria alone, six years of war have driven 13.5 million people from their homes. If displaced people could form a country, it would be the 21st largest in the world, with a population greater than the United Kingdom.

Meanwhile a drought, exacerbated by war and climate change, is sweeping across East Africa and parts of the Middle East. There is a real possibility of four famines—in South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria and Yemen—simultaneously endangering more than 30 million. And yet, instead of coming together to support the neediest, many nations are cutting foreign aid and raising barriers to refugee resettlement. Despite fierce headwinds, the IRC is meeting these challenges and reaching more people in need more quickly. When violence increased in Afghanistan's Helmand province, the IRC was the only humanitarian agency on the ground within 72 hours.

Our new "outcomes and evidence" strategy ensures that IRC programmes are based on the best available evidence. We are delivering high-impact cost-effective programmes in the areas of health, education, safety, empowerment and economic well-being.

In Greece, for example, as a result of this evidence-based approach, innovative cash programming is making a real difference for refugees struggling in makeshift camps. This is not just aid, but "better aid" that helps both refugees and the communities that host them to recover and prosper.

It is thanks to your generosity that this work is possible. With your support, we will continue our vital work into 2017 and beyond.

David Miliband,
President and CEO, IRC



Sir John Holmes
Sir John Holmes

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE IRC-UK BOARD & IRC-UK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR EUROPE

Dear Friends,
2016 was a year of some of the greatest challenges to our humanitarian values in recent memory. In Europe we have seen anti-refugee agendas expand their profile, contributing to an increasingly hostile political environment for refugees and resettlement programmes. Combined with attacks on aid spending, this has threatened our ability to help the people most in need around the world. With 1 in every 113 people displaced by conflict and persecution, many of whom have no hope of returning home for decades, now is the time to reassert our support and humanity in countering these challenges.

The IRC is responding by proudly standing up for our core values, advocating for a more humane response to crisis and proposing innovative and sustainable solutions. In Europe, we are using our expertise from decades of refugee resettlement and integration in the United States to inform the response to the refugee crisis, and through our advocacy work in London and Brussels, we are influencing decision-makers in the UK and EU.

In 2016, the IRC led calls to establish safe and legal routes to enter Europe, and to put pressure on warring parties to protect civilians and facilitate humanitarian access in conflicts in the Middle East and Africa. A thought leader in humanitarian cash programming, urban crises and women's protection and empowerment, the IRC ensures the needs of our beneficiaries and the evidence generated by our programmes is used to inform the relevant political debates.

2016 provided daily reminders of why the IRC's work is so important, from the military offensives in Aleppo, Raqqa and Mosul to the wars bringing hunger to East Africa and Yemen. The IRC is stepping up, offering a lifeline to survivors of conflict and disaster.



Jane Waterman
Jane Waterman

This is something we saw first-hand on a trip to Sierra Leone, where we met IRC staff and local communities working together to recover from the devastating 2014 Ebola epidemic. Two years since the IRC worked tirelessly to prevent the spread of Ebola, we are still providing desperately needed health services and educational support. Women and girls who had survived gender-based violence told us they wanted nothing more than to get back to school. With support from European donors, the IRC is helping to turn that dream into a reality.

The determination shown by the people we met in Sierra Leone to overcome tragedy and look ahead to a better future is shared by our staff across the organisation. Each day the IRC is helping displaced people to get back on their feet and contribute to their host communities, including by providing jobs training to Syrian refugees in Jordan, giving education to children displaced by conflict in northeast Nigeria, and providing psycho-social support to Iraqis fleeing Mosul.

It is thanks to your generosity that we are able to continue defending our core values, and provide life saving assistance to the most vulnerable around the world. On behalf of the Board of IRC-UK and our colleagues in Europe, we would like to express our gratitude to all our supporters and donors for making this work possible.

Sir John Holmes, GCVO, KBE, CMG,
Chair of the IRC-UK Board

Jane Waterman, Executive Director, IRC-UK and Senior Vice President, Europe



In 2016, more than **26 million** people benefited from IRC programmes and those of its partner organisations



Safa'a, a Syrian refugee in Jordan, checks the water pipe under a kitchen sink. With IRC training and a grant, she set up her own plumbing business.

Right: Safa'a and Hala check and fix a sink in a private house. Many women customers prefer to hire female plumbers if they are alone in their homes.

THE IRC IN 2016: REFUGEES WELCOME

The number of people displaced by conflict around the world is now the highest it has ever been since World War II. In Nigeria, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Yemen and elsewhere, conflict and natural disaster have uprooted millions and put the lives of millions more at risk. The Syrian conflict rages into its seventh year, and fighting in neighbouring Iraq forces thousands more to leave their homes.

Many of the 21 million refugees across the world will spend years in exile. Most will never return home. Instead they will rebuild their lives as best they can in foreign cities, towns and villages alongside local populations.

Wherever they resettle, the IRC is there to help. We provide vital aid that makes an immediate difference in the lives of the most vulnerable. We also provide economic support, education and skills training that help refugees not just survive but to recover and thrive. And we work to unite refugees, displaced people and their host communities so all may prosper.

Here are highlights of the IRC's work with refugees, displaced people and host communities around the world.

Jordan: Empowering entrepreneurs

The war in Syria has displaced millions from their homes, many of whom have sought refuge in neighbouring countries such as Jordan. Host communities inevitably struggle to meet even the basic needs of these refugees, most of whom desperately want to work to support their families. But first they must establish legal residency, obtain work permits, and overcome language and cultural barriers.

The IRC is working to address these barriers through its project focused on job creation—the Million Jobs Challenge—and with training programmes, start-up grants, and small-business classes. Among those benefiting from such initiatives: Syrian women newly empowered to create opportunities for themselves and their families.

"A lot of women from Syria came to Jordan without their husbands," explains Safa'a,* 42, who fled from Dara'a to Irbid, Jordan, after her son was wounded, her husband arrested, and their family business destroyed. "They can't allow workers into their houses when they are home alone. They have to wait for a male relative to be with them in the house. I heard about a plumbing course for refugees... I didn't know a thing about plumbing, but I felt like plumbing would be a special project—women helping other women."

After graduating from the plumbing course, Safa'a and her friend Hala signed up for IRC classes in marketing and promotion and teamed up with five other refugee women to start their own business.

"I don't want to be stuck in the past," says Hala. "I want to move forward with my life. We refugees are now members of the



**THE IRC IN JORDAN:
HOW WE HELP**

In 2016, the IRC aided:

15,000+

women and girls through protection and empowerment programmes

community; there's a chance for us to work and evolve with the community."

Hala and Safa'a now repair water and air filters, air conditioners and dishwashers, as well as mend broken pipes. They also educate women to do their own simple fixes. "It builds trust among our customers," says Safa'a. "We have so many ideas and hope to expand the business."

Um Laith*, 39, also fled Dara'a for Irbid, where at first she felt isolated and adrift. "I didn't know where I was or where I was heading," she recalls. "It was a confusing

period. I spent most of my time at home." Then, she heard about the business training programme at the IRC's women's centre; and like Safa'a, she had a unique idea: beekeeping. "In Syria, we had land and kept bees, a passion my husband and I both inherited from our parents."

In her IRC classes, she studied budgeting, pricing and marketing. "All of this helped a lot. The most important thing I learned was how to document everything I do."

Um Laith and her husband bought their first beehive less than a year ago, recently adding three more and buying new equipment with an IRC grant of \$700.

"It took us three months to produce 12 pounds of honey," she says. "We're still not making much profit, but at least I'm not ending up with losses. It's enough for me that we're working and producing something. And there are a lot of people waiting for our second batch of honey—they already have made their orders."

Manal*, 48, was able to move her family from Damascus to Irbid because she was born in Jordan. Her husband had sewn bridal dresses in their former city, which is why Manal bought a sewing machine.

Manal had been going to the IRC women's centre for counselling sessions to help her cope with the stress of refugee life. So she didn't hesitate to enrol in the IRC small-business training programme to help her realise her idea: an upholstery shop catering to retailers selling custom-designed furniture.

The IRC provided her with a start-up grant of \$1,000 to open a small workshop. The business is thriving and Manal is now looking for a larger space.

"Our situation has really improved," Manal says. She is especially grateful to the IRC. "They stood with us. They helped us financially. It's changed our lives."

*Names changed for privacy reasons.



Greece: Innovating aid delivery

Mohammed Omadi and his family, from Afghanistan, came face-to-face with death when they crossed the Aegean Sea to seek refuge in Greece. Their flimsy, overcrowded boat capsized and they lost everything before being rescued. "Our passports and all of our money which we had hidden in our bags, all gone," recalls Mohammed.

More than 60,000 refugees fleeing war, poverty and persecution in Asia, the Middle East and Africa are stranded in Greece. While the European Union has promised to relocate people, throughout 2016 most refugees were stuck in inadequate temporary shelters. The IRC runs a variety of programmes designed to improve conditions and help refugees survive economically. One of the simplest, cheapest and most innovative is to give cash allowances directly to refugees and let them decide how best to take care of themselves.

Traditionally, aid is provided by governments or relief agencies in the form of in-kind donations such as blankets, heaters and bags of rice. While this is helpful in an immediate emergency, it does little to empower people or rebuild lives.

In Greece, the IRC distributes pre-paid debit cards that enable families like the Omadis to buy items that are culturally appropriate. After receiving their cards,

families can purchase groceries and household items of their choice at shops that accept Visa. Each month, the cards are credited an amount between €90 and €300, depending on the family's size.

For the Omadis, who live in a refugee camp in a suburb of Athens, cash relief is a small step toward regaining control of their lives. And pre-paid cards have the added advantage of reducing waste: "With cash I can go to the market and buy food I know my children will like so that nothing is wasted," says Mohammed. "Food that will last for a month."

Cash in the hands of refugees also stimulates the local economy and helps to forge economic and social ties between refugees and local shopkeepers. The Omadis have built a relationship with Harris, a store owner who was once himself a refugee from Albania. "I can see they are good people," he says. "The [pre-paid cards] are very helpful for the market and for my shop, too. Just as I and others were able to try and build a life here, I strongly believe that these people can make it."

For the Omadi family, the IRC cash programme has been a lifeline. Explains Mohammed: "My daughter would ask me. 'You promised we would go to a better place. Why did you lie?' I explain I didn't lie. Things will improve gradually, step-by-step. And they are."

**THE IRC IN GREECE:
HOW WE HELP**

In 2016, the IRC supported:

3,500+

refugees through cash relief programmes

Above: Mohammed Omadi and his family sit down for a meal. The IRC's cash-relief programme helps refugees like the Omadis become self-sufficient and take control of their lives.

Opposite page left: Um Laith's husband, Abu Karam, works in his protective beekeeping suit. The Syrian couple started their beekeeping business with a grant from the IRC.

Opposite page right: Syrian refugees Manal and her husband run an upholstery business in Jordan catering to retailers selling custom-designed furniture.



Above: A refugee family receives assistance at a special shelter for mothers and children in Belgrade.

Left: This young boy, stranded in Serbia, lives in a makeshift shelter behind Belgrade's bus station.

Opposite page: Afghan refugees Zahel and Abubeldullah try to stay warm in freezing weather in Belgrade. They can drink hot tea and get accurate updates about aid and accommodation at the nearby information hub.

Serbia: Helping children alone and at risk

On a frigid February afternoon at the refugee information centre in Belgrade, the door opens and two young boys walk in exhausted but relieved. Zahel and Abubeldullah, both 14, arrived in Serbia that morning after a harrowing journey that took them from their home village in Afghanistan through Iran, Turkey and Bulgaria.

Zahel and Abubeldullah were sent abroad by their parents after the Taliban threatened villagers and burned down their school. "We called our parents to say we are safe," Zahel says. "They would be really upset if they knew where we are living. They have their own problems."

Serbia continues to be a major stopover for refugees journeying to northern Europe despite the closing of borders in the western Balkans. With ever-lower admission rates into neighbouring Hungary, tighter border control in Croatia, and all safe routes closed off, refugees hire unscrupulous smugglers in

the hope of reaching their destinations. "Refugees in Serbia find themselves in limbo," says Gordana Ivkovic-Grujic, the IRC's Balkans country director. "They are unable to return home or proceed onwards, in a country they only ever intended to pass through."

In response, the IRC, partnering with local aid groups, is working to identify and assist the most vulnerable refugees. Mobile teams with Farsi- and Arabic-speaking interpreters provide information and free bus tickets to anyone wishing to move off the streets into a government shelter. Social workers, psychologists and lawyers work to identify and protect refugees at risk of violence, trafficking and abuse, such as women and children travelling alone. The IRC has launched a website with hotline numbers providing information about urgent aid or accommodation.

At the IRC information centre, Zahel and Abubeldullah down cups of hot tea before bedding down on the floor of a nearby warehouse, where on any given night some one thousand refugees sleep.

THE IRC IN SERBIA: HOW WE HELP

Since 2015, the IRC and our partners have provided:

900+

at-risk or separated children with specialised support in child protection

Abubeldullah and Zahel plan to make their way through Croatia, and then on through Slovenia. "We know it will be a very difficult journey," Zahel says.



The IRC and its partner organisations provided schooling and educational opportunities to more than **1.5 million** children

Above: Ruth writes sums on the whiteboard in an IRC safe space for children in Nigeria.

Left: The IRC leads a healing play group for children displaced by Boko Haram violence in northeastern Nigeria.

Opposite page: Children take part in an IRC-organised maths class in a displacement camp near Yola, Nigeria.

Nigeria: Fighting back with education

Fourteen-year-old Ruth used to wake up every morning wondering what she would learn at school. But when the terrorist group Boko Haram raided her village with guns drawn, her school became a place of danger.

Ruth is one of over a million children who have been forced to flee the fighting in northeast Nigeria, many leaving their homes with nothing but the clothes they wore. "Boko Haram went from house to house killing everybody," Ruth recalls. "We had to run." Ruth fled to safety, but it was

three years before she could go back to school. She now attends an IRC learning centre in the government-controlled city of Yola.

Children bear a disproportionate burden of the hardships resulting from conflict and war. The IRC has responded by fostering the healing power of education through its Children of Peace project, in partnership with the European Commission. The initiative, which seeks to boost children's self-esteem and provide them with a network of support, has reached 12,000 children in 42 learning centres in some of Nigeria's most impoverished regions. The IRC is constructing

classrooms, integrating children into local schools, and providing them with books and pens. Teachers are trained in teaching literacy and numeracy skills, but also in counselling to help children overcome trauma.

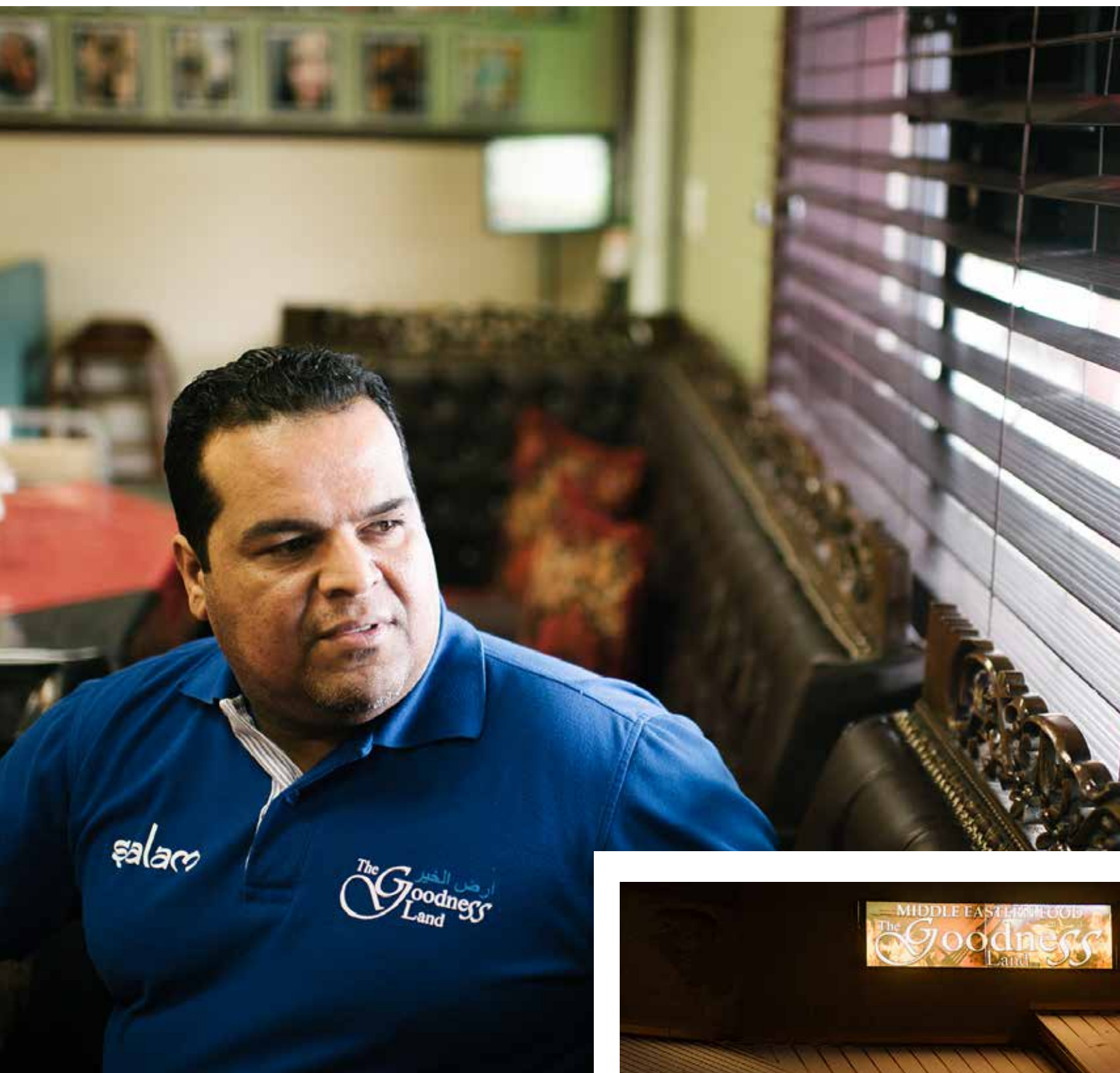
"The people creating this conflict have a very strong anti-education philosophy," says Edward Ishaku, the IRC's local emergency education manager. In Ruth's native language, Boko Haram means "Western education is forbidden."

"Education provides children with what they need to become responsible leaders in the future," says Ishaku.

For Ruth and thousands of other children, education has been a lifesaving intervention. "School and play help us forget what happened, and allow us to make new friendships so we can deal with our situation," says Ruth. The benefits of quality education expand to the whole family. "Going to school makes my mother proud," Ruth explains. "When I come back home, she always asks me what I have learned."

Ruth misses her home and the friends she saw in her old school. But now she at least feels safe, and looks forward to learning again. "Going to school is important," she says. "Wherever you are."

THE IRC IN NIGERIA:
HOW WE HELP
 In 2016, the IRC supported:
5,000+
 children and youth through school and education programmes



Left and above: Uprooted from Iraq and Syria, Salam Bunyan, his wife, Aseel, and their children were resettled by the IRC in Boise, Idaho, where he has opened a Middle Eastern restaurant.

Below: Salam Bunyan's restaurant, The Goodness Land, celebrates traditional Iraqi cuisine.

**THE IRC IN THE U.S:
HOW WE HELP**

In 2016, the IRC resettled:

13,400

newly arrived refugees in the U.S.

**The United States:
Welcoming diversity**

When Salam Bunyan arrived in Boise, Idaho, in 2008, he vowed to open his own restaurant, one that would celebrate traditional Iraqi cuisine and present a different image of refugees.

"I wanted to show people another side of refugee life, another country and culture," says Salam, 42, who now owns The Goodness Land, a Middle Eastern restaurant. "My point is not to just sell food—it's to provide a different experience."

In Iraq, Salam had been a chef for the United States military. At the time, militants targeted anyone aiding Americans during the Iraqi war.

"They would watch me come and go to work. I was always the one driving ... just not this time." Salam is referring to attackers who shot his brother, thinking it was Salam in the driver's seat. He and his family fled to Syria, where he found work with a media company that produced videos condemning terrorism and extremism. His work, once again, invited death threats.

Salam applied to the United Nations for refugee status and, after two years of screening and background checks, his family was accepted for resettlement in the U.S.

IRC caseworkers helped the Bunyans find housing, learn English, and enrol in

school. Salam began pursuing his dream by catering meals at the IRC's Boise office. Within two years, he opened his own restaurant.

Salam credits much of his success to a supportive Boise community. "My kids come home and tell me how everybody is talking about me," he says. "It makes me proud."

Boise mayor David Bieter says the city will continue to welcome refugees with open arms.

"Diversity is essential for Boise's prosperity and livability," the mayor wrote on his official blog. "Diversity isn't a buzz word. It's our birthright."

Julianne D. Tzul, executive director of the IRC in Boise, confirms that the refugees her office helps resettle are major contributors to the local economy.

"Salam has created jobs for Americans," she says. "He employs local people. He brings an entrepreneurial spirit, strong character, and willpower not only to survive, but to help others as well."

Salam wants Americans to see him as an asset, rather than a burden.

"Don't think just because I'm a Muslim I'm dangerous," he says. "There's a great mix inside America. I'm working, paying my taxes and giving back to a country that accepted me. That's the refugee story."



GERMANY: SUPPORTING INTEGRATION

Germany has welcomed more than one million asylum seekers - mostly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan - since the start of 2015. IRC Deutschland is supporting government and local nonprofit agencies as they assist people fleeing conflict. We're sharing with them our 80+ years of experience in assisting refugees, which includes more than four decades of work in refugee resettlement and integration.

Welcoming and integrating refugees enables them to contribute to their new communities

Nizar fled Syria with his family to escape the fighting. After being resettled to Munich he's slowly finding his feet. "I have two German friends. Sometimes we go to the park and hang out, and sometimes we go to the river. The people in Munich are very nice."

Nizar has big dreams for his new life: "In Syria I graduated from university with a degree in physiotherapy and I want to continue working in this field in Germany. And I want to help other people in Germany. Maybe I will volunteer in a resettlement programme."

ON THE FRONTLINE IN EMERGENCIES

Natural disaster or the outbreak of violence can turn lives upside down in an instant, driving millions of people from their homes and devastating communities. The IRC is committed to providing rapid lifesaving aid whenever and wherever needed through its Emergency Unit.

The IRC has developed a unique emergency classification system enabling us to quickly determine how severe an emergency is and how the organisation should respond. The unit's resources and experienced staff, including specialised in-country teams, are on standby around the world, allowing the IRC to respond within 72 hours.

The IRC has responded to multiple emergencies in the last year. Here's a look at three.

East Africa: Widespread famine

Conflict and drought have brought millions of people in East Africa to the brink of starvation in what the United Nations calls the most severe humanitarian crisis of our time. Famine has been declared in parts of South Sudan, the world's newest country, which has been embroiled in conflict since its independence. Over a half-million South Sudanese have fled to Uganda, currently receiving one of the largest influxes of refugees in the world. Somalia and Nigeria are also on the brink of famine as they struggle to respond to drought and rising food prices.

The IRC is one of the largest providers of aid in South Sudan and has extensive programmes in Somalia, Kenya and Nigeria. We are sending mobile health teams into remote regions, setting up nutrition centres, and providing water and sanitation services.

In Uganda, emergency units are providing health care and other assistance to thousands of refugees, including survivors of sexual violence, crowded into two camps in the north of the country. One of the settlements, Bidibidi, is now the world's largest refugee camp, hosting over 270,000 people. Uganda's resources are at a breaking point.

"An immediate increase in humanitarian resources to the affected regions is beyond

critical," says Ciarán Donnelly, the IRC's senior vice president of international programmes.

Afghanistan: Partnerships for rapid response

Plagued by decades of conflict and natural disaster, Afghanistan has one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world, while millions of Afghans have fled to neighbouring countries. A sharp escalation in fighting between the Taliban and government forces in 2016 has left over 5 million people without adequate food, water, health care and education.

The IRC has worked in Afghanistan since 1988, establishing community development projects in partnership with over 4,000 villages across nine provinces. Afghans make up more than 99 percent of IRC aid workers in the country, and eight in-country emergency standby teams are ready to respond to a crisis with aid and technical support.

In Helmand province, for example, an IRC team of experts was deployed first to assess the needs of civilians, then to help with aid distribution and other support. The IRC eventually distributed emergency shelters and hygiene kits to over 11,000 people. In addition, the IRC used mobile phones and local banks to distribute cash or delivered it directly in areas where communications were disrupted—the IRC



was the only agency able to provide cash relief to people displaced by the fighting.

"Responding swiftly to urgent humanitarian needs can be challenging for even the most experienced aid agency," says Peter-John Bowles, the IRC's acting country director in Afghanistan. "By preparing for emergencies before they strike, we are able to provide faster and more effective assistance to people in need."

Yemen: Level 10 emergency

Yemen, the poorest country in the Middle East, is experiencing a humanitarian catastrophe: two-thirds of the population are at risk of starvation after two years of civil war. The fighting has ruined crops and impeded food imports. Hospitals lack fuel to operate generators. Antibiotics and critical medical supplies have been exhausted.

The IRC has classified Yemen a "level 10 emergency," its most severe rating. Emergency health and nutrition teams are expanding their response where fighting is the most intense and the need greatest. The IRC and local aid groups are also distributing cash vouchers to civilians so they can buy food in areas where direct aid distribution is not possible.

Still, sea and air blockades by warring factions and air strikes on the rebel-held port of Hodeidah, where 90 percent of goods enter the country, continue to disrupt aid delivery. "The single greatest barrier to easing the suffering of the Yemeni people is lack of humanitarian access," says Mohamed El Montassir Hussein, the IRC's Yemen country director.

The IRC is calling for an immediate ceasefire and an increase in international relief funding to save lives.



Left: A medical officer makes the rounds at an IRC centre for severely malnourished children in Ganyiel, South Sudan.

Right: An IRC emergency team member prepares hygiene kits for distribution in Aden, Yemen.

Top: An IRC aid worker packs a bag to be distributed to families uprooted by violence in western Afghanistan. Each bag contains a stove, a light with batteries, soap, a water jug and other essential items.

The IRC emergency classification system

Determines the severity of a crisis and how the IRC will respond



Severity Rating: The higher the number the more severe the emergency

Response Stance: Colour indicates level of IRC response



IRC EUROPE: STANDING UP FOR REFUGEES

65 million people are displaced from their homes: more than at any time since World War II. These people deserve the best possible humanitarian response. We use our 80 years of experience to influence Europe's policies and practice on the refugee crisis at home and abroad, ensuring that the growing and increasingly complex needs of displaced people are taken into account. IRC Europe champions a transformation in the way the world responds to crisis: not just more, but 'better aid', with evidence-based interventions that make a real change to people's lives. This has been a driving force for IRC Europe in 2016 and will continue in the year ahead.



In 2016, IRC Europe supported refugees by expanding our programmes across the continent, as well as advocating for an effective humanitarian response to the refugee crisis in Europe and major crises such as in Syria and Iraq.

Refugee Crisis in Europe

IRC Europe has been a leading voice standing up for refugees. This includes advocating for safe and legal routes to Europe for refugees around the world. IRC Europe provided evidence that led to the EU releasing, for the first time, €700 million of humanitarian funding for refugees in Europe. We became the first NGO to address the EU Parliament Home Affairs Committee on resettlement, and held an event on the subject attended by 18 European countries. In 2016, the IRC went beyond advocating that European countries take their 'fair share' of refugees, and became the first NGO to include a figure in this resettlement call. We carried out creative communications activities around key moments, including by placing lifejackets in London's Parliament Square to raise awareness of deaths in the Mediterranean before a major UN conference.

Country Crises

As the crises in Syria and Iraq showed no sign of abating, we sought and secured funding for our work on the ground and ensured that the humanitarian consequences were raised in European parliaments, governments and institutions, including the UK and EU. IRC Europe developed its reputation as a reliable authority on these crises, and was sought out by EU and UK politicians for information and policy insights. For example, IRC Europe led calls to empower refugees in the Syria region, securing a pledge from major governments to create one million jobs for refugees in the region. This will remain a major focus in 2017.

Our European Priorities

IRC Europe has four thematic priorities that run throughout our work:

Urban Crises and Displacement

Today, more than 60 percent of the world's refugees live not in camps but in towns and cities across the globe, where they are often less visible.

The IRC has led the way to deliver more than 'aid as usual' by finding better



The IRC and its partner organisations assisted more than **13,000** refugees from East Asia to resettle in the United States.

Opposite page: When he was just five days old, Muhammad Ali's family fled the fighting in Aleppo, Syria. Here, aged 4, he is with his mother in a refugee camp in Greece, where he attends IRC-run safe spaces for children.

Left: Mohamed Saleh, a disabled Syrian refugee, had been sleeping on the streets of Beirut after fleeing his home in Kobane, Syria. The IRC supported him with emergency cash relief to pay rent and an apprenticeship programme to help him earn a living.

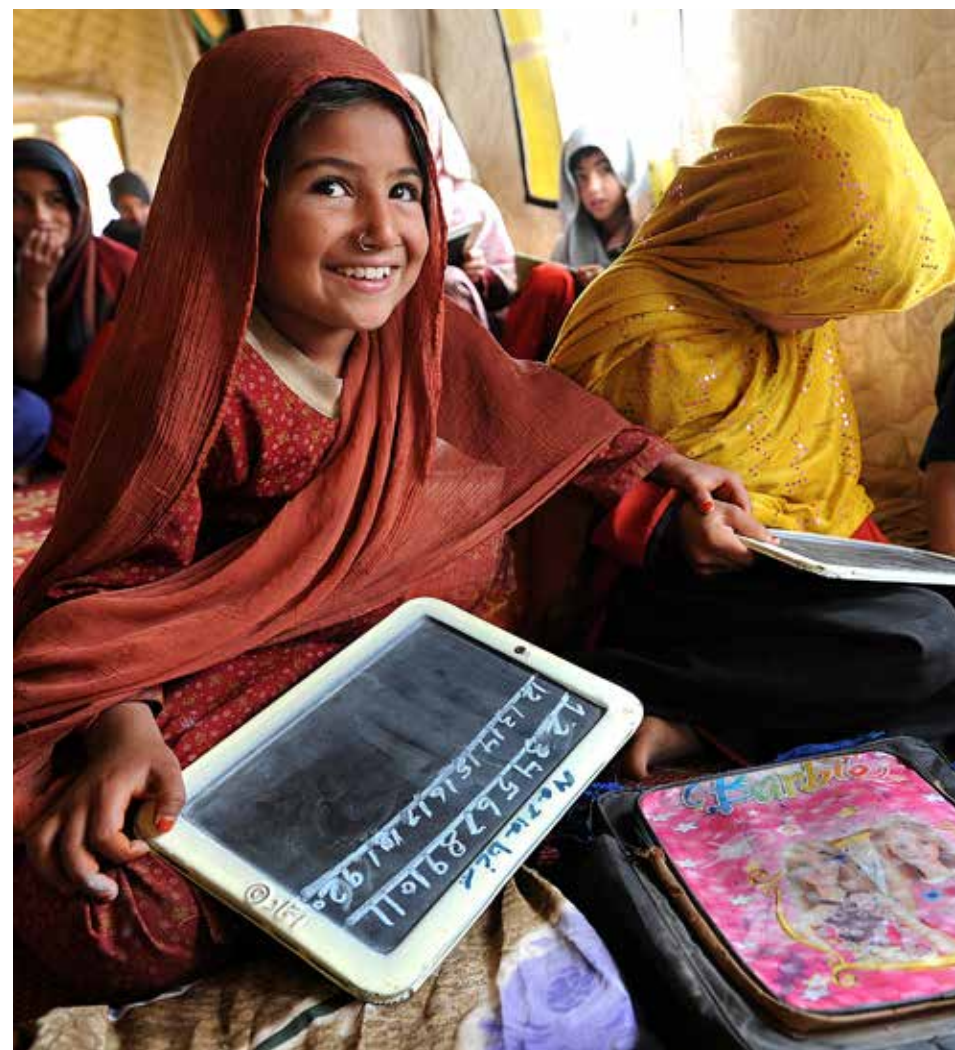
approaches to supporting the urban displaced to rebuild their lives.

Refugees in urban areas face distinct challenges. We advocate for donors to adapt to this new reality and for urban crises to be on the global humanitarian agenda. In partnership with DFID and a number of other stakeholders, we were successful in influencing the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit to address urban crises, and co-led the launch of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises at the Summit. IRC Europe advocated at the United Nations, ensuring the new UN Urban Agenda included humanitarian issues for the first time.

Women's Protection and Empowerment

Violence against women and girls is endemic in areas affected by conflict and disaster, and has critical repercussions for individuals, families, communities and countries as a whole. If women and girls are not protected and empowered, they will struggle to improve their lives.

In partnership with Irish Aid, the IRC helps survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), in the Horn of Africa and East Africa and in acute emergencies, to heal and thrive.



The IRC and its partner organisations provided counselling, care and support to more than **42,000** vulnerable children and trained more than **2,200** child-protection workers

Opposite page: Natasha, 25, participates in an IRC-led workshop at a women's association in Ngoutere, Central African Republic. The workshops support women's development and empowerment in dozens of villages and communities.

Left: Girls are taught maths in an IRC-run school in Pakistan's Jalozi camp, home to almost 10,000 people displaced by fighting between the Pakistan army and the Taliban.



The IRC and its partner organisations helped more than **4,000** people access financial services

Our advocacy work to strengthen the GBV emergency response has shaped European policy, including the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020. This advocacy has also helped secure strong gender and GBV objectives at the World Humanitarian Summit. Alongside SIDA, the IRC successfully called for Germany, Denmark and the Czech Republic to join the 'Call to Action on protection from GBV in emergencies.'

Cash Relief

One of the most efficient and effective forms of aid, the IRC provides temporary cash relief to families whose lives and livelihoods have been shattered by conflict and disaster, and who live where opportunities to earn income are extremely limited or no longer exist. Cash relief allows people struggling to survive to regain

control of their lives and make decisions for themselves.

In 2016, the IRC advocated for cash relief to be part of the EU's humanitarian agenda. We led calls for an established target for cash relief throughout the humanitarian sector at the World Humanitarian Summit. The IRC also raised awareness of effective and empowering aid at an event on 'Technology and the Modern Refugee' with global tech hub General Assembly.

Education in Emergencies

Providing education is the best way to empower children, their families and communities to survive and recover from conflict or crisis. It is what enables people to take control of their own health, safety and prosperity. Of the 59 million children out

of school across the world, over half live in conflict-affected countries, yet resources for them remain low. We provide children, youth and adults with educational opportunities that help keep them safe and learn the skills they need to survive and thrive.

With support from the European Commission, the IRC has set up safe spaces for children in refugee camps in Jordan, where they can learn, play and find a sense of normality in the camp. The IRC also provides educational support for children in northern Syria and Lebanon, delivered thanks to a Gala Appeal for Syrian refugee education launched in May 2016 by the Hands Up Foundation, Asfari Foundation and Said Foundation.

DFID: OUR SUPPORT FROM THE BRITISH PEOPLE

Much of our work would not be possible without the support of UK aid. The generous funding we receive from DFID enables us to save lives and empower vulnerable people.

In 2016, DFID supported IRC programmes across the world. For example, UK aid supports education and health work in Sierra Leone, which is helping local communities to recover after the devastating Ebola crisis in 2014. DFID also funded IRC programmes inside Syria, which helped us provide over 600,000 health and trauma consultations in 2016 alone.



An IRC medical worker examines a child in a village in northeast Syria. The IRC deploys mobile health teams to areas badly damaged by years of war.

OUR SUPPORTERS, DONORS AND KEY PEOPLE

IRC-UK extends our deepest gratitude to our supporters, who help us restore dignity and hope to those whose lives are profoundly affected by war, conflict, oppression and natural disaster. The commitment of our donors, whether they be individuals, foundations, corporations, volunteers, governments, non-governmental organisations or multilateral agencies, is what enables the IRC to respond swiftly in emergencies and help communities recover from crisis.

Here we salute the generosity of the major donors, organisations and philanthropists who supported IRC-UK during the past fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, 2015, and ended Sept. 30, 2016.

Trusts, Foundations and Corporates

- AS Roma
- Bernard van Leer Foundation
- Edelman
- The Financial Times
- J Paul Getty Jr General Charitable Trust
- RELX Group
- The Sir James Reckitt Charity
- Stavros Niarchos Foundation
- The UK Mutual Steam Ship Assurance Association
- UBS Optimus Foundation
- Vitol Foundation
- The Asfari Foundation
- The Saïd Foundation

Organisations

- Action Against Hunger / Children's Investment Fund Foundation
- Christian Blind Mission
- The Ethical Tea Partnership

Statutory Donors

- British Embassy in South Sudan
- Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)
- Development Cooperation Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland (Irish Aid)
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- European Commission Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (EuropeAid)
- European Commission Directorate General Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)
- European Development Fund
- French Development Agency (AFD)
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- German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF)
- Start Fund
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- UK Department for International Development (DFID)

Individual Donors

- Tom Aldred
- Lord and Lady Blakenham
- Glenda Burkhart
- Johanna David
- Dee Dee and David Simpson
- Wendy Fisher
- Tania Freeman
- FX & Natasha de Mallmann
- Susan Gibson and Mark Bergman
- Robert Granieri
- James Greig
- John Lebus
- Keren Mitchell
- Dave Rowntree
- Jake and Sandra Ulrich
- And those who wish to remain anonymous



The IRC and its partner organisations supported **2,507** clinics and health facilities that helped **171,000** women deliver healthy babies



The IRC and its partner organisations gave **3.8 million** people access to clean drinking water and sanitation



Above: Volunteers make coffee and tea at the Umbrella Café, an IRC rest stop near the Macedonian border where refugees can get a meal.

Top: Hiba Al Faqih, a nurse, travels with an IRC mobile health clinic that provides care to Syrian refugees living in Jordan.

Left: Scores of Afghan refugee children have taken shelter in a desolate warehouse in Belgrade, Serbia. The IRC and their local partner organisation offer aid and services.

Left below: Zarifa, a Chaldean Christian from Mosul, Iraq, fled to Beirut, Lebanon, after ISIS overtook her home city. She is now enrolled in an IRC-sponsored vocational training class.



Kalhid Al Mohammed, a Syrian volunteer with an IRC mobile health unit, examines refugees at a camp near Mafraq, Jordan.



The IRC and its partner organisations trained more than **33,000** educators and supported more than **11,000** schools

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(As of March 1, 2017)

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Top: IRC President David Miliband visits a secondary school classroom at the Nyarugusu refugee camp in Tanzania. The camp hosts refugees from Burundi who have fled political violence.

Above: An aid worker at an IRC-supported reproductive health clinic in Maiduguri, Nigeria.

Left: A young refugee brings her toys with her to the female shower at the Kara Tepe camp in Lesbos, Greece. The IRC built the facilities, which include a laundry.

Left below: An IRC aid worker teaches hygiene to villagers in Maiduguri, Nigeria, where the war against Boko Haram has caused massive displacement.

IRC-UK FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of financial activities 1 October 2015 - 30 September 2016

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2016 funds £'000	As Restated Total 2015 funds £'000
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE				
INCOME FROM:				
Donations and legacies	986	1,736	2,722	1,869
Investments	18	—	18	33
Charitable activities	3,362	140,234	143,596	119,415
Total income	4,366	141,970	146,336	121,317
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising funds	967	—	967	896
Charitable activities				
- Health	1,239	59,406	60,645	57,358
- Safety	550	26,364	26,914	21,997
- Education	396	18,998	19,394	15,349
- Economic Wellbeing	294	14,099	14,393	9,526
- Power	446	21,367	21,813	15,720
- Other	36	1,736	1,772	226
Total charitable activities	2,961	141,970	144,931	120,176
Total expenditure	3,928	141,970	145,898	121,072
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	438	—	438	245
Balances brought forward at 1 October 2015	2,097	—	2,097	1,852
Balances carried forward at 30 September 2016	2,535	—	2,535	2,097

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2016

	2016 £'000	2016 £'000	Restated 2015 £'000	Restated 2015 £'000
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets		85		102
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	33,470		18,380	
Cash at bank and in hand	28,542		23,785	
	62,012		42,165	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(59,562)		(40,170)	
Net current assets		2,450		1,995
Total net assets		2,535		2,097
Represented by:				
Funds and reserves				
Income funds:				
Restricted funds		—		—
Unrestricted funds				
- Designated funds		15		15
- General fund		2,520		2,082
		2,535		2,097



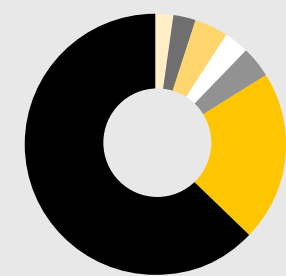
A Syrian refugee paints a building in Beirut, Lebanon. He participated in IRC's cash for work scheme, which helps him pay the rent.

Income 2015 (restated): 121,317,000

Expenditure 2015 (restated): 121,072,000

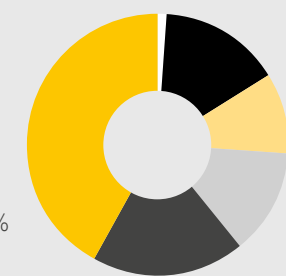
Income 2016 146,336,000

Expenditure 2016 145,898,000



INCOME

- DFID - 63%
- ECHO - 21%
- SIDA - 4%
- Europe Aid - 3%
- Other European (Dutch + Irish + SDC) - 4%
- Trusts, foundations, individuals - 3%
- Unrestricted - 2%



EXPENDITURE

- Health - 42%
- Safety - 19%
- Education - 13%
- Economic Wellbeing - 10%
- Power - 15%
- Other - 1%

EXPENDITURE FIELDS

Health

Reduced risk of ill health, and better chances of recovery from ill health

Safety

From physical, sexual and psychological harm

Education

Literacy and numeracy, as well as foundational, vocational and life skills

Economic Wellbeing

Basic material needs and income and asset growth

Power

Influence over the decisions that affect people's lives

HOW TO SUPPORT US

Advocate

Join the IRC's online global family at [Rescue-uk.org](https://rescue-uk.org) to receive important updates and news about the humanitarian issues that are important to you.

Donate

Give online by visiting our website at [Rescue-uk.org](https://rescue-uk.org), or by post to:
International Rescue Committee UK
3 Bloomsbury Place
London
WC1A 2QL

Leave a Legacy

Make your legacy last beyond your lifetime and help future generations to a safer life by leaving a gift in your will.

A gift to the IRC in your will costs you nothing during your lifetime, but will one day make a huge difference to people whose lives have been shattered by conflict and disaster.

Fundraise for us

From running a 10k to organising a coffee morning – there are lots of ways you can raise funds to support the IRC. Find out more on [Rescue-uk.org/get-involved](https://rescue-uk.org/get-involved), or contact us to get a free copy of our Step-By-Step Fundraising Guide.

Whether you raise funds on your own, as part of a local group or at work or school, your support will give hope to people whose lives have been torn apart by crisis.

Partnerships

We are proud to work with a variety of leading companies, trusts and foundations and individuals, forging bespoke, mutually beneficial partnerships.

Our Philanthropy and Partnerships team has a wide range of expertise and will work with you to establish your needs and determine how together, we can deliver the greatest impact for those affected by crisis.

Contact us

by phone 020 7692 2727

by email contactus@rescue-uk.org

by post

International Rescue Committee UK
3 Bloomsbury Place
London
WC1A 2QL

Join the conversation

 @IRCEurope

 [Facebook.com/IRCUK](https://www.facebook.com/IRCUK)

This mother and child are among the thousands of Syrian refugees now living in Hammana, Lebanon.



Reflections from our supporters:

“IRC is an experienced and flexible organisation that delivers innovative and effective work with Syrians affected by conflict. IRC speaks out for people living through emergencies, and supports along the entire process - from enabling refugees to lead dignified lives while in exile to helping them thrive when they eventually return to their country.”

Asfari Foundation

“The Bernard van Leer Foundation is delighted to work with IRC in support of young children and their families. New ways of working, thinking, and collaborating are needed to ensure programmes and systems deliver for people at scale. IRC is taking on this challenge in a creative and constructive way, and has proven a valuable partner in the true sense of the word.”

Bernard van Leer Foundation

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