



International Rescue Committee, UK

Annual Report

30 September 2017

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The International Rescue Committee, UK ('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; and associated agencies and offices worldwide. Collectively, these agencies make up the network referred to as the International Rescue Committee ('IRC').

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Front cover: South Sudanese Girl(s)
participating in COMPASS activities at
the IRC Women and Girls Safe Space in
Bombassi Refugee Camp, Ethiopia.



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We have seen continuing challenges to the work we do on behalf of the world's most vulnerable people in 2017. Conflicts have continued to run on and new ones have appeared, straining the resources available to respond. In the last year the IRC has stepped up to provide humanitarian aid to civilians in the civil war in South Sudan, to renewed fighting in Democratic Republic of Congo, to the cholera outbreak in the midst of the ongoing war in Yemen, to an outpouring of over 700,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar into Bangladesh, and to a seventh year of millions displaced by the Syrian conflict. These are merely a few of the many fires that are burning around the globe, even as much of the world moves forward together to bring about global improvements through the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.



This year the number of people displaced globally has increased to over 65 million people, half of whom are children, and the majority of whom are women. Women and girls in particular remain the most vulnerable of the vulnerable in the work we do. The IRC continues to pay a special focus in responding to their protection needs but also seeks ways to empower them to take control and build their futures through economic empowerment and livelihood-creation programmes.

In 2017, we have seen a marked decrease in the number of refugees who have arrived in Europe. A combination of legislative changes, border security and transnational agreements have led to this. However the conflicts that spur much of the migration of people to Europe continues. Boko Haram continues to disrupt lives and persecute civilians in Nigeria. Syrian refugees are leaving to seek asylum in Europe. Ultimately Europe must respond to the right-wing reactionary trend in opposition to refugee arrivals. To that end, the IRC has led on a public facing campaign to call for a united 'Union Resettlement Framework' which would create a manageable and controlled system of entry for refugees into various EU member states.

The IRC believes in making the best use of the resources we have in delivering aid, not just to deliver value for money with the funds entrusted to us, but also to extend our assistance in multiple crises. We have introduced tools to better track spending and cost effectiveness, while also engaging and partnering with communities to enable them to deliver for their own people. In Niger and Tanzania, informal networks of teachers help each other work in overcrowded and underfunded schools, some of whom are targeted by armed groups. With the IRC's help, we have provided them the resources and tools to keep delivering education and hope to a generation who would otherwise be excluded by conflict and displacement.

We also want to help people regain control of their lives. From Europe to Africa and Asia, we need to look for sustainable solutions that require less from aid agencies and help people stand on their own feet, because the reality is that conflicts run on for years, not months. Thanks to support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), we are using innovative online platforms to link Syrian refugees to jobs in Jordan, ensuring that women are not excluded from these opportunities, and creating partnerships that link refugees with skills to private sector opportunities.

The risks to our staff around the world have never been greater. Last year two staff died in Central African Republic and Somalia. Armand Koursou was 43 years old, with five children, and died when fighting broke out near his home where we work in Bocaranga, Central African Republic. Abdirahman Hassan died during one of the terror attacks in Mogadishu, leaving behind a wife who also works for the IRC, and two children. Sadly our staff in the field are confronting ever greater risks as conflicts escalate, and yet never cease to inspire with their dedication and commitment to the work we do.

That work is only possible thanks to your generosity and support. On behalf of the Board of IRC-UK and our colleagues in the field and in Europe, we would like to thank you for believing that life-saving aid can never stop in a conflict ridden world, and while we all hope for peace, the IRC will continue to ensure we are reaching the most vulnerable wherever they may be.

Sanjayan Srikanthan

Strategic Report

Introduction

Our Mission at IRC-UK is to help people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster. We serve people forced to flee from war, conflict and disaster, as well as the individuals and families who remain within their homes and 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.

We define success as the ability to help people survive, recover and gain control of their lives. Specifically, we measure success against the number of people who see improvement in the following five focus areas:

- Safety from physical, sexual and psychological harm;
- Reduced risk of ill health and better chances of recovery from ill health;
- 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;
- Giving people the power to influence decisions that affect their lives.



Above: Girls play inside IRC's safe space in Nargazilia camp, northern Iraq.

Bottom right: From left to right, Brian, Fahima, Amal, Athene and Wallan, wait to see a doctor at the Alexandria refugee camp in northern Greece.

Right: Nyanen Ruot, 65, sits in front of a makeshift shelter in a field in Ganyiel. Ruot fled fierce fighting in Bentiu, the capital of oil producing Unity State. "A neighbour was shot dead in front of my own eyes," she said.





In January 2015, the IRC published its organisation-wide strategic plan, identifying key opportunities for growth, informing a new global strategy, and defining the objectives required to make its vision a reality.

In line with this we established a five-year UK and Europe Strategy with the goal of raising our profile in Europe – building on our success in the UK to generate more funding and achieve greater influence within Europe.

To achieve its ambition, IRC-UK in Europe pursues three interconnected outcomes:

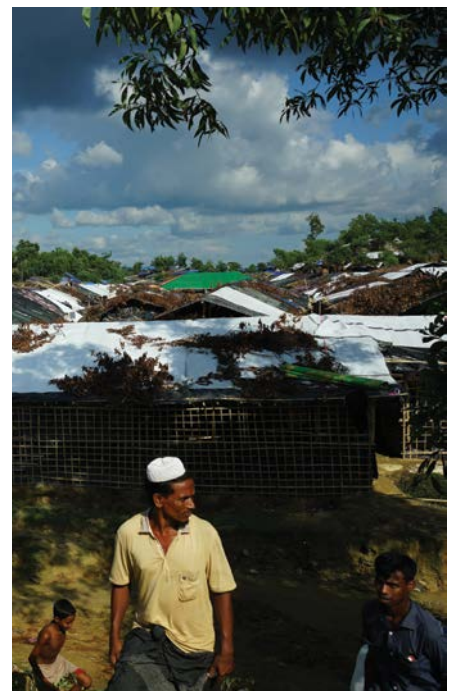
Outcome 1: European donors fund 40 – 50% of IRC's international portfolio with 15% of that funding being unrestricted.

Outcome 2: The IRC is a thought leader in Europe and is recognised as driving transformational policy and practice change.

Outcome 3: A European network with clearly defined centres of excellence is seen by donors as part of a single, global organisation.

Two key Foundations provide the support that will enable IRC-UK to achieve the above outcomes in 2015-2020. We strive for the IRC-UK to have a collaborative high-performance culture with the resources, support and systems to deliver.

Cutting across all results and foundations is a commitment to our strategic objectives and outcomes. We aim to ensure that evidence is used to influence 'policy and practice' that supports these objectives and outcomes, as well as ensuring the IRC-UK's own delivery is as efficient and cost effective as possible. This report highlights how we have put this into practice.



Our work



Top left: A mother brings her child to be treated for malnourishment at a specialist centre close to the Kutapalong refugee camp.

Bottom left: Lack of food and water has caused widespread cases of malnutrition for those fleeing violence in Myanmar.

Bottom Right: Those crossing the border have been forced make shelter in dangerous and unsanitary locations with the camps.

**BY OCTOBER 2017
OVER 600,000
ROHINGYA
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The Rohingya Crisis

By October 2017 over 600,000 Rohingya refugees had fled violence and persecution in Myanmar. The total number of refugees seeking shelter in neighbouring Bangladesh has since exceeded over 1 million, making it the fastest mass exodus witnessed since the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

The IRC's Emergency Response Team, supported by staff from the IRC-UK, carried out an assessment of conditions in the camps, released in October 2017, and found that the greatest needs in the area are health-care, food, protection for women and children, shelter and sanitation.

As a result, we were able to apply pressure on the UK Government and the European Union (EU) to influence major issues around the response in Bangladesh, as well as the root causes in Myanmar.

Using our digital channels, IRC-UK launched a Rohingya Emergency Response fundraising campaign to obtain financial support. We deployed advocacy and communications staff to the region to further assist the Emergency Response Team and updated our existing donors from the field.

Rohingya Muslim refugees arriving in Bangladesh told of the horrors they endured as their families were attacked and their villages burned in Myanmar's western state of Rakhine. 'The levels of trauma that we are

seeing here are severe,' said Sanna Johnson, the IRC's Asia Regional Director. 'We have spoken to women who have seen their children slaughtered before their eyes.'

'In a crisis of such unprecedented scale, we need the full weight of the international community to save lives in Bangladesh and Myanmar, and take concerted action in what is undoubtedly the most urgent refugee crisis in the world.'

IRC staff on the ground responded in collaboration with our partners by launching an emergency response in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, focused on providing essential health assistance, treatment of malnutrition, protection of vulnerable children, and a range of specialised services for women and girls who have been victims of violence.

In Myanmar, we were able to resume critical health and protection programmes in Rakhine State, serving both Muslim camps and Rakhine villages—despite humanitarian access remaining restricted for humanitarian groups, leaving thousands out of reach of lifesaving aid. In 2017, the IRC helped 64,589 individuals in 26 sites with access to basic primary health and reproductive health-care services.

Europe: Together for Refugees campaign

The Together for Refugees campaign, run in partnership with Ben & Jerry's, has seen us play a leading role in campaigning for new refugee resettlement legislation in the EU. To date, the campaign has mobilised 20,000 members of the public to email members of the

European Parliament. In October 2017, the European Parliament voted to endorse the new EU Resettlement Framework for vulnerable refugees.

Those who emailed their representatives from the UK, Germany, Sweden and The Netherlands helped reach a key

milestone, influencing the narrative around making legal routes to resettlement easier for refugees and ensuring that any subsequent decisions best support those fleeing violence and persecution.

The historic piece of legislation, the 'Union Resettlement Framework', is a unique opportunity to help some of the world's most vulnerable refugees by giving them sanctuary in Europe through a managed resettlement process. The proposed legislation currently on the table is ambitious, sustainable, consistent with humanitarian principles, and brings us one step closer to ensuring a pan-European resettlement programme is in place.



East Africa and Yemen

Yemen is facing the largest humanitarian crisis of our time: two-thirds of the population are at risk of starvation, with thousands gripped by a deadly cholera outbreak. The IRC is providing lifesaving emergency aid, clean water and medical care to millions of people in Yemen affected by violent conflict and a growing health crisis. We have been calling for the immediate and total lift of the Saudi-led coalition's air blockade, which makes it difficult to reach people in need and jeopardises the lives of thousands of children.

Last year, 813,131 people were able to access primary and reproductive health-care with 51,356 people provided access to essential clean drinking water and sanitation. Over this period, we also supported 2,049 children aged less than five to be treated for acute malnutrition.

The semi-arid areas of South Sudan, Somalia and other East African countries that are now in the grip of famine are lightly populated compared to many other parts of the world. Early preventative action is needed, before an official famine declaration, to address

and mitigate the true sources of hunger crises, which are conflict and drought. These are areas that the IRC continues to address.

For over 20 years, the IRC has been one of the largest providers of aid in southern Sudan. We also have active programmes in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Yemen. In all these countries, we continue to provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable people in hard-to-reach areas.

The Vitol Foundation was established by energy and commodities company Vitol Group to enable children living in deprivation to escape the cycle of poverty and reach their potential in life. In 2017, it supported the IRC in a number of emergency programmes, including our response to the drought situation in Turkana County, Kenya. Vitol Group staff also raised funds for the IRC's East Africa Appeal. This support has helped the IRC to provide quality treatment and care for malnutrition to over 23,000 vulnerable people including children under five, as well as pregnant and lactating women with children under 6 months.

Their most recent grant to support our work treating and preventing cholera in Yemen will support 34,000 people in the Al Dhale region.



'Parents in Yemen want to create a home for their children where they can grow and have opportunity, but they are no longer in a position to give them that opportunity and their kids don't see themselves as having a future either,' said IRC aid worker Zvidzai Maburutse, who works in Sana'a, Yemen's capital city.

Germany

We had significant advocacy success at the German Government-led G20 in July 2017 in the areas of financial inclusion and forcibly displaced persons (FDPs), creating the right financial and regulatory environment for our cash work to flourish. After carefully targeted advocacy with the UK and German Governments, and the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (G20 platform) in advance of the Summit, we succeeded in influencing recommendations to G20 Leaders to include the need for action in humanitarian settings.

The G20 endorsed the need for a 'roadmap for sustainable and responsible financial inclusion of FDPs by 2018'. This is a demand from G20 leaders for their governments to work together to help us make progress in this important area and is the first example we know of where we have influenced the outcome of a G20 Leaders' Summit.

Right: Hami and Valy, two Afghani asylum seekers and friends, visited Berlin to meet with an IRC Deutschland education specialist.

Far left: Handing out ice-cream with Ben & Jerry's in Brighton during the UK Homecoming tour in support of refugees.



Europe: Greece

During the past two years, 1.3 million people fleeing conflict and persecution have travelled through Greece in search of safety. After the closure of the Balkan borders and the implementation of the EU-Turkey agreement in March 2016, tens of thousands of refugees now find themselves stuck in Greece, waiting for asylum, family reunification or relocation, having to endure the stress of uncertainty and waiting.

Working in partnership with the Greek humanitarian agency Metadras, we are providing shelter, protection and foster care to unaccompanied children hoping to reunite with family in other European countries. Each day, an average of 270 children visit the safe learning and healing spaces at five refugee sites (Alexandria, Veria, Eleonas, Skaramagkas on the Greek mainland, and Kara Tepe on the island of Lesbos).

We work to ensure that refugees have access to counselling services and therapeutic and recreational activities. We have provided tailored one-on-one support services to nearly 3,000 people who live with illness, disability or trauma, or who are unable to protect themselves against exploitation and other harm, and women's safe spaces for respite and recovery at six refugee sites, where 170 women come through each day.

Ahmed, a 17-year-old boy from Syria, was forced to leave his parents in Aleppo three years ago. At the age of 14, he fled to Turkey and after a year of working in restaurants he managed to save just enough money to pay people smugglers the required fee to reach Greece.

Ahmed arrived at a time when many thousands of refugees were landing on Greece's shores in tiny, overcrowded boats. Amongst them are many children – forced to make the journey alone in the hope of reaching safety. Living in Greece without anywhere to stay, Ahmed was forced to sleep on the streets for two months. 'I was homeless... but nobody helped me. I was thinking of returning back to Syria, but I didn't.'

Whilst there are an estimated 2,800 unaccompanied children in Greece, there are only around 1,100 beds available for them in shelters, making homelessness a reality for many. Since January, Ahmed has lived at a Safe Zone for unaccompanied children in the Eleonas refugee camp in Athens, a site which hosts around 2,000 refugees. The Safe Zone is meant to provide temporary shelter for unaccompanied children, many of whom spend their first nights in police custody once they are picked up from the streets. 'Although living in a camp for 9 months is not easy, it's much better than living on the streets,' he says.



Above: Stella Giaga, an IRC Information and protection officer, greets a Syrian refugee, at the Pikpa refugee camp, in Mytilene, on the island of Lesbos, Greece.

Far left: IRC community health volunteers run hygiene promotion and cholera prevention activities with the children of Okiba, a remote village in Lahj, Yemen, where IRC mobile health teams come once a week to screen and treat children for malnutrition and other health issues.



Syria

Inside Syria, ongoing fighting has killed many and decimated the infrastructure that is vital for the most basic needs. Amid widespread violence, 2.7 million Syrian children have left school. Attacks on homes, schools and hospitals, including facilities supported by the IRC, continue to rise in spite of the establishment of de-escalation areas in the country.

The humanitarian situation in Syria and neighbouring countries continues to devastate the lives of millions of people in the region. Over 13.5 million people are in need and 5.6 million are in acute need. Meanwhile, 2.9 million

Syrians live in areas that are difficult or impossible for aid workers to reach.

Thanks to the generosity of our philanthropic supporters during the year, we continued to grow investment in our humanitarian response in both Europe and the Middle East.

The IRC-UK 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 the rest of the EU.

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In December 2016, the Asfari Foundation supported our Aleppo Emergency appeal by matching donations from the UK public, leveraging further funding for our vital response.

The Asfari foundation provided valuable support to help us identify and reach more families with emergency cash relief ranging from £100 to £500 to cover basic needs. Cash transfers can reach people in need faster and at a lower cost, while enhancing people's power to make their own choices. They not only enable families to cover their basic needs, but also play an important role in boosting the local economy. We have reached over 3,000 households in Idlib with cash assistance since November 2016, and this can only happen thanks to our donors.

Over 1,000 staff helped more than 1 million Syrians inside the country in 2016, and our presence in the region continues. We are providing medical care through clinics and mobile health teams, helping vulnerable women and girls, as well as supporting Syrians to find ways to support their families through training, or financial support such as vouchers to buy food and other essential items.

Nearly 400,000 people have lived under siege in Eastern Ghouta for the past four years. A tightening of the siege in recent months has left the population cut off from food and medicine, and caused unaffordable increases in food prices, leaving over a thousand children malnourished. Six IRC-supported health facilities in Eastern Ghouta have treated hundreds of malnourished children.

We have continued to develop our reputation as a thought-leader on these crises, often sought out by EU and UK politicians for supporting evidence and policy guidance. We have built relationships with a number of European UN Missions to provide updates from the field, and produced a well-received report on the need to create jobs for Syrian refugees. The report was launched at a joint event in London with the Conservative Friends of International Development group and a panel discussion between the IRC's President and CEO David Miliband, former DFID Minister Rory Stewart, the Jordanian Ambassador, speakers from Google.org (the charitable arm of Google) and the IKEA Foundation.

Ahead of the Syria Conference in Brussels in April 2017, we helped set up a coalition of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and received feedback from the European External Action Service (EEAS) that our advocacy had helped to influence the focus and outcomes of the conference. We also supported advocacy opportunities with EU targets in the Middle East on important issues such as the return of Syrian refugees.



Top left: Shahoud Ala Karbouz with his son, two year-old Hadi, from Damascus, Syria at Idomeni camp on the northern Greek border.

Bottom right: Patients with kidney failure are receiving treatment at a hospital in Eastern Ghouta.

Iraq

Even though the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has been pushed out of most of the city of Mosul, suffering continues for the 1.5 million people who endured ISIS rule for well over two years.

On the Mosul Response, our persistent advocacy has helped ensure a special retreat led by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) took place with the purpose of looking at a de-mining strategy in the Middle East. We were also one of the only NGOs to proactively advocate around the Mosul offensive for the need for aid and civilian protection. We convened a group of NGOs to work with UK Members of Parliament (MPs) and to apply pressure on the FCO, supported by a number of articles we published.

In both the UK and Germany, we were invited to brief civil servants on our key areas of concern on Iraq. We also secured a slot for David Miliband to speak at a high-level United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) event on Iraq organised by the EU, Germany and the US. Additionally, in both the UK and Germany, we were invited to brief civil servants on our key areas of concern on Iraq.

When IS overran her village north of Mosul in 2014, Diana lost everything, including the stock in her general store, the only one in the village. Diana and her husband had sold their car and other possessions to reopen it, as it was their lifeline. Diana recalls, 'We had small children, and we needed more income to take care of the babies.'

When she returned to the village after ISIS was driven out, she found the shop was empty. Desperate to get back on her feet, Diana joined the IRC business training program and, with an IRC grant, got her store up and running again.

With our support, women in Iraq are finding the courage and determination to rebuild their lives through a nine-session business training course. These sessions cover important skills from accounting and bookkeeping to communication and negotiation, but most importantly, they help women to find a niche for themselves and their businesses in their new communities.

The IRC provides health screenings and basic supplies to over 14,000 Iraqis who have arrived in Al Hol refugee camp in Syria's relatively stable north eastern Hassakah governorate.

We first began working in Iraq in 2003, providing humanitarian relief and recovery assistance to the most vulnerable and crisis-affected Iraqis. We also have provided emergency support to thousands of Syrians fleeing the civil war that began in 2011. We now work in 13 out of 18 Iraqi governorates, with main offices in Baghdad, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, and Duhok.



Above & Right: Women and girls take part in activities at IRC's women's centre in Sheikhan, north of Mosul. It is the only space dedicated for women in the town where they can participate in activities and learn new skills such as sewing.



Focus: Displacement



While the Syria crisis is dominating headlines, most of the world's displaced people have been forced from home by long-running crises that get little attention. Across the world, 65 million are displaced from their homes and are seeking safety. Increasingly, cities and peri-urban areas have become the forefront of humanitarian response, diverting from the traditional paradigm of relief provision in rural and camp settings.

In June 2017, we co-hosted a symposium in London on urban displacement. This was the culmination of a two-year partnership to research, pilot, test new approaches to urban responses, and produce a set of practical guidelines on context analysis, multi-sector vulnerability assessment tools, and integrated programme models.

The humanitarian landscape is changing; 60% of the world's refugees, and 80% of internally displaced people now live in urban areas, and four-fifths live in developing countries that can least afford to host them.

Concerning urban displacement, we continue to have positive discussions about the potential to fund the secretariat of the new Global Alliance for Urban Crises. We succeeded in inserting language on refugees, data collection and urban contexts into the outcome document from the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants.

Above: Afghan refugee children play at the Pikpa refugee camp, in Mytilene, on the island of Lesbos, Greece.

Below: 'Waiting to clean up'. A woman cleans her hands at the Alexandria refugee camp in northern Greece.

Focus: Livelihoods

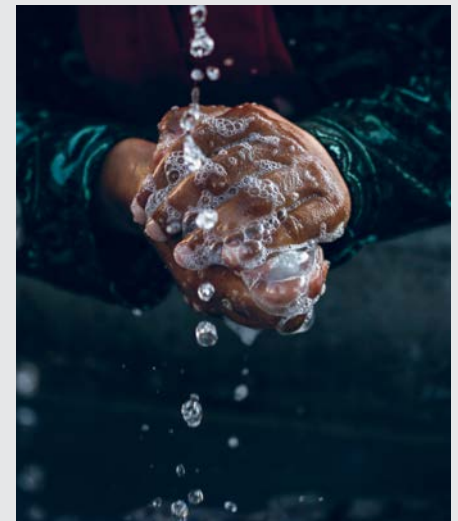
Displaced people often face challenges in securing basic needs –food, water, shelter and clothing –in order to continue their lives in new places. Economic insecurity, discrimination, and marginalisation increase the protection risk for the displaced as they seek income-generating opportunities, creating a need for a more integrated approach to livelihoods initiatives.

The IRC and the Citi Foundation, established by Citigroup to promote economic progress and improve the lives of people in low-income communities around the world, launched a new initiative that will provide refugees, young people displaced within their own countries and vulnerable youth from the communities hosting them with support to help them generate a reliable income and contribute to their local economy.

Throughout the two-year project Rescuing Futures, nearly 1,000 young people across three cities—Athens in Greece, Amman in Jordan and Yola in northeast Nigeria—will be supported to start their own businesses.

'The IRC's partnership with the Citi Foundation represents a best-in-class global public-private partnership.'

'The IRC has unique expertise in working with conflict-affected populations and the urban-displaced to build economic resilience. Alongside the Citi Foundation's Pathways to Progress initiative, a commendable commitment to investing in the futures of young people, this project will have a life-changing impact on some of the most marginalised youth around the world!' David Miliband



The Citi Foundation is a longstanding supporter of the IRC, helping to fund research and development and emergency work in recent years. This year saw the expansion of the Citi Foundation's Pathways to Progress initiative globally with a \$100million commitment to reach 500,000 young people with entrepreneurship and employability training before 2020.

Focus: Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls is a serious human rights violation and a significant global health and security issue. More than one third of women and girls worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetimes. In South Sudan, up to 65% of women and girls interviewed for a study conducted by the IRC said they have experienced either sexual or physical violence in their lifetime, double the global average, and amongst the highest levels of violence against women and girls in the world.

With the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) we published a paper on the impact of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Emergencies, which the IRC was instrumental in driving the establishment of 4 years ago, and has now grown to an international network of 66 governments, NGOs and international organisations. To mark the launch of the Lead on the Call to Action moving between Sweden and the EU, we spoke at an event about the report's findings at the UN in Geneva alongside the Director General of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the Swedish Ambassador.

In two sections of the camp near Amiriyat Fallujah, Iraq, the IRC runs women's listening centres. Here women and girls gather to spend time together, taking part in activities and talking about the challenges they face. Without this space many wouldn't have a chance to socialise with other women.

Laila, who fled IS-held al-Qaim in Anbar, south-west Iraq to come to a camp in Baghdad, attended IRC business training classes to help her get a bakery off the ground. 'I have been a baker for a long time. My mother taught me how to bake,' she says. She then applied for an IRC grant to help her buy a second oven. 'Now I can bake a lot more bread' she says. 'I am the only bakery here in the camp so I have a lot of customers.' Through the IRC programme, Laila met other enterprising women and built an informal network. 'Today we help each other a lot,' she says. 'We support each other in our businesses and look after each other like family.'



Left hand page above: Patients receive hygiene kits when they are sent home from the IRC's diarrhea treatment centre in Al Dahle'e, Yemen.

Left hand page below: Samaher, the mother of three (centre) help her children - Isra (left) and Mohammad (right) with their studies. This Syrian refugee family is from Damascus, Syria. They left the country in 2012 and arrived in Jordan. The women regularly visit the IRC Woman Centre in Irbid. They all attend several courses and psychological consultancy.

Right hand page above: Jori Al Sharaa draws after school at her house.

Right hand page below: 'Waiting to charge a phone'. Hamed, left, age 16, and Ahid, age 21, sit in a room to charge their phones, at the Alexandria refugee camp in northern Greece.

Focus: Education

The IRC and Sesame Workshop—the non-profit, educational organisation behind Sesame Street—are working together to give millions of refugee children in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and northern Iraq the support they need to learn, grow and thrive.

Few Syrian children have opportunities to learn and play; many are neglected; some have been exposed to extreme violence and experienced unspeakable trauma that will have a long-lasting impact on their health and future. They are at risk of ‘toxic stress,’ a biological response to prolonged and severe adversity that disrupts a child’s brain development.

We will combine Sesame Street’s history of proven educational content with the IRC’s decades of assistance in crisis-affected areas to deliver a suite of culturally relevant programming and multimedia content tailored for the needs of refugee children and their caregivers.

‘Our partnership with Sesame Street will help transform children’s lives by making sure that their social-emotional needs are met so they are able to receive an education, contribute to their community and succeed as adults,’ said David Miliband, President and CEO of the IRC.



Beyond literacy and numeracy, these programs will help children develop social and emotional skills necessary to succeed and cope with challenges. Children are not the only ones who need guidance. Thanks to the support of partners such as sector experts Bernard van Leer Foundation, we will also be working with parents, teachers and caregivers to more effectively engage and support refugee children as they learn and grow.

‘We touch families in every aspect of their lives,’ said Sarah Smith, senior director of education at the IRC. ‘Whether it’s a community health worker who is going into a home to help a mother who has just had a baby, or whether it’s a volunteer preschool teacher in a community centre, we’ll provide for them the content they need to deliver those services.’

Focus: European Refugee Crisis

In July 2015, the IRC was the first international aid organisation to assist the thousands of refugees who were arriving each day on the Greek island of Lesbos. Today, we continue to work in Greece and along the Balkan route to support the most vulnerable refugees, including children travelling alone and at risk of smuggling or trafficking.

Claude Moraes, a Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the European Parliament’s Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee commented that, ‘The IRC’s contribution up to now has really helped inform our work. The forthcoming LIBE Committee visits to New York, Jordan and Lebanon come after a lot of intensive work with your team and with you, so I think we’ve built a good relationship that will continue to inform our work on

resettlement and the other elements of the refugee legislation.’

Over the course of a two day visit, IRC’s President and CEO David Miliband addressed around 250 of the leading decision makers and thinkers in the EU on the refugee crisis and secured significant coverage in Brussels-focussed media.

Through Refugee.Info—a free digital service whose development we are supporting—the IRC empowers refugees on the move by providing them with real-time, reliable information in Arabic and Farsi about their rights, local laws and support services. The platform helps refugees in Greece, Serbia, Macedonia and Bulgaria regain the power to make choices that protect themselves and their families.

The IRC provides support to 13 European countries, offering expert guidance on refugee integration by drawing on our experience assisting refugees and people seeking asylum, which includes more than four decades of work in refugee resettlement and integration in the United States.



Support for our wider work

Fundraising

This year, IRC-UK received more support than ever before from individuals, trusts, foundations, companies and other organisations, who together donated over £6 million to support our global humanitarian work. This is represented in the accounts by £4 million of income from donations recognised in the year by IRC-UK; a net increase in deferred income from donations of £0.4 million; and £1.6 million of income from donations received by IRC NY as a result of efforts of IRC-UK fundraising activities.

We received a record number of unrestricted donations from philanthropists, which are crucial for our work. We can direct this funding wherever it is most needed, helping us respond quickly and flexibly to new emergencies and evolving crisis situations – making sure more people survive, recover and gain control of their futures.

Last year, the profile of the IRC in Europe improved considerably, helping to drive funding and advocate for policy change. A strong focus was placed on building the IRC's profile not just in the UK but also in Brussels, Sweden, Germany and other countries in Europe.

The IRC was featured 1,757 times in British and European national print, online and broadcast media and our press releases were responsible for 20% of that coverage.

Our effective placement resulted in us being the principal focus of more than one third of the articles that mention our work. We have performed well on social media as well, where our presence has been consistently

growing: in FY 2017, we gained 28% more Twitter followers and 60% more Facebook likes than in 2016, allowing us to communicate our work and maximise potential for financial support amongst an even broader audience.

The general public continues to donate generously to the IRC's work, most notably to support the ongoing conflict in Syria, the East Africa Famine and the Rohingya Refugee Crisis.

The Fifty-One

In 1933, Albert Einstein rallied a group of 51 humanitarians to form the beginnings of the International Rescue Committee. At a time when there were no aid agencies helping people uprooted by the Nazis, they invented new ways to support refugees. Their legacy has saved the lives of hundreds of millions of people.



Now, as then, the world needs new answers in the face of an unprecedented refugee crisis. We're calling for a new generation of philanthropists to come together and fuel inventive thinking.

The Fifty-One's donations are unrestricted, giving the IRC crucial flexibility to direct support wherever it's most needed to make the greatest difference for refugees – whether it's helping us react quickly to an evolving emergency, fast-track a pioneering idea or gather robust evidence to share with the global humanitarian community.

To find out more, visit www.rescue-uk.org/51.

Fundraising Compliance

The IRC-UK is committed to undertaking ethical, transparent, and appropriate fundraising activity to raise funds to support our beneficiaries. We adhere to the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and embed supporter care best practice into our fundraising processes, which include internal policies to protect vulnerable persons. Our Privacy Policy, accessible on our website, outlines our promise to supporters to respect their personal information made available to IRC-UK, protect their data, and communicate in line with their given consent.

In FY 2017, IRC-UK has carefully reviewed and updated the Privacy Policy and approach to wealth-screening and donor research under the support and guidance of pro bono legal counsel. This was undertaken with close consideration of recent rulings against charities by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Additionally, we have worked closely with the IRC General Counsel to ensure best practice compliance on all our campaigns. Continuing activity includes undertaking a broad review of requirements under the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which will be led by IRC General Counsel and external support.

Our Supporters

We would like to extend our special thanks to the trusts, foundations, companies, organisations and some of our individual donors for their ongoing support. Their generosity enables us to respond to crises and help communities.

Trusts, Foundations and Companies

Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
 Asfari Foundation
 ATASS Foundation
 Ben & Jerry's
 Bernard van Leer Foundation
 Blavatnik Family Foundation
 Citi Foundation
 Comic Relief
 Green Room Charitable Trust
 Hands Up Foundation
 Hugh Symons Charitable Trust
 Levi Strauss & Co
 Manos Unidas
 Megan Van't Hoff Charitable Trust
 Mistral Stiftung
 Oak Foundation
 Said Foundation
 Sir James Reckitt Charity
 Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation
 The Gulab Jamun Charitable Fund
 UBS Optimus Foundation
 Virgin Unite
 Vitol Foundation

Organisations

Action Against Hunger & The Children's Investment Fund Foundation, as part of No Wasted Lives
 Christian Blind Mission

Individual donors

Anita Mendiratta
 Bill Winters
 Dylan Pereira
 Francesco Garzarelli and Elena Ciallié
 James and Celia Greig
 James Greer
 James T. and Hiroko Sherwin
 Johanna M David
 Rasha Mansouri Elmasry and Hassan Elmasry
 Robert Granieri
 Susan Gibson and Mark Bergman
 Wendy Fisher
 and those who wish to remain anonymous



Above: Girls play inside IRC's safe space in Nargazilia camp, northern Iraq. The children and their families fled the battle for Mosul.

Below: A little boy sits in the shade to escape the mid-day sun at the Alexandria refugee camp in northern Greece.



Overview of Institutional Grant Funded Activities

The IRC-UK's programme development activities focus on securing funds from key European governmental donors and EU institutions to support life-saving humanitarian work in places of crises. With our largest governmental and institutional donors, such as DFID, ECHO and Sida, IRC-UK seeks to establish longer-term partnerships and build up trust over a number of years of close collaboration. While applying for and securing specific funds remains a highly competitive process, having a relationship that incorporates dimensions of work beyond funding enables IRC-UK to also engage with our key donors on aspects of thought leadership inside the humanitarian sector. In parallel, we are pursuing cultivation work of newer European donors in order to better balance our portfolio and to establish similarly fruitful and mature relationships over time.

EAST AFRICA – DROUGHT



During 2017, the East Africa region experienced a severe food insecurity crisis, caused predominantly by drought throughout the region and the ongoing conflicts taking place in Somalia and South Sudan, which led to significant displacement and has received a significant response—seven ECHO and six DFID submissions in the region have been successful in raising more than €20 million and £7 million, respectively. The ECHO funding has included two new projects in Uganda, a country that has not received ECHO funding in recent years.

Beyond DFID and ECHO, the IRC has secured a number of contributions from the Sida and Irish Aid Frameworks, including three Sida Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) responses in Ethiopia and Uganda, focusing on the drought and the South Sudanese refugee influxes in each country, and an Irish Aid Framework contribution to respond to the drought in the Turkana region of Kenya. Longer term resilience programming from EuropeAid has also been secured amounting to close to €5.9 million.

Above: The persistent conflict amongst the 10 clans in Karamoja and resultant violence has a significant impact on women's daily lives. Women and girls experience sexual, physical, economic and emotional violence and are often unable to safely carry out their many daily activities, such as sourcing clean water and collecting firewood, both of which can often involve traveling long distances.



YEMEN – CONFLICT, FOOD SECURITY AND CHOLERA



The situation in Yemen continued to deteriorate in 2017 with a combination of conflict, food insecurity and an unprecedented cholera outbreak. IRC's Yemen Programme expanded substantially to respond to this situation, adding Food Security and Women's Protection and Empowerment (WPE) work as new sectors to the existing integrated Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Nutrition portfolio. IRC-UK secured funding from ECHO, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Sida in support of this, as well as an emergency contribution from the Irish Aid Framework to establish the WPE programme.

EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA



IRC responded to the European refugee crises, with particular focus on Greece, the Balkans, Libya, Italy and Germany. IRC worked to support refugees and asylum seekers in transit in Greece and the Balkans through building the capacity of local partners and providing neutral and easily accessible information on online platforms; providing critical humanitarian support in the areas of health and protection in Libya; fostering integration in Germany, in particular through inclusion in the education system for minors; and acting at an advocacy level to share best practices from the global US resettlement system, which could serve as a basis for the creation of a harmonised European Resettlement Framework.

The £10 million programme, Refugee Children Fund for Europe, awarded by DFID to the IRC, UNHCR and Save the Children (July 2016 - June 2017) scored an A in the project completion report. The programme aimed to respond to the most pressing needs of vulnerable migrant and refugee children in Europe. The programme was implemented in Greece, Serbia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Bulgaria and Albania, and provided direct support to and protection of unaccompanied children, as well as age-appropriate information to children at risk, including information in relevant languages to unaccompanied children on their rights.

Below: A girl gets water at the Alexandria refugee camp in northern Greece.



WEST AFRICA – NIGERIA



The United Nations' latest assessment deems that 7.7 million people are in need in the region of north-eastern Nigeria, with many experiencing numerous waves of displacement. With generous support from European donors, the IRC's programmes provided a range of life-saving interventions to hundreds of thousands of people within three critically affected areas of north-eastern Nigeria.

In 2017, the IRC-UK mobilised funds amounting to over £24 million to implement programmes in Nigeria. These funds came from DFID, EuropeAid and ECHO, to address the dire humanitarian needs of Internally Displaced Persons, host communities and returnees across Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states. These multiyear grants have enabled IRC to lead programmes that have reached approximately 2.5 million beneficiaries.

The IRC leads a multi-sectoral response providing protection, child protection, WASH, food security and health system strengthening. WASH activities are a prime focus for the IRC in north-eastern Nigeria. The supply of safe and potable water for drinking, washing and personal hygiene and adequate sanitation infrastructure is very limited in these conflict-affected areas. The IRC has supported the rebuilding, operation and maintenance of numerous water supply infrastructures and regularly monitors the water quality. Furthermore, IRC staff were able to respond and provide food security and malnutrition assessments in response to the deteriorating famine declared in that region in July 2016.



GREAT LAKES – THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) AND BURUNDI



The conflict in the Kasai region of DRC has seen 1.4 million people internally displaced, and the region considered one of the most severe food-security emergencies. In light of massive humanitarian needs on the ground, the IRC deployed emergency staff and sought to reposition itself as a responder in the Kasai region. By the end of September, the IRC had secured \$329,670 from the Sida RRM, and €400,000 from Stichting Vluchteling. The IRC carried out market and related Economic Recovery and Development assessments on which to develop a potential cash and/or food security response.

In June 2017, IRC-UK signed a \$24.3 million grant with the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs for the Integrated Water and Food Security Programme. The programme adopts an integrated approach to reducing conflict between competing ethnic groups and increasing stability in eastern DRC through increased and more equitable access to land and water for household and agricultural use, and improved governance around the management of these resources. The programme will benefit an estimated 28,800 people over 46 months, and is unusual in both its high value, and that it originated from a local embassy.



MIDDLE EAST – SYRIA RESPONSE



DFID commissioned an external due diligence report in advance of IRC-UK's new £45.6 million award in Syria. It was undertaken by the consultants Moore Stephens towards the end of 2016, who delivered the report in late March 2017. There were five particular areas of focus and associated recommendations: the use of money transfer agents (hawalas), risk management, monitoring of new controls, systems and procedures, cash vouchers and IRC's due diligence procedures. An action plan was developed and the IRC is responding to the recommendations.

ASIA – ROHINGYA CRISIS



In response to the crisis in Bangladesh, \$330,000 has been secured from Sida's RRM. The IRC has worked in partnership with Action Against Hunger to scale up static and mobile health teams and women's centres across settlements, offering women and girls sexual and reproductive health-care, mental health-care and psychosocial support. The IRC has also been engaged with UN agencies to outline partnerships in health and protection and scaled up the programme rapidly during the implementation period. The IRC has successfully managed to treat children under 5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), deliver life-saving health and protection services for women, boys and girls and strengthen humanitarian partners' capacity to deliver quality GBV and child protection services.

SIDA HUMANITARIAN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The IRC Humanitarian Framework Agreement (HFA) with Sida has continued into its third year through a \$10.7 million cost-extension running from 1 May 2017 – 30 April 2018. This allocation represents an 85% increase from our Swedish Kroner allocation in year one and a 20% increase on year two. It also includes funding for three additional country projects including Cameroon, Mali and South Sudan.

Over the last year, IRC-UK has utilised the RRM funding pot by securing crucial emergency funding for crises in Afghanistan, Syria, Uganda, Ethiopia and the DRC.

IRISH AID STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The new two-year Strategic Partnership on GBV in Emergencies (€2.2 million) was launched during David Miliband's visit to Dublin in February 2017. The IRC-Irish Aid Strategic Partnership for GBV in Emergencies remains one of our most critical and unique partnerships supporting our GBV work globally. The partnership funds GBV Response, Preparedness and Recovery work in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan (€1.4 million), Emergency Response Funding for GBV response in rapid onset or escalating crises globally (€500,000) and Policy and Advocacy work engaging European stakeholders (€186,000).

The IRC has allocated the total €250,000 of pre-positioned emergency funding under year one of the partnership to provide GBV emergency assistance to women and girls. Funds have been allocated to responses in Northern Kenya, Yemen and East Mosul.

Left hand page above: Children of Congolese refugees in the Musasa refugee camp in north-eastern Burundi.

Left hand page below: Children in the Kutapalong camp in Bangladesh, now one of the largest refugee camps in the world.

Right hand page above: A mother brings her child to be treated for malnourishment at a specialist centre close to the Kutapalong refugee camp.



STRENGTHENING INNOVATION AND EFFECTIVENESS IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The £3.6 million DFID project, 'Making the Difference', ended in March 2017. The project played a key role in the delivery of the IRC 2020 Strategy commitments in the areas of research and development, client voice and choice, Outcomes and Evidence Framework (OEF) and Best Use of Resources (BUR). It also facilitated the launch of the IRC's Airbel Center for research and development, which is making significant efforts to deliver and model assistance which is more innovative, more responsive, and more effective. As a result of this project the IRC also developed the interactive OEF to present evidence in a systematic, user-friendly format and BUR developed a methodology for conducting cost analysis within humanitarian organisations. The grant has also allowed the IRC to build a strong network among leading practitioners and policy-makers in the area of accountability to affected populations. The papers developed under the project around incentivising the use of feedback have been well received by the sector, and the IRC has been invited to guest-author blogs, for example on the Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance platform, and present at panel discussions, for example the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP) Annual Meeting.

This grant's strategic investment has also allowed the IRC to leverage over £10 million for these efforts from a variety of donors including DFID, START, USAID, Arnhold Foundation, ELMA Foundation, and 3ie.

Summary Financial Statements

Statement of financial activities 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017.

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2017 funds £'000	Total 2016 funds £'000
Income and expenditure				
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	1,274	2,758	4,032	2,722
Investments	33	—	33	18
Charitable activities	3,492	135,061	138,553	143,596
Total income	4,799	137,819	142,618	146,336
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	1,231	—	1,231	967
Charitable activities				
- Health	1,049	46,191	47,240	60,645
- Safety	1,061	46,721	47,782	26,914
- Education	409	18,005	18,414	19,394
- Economic Wellbeing	520	22,886	23,406	14,393
- Power	56	2,477	2,533	21,813
- Other	372	1,539	1,911	1,772
Total charitable activities	3,467	137,819	141,286	144,931
Total expenditure	4,698	137,819	142,517	145,898
Net (expenditure) income for the year	101	—	101	438
Balances brought forward at 1 October 2016	2,535	—	2,535	2,097
Balances carried forward at 30 September 2017	2,636	—	2,636	2,535

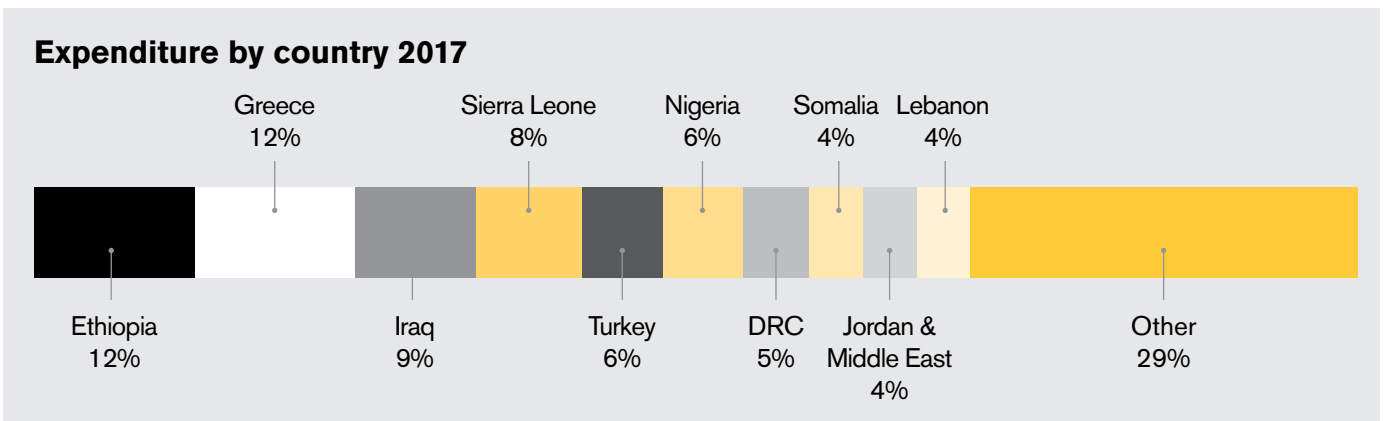
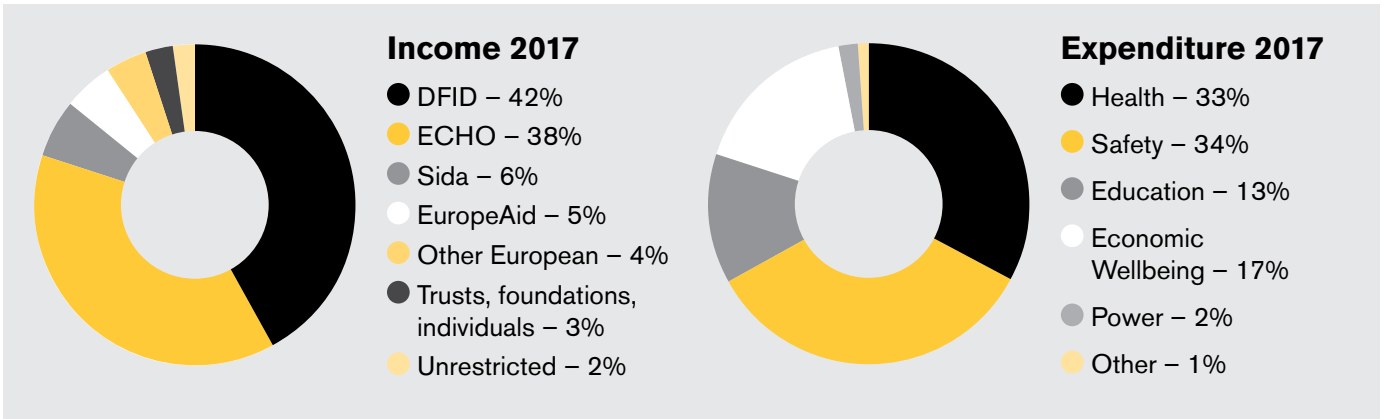
Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2017

	2017 £'000	2017 £'000	2016 £'000	2016 £'000
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets		62		85
Current assets				
Debtors	62,485		33,470	
Cash at bank and in hand	15,073		28,542	
	77,558		62,012	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(74,984)		(59,562)	
Net current assets		2,574		2,450
Total net assets		2,636		2,535
Represented by:				
Funds and reserves				
Income funds:				
Restricted funds		—		—
Unrestricted funds				
- Designated funds		15		15
- General fund		2,621		2,520
		2,636		2,535

This is a summary of IRC-UK's 2017 financial statements. The full 2017 Annual Report and Financial Statements is available on IRC-UK's website: rescue-uk.org.



Silva, age 7, gets water at the Alexandria refugee camp in northern Greece. Silva was travelling with her father and pregnant mother, as well as her younger brother and sister.



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, income and asset growth

Power

Influence over the decisions that affect people's lives

How you can support the IRC

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. Find out how: **rescue-uk.org/fundraise-refugees**.

Join the conversation

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Image: Syrian children at an IRC-run classroom in Akkar, Lebanon. The IRC is helping some 2,900 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon receive literacy, math and social and emotional skills through quality early childhood education.



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