





Cover image: IRC learning facilitator Fatima teaches children in Maiduguri, northeast Nigeria.

This page: IRC client Hala, 4 years old, from the southern countryside of Idlib.

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The trustees present their statutory report together with the financial statements of International Rescue Committee, UK ("IRC-UK") for the year ended 30 September 2019 (FY 2019).

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

IRC-UK works closely with IRC NY to carry out projects throughout the world. The projects referred to in this report are implemented through the network by IRC NY and through local partners.

This trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and the statement of recommended practice (SORP). It also meets the requirements for a directors' report set out in the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements for a strategic report as outlined in 'The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013'.

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

Company Limited by Guarantee  
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## A Letter from the Executive Director



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

Dear friends and supporters,

In a time of great strain on the humanitarian system, when a record number of people have been forced to flee their homes, the International Rescue Committee's work is needed more than ever. As governments around the world turn their backs on refugees and displaced people, the IRC's mission to help those whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster has not wavered.

In over 40 countries, the IRC is providing vital services such as responding to urgent health needs like malnutrition, educating vulnerable displaced children, and training female refugees to help them rebuild their livelihoods and their futures.

Take, for example, the escalating violence in Idlib, Syria, which has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes. It is estimated that if the violence escalates in 2020, the number of displaced people inside Idlib could be pushed to over one million. The IRC's teams are there to provide vital support like cash grants and healthcare. We have issued urgent calls for an immediate ceasefire, and for all parties to the conflict to commit to the United Nations peace process and abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law.

In Yemen, intense fighting in Al Dhale'e and concerns over the safety of staff and clients using our services forced the IRC to temporarily relocate a number of activities including mobile health clinics, cholera treatment, education and livelihoods support. Despite the challenges, the IRC reaches more than 21,000 people in Yemen each week. In capitals across Europe and in the United States, we have repeatedly called for a political settlement to end the violence and a nationwide ceasefire.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) we responded to the Ebola crisis, training health workers across the country to recognise Ebola symptoms and safely triage and transfer suspected cases to Ebola treatment centres. We also led on infection prevention and control in health facilities, and looked after women's and children's specific protection needs.

We could not respond to humanitarian crises like these without our generous funders. Our government donors like the Department for International Development (DFID) help us save lives, day in day out. But I am also particularly encouraged by our growing number of corporate and foundation partners who play a vital role not just in funding our work, but in delivering it alongside us.

Our partnership with the Citi Foundation, for example, sees young people in Africa, the Middle East and Europe acquiring business skills that are transforming their lives. This is one of so many programmes in which the resilience and talents of our clients shines through every day.

The LEGO Foundation has just awarded the IRC a generous grant to promote early learning solutions for pre-primary and primary school-aged children impacted by the humanitarian crises in East Africa. This major initiative, called PlayMatters, will deliver play-based learning to children, strengthening their resilience, and building their social, emotional, cognitive, physical and creative skills.

The support of our high-profile and determined advocates is also crucial.

Recently, the IRC announced that the Prince of Wales has become the IRC's first UK Patron, and we are deeply grateful for his support.



His Royal Highness has a longstanding interest in the IRC's work and previously visited an IRC project in Berlin offering female refugees vocational training courses.

The Business Refugee Action Network (BRAN) brings together European businesses to train, hire and stand up for refugees. At the first ever Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in 2019, the network lobbied for the private sector to commit to sustainable policies that ensure refugees are given the chance to rebuild their lives.

As part of the IRC's World Refugee Day activations, the IRC collaborated with all four Tate galleries across the UK as well as the V&A to highlight the work of artists forced to flee their homes. Together we celebrated the contributions refugees have made to the arts and what we stand to lose if refugees lose our support.

I am proud to be part of the IRC and to have taken on the role of Executive Director in the UK. I would like to thank my predecessor Sanjayan Srikanthan for his dedication and leadership.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to our staff, many of whom risk their lives to deliver lifesaving aid. In 2019 we tragically lost members of the IRC community. Staff member Seydou Zakari was killed on 15 June in an attack of Tcholori village, in eastern Niger. The driver of the vehicle he was in, a contractor of one of the IRC's partners, was also killed. In Nigeria, Dan Maiwaina Auwali Samaila, a community volunteer with our Health and Nutrition programme, was killed in an explosion on 16 June.

These tragic losses underscore just how unstable many of the communities that we work in are, and I am continually inspired by the

dedication of our staff despite the challenges they face. Their impact on countless lives is immeasurable.

On behalf of the entire IRC family, I sincerely thank you for supporting our mission to help people in desperate need, in some of the world's toughest places. It is your generosity that makes our work possible, and it is only with your support that we can continue to fight for the people we serve to have safer, brighter futures.

Above: The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall at an IRC workshop in Germany. The IRC collaborates with jobs4refugees to provide women who have fled violence and persecution with the skills they need to find work in Germany.



## Our work this year

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

We serve people in crisis across the globe who have fled their homes or remained resilient in their communities.

Our vision is to lead the humanitarian field by implementing high-impact, cost-effective programmes for people affected by crisis, and by using our experience to shape policy and push for change from a local to global level.

Our strategy defines success as the number of people who see improvement in the following five focus areas:



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



**Safety** from physical, sexual and psychological harm



**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



**Power** to influence decisions that affect their lives

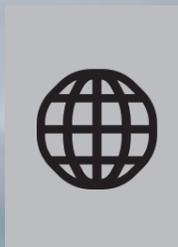
### Safeguarding at the IRC

In 2019, the IRC reaffirmed its approach to safeguarding in consultation with more than 200 staff members from across the organisation. Our new strategy sets out a long-term approach that will deliver fundamental organisational and behavioural change.

Our new Director of Safeguarding joined the IRC in 2019. Building the Safeguarding Unit will continue into 2020, as the team of dedicated safeguarding staff grows to include regional roles which support the development of our local offices and enhance their safeguarding prevention and response. The strengthening of our policies and processes continues, with the development of global good practices, other materials aimed at protecting staff and beneficiaries, and responding to concerns as they raise.



## Crisis Watch 2019 – the global picture



**70.8m** people worldwide are forcibly displaced from their homes



**Over 30 people** are forced to flee their homes every minute



**25.9 million** people are refugees



**Over half** of refugees are children



This page: Areesha Camp in Northeast Syria is home to approximately 13,436 displaced people. The camp is overcrowded and repeatedly floods in the winter, which makes the living conditions even harder for families who have had to flee conflict multiple times.



## Crisis spotlight: Yemen

The conflict in Yemen, now in its fifth year, has resulted in the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

More than 24 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, the economic situation remains dire and the country is once again teetering on the brink of famine. An IRC report found that at the current rate of decline, it will take 20 years for the country to return to pre-war levels of child nutrition. Meanwhile, another five years of fighting will cost the international community over £22 billion just to sustain the current level of humanitarian aid.

The IRC continues to call for an inclusive political settlement to the crisis, improved humanitarian access, and urgent humanitarian relief on all fronts to alleviate the ongoing suffering of the Yemeni people.

“Conditions for ordinary Yemenis are deteriorating across every measure – security, economic, and humanitarian. Quite simply – things have never been worse. Real steps must be taken to alleviate suffering now,” says Frank Mc Manus, the IRC’s Yemen Country Director.

The depreciation of Yemen’s currency corresponds with dramatic price hikes on basic commodities, leaving millions of people unable to buy enough food to meet their daily needs. With less than 45% of health clinics in operation, and salaries to critical healthcare staff not being paid, the people of Yemen lack vital access to basic healthcare.

The IRC is a major provider of humanitarian assistance in the country, continuing to deliver lifesaving services. Each week, the IRC delivers health services for 10,000 individuals in Yemen, rehabilitates water points for access to clean water, offers nutrition assistance and treatment to 500 children, provides cash transfers to 5,000 families, and supports 250 women in safe spaces.

The IRC has been working in Yemen since 2012, and rapidly scaled our programming in 2015 to address greater humanitarian need caused by the conflict. While the ongoing conflict and restrictions of air and seaports create challenges to our operations, the IRC’s 394 staff in Yemen and 648 paid volunteers have maintained access to affected populations and continue to provide life-saving services.

Flexible, private funding in addition to generous support from our partners enables the IRC to adapt to the changing contexts and respond where needs are greatest.



Above: A young child at an IRC mobile clinic operating in the suburb of Bir Ahmed on the outskirts of Aden, Yemen, reaching vulnerable families displaced by conflict who cannot afford to access medical services.

Opposite: The IRC’s Gender Equality unit in Yemen holds weekly sessions at IRC-supported Helal Health Centre, where they discuss issues of gender, protection, child protection and health and nutrition with women who seek care at the clinic for themselves and their children.



### Twins take first steps after treatment by IRC mobile health team:

Fulla is the mother of twin girls, Yusra and Yumna (age 1 year and 5 months). The family had to flee Taiz when fighting broke out and are renting a home on the outskirts of Aden. Yusra and Yumna became very unwell; they were vomiting and had diarrhoea. Fulla could not afford to take them to the hospital and heard about the IRC’s mobile health team.

At the clinic, the twins were treated for vomiting and diarrhoea, and were also diagnosed with malnutrition and offered treatment. Helped by the treatment, the twins grew strong enough to take their first steps.



## Crisis spotlight: Syria

Syria represents the greatest humanitarian and political failure of our time. The country remains without a plan for peace, and the defining characteristic of this war continues to be its disregard for civilian life and international law.

In northwest Syria, the humanitarian situation has been at breaking point for months, and further displacements that we predict this year will continue to take a toll on what is already a catastrophic humanitarian situation. A ceasefire agreement in early January failed to be upheld, and continued airstrikes and shelling have forced more than 350,000 people to flee their homes in Idlib and western Aleppo, fearing for their lives.

In May 2019, an IRC assessment in Idlib found that those displaced by the fighting in April had moved house an average of five times since the start of the war eight years ago – some had even fled their homes 10 times or more. In that same assessment, over 50% of parents and guardians reported that children were showing signs of severe emotional distress such as unusual crying and screaming.

In late 2019, over 11% of children under the age of five who attended IRC-supported health clinics in both Idlib and rural Aleppo for medical assistance were found to be suffering from acute malnutrition. In December, the IRC conducted Rapid Needs Assessments in 11 Syrian communities to assist newly displaced people, finding that their most urgent needs were shelter, food and fuel to keep warm.



With over 50 attacks on Idlib health care centres in 2019, several facilities were forced to suspend operations due to safety concerns. The situation remains fragile across northwest Syria, and, in addition to our response on the ground, we are continuing to make urgent calls for a ceasefire and a political solution to the violence.

In northeast Syria, 2019 saw large numbers of people displaced. The camp at Al Hol expanded from about 10,000 people to over 65,000 – during fighting to push ISIS from the last area of territory they controlled in northeast Syria in March, and when a military offensive in October forced over 200,000 people to flee their homes.

In both instances, the IRC was on the ground providing emergency assistance. In March, hundreds

of children arriving at Al Hol were found to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Our medical teams worked tirelessly to support all those in need, providing medical care to women and children, while referring the most vulnerable cases to hospital. We continue to provide primary health care for thousands of people living in both this camp and in other camps and communities across the northeast.

Following the offensive in October, we provided ready-to-eat food to assist those who had to flee their homes, and our Mobile Medical Units were also deployed to support the newly displaced. In addition, our regular work providing health care, protection and livelihoods support in camps and cities across the region continues.

## Crisis spotlight: Europe and Mediterranean migration



The challenges for refugees and migrants in Europe remain an urgent concern, and in 2019 the IRC advocated for an increased political focus on the critical situation facing displaced people across Greece, Libya and several other countries in and bordering Europe. We put the spotlight on Europe's moral responsibility to not only protect vulnerable refugees, but integrate resettled populations into European society to benefit both host communities and people desperate to rebuild their lives.

Thousands of people arriving on the Greek islands in 2019 were met with a lack of adequate shelter and record levels of overcrowding. Many families lost their lives trying to reach safety in Europe. In response to this continuous and vicious cycle, the IRC joined 11 NGOs in a joint call on the Greek government and European leaders to abandon ad hoc solutions to migration and instead focus on a long-term strategy that puts the livelihoods of refugees and the interests of host communities at its heart.

On the Greek island of Lesbos, the IRC operates in Kara Tepe Hospitality Centre, which houses over one thousand vulnerable asylum applicants including women and people with disabilities. In March 2019, the IRC hosted IRC Voice and Game of Thrones star Lena Headey on a visit to Lesbos, where she was given a tour of Moria reception centre and urged European leaders to step up efforts to protect and share responsibility for the refugee crisis that left tens of thousands in limbo.

Other IRC programming in Greece in 2019 included economic recovery and development work, protection and psychological support, and much-needed water, sanitation and hygiene services.

In Libya, close to one million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in 2019, and the IRC was there to respond. Our programming included life-saving health care and protection services to communities impacted by the chronic instability and conflict.

At the Triq al Sikka detention centre in Tripoli, we provided critical primary health care services to hundreds of refugees and migrants.

Opposite page: Jumana\*, a mother to nine children living in Areesha Camp in northeast Syria, was one of a number of mothers who received a newborn kit from the IRC through a project funded by ECHO.

Left: Lena Headey, actor and IRC Voice, visiting the IRC's Mental Health Centre in Mytilene.

Below: The IRC team Sama, Mustafah, and Mohamed (L-R) help to unload medicine at the Ministry of Health Warehouse in Sirte, Libya.



We also operate a Community Development Centre in Tripoli, where in 2019 we provided health and protection services, and space for women and girls to receive gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services.

Daily violent clashes in Tripoli in 2019 claimed the lives of many innocent civilians, and tens of thousands of people were displaced. As people were forced to flee their homes, the IRC mobile medical team continued to treat patients at health centres close to the areas where people were gathering. The IRC also deployed trauma staff to primary health centres and shelters across the region to provide emergency medical care, equipment and essential medical supplies.



## Our approach: A focus on outcome and evidence

At the IRC, we define success in terms of measurable, positive changes in people's lives, across the areas of health, economic wellbeing, safety, education and power.

Across all five areas, we also prioritise narrowing the gap between men and women and boys and girls.

Our five outcome areas are broken down into 32 outcomes, representing the specific changes we seek to make. In every country where the IRC works, country programmes have developed Strategy Action Plans which prioritise the outcomes we are working towards in that context. These plans lay out our vision for where we want to work, whom we want to serve, the ways we want to make a difference, and how we can deliver the most impact.

Defining success in relation to outcomes means that everything we do drives toward positive change in people's lives. To do this, our programmes must have four key ingredients. They must be: (1) based on the best available evidence; (2) adapted to context; (3) responsive to client needs and preferences; and (4) continuously learning and improving, by measuring what we do, generating evidence and acting on what we learn.



## Our approach: A focus on refugee livelihoods

The humanitarian landscape is changing. Not only are millions displaced, they're displaced for longer periods of time, and the majority live in cities and communities rather than refugee camps. In fact, 60% of the world's refugees and 80% of internally displaced persons (IDPs) live in urban areas.

New arrivals set upon finding work, but unemployment in host countries is often already high. This can lead to tensions within host communities. To counter this, we believe we need to collectively boost job opportunities while encouraging governments to end policies that restrict the work of refugees, stifling the economy for everyone.

Refugee women face additional barriers to safe economic opportunities, including a heightened threat of gender-based violence (GBV) and economic exploitation, particularly high legal barriers to decent work and increased economic burdens. The Sustainable Development Goal related to promoting decent work for all will not be achieved unless opportunities for crisis-affected women are transformed.

The IRC therefore promotes a model of women's economic empowerment that not only seeks to increase women's use and control of economic resources, but also tackles GBV, women's economic exploitation and transforms gender norms and discriminatory laws.

### Rescuing Futures: Citi Foundation

In this new landscape, earning a reliable income is critical, not only for refugees and vulnerable young people to survive, but to rebuild their futures and contribute to the communities and local economies around them.

In response, the IRC and the Citi Foundation teamed up in 2017 to back refugees and other vulnerable young people in cities around the world as they work to set up their own businesses. Over the past two years, we have supported nearly one thousand young people in Athens, Amman and Yola to kickstart their economic futures.

With the success of the first two years, a £2.6 million grant by the Citi Foundation's Pathways to Progress initiative is now extending the programme to young people in cities in Cameroon, Lebanon and Germany.

Rescuing Futures will now support more than 1,300 more young people with business training, mentorship and start-up grants by 2021. The local markets and ecosystem around them are critical to their success, so an important part of the programme is engaging city and community leaders to bolster social cohesion and build bridges to the local labour market. In reality, this means we will directly support more than 3,000 people to actively engage in local markets and communities.

By boosting business skills and ties to local markets, Rescuing Futures gives young people who have overcome conflict, crisis and hardship – and the communities around them – opportunities to not only survive, but thrive.



### Fariba's story

Fariba, a designer in Athens, can make anything – from sturdy messenger bags made out of the rubber boats that refugees like her arrived on, to the most delicate threaded bracelets. Rescuing Futures is helping her on the road to starting her own small jewellery business. "My work makes me feel good. I cannot describe how good it feels... I feel proud every time I make something. Now when I wake up, I feel like I have a new life," she says.

"Refugees are strong, stronger than anything you can imagine," she adds. "Women can be so powerful – and it's very important that their ideas are appreciated. You have to have an idea, motivation and power to achieve your goals as a businesswoman."

Opposite: IRC staff help women from Machongwe village, Zimbabwe collect food and dignity packs at a distribution centre.



## Our approach: A focus on women and girls; and gender in action

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

Gender-based violence (GBV) is exacerbated in emergencies, where vulnerability and risks are higher and family and community protections have broken down. The IRC estimates that 14 million refugees and displaced women and girls were subjected to sexual violence in 2019. Yet, only 0.12% of global humanitarian funding goes to GBV prevention and response.

Our research has shown that in South Sudan, 73% of women who have had a partner have experienced intimate partner violence. Child marriage rates in Syria are four times higher than before the civil war began, and in Niger almost 75% of girls are married before the age of 18. In emergency settings, over 500 women and girls die during pregnancy or childbirth each day.

Using programming expertise and global-level advocacy, we have continued to put women and girls front and centre in our work, and support their voice and agency through women's movement building.

Opposite: A child receives acute malnutrition treatment at the IRC's Hope Health Centre in Pamir refugee camp, South Sudan. Hope Health Centre serves approximately 10,000 refugees.

In 2019, we released the *Where Is The Money?* report on funding and data gaps surrounding GBV. Several other IRC initiatives – such as What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls report (funded by DFID), the creation of the GBV Accountability Framework by the Real Time Accountability Partnership, and ongoing efforts to create a set of minimum standards for responding to GBV in emergencies – are helping to further develop a body of expertise on how humanitarians can prevent and respond to GBV.

### **The IRC's internal Gender Action Plan (GAP)**

In 2019 we launched the Gender Action Plan (GAP), an organisation-wide, three-year plan that identifies actions to close the gender gap at the IRC. At IRC-UK, approximately one third of staff are male. Our actions stem from the belief that we must be a gender equitable organisation in order to deliver gender equitable programmes in the communities we serve.

The goal is that, by 2022, the IRC will have a gender-balanced workforce worldwide with dynamic, varied and innovative perspectives that drive the effectiveness and success of the organisation. The GAP directs how we will achieve this goal by narrowing inequalities inside the IRC.

The IRC has regional gender advisors across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the US who oversee the implementation of activities aimed at achieving three key outcomes:

- Attracting and promoting female staff by establishing women leaders' networks, developing succession plans for programmes-based female staff, and introducing innovative, more inclusive recruitment practices.
  - Fostering consistent staff attitudes that uphold gender equality by building an internal organisational movement that includes 343 Gender Equality Champions across 28 countries and 68 Women at Work groups across 21 countries. Gender Equality Champions are volunteers from within the IRC who lead initiatives that instil an equitable organisational culture within their worksites. These initiatives range from leading gender sensitisation sessions to the establishment of nursing and daycare spaces. Women at Work groups are employee-led platforms that offer women a safe space to share experiences and make requests collectively.
  - Establishing an organisational culture where women are safe and respected, by introducing inclusive safety and security practices where women are active participants in the design and management of their security needs, as well as fostering a harassment-free work environment through awareness and accountability.
- The IRC network sets targets against each of these outcomes and monitors progress every six months.



## Standing up for our clients

### Business Refugee Action Network

With the right opportunities, refugees can rebuild their lives, settle into their new communities and contribute to the local economy. At the same time, when companies recognise and celebrate the intrinsic value and contributions of refugees to communities and businesses, they benefit. That's why the IRC collaborated with business to launch the Business Refugee Action Network (BRAN). BRAN was established in 2018 by founding members the IRC, Virgin, Ben & Jerry's, the Tent Partnership for Refugees and the B Team.

BRAN seeks to improve the lives and economic opportunities of refugees through the action and influence of European business. It supports refugees by creating a business community that fosters innovative approaches to hiring and developing goods and services for refugees, as well as speaking out in support of refugees. In this way, BRAN enhances choices and opportunities for refugees whose lives have been torn apart and livelihoods destroyed.

Businesses have the power to lend their voice and leadership to support refugees, and BRAN mobilises these voices to influence key national, regional and global policy debates. In 2019, BRAN brought together global business leaders, philanthropic organisations and government officials during the United Nations General Assembly to take a stand for refugees and call on governments to do more.

With the right support and the right opportunities, refugees can re-establish and grow their careers while building and planning for their futures.



### SDG Progress: Leaving No One Behind

In September 2019, an event convened by the IRC on behalf of the Business Refugee Action Network (BRAN) brought together global business leaders, philanthropic organisations and government officials during the 2019 United Nations General Assembly to take a stand for refugees and call for greater economic inclusion in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Speakers included IRC president and CEO David Miliband, former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, founder of the Virgin Group Sir Richard Branson, Obayemi Olawale, a former refugee from Nigeria who now owns a medical supply transportation business and Fabrizio Hochschild, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.

All noted the critical role businesses play in creating opportunity for refugees while also drawing attention to a major issue threatening the success of the SDGs: the lack of refugee inclusion. The event and call-to-action by prominent business leaders coincided with the release of a report by the IRC which found the SDGs are failing to include refugees and, as a result, will not be achieved for all by 2030. This follows research released by the IRC and the Overseas Development Institute in 2018, supported by Citi and Unilever, that showed up to 82% of fragile and conflict-affected states are off track to achieve the SDGs.

We need bold government action to ensure refugees count in the SDGs. The IRC continues to call on leaders around the world to measure how refugees living in their countries are faring, and then put policies in place that don't leave refugees out.



### World Refugee Day 2019: Dear Refugees

For World Refugee Day 2019, the IRC launched a global campaign calling for welcome and spotlighting the contributions refugees have made and are continuing to make to society. Celebrity voices, including Lena Headey, Mandy Patinkin and Keegan-Michael Key, came together in a tribute to the refugees who have shaped our world. The multi-platform campaign included several activations, including:

— A video thanking famous refugees – Freddie Mercury, Albert Einstein, Elie Wiesel, Gloria Estefan, Marc Chagall, Luka Modrić, M.I.A. and the authors of Curious George – for the contributions they've made to our lives and society.

— An activation at Tate's four galleries across the UK: Tate's galleries in London, Liverpool and St Ives marked World Refugee Day by spotlighting works by artists who fled conflict or persecution.

— An open letter calling for welcome and acknowledging the contributions of refugees: The letter was a call to action, asking individuals to stand for a world that always welcomes and supports the rights of refugees, ensuring they can reclaim their futures.

— A display in collaboration with Refugee Week and the V&A highlighting refugee tenacity and entrepreneurship. The display celebrated the work of young entrepreneurs, supported by the IRC and the Citi Foundation, who have fled crisis and are now making their communities stronger by starting their own small businesses.

World Refugee Day, which is 20 June, raises awareness of those displaced by conflict and persecution. To learn more about the IRC's World Refugee Day 2019 campaign, visit [Rescue-UK.org/Welcome](https://www.rescue-uk.org/welcome).

Above: IRC learning facilitator Fatima teaches school children in Maiduguri, northeast Nigeria, as part of the IRC's Education in Emergencies programme.

Opposite: IRC President and CEO David Miliband with British entrepreneur Richard Branson at the 2019 United Nations General Assembly BRAN event..

In 2019, our private income grew thanks to our generous supporters.

Individuals, companies, trusts and foundations and other organisations enabled us to respond to more of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

We raised £5.4 million thanks to a partnership with the Saïd and Asfari Foundations and thanks to their support, the IRC will, over four years, directly reach over 10,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The project will enhance refugee children's and adolescents' access to educational opportunities by tackling barriers to education, including early marriage and child labour. By giving children and young people access to basic literacy and numeracy, tailored support, and preventing negative coping mechanisms at the household level, this landmark project will help to ensure that these children and young people will be better prepared for a future where they can thrive.

In 2019 we also reached an agreement to pilot a Huckepack summer school programme to provide social-emotional learning and German language skills to newcomer children arriving in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. This pilot is supported by a generous grant

Right: IRC field staff and community health workers lead a counselling session with clients in Mangalme, Chad. In Chad, over 1 million children suffer from acute malnutrition. The IRC is piloting a new malnutrition solution here designed to increase access to treatment.

Opposite Page: IRC vehicles being loaded with dignity kits, food stuffs and other aid material at Chimanimani Hospital in Zimbabwe.

from the UBS Optimus Foundation, and will teach the newly arrived children what to expect when they reach secondary school. It will also provide an opportunity for 32 Teach First Deutschland Fellows to gain practical experience in a classroom setting while using the IRC's Healing Classrooms approach. Projects like these show how refugee children are smart, talented and resilient – and that providing them with tailored education will give them the self-confidence they need to unlock their full potential.

In addition to partnerships, the IRC can only provide the life-saving and livelihood supporting work it does with the help of our private donors. Thanks to our supporters, we helped thousands of people in need from Yemen to Kenya and beyond. The crucial unrestricted income contributed to the IRC by the public and philanthropists has helped us reach more people efficiently across the globe.



In October 2019, IRC President and CEO David Miliband hosted the inaugural gathering of 'The Fifty-One', a group of philanthropists brought together by the IRC to help us respond to the biggest humanitarian challenges facing the world today. This generous group of supporters currently contribute over £200,000 of unrestricted funding to IRC-UK every year and we have ambitions to grow this, giving us crucial flexibility in the face of increasingly complex and long-lasting humanitarian crises.

Additionally, the IRC was mentioned over 2,000 times in top tier media outlets across the UK and Europe, and we mobilised over 91,000 people with our digital campaigns through petitions and pledges. Thank you to all of our digital supporters for making their voice heard in support of the IRC's mission.



## Getting Active for Refugees

In 2019, the IRC partnered with several active initiatives to raise money for the IRC's mission. From a 50-kilometre trek to half marathons, people from across the UK came together to support refugees on behalf of the IRC.

In August, the IRC joined Global Adventure Challenges to organise the UK's only charity trek experience. Participants walked side by side for 25 or 50 kilometres with hundreds of like-minded individuals all with the same goal in mind, to cross the finish line and fundraise for refugees. Coming together in one of the UK's most stunning National Parks, the Peak District, close to 200 trekkers took part in the TrekFest challenge.

Also in August, the IRC and Global Adventure Challenges partnered on a four-day, three hundred mile cycle ride adventure from London to Paris. In October, runners supported the IRC in their pursuit of finishing both the Royal Parks Half Marathon and the Oxford Half Marathon.

Keep an eye out for future fun initiatives supporting the IRC's mission.

## Rescuing Humanity with Digital Fundraising

We ran several successful digital fundraising appeals in 2019, reaching millions of people and generating vital funds for our work around the world.

Notably, we launched our largest-ever winter appeal, titled Rescue Humanity, with a focus on our transformative work in Yemen and beyond. We also launched an online alternative gift website called Rescue Gifts, in which we invited the public to 'Give a gift that matters'.

In Spring, we responded to Cyclone Idai by launching an emergency appeal for our humanitarian work in Zimbabwe, and once again, we marked Ramadan with an appeal encouraging people in the UK to support displaced people at this special time of year.

## Our supporters

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the trusts, foundations, companies, organisations and individual donors that made our work possible in 2019. Their support continues to enable our response to those affected by disaster and conflict across the globe.

### Trusts, foundations and companies

Asfari Foundation  
Ben & Jerry's  
Bernard van Leer Foundation  
Citi Foundation  
Clifford Chance LLP  
Comic Relief  
Genesis Prize Foundation  
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### Organisations

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



# Support for our work: Institutional grant-funded activities

We continued to strengthen our relationships with government donors and institutions in 2019. In addition to supporting the crucial humanitarian work of the IRC, these partnerships allow collaboration in thought leadership on the humanitarian sector's most pressing issues.

Below: Medicine is unloaded at the Ministry of Health Warehouse in Sirte, Libya.

## Institutional donors

 Agence Française de Développement	 Danish International Development Agency (Danida)	 Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 European Commission – Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation (EuropeAid)	 European Commission – Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)	 Irish Aid
 Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	 Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	 UK Department for International Development (DFID)



## Asia – Pakistan

Pakistan is among the most disaster-prone countries in the world, with an estimated 2.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

Working across sectors, IRC programmes focus on supporting vulnerable Pakistanis to rebuild from natural disasters while also assisting refugees from neighbouring Afghanistan. Over the last five years, the IRC has helped over 3 million people in Pakistan, providing development and humanitarian assistance to the communities who need it the most, with the continued support of DFID and other key donors.

IRC-UK recently secured over £9 million through a new DFID funding mechanism managed by PwC. The DFID Girls' Education Challenge initiative Leave No Girl Behind supports highly marginalised girls with education, protection and economic development programming. The IRC has been using the initiative to establish community-based learning centres with transport and childcare solutions, alongside wider advocacy efforts and capacity-building with community stakeholders and policymakers in an effort to reach 48,000 girls in Baluchistan province by December 2020.

In December 2019, two important DFID-funded projects for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Federally Administered Tribal Areas came to an end. Aimed at complex emergencies, the generous contributions of £8 million for inclusive assistance and over £1.5 million towards IDP Vulnerability Assessment and Profiling (IVAP) were used to inform and implement protection, livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and shelter programming for 1 million people over the course of four years. The IRC received a 'good performance' scorecard rating for the assistance programme from the donor.



## West Africa – Nigeria

Over the past few years, the IRC has focused on scaling up its presence and response in the conflict-affected regions of northeast Nigeria, where over 7 million people are in need of humanitarian aid. The hardest-hit states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe host approximately 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), the majority of which are women and children who have been displaced multiple times due to attacks and territorial expansion by armed groups.

In response, IRC Nigeria focuses on achieving three primary outcomes related to health, education, and economic wellbeing. Since December 2018, the IRC has been responding to gender-based violence (GBV) needs in Borno State after receiving £1.2 million from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This has allowed the IRC to build and support safe spaces for women and girls, set up groups for men to challenge their attitudes and behaviours, distribute dignity kits, and support women at risk to generate income and have increased household decision making power.

In 2019, IRC Nigeria has been implementing two DFID grants totalling £26 million. With this funding the IRC works to ensure that vulnerable populations, notably children, GBV survivors, elderly and populations with disabilities in northeast Nigeria are protected and receive support when they experience harm. Part of these DFID funds have also enabled children in northeast Nigeria to access education, and this funding is supplemented by a new donor for the region, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). This additional £1.7 million supports systems strengthening and capacity development for quality education in Adamawa State. Not only will schools be safer and more functional, but it assures support to 1,000 teachers to develop subject knowledge and appropriate pedagogical practices.



# Support for our work: Institutional grant-funded activities



## East Africa – Somalia

The IRC in Somalia empowers conflict and disaster-affected communities to recover in safety and establish productive, fulfilling lives. We do this by responding both to the short-term need of communities following a humanitarian crisis, including climate shocks, while also building long-term household and community resilience.

With generous funding from DFID and the European Union, throughout the past year the IRC has continued to be a key member of several humanitarian consortia, helping communities to strengthen their resilience to shocks through rehabilitation of physical infrastructure such as boreholes, improved natural resource management and community level awareness. We have provided communities with access to water and sanitation facilities by rehabilitating water sources, conducting emergency water trucking, and distributing hygiene kits and jerrycans.

To strengthen community resilience to future shocks, we have also provided vulnerable households with unconditional cash payments, food vouchers, small business grants, and business skills training, while rehabilitating market infrastructure and implementing cash for work projects to improve communal infrastructure.

Opposite: Dr Giovanna Aguilar, working for the National Prosecutor's Office, uses CuéntaNos in her day-to-day work with women, children and families who are victims of violence in El Salvador.



## Latin America

Following many years of humanitarian response programming in Latin America during the second half of the twentieth century, the IRC returned to establish programmes in El Salvador in 2017. Humanitarian operations expanded to Colombia and Venezuela in 2018, Honduras in 2019 and in 2020 will expand to Guatemala. The IRC's programmes in Latin America respond to humanitarian needs of a mixed migration crisis with both internal displacement and external movement driven by political unrest, economic failure and violent crime.

In El Salvador, approximately 300,000 people are internally displaced out of a total population of 6.5 million people, approximately 70,000 external migrants were stopped at the US border last year, and an additional 50,000 migrants return annually. In 2020, 194,000 are at risk of having their Temporary Protective Status in the US cancelled, provoking an unprecedented return to the country.

The IRC El Salvador team serves internally displaced people, returnees and those who have been victimised due to targeted and generalised violence in the country. This includes highly vulnerable groups such as the LGBTQ+ community, women, and children.

Thanks to our partnership with GSMA Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation, with funding originally from DFID, the IRC has been able to expand the CuéntaNos ("tell us" in Spanish) interactive platform which provides access to life-saving information to those in vulnerable situations. Users are empowered to seek services based on their needs, location or future destination in-country through a dynamic map of El Salvador that offers information on a range of services such as protection, shelter, health, education and legal assistance. GSMA support would allow for the expansion of CuéntaNos across Honduras and Guatemala, as well as for increased focus and attention to women and girls and the LGBTQ+ community in especially violent, marginalised and difficult to access communities. As part of this partnership, the IRC is also piloting Safe Spaces for women and girls and the LGBTQ+ community in both El Salvador and Honduras.



## Great Lakes – Tanzania

The IRC has been present in Tanzania since 1993, helping refugees achieve durable solutions by delivering life-saving and life-sustaining services to camp-based refugees, as well as supporting local Tanzanian communities with protection and capacity building programmes that promote a safer, more protective environment for at-risk community members.

This year, with funding from EuropeAid, the IRC began implementing its first cross-border project in the Great Lakes region, supporting local communities and civil society organisations in Tanzania and Burundi to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

The IRC has also received £5 million from DFID to lead a consortium of NGOs over 24 months to support inclusive, quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for refugee children in 46 primary and secondary schools in the Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu refugee camps in the Kigoma region.



## Middle East and North Africa – Syria

The protracted conflict in Syria continues to exacerbate humanitarian needs across the country. In 2019, an estimated 11.7 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.2 million internally displaced persons.

Thanks to DFID's contribution of close to £49 million, the IRC has continued to implement a four-year programme to provide life-saving support to 815,000 people. This includes protection services, quality primary healthcare, and the resources and skills that enable people affected by the conflict to meet their basic needs. By the end of September 2019, the IRC had supported 63 health care facilities providing 1,152,482 non-trauma healthcare consultations and 43,083 trauma consultations, and distributed £3,320,979 worth of unconditional cash through 31,917 grants for clients to spend freely.



# Support for our work: Institutional grant-funded activities

## Framework agreements & partnerships

### Sida Humanitarian Framework Agreement

In 2019, the IRC implemented the first year of the Humanitarian Framework Agreement (HFA) IV, the fourth iteration of the IRC's strategic funding arrangement with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Funded by the Humanitarian Unit, the HFA contributes towards the Strategy for Sweden's humanitarian aid provided through Sida 2017–2020. The HFA IV runs from May 2018–March 2021 and in 2019 the IRC and Sida collaborated on programmes across 18 countries, reaching over 950,722 individuals in crisis affected communities through both short and long-term emergency and life-saving interventions. The HFA also funds methods development and capacity-building projects.

Since 2018, the IRC has been successfully piloting the Programme-Based Approach (PBA) under the HFA in the Central African Republic, Cameroon and Nigeria. The pilot provides a significant degree of flexibility through earmarked funding to implement a humanitarian response that is adaptive to the evolving environment and the needs of the

target population. In 2019, the IRC received an allocation of over £10.6 million for the second year of the HFA IV, which will support 11 projects including the Rapid Response Mechanism fund for sudden onset emergencies as well as two new methods development and capacity-building projects on disability inclusive programming and towards improving protection outcomes with partner InterAction.

### Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Programme

Working with Sida's Peace and Human Security Unit, the IRC secured over £3.1 million to deliver the three-year Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Somalia. Contributing to Sida's Strategy for Sustainable Peace 2017-2020, through the programme the IRC is implementing activities designed to reduce the underlying causes of violence by strengthening local institutions' delivery of basic services (health in the DRC and justice in Somalia) and supporting the people we serve to be safe in their communities and influence decisions that affect their lives. The programme includes a learning framework component through which the IRC and Sida are deepening our

understanding of programming across the humanitarian, peacebuilding, development triple nexus. In 2019, the IRC shared various practical examples of how we are operationalising the triple nexus through this programme at external learning events with Sida. The programme was also showcased in the October 2019 edition of Forced Migration Review.

### Irish Aid Strategic Partnership

In early 2019 the IRC and Irish Aid began a new three-year strategic partnership, focused on addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in acute emergencies and protracted humanitarian crises. Gender equality forms a central pillar of Ireland's policy for international development, and under this ground-breaking partnership, Irish Aid has committed to provide the IRC with £3.8 million to deliver life-saving services for women and girl survivors of GBV in five of the most protracted, underfunded humanitarian settings in the world. The partnership also includes an emergency response funding mechanism which enables the IRC to put GBV services in place during the very earliest phase of an emergency.

This partnership also focuses on strengthening leadership to improve GBV prevention and response within the humanitarian system. This includes generating new evidence on the funding gaps and other barriers to tackling GBV in emergencies, which will be used to highlight the need to prioritise women and girls affected by violence. The IRC is also consolidating and sharing learning from across the Partnership and Women's Protection and Empowerment programming to promote adaptive, inclusive GBV programming which is accountable to women and girls in acute and protracted emergencies.

Left: Ebola survivor Jeanne Katungu receives mental health support from the IRC Women's Protection and Empowerment team.



This page: Eight years of fighting in Syria has put children's lives on hold and plummeted their futures into uncertainty. But no matter where they are – children deserve the right to play, to feel safe and to have fun. Funding from EU Humanitarian Aid helps us provide these vital spaces for children in Syria – giving them a sense of normalcy. The centre offers children the chance to be creative, learn and develop.





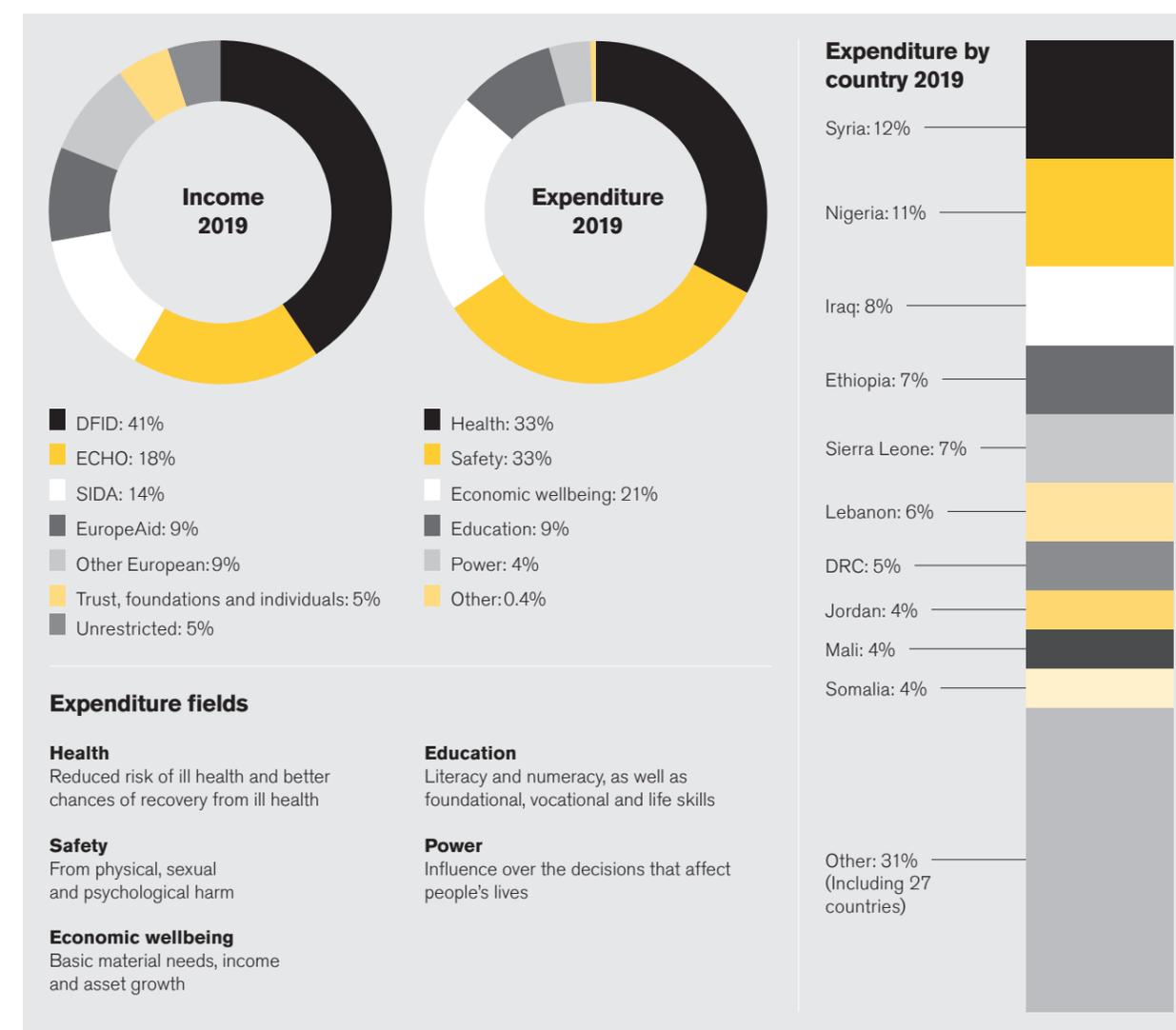
# Financial summary

## Statement of financial activities 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2019 funds £'000	Total 2018 funds £'000
<b>Income and expenditure</b>				
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	1,571	—	<b>1,571</b>	1,056
Investments	52	—	<b>52</b>	63
Charitable activities	8,138	123,484	<b>131,802</b>	144,811
<b>Total income</b>	<b>9,941</b>	<b>123,484</b>	<b>133,425</b>	<b>145,930</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds	3,595	—	<b>3,595</b>	2,155
Charitable activities:				
— Health	1,285	40,252	<b>41,537</b>	50,338
— Safety	1,313	41,131	<b>42,444</b>	49,071
— Education	338	10,577	<b>10,915</b>	11,055
— Economic Wellbeing	838	26,273	<b>27,111</b>	27,421
— Power	151	4,737	<b>4,888</b>	2,592
— Other	2,450	514	<b>2,964</b>	3,120
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>9,970</b>	<b>123,484</b>	<b>133,454</b>	<b>145,752</b>
<b>Net (expenditure) income for the year</b>	<b>(29)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(29)</b>	<b>178</b>
<b>Balances brought forward at 1 October 2018</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>2,636</b>
<b>Balances carried forward at 30 September 2019</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>2,814</b>

## Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2019

	2019 £'000	2019 £'000	2018 £'000	2018 £'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets		<b>421</b>		22
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	<b>45,422</b>		53,796	
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>7,526</b>		7,847	
	<b>52,948</b>		61,643	
<b>Creditors:</b>				
amounts falling due within one year	<b>(50,584)</b>		(58,851)	
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>2,364</b>		2,792
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>2,785</b>		2,814
<b>Represented by: Funds and reserves</b>				
Income funds:				
Restricted funds		—		—
Unrestricted funds				
— General fund		<b>2,785</b>		2,814
		<b>2,785</b>		2,814



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**Company registration number**  
 3458056 (England and Wales)

**Charity registration number**  
 1065972

### Executive Director IRC-UK

Laura Kyrke-Smith (from 1 January 2020)

### SVP Europe and Executive Director IRC-UK

Sanjayan Srikanthan (to 13 December 2019)

### Company secretary

Naima Siddiqi (from 8 July 2019)

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### Join the conversation

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### Advocate

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

### Donate

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

### Raise money

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

Find out how:  
**Rescue-UK.org/Fundraise-Refugees**

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