ANNUAL REPORT





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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

As the number of people forcibly displaced from their homes surpasses the highest levels ever recorded, borders are closing, political rhetoric demonizes and rejects the displaced, and humanitarian crises are chronically underfunded. For these very reasons, Refugees International has doubled down on our mission to advocate for the well-being of displaced communities.

This report provides a look back at Refugees International's efforts to shine a light on the critical challenges faced by those who have been forced from their homes and to promote solutions. Over the last year, our teams increased the pace of our activities, conducting 17 field-based fact-finding missions to expose atrocities, raise the alarm on underreported crises, confront climate displacement, oppose the worldwide assault on refugee protection and asylum, champion the rights of displaced women and girls, and promote sustainable solutions. From the U.S. southern border to Nigeria to Bangladesh and beyond, our advocates have heard the stories of the displaced and have carried their voices to the halls of political power to advocate on their behalf.

Despite the challenges, much of what our team has seen over the last year gives us hope. We have seen ordinary people in disaster-stricken Puerto Rico transformed into community leaders, refugee women becoming small-business owners, local groups rebuilding their cities in Syria, and governments—from Ethiopia and Uganda to Jordan and Turkey, among others—making efforts to provide refugees with opportunities for education and employment.

We are proud to serve as leaders of Refugees International and to fulfill a solemn obligation to steward this organization. In the year ahead, Refugees International will continue to advance these efforts, present solutions, and demand action.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Schwartz

Ein P. Polevar

President, Refugees International

Elen Shills-West

Eileen Shields-WestBoard Chair, Refugees International

NOT ACCEPT ANY GOVERNMENT

EXPOSING ATROCITIES

Targeted killing, widespread sexual violence, and wholesale burning of villages. The brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity waged by Myanmar's military against the country's Rohingya minority starting in August 2017 has created one of the largest refugee crises in the world. Through it all, Refugees International experts have returned to Bangladesh and Myanmar to expose the atrocities committed against the Rohingya people—and to champion the needs of survivors.

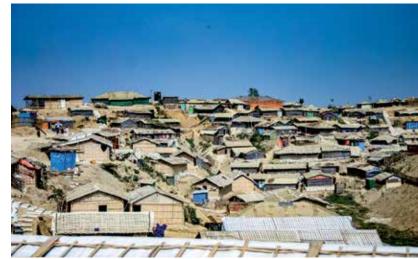
Refugees International was among the first to publicly declare that the violence perpetrated against the Rohingya constituted ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and to press for U.S. action. The United States has since recognized the crisis as ethnic cleansing and added targeted sanctions on Myanmar military officials responsible for the violence.

In September 2018, the UN Human Rights Council established an independent mechanism to collect evidence of serious international crimes in Myanmar, and in that same month, the U.S. Department of State publicly released its report on atrocities committed against the Rohingya—following an advocacy push from Refugees International and others.

As long as some one million Rohingya remain forcibly displaced in Bangladesh, we will continue to press for international pressure on Myanmar to hold those responsible accountable and to create the conditions necessary for safe, voluntary, dignified, and sustainable returns for the Rohingya to their homes.











Top Left: Refugees
International Senior Advocate
for Human Rights Daniel
Sullivan testifies before the
Tom Lantos Human Rights
Commission during a hearing
on grave human rights
abuses in Myanmar.

Top Right: Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh.

Middle Right: Daniel Sullivan speaks on PBS NewsHour about the Rohingya crisis.

Bottom Right: Rohingya refugee camp just before monsoon season in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh.

Refugees International will continue to advocate for an improved humanitarian response toward displaced Rohingya living in camps in Bangladesh. The international community heard our call for better coordination and improved preparation for the country's brutal monsoon and cyclone seasons. A high-level review of the response was carried out, and roads were built and hillsides fortified following this advocacy push. We will continue to press for improved services and protection for Rohingya in the camps.

ELIE WIESEL GENOCIDE AND ATROCITIES PREVENTION ACT OF 2018

Refugees International and other partners successfully advocated for the passage of the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018, which makes it U.S. law to regard the prevention of genocide and other atrocities as a core national security interest and moral responsibility.

RAISING THE ALARM ON UNDERREPORTED CRISES

When crises are underreported, they are also underresourced. Refugees International advocates have traveled the world to raise the alarm on neglected crises and marshal support for people whose suffering has gone unnoticed for too long.









ETHIOPIA

Governments and people around the world welcomed the election of reformer Abiy Ahmed as prime minister of Ethiopia in April 2018. But despite this important development, a major humanitarian crisis was unfolding at about the same time in the south of the country when intercommunal violence forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes. A Refugees International team traveled to areas of conflict to meet with displaced Ethiopians and to better understand the crisis. They led the way in shining a spotlight on the displacement crisis brewing in the country's south, and others have now followed their lead to bring continued attention and pressure to bear on what is happening. When Refugees International is first on the scene of an underreported crisis, it galvanizes global attention and mobilizes action.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

A staggering 13.1 million Congolese within the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) require humanitarian assistance. International funding for that lifesaving relief is at its lowest in a decade. Without much-needed resources, humanitarian agencies in the DRC are forced to make tough trade-offs as new conflicts emerge and protracted ones simmer—sometimes diverting aid for one at-risk population to another. Amid ongoing fighting, a Refugees International team went in to investigate and implore governments of the world to increase their assistance before the DRC is pushed deeper into chaos. Refugees International continues to advocate for sustained engagement from the international donor community to empower organizations to better respond to the needs of the displaced.



"At my age, I shouldn't have to suffer like this."

- JONATHAN, A DISPLACED GRANDFATHER IN BENI CITY, DRC

Top Left: An internally displaced mother and child who fled intercommunal violence and were returned prematurely by the Ethiopian government to their home areas.

Top Middle: A group of internally displaced people in Beni City, DRC.

Top Right: Jonathan, a displaced grandfather in Beni City, DRC, with Refugees International Advocate Alexandra Lamarche.





AFGHANS IN TURKEY

Turkey is well known as the largest refugeehosting country in the world for giving safe harbor to more than 3.5 million Syrians fleeing conflict at home. However, Turkey is also home to an estimated 170,000 Afghan refugees who are struggling to access basic rights and services. The Turkish government has deported many Afghans home even as their country continues its backslide into violence. And a 2018 change in asylum procedures for Afghans and other non-Syrians in Turkey has had devastating consequences for many, leaving them unable to register with the authorities and with the fear of arrest and deportation. A Refugees International team met with displaced Afghans in Turkey who had been negatively affected by the change and is continuing to bring their stories to bear and engage policymakers on this important issue.

Top Left: Refugees International Senior Advocate Izza Leghtas interviews Afghan asylum seekers in Turkey.

Top Right: Afghan asylum seekers living in Turkey.



"We don't want to be a burden. We can manage our own lives if they give us the chance."

- AFGHAN ASYLUM SEEKER IN TURKEY

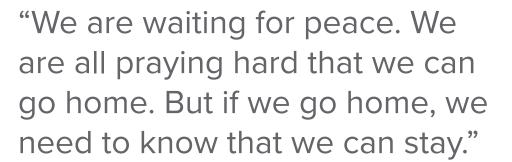
ADVOCATING FOR THE DISPLACED IN ARMED CONFLICT

Armed conflict is one of the most significant and deadly drivers of global displacement. In 2018, Refugees International deployed teams to areas ravaged by armed conflict—from South Sudan to Nigeria to Syria—to advocate for those who have been displaced by the horrors of war and insurgency.









- REGINA EMILIO, AN INTERNALLY DISPLACED GRANDMOTHER IN SOUTH SUDAN

SOUTH SUDAN

Nearly 4.5 million people in South Sudan have been displaced since the country's brutal civil war broke out in December 2013. But a fragile new peace deal has brought cautious hope that people may soon begin to return home. A Refugees International team traveled to South Sudan to investigate, meeting with displaced people, officials, and humanitarian workers. Based on our findings, Refugees International warned against returning IDPs prematurely amid ongoing instability in some pockets of the country and active manipulation of aid by the South Sudanese government and opposition

authorities. Through our reporting and advocacy, Refugees International brought these strong messages to decisionmakers at the UN and in Washington, including the U.S. ambassador to South Sudan.

Top Left: Regina Emilio, an internally displaced grandmother in South Sudan.

Top Right: Shelters in a protection site for IDPs in South Sudan.

NIGERIA

Following a period of widespread hunger and bloody conflict with insurgent group Boko Haram, hundreds of thousands of Nigerians, if not more, have begun to return home. But with the government of Nigeria intent on carrying out large-scale returns even to areas of the country still contested by Boko Haram, a Refugees International team traveled to the heart of these disputed areas to show firsthand that it was still too dangerous for displaced populations to return home. Our report, *Political Pressure* to Return: Putting Displaced Nigerians at Risk, underscored the dangers of premature returns and has since been used by international NGOs as a guiding document in advocacy to the Nigerian government on how to conduct returns.

SYRIA

As Syria becomes increasingly closed to humanitarian access, a Refugees International team traveled inside to assess the needs of the internally displaced. Through our own advocacy and in coalition with NGO partners, Refugees International helped ensure release of select U.S. funding to provide support for the White Helmets, an unarmed volunteer civil defense force in Syria.

Top: Refugees International Advocate Alexandra Lamarche interviews displaced Nigerians.

Bottom Left: Refugees International Senior Advocate and UN Liaison Mark Yarnell and Advocate Alexandra Lamarche meet with NGO workers in Nigeria.

Bottom Right: Refugees International Senior Advocate Daryl Grisgraber meets with children in Syria.







CONFRONTING CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT

Each year, tens of millions of people across the globe are driven from their homes by floods, storms, droughts, and other weather-related disasters. Tragically, it is the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities that are hardest hit. In the coming years, the adverse effects of global climate change will bring more extreme weather, growing food insecurity, and rising sea levels. It will also fuel pre-existing tensions as food, water, and other natural resources become scarcer, leading to further conflict. Since launching the climate displacement program in 2010, Refugees International has been leading the policy debate on how to protect communities on the front lines of climate change, avert climate-related displacement, and advocate to build the resilience of the most at-risk individuals and communities.





Discussion starter(s): lice Thomas, Refugees International * Nina Birkeland, Norwegian Refugee Council hristian Wolff, ACT Alliance Gopal Siwakoti, INHURED International/APRRN 7 Outcomes Statement 7 Contributions to COP + Holding govts accountable including transit Respect cultural rights Business role 61500

CLIMATE COMMITMENTS IN THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION

In December 2018, the UN adopted a global agreement to meet the challenges posed by large movements of migrants—the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM). Refugees International helped ensure the inclusion of language in the compact aimed at protecting those who have been forced to flee their homes due to extreme weather events and the adverse effects of climate change. During Migration Week in Marrakesh, Morocco in December 2018, Refugees International led the Civil Society Days at the Global Forum for Migration and Development—the key civil society effort around implementation of climate-related commitments in the GCM. We are continuing to lead engagement, coordination, and joint advocacy among civil society organizations working on these issues.

Top: Refugees International Senior Policy Advisor and Program Manager for Climate Displacement Alice Thomas delivers remarks at the UN on disasters and climate change as a driver of migration ahead of GCM negotiations.

Bottom: Alice Thomas leads a discussion during Migration Week in Marrakesh. Morocco in December 2018 where the GCM was approved.

FOCUS ON PUERTO RICO

When Hurricane María struck the U.S. island of Puerto Rico, Refugees International experts watched the slow and inadequate response by the federal government with dismay. Given our experience in assessing response to climate-related disasters in other parts of the globe, we conducted our first-ever mission within the United States to bring our protection expertise and international best practices to bear. Since then, we have been engaged in sustained advocacy on behalf of Hurricane María survivors, including poor families and individuals whose homes were severely damaged by the storm who received little to no shelter or housing assistance from FEMA. Our reporting revealed that the United States is failing to protect those Americans who are most vulnerable to displacement. In October 2018, Congress passed new legislation for which Refugees International had advocated. The legislation included more oversight of shelters and Department of Homeland Security Inspector General audits for FEMA contracts.

In the FRONTLINE PBS documentary "Blackout in Puerto Rico," Alice Thomas provided her expert opinion on displacement on the island following the devastating effects of Hurricane María. Highlighting the key role played by Puerto Ricans themselves in responding to the crisis, Refugees International has continued to advocate to support the work of community leaders in Puerto Rico as the island recovers.

Top: Refugees International Senior Policy Advisor and Program Manager for Climate Displacement Alice Thomas features in FRONTLINE PBS documentary "Blackout in Puerto Rico."

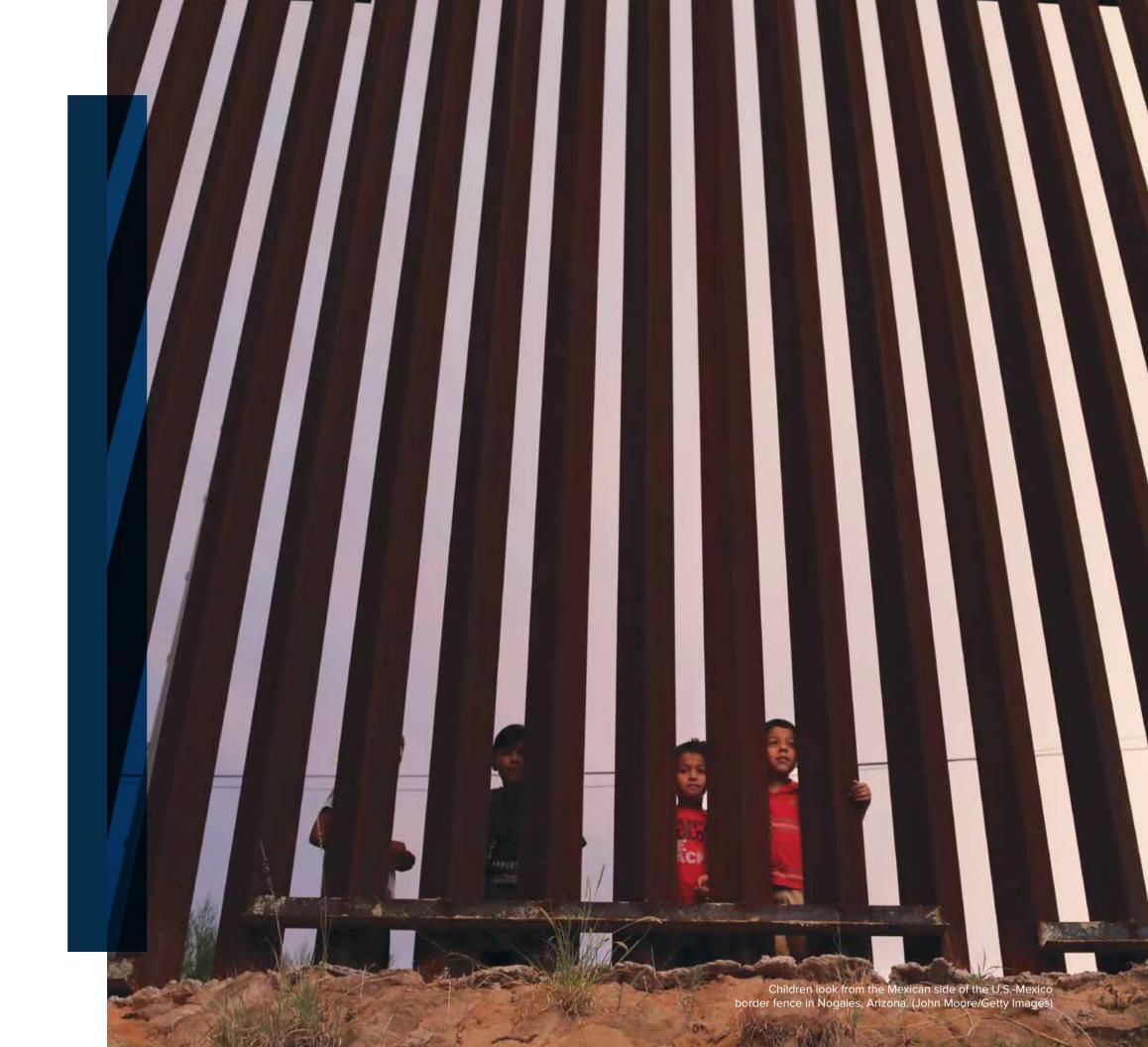
Bottom: Alice Thomas meets with Modesta Irirzarry, a community leader and organizer working with Taller Salud, a feminist humanitarian aid group in Puerto Rico.





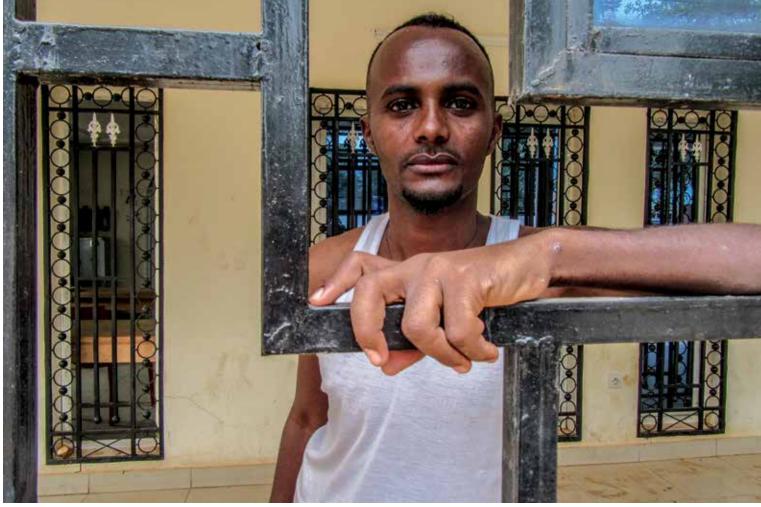
DEFENDING REFUGEE PROTECTION AND ASYLUM

Although the world is facing the largest displacement crisis in recorded history with 68.5 million people forced from their homes, prosperous nations are turning inwards—xenophobia is on the rise, borders are tightening, and the space for asylum and protection is closing. From the United States to Europe to Asia, we have witnessed this retreat from principles of protection. Refugees International will continue to be on the front lines where those seeking protection are being denied the help that they need.









Top Left: Refugees International President Eric Schwartz at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Bottom Left: Asylum seeker outside of the Holot detention center in Israel.

Top Right: An asylum seeker in Niamey, Niger following his evacuation from Libya.

U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

In violation of U.S. and international law, the United States is closing avenues for women, men, and children to seek asylum. A Refugees International team traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border to meet with asylum seekers who fled their homes after being shot or threatened by gangs in the Northern Triangle of Central America. After hearing their stories, Refugees International offered the U.S. government an outline for a humane and responsible policy approach aimed at protecting persons fleeing persecution and violence.

ACCESS TO ASYLUM IN ISRAEL

Amid reports that the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was seeking to deport or indefinitely detain thousands of Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers in Israel, a Refugees International team undertook an emergency mission to assess the situation and highlight the serious risks these populations would face upon deportation. Following our team's return, Prime Minister Netanyahu and other senior Israeli officials announced in April 2018 what they termed a "landmark agreement" to resolve the status of this group. But the agreement, reached in collaboration with UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), was short-lived, as the prime minister renounced it the very next day following pressure from within his governing coalition. African asylum seekers who have been denied due process remain under threat in Israel, and this issue remains of deep concern to Refugees International.

U.S. REFUGEE PROTECTION REPORT CARD

On World Refugee Day 2018, Refugees International issued a detailed "report card" assessing the U.S. administration's performance on refugee and humanitarian protection, delivering a failing grade of "F." The report card has been widely referenced by press and policymakers to point to the administration's failure to live up to its commitments under U.S. and international law to protect those seeking refuge.

LIBYA

European policies designed to keep asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants from crossing the Mediterranean Sea to Europe are trapping thousands of men, women and children in appalling conditions in Libya. In Niamey, Niger, a Refugees International team met with people who had been detained in Libya's notoriously abusive immigration detention system, where detainees are exposed to appalling violations, including arbitrary detention and physical and sexual abuse. Our on-the-ground research was widely cited by UNHCR in its updated position on returns from Libya, which reiterates that Libya is not a safe country of disembarkation for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants rescued at sea.

CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women and girls in displacement face unique challenges, but women and girls' special needs are often inadequately addressed or wholly ignored in humanitarian response. Around the world, from Bangladesh to Puerto Rico, Refugees International has advocated for improved humanitarian programming that elevates the well-being and safety of women and girls and provides them the specialized medical, psychological, legal, and security assistance they need.









Top Left: Legal aid lawyer and activist pushing for women and girls' protection needs in the aftermath of Hurricane María in Puerto Rico.

Bottom Left: Rohingya woman carrying bamboo for constructing a shelter in a refugee camp in Bangladesh.

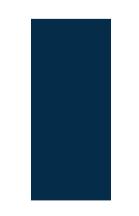
Top Right: Refugees International Senior Advocate for Women and Girls Francisca Vigaud-Walsh speaks with a Puerto Rican woman one year after Hurricane María.

ROHINGYA WOMEN IN BANGLADESH

While Rohingya women living in refugee camps in Bangladesh are currently safe from the systematic sexual violence perpetrated against them in Myanmar, gender-based violence (GBV) continues in refuge, with hundreds of incidents reported weekly. A Refugees International team met with Rohingya women and girls to investigate how their medical and psychosocial needs are being met. Our report, *Still at Risk:* Restrictions Endanger Rohingya Women and Girls in Bangladesh, reveals that the humanitarian community in Bangladesh was—and remains—ill-prepared to prioritize the response to GBV as a lifesaving matter.

WOMEN AND GIRLS DURING AND AFTER HURRICANE MARÍA

Women and girls are typically disproportionately impacted in natural disasters. One year after Hurricane María hit Puerto Rico, Refugees International returned to the island and found that authorities failed to implement widely accepted international best practices to ensure that the unique protection needs of women and girls are met during and after a disaster. By shedding light on this failure, Refugees International brought to the attention of policymakers in San Juan and Washington the need to incorporate women and girls' protection needs within disaster response and to promote the important role played by many of the island's local women's groups in doing so.



"Women and girls are mothering the recovery [in Puerto Rico]."

- LEGAL AID LAWYER AND ACTIVIST IN PUERTO RICO

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Given the scale and scope of the global displacement crisis today, no nation alone can respond effectively to the current challenges associated with large movements of people. Together with refugees, migrants, host countries, and the international community, Refugees International has advocated for innovative, long-term solutions that will protect the human rights of the displaced and improve their quality of life.









Top Left: Refugees International Senior Advocate Izza Leghtas speaks with a Syrian woman who makes handmade soaps in Amman, Jordan.

Top Right: A Syrian refugee pulls weeds on a tomato farm in Ramtha, Jordan. He is among thousands of displaced Syrians who recently obtained work permits as part of the Jordan Compact. (AP Photo/Raad Adayleh)

Bottom Right: Every week, refugees from Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and Palestine come to participate in free lessons at the 7Hills skate park in Amman, Jordan. (Khalil Mazraawi/AFP/Getty Images)

JORDAN

In 2016, the Kingdom of Jordan, the EU, and the World Bank signed the Jordan Compact, an international agreement aimed at helping Jordan face the challenges in hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees displaced by Syria's civil war and providing economic opportunity for Syrians and Jordanians. However, nearly three years into the Compact, access to legal work remains very restricted and only a small number—four percent—of work permits issued to Syrians

as of the end of October 2018 had been issued to women. A requirement mandating that Syrian refugees registering a home-based business have a Jordanian partner was holding many back from accessing legal work, especially women. In the report, *Out of Reach: Legal Work Still Inaccessible to Refugees in Jordan*, Refugees International called on the government of Jordan to repeal this requirement, and the Jordanian government did so two months later.

GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFGUEES

Adopted in December 2018, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) aims to improve how the world responds to the needs of refugees as defined in the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The GCR offers a course of action that governments can take to ease the pressures on refugee host countries while enhancing the dignity and well-being of refugees by promoting their economic and social status. It also includes measures to expand access to

resettlement and support countries of origin in ensuring that people will be safe if they do indeed return home. Refugees International engaged on the development of the GCR and will remain involved in its implementation. We are also engaged in other efforts to promote refugee "solutions" efforts, including initiatives involving the World Bank.



THANK YOU

Refugees International is deeply grateful for our supporters who help us advocate for displaced people around the world. In 2018, we met with more than 1,000 people who were displaced by conflict, climate-related disasters, and the threat of persecution, and issued more than 200 recommendations to policymakers based on what we heard. We do not accept any government or UN funding, which means our responses to refugee crises, research of humanitarian policies in practice, and demands for better institutional support could not be possible without generous donors like you. Thank you for changing the lives of refugees and displaced people around the world.



Lisa Canew-Parks

Lisa Cantu-ParksVice President of Philanthropy

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2018 McCall-Pierpaoli Humanitarian Award Winner Hamdi Ulukaya addresses Refugees International's 39th Anniversary Dinner.

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Artist and humanitarian Ai Weiwei and editor of the New Yorker David Remnick speak at Refugees International's 16th Annual New York Circle Luncheon. Mr. Ai was honored with Refugees International's 2018 Exceptional Service Award. Dima AlFaham
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Oak Spring Garden Foundation

Kristen and Nels Olson

The Dennis A. O'Toole Family Foundation

O'Toole-Parrella Fund PayPal Giving Fund Rachel Pearson Joan Platt Preemptive Love

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Sandler Family Fund of the Community

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Sandra and Bruce Werness and the

Walter and Jean Boek Global

Autoimmune Institute

The Women's Association, Fifth Avenue

Presbyterian Church Gabriel Yospin

Christina and Don Zacharia

Jeffrey Zacharia

The Zevnik Charitable Foundation

JOIN US

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Join Refugees International's community at www.refugeesinternational.org or on social media to receive important updates about our work and ways to help us advocate for refugees and displaced people.







ATTEND OUR EVENTS

Join us for our annual gala and community events. See details at www. refugeesinternational.org/ri-events.

FUNDRAISE

Start your own fundraising campaign and ask your friends and family to join you in raising refugee voices. You can start your own fundraiser on Facebook or contact development@refintl.org to set up a personal fundraising page.

DONATE

Give online at

www.refugeesinternational.org/donate or by mail to:

Refugees International Attn: Lisa Cantu-Parks 2001 S Street, NW Suite 700 Washington, DC 20009

Refugees International also accepts gifts in the form of stocks. For more information, please contact development@refintl.org.

FUTURE GIFTS

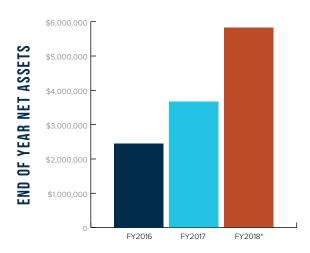
Ensure a lasting voice for refugees and displaced people through a bequest to Refugees International. Contact development@refintl.org for more information or to indicate that you have already included Refugees International in your estate plan.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

| | 2016 Total | 2017 Total | 2018 Total |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| SUPPORT AND REVENUE | IOtal | IOtal | IOtal |
| Contributions | 1,921,338 | 2,831,332 | 2,066,141 |
| Foundation Grants | 1,660,924 | 1,537,252 | 4,354,852 |
| Investment Income | 151,140 | 374,887 | (252,447) |
| In-Kind Donations | 257,523 | 189,771 | 203,545 |
| Total Support and Revenue | \$3,990,925 | \$4,933,242 | \$6,372,091* |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Program Services | | | |
| Advocacy | 1,814,283 | 2,098,843 | 2,291,632 |
| Public Education | 1,003,643 | 1,071,692 | 1,160,823 |
| Total Program Services | 2,817,926 | 3,170,535 | 3,452,455 |
| Supporting Services | | | |
| General and Administrative | 128,793 | 193,739 | 237,958 |
| Fundraising | 341,211 | 305,924 | 414,634 |
| Total Supporting Services | 470,004 | 499,663 | 652,592 |
| Total Functional Expenses | \$3,287,930 | \$3,670,198 | \$4,105,047 |
| Total Full Chorles Expenses | ψ3,237,333 | 45,070,150 | ψ 1,10 3,0 17 |
| Other Items | 41,303 | 44,283 | 112,838 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | \$661,692 | \$1,218,761 | 2,154,206 |
| Net Assets at Beginning of Year | 1,786,667 | 2,448,359 | 3,667,120 |
| NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR | \$2,448,359 | \$3,667,120 | \$5,821,326* |

*Includes \$2,892,814 foundation grant funding (net of present value discount) that is a multi-year gift through 2021.

Editor's Note: Please see the 2018 annual audit report on Refugees International's website for details.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

Refugees International advocates for lifesaving assistance and protection for displaced people and promotes solutions to displacement crises around the world.

We do not accept any government or UN funding, ensuring the independence and credibility of our work.

That is why your support is crucial. Your contribution helps shed light on unseen crises around the world and brings the untold experiences of refugees and displaced people to the halls of political power.

Please visit our website at www.refugeesinternational.org/donate to submit your donation.

Together, we can raise refugee voices.

Thank you.

- SAMANTHA POWER, FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UN



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Aviva Shwayder, Designer

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