

ANNUAL REPORT



2019

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Message from Our President & Board Chairs | 04 |
| Mission Statement | 05 |
| Exposing Atrocities | 06 |
| Raising the Alarm on Underreported Crises | 14 |
| Advocating for the Displaced in Armed Conflict | 20 |
| Confronting Climate Displacement | 26 |
| U.S. Policies | 32 |
| Championing the Rights of Women and Girls | 36 |
| Promoting Sustainable Solutions | 40 |
| Message from the Vice President of Philanthropy | 45 |
| Our Board | 46 |
| Our Advisory Council | 47 |
| Our Supporters | 48 |
| Statement of Activities | 52 |
| How You Can Help | 53 |
| Join Us | 54 |

Cover Photo: Syrian refugee and professional soccer player living in Turkey. Photo Credit: Refugees International.



Afruza, a Rohingya woman leader, who lives in the refugee mega-camp in Bangladesh. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIRS

Dear Friends,

It is one of the most compelling challenges of our time: In 2019, there were more than 70 million people displaced by war, conflict, and persecution, and many millions more displaced annually by climate events worldwide. And instead of promoting practices and policies that collectively address these realities, many governments around the world closed their borders, clinged to nativist policies, and employed rhetoric that dehumanized the displaced.

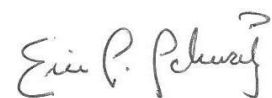
But we are fighting back. Refugees International does not accept any government or UN funding, enabling us to advocate for the displaced fiercely and independently. Our independence gives us a singular ability to listen directly to people who have been forced from their homes, bring their experiences—and facts—to the policy debate, and mobilize those who can make a difference. We believe that everyone has a right to live in dignity and safety. And for that we work tirelessly.

We are proud to present our 2019 Annual Report, which describes Refugees International's activities during the 2019 calendar year. In it, you will learn more about how, with the help of our supporters, we worked to expose atrocities; raise the alarm on underreported crises; advocate for the displaced in armed conflict; confront climate displacement; protect the principles and the practice of humanitarianism and support resettlement and asylum in the United States; champion the rights of women and girls; and promote sustainable solutions.

In 2019, we conducted 27 fact-finding missions around the world, interviewed more than 1,500 displaced people, offered hundreds of policy recommendations, and ushered in advancements that offer hope for a better future. Through it all, we were encouraged by people who persevered in the face of crisis, by host communities who opened their doors to strangers in need, and by those decisionmakers brave enough to stand up for what is right.

These are indeed challenging times, but we are proud to lead an organization that advocates for a more welcoming world. And we are grateful to our supporters who make our work possible. Your help is needed now more than ever.

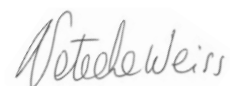
Sincerely,



Eric P. Schwartz
President
Refugees International



Jeff Tindell
Board Co-Chair
Refugees International



Natacha Weiss
Board Co-Chair, April 2019–April 2020
Refugees International

MISSION STATEMENT

REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL
ADVOCATES FOR LIFESAVING
ASSISTANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS,
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.

EXPOSING ATROCITIES

Forced displacement is usually accompanied by severe violations of human rights. But Refugees International is there to shine a light, speak truth to power, and effect change.





ROHINGYA REFUGEES

More than two years have passed since some 700,000 Rohingya fled genocidal violence in Myanmar to seek refuge in neighboring Bangladesh. In 2019, Refugees International traveled to Bangladesh and Myanmar to examine the humanitarian response and highlight conditions in Myanmar, which remain egregious and continue to force people to flee.

Through it all, Refugees International has continued its push for accountability for the

crimes committed against the Rohingya people. In 2019, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) opened an investigation into charges of genocide against Myanmar. The probe by the ICJ has the potential to ratchet up international pressure on Myanmar and to deter future atrocities as the risk of genocide persists. The International Criminal Court also opened an investigation into crimes against humanity against Myanmar, and Refugees International Advisory Council member Tun Khin has been involved with a case filed in late 2019 in Argentina for crimes against Rohingya Muslims.

Top Left: Ayassa Begun, a Rohingya woman living in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Top Right: Vice President of Strategic Outreach Cindy Huang testifies at the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs about the plight of the Rohingya people. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Middle Right: A barber working in the Rohingya refugee mega-camp. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Bottom Right: Chekufa (right) and her network of 400 Rohingya refugee women volunteers work to give Rohingya women in their community a voice. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

On Human Rights Day in 2019, the U.S. government imposed sanctions on four major Myanmar military leaders, including Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the commander-in-chief of the Myanmar military. The sanctions, implemented under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, are considered the toughest action taken yet by Washington for alleged human rights abuses against the Rohingya and other minorities. This was one of Refugees International's first recommendations to the U.S. government following an emergency mission to interview refugees fleeing in the first days of the crisis. Refugees International continues to advocate for measures that will hold perpetrators of the violence committed against the Rohingya accountable.

On Capitol Hill, Refugees International continued in 2019 to advocate for the Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act, which passed in the U.S. House of Representatives with overwhelming support in September 2019 and now must make its way through the Senate. Refugees International also effectively advocated to maintain U.S. funding for the humanitarian response in Bangladesh.

SOUTH SUDAN

Less than a decade after South Sudan's creation, a devastating civil war has left one-third of its population displaced. A Refugees International team traveled there in 2019 to assess prospects for peace and ongoing challenges for the return of the country's displaced people, as well as the situation for women in displacement. Refugees International's reporting focused on the dangers of forced return of internally displaced South Sudanese and the risk of grave violations of human rights, including ethnic cleansing that could impact hundreds of thousands, if not more.

Senior Advocate for Human Rights Daniel P. Sullivan reiterated these themes in testimony before the Tom Lantos Congressional



Top Right: Two women in the Malakal UN-sponsored Protection of Civilians site (PoC) in South Sudan. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Bottom Right: An IDP woman living in the Malakal PoC in South Sudan. As a single mother of five children, she told RI that she struggles to get enough food rations for her family.





Top Left: A 44-year-old internally displaced man in Malakal PoC in South Sudan. Photo Credit: Refugees International.



Top Right: Refugees International Senior Advocate for Human Rights Daniel Sullivan in South Sudan at a PoC site with a South Sudanese man who is internally displaced. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Human Rights Commission in October 2019, and called for the appointment of a Special Envoy for South Sudan. Refugees International's advocacy has been important both in the effort to prevent premature returns of internally displaced South Sudanese, and in the decision by the U.S. government to appoint a South Sudanese envoy.

Refugees International has also supported Senate resolution introduced in the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee reaffirming the support of the United States for the

people of the Republic of South Sudan and calling on all parties to uphold their commitments to peace and dialogue as outlined in the country's 2018 peace agreement. The resolution ultimately passed in the Senate.

ATROCITY PREVENTION

Refugees International has long worked with allies in the nongovernmental organization (NGO) community and in the U.S. Congress who are dedicated to improving the ability of governments like the United States to prevent atrocities. A big win came in 2019 with the signing into law of the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act, which establishes an atrocity early warning task force, mandates atrocity prevention training

for foreign service officers, and requires an annual report from the President to Congress on efforts to prevent mass atrocities.

RAISING THE ALARM ON UNDERREPORTED CRISES

Refugees International is raising the alarm and focusing international attention on humanitarian needs and policy solutions in places that often escape the attention of the media and policymakers—so that no one is left behind.



Ernestine Acha (center) is a displaced woman from north-western Cameroon who fled to the country's capitol in Yaounde to escape conflict. Photo Credit: Daniel Beloumou Olomo/AFP via Getty Images.



THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Years of instability and violence in the Central African Republic have led to large-scale displacement, and more than half the country depends on humanitarian assistance for protection and survival. A Refugees International team traveled to the Central African Republic to assess humanitarian needs and recommend a path forward for improving the humanitarian response.

In 2019, the African Union's African Initiative peace talks led to an agreement between fourteen armed groups and the Central African government, offering some hope for progress. Refugees International successfully pressured UN officials to stop prematurely shutting down camps for the displaced in the lead up and in the wake of the peace accord. Our successful effort impacted the well-being of hundreds of thousands if not more.

CRISIS IN CAMEROON

In March and April 2019, a Refugees International team traveled to Yaoundé, Cameroon to research the humanitarian implications of conflict in the country's English- and French-speaking populations. After the mission, the team pressed for increased humanitarian aid and greater efforts to get both sides to the table to talk peace. A Refugees International team also traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border where Anglophone Cameroonians were seeking refuge to focus U.S. policymakers on the fact that this crisis is not going away—and in fact is showing up on the doorstep of the United States.

VENEZUELAN IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Venezuelan displacement crisis in the Caribbean has gone largely unreported as the number of Venezuelans who have sought safety in the region is comparatively less in overall numbers than in neighboring countries in South America. However, some Caribbean countries host a large number of Venezuelans per capita. And in the Caribbean, displaced Venezuelans are often afforded significantly fewer legal protections compared to those in South America.

Trinidad and Tobago, lying just seven miles off the coast of Venezuela, is a case in point, as tens of thousands of Venezuelans have fled there to escape the political and economic crisis at home. Venezuelans on the island are not protected by any domestic refugee legislation and are subject to crim-

Top Left: A young woman holds her child in the Bangassou internally displaced people camp in the Central African Republic where she gave birth. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Top Right: Boats off the coast of Curaçao, a Dutch Caribbean island that lies just 40 miles from Venezuela and has become a destination for many Venezuelans fleeing conditions at home. Photo Credit: Falco Ermet.



inal penalties as a result. This means that Venezuelans live under the constant threat of detention and deportation without the ability to work legally or access education. Over several months, Refugees International conducted a coordinated and effective advocacy campaign to call for better policies on the twin-island nation.

Refugees International’s advocacy in coalition with others ultimately led the government of Trinidad and Tobago to create a new policy that allowed more than 16,500 Venezuelans to regularize their status and access legal employment.

Meanwhile in 2019, Venezuelans seeking refuge in the Dutch Caribbean island of Curaçao continued to face similar deprivations. There are between 10,000–13,000 Venezuelans living on the island, but the country has no

formal system to register asylum seekers. A Refugees International team traveled there and documented serious human rights violations, including the detention and deportation of Venezuelans, many of whom live in constant fear. Refugees International continues to bear witness and fight for better policies for displaced Venezuelans in the Caribbean.

Top Left: Venezuelan asylum seeker living in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Top Right: Two Venezuelan asylum seekers who were deported from Trinidad and Tobago, but fled back to the twin-island nation a month later. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

“Even though we [my family and I] have refugee status, this does not give us a legal right to work. It does not give a right to an identity card or to permanent residence. It does not give my children the right to attend public schools. It only grants access to healthcare for certain treatment but not others. We are in a legal limbo.”

-VENEZUELAN REFUGEE LIVING IN PORT OF SPAIN

ADVOCATING FOR THE DISPLACED IN ARMED CONFLICT

Armed conflict is one of the most significant—and most deadly—drivers of forced displacement. Refugees International traveled to areas facing intense armed conflict from the Sahel to Syria to Somalia to speak to displaced people about their needs and advocate for a better future.





INSECURITY IN THE SAHEL

In September 2019, a Refugees International team traveled to Mali and Burkina Faso to examine humanitarian needs and displacement fueled by conflict spilling across the Sahel. In the three years prior to the Refugees International mission, the number of Malians displaced from their homes had more than quadrupled, and conflict and displacement was increasingly spreading to previously stable areas of the country. Burkina Faso is experiencing the fastest growing displacement crisis on the African continent. Over the course of 2019, the number of internally displaced Burkinabés skyrocketed from 60,000

to 560,000. The team observed that the international community remains heavily focused on stabilization and counterterrorism, often to the detriment of any efforts to address the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation. In our reporting and advocacy in 2019, Refugees International called on the international community to correct course.

Top Left: Men stand outside a house in a district that welcomes internally displaced people from northern Burkina Faso. Photo Credit: Olympia de Maismont/AFP via Getty Images.

Top Right: Hiba Ezzideen, a Syrian activist living as a refugee in Turkey, who grew up in Idlib, Syria. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

“The war changed even the professions of women. After the revolution, you saw female business owners. They’re working on exporting clothes. They have their own shops. They have their own restaurants. It means a lot to us.”

- HIBA EZZIDEEN, A SYRIAN ACTIVIST



Top Left: Two Syrian refugee boys living in Turkey joined a soccer league started by a former Syrian professional soccer player. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Top Right: An elderly woman and her son at a site for displaced people in Somalia. They said mortars killed all but one of their animals. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Bottom Right: Senior Advocate for the Middle East Sahar Atrache interviews Hiba Ezzideen, a Syrian activist. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

SYRIANS SUFFERING AT HOME AND ABROAD

Nearly a decade into Syria's brutal civil war, millions of Syrians remain displaced and immense suffering continues in much of the country and in neighboring states. In 2019, Refugees International conducted several research missions to Turkey and Syria to report on the humanitarian crisis in war-ravaged Idlib, the humanitarian implications of U.S. policy shifts in northeast Syria, as well as pressures and abuses facing Syrian refugees in Turkey. Refugees International spoke to dozens of displaced Syrians, policymakers,

and local Syrian and international humanitarian actors. Through our work, we have helped to convey the daily struggles of civilians in Syria and in host countries to key policymakers and to the international media. Refugees International has repeatedly called for crucial policy changes to relieve Syrians' immense suffering and continued to draw attention to the Syria crisis as interest in the media and among decisionmakers has waned.

In October 2019, Refugees International President Eric P. Schwartz testified before the Helsinki Commission on how the United States should respond to Turkey's human

rights abuses toward Syrian refugees. He called on Congress to take action to protect civilians and displaced populations.

SAFEGUARDING THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN SOMALIA

In the summer of 2019, Refugees International learned of a Kenyan government proposal at the United Nations that would have effectively crippled the international humanitarian effort in Somalia and put hundreds of thousands of lives at risk.

In particular, the Kenyan proposal—focused on the militant group al Shabaab—would have replaced an already-effective sanctions regime that permitted carefully administered humanitarian exceptions with a draconian regime that would have put humanitarian assistance delivery at risk. Refugees International led a coalition of prominent individuals and humanitarian organizations and engaged UN Member States in an advocacy effort that helped thwart the misguided proposal.

CONFRONTING CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT

Tens of millions of people around the world are driven from their homes each year by climate-related events. As climate change causes more extreme weather, food insecurity, environmental degradation, and rising sea levels, the number of people forced from their homes due to climate-related events is only expected to increase. Refugees International plays a leading role in addressing climate-related displacement and finding policy solutions to prepare for this reality before it's too late. Most importantly, we work to give a voice to those affected on the ground.



Community leaders in Mozambique are trying to rebuild after the storm.
Photo Credit: Refugees International.

RESETTLEMENT FOR THOSE DISPLACED BY DIASERS EXACERBATED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

The people who lose their homes in climate-related disasters are not generally considered refugees under the provisions of the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol. To address this gap in protection, Refugees International supported a groundbreaking Global Climate Change Resilience Strategy introduced in the U.S. Senate in 2019. It included a provision recommended to the drafters by Refugees International, which would create a new humanitarian resettlement program for those who have been displaced by environmental disasters or climate change.

TWIN CYCLONES HIT MOZAMBIQUE AND ZIMBABWE

In late March 2019, Cyclone Idai made landfall on the central coast of Mozambique. Heavy winds and torrential rains brought devastation across much of central Mozambique, as well as parts of eastern Zimbabwe and southern Malawi. Around 3 million people were affected, and several hundred thousand were forced from their homes. The next month, Cyclone Kenneth hit northern Mozambique, affecting another 300,000 people. It was the first time since standard weather-related record-keeping began that two major cyclones hit



“Before the cyclone we had drought. Now we don’t know if we will have enough food before the next harvest.”

— DISPLACED FARMER NEAR CHIMOIO, MOZAMBIQUE

Top Left: A woman at a resettlement site for people displaced by Cyclone Idai in Mozambique.
Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Mozambique in the same season.

Shortly after the cyclones struck, a team from Refugees International traveled to Mozambique and Zimbabwe to assess the ongoing relief and recovery efforts. Following the mission, Refugees International pressed for better disaster-preparedness efforts throughout the region as it becomes more vulnerable to these types of storms.

DROUGHT IDPS IN ETHIOPIA

In 2015–2016, Ethiopia suffered one of its worst droughts in 50 years. The country’s Somali region in the east was particularly hard hit. Years later, about 400,000 people in Ethiopia are displaced and have little hope of returning home. Many lost their animal herds in the devastating drought—and with that their livelihoods. Although they received some humanitarian assistance initially, most of that support has now ended. The situation remains difficult, especially for women and girls. In March 2019, a team from Refugees International traveled to the region to look at this neglected displacement crisis, hear from the displaced, and find solutions.

Top Right: Women and children at the Elan IDP site in Ethiopia. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Bottom Left: Director of Government Relations and Policy Advisor Ann Hollingsworth talks with IDPs in Ethiopia. Photo Credit: Refugees International.



“When the wind and rain come,
we are not protected.”

— FADUMA, DROUGHT IDP IN ETHIOPIA

U.S. POLICES: HUMANITARIANISM, FUNDING, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, AND ASYLUM

For decades, the United States has exercised leadership on humanitarian issues, overseas and at home. But in 2019, the administration sought to slash U.S. international humanitarian funding, cut refugee resettlement, and impose practices at the U.S. southern border that forced asylum seekers and refugees into miserable conditions and separating families.



Migrants from Guatemala, who are seeking asylum, rest in a shelter in El Paso, Texas. Photo Credit: Mario Tama/Getty Images.

Top Left: Gladis, a Mexican humanitarian providing aid to several hundred asylum seekers living in the makeshift camp in Matamoros, Mexico. Photo Credit: Refugees International.



SAFEGUARDING HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

Refugees International, on our own and in coalition, worked closely with the U.S. Congress to successfully push back against a White House proposal in August 2019 to dramatically cut international humanitarian assistance. Strong bipartisan support in Congress prevented the drastic, 30 percent cuts to core humanitarian accounts that the Trump administration proposed for FY2020. Refugees International urged appropriators and authorizers to protect funding for core accounts including Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) and International Disaster Assistance (IDA). Working in coalition with other humanitarian organizations, Refugees International was pleased to see the MRA account receive \$3.4 billion in funding, far above the administration's FY2020 request to Congress. Refugees International also called for \$4.4 billion for the International Disaster Assistance account, which was the amount ultimately appropriated by Congress. We worked to promote the importance of multilateral support, advocating for funding and highlighting its essential role. Through it all, Refugees International has partnered with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to ensure that humanitarian funding reaches those who need it most.

SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

The Trump administration asserts that its policies at the U.S. southern border are designed to protect women and children from traffickers. However, its actions tell a very different story.

In a ground-breaking report, Refugees International revealed that during the current presidential administration, there has been a distinct rise in the denial rate for those seeking T visas, which allow victims of severe labor or sex trafficking who are in the United States to legalize their status and access services they need. The administration has been especially dismissive of claims by women and children who have been trafficked over the U.S. southwest border. Refugees International's report has been used in litigation on behalf of victims and has resulted in Senate inquiries to the Department of Homeland Security.

WE'RE WATCHING

The right to seek asylum has long been enshrined in domestic and international law. But the Trump administration has undermined this right. In 2019, it prevented asylum seekers from asking for the protection they need, denied protection to those who managed to ask for it, and—as a result—put thousands at risk. In our ongoing effort to promote accountability, Refugees International documented and presented to the administration



a failing grade in our 2019 Report Card on the administration's performance on refugee and humanitarian protection. And in December 2019, Refugees International and our president, Eric Schwartz, were involved in litigation designed to challenge an executive order by the president that would permit state and local officials to prevent refugees from resettling in their states and localities through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. (The litigation was successful at the District level and is on appeal.)

VOICES FROM THE BORDER

Refugees International's "Voices from the Border" event series aims to humanize, inform, and deepen Washington-based policy discussions on migration and protection along the U.S. southern border. The series highlights the voices of people with lived experience of these issues.

In December 2019, Refugees International hosted a conversation with advocates and asylum seekers who have been affected by the U.S. administration's cruel "Remain in Mexico" policy, which has forced asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their cases are adjudicated in U.S. immigration courts. Families returned to Mexico through the policy face the threat of violence and persecution, lack access to food and shelter, and have great difficulty finding attorneys, whose engagement can be critical to gaining asylum.

Top Right: Refugees International hosted a talk on "Voices of the Remain in Mexico Policy." From left to right: Fatima, a mother and asylum seeker from Nicaragua; Yael Schacher, senior U.S. advocate at Refugees International; Paulina Olvera Cárdenas, founder of Espacio Migrante; Ursula Ojeda is a policy advisor at the Women's Refugee Commission; Taylor Levy, an immigration attorney in El Paso, Texas. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced displacement and humanitarian crises. When forced to flee their homes, women and girls face greater risks of violence, trafficking, and early or forced marriage. Despite these risks, displaced women and girls know best what they need during times of crisis. Refugees International brings the voices of displaced women and girls to the halls of political power, in Washington and around the world, and presses decisionmakers to craft better policies that recognize the rights and unique needs of women and girls.



Venezuelan former sex worker and policewoman Pamela. Venezuelan migrants who fled their country due to the crisis turn to prostitution in Colombia for the lack of opportunities to work in other trades. Photo credit: Raul Arboleda/AFP/Getty Images.

THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS PLACE TO BE A WOMAN

Even though South Sudan's civil war ended more than a year ago, women and girls in South Sudan continue to experience some of the highest levels of gender-based violence around the world. Nearly 4 million South Sudanese people are still displaced, and women and girls on the move are particularly vulnerable to violence and insecurity, including intimate partner violence and underage pregnancy. A Refugees International team traveled there in 2019 to speak to women about their experiences and move the policy debate forward.



WOMEN AND GIRLS BRAVE THE STORM

As communities across southern Africa recovered in the wake of 2019 cyclones Kenneth and Idai, women and girls continued to be among the hardest hit. After careful analysis and consultations with the displaced, Refugees International made recommendations to policymakers and UN officials to expand programming to prevent gender-based violence and create a more protective environment for women and girls.

Top Left: Senior Advocate for Women and Girls Devon Cone speaks to women in Zimbabwe about Cyclones Idai and Kenneth. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Bottom Left: A South Sudanese internally displaced woman living in a Protection of Civilians site in the capital, Juba. She told the Refugees International team that she lost her son in the recent civil war. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

Top Right: Internally displaced women in Mozambique who lost their homes in Cyclone Idai and are living in a temporary transit site. Photo Credit: Refugees International.



“My husband and I both used to farm to feed our children. We lost all our crops and we were given seeds, but the timing is not right. We tried to replant a little bit... we will see.”

- A DISPLACED WOMAN FROM WEST-CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

The vast majority of the world's refugees live in the global south where they remain for an average of 10 years. As the number of forcibly displaced people rises globally, it is clear that repatriation will not be the durable solution for all the world's refugees. Host countries need to adopt and implement sustainable solutions that address both the needs of refugees and the communities giving them refuge. Refugees International is committed to shaping long-term solutions that address protracted displacement and giving a voice to those affected in the process.



Syrian refugees work in a Syrian-owned clothing factory in Gaziantep, Turkey. Photo Credit: Chris McGrath/Getty Images.



EXPANDING LABOR MARKET ACCESS

Refugees International is partnering with the Center for Global Development on a three-year project to research and promote innovative programming and ideas to expand labor market access for refugees and forced migrants around the world.

Our research generates evidence on the protection imperatives and economic and social benefits of expansion of labor market access for refugees and forced migrants, develops policy recommendations on these issues, and supports efforts to mobilize the private sector and other partners to champion this cause. The work builds on years of Refugees International advocacy to enhance livelihood opportunities for refugees and the displaced. In our initial work on this important project, we focused on labor market access for displaced Venezuelans in Colombia and Peru.

A SEAT AT THE TABLE FOR THE DISPLACED

Those with lived refugee experience – whether still in displacement, resettled, or returned – offer necessary perspectives to inform smart, practical, and sustainable solutions for the challenge of displacement. However, many times people with lived displacement experience do not have a seat at the table.

Refugees International advocated for governments to send refugees as part of their official delegations to the first-ever Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in Geneva in December 2019. In an encouraging sign of progress, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) increased opportunities for remote refugee participation at the Forum and invited refugee leaders to attend in person. The government of Canada included a resettled refugee in their official delegation to the Forum, and overall 70 people with lived displacement experience attended.

VENEZUELAN DISPLACEMENT

By the end of 2019, some 4.6 million Venezuelans were living outside their country of origin, with the vast majority having fled to neighboring countries in Latin America. In 2019, Refugees International expanded its coverage of Venezuelan displacement, assessing national-level responses in Colombia and Ecuador, as well as Trinidad and Tobago and Curaçao. We called on host countries to keep their borders open and extend to Venezuelans the rights and protections they need. In addition to pathways to regularization of their status, displaced Venezuelans need better immediate access to healthcare, shelter, education, and employment. With Venezuela's political crisis continuing and more Venezuelans fleeing in 2019, we urged the international community to increase its support for what will necessarily be a long-term response.

Over the course of several missions to Colombia—where the majority of displaced Venezuelans now reside—Refugees International was encouraged to see the country maintain a relatively generous response even as the number of Venezuelans obtaining refuge there continued to rise in 2019. Refugees International strongly and effectively urged senior UN officials to ensure that the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) maintain its presence in Colombia, where nearly 8 million Colombians remain internally displaced from decades of civil war and continuing conflict. As the country grapples with an uptick in violence, we argued that OCHA's role was critical in sustaining the attention and response to IDPs.

SOMALIA: SUSTAINING SOLUTIONS

For years, Refugees International has pushed the Somali government and the international community to foster long-term solutions for the country's 2.6 million internally displaced people. By 2019, the Somali government had made positive strides toward developing poli-



cies and creating frameworks that protect the rights of its internally displaced population, including protections against evictions, alternative land and housing arrangements, and options for local integration. But these changes had yet to turn into tangible improvements for the displaced in 2019.

A Refugees International team traveled to Somalia in the fall of 2019 to assess progress and hold the government and the international community accountable for putting these policies into practice.

Top Left: Venezuelans cross the Simon Bolivar international bridge from Venezuela to Colombia. Photo Credit: Luis Acosta/AFP/Getty Images.

Top Right: Program Officer and Advocate Daphne Panayotatos pictured with a Venezuelan woman at a soup kitchen in Colombia, where she receives free meals and volunteers her time. Photo Credit: Refugees International.



Asylum seekers living in the makeshift camp in Matamoros, Mexico just over the U.S. southern border. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

THANK YOU

As we reflect on our work in 2019, the Refugees International team is deeply grateful for our supporters who help us advocate for displaced people around the world. As countries around the world continue to turn inward and close doors to the world's more than 70 million forcibly displaced people, we continue to fight for their rights and safety.

We are at a critical point in time because we must continue our advocacy while maintaining our independence, as we do not accept any government or UN funding. Last year alone, your generous support of our work made it possible for Refugees International to interview more than 1,500 people displaced by conflict, climate-related disasters, and the threat of persecution. Our team of advocates made more than 280 recommendations to policymakers to better respond to refugee crises. Thank you for standing with us as we unite in one voice to defend and protect the rights of the most vulnerable among us.



Lisa Cantu-Parks

Lisa Cantu-Parks
Vice President of Philanthropy

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Dancers of GALLIM gave a moving performance of “BOAT” at Refugees International’s 17th Annual New York Circle event. The piece was inspired by Syrian refugees still persevering in their hope for life, despite unthinkable hardship. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

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At Refugees International’s 17th Annual New York Circle event, we honored former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Raad Al Hussein with the Exceptional Service Award. Photo Credit: Refugees International.

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Senior Advocate for West and Central Africa
Alexandra Lamarche on a research mission in the
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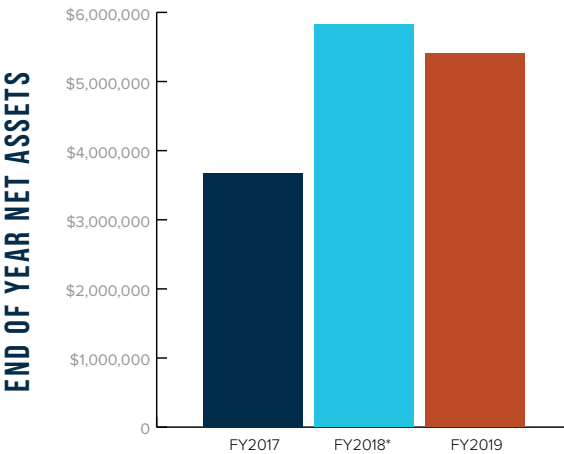


Vice President for Programs and Policy Hardin Lang
speaks with a resident in a neighborhood on the
outskirts of Cucuta, Colombia. In these informal
settlements, Colombian IDPs have opened their
homes to displaced Venezuelans. Photo Credit:
Refugees International.

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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

| | 2017 Total | 2018 Total | 2019 Total |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| SUPPORT AND REVENUE | | | |
| Contributions | 2,831,332 | 2,066,141 | 2,297,314 |
| Foundation Grants | 1,537,252 | 4,354,852 | 1,227,023 |
| Contract Revenue | | | 64,528 |
| Investment Income | 374,887 | (252,447) | 530,940 |
| In-Kind Donations | 189,771 | 203,545 | 292,677 |
| Total Support and Revenue | \$4,933,242 | \$6,372,091* | \$4,412,482 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Program Services | | | |
| Advocacy | 2,098,843 | 2,291,632 | 2,670,900 |
| Public Education | 1,071,692 | 897,369 | 1,051,345 |
| Strategic Outreach | | | 127,725 |
| Total Program Services | 3,170,535 | 3,189,001 | 3,849,970 |
| Supporting Services | | | |
| General and Administrative | 193,739 | 237,958 | 239,831 |
| Fundraising | 305,924 | 678,088 | 676,128 |
| Total Supporting Services | 499,663 | 916,046 | 915,959 |
| Total Functional Expenses | \$3,670,198 | \$4,105,047 | \$4,765,929 |
| Other Items | 44,283 | 112,838 | 62,651 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | \$1,218,761 | 2,154,206 | (416,098) |
| Net Assets at Beginning of Year | 2,448,359 | 3,667,120 | 5,821,326 |
| NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR | \$3,667,120 | \$5,821,326* | \$5,405,228 |



*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 2019 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.

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.

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 Refugees International

ATTEND OUR EVENTS

Stay tuned for updates on upcoming events on our website: www.refugeesinternational.org/ri-events.

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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 donations@refintl.org to set up a personal fundraising page.

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Give online at www.refugeesinternational.org/donate or by mail to:

Refugees International
Attn: Lisa Cantu-Parks
PO Box 33036
Washington, DC 20033

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 lisa@refugeesinternational.org for more information or to indicate that you have already included Refugees International in your estate plan.

REFUGEES 
INTERNATIONAL

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Aviva Shwayder, Designer

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