# RELIEF

**REPORT 2017** 

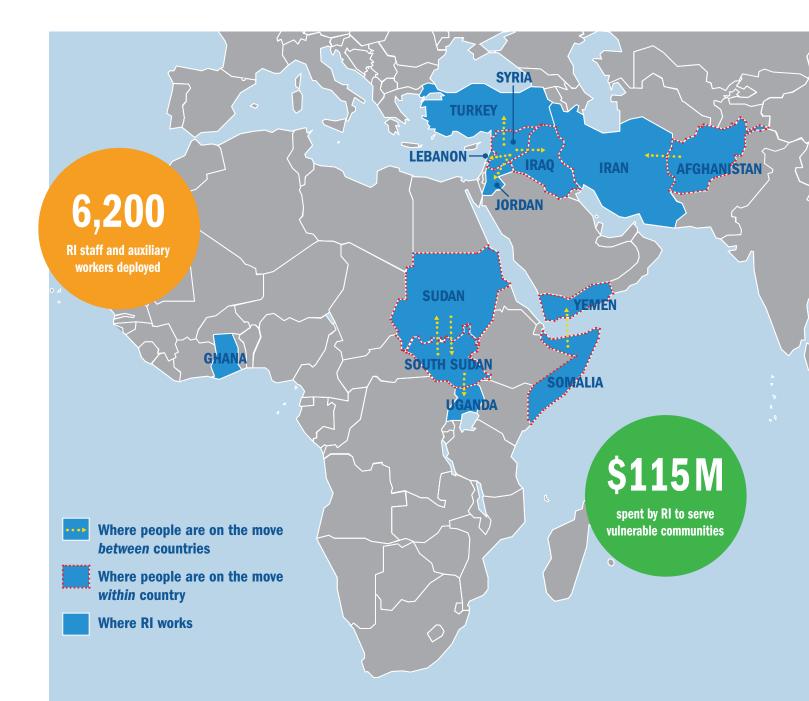
ANNUAL

## About Relief International

More than 68 million people have fled their homes due to conflict, violence or natural disaster. Over half of the world's refugees are children.

The crisis of displacement is the biggest humanitarian challenge of our time.

Relief International is dedicated to serving these and other vulnerable individuals to rebuild their lives and secure their future.



Relief International is a not-for-profit organization that partners with some of the world's most vulnerable communities to relieve poverty, ensure well-being and advance dignity. We specialize in fragile settings in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, responding to natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies and chronic poverty. We have no political or religious affiliation.

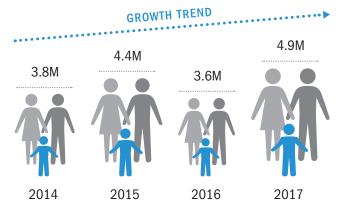
As a U.S. 501(c)(3) organization and a U.K. registered Charity, Relief International raises its entire annual budget from voluntary contributions, foundations and governments. We work in 16 countries and provide programs focused on health, education, economic opportunity, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). We make a difference in the lives of millions of people each year.

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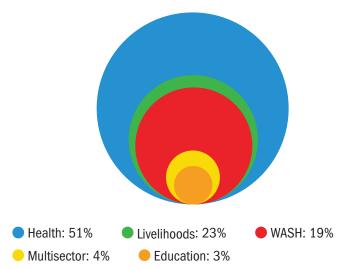
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#### NEARLY 17M PEOPLE SERVED SINCE 2014



#### **WORK BY SECTOR**



## On the Move

### The world — and Relief International — are on the move.

Dear Supporters and Friends of Relief International,

In 2017, people all over the globe were on the move, which means Relief International was too. "On the Move," our theme for this report, showcases the challenges facing the families we serve and the ways in which RI staff, volunteers and my colleagues on the Board of Directors mobilize to support their journey to resilience.

Too often our clients are on the move against their wishes, leaving behind homes and family. Natural and man-made disasters, from earthquakes to conflict, have caused people to go on the move in unprecedented numbers. Other communities struggle to deliver their families from poverty.

At Relief International, we go where we're needed, meeting these families in some of the most remote and fragile places in the world. As you'll read on the following pages, in 2017 our Emergency Response Team delivered immediate support to Rohingya refugees, people fleeing South Sudan and survivors of Iran's earthquake. In keeping with our aim to join humanitarian relief with long-term development, these interventions also laid a path toward community well-being.

In a most heartfelt fashion, the entire RI family wishes to thank each of you who generously supports the people we serve. Every day they demonstrate strength and hope in the face of significant hardship. Their spirit, and your support, fuel courage and optimism.

With warm regards,

Chip Levengood

Chip Levengood Chairperson, Relief International Board of Directors



DISPLACED SOUTH SUDANESE WOMEN CARRY FOOD ITEMS HOME FROM AN RI DISTRIBUTION SITE.

## IRAN The night the earth shook

On a cold November night, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake shook the mountainous region of western Iran. Families stumbled out of bed only to watch their houses crumble before their eyes. In a matter of seconds, families lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones.

RI has worked in Iran since 1990

IRAN

Relief International, which has worked in Iran since 1990 responding to natural disasters and serving Afghan refugees, was at critical sites within hours. As one of the few international organizations authorized to respond to emergencies in Iran, RI supplemented government efforts by distributing mattresses, dust masks and supplies to the newly homeless.

"Families are living in tents tucked everywhere – along the street, in the park, in school yards and parking lots," RI CEO Nancy Wilson wrote during a visit to the heavily damaged Kermanshah region shortly after the quake. While distributing supplies, RI teams also helped community members determine their post-earthquake priorities. Teams are now repairing Kermanshah's damaged schools and rebuilding the city's only emergency hospital, which was leveled by the quake. Cash assistance is helping families replace lost livestock and farming equipment, and reviving the local economy. In other parts of the country, RI is laying the foundation for long-term stability by offering education, healthcare and cash assistance to Iran's large and growing population of Afghan refugees. Together, these efforts give Iran, and the people who call it home, the tools to shape their future.



Special thanks to Google employees and other individual donors who gave more than \$400,000 to aid survivors of the 2017 earthquake in Iran.

KERMANSHAH PROVINCE, IRAN (©REUTERS/TASNIM NEWS AGENCY)

## BANGLADESH The Rohingya exodus

They came over the border almost too fast to count: 10-, 20-, 30,000 a day. Nearly 500,000 in a single month.

Myanmar's Rohingya minority began fleeing escalated and merciless ethnic violence on August 25, 2017. In one of the most urgent migrations in recent history, nearly 1 million people flowed into makeshift camps in Cox's Bazar in neighboring Bangladesh. Today, these camps are among the most densely populated refugee areas in the world.

Relief International was among the first organizations to deliver aid to these families. From our offices in Bangladesh, where we have supported economic opportunity and anti-human trafficking efforts since 2008, RI teams quickly determined the most urgent needs and deployed mobile units to meet them: clean water and functional latrines, medical care for physical wounds and illness, psychological and social support for wounds to the heart and mind. Over weeks and months, RI's Emergency Response team, with support from UNICEF and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, staked out clinics and service centers in the furthest reaches of the camps, those still covered by trees and brush, accessible only by foot and far from the main centers of aid. This is where the new arrivals – the most vulnerable of this vulnerable group - would land.

"We had to build in these places," says RI Emergency Response Team Leader Ricardo Vieitez. "These are the people with the greatest needs."

Today, Relief International serves these families with five fully staffed primary healthcare clinics, 12 childfriendly spaces, five women-and-girl friendly spaces and 25 teams of door-to-door outreach workers. In 2017, RI staff guided more than 11,000 refugees in the camps toward physical and emotional healing.

ROHINGYA REFUGEES NEAR COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH (©HANNAH MCKAY/REUTERS)





**60%** of the people who fled Myanmar for Bangladesh in 2017 were children.

## UGANDA The flight to safety



### When Madelina Ayuru returned to her village it was empty.



MOTHER AND HER YOUNG SON AWAIT TREATMENT. THE BORDER, UGANDA (©UNICEF/HOLT)

Special thanks to LDS Charities and generous individual donors, who provided \$270,000 to save three clinics in Uganda. She searched for her family and for her neighbors, but found only a woman about to flee, who scolded her.

"You are still behind?" Madelina recalls the woman saying. "The people have run away toward the border because the war has come here."

"The war" is the one in South Sudan and that January day when Madelina was visiting the capital city of Juba, violence swept nearly everyone out of her village near the Ugandan border.

In that moment, Madelina became part of the largest and fastest growing refugee crisis in Africa. More than a million refugees from South Sudan streamed into neighboring Uganda between mid-2016 and mid-2017. At the peak of the emergency, an average of 6,000 people arrived in Uganda every day.

Relief International has been serving refugee and impoverished families in this region for more than a decade. In the border region of South Sudan, we offer 24/7 healthcare services to more than 150,000 refugee and displaced people each year. When the region's violence pushed even more families to Uganda, we ran ahead to get ready for them.

Hundreds of generous individual donors and Utahbased LDS Charities helped Relief International take over three clinics in Uganda's Palorinya settlement from a departing organization. Starting in October, RI's trained medical professionals began tending the new arrivals and the communities hosting them. They treated malaria, guided mothers safely through childbirth, and restored health to thousands of malnourished children. Many RI staff in the clinics are refugees themselves. They worked tirelessly, six days a week, running tests, examining patients and providing lifesaving diagnoses.

Madelina was among the first patients. "I am happy because I got help," she said after receiving care for a respiratory infection. "They gave me medicine so I can become better."

## **Building local leadership**

At Relief International, 98 percent of our 6,200 employees and other staff are from the countries in which we operate. These local professionals serve in roles from country directors to program managers and security guards. They are the driving force behind RI's deep connection to the fragile settings in which we work. Investing in them is another way that we invest in their communities.

RI's Local Leadership Development Program provides special training to top-performing local national employees. Since the program began in 2015, it has helped dozens of employees begin their climb up the leadership ladder with custom coaching, mentorship and training goals.

### SPOTLIGHT ON: SANDRA NAKHLE, PROGRAM MANAGER, RI LEBANON

Sandra Nakhle grew up in the Lebanese village of Rmeich, which sits on the country's strife-torn southern border. She became a humanitarian when she joined Relief International in 2013. Armed with a graduate degree from Lebanese University in Beirut, Sandra criss-crossed Lebanon promoting nutritional awareness among refugee families suffering from acute malnutrition.

For three years, Sandra, who is 28, tackled roles from

communications to health. In 2016, she earned a spot in RI's Local Leadership Development Program, where she has learned high-level skills such as strategic planning and management best practices.

Today, Sandra leads a 13-person staff as the head of RI Lebanon's health and cash programming.

"RI believes in my capabilities," Sandra says. "I hope I will grow even more with this organization. It's like my second home."

**98%** of RI employees and other staff are local nationals or refugees.

SANDRA NAKHLE, LEBANON

## JORDAN From dropout to dreamer



When 18-year-old Abdullah arrived at Jordan's Azraq refugee camp three years ago, he had lost not only his home, but his dreams.

Syria's civil war had forced his family to Jordan and derailed his plan to study information technology at university. At Azraq, Abdullah had to repeat 11th grade. He felt his dream slipping away. Then Relief International's outreach team told him about RI's Social Innovation Labs (SILs). More community-based think tank than school, the UNICEF-funded program challenges young refugees to solve real problems facing their fellow camp residents. SIL participants follow an intense, 10-week curriculum of skills training, critical thinking and creativity that prepares them to be community leaders.

Abdullah applied for the program and even made it to pitching day, when innovation specialists, aid organizations and prominent technology firms visit the camp to fund the best student-generated projects.

But Abdullah's project wasn't among them. Which only made him more determined. He applied for a second

"Whether you are a refugee or not, do not let any obstacle or individual stand in your way to success and self-development," Abdullah says. semester of the SIL program, where RI instructors pushed him to look harder and think more deeply about issues facing the camp.

Adullah wanted a solution that would overcome the poverty, restlessness and under-used talent he saw around him. Something like...a Time Bank.

Abdullah's Time Bank connects residents seeking services — haircuts, tutoring, sewing — to those who offer them, using time as the currency. For instance, Azraq resident Abu Ahmed installed an awning on a neighbor's home. In return, the neighbor gave Abu Ahmed and his two sons haircuts.

On pitching day, the judges decided to fund Abdullah's Time Bank. The UN's Jordan office awarded the project its prize for 'Innovation in Humanitarian Action.'

Today, Abdullah mentors other youth as a Social Innovation Lab leader. With the help of Relief International, he is studying for Jordan's college entrance exam. His goal: to win a scholarship and to volunteer with Relief International so he can help change lives.



FAR RIGHT: PITCHING DAY, ZA'ATARI REFUGEE CAMP





## SOUTH SUDAN Pushing back on poverty



### Dut Miro smiles outside his shop in remote Maban County, where he sells fruit and sundries.

"On a good day, I make 3,000 pounds," says the 41-yearold father of four. With that income — equivalent to \$23, about 20 times the average daily income — Dut pays tuition and buys school uniforms for his children.

Dut's shop is one of more than 80 new enterprises started with support from Relief International's Village Savings and Loan Program in rural South Sudan. RI has been working to build livelihoods in the country since 2011. When a brutal civil war erupted in 2013, we added emergency services such as healthcare and clean water delivery, but continued our commitment to the country's long-term development through programs such as these. The village savings and loan initiative, sponsored by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, is helping communities get through the war while also setting them up for the future.

Since its start in 2016, the program has sponsored 57 associations with more than 1,100 total members. It provides community-based savings and loan groups with start-up kits and training in transparency, money management and financial processes. Driven by local participation, the program builds community wealth, skills for managing it, and trust in each other. Participants like Dut who once lived just an illness or crop failure away from economic devastation say they are now financially stable.

"The savings and loan has completely changed my household," says Lewis Widi, an association member who has been able to add meat and fish to her family's dryseason diet of sorghum bread and dried okra soup. "We can afford what we couldn't before." Lewis also expanded her charcoal resale business. With the added profits, she says she plans to buy goats and sheep. Women like Lewis make up 85 percent of the savings and loans' membership.

\* The South Sudanese pound is distinct from the British pound and is equivalent to slightly less than \$0.01.



DUT MIRO, MABAN COUNTY

### 2017 FINANCIALS > >

United States		
SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2017	2016
Grants and contributions	\$41,197,448	\$23,818,985
Contributed goods and services	\$345,202	\$14,418
Other revenue	\$1,589,964	\$1,752,531
Total support and revenue	\$43,132,614	\$25,585,934
EXPENSES		
Programs and services	\$36,300,758	\$22,095,989
General and administrative	\$6,795,937	\$5,135,346
Fundraising	-	-
Total expenses	\$43,096,695	\$27,231,335
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$35,919	(\$1,645,401)
Net assets beginning of the year	\$2,163,260	\$3,808,661
Net assets end of the year	\$2,199,179	\$2,163,260

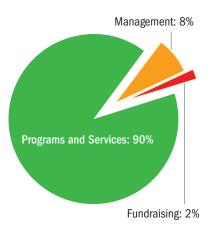
United Kingdom		
SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2017	2016
Grants and contributions	\$58,772,227	\$53,173,718
Donated commodities	\$12,843,980	\$4,730,864
Donations and other income	-	\$3,731
Total support and revenue	\$71,616,207	\$57,908,313

#### EXPENSES

Programs and services	\$66,922,496	\$54,405,515
Fundraising	-	\$345,872
General and administrative	\$4,297,672	\$2,697,086
Total expenses	\$71,220,168	\$57,448,473
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$396,039	\$459,840
Fund balances beginning of the year	\$1,005,558	\$545,718
Fund balances end of the year	\$1,401,597	\$1,005,558

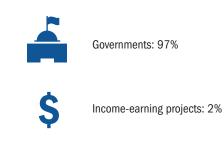
Combined U.S. and U.K.			
	2017	Increase	2016
Total combined revenue	\$114,748,821	37%	\$83,494,226
Total combined expenditure	\$114,316,863	35%	\$84,679,808
Total expenditure/programs and	\$103,223,254	35%	\$76,501,504
services			

#### **EXPENDITURE**



#### **2017 FUNDING SOURCES**

Total support and revenue: \$114,748,821



Individuals, foundations and corporations: 1%

## Our donors

At Relief International, every contribution counts. Whether you give \$2 or \$200,000, your generosity allows us to go where – and when – the need is greatest.

In 2017, individual donors contributed nearly \$700,000. Some donations were small. Some were large. All made a difference in the lives of vulnerable families.

### FEATURED DONOR > > EVAN FLASCHEN

PRINCIPAL, FLASCHEN ADVISORY LLC HARTFORD, CT; MEMBER OF RI LEADERS COUNCIL

#### You give to many charities. What made you choose Relief International?

My wife and I support Relief international because it emphasizes dignity and lasting solutions for the most fragile among us. RI provides a hand up with tailored, integrated, on-the-ground programs that guide vulnerable communities to achieve their potential. That benefits us all.

### How would you characterize RI's commitment to accountability and transparency?

Ultimately, it is results that matter. It takes a large staff to provide on-theground services throughout Africa, Asia and the Middle East. It is incredible that RI is still able to dedicate a full 90 percent of donations directly to the millions of people whose lives it betters.

#### You gave generously to RI's effort to rescue three refugee healthcare clinics in Uganda. Why did you support that effort in particular?

Too often refugees are viewed as the refuse of other societies to be fenced in or, worse, turned away altogether. RI's Uganda project provides life-saving medical care to tens of thousands of South Sudanese refugees and, with it, hope for a better future. We were proud to be included among the donors who helped save these clinics. **90%** of every donation goes directly to programs in the field.

### FOUNDATION AND GOVERNMENT FUNDERS > >

## Relief International is grateful to the foundation and government donors who support our programming.

Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)

European Commission

Global Affairs Canada | Affaires mondiales Canada

Goldman Sachs

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Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO)

IMA World Health

Isabel & Alfred Bader Fund, a Bader Philanthropy

LDS Charities

**Project Turquoise** 

Sonja Foundation Ltd.

START Network The World Bank United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) U.K. Department for International Development (DfID) U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) U.N. Development Program (UNDP) U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) U.N. International Organization for

U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Migration (IOM)

U.N. Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA)

U.N. World Food Program (WFP)

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)

U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP)

World Health Organization (WHO)









unicef 🥴









### LEADERSHIP > >

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