

Going Where the Need is Greatest

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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RIGHT: Iman Al Saddik, a Syrian refugee and volunteer with Relief International, walks through the informal settlement where she lives in Arsal, Lebanon. *Photo: RI/Elie Gardner*

COVER: Nafisa (center) holds her 12-hour-old baby girl in the maternity ward of Gentil Hospital in northeastern South Sudan. She is accompanied by her mother, Sukar (right). Nafisa lives in nearby Batil refugee camp. Photo: RI/Elie Gardner



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GOING WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST

Dear Friends,

"Going where the need is greatest" is more than just the theme of this report. It is a statement that defines Relief International as an organization.

This year, we deepened our commitment to serving families in those settings that are the most fragile.

In 2018, this meant expanding our lifesaving work in Syria, Yemen, and Bangladesh. It meant strengthening the resilience and agility of the organization so we can better respond to disruption. It meant continuing to develop innovative ways to couple humanitarian relief with enterprise development so that communities can prosper despite adversity.

As members of the Board, we are deeply invested in ensuring the highest standards of governancein prudent financial management, effective programs, and protecting our partners and staffand we take our duty to heart. That is why in 2018 the Board traveled in small groups to South Sudan, Uganda, Sudan, and Lebanon to visit our field sites and meet staff and partners, before all convening in Kenya.

I was inspired by the unforgettable experience of visiting internally displaced persons camps

provided health and sanitation for 14 years. Seeing mothers' relief at their infants receiving nutritional support at our clinics, boys pumping clean water for boreholes dug by Relief International, and families learning to plant kitchen gardens-these are some of the images that drive my motivation to continue the work that we

do. It is how I know we are making a meaningful difference.

On behalf of the entire Board and Relief International family, we are deeply grateful for everyone who supported our work in 2018. You make it possible for us to carry on with this critically important mission-tapping into the strength, innovation, and civic-mindedness of the people and communities we serve in fragile settings.

With warmest regards,

Chip Levengood Chairperson, Relief International Board of Directors



Now more than ever, what defines our work is adaptability to near-constant change.

Humanitarian crises do not look the same as five years ago, and five years from now we can expect them to look different than today.

As of 2018, a record 70 million people had been forced from their homes due to war, natural disasters, climate change, and political upheaval. Those who have been displaced are rebuilding their lives in camps, settlements, and host communities where they may live for decades—and where, above all else, they want opportunities to learn new skills, earn a living, and create a better life for their families.



This changing landscape demands more from Relief International as a global organization that specializes in working in some of the world's most fragile settings. In places where the need is greatest and sustained access is exceptionally challenging, we must be swift in responding to disruptions to basic goods and services, environmental stresses such as flooding or droughts, and security concerns.

At the same time, we are in this for the long haul. Where the situation is the most tenuous, Relief International digs in even deeper-meeting shortterm needs, but also building on long-established relationships to foster local participation, build integrated programs, nurture community and government partnerships,

and strengthen civil society. This is the RI Way.

Amid constant change, we are more committed than ever to collaboration that furthers these core principles. To this end, in late 2018 we were pleased to welcome a French nongovernmental organization, Medical Refresher Courses for Afghans (MRCA), into the Relief International alliance network under its new name MRCA/ Relief International-France, and added new board members Stéphane Crescitz and Philippe Oberlin.

This important addition to our global alliance strengthens our work in Afghanistan, broadens our health programming capacity, adds French voices to our governing bodies, and bolsters Relief International's capacity to meet the growing needs of this area of the world.

We could not do this work without you. Your continued partnership and support enables us to focus our programs where the need is greatest and to keep harnessing the strength and ingenuity of the communities where we work.

Nancy E. Wilson Chief Executive Officer

FROM LEFT: Fatima Abdallah Babiker, Relief International's Agriculture Field Monitor, teaches displaced women Hiba, Sahar, and Bakhita how to grow their own kitchen gardens at a demonstration plot in North Darfur, Sudan.

THE RI WAY

SETS OUT THE GUIDING **PRINCIPLES WE USE** TO DESIGN EVERY PROJECT.

LOCAL PARTICIPATION

At Relief International, beneficiaries are not recipients of aid. They are participants in their own solutions. We engage local communities at the program design stage, because programs designed, built and judged by the community they serve are more likely to succeed. And to last.

INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

2

3

4

Relief International designs projects to cover more than just one slice of life. Because lives are complicated. Education boosts health. Better health improves livelihoods. Stronger livelihoods let families invest in education. Integrated solutions serve people living in the real world.

PARTNERSHIPS

We partner with communities, governments and leading international organizations. These relationships let us harness complementary expertise and networks to ensure that each community gets the best solutions available.

CIVIC SKILLS

People are powerful when they are heard. By engaging communities in project design and execution. Relief International fosters skills such as transparency, accountability and open public debate-the cornerstones of effective civil society. And a strong civil society supports good governance, the critical force behind long-term development and stability.

About Relief International

Relief International specializes in humanitarian and development programs that benefit people in severe distress. As a registered nonprofit in the US, UK, Belgium, and now France, our work targets fragile settings that suffer from recurrent manmade or natural crises that impede human development.

In 60 years of doing this work, we've learned that there's only one constant in fragile settings: they don't follow a pattern. Today, we'll work to deliver life-saving aid to millions of people living on the edge of survival. Tomorrow, when the crisis subsides, we'll work alongside community members to restore job opportunities, build critical infrastructure, and develop education programs. And the day after that ... we'll be ready for the next chapter. In fragile settings, every day brings new opportunities and fresh challenges.

WHERE WE WORK

AFGHANISTAN	PHILIPPINES
BANGLADESH	SOMALIA
GHANA	SOUTH SUD
IRAN	SUDAN
IRAQ	SYRIA
JORDAN	TURKEY
LEBANON	UGANDA
MYANMAR	YEMEN
PAKISTAN	

Relief International has the agility and experience to meet the ever-changing needs of vulnerable populations. We partner with them to plan for the future, devise lasting solutions, and create pathways to stability.

Bottom line: Our team of nearly 7,200 staff and auxiliary workers will continue to go where the need is greatest. Ninety-seven percent are local nationals.

Our investments are focused on four program sectors: Economic Opportunity; Education; Health; and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene.



\$124.9M

SPENT TO SERVE VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

4.2M

VITAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO START PEOPLE ON THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY

We support solutions that reinforce and improve upon existing in-country systems. Where such systems do not exist or are chronically underperforming, our emergency response lays the foundation for long-term, sustainable change.

We spend 92% of every donation on our programs. We invested nearly \$125 million in 2018 in programs that are designed to be both responsive and flexible to serve the immediate and long-term needs of people in difficult circumstances. AZIDA, 15, AND HER MOTHER visit one of Relief International's Women & Girls Friendly Spaces for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh's Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar. Photo: RII Rachel Elkind

SYRIA

Heal a Child, Transform a Life

Five-year-old Miriam* and her family were picking up a breakfast of hummus, fava beans, and pita with za'atar when gunfire rang out near the bakery. Miriam was struck in the back by a stray bullet, which fractured her spine and temporarily paralyzed her from the waist down. She was immediately transported to the closest hospital, which is supported by Relief International, and rushed into emergency surgery. The family had fled to Syria's Idlib province to escape decades of conflict in their home country of Iraq. While they hoped to find safety and a better life, the violence in Syria offered no reprieve.

Today, Miriam is recovering from her surgeries and continues to visit the healthcare center operated by Relief International regularly for additional follow-up care. She receives weekly physical therapy sessions, which have helped her to regain the use of both of her legs, as well as counseling from professional psychologists to overcome this traumatic experience. We provide these services free of charge to Miriam—along with 67,000 patients like her each month.

For the nearly 7 million people who have been forced to flee their homes, either as refugees across borders or internally to more remote areas within Syria, these services offer a lifeline amid a war that threatens to shut down the country's healthcare system.

*Name has been changed for protection reasons.

THESE SERVICES OFFER A LIFELINE AMID A WAR THAT THREATENS TO SHUT DOWN THE COUNTRY'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.

Despite the immense challenges of working in this environment, Relief International has maintained a constant presence in Syria. Throughout the war, our services have included distributing emergency supplies to families affected by the conflict, creating child-friendly spaces, providing case management and protection at our health facilities, rehabilitating water and sanitation systems at hospitals, trucking water to besieged communities, and more. The range of our work exhibits our deep commitment to ensuring civilians affected by the conflict receive the resources and care they need to not only survive, but also heal their emotional wounds and thrive.

In 2018, millions of lives in Idlib continued to hang in a precarious balance—and will remain that way until a sustainable solution is reached. Relief International's teams on the ground continue to work tirelessly to ensure that highquality services remain available to all Syrians who need them. RELIEF INTERNATIONAL

provides weekly physical therapy sessions to Miriam, a five-year-old refugee from Iraq, which have helped her to regain the use of both of her legs. *Photo: RI Staff*



PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO FLEE THEIR HOMES IN SYRIA

67,000

PEOPLE RECEIVE HEALTHCARE SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE IN CENTERS THAT RELIEF INTERNATIONAL OPERATES



SOMALIA

Educate Girls, **End Poverty**



Like many young girls, Ifrah faced significant barriers to pursuing an education in the city of Garowe, in Puntland state in northeastern Somalia. Currently, just 40% of all girls in Somalia attend primary school.

After Ifrah's father passed away, her mother, Suways, struggled financially. Despite owning a small shop in their village, Suways could not afford to pay school fees for seven children and put food on the table.

During those times, Ifrah feared that her education-and future dreams-were vanishing. Now she is among thousands of students who receive assistance from Relief International's Educate Girls, End Poverty program. She passed the 2017-18 National Grade 8 Exams with high grades and is attending secondary school with the support of a school fee waiver.

Throughout Somalia, violence and extreme poverty have left deep scars, forcing many families to choose to keep their girls at home instead of in school. Additionally, many families hold deeply-rooted beliefs about gender roles in the household that determine whether or not girls attend school.

In response, Relief International has implemented the Educate Girls, End Poverty program since 2013 with support from U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) and in partnership with two other development NGOs. The aim is to overcome political, economic, and cultural norms by providing Somali girls with the opportunity to receive an education and break the cycle of chronic poverty. We build safe and inclusive learning environments at primary and secondary schools by training more qualified female teachers and working with boys to help them recognize the value of girls and women in their society. Today, Ifrah's dreams are reignited—she hopes to become a doctor and help her community. In the meantime, Ifrah advocates for educational

"EDUCATION IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR US. WE ARE THE CHANGEMAKERS FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COME." - IFRAH, A YOUNG GIRL IN NORTHEASTERN SOMALIA



RELIEF INTERNATIONAL AND PARTNERS HAVE REACHED NEARLY

66,000

GIRLS THROUGH THE EDUCATE GIRLS, END POVERTY PROGRAM

opportunities for girls by sharing her experience whenever she can, including appearing on a local radio show alongside other students who have stayed in school through support from Relief International.

INSET (ABOVE): Ifrah in her secondary school classroom in Garowe, Puntland state, northeastern Somalia. Photo: RI staff

OPPOSITE PAGE: Students enrolled in Relief International's Educate Girls, End Poverty program attend a back-to-school event. Photo: RI staff

YEMEN

Support Safe Access to Cash, Offer **Families a Lifeline**

To understand what the world's worst hunger crisis looks like, one must understand what is happening in Yemen.

Millions of people in Yemen are grappling with the effects of life-threatening famine amidst the country's unrelenting civil war. Out of Yemen's population of 27 million, 22.7 million are dependent on humanitarian aid. Of those, 400,000 children under the age of five are suffering from acute malnutrition.

And there is no relief in sight. Conflict and the remoteness of certain areas exacerbate the suffering, and humanitarian agencies are struggling to reach the populations most in need.

22.7M PEOPLE IN YEMEN ARE DEPENDENT ON HUMANITARIAN AID

As conditions on the ground deteriorate, Relief International's presence in Yemen is adapting to shifting needs of the most vulnerable populations.

"While ensuring that people have enough to eat remains the immediate goal, the traditional aid model of distributing food is evolving. We are moving toward a longer-term approach to empowering families, fostering dignity, and supporting community prosperity," says Relief International Yemen Country Director Mutasim Hamdan.

Currently, one of Relief International's largest programs in Yemen involves distributing cash or cash vouchers to families who are feeling the brunt of the food shortage—particularly those in urban areas where the markets tend to be more functional.

We work closely with private banks and other financial institutions to deliver cash directly to those who need it most. To ensure support benefits the most vulnerable families, we employ a number of safeguards, including biometric identification technology or vouchers.

The infusion of cash or cash vouchers empowers families to contribute to and sustain local markets—especially the small businesses in Yemen that are in dire need of support to keep operating.

"With cash or vouchers in hand, these families are able to access the aid they so critically need, with the dignity and the opportunity to purchase what they would like," says Hamdan.

A CHILD SITS NEAR A HUT in an improvised camp for internally displaced people in Hajja, Yemen. Photo: Reuters/ Khaled Abdullah



AFGHANISTAN



Azin* and her family are among the nearly two million Afghans struggling to meet their basic needs as a catastrophic drought grips the country.

With the well not working, water has become unsafe to drink, and her two young children have become prone to illness.

Remarkably, more people in Afghanistan were displaced by drought in 2018 than by the country's ongoing conflict. Southwestern Nimroz Province, where Azin's family lives, received 70 percent less rainfall than the previous year. The rivers are dry and water points are exhausted.

The drought has also all but decimated the country's farming and livestock industries, severely affecting families' livelihoods and forcing them to flee their homes at alarming rates. Despite these hardships, an

overwhelming number of Afghans say they would choose to stay if they had access to water.

In response to this crisis, Relief International, which has been working in Afghanistan for more than a decade to implement governance, shelter, food

security, and livelihoods programs, has scaled up our infrastructure work and emergency relief to meet community needs.

Funding from UNICEF has made it possible to build new wells and rehabilitate those that have run dry across Chakhansoor, Kang, and Charburjak districts. Our staff members work seven days a week to deliver safe drinking water to nearly 22,000 people residing in the hardest-to-reach areas. Relief International teams are also working with local communities to teach them how to properly manage and store their water.



Restore Access to Community's Future

By helping restore drinking water and reduce the incidence of water-related diseases, our response offers families the option to stay in their homes and remain in their communities-rather than embarking on dangerous migrations into Iran or to one of Afghanistan's already overcrowded and overburdened cities.

LOCAL. WOMEN-OWNED **SOLUTIONS TO AFGHANISTAN'S DROUGHT CRISIS**

Local participation, particularly by women, may be the key to revitalizing drought-prone areas of Afghanistan. Adelah Muhamandi works as a community mobilizer for Relief International's water trucking project and delivers life-saving water to her friends. neighbors, and other members of her community. As the country's drought and conflict grind on, Adelah notes, "Afghan women like me must come forward and help in the development of the country."

Relief International has been working to boost alternative livelihoods-that do not depend on water-for Adelah and other women who have not migrated,

including building on our longstanding activities in Afghanistan to bolster entrepreneurial activities like rug making, tailoring, and handicrafts.

BANGLADESH

Meet Refugees' Needs, **Build Resilience** for Tomorrow

Driven from their homes by violence, more than 750,000 Rohingva refugees have crossed the Myanmar border into neighboring Bangladesh since 2017.

Makeshift shelters, constructed from bamboo and tarpaulin, cover every inch of the Kutupalong camp's steep, sandy hillsides. The need to construct housing for hundreds of thousands of refugees in a matter of weeks stripped the camp of all vegetation. Natural disasters are a persistent looming threat. Refugees and host communities are clustered around Bangladesh's coastline, rendering them extremely vulnerable to cyclones, monsoons, and mudslides. To mitigate the risk, Relief International trains local first responders in emergency preparedness, helping these communities prepare for monsoon season each March.



The latest arrivals join hundreds of thousands more Rohingya in Cox's Bazar who fled previous violent eruptions in the 1990s. Combined with the existing refugee population, nearly one million Rohingya refugees live in Bangladesh today.

Bangladesh hosts the world's largest refugee camp, the Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar. Spanning more than 3,000 acres, the sprawling camp is home to multiple generations of Rohingya.

While the refugee population has exploded in recent years, Relief International has been working in Bangladesh since 2004 on projects ranging from anti-human trafficking to ecotourism development. With the latest Rohingya crisis, we dramatically scaled up efforts to provide critical services for those in the Kutupalong camp, including education, healthcare, and mental health support.

Our photos offer insight into these refugees' daily lives and the essential services Relief International connects them to in the camp.

Diseases inside the camp often present in early stages or with a wide range of symptoms, making it difficult to pinpoint an exact diagnosis. To complicate matters, patients often contract rare diseases as a result of overcrowding, poor sanitation, violence, or other hardships of living in a refugee camp. Relief International staff treat patients suffering from respiratory tract infections, sudden onset fevers, and gastrointestinal issues. We've also extended our clinics' hours to 24/7 to ensure refugees can access health services during an emergency.





SCENES FROM BANGLADESH'S Kutupalong refugee camp, home to nearly one million Rohingya refugees. Photos: RI/ Rachel Elkind

Poor water and sanitation systems inside the camp pose one of the greatest threats to Rohingya refugees. In the rush to erect this functioning micro-city, some built latrines above wells and ponds used for washing and bathing, allowing waste to trickle down into the camp's water supply. Relief International's rehabilitation of key water points, in conjunction with other efforts throughout the camp, has helped to prevent and contain disease outbreaks



More than half of all newly arrived Rohingva refugees are children who, without access to education, risk becoming a "lost generation." Relief International operates 17 Child Friendly Spaces, which provide one of the only structured programs for children inside the camp. Here, Rohingya children have opportunities to learn and play, and to forget the realities of the camp-if only for an afternoon.



During humanitarian emergencies, women and girls are among the most vulnerable. Relief International provides safe spaces for women and girls inside the camp where they can gather, learn new skills, and receive psychosocial support if they are among the thousands of women who have tragically experienced gender-based violence.



Find the Toolkit at www.ri.org/risk-toolkit





Reprint Control Contro



Managing Risk in Fragile Settings

A NEW RELIEF INTERNATIONAL TOOLKIT FOR PRACTITIONERS

Relief International works where communities are most vulnerable. In fragile settings, we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with affected families to support their response to crises, build their resilience, and advance their dignity and long-term well-being. This is not just a piece of our work—it is the very core of our work.

As a specialist organization working in fragile settings, we understand that the ability to manage programming remotely, work under threat of aid diversion, and ensure movement of funds without traditional banking is part of doing business as usual.

That is why we have developed and launched a new resource, **Risk Management in Fragile Settings: A Toolkit for Field Practitioners**, to allow us to continue to deliver high-quality programs when full access to affected communities is not possible. Even while working to build a consistent operating framework for our own use, Relief International has understood that we are not alone. All our peer organizations and partners are dealing with unprecedented challenges—ranging from disruptions in supply of basic goods and services, environmental stresses such as flooding or droughts, security or safety concerns, communications, or political impediments.

In response to these challenges, this Relief International Toolkit offers real-time guidance in assessing the potential risks of working in fragile settings and mounting a response that is timely, effective, and proportionate. We hope it serves as a valuable resource for other fragile settings actors—enabling us as a community of practice to better anticipate and respond to the threats that invariably will surface.

The Toolkit is now available on our website at **www.ri.org/risk-toolkit**.

2018 FINANCIALS

United Kingdom	
SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2018
Grants and contributions	\$71,392,745
Contributed goods and services Other revenue	\$18,419,368
Total support and revenue	\$89,812,113
Total support and revenue	\$03,012,113
EXPENSES	2018
Programs and services	\$83,514,262
General and administrative	\$5,688,097
Fundraising	-
Total Expenses	\$89,202,359
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$609,754
Net assets beginning of the year	\$1,401,597
Net assets end of the year	\$2,011,351
United States	
SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2018
Grants and contributions	\$46,740,592
Contributed goods and services	\$155,951

EXPENSES	2018
Programs and services	\$40,504,463
General and administrative	\$7,195,428
Fundraising	-
Total Expenses	\$47,699,891
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$1,041,153
Net assets beginning of the year	\$2,199,179

Other revenue

Total support and revenue

Combined U.K and U.S.	2018	INCRE
Total combined revenue	\$138,553,157	2
Total combined expenditure	\$136,902,250	2
Total expenditure on programs and services	\$124,018,725	2



2017

\$58,772,227 \$12,843,980

\$71,616,207

2017

\$66,922,496 \$4,297,672

\$71,220,168

\$396,039 \$1,005,558 **\$1,401,597**

2017

\$41,197,448 \$345,202 \$1,589,964

\$43,132,614

2017

\$36,300,758 \$6,795,937

\$43,096,695

2017

\$35,919 \$2,163,260 **\$2,199,179**

ASE

\$1,844,501

\$48,741,044

21%\$114,748,82120%\$114,316,86320%\$103,223,254

2018 FUNDING SOURCES

\$138,553,157

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE





94%

GOVERNMENTS



2% INDIVIDUALS, FOUNDATIONS, AND CORPORATIONS

Thank you

Relief International gratefully acknowledges the following individual and corporate supporters who have enriched our work through their investment and participation in the past year.

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A distinguished group of individual and corporate donors providing essential support to Relief International.

Bader Philanthropies F. Francis Najafi Google.org and Google employees Irene and Alan Wurtzel Latter-day Saint Charities Nadia's Initiative

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The World Bank 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. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

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 Food Programme

World Health Organization (WHO)

A ROHINGYA CHILD poses for a photo at one of Relief International's Child Friendly Spaces in Bangladesh's Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar. Photo: RI/ Rachel Elkind

I support Relief International because it is a critical lifeline for countless people who are trying to make a life for themselves and their families in incredibly precarious

circumstances. I have been extremely fortunate to have always had clean water to drink, have food to eat and have never been persecuted for who I am. But I am the son of refugees who were not as fortunate to have the life they have given me and, as a result, I know how important and urgent Relief International's work is for people who have been displaced by war, drought, or famine. That is why I donate to this organization, which makes it possible for people to not only survive, but to thrive under the most adverse conditions."



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BELOW Relief International staff walk through Bangladesh's crowded Kutupalong refugee camp. *Photo: RI/ Rachel Elkind*.

DESIGN: SPRINGTIDE STUDIO

