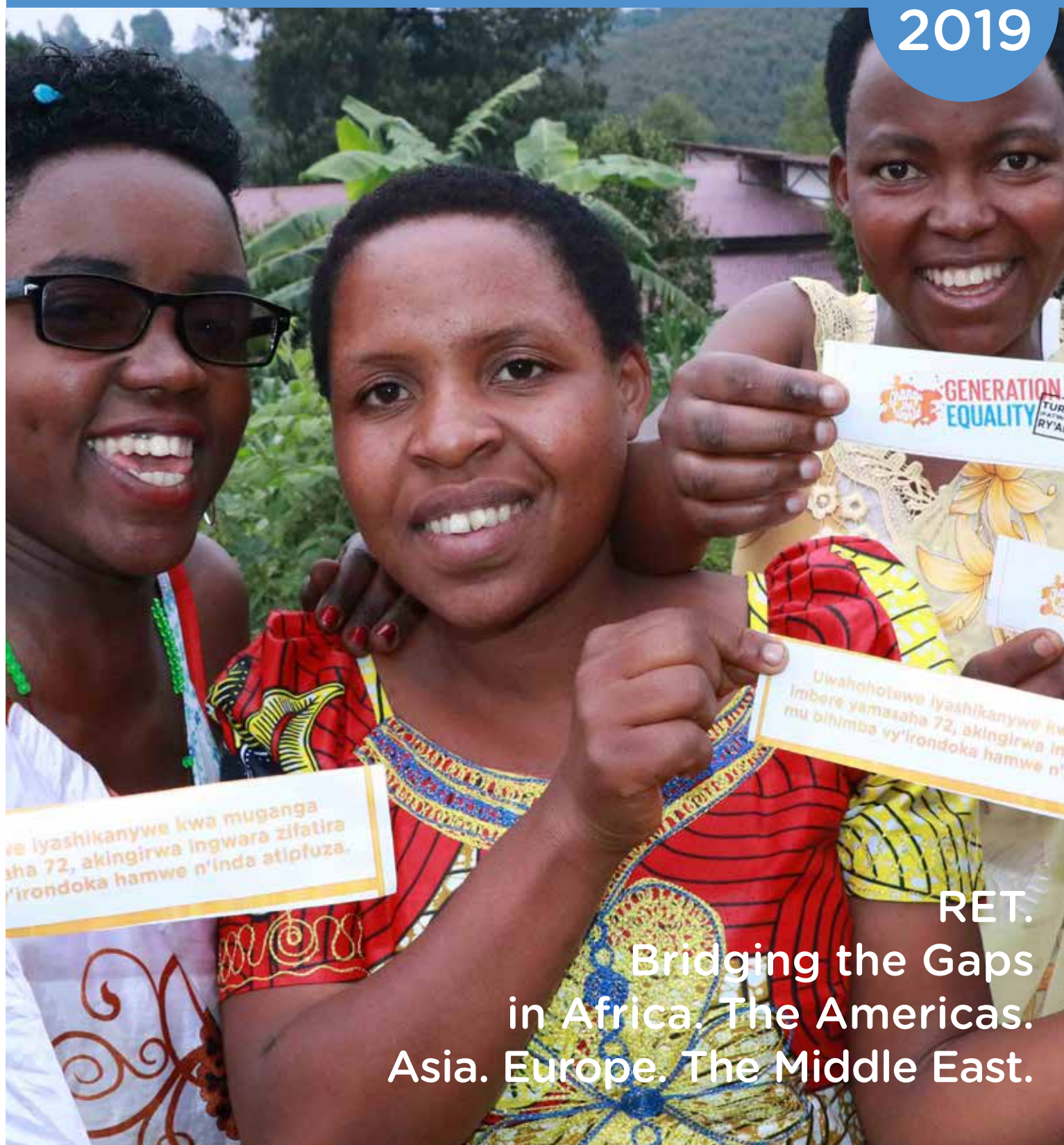
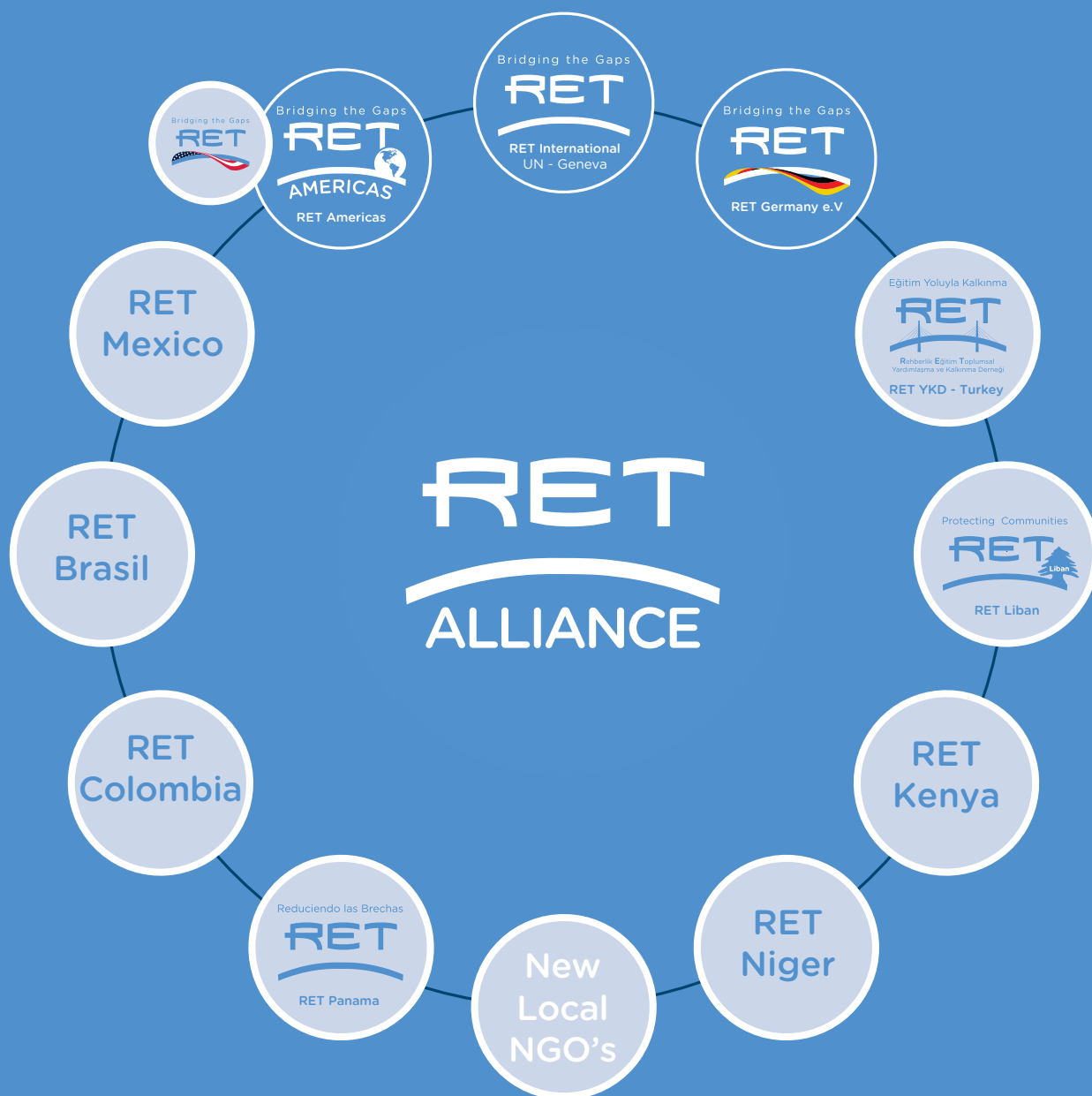


ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2019



RET.
Bridging the Gaps
in Africa. The Americas.
Asia. Europe. The Middle East.



Annual Report & Financial Statements 2019
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Message from the CEO

Zeynep Gülgün Gündüz

In December 2019, RET brand and organization marked its twentieth anniversary since its creation by the **late Sadako Ogata**, as she was completing her second term as High Commissioner of UNHCR, the Refugee Agency. While during the late 1990s and the turn of the century, the entire humanitarian and development sectors were focused on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the needs of young children, there were significant gaps in education provision to refugee adolescents and youth. In 2003, the RET started to focus on the critical needs of protecting these vulnerable youth, especially young women, through the medium of providing formal and non-formal education, thus, “protecting through education” and “bridging the gaps” that existed.

As the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda were announced in the two decades that have ensued, culminating at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016, the distinct divide between Humanitarian and Development Aid has become blurred.

The global actors have come to recognize that it is critical to ensure that projects and programs to benefit those in need are done so seamlessly within the context of the Triple

Nexus – addressing Humanitarian Relief, Development Cooperation and Stabilization & Peacebuilding efforts, such that all assistance and aid is to be provided without any gaps.

As the global community of actors have come a long way in these twenty years, so has RET, growing each year, and engaging in more countries. Our core values of Innovation & Adaptability, Commitment & Transparency, Diversity & Equity have enabled us to navigate these turbulent waters, smoothly sailing towards our objectives. Since its inception, RET has made sure to provide tailor-made contextual solutions, converging its actions to responding to new and protracted crises by preventing, preparing for, and responding to crises and conflicts. RET's actions, complemented with sustainable longer-term development interventions, are designed as per our mission statement to alleviate suffering and catalyze sustainable development in crises, conflicts, and fragile contexts.

Our vision is that of a world in which vulnerable young people overcome multi-dimensional adversities and are enabled to lead their own journey towards rebuilding more resilient and peaceful communities.

In the twenty years since RET's inception, RET has directly impacted the lives of over 2 million beneficiaries or program participants, as we prefer to call them, with the majority of them being girls and young women. We have been working in 32 countries, impacting the lives of over 20 million people through launching and implementing projects in over 1600 schools and centers within more than 360 projects, training and developing over 30,000 educators.

RET focuses primarily on the two pillars of youth and women, as they represent among the most vulnerable populations during crises and the greatest vectors of positive social change.

RET believes in always working with:

a) a participatory approach, where the program participants/beneficiaries are involved early on in the design, process of planning, implementing, and decision-making;

b) a community-based approach, always engaging with the community leaders, elders, local authorities, provincial and ministerial government authorities to ensure that the most voices are heard and that they have an active role in providing solutions.

c) an evidence-based approach, maintaining a detailed digital database that fortifies our transparent commitment; to further our accountability towards donors and

beneficiaries and ensure relevant and high-quality outcomes, greater efficiencies and effectiveness, RET has put in place a global Monitoring & Evaluation System.

d) a local approach: RET hires 100% local staff in each country of operations and builds their capacities through training and development to ensure their self-reliance and sustainability; during FY 2019, we have employed 600-1300 local staff; in the spirit of the Grand Bargain, RET works with local NGOs, in cases of specialized needs and the provision of technical expertise.

e) a multi-sectoral approach, synergistically building the complementary nature of actions and the interdependence between them, bridging the gaps, and ensuring greater and durable impact.

e) RET coordinates with relevant stakeholders, affected populations, and agencies working in the same or correlative fields to prevent redundancies, identify gaps and remote locations for program support, and ensure complementarity and joint efforts to contribute to country-specific collective outcomes.

In addressing many of the 17 SDGs, RET's core competencies are in:

- **Education & Capacity-building**
- **Protection & Basic Health**
- **Peace, Stabilization & Transition**
- **Economic Growth & Development**

RET.
Bridging
the Gaps
in Africa.
The Americas.
Asia. Europe.
The Middle East.

Trend Chart FY 2002-2019

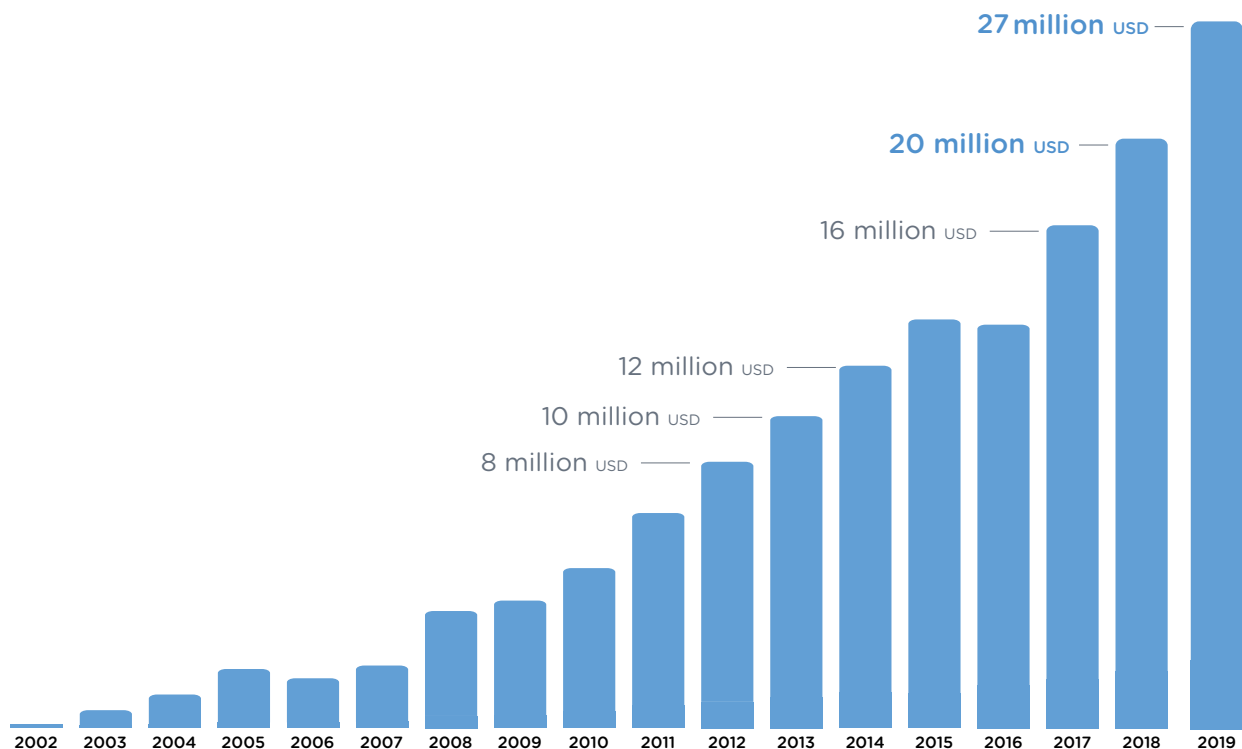
In the last twenty years of the RET brand and organization, we have grown from USD 1 million in annual income during 2003 to the highest level in the history of RET, of approximately USD 27 million total income in FY 2019, consolidating the incomes of the three RETs within the RET Alliance. Since FY 2009, in these ten years, RET has grown sixfold in the volume of total income; since FY 2014, RET has more than doubled in these five years; RET has experienced 71.2% growth in the last two years, and 38.4% growth since last year alone.

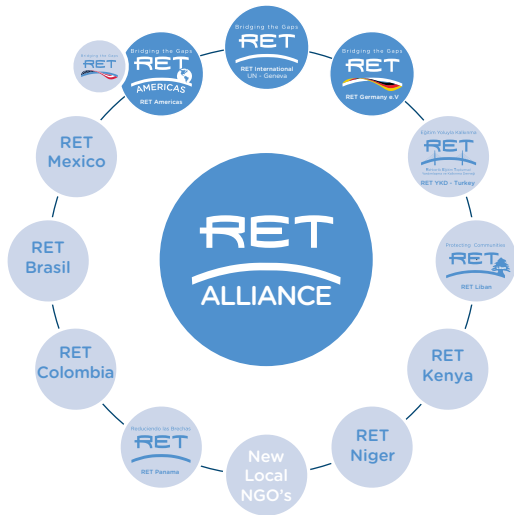
a) The **Operating Surplus** for the RET Alliance is **USD 209,693**, from which we had currency exchange losses, bank fees and interest deductions of USD 115,722 and extraordinary expenses USD 60,780 (*a refund to the USG related to NICRA indirect funds for projects related to FY 2016*).

b) The **Net Result** of the Year for the RET Alliance is **USD 33,191**.

c) The **HQ G&A Expenses** in total for the RET Alliance is **USD 2,902,263**.

Total income for FY 2019 is nearly USD 27 million.





The RET ALLIANCE

This is the first year, where we have “spun off” various RETs, into financial and legal independence, with a separate Board of Directors in each.

RET International, a Swiss foundation headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, continues to work globally, primarily as a partner to the UN agencies, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, WFP, WHO/PAHO, amongst others. RET International also continues to be funded by various governments, such as Liechtenstein, the Swiss SDC, the Canton de Genève, U.S. State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance/ Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs, U.S. CARS, and Education Cannot Wait (ECW). **The total income of RET International in FY 2019 was USD 18 million.**

During FY 2019, RET International continued operations in Turkey, Lebanon, Kenya, Chad, Burundi, DR Congo, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Belize.

RET Americas, Inc., a 501 ©3, headquartered in Washington DC, created as a non-profit organization in the US, working in eight countries in Latin America, with funding from the U.S. State Department, USAID, and Canadian GAC IHA.

RET Americas was mainly active in Peru and Costa Rica during FY 2019. **Total income for RET Americas was USD 2.8 million during this period.**

RET Germany e.V., a financially and legally independent non-profit German organization, headquartered in Berlin, and working mostly in the Silk Route, namely Afghanistan, Lebanon, and in Africa (Chad, DRC, Burundi), focused on programs and projects dealing in Crisis Prevention, Community Stabilization and Peacebuilding efforts. **The total income of RET Germany e.V. in FY 2019 was USD 6 million,** primarily from the Government of Germany, Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division, the EU, and other European governments such as Luxembourg, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Bridging the Gaps



In its various countries of operation, in the spirit of localization, RET International has “spun off” eight additional local non-profit NGOs, RET YKD (Leap Partners) in Turkey, RET Liban, RET Kenya, which have been active.

As in all prior years, the income and operational expenses of these local RETs are captured within the accounting system of RET International. Thus far, RET Panama, RET Colombia, RET Mexico, RET Brasil, and RET Niger have also been spun off, and are registered in their respective host countries, each with their independent Board of Directors, had yet to become active in FY 2019.

The RET Alliance has 50 offices worldwide, with two Administrative Centers, one in Panama City and one in Ankara, 18 national offices, and 30 field offices.

RET has numerous and growing number of institutional engagements at the global level and is or has been an active member of Steering Committees and Working Groups of INEE, RECI, Education Cannot Wait, the Global Refugee Forum, and a member of a dozen networks, alliances, such as The Youth Compact in Humanitarian Action, GADRRRES (DRR in the Education Sector), The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Global Education Cluster, regional clusters and various additional Global Task Forces, such as the G-7.

I thank each and every one of our RET team members around the world for their passionate and loyal commitment to the RET mission, our shared vision and values, and their dedication and enthusiasm around the clock to deliver impactful programs to the vulnerable populations in need for whom we are here to provide assistance, protection, education, empowerment, capacity, and resilience-building, such that they and their families, their communities, their home countries, their economies will one day soon be living and prospering again in peace and harmony.

We are grateful to each one of our donors and our partners for their continued support of the RET, and look forward to providing year after year, as in FY 2019, and during the twenty years prior, open, transparent communications and reporting for their institutions and their stakeholders.

With heartfelt regards,

Zeynep Gülgün Gündüz
President & CEO

RET. Bridging the Gaps in Africa. The Americas. Asia. Europe. The Middle East.

Bridging the Gaps



Since RET's founding in **2000**, we have worked in more than **32 countries**, implementing more than **360 projects** to help our program participants overcome multi-dimensional adversities. We have helped **vulnerable adolescents and youth in refugee camps**; we have assisted host communities from **Asia, Africa, and the Americas** made vulnerable by displacement, violence, armed conflict, and disasters. We have provided a broad diversity of programs aimed at protecting and building the resilience of youth and women affected by crises.

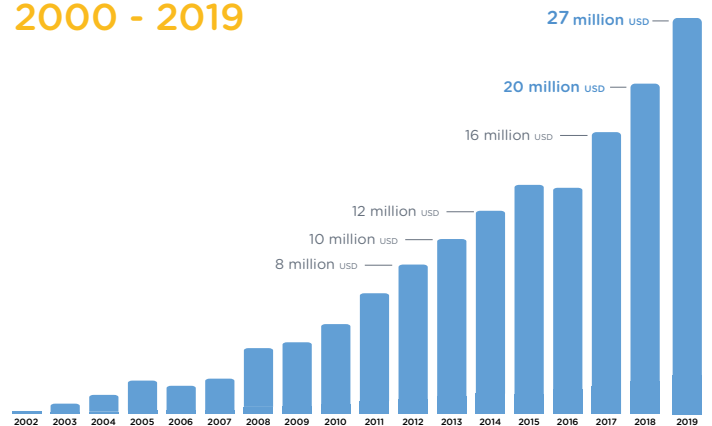
Providing multi-dimensional solutions and building the capacity of, particularly, youth and women has always been our core commitment. Today, we are taking on a catalytic role in sustainable development to make our commitment a substantial reality and our impacts more durable.

RET focuses primarily on the two pillars of youth and women, as they represent among the most vulnerable populations during crises, as well as the most significant vectors of positive social change. RET relies on two decades of experience bridging humanitarian and developmental approaches, providing actions relying on the triple nexus of "humanitarian aid, stabilization/peace-building, and sustainable development."

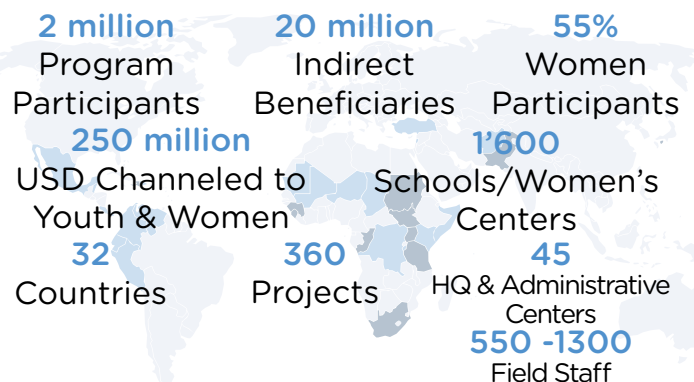
Mission:

We alleviate suffering and catalyze sustainable development in crises, conflicts, and fragile contexts.

Growth Chart 2000 - 2019



More than...



We believe we are amongst the leading NGOs to provide tailor-made solutions and relevant programs to bridge the gaps and respond to the real needs and challenges of the communities. We aim to provoke significant positive change, enabling particularly vulnerable youth and young women to take control of their lives and fulfill their social and economic rights.

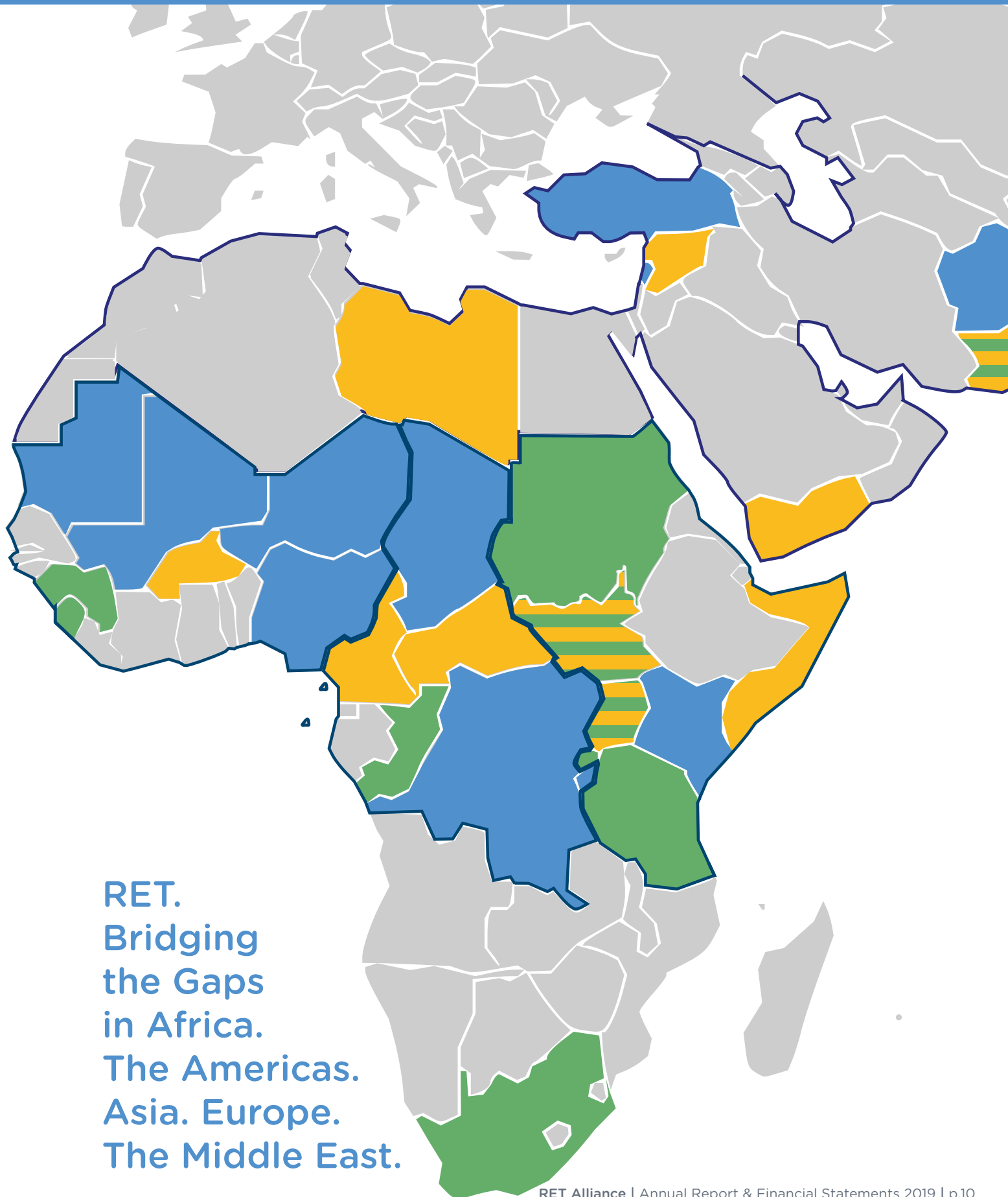


Bridging the Gaps

RET



EUROPE - THE MIDDLE EAST - AFRICA - ASIA EMEA Region



RET.
Bridging
the Gaps
in Africa.
The Americas.
Asia. Europe.
The Middle East.



 Countries of Concern

 Countries of Operations

 Past Countries of Operations

2020: RET is currently conducting operations in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Turkey, Burundi, Chad, DR Congo, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania and operations will start soon in Niger.

Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in 2011, it is estimated that up to 6 million people were displaced internally, and 6.7 million persons have crossed the border into neighboring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey.

RET entered the Middle East region, specifically Lebanon, in 2013, and Turkey in Europe in 2014, to assist Syrian refugees and vulnerable communities.

Given the extended crisis in Syria, the current situation in Yemen, and the tensions in the region, countries such as Syria, Yemen, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Algeria, Egypt, and Libya are closely monitored so that RET is ready for prompt intervention.

RET has been active in Central & South Asia since 2001, working with Afghan communities in Pakistan, NW Frontier Province, Baluchistan, FATA, and throughout many provinces in Afghanistan, including Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Bamyán, Panshir, Badakhshan, Kunduz, Balkh, among others.

With the Rohingya crisis, RET has been supporting the work of local NGOs in Bangladesh.

Given the tension in the region and the protracted crises in Afghanistan and Bangladesh, countries such as Iran, Pakistan, Yemen, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan are of concern to RET. They are closely monitored to ensure prompt action if intervention is required.

Since 2002, RET conducted operations in East Africa (the region spanning the Horn of Africa, to Tanzania and up to Sudan) as well as in Central Africa (the region spanning Chad to the Democratic Republic of Congo,) RET implemented projects in the Republic of Congo, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, and is currently implementing projects in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, as well as Kenya.

West Africa is the region from Niger and Nigeria to the Atlantic coast. From 2004 to 2007, RET implemented programs in Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Over the last few years, RET has been closely monitoring the G5 Sahel Region, and the developments in Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria. **In 2019, RET launched operations in Mauritania and Mali in 2020. RET is registered and ready to launch operations in Niger in 2021.**

The Sahel Crisis is of great concern to RET, leading to countries such as Nigeria, Burkina Faso and the Cameroon to be on the list of potential new interventions.

AFGHANISTAN

OVERVIEW

Since 2001, RET has directly supported more than **107,500 direct Afghan participants** (62,000 in Afghanistan and 45,500 in Pakistan), and indirectly benefited more than **1 million beneficiaries** (62% vulnerable women) throughout **40 projects** (25 in Afghanistan & 15 in Pakistan) focused on **Protection, Education, Peace Stability and Transition, Economic Growth & Development, Basic Infrastructure & Equipment, and Health & Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**.

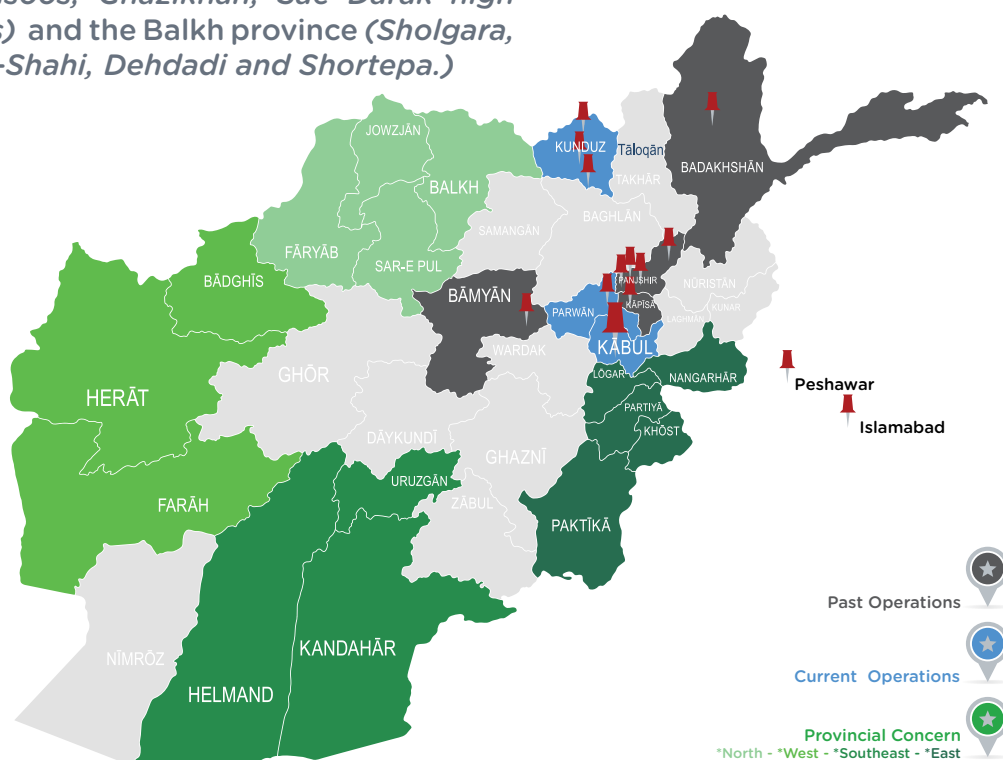
RET also supported the communities in Afghanistan & Pakistan with the inauguration of **406 facilities** (35 in Afghanistan & 371 in Pakistan), including **35 community learning centers for women**.

Since 2001, RET has conducted operations in deep rural & urban areas in Pakistan and Afghanistan, namely in Peshawar, Islamabad, and in Bamyan, Parwan, Badakhshan, Panjshir, Balkh and, Kapisa provinces.

The recent operations in Afghanistan were focused on Kabul province (*Dasht-e-Barchi, Karta-e-Now, Khairkhana, and Barik Abe refugee camp*), Parwan province (*Charikar and Barik Abe refugee camp*), and Kunduz province (*Imam Saib district, and Basoos, Ghazikhan, Sae Darak high schools*) and the Balkh province (*Sholgara, Nahr-e-Shahi, Dehdadi and Shortepa.*)

Main Donors & Partners :

RET has raised and channeled over **15 million USD** towards empowering the vulnerable communities in Afghanistan, especially girls and young women, with the generous support of *the Government of Germany, the Government of Norway, the Government of Canada, the Government of Liechtenstein, the Japanese Embassy in Afghanistan, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and multiple private sector donors.*



RET'S INTERVENTIONS

Pakistan

In 2001, RET started working with Afghan communities in Pakistan and supported more than 45,500 Afghan refugees of which at least 12,478 were female, including training of 1,556 educators throughout 15 projects.

Between 2001 and 2007, RET's interventions in Pakistan were focused on protection and inclusive & quality education (formal & non-formal) to advance Afghan refugees' and other persons of concern rights to education.

RET supported the strengthening of the education systems at the local level and the professional development of teachers & other education personnel, in tandem with equipping of educational facilities and provision of educational materials. RET provided primary & post-primary education, secondary & tertiary education, accelerated learning programs (ALP), in addition to literacy, numeracy, life skills, and livelihood skills for vulnerable young women in urban, non urban and camp settings, such as in the Hajiabad Refugee Camp.

RET provided psychosocial counseling training of trainers for teachers to protect and meet the specific needs of displaced youth in conflicts and provided kindergarten daycare for children accompanying young women in their secondary accelerated programs. **RET addressed early marriage and the gender imbalance in Afghan refugee schools and provided inclusive solutions by integrating blind and mobility-impaired female students into the educational system to counter social isolation.**

Through its cross-border activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan, RET supported 551 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) Afghan (of which 523 female), including the training of 230 educators. The programs centered on supporting the schooling and integration of repatriated Afghan refugee youth and their teachers and providing remedial school programs.

Afghanistan

Since the war against the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, USSR in the late 1970s, Afghanistan has gone through recurrent conflicts and instability that caused massive displacement inside the country and neighboring countries. Many people have since returned, despite the country still being in a fragile situation.

“Women were left the most vulnerable, with little or no access to education.”

Young women were significantly affected by decades of violence and instability. Many of the women had fled as children and received little or no schooling. On their return to Afghanistan, they were considered too old to be integrated into the formal education system.

These educational deficits have severe consequences given women's traditional role in Afghan society. Without education, women can hardly plan their future independently, and their reliance on male family members increases. At the same time, after years of exile, returnees bring new visions of the future, socio-political views, values, and understandings of Afghan identity to the country, leading to tensions and conflicts with the host society. Their sudden return intensified competition for land, access to resources, and job opportunities against the backdrop of Afghanistan's high unemployment rate.

In 2008, RET entered Afghanistan, as Afghans started to return home after years of displacement. Throughout this period, RET has directly supported 62,000 Afghans, including 3,877 educators, through 25 projects. The early interventions in Afghanistan focused on the education of young women and girls. RET implemented accelerated learning programs, life skills training, income generation training, medical services, small-business training, and multiple programs to stabilize the communities through economic and social empowerment of women and their families.

AFGHANISTAN

RET's programs in Afghanistan have led to the inauguration of a total of 35 Community Learning Centers for women:

2005, Peshawar

Two Education Centers
(ALP and Secondary Education)

2007, Kabul

Two Education Centers
(Vocational Training, Formal ALP)

2008 - 2010, Kabul

One Community Learning Center
(Formal ALP, Life Skills, Teacher Training)

2008, Bamyan,

One Community Learning Center (Formal ALP, Distance Learning, Teacher Training)

2009 - 2015, Parwan,

Two Community Learning Centers
(ALP, Rights-based courses, Business Administrative Training, Teacher Training, Teacher Training Institute support, Computing, and English Classes)

2012, Badakshan,

One Community Learning Center
(Literacy, Numeracy, Life Skills, Livelihoods, Teacher Training)

2013, Panjshir,

Four Community Learning Centers
(Literacy, Numeracy, Life Skills, Livelihoods, Teacher Training, Computer and Science Lab, Library, TTI support)

2014, Kapisa,

Four Community Learning Centers

(Literacy, Numeracy, Life Skills, Livelihoods, Teacher Training, Computer and Science Lab, Library, Tertiary Education, TTI support, Business Administrative Training)

2016-2019, Kunduz,

Four Community Learning Centers
(Literacy, Numeracy, Life Skills, Health Service, Kindergarten, Teacher Training, Livelihoods, Computer and Science Lab, TTI and TVET support, Business Administrative Training, Technical Training, Small Business, Financial Literacy, Micro-credit, Entrepreneurial Set of Skills-Focused Trainings)

2017-2019, Bagram I-III,

Nine Community Learning Centers
(Literacy, Numeracy, Life Skills, Teacher Training, Accelerated Catch-up Program, Livelihoods, Kindergarten, Kankoor Preparation Course, Career Counseling and Advice Desk, Psychosocial Support and Basic Health Services, Community Activities, Computer Centre, Business Administrative Training, Small Business, Financial Literacy, Micro-credit, Entrepreneurial Set of Skills-Focused Training)

2017-2019, Kabul I-III,

Five Community Learning Centers
(Literacy, Numeracy, Life Skills, Teacher Training, Accelerated Catch-up Program, Livelihoods, Kindergarten, Kankoor Preparation Course, Career Counseling and Advice Desk, Psychosocial Support and Basic Health Services, Community Activities, Computer Centre, Business Administrative Training, Small Business, Financial Literacy, Micro-credit, Entrepreneurial Set of Skills-Focused Trainings)



DID YOU KNOW?

RET has been working in close coordination with the local communities, community leaders, and the local and provincial government authorities (*the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation at the national level and the Ministry of Education*), and collaborating with key stakeholders (*Islamic Relief Worldwide*), and with Civil Society Organizations CSO's (*Organization for Research and Development (ORCD), Afghanistan General Help Coordination Office (AGHCO)*). RET has been engaged in Education in Emergency Working Group on behalf of the Education Cluster in Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

The projects aimed to prevent the economic migration through the provision of short-term self-reliance programs (*Small Business Training, Financial Literacy & Micro-credit Access Training, and Entrepreneurial Set of Skills*). The programs facilitated the social reintegration of young returnees and reduced the socio-cultural inequalities amongst crisis-affected adolescents and youth through support with the *Kankoor (Afghan University Entrance Exam), Early Childhood Day-care Program, Accredited Literacy, Numeracy and Life Skills Courses, Accelerated Learning Programs (ALP), Short-term Business Administration Courses, Job Counseling Support, Psychosocial Support and Basic Health Services*. **RET aimed to support the community stabilization to prevent future crises using a community and conflict-sensitive approach through *Focused Group Discussions, Awareness Raising Sessions, Community Social Events and Sports Activities*.**

2018

Stabilizing Communities in Areas of High Migrant Return (Three projects):
Bagram Phase II
Kabul Phase II
Kunduz Province Phase III

The projects aimed to prevent economic migration by providing short-term solutions to empower youth and adult returnees while facilitating the social reintegration of young returnees and reduce sociocultural inequalities between young people and young adults affected by the crisis. The projects also promoted community stability and prevented future crises by applying a conflict and community-sensitive approach. The projects tackled economic migration's root causes by providing short-term self-employment programs primarily targeted at young and adult returnees. Also, to strengthen Afghans' social resilience affected by the crisis, RET provided training in entrepreneurial skills, providing knowledge on how to get a job, and facilitating access to micro-finance as a means to improve self-employment and create socio-economic reintegration were offered.

The social reintegration of young returnees and sociocultural inequalities is reduced by providing access to education and strengthening the Afghan Ministry of Education to deliver essential services in remote areas, such as small-scale infrastructure renovation and equipment provision. Access to education helps

to facilitate access to employment opportunities for returnees and internally displaced persons, promote social inclusion and youth empowerment, and stabilize the community. Social cohesion is indispensable for peaceful social development, the activities aimed at promoting dialogue, promoting tolerance, and accepting the "Other" helped planting the seeds for peace.

The three projects, implemented between January 2018 and December 2018, were funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division and implemented by RET in Afghanistan.

2019

Stabilizing Communities in Areas of High Migrant Return (Three projects):
Bagram Phase III
Kabul Phase III
Kunduz Province Phase IV

The projects provided interventions across the Humanitarian - Development - Peace nexus focusing on:

1. Humanitarian Aid: lifesaving basic needs-life skills for survival, primary healthcare, mental health and psychosocial skill (MH/PSS) counseling. RET responded to protection needs and risks in fragile settings through life skills training, primary healthcare, and psychosocial counseling.

2. Peace-building: Community stabilization, conflict and crisis prevention, socio-economic empowerment, social cohesion. RET worked to restoring the social fabric of Afghan communities composed of IDP's, returnees, and host community members through Focused Group Discussion, Community Social Events & Sports Activities.

3. Sustainable Development interventions: Increasing the self-reliance of community members to enhance reintegration through Educational Programs (different levels), Small Business Training, Entrepreneurial Skills, Financial Literacy, and Micro-Credit Training & Job Counseling.

The projects tackled the root causes of economic migration and provided short term self-employment programs targeted at young and adult returnees. In addition to strengthening Afghans' social resilience affected by the crisis, RET provided training in entrepreneurial skills and knowledge on how

to get a job, facilitated access to micro-finance as a means to improve self-employment, and implemented programs for socio-economic reintegration.

The sociocultural inequalities were reduced by providing young returnees with access to education and strengthening the Afghan Ministry of Education to deliver essential services in remote areas, such as small-scale infrastructure renovation, equipment provision, etc.

Access to education helped facilitate access to employment opportunities for returnees and internally displaced persons, promoted social inclusion and youth empowerment and stabilized the community.

The three projects, implemented between January 2019 and December 2019, were funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division, and implemented by RET in Afghanistan.



DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2012, RET implemented 13 projects funded by the Government of Germany, with 9 projects directly financed by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division, and implemented by RET in Afghanistan.

LEBANON

OVERVIEW

Since 2014, RET has directly supported more than **84,000 direct participants** in Lebanon and indirectly benefited more than **840,000 beneficiaries** throughout **14 projects** focused on *Protection, Education, Peace Stability and Transition (including Prevention of Extremism (PVE), Peace-building and Conflict Prevention), Democracy & Governance (including Youth Civic Engagement & Youth Empowerment), Economic Growth & Development and Gender Equality.*

Since 2014, RET has conducted operations in 8 governorates in Lebanon, including deep rural and urban areas and informal tented settlements for refugees, namely in *Machta Hammoud, Wadi Khaled, Qobeh, El Mina, Qalamoun, Batroun, Qartaba, Ghazir, Zouk Mosbeh, Antelias, Ain El Remene, Chiyah, Sed El Bouchrieh, Ghaziyeh, Sahel Zahrani, Jezzin, Kfarhim, Chhim, Baalbek, Ras Baalbek, Hermel, Aarsal, Meryata, Akoura*.

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over **6 million USD** towards empowering the Syrian refugees, as well as the most vulnerable host community members in Lebanon, with the generous support of *the Government of Germany (SO3), the Government of the United States (BPRM), the Government of Switzerland (Cantonal Government of Geneva), the Government of Liechtenstein, the Japanese Embassy in Lebanon and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).*



Protecting Communities





RET'S INTERVENTIONS

Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in 2011, around one and a half million displaced persons are believed to have crossed the border into Lebanon, formerly home to around five and a half million people. This massive and rapid influx of Syrian refugees into an already vulnerable state has negatively impacted Lebanon's life on different levels. A declining economy, the exhaustion of social services, a political vacuum, a decrease in security, and a deteriorating quality of life for the displaced Syrians themselves are just a few of the examples of the adversities in that country.

In 2013, RET stepped in to respond to the needs and challenges of both the vulnerable members of the host communities and the refugee population. RET implemented multiple projects focusing on building resilience in education, protection, gender equality, social inclusion, peace reconciliation, and youth civic programs to maintain the social fabric and stability of vulnerable communities.

One of RET's leading work in Lebanon is to empower girls, mothers, and fathers from both the Syrian and Lebanese communities residing particularly in North of Lebanon and in the South of Lebanon (Union of Municipalities of Sahel Al Zahrany) to enhance their knowledge and understanding about Early Marriage and Gender-based Violence.

Another focus was to strengthen government institutions' capacities – national and local – and civil society institutions to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, women empowerment, and respond and prevent gender-based violence, including in humanitarian settings.

In February 2016, following the strategy of Reaching all Children with Education in Lebanon and the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan (led by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education), RET Liban worked to introduce a range of services to enhance the access of vulnerable youth to education. RET addressed the significant barriers to keeping vulnerable children and youth out of school while working with the Lebanese

LEBANON

host community and the displaced Syrian community. RET Liban instigated educational programs to strengthen the well-being and resilience of vulnerable youth by implementing retention strategies, remedial and homework support programs, and enhancing the educational results and achievements of public-school students at risk of failure dropping out. Furthermore, RET was actively involved in the UNICEF “Back to School Campaign”, which reached out to parents and caregivers and raised their awareness of the importance of education, while referring out-of-school children and youth to formal as informal educational institutions. RET was actively involved in 9 public schools.

The influx of Syrian refugees in Lebanon added pressure to an already fragile socio-economic situation, marred with political instability, Inter-community tensions, coupled in some areas with sectarian divisions, have a profound impact on social cohesion inter-community relations. Feelings of insecurity on both sides are causing increased mobility restrictions on refugees and segregation between communities.

Since 2017, RET has implemented consecutive projects to prevent the radicalization and violent extremism and mitigate intra- and inter-community

tension and conflicts in Lebanon. RET supported the vulnerable youth’s role through civic responsibility programs, peace building, and conflict resolution. **RET focused explicitly on the most vulnerable and marginalized youth, who experienced deprivation, violence, exclusion, or other forms of adversity, and directly targeted 24,000 young people, 50% female participants, throughout three projects.**

The projects provided interventions across the Humanitarian - Development - Peace nexus focusing on:

Responding to protection risks and improving coping mechanisms in fragile settings through support groups: Safe platforms/self-help support sessions, psychosocial support (PSS) & referral to mental health/psychosocial support services.

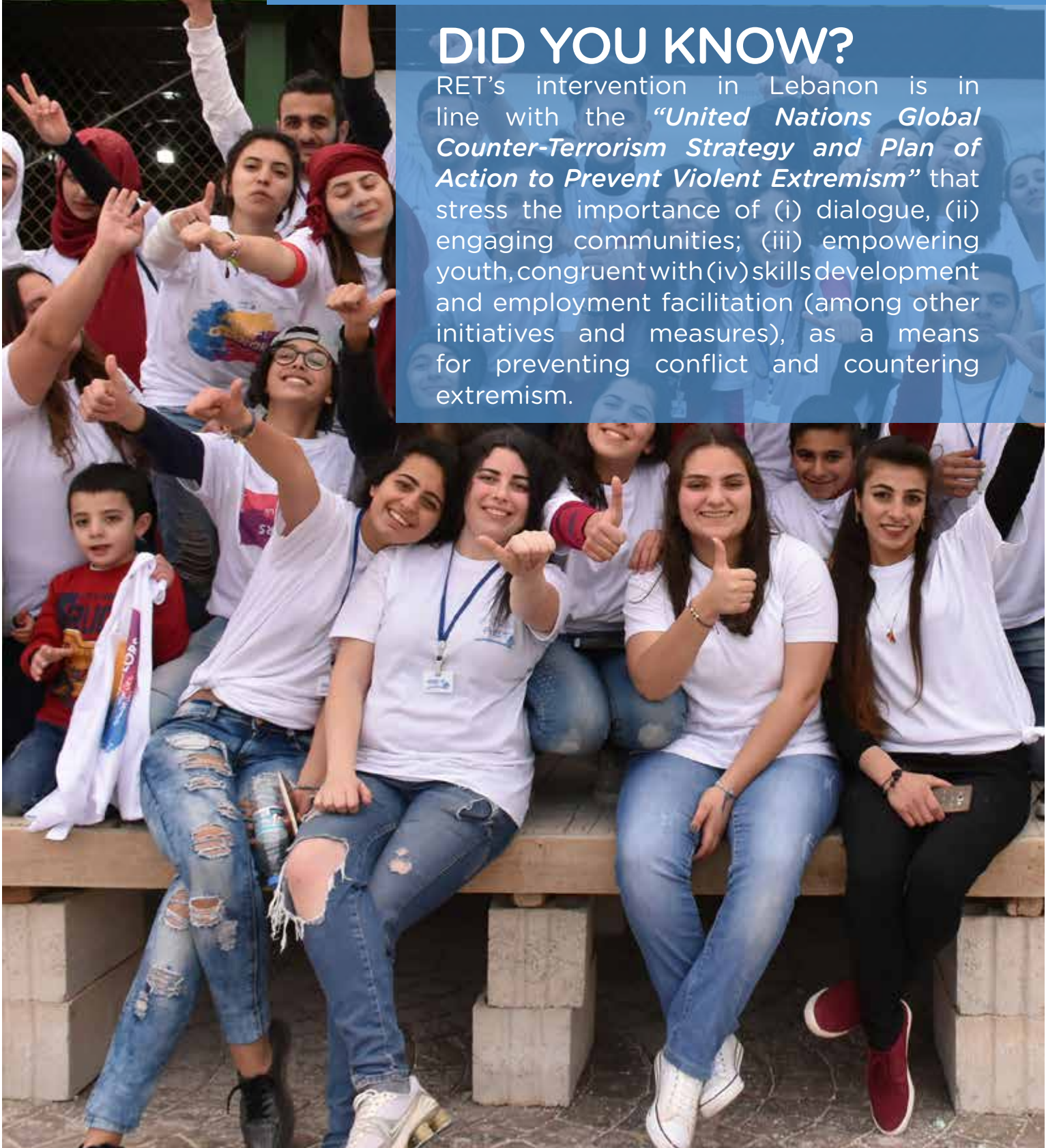
Strengthening youth capacities as agents of peace through youth community leadership training, mixed social, cultural, arts and sports community peace events, youth networks for exchange, and further community support projects to ensure continued inter-community and intergenerational dialogue.

Increasing youths’ life prospects and employability profiles through self-reliance training to enhance (a) technical skills and (b) literacy (computer, language, finance) skills.



DID YOU KNOW?

RET's intervention in Lebanon is in line with the *"United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism"* that stress the importance of (i) dialogue, (ii) engaging communities; (iii) empowering youth, congruent with (iv) skills development and employment facilitation (among other initiatives and measures), as a means for preventing conflict and countering extremism.



LEBANON

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

2019

Community Empowerment to Mitigate and Respond to Early Marriage

The project aimed to strengthen resilience, mitigate risks, and meet gender-based violence survivors and women's needs. More specifically, this project focused on Syrian and Lebanese adolescent girls, mothers, fathers, and community leaders in the governorate of the North, particularly Tripoli City.

The objective was to raise the awareness of adolescent girls, mothers, fathers, and community leaders on the risks of early marriage and provide them with reproductive health solutions and family planning training. The intervention helped to develop capacities of selected groups of adolescent girls, mothers, fathers, and leaders to become peer educators within their local communities.

It then led to various activities implemented by the trained youth themselves, which fostered community-based advocacy, empowerment of women, and fathers' engagement.

This project, completed between March 2018 and December 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) by RET in Lebanon.

Strengthening the Well-Being and Resilience of Vulnerable Youth through Education

In Lebanon, the low enrollment rate among the Syrian school-aged children registered with UNHCR and the lack of access of children and youth to formal and informal education has prompted RET to provide, in partnership with the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education, a retention support program to improve the access of out-of-school children to formal and informal education.

This project started during the 2016-2017 school year and continued throughout the 2017-2018 and 2018 - 2019 school years. It promoted access and retention into educational opportunities for children and youth affected by the Syrian crisis in the Governorates of the North, Mount Lebanon, and the Bekaa. To do so, RET provided remedial and homework support programs to enhance the educational results and achievements of public-school students at-risk of failure and or of dropping out.

Furthermore, RET was actively involved in the UNICEF "Back to School Campaign", which reached out to parents and caregivers and raised their awareness on the importance of education while referring out-of-school children and youth to formal as well as informal educational institutions.

This project, implemented between August 2018 and April 2019, was funded by the Canton de Genève and implemented by RET in Lebanon.



Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism - Phase II

The influx of Syrian refugees in Lebanon added pressure to an already fragile socio-economic situation marred with political instability, inter-community tensions, and coupled in some areas with sectarian divisions. This influx has had a profound impact on social cohesion and inter-community relations. Feelings of insecurity on both sides are causing increased mobility restrictions on refugees and segregation between communities.

The project implemented by RET to prevent radicalization and violent extremism was accessible to all youth from 12 to 25 years old, from both displaced and host communities. RET focused explicitly on the most vulnerable and marginalized youth who experienced deprivation, violence, exclusion, or other forms of adversity.

The project provided interventions across the Humanitarian - Development - Peace nexus focusing on:

1. Humanitarian Aid: Responding to protection risks and improving coping mechanisms in fragile settings through Support Groups: Safe platforms/self-help Support Sessions, Psychosocial Support (PSS) & Referral to mental health/psychosocial support services.

2. Peace-building: Strengthening the capacities of youth as agents of peace through Youth Community Leadership Trainings, Mixed Social, Cultural, Arts, and Sports Community Peace Events, Youth Networks for Exchange, and other Community Support Projects to ensure continued inter-community and intergenerational dialogue.

3. Sustainable Development intervention: Increasing youths' life prospects and employability profiles through Self-Reliance Training to enhance (a) Technical Skills and (b) Literacy (computer, language, finance) skills. The project's overall goal was to enable youth from the refugee and host communities to

stay away from harmful practices leading to radicalization and violent extremism, and instead to become agents of positive social change in their communities with a focus on intra- and inter-community tensions and conflict mitigation. RET implemented the project in three Social Development Centers managed by the Ministry of Social Affairs in the Governorate of Baalbek- Hermel, and in the northern Governorate of Tripoli.

This project, implemented between November 2018 and December 2019, was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division, and implemented by RET in Lebanon.

Enhancing National Capacity to Prevent and Respond to GBV in Lebanon

Building on previous gender-based violence (GBV) successful interventions in Lebanon, RET implemented a project targeting Syrian refugees and Lebanese women and girls. The project aimed to raise awareness of adolescent girls, mothers, fathers, and community leaders amongst the Syrian and host communities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence using a holistic approach. RET also developed adolescent girls, mothers, fathers, and leaders' capacities to become peer educators within their local communities.

The project also implemented community-based advocacy, preventing early marriage through various projects and activities designed and implemented by the trained youth. **RET's expertise led to a successful implementation of a holistic approach by engaging fathers and community leaders in GBV prevention advocacy, targeting the entire family.**

The project, completed between January 2019 and September 2019, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) and implemented by RET in Lebanon.

TURKEY

OVERVIEW

Since 2014 RET in Turkey has touched the lives of over **290,000 direct program participants**, **66% are female**, and indirectly benefited around **3 million beneficiaries** throughout **32 projects**, focused on *Protection, Economic Growth & Development (Women Socio-Economic Empowerment), Education & Capacity-building, Peace Stability & Transition (Youth Programs & Social Cohesion), Gender Equality & Social Inclusion, and Basic Infrastructure & Equipment.*

RET has conducted operations in eight provinces in Turkey, including deep rural and urban areas, namely in *Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Mardin, Kilis, Corum, Samsun, Ankara, and Istanbul.*

Main Donors & Partners:

Since 2014, RET has raised and channeled over **28 million USD** towards empowering the Syrian, Iraqi, and Afghan refugees and the most vulnerable host community members in Turkey with the generous support of *the Government of Germany (BMZ) in partnership with GIZ, the Government of the Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, the Government of Liechtenstein, the Japanese Embassy in Turkey, the Swiss Embassy in Turkey, in addition to UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, UN Women, Microsoft Foundation and ASFARI Foundation.*



RET was able to channel USD 15 million in partnership with UNICEF, towards child protection, education and capacity-building.

RET'S INTERVENTIONS:

The interventions in Turkey have been centered around three pillars:

1)Enhancing the resilience of vulnerable groups with protection- focused approach (*child protection, women protection, prevention of early forced marriage and child labor, prevention & mitigation of gender-based violence, safe spaces for young girls and adolescences, psychosocial support, legal counseling, life skills, language training programs, vocational training, sexual and reproductive health training, counseling and mentorship, and case management and referrals.*)

2)Promoting the socio-economic empowerment and self-reliance of women through a holistic approach focusing on decent work and social integration (*livelihoods, income generation, mentorship, business development, Entrepreneurship, networking, and value chain...*)

3)Empowering youth to become agents for positive change through education, capacity building & youth empowerment programs (*performing arts, community engagement, and youth ambassadorship, in addition to mainstreaming social cohesion.*)



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

RET in Turkey has strategic partnerships and endorsement of multiple governmental entities, and has the full support of AFAD (the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency), the Prime Ministry, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of National Education, and the Ministry of Family, Labor, and Social Policies (at the national, provincial, and district levels.)

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with AFAD and with the Ministry for National Education (MoNE) in 2014, which allowed RET to work with Syrian refugees and operate on provincial and district levels in urban and rural areas. With these collaborations, RET provided certified Turkish language programs to Syrian refugees, which enabled them to access the Turkish education system, including tertiary education and labor market opportunities. Additionally, RET provided basic survival Turkish language programs with the Ministry of Family, Labor, and Social Policies' Centers to vulnerable refugee women to ensure their access to protection services provided by Turkey's Government.

RET has signed project-specific agreements and Memorandum of Understandings with various District Governors in the Provinces where it works, which granted RET the opportunity to work in public buildings owned by Turkish government authorities such as the Public Education Centers. The partnerships with government authorities allowed RET to channel more funding to the program activities and bring more sustainability to its programs.

DID YOU KNOW?

“The capacity of 60 Women's Centers for Livelihoods' has been built through infrastructural capacity strengthening, capacity building of staff, and various life skills and income-generating activity programs.”

“RET in Turkey established a national network of businesswomen to support local women income-generating opportunities in its Centers for Livelihoods.”

TURKEY

Education & Child Protection

Since 2015, RET has been implementing a program aiming to avert a lost generation that could be ushered by Turkey's Syrian crisis, focused on Protection and Education. From 2015 until the end of the fiscal year 2019, RET implemented multiple consecutive projects aimed at ***"Protecting Syrian Children through Non-Formal Education and Specialized Psychosocial Support and Life Skills"***. Taking place in Southeastern Turkey, in the provinces of Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, and Mardin, the program focused on out-of-school Syrian children and youth as well as women and girls from both the refugee and host communities.

The programs offered a comprehensive approach to service provision covering non-formal education, skills-building programs, psychosocial support, and the provision of specialized services and referrals, with a strong focus on fighting gender-based violence.

The non-formal education component focused on Turkish language courses for Syrian adolescents and youth, since

mastering Turkish is a necessary condition to be able to access the Turkish formal education system.

RET addressed psychosocial distress by establishing community spaces, offering psychosocial activities for girls and boys in safe spaces, along with specialized gender-based violence services.

The Girls and Adolescent Safe & Friendly Centers were originally designed to provide multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral interventions to education and protection. The centers targeted Syrian and Turkish adolescent girls and boys, providing psychosocial support, life skills programs, social cohesion & peace-building programs, personal development programs, and group & individual emotional support.

The project promoted adolescents' and youth's engagement and inclusion through social action projects designed, planned, and implemented by young people. **RET positively impacted the lives of more than 250,000 children & students within its intervention in protection and education alone.**



DID YOU KNOW?

RET was able to impact positively the lives of more than 250,000 children and youth from both the host and the Syrian refugees communities throughout a total of USD 15 Mio in partnership with UNICEF.



TURKEY

Women Socioeconomic Empowerment

RET is committed to enabling girls and young women affected by disasters, in fragile contexts and protracted crises by advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and the Decade of Action (SDGs 2030), in particular SDG8 decent work, SDG3 to live healthy lives and to promote wellbeing for all, and SDG5 to advance gender equality and women & girls' empowerment.

Decent work is an essential element of the triple nexus RET is using and represents RET's approach in mitigating the socio-economic adversities through (1) Employment & Income Generation Opportunities, (2) Enhancing Skills for Employability, and (3) Institution-building & Social Dialogue that can contribute to peace and resilience and (4) Enterprise/entrepreneurial; in tandem with raising awareness regarding gender-based violence & sexual and reproductive health matters.

Turkey's socio-economic empowerment program addresses the needs of refugee and vulnerable local women and their families living in semi-urban and peripheral areas. Since 2015, more than six projects were implemented in the provinces of Mardin, Şanlıurfa, and Kilis and Çorum, enabling more than 25,000 women

directly. Workshops in (1) Handmade Soap Production; (2) Natural Dolls Making Workshop, (3) Natural Dyeing and Wood Printing Workshops are offered to local and refugee women, supporting them in setting up small businesses to sell their handmade products and generate sustainable income.

In addition to vocational training, advanced technical training for women interested in setting up small local businesses is offered, providing them with knowledge on product design, marketing, and entrepreneurship skills. The projects decreased the vulnerability of refugee women through support mechanisms that would increase their employability and economic productivity and provide them with a more protective social environment.

DID YOU KNOW?

RET partnered with multiple Development Agencies, Women Entrepreneurs Councils of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, the Turkish Employment Agency, the Chambers of Commerce, and industry, and with the directorates of several organized industrial sites to find relevant marketing solutions to brand the women's products and advance their income-generating prospects.





Young People as Agents of Change

Supporting the role of youth in peace-building for community stabilization is another focus of RET's Turkey response. **It is in line with the government of Turkey's national strategy to facilitate social cohesion and community stabilization.** It aimed to promote dialogue, respect, and understanding amongst youth to become actors of positive and peaceful change in their communities. These youth programs bridged the gap between youth across divides of ethnicity, religion, or nationality, and reduced the risk of marginalization, radicalization, and violence amongst young people while enabling them to be active and positive actors in their communities.

RET implemented various activities such as a structured life skills curriculum, with topics in line with young people's needs, interests, and aspirations. Moreover, young people were meaningfully engaged by identifying, planning, and implementing small-to-medium-scale youth-led,

social action projects in their respective communities aimed to mitigate intra- and inter-community tensions and conflicts. Moreover, RET launched an innovative initiative to empower the youth through the cohesive power of Music, Dance, and the Arts. Two diverse inter cultural music and dance ensembles were created, the RET Youth Orchestra and Choir and the RET Youth Dance Company. Both ensembles join Syrian and Turkish amateur musicians and dancers from within RET's youth centers in southern Turkey and use music and dance as tools to disseminate a culture of peace harmony and promote social cohesion.

This accomplishment was further strengthened through a five years' partnership with the prestigious "Haute école de musique de Genève - Neuchâtel" (Geneva HEM) (2018-2022), and with the inauguration of a RET center for Arts in Kızıltepe in Turkey.

TURKEY

More recent interventions, in 2019 and 2020, RET stepped in to “Facilitate vulnerable individuals’ - host, refugee and asylum seekers - “Access to Services & Rights” in Çorum & Samsun” through a community-based approach conducive to reducing vulnerabilities. This project was initiated within the scope of the “Local Initiative Fund in Turkey” “LIFT” Project, which is co-financed by the European Union through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and RET in Turkey.

RET used a community-based and center-based approaches, catering to different age brackets providing various services: Awareness Raising, Legal Counseling, Individual Counseling, Individual Protection Assistance- Early Identification and Safe Referral, Psychosocial Support (PSS), and Capacity Building Activity- Mainstreaming GBV in International Protection Forums.

RET believes that promoting/ mainstreaming social cohesion and

safeguarding social inclusion between refugee and host community members requires adopting a comprehensive gender-balanced approach that addresses the “Bridges and Barriers to Inclusion & Participation”:

- The primary drivers of tension
- The structural vulnerabilities
- The power dynamics on different fronts (social, economic, and cultural) and their manifestations at (i) Microsystems Level (e.g., families, friends); (ii) Organizations Level (e.g., schools, workplaces); (iii) Localities Level (e.g., neighborhoods, towns, hard-to-reach rural areas); and (iv) Microsystems Level (e.g., cultures, governments, social mediums, belief systems)

The aim of the program implemented in 2020, was to strengthen the employment prospects of Syrian refugees and members of the host community in the provinces and municipalities hosting high number of refugees; enabling the target groups and their families, especially vulnerable households, to generate income in short to medium term, while at the same time stabilizing the host communities and promoting peaceful coexistence between Syrian refugees and the local population.



RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019



2018 - 2019

Women & Youth Empowerment Project in Mardin and Şanlıurfa

The project aimed to empower women from both the host and refugee communities in Mardin and Şanlıurfa, providing them with professional skills and income-generating training. While traditional gender-specific roles of refugee women are similar to those assumed by local women in vulnerable provinces, the displacement conditions put refugee women in a particularly vulnerable position. The ability to generate income as a refugee woman living in Turkey remains a significant challenge in each of the concerned provinces. In another component, the project built the youth's capacity to engage with their peers in the community positively. It promoted civic engagement and peace-building through social action projects, designed and implemented by the youth.

The project promoted a community-based youth empowerment model whereby volunteer youth contributes to the entire community's benefits.

This project, implemented between October 2018 and March 2019, was funded by the Government of Liechtenstein and implemented by RET in Turkey.

Empowering the Youth through Digital Literacy and Computer Training

The project aimed to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable adolescents and youth refugees affected by the Syrian crisis through access to learning and capacity building opportunities. The project built the targeted beneficiaries' information and communications technology skills in a way that is conducive to improve (1) their self-esteem, (2) learning prospects, (3) reducing the socio-educational inequalities, and (4) improving their income generation prospects.

The project provided computer training in two different localities in Şanlıurfa and Mardin, using fully equipped computer labs. The training was based on Microsoft's Digital Skills Resources for Refugees, with learning modules and topics focusing on using the computer and the Internet safely and effectively and using Microsoft Office, digital literacy, digital art, and the use of Microsoft's employability digital kit. The project contributed to the use of technology to bridging the digital gaps for both the host and refugee communities in Turkey.

This project, implemented between October 2018 and May 2019, was funded by Microsoft and implemented by RET in Turkey.

TURKEY

Creating a Protective Environment for Syrian and non-Syrian Children and Adolescents in Mardin and Şanlıurfa and Supporting them Access Learning Opportunities

Since 2015, RET has been implementing a program aiming to avert a lost generation that could be ushered by Turkey's Syrian crisis. In 2016, and until early in the fiscal year 2017, RET implemented this program's second project: "Protecting Syrian Children through Education: Averting a Lost Generation of Syrian Girls and Boys through Comprehensive Non-Formal Education and Specialized Psychosocial Support and Life Skills." In Southeastern Turkey, in the provinces of Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, and Mardin, the program focuses on out-of-school Syrian children and youth and women and girls from both the refugee and host communities.

This program offered a comprehensive approach to service provision covering non-formal education, skills-building programs, psychosocial support, and the provision of specialized services and referrals, with a strong focus on fighting gender-based violence. The non-formal education component established Turkish language courses for Syrian adolescents and youth, as mastering Turkish is a necessary condition to be able to access the Turkish formal education system.

Turkey has a robust education system, and where good formal educational systems exist, they are beacons of hope for young people. Access to them is, therefore, essential. RET addressed psychosocial distress by establishing community spaces, offering psychosocial activities for girls and boys in safe spaces, along with specialized gender-based violence services. RET also introduced the concept of "RET Festivals." They

are celebrations of Syrian, Turkish, and international days of importance, which offer numerous opportunities for social cohesion and awareness-raising activities.

The second phase of this project, **"Provision of Education and Protection Services to Syrian and Vulnerable Turkish Children and Youth,"** implemented throughout 2017, was designed as a continuation and consolidation of the program and followed the dual-core objectives of access to education and protection (mostly against gender-based violence).

RET did so by providing vulnerable children and youth and their parents and caregivers with relevant information on how to meet their education and protection needs, while also enhancing the concrete access and retention of Syrian children and youth in formal, non-formal informal educational opportunities. RET provided young girls and boys with faced adversity (including those at risk or survivors of child abuse, gender-based violence, or experiencing psychological distress) psychosocial counseling, guidance, and support.

RET also accompanied them to access case management processes proposed by external public, private, and civil society organizations. Legal counseling and emotional support groups were also part of the program. Finally, RET also took advantage of this phase to gather and systematize its experience and best practices of the last four years.

In 2018, RET continued its program to **"creating a Protective Environment for Syrian and non-Syrian Children and Adolescents in Mardin and Şanlıurfa and Supporting them Access Learning Opportunities."** The program, in partnership with UNICEF provided



case management', child protection, and youth empowerment as a subcomponent. It was designed as a continuation and consolidation of the ongoing program in two Girls Safe Centers and three Adolescent Friendly Centers funded by UNICEF in 2017 & 2018 in Şanlıurfa and Mardin (SM) Provinces.

The Safe centers provided multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral interventions to education and child protection, targeting Syrian and Turkish adolescent girls and boys and providing them with psychosocial support, life skills programs, including social cohesion,

peace-building and emotional support programs. The project also promoted youth's engagement through short social action projects designed, planned, and implemented by young people.

Four phases of the program were implemented respectively between January 2018 and December 2018, September 2018 and December 2018, January 2019 and March 2019, and April 2019 and December 2019, were implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) by RET in Turkey.

TURKEY

Local Women' Socio-Economic Empowerment and Performing Arts Centre as a tool for Social Cohesion and Youth Empowerment

The project's goal was to build the employability profile and improve the income generation prospect of targeted vulnerable refugee and host community women through self-reliance training, in tandem with raising their awareness regarding SGBV & SRH issues in Mardin, Kilis, and Şanlıurfa. This project empowered vulnerable refugees (Syrian and Iraqi) and host (Turkish) women, aged 16-45 years by building the professional skills that would allow them to generate income in Mardin and provided more than 1'500 women with prevention on risks associated with Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Sexual and Reproductive Health through awareness-raising sessions. RET provided business opportunities for refugee and host community women through technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in (Soap making in Mardin, handmade dolls workshop in Kilis, local food production courses in Şanlıurfa.) Moreover, RET established partnerships to create sustainable marketing networks for women in Mardin, Kilis, and Şanlıurfa.

The project's second goal was to promote youth agency through empowerment and social cohesion by celebrating diversity and promoting integration through Music and Dance (Social Healing & Integration through Art) in Mardin. The project enhanced the capacity of two diverse ensembles, the RET Orchestra and Choir (RYOC) and RET Youth Dance Company (RYDC), and to the sustainability of the newly established RET Performing Arts Centre (2018) by the implementation of the following activities:

- Minor renovations to address the structural deficiencies of the center and improve the center infrastructure
- Capacity building of the dance and music trainers to improve the overall quality of the programs with the technical support of the Haute École de Musique de Genève (HEM)
- Delivery of the Regular Arts Program (music and dance modules) to Syrian and Turkish adolescents and youth along with outreach activities to identify more youth interested in the program and certification after successful completion of the modules
- Innovative workshops contributing to the materials and equipment of the Arts Program while raising awareness on environmental issues (e.g., fabrication of dance costumes through recycling)





- Family awareness-raising meetings aimed at positive parenting
- Referrals to as well as coaching and guidance on formal education opportunities (cross-institutional) for the enrolled beneficiaries
- The enrolled beneficiaries will give small musical performances and dance performances to apply and present the skills learned at the end of each workshop.

The RET Performing Arts Center's ultimate goal is to promote social cohesion between the host and refugee children and youth by sharing music & dance experiences. In this regard, the project will create a space for socialization, safeguarding inter cultural dialogue, and strengthening participants' sense of achievement and accomplishment by awarding them the opportunity to implement and apply the M&D knowledge they have learned. Moreover, the youth's employability prospect was increased through technical music training to art education. Also, RET provided performing arts as a tool to address psychosocial distress increases youth's self-esteem and confidence, while diminishing youth's vulnerabilities affected by the Syrian crisis.

The vocational training workshops/sessions equipped the Syrian and local vulnerable women in Mardin with new skills and knowledge impacting their family's self-reliance. It enhanced the inter-community dialogue and understanding among them, thus facilitating the integration of Syrian refugees into Turkish society.

Ultimately, this will lead to more stable and peaceful communities and a gender equality-based socio-economic development in the long term. The project bridged the gap existing in social cohesion and youth empowerment from both employing humanitarian and innovative artistic approaches through combining theory and practice.

This accomplishment was further strengthened through a five years' partnership with the prestigious "Haute école de musique de Genève - Neuchâtel" (Geneva HEM) (2018-2022), and with the inauguration of a RET center for Arts in Kızıltepe in Turkey.

The project, implemented between June 2019 and February 2020, was funded by the Government of Liechtenstein and implemented by RET in Turkey

TURKEY

Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Turkey

The protracted nature of the Syrian crisis, coupled with the huge influx of Syrian refugees into Turkey, has led to increased demographic and economic pressure. The influx of Syrian refugees and the nature of Turkey's protracted crisis has increased the competition between host and refugee communities over scarce resources and income-generating opportunities. This tension negatively affected social cohesion by fueling refugee-host community tensions and fostering an environment conducive to violence, especially amongst adolescents and youth.

The program sought to empower women, in tandem with reducing their vulnerability, by addressing the root causes that culminate into the daily challenges they encounter, through (a) Engaging men and boys in awareness-raising activities and dialogue on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Women's Empowerment given that "gender equality can only be achieved if men and boys take full responsibility, working side by side with women and girls, to redress the dynamics that hinder progress" (b) Promoting and institutionalizing interaction between solidarity groups, women, local authorities (Muktars and municipal council representatives/authorities) through training and capacity building conducive to lending the "refugee community a voice", which leads to improved empowerment and representation; and (c) Enhancing social cohesion and integration between women from host and refugee communities, in tandem with increasing the women's participation in the public sphere, whilst reducing their social isolation that emanates from displacement and restrictive social norms.

The project aimed to reduce the social isolation of vulnerable Syrian women living in Mardin and Kilis. The project proposed various activities such as awareness-raising sessions on hygiene, sanitation,

nutrition, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) training to help Syrian and host community women build a dialogue about the common problems and identify solutions together; building the capacity of women NGOs, solidarity groups and local authorities (Muktars and municipal council representatives/authorities) to engage refugees effectively and lead efforts supportive of social cohesion to reduce inter and intra-community tensions in Mardin and Kilis; implementing men-engaging programs to educate men and mobilize their support for women's economic empowerment and against gender-based violence; conducting awareness-raising sessions for men and boys with complimentary messages related to women's economic empowerment in Mardin and Kilis.

This project, completed between July 2019 and March 2020, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) by RET in Turkey.





Local Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment in Mardin, Kilis, and Çorum

The project aimed to strengthen vulnerable local women's and their family's resilience and wellbeing through the provision of self-reliance training to build their employability profile and improve their income generation prospects; in tandem with raising their awareness regarding gender-based violence & sexual and reproductive health issues in Mardin, Çorum, and Kilis.

Lacking proper training and qualifications limits the women's chances to enter the labor market; in response, the Socio-Economic Empowerment project increased the women's professional profiles by providing them with skills training. Workshops in handmade soap production; training on natural dolls making and natural dyeing and wood printing workshops were offered to local women,

supporting them in setting up small businesses to sell their handmade products and generate income. Besides vocational training, additional advanced technical training for women interested in setting up small local businesses was offered, providing them with knowledge on sustainable marketing networks and branding processes and entrepreneurship.

The project decreased women's vulnerability through support mechanisms that would increase their employability and economic productivity and provide them with a more protective social environment.

The two projects, implemented between July 2018 and December 2018, and January 2019 and December 2019, were funded by the Government of the Grand-Duché de Luxembourg and implemented by RET in Turkey.

TURKEY

Enhancing Protection of Under-Served Communities in Çorum

The protracted nature of the Syrian crisis, coupled with the massive influx of Syrian refugees into Turkey, has led to mounting demographic and economic pressure across the country. The project aimed to “Facilitate vulnerable individuals’ - host, refugee, and asylum seekers - “Access to Services & Rights” in Çorum” through a community-based approach conducive to reducing vulnerabilities. This project is initiated within the scope of the “Local Initiative Fund in Turkey” “LIFT” Project which is co-financed by the European Union through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and RET in Turkey.

RET will use a community-based and center-based approaches, catering to different age brackets providing various services: Awareness Raising, Legal Counseling, Individual Counseling, Individual Protection Assistance- Early Identification and Safe Referral, Psychosocial Support (PSS), and Capacity Building Activity- Mainstreaming GBV in International Protection Forums.

RET will be targeting the respective communities at large through outreach activities serving two main objectives:

(a) information dissemination and awareness-raising regarding educational and protection opportunities available, including those provided by RET’s centers; and (b) identifying beneficiaries with protection concerns and/or educational needs that require further follow up and support.

A community center was established around the Kunduzhan region, which is primarily populated by Iraqi refugees, providing geographical proximity, facilitating access, and fostering multicultural coexistence while delivering individual assistance and community-based protection activities.

The designation of Kunduzhan district, where refugee communities reside, helped provide culturally appropriate space and facilitated women and adolescent girls’ participation whose mobility is traditionally highly restricted. RET has conducted a preliminary needs-assessment with the refugee community and public authorities, including the Provincial Directorate of Migration Management, to identify the gaps in provisioning and access to protection services. With the establishment of community-center, RET aims at creating a safe space for the most vulnerable, where





psychologists, social workers, and a lawyer are accessible equipped with additional skills of early identification of psychosocial stress and trauma, including SGBV.

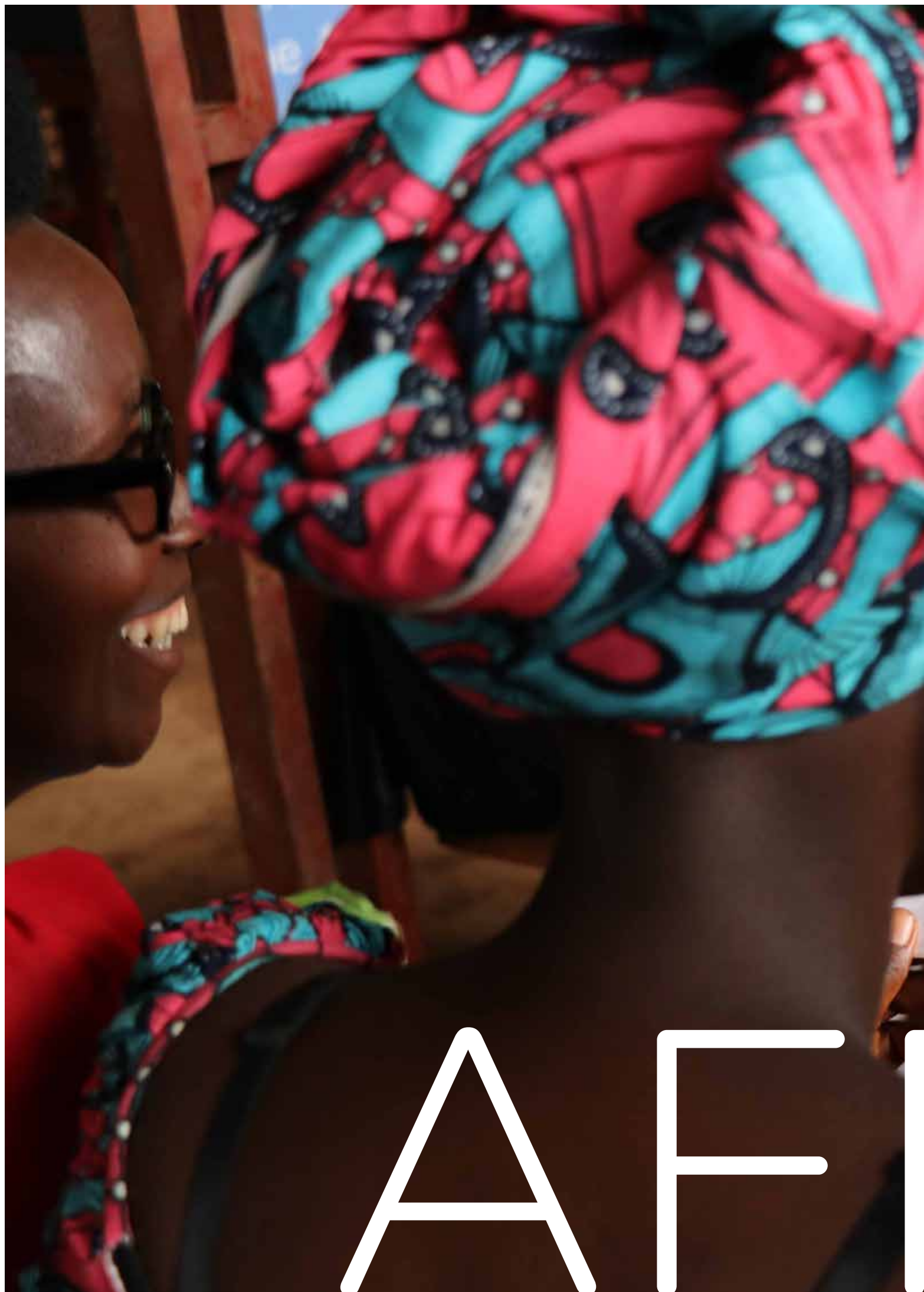
RET has an established space in Çorum & Samsun, in which women-empowerment project is carried out through wood-print activities that contribute to women's incomes. The center-based approach will allow beneficiaries:

- (i) Regain some sense of normalcy given the trauma and psychosocial stress most have been exposed to or experienced as a result of forced displacement;
- (ii) Feel emotionally and socially empowered through custom-tailored interventions;

(iii) Expand the female beneficiaries' access to the public domain, by expanding their social network(s) beyond the prevailing societal limitations and restrictions imposed on them;

(iv) Overcome the information gap as related to protection services;

This project, implemented between October 2019 and August 2020 was co-financed by the European Union through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and RET in Turkey.



AF



AFRICA

BURUNDI

OVERVIEW

Since 2002, RET has directly supported more than **500,000 direct participants**, working with Burundian & Congolese refugee youth in Tanzania (2002 – 2005) and vulnerable youth in Burundi (2006- to date), **44% of them are women and renovated more than 600 schools in Burundi**. RET indirectly benefited more than **5 million beneficiaries** throughout **45 projects** (5 projects in Tanzania) and (40 Projects in Burundi) focused on: *Protection, Education, Peace Stability and Transition, Democracy & Governance (Youth Civic Engagement, Peace Building), Economic Growth & Development (Livelihoods and Vocational Training), Basic Infrastructure and Equipment (around the school).*

Since 2002, RET has conducted operations in refugee camps in *Tanzania, namely in Kigoma* and rural and urban areas in Burundi.

RET has been active throughout most of the 18 provinces of Burundi, including Bujumbura, Muyinga, Kirundo, Kanyosha, and Mutimbuzi.

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over **12 million USD** towards advancing

integration, education, and the economic prospect of vulnerable Burundian youth, with the generous support of *the Government of Switzerland - Canton de Geneve, the Kingdom of Belgium (Crisis Prevention & Peace-building Division), the Government of Germany, (Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division); the United Kingdom-DFID, the Government of Denmark, the Government of Liechtenstein, Carpe Vitam CVI, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, and multiple private sector donors.*



RET'S INTERVENTIONS

Tanzania

Tanzania has provided shelter and protection to the largest refugee population in Africa for the past fifty years. Violent conflict in the region has affected millions of people during that time, and many found themselves fleeing to Tanzania to find safety.

RET's work in the country began in 2002, it concentrated on improving the quality of and access to post-primary education for Burundian and Congolese refugee youth who were living in refugee camps along the Congolese and Burundian borders. Providing integral post-primary educational that respected community-based self-determination was the main focus of the programs. It improved school infrastructure and provided teacher training for over 2'300 Burundian refugee teachers and more than 50,000 Burundian and Congolese learners.

As the programs progressed, RET emphasized preparing Burundian refugee youth in Tanzania for their repatriation, through quality language courses, to facilitate their reintegration.

DID YOU KNOW?

"In 2006, RET moved its operations from Tanzania to Burundi, leading the way for the repatriation of approximately 500'000 Burundian refugees, while also responding to the needs of the local Burundian communities receiving the returnees by providing language courses for social cohesion to both the host communities and the returnees."



BURUNDI

Burundi

RET's footprints in Burundi are visible in our current and past interventions, which have targeted returnees, refugees, and host communities since 2006, reaching over 500'000 direct beneficiaries and over 5 million indirect beneficiaries

In 2006, RET started operations in Burundi by providing access to post-primary education to youth returning to Burundi to facilitate their reintegration. Over time, RET supported the renovation of over 600 secondary schools, benefiting more than 60.000 students through renovation work and the construction of more classrooms, dormitories, sanitary facilities, staff rooms, and water tanks. RET also provided teacher training, language and educational catch-up courses.

“

RET has directly supported the renovation and establishment of more than 640 learning facilities in Burundi.”

In 2006- 2007, RET implemented a **Responsible Citizenship** program funded by the Belgian Kingdom, the Crisis Prevention and Peace-building division, the program emphasized social cohesion amongst the returnees and the local host populations. RET provided French & Kirundi language courses to the returnees from Tanzania and provided English and Swahili to the local host Burundian population, as Burundi had just joined the East Africa Community in 2006-2007.

RET has been active throughout most of the 18 provinces of Burundi, implementing over 40 projects. RET implemented diverse projects designed to better understand and act on school abandonment's root causes through community awareness activities, information, training, consultation, and participation involving all actors at different levels.

RET has been conducting operations in Muyinga and Kirundo to reduce the potential for conflict by harnessing youth energies to act for peace and social cohesion using a multi-faceted approach. The goal was to reduce young people's vulnerability to violent practices by building their employability profiles and mitigating conflicts through responsible civic engagement programs, community-led peace-building activities, and dialogue.

More recently, RET has been implementing programs to improve youth's income generation and self-reliance prospects through capacity-building and vocational training. Youth unemployment in Burundi affects both the country's local and national development. The limited economic and livelihood opportunities prompt the youth to resort to harmful coping mechanisms as a survival strategy, including joining armed or rebel groups.

The projects were of fundamental importance for the stability of Burundi, offering tailor-made interventions and relevant programs to counter the marginalization of vulnerable adolescents by endorsing a :

1. Gender-balanced Approach,
2. Cultivating youth leadership,
3. Designing and administering technical and vocational capacity building modules conducive to economic integration, and
4. Supporting youth resilience as a medium for conflict transformation and sustainable peace-building.

The project developed the entrepreneurial and self-reliance skills of 4000 youth aged between 15-30 years by administering the “Open Mind Global program” in 18 centers spread in four communes in Bujumbura. It also provided 240 youth with professional skills training (sewing, catering hand-craft and information Technology (IT)) in Kanyosha and accredited certification recognized by Burundi's government.

Bridging the Gaps

RET



hikanywe kwa muganga
akingirwa ingwara zifatira
oka hamwe n'inda atiptuza.

Uwagishotawe iyashikanywe kwa muganga
imbere yamasaha 72, akingirwa ingwara zifatira
mu bitumba vy'irondoka hamwe n'inda atiptuza.

BURUNDI

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

2019

Mobilizing all to overcome school dropout- Phase II

RET implemented in Burundi a project called "Mobilizing all to overcome school dropout." The project aimed to strengthen community agents' capacity to set up structures and be actively involved in the fight against school dropouts, such as community networks, CVC clubs, and the big brother/sister system in the communities and schools.

The project aimed to develop a better understanding of the phenomenon of school dropout in the different intervention localities and to produce awareness of the various responsible parties, through activities designed and led by the project participants, such as theatre plays used as a tool for social change and for organizing community dialogue.

Access, quality, and equity of education were improved through classrooms' construction and equipment, distribution of materials, integration, and gender and conflict sensitivity. Through outreach and follow-up of community workers and networks, the project has facilitated access and retention of vulnerable students to school, and promoted social change bridging the gaps between grassroots level efforts BTS "Back To School" and community centers, to prevent school dropout's cases.

This project, completed between July 2018 and April 2019, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) by RET in Burundi.



Reducing the Potential for Conflict in Two Regions of Burundi by Harnessing the Energies of Youth to Act for Peace and Social Cohesion

This project implemented by RET in 2018 sought to reduce the potential for conflict in two regions of Burundi, Muyinga, and Kirundo, by harnessing the energies of youth to act for peace and social cohesion.

This project mitigated conflicts by building youth's self-reliance and enhancing their employability profiles. It provided vocational training complemented with literacy classes to vulnerable youth.

The objective was to reduce young people's vulnerability to violent practices as an alternative to violence and conflicts through community-led peace-building activities such as sports for peace, theatre for conflict resolution, or discussion groups. These varied activities aimed to increase community interaction and build bridges across traditional divides (age, gender, political affiliation, ethnicity) while strengthening young people's capacities to lead their peace initiatives in the future.

This project, implemented between April 2017 and March 2018, was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division and implemented by RET in Burundi.



BURUNDI

Improving the income generation and self-reliance prospects of youth through targeted capacity-building and vocational training – Phase I

Youth unemployment in Burundi affects both the country's local and national development. The limited economic and livelihood prospects prompted the youth to resort to harmful coping mechanisms as a survival strategy, including joining armed or rebel groups. The youth are the future, and we need to engage them and train them to reach their full potential and become the actors of positive social change in their communities. Only with building their self-reliance can this be achieved.

"Improving the income generation and self-reliance prospects of youth through targeted capacity-building and vocational training is a project funded by Carpe Vitam and implemented by RET in Kanyosha and Mutimbuzi, in Burundi.

The project was of fundamental importance for Burundi's stability, offering tailor-made interventions and relevant programs to counter the marginalization of vulnerable adolescents. It endorsed a gender-balanced approach, cultivating youth leadership, designing and administering technical and vocational capacity building modules for economic integration, and

supporting youth resilience as a medium for conflict transformation and sustainable peace-building.

RET developed the entrepreneurial and self-reliance skills of 600 youth aged between 15-30 years by administering the "Open Mind Global program" in 18 centers spread in four communes in Bujumbura. It also provided 120 youth with professional skills training (sewing, catering hand-craft and information Technology (IT)) in Kanyosha and accredited certification recognized by the Government of Burundi.

One of the main challenges facing young entrepreneurs in Burundi is access to finance. Hence, the project included a micro-finance training to support the launch of new small businesses and internship programs for the youth.

Through direct positive engagement with peers and communities, the project helped build the self-reliance and income-generation capacity of youth and created a positive and lasting impact on attitude and behavior, which is the only way to resolve the cycles of poverty and violence.

The project, implemented between April 2019 and December 2019, was funded by Carpe Vitam and implemented by RET in Burundi.





Higher Education DAFI Scholarships

The Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) implemented by RET in Burundi, is managed at the global level by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on behalf of the Government of Germany and aims to provide higher education scholarships for refugees and returnees. The purpose of the DAFI Program is to maintain and strengthen the level of refugees' level of capacity, enabling them to become more self-reliant and actively contribute to the development of both refugee and

host communities. More generally, the DAFI Program aims to encourage the development of qualified human resources for the future reconstruction of the refugees' home countries upon repatriation, thereby supporting greater peace and stability in the region.

The project implemented between January 2018 and December 2018, was funded by Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI), in partnership with UNHCR and implemented by RET in Burundi.

CHAD

OVERVIEW

Since 2005, RET has directly supported more than **200,000 direct participants**, working with vulnerable refugees, especially Sudanese refugees displaced during the Darfur war in Sudan, and Central Africans refugees fleeing the violence, **49% are women**, and indirectly benefited more than **2 million beneficiaries** throughout **30 projects** focused on *Protection, Education, Peace Stability and Transition, Democracy & Governance (Youth Civic Engagement, Peace Building), and Economic Growth & Development.*

Since 2005, RET has conducted operations in **eleven refugee camps** of eastern Chad, in *N'Djamena, Abeche, Hadjer Hadid, Goz Beida, Koukou, and Aradi and southern Chad in Maro (the refugee camp of Belom and the villages of Maro and Karboro) and Gore (the refugee camps of Amboko, Dosseye, Doholo, Gondji and the areas of Doholo, Timberi, Beuret).*

RET conducted operations in six refugee camps in Treguine, Bredjing, Farchana, Gaga, Goz Amir, and Djabal and Darfur refugee camp.

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over **22 million USD** towards child protection, basic education, post-primary and tertiary education, institutional capacity building, business development, entrepreneurship, peace-building and conflict resolution, with the generous support of *the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), the U.S. Embassy in Chad, the Government of Germany, Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division, Education Cannot Wait, and the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).*



RET'S INTERVENTIONS

Sudan

RETs intervention in Sudan, starting 2002 were concentrated on improving the quality of and access to education, maintaining local community-based efforts, and positively impacting schools, students, and teachers alike. Working primarily with IDPs fleeing the civil war and displaced adolescents from Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, RET primarily assisted in helping schools acquire the necessary tools and materials to offer a sustainable education to those made vulnerable by situations of armed conflict and violence.

From 2004 to 2014, RET also worked in cooperation with the Sudanese Ministry of Education for Sudanese refugees in Chad, as the only non-governmental organization to have its program accredited and to have its secondary education exams certified by the Government of Sudan. This accredited certification was needed for the diplomas of the refugees to be recognized upon their return to Sudan.

Unfortunately, peace remained elusive, and repatriation was not imminent. As such, in 2014, the decision was taken by the UNHCR and the Chadian Government to have Sudanese refugees change to the Chadian curriculum instead of the Sudanese one, as a long term durable solution for the refugees remaining in Chad.

RET has ceased ground operations in Sudan since 2003 and ended the specific accreditation program with the Sudanese Ministry of Education in 2014. However, we continue to monitor the situation closely and maintain good relations with our partners. RET is registered in South Sudan and is in process in Sudan.

CHAD

Since 2005, RET's programs in Chad have aimed at mitigating the risks and vulnerabilities brought forth by the large-scale displacement of populations during the Darfur War in Sudan. For over a decade, RET has provided relevant learning opportunities to young refugee women and men in eleven refugee camps of eastern Chad and N'Djamena, Abeche, Hadjer Hadid, Goz Beida, Koukou, and Aradi. The program included accelerated, accredited primary education, literacy, numeracy, and formal, accredited secondary education. In 2011, in partnership with UNHCR, RET also started supervising tertiary education scholarships for refugees.

RET's expertise, accumulated over more than 15 years of presence in eastern Chad, has enabled critical interaction with refugee learners providing essential insights into the nature of their needs and the gaps in existing interventions benefiting Darfur refugees.

RET implemented projects in the six refugee camps of Treguine, Bredjing, Farchana, Gaga, Goz Amir, and Djabal. As part of a long-standing program going back thirteen years, targeting Sudanese refugees and the Chadian host

DID YOU KNOW?

Institutional Capacity building and strengthening activities were incorporated in RET's approach in Chad, focusing on educational structures such as Students and Parents Committees (APEs), Girls Committees (CSF), Boys Committees.

These committees were trained to complement RET programs, and eventually took over the planning and management of Education Activities following RET's departure. This approach created a lasting durable impact in the Chadian community. Moreover, Parents-Teacher Associations were provided with small-business support to strengthen the income generation scheme of schools.

CHAD

community members, RET proposed meaningful and relevant education, capacity building, and livelihood programs. The latter focused on providing formal secondary education and French literacy, numeracy for refugee youth while building capacities of host community secondary schools given the eventual handover of camp schools to Chadian authorities.

Between 2006 and 2010, RET used the internationally recognized Secondary Education Distance Learning (SEDL) program from the International University of Africa in Khartoum to give youth who had completed primary grades access to a secondary education program. One thousand two hundred seventy-nine people participated in this SEDL component in Chad from 2005 to 2015. Many graduated students could work as teachers at primary and secondary levels, raising teaching and educational standards within the community and introducing the formal secondary system in 2010 in the refugee camps.

Institutional Capacity building and strengthening activities were incorporated in RET's approach, focusing on educational structures such as Students and Parents Committees (APEs), Girls Committees (CSF), Boys Committees. These committees were trained to act in complementarity to RET during the program and eventually take over the planning and management of Education Activities after RET's departure, creating a lasting durable impact in the Chadian community. Also, Parents-Teacher Associations have been provided with small-business support to strengthen the income generation scheme for schools.

Girl's committees played an integral vital role in RET's secondary education programs in Chad, focusing on the power of peer support role for female students, with a mission of creating awareness on SGBV and reproductive health issues.

In 2016, RET set up operations in southern

Chad (in the Maro and Goré districts) to encourage the peaceful cohabitation of host populations and refugee communities from the Central African Republic.

The influx of Central Africans fleeing the violence in their country into an impoverished agricultural region of southern Chad has increased the competition for resources, making peaceful coexistence between host and refugee communities challenging.

RET implemented a multifaceted approach in Chad, promoting youth-led projects to mitigate tensions between the host and refugee communities. These programs allowed young people to become responsible citizens and actors of positive social change through active participation in peace club programs and youth-led community-based projects such as sports for peace, theatre for conflict resolution, discussion groups, and networking events. RET also provided literacy and numeracy classes.

The program has reached out to more than 3,000 youth with a comprehensive Peace Club program, 400 adults and youth for series of Discussion Groups, over 3,000 community members through sporting events and theater productions for conflict resolution, and 1000 youth through literacy programs. Also, young people created and implemented 300 Quick Impact Projects to demonstrate positive community engagement.

The program was complemented by several publications and disseminated locally-relevant materials for peace, including comic books, banners, and posters, amongst many other youth-friendly materials.

Finally, RET supported “Income Generating Activities” through 30 Youth Cooperatives and implemented a successful Literacy/Numeracy/Life Skills package for peace, which further developed leadership skills, confidence, and communication skills.

DID YOU KNOW?

RET implemented a multifaceted approach in Chad, promoting youth-led projects to mitigate tensions between the host and refugee communities. These programs allowed young people to become responsible citizens and actors of positive social change through active participation in peace club programs and youth-led community-based projects such as sports for peace, theatre for conflict resolution, discussion groups, and networking events.



RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

2018

Protecting Displaced Youth through Sustainable Secondary Education

The project protected the Sudanese refugees and increased their resilience and self-reliance through quality secondary education. It facilitated their integration into the host country's national educational system. The project also built the capacities of refugee communities and empowered them to contribute to the transition process of handover of secondary schools to Chadian authorities. It provided a quality secondary education to refugee youth across camps in Eastern Chad. It increased local educational structures for the eventual handover of the camp's secondary schools to Chadian authorities.

RET worked with Parent-Teacher Associations (APEs) and Girls' Committees (each of RET's secondary school has an established Girls' Committee, which played an important peer support role for female students) as well as supported the

school directors to organize awareness-raising campaigns to inform and sensitize students and parents about registration. Retention was necessary; thus, RET organized individual meetings with absentees upon their return to school to understand what factors lead to drop-outs. **Young girls at risk were at the center of this approach.**

Regularly, RET encouraged and facilitated discussion groups between teachers, students, school directors, and community leaders to debate school management issues and education quality.

The training of the APEs and the Girls' associations was also a key part of this project's goal of progressively having the refugee communities take the lead in the promotion, supervision, and management of key educational activities. The project also supported the APEs to develop income-generating activities to fund the schools.

This project, implemented between August 2017 and August 2018, was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Chad.





2019

Working for Peaceful Communities in and around the Refugee Camps in Southern Chad 2 Projects- Phases II and III

Adolescents and youth of the host population in Chad have limited educational and employment opportunities; most young people living in the camps are in a situation of social breakdown, with no learning or leisure activities. Most youth RET works with have lost the reference to everyday life, generating alienation and the potential for conflict.

RET in Chad implemented a project to empower young people to become positive social change actors in their communities. It proposed an effective youth engagement program based on active participation in peace programs, youth-led community-based projects, such as the inauguration of peace clubs, theatre for conflict resolution, discussion groups, and community events.

RET also created an informal RET youth network to design and implement quick impact initiatives to promote peace in their communities. Moreover, and to pave the way to peace, the project provided literacy and numeracy classes and life skills training. This youth and adolescent empowerment method reduced their risks of succumbing to extremism, militarization, and other harmful practices.

The project offered further capacity-building of engaged youth and extended into new locations in the districts of Maro (the refugee camp of Belom and the villages of Maro and Karboro) and Gore (the refugee camps of Amboko, Dosseye, Doholo, Gondji, and the villages of Doholo, Timberi, Beuret).

The two projects implemented between April 2017 and December 2017, and January 2018 and December 2018, were funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division and implemented by RET in Chad.

CHAD

Higher Education DAFI Scholarships - 2 projects

The Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) implemented by RET in Burundi, is managed at the global level by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on behalf of the Government of Germany and aims to provide higher education scholarships for refugees and returnees.

The purpose of the DAFI Program is to maintain and strengthen the level of refugees' level of capacity, enabling them to become more self-reliant and actively contribute to the development of both refugee and host communities. More generally, the DAFI Program aims to encourage the development of qualified human resources

for the future reconstruction of the refugees' home countries upon repatriation, thereby supporting greater peace and stability in the region.

The opportunities opened by this scholarship program allow young refugees living in Chad's eastern and southern

camp to fulfill their dream of tertiary education and self-sufficiency. Their professional qualification opens the doors to a future career through which their whole community will benefit.

Building refugees and returnees' capacity through quality tertiary education and developing competent human resources will pave the way for their entire families' income generation prospects and lead to a better prosperous future.

“

To date, RET was able to impact the lives of more than 620 refugee and returnee students positively to pursue their tertiary education in Burundi (2008-ToDate) & Chad (2012-2018)

The two projects implemented between January 2017 and December 2017 and between January 2018 and December 2018, were funded by Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) in partnership with UNHCR and implemented by RET in Chad.





Supporting the Communities Affected by the Central African Crisis

The Chadian education system is very far from the goal of primary education for all. Children repeating grades and drop-out rates were high and very common. It is due, among other things, to the lack of school infrastructure, the high cost of educational services, and the feeling of families that the school does not meet their needs.

The various external and internal crises and the influx of people in the southern regions of Chad, in an already fragile context, have impacted the capacity of the Chadian state negatively to cope with the continuous improvement of the education system, and the need to respond to additional demands coming from the movements of the populations, which has further weakened essential services, and the education system in particular.

The project implemented by RET in Chad supported the communities affected by

the central African crisis, in particular, to improve access, equity, and provided quality education for children refugees, returnees, and the host community. It supported the communities by developing “Income Generating Activities” (IGAs), organizing functional literacy courses, and training community members to develop strategies for girls’ schooling, financial management, and school protection.

The project implemented awareness campaigns on the importance of education, particularly amongst girls, and provided training to the community teachers on life skills and peaceful conflict resolutions to moderate the violence and inequality in schools.

This project, implemented between November 2017 and September 2019, was funded by Education Cannot Wait (ECW) in partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and implemented by RET in Chad.

DRCONGO

OVERVIEW

Since 2012, RET has directly supported more than **44,000 participants** in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including the demobilization and rehabilitation of **1,177 ex-combatants**, and indirectly benefited more than **440,000 beneficiaries** throughout **17 projects** focused on *Protection, Education, Peace Stability and Transition (Disarmament, Demobilization & Reintegration programs DDR) and Economic Growth & Development (Vocational Training.)*

Since 2012, RET has conducted operations in deep rural & urban areas, namely in *South Kivu (2012 - 2015) Uvira, and North Kivu, (2015 - to date) in conflict zones of Walikale, Rutshuru, and Masisi.*

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over 9 million USD towards the demobilization

of child soldiers and towards increasing the community's resilience in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with the generous support of *the Government of the Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, (9 Projects) the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division (6 Projects), the Kingdom of Belgium, and the Government of Switzerland - Basel Ville.*





RET'S INTERVENTIONS

The Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been the stage of numerous conflicts in the past two decades, which have caused massive displacement, the creation of illegal armed groups, and claimed over 5 million lives. In this fragile environment, adolescents and youth are highly at risk of recruitment into local armed groups. The Kivu provinces, North and South Kivu, remain very volatile, even after the second Congo War in 2003. The Kivus continue to host numerous illegal militias, despite the Government's best efforts and the presence of a United Nations Mission.

Since 2012, RET has been involved in Eastern DRC, with programs aiming to reintegrate former adolescent combatants back into their communities, while preventing future recruitment. RET started implementing DDR projects in Uvira, South Kivu, and in 2015, RET moved to Goma in North Kivu with a successful rehabilitation/reintegration program. The programs have gained recognition by the local Government through the Executive Unit of the National Program of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (UEPN-DDR), and the national army.

To date, RET has implemented 17 successful Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration program.

“

To ensure a durable, lasting impact, RET focuses not only on former soldiers' rehabilitation but also on vulnerable youth in the communities working with youth associations and building community resilience through awareness-raising to prevent future recruitment.

DRCONGO

RET'S DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION (DDR) APPROACH

RET's approach to DDR is holistic to bring about lasting change in communities affected by under-age combatants' recruitment. It includes:

(1) Prevention strategies, such as awareness-raising amongst non-state armed groups, district, and provincial authorities, and at more grass-roots community level. Moreover, RET builds the capacities of local Youth Associations to engage more children and adolescents in positive community activities, as a protection mechanism against recruitment.

(2) Demobilization of ex-combatants is done in full collaboration with national and local partners (including UEPN-DDR and MONUSCO), with whom RET has collaborated since 2012. Once the authorities recognize the youth as demobilized ex-soldiers, they are integrated into RET's 3-month comprehensive program of 'reorientation' in Centers of Transit and Orientation. RET works with COTHPAIX, a local theatre youth association, for the trauma-healing process, alongside fully qualified professional medical and psychological staff. The Centre for Transition (CTO) also provides relevant learning opportunities, providing young people with relevant skills to successfully integrate into their communities. The programs include basic literacy/numeracy; catch-up education for those returning to school, simple trades skills for income-generation.

(3) A comprehensive and fully supported reinsertion program ensures that ex-combatants are received back into their communities, engage in school or income-generation, and engage with Youth Associations.

(4) Training for parents to form local cooperatives, village savings and loan schemes, and other sustainable business practices complete the circle, as poverty and unemployment are fundamental causes of the continuation of armed activity in the Kivu's.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1,177 combatants rehabilitated, and less than 1% of reinserted ex-combatants re-joined armed groups.
- Over 90% of ex-combatants reinserted into schools are still in school after one year.
- 540 stakeholders and 33 Youth associations have been trained on international and national legislation regarding child and adolescent rights, emphasizing the illegality of using "under 18's children" in armed groups.
- Over 85% of trained key stakeholders, including leaders of armed groups, have signed letters of commitment to refrain from or support the prevention of, the recruitment of those below 18 in armed groups.
- Over 60 Peace Projects are implemented in collaboration with Youth Associations to engage youth positively and promote peace over violence.
- 32 armed groups have signed letters of disengagement on the recruitment of children in North Kivu.
- More than 40,000 community members have been sensitized to date on peace-building at the community level, providing alternative pathways for vulnerable young people and creating income-generating structures for stability.
- More than 516 parents received cash support to build sustainable livelihoods by setting up small businesses.

Bridging the Gaps

RET



DRCONGO

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

2019

Demobilization of adolescents associated with armed forces and groups through rehabilitation and reintegration support in North Kivu, Eastern DRC.

Through the provision of rehabilitation and reintegration support to adolescents associated with armed forces and groups, in North Kivu, Eastern DRC, RET in DR Congo implemented a project aimed at reinforcing the capacities and skills of adolescents and youth to mitigate forced recruitment into militia groups, and promoting the demobilization of child/ adolescent soldiers.

The coordination and collaboration with local Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) partners took place,

ensuring a channel of dialogue with militia groups to give them an understanding of the need to release child/ adolescent soldiers. The project provided follow-up and support for demobilized adolescents through life skills training, including psychosocial support in emergencies, health education and International Human Rights. Coordination mechanisms with local Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) partners as well as collaboration with MONUSCO and "Unité d'Exécution du Programme National de Désarmement, Démobilisation et Réinsertion (UEPN-DDR)" were put in place to influence a more sustainable response.

The two projects implemented between May 2018 and December 2018, and January 2019 and December 2019 were funded by the Government of the Grand- Duché de Luxembourg and implemented by RET in DR Congo.



“ Since 2015, 9 projects were implemented with the support of the Government of the Grand- Duché de Luxembourg and implemented by RET in DR Congo.”

Stabilizing Communities in Conflict Zones of Walikale, Rutshuru and Masisi (North Kivu) – DR Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo faces an entrenched problem of the militarization of vulnerable adolescents and youth through their recruitment to illegal armed groups. Specifically, in North Kivu, an Eastern region of DRC, there are an estimated one hundred militia groups. As young as ten, children have been found in these groups working as child soldiers, porters, errand boys, and wives to militia group leaders.

During the fiscal year 2018 – 2019, RET implemented two projects focusing on adolescents and youth below the age of eighteen, already conscripted into the militia group to demobilize, rehabilitate and reintegrate them into their communities. These projects revolve around four main components: Prevention, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration.

The prevention components provide life skills training to local vulnerable youth and local youth associations, including psychosocial support in emergencies, health education (such as HIV/AIDS or maternal care), and training on children and adolescents' rights. Key socio-political and military stakeholders, community leaders and members, civil servants, and where possible, the armed group commanders are also sensitized on the national and international legal frameworks for the rights of children and against children's involvement adolescents in armed groups. Through the demobilization component, children and adolescents under 18 years are extorted from armed groups into RET's Centre for Transit and Orientation (CTO).

They enter the Rehabilitation stage and receive psychosocial support, health care, and coaching to decide what they will want to do when they get back to their communities: either reintegrate in the educational system or enter an income-generating activity. Those who choose to go back to school receive remedial classes. In contrast, those who choose to enter trade receive training on livelihood opportunities such as tailoring, baking, soap-making, and basic entrepreneur training to equip them with the requisite skills to run a successful business.

Finally, the reintegration components start when demobilized adolescents reenter their communities. Those who wish to continue their education are supported through relationship building with the schools, so they are accepted as students and provided school kits and tuition fees. Those who choose livelihoods and trade skills learning are supported in starting their own business or cooperative-like business through reintegration kits and training.

This project implemented between October 2018 and October 2019, was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division and implemented by RET in DR Congo.

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Since 2012, six projects were implemented by RET with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division and implemented by RET in DR Congo.”

KENYA

OVERVIEW

Since 2004, RET has directly supported more than **36,000 direct participants**, **39% are women**, and indirectly benefited more than **400,000 beneficiaries** throughout **13 projects** focused on *Agricultural & Rural Development, Self-Reliance and Social Economic Strengthening, Peace-building & Conflict Resolution, Conflict Prevention, Family and Community Gardening and Husbandry, Vocational and Technical Education, including Digital Literacy.*

In 2004, RET started operation in Kakuma refugee camp, and in 2012, RET expanded its operations to reach the most vulnerable in the *Dadaab refugee camp, namely in 5 camps in Dadaab (Dagahaley, Ifo1, Ifo2, Kambioos and Hagadera).* To date, RET continues its operations in Kakuma refugee Camp, supporting particular South Sudanese and Somalis adolescents and youth living in Kakuma by “Bridging the Digital Divide gap to Develop Livelihoods.”

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over **5 million USD** towards refugee youth development and empowerment, with the generous support of *the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), the U.S. Embassy in Kenya, The Julia Taft Fund, the United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).*



RET'S INTERVENTIONS

Conflicts in Kenya's neighboring countries, like Somalia, and Sudan, have led displaced populations to find protection in Kenya's refugee camps and urban areas. In both settings, young refugees lack the opportunities to further their education or find employment.

The majority of refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya originate from Somalia (53.9%). Other significant nationalities are South Sudanese (24.7%), Congolese (9%), Ethiopians (5.8%). Persons of concern from Sudan, Rwanda, Eritrea, Burundi, Uganda, and others.

As per UNHCR, almost half of the refugees in Kenya (44%) reside in Dadaab, 40% in Kakuma, and 16% in urban areas (mainly Nairobi), alongside 18,500 stateless persons. Young people are left with few skills to enable themselves and put them at risk of criminal activities, armed groups, and terrorist groups or fall victim to sexual and drug abuse.

RET started operations in the Kakuma refugee camp in 2004, using education in exile to prepare Sudanese refugee youth for repatriation and reintegration. RET implemented projects to improve the camp's secondary schools by providing urgently needed repairs and equipment to enhance the students' access to resources and improve the teachers' performances in guiding the teaching and learning process (especially in HIV/AIDS education).

RET has been present in the Dadaab refugee camps since 2012 to build resilience among Somali refugee youth, through the provision of alternative education, livelihoods for self-reliance, and capacity building, to become agents of positive social change. The program targeted young people across five camps in Dadaab (Dagahaley, Ifo1, Ifo2, Kambioos and Hagadera) and the host community. Five hundred and ninety-nine learners (22% female, which is an achievement considering the strong patriarchal social structures of Somali communities) were enrolled in an accredited accelerated secondary education program and 583 took part in a functional literacy program that targeted illiterate and semi-literate adolescents and youth of the Kambioos and IFO 2 camps.

Livelihoods interventions for self-reliance impacted the lives of over 150 adolescents

and youth through apprenticeship, digital work, and greenhouse farming. With entrepreneurship training and market linkages, the livelihoods participants have formed and registered business groups and began earning income. The greenhouse-farming group was the only farming trader group accredited and authorized to participate in the World Food Program's Fresh Food Voucher Program in Dadaab.

RET trained youth on leadership, youth-adult partnerships, conflict management, repatriation, reintegration & resettlement, and asset-based community development, to help them become agents of positive social change. RET also equipped Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) on "countering violent extremism" and set the agenda for discussing issues related to radicalization in the community.

The measurable impact of the youth capacity development component was social change programs that reached 1'607 youth. They used sports activities (soccer for male and volleyball for female) to spread complimentary social change messages to the youth in the camps and the community. The youth-led social change interventions, implemented and monitored by the youth, took on the issues of drug abuse, child labor, female genital mutilation, and HIV/AIDs.



KENYA

RET also received funding from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to focus on peace and resilience building among refugee youth, where 86 youth were trained as ToTs. These youth were then instrumental in implementing social change programs that reached more than 1'200 young people.

In partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - Dadaab Sub-Office, RET led the facilitation of Global Refugee Youth Consultations (GRYC) forums across the five camps where 50 youth, drawn from the youth leadership, participated. One of the sector's successes is that some ToTs in the Ifo2 and Dagahaley camps were able to apply for the Youth Initiative Fund from UNHCR Geneva utilizing the skills acquired in the program.

The protected nature of crises amongst the Somali refugees living in Dadaab initiated voluntary repatriation to Baidoa in 2017; RET implemented a project to build the capacity of four thousand five hundred and fifty-three Somali refugees preparing to return to Baidoa through peace-building, conflict resolution, good governance, civic awareness training, and consultation forums.

The training was tailored to representatives of adolescent and youth leaders, who then cascaded the knowledge and skills acquired to other community members. The interactions led to an understanding of the challenges and conditions the returnees are likely to face upon return, as well as the acquisition of skills and knowledge allowing them to navigate these challenges, such as the governance systems in Baidoa, mechanisms, and strategies on peaceful co-existence or conflict prevention and resolution.

The Dadaab complex is composed of five camps: Ifo, Ifo2, Dagahaley, Hagadera, and Kambioos. This protracted situation, coupled with the encampment policy, have negatively impacted the youth by limiting their education and livelihood opportunities. RET has therefore been present in Dadaab to provide Accredited secondary education, livelihoods,

functional literacy & numeracy, and youth engagement. Accredited secondary education was provided to those who had completed grade eight but lacked post-primary opportunities in the camps. The learners in this accelerated learning program accessed the Kenyan secondary education program in three years rather than four, leading to an accredited end of the secondary certificate on completing the external exams.

The livelihoods component worked with youth who did not have self-reliance opportunities by giving them either skills for online jobs (for those who had completed O level - twelfth grade) or farming (including selling their produce in the local markets). Youth were trained, mentored, and supported to deliver online jobs and/or start their businesses in the camps.

The farming component provided the necessary know-how for greenhouse farming and open field farming. Farmers were also supported to create kitchen gardens at the household level to supplement food rations. The young people without access to any form of education were engaged in Life Skills Education (LSE), which proposes literacy, numeracy, and entrepreneurship skills in RET LSE centers run by Centre Management Committees.

The project focused on one-year functional literacy and numeracy training to enhance their life skills. The program included Somali and Swahili literacy for refugee and host community learners, respectively.

Both out-of-school and in-school youth were engaged as actors of social change in their communities through the youth capacity development component aimed at making them responsible individuals in the camps and upon their return to Somalia. It also included a component of Girl-to-Girl initiatives. Once trained with leadership skills, the youth were tasked with developing complex social change projects, focusing on reducing the radicalization of youth.



KENYA

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

Learning Together for a Sustainable Future

During the fiscal year 2018, RET implemented the second phase to the project named "Learning Together for a Sustainable Future," which focused on four pillars of intervention: Accredited secondary education, livelihoods, functional literacy & numeracy, and youth engagement.

Accredited secondary education was provided to youth who had completed grade eight but lacked post-primary opportunities in the camps. The learners in this accelerated learning program accessed the Kenyan secondary education program in three years rather than four, leading to an accredited end of the secondary certificate on completing the external exams.

The livelihoods component worked with youth who did not have self-reliance opportunities by giving them either skills for Online jobs (for those who had completed O level – twelfth grade) or farming (including selling their produce in the local markets).

Youth were trained, mentored, and supported to deliver Online jobs and/or start their businesses in the camps. The farming component provided the necessary know-how for greenhouse farming and open field farming.

Farmers were also supported to start kitchen gardens at the household level to supplement food rations.

The young people without access to any form of education were engaged in Life Skills Education (LSE), which proposed literacy, numeracy, and entrepreneurship skills in RET LSE centers run by Centre Management Committees. The second project focused on one-year functional literacy and numeracy training to enhance their life skills. The program included Somali and Swahili literacy for refugee and host community learners, respectively. Both out-of-school and in-school youth were engaged as actors of social change in their communities through the youth capacity development component aimed at making them responsible individuals in the camps and upon their return to Somalia. It also included a component of Girl-to-Girl initiatives.

Once trained with leadership skills, the youth were tasked with developing complex social change projects, focusing on reducing the radicalization of youth.

This project, implemented between July 2017 and June 2018, was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Kenya.





The Kenya - Somalia Refugees and Peace Building Cross Border Pilot Project for Voluntary Return, Co-existence, and Sustainable Reintegration in the Areas of Return

The Dadaab refugee complex (Ifo, Ifo2, Dagahaley, Hagadera, and Kambioos) took form more than twenty-five years ago with a first migration in the early 1990s, as the Barre Government fell and various armed factions began competing for influence in the power vacuum. A second massive influx occurred in 2011, when some hundred and thirty thousand refugees arrived, fleeing drought and famine in southern Somalia. The Somali refugees are therefore living in a protracted crisis, many searching for possibilities of return.

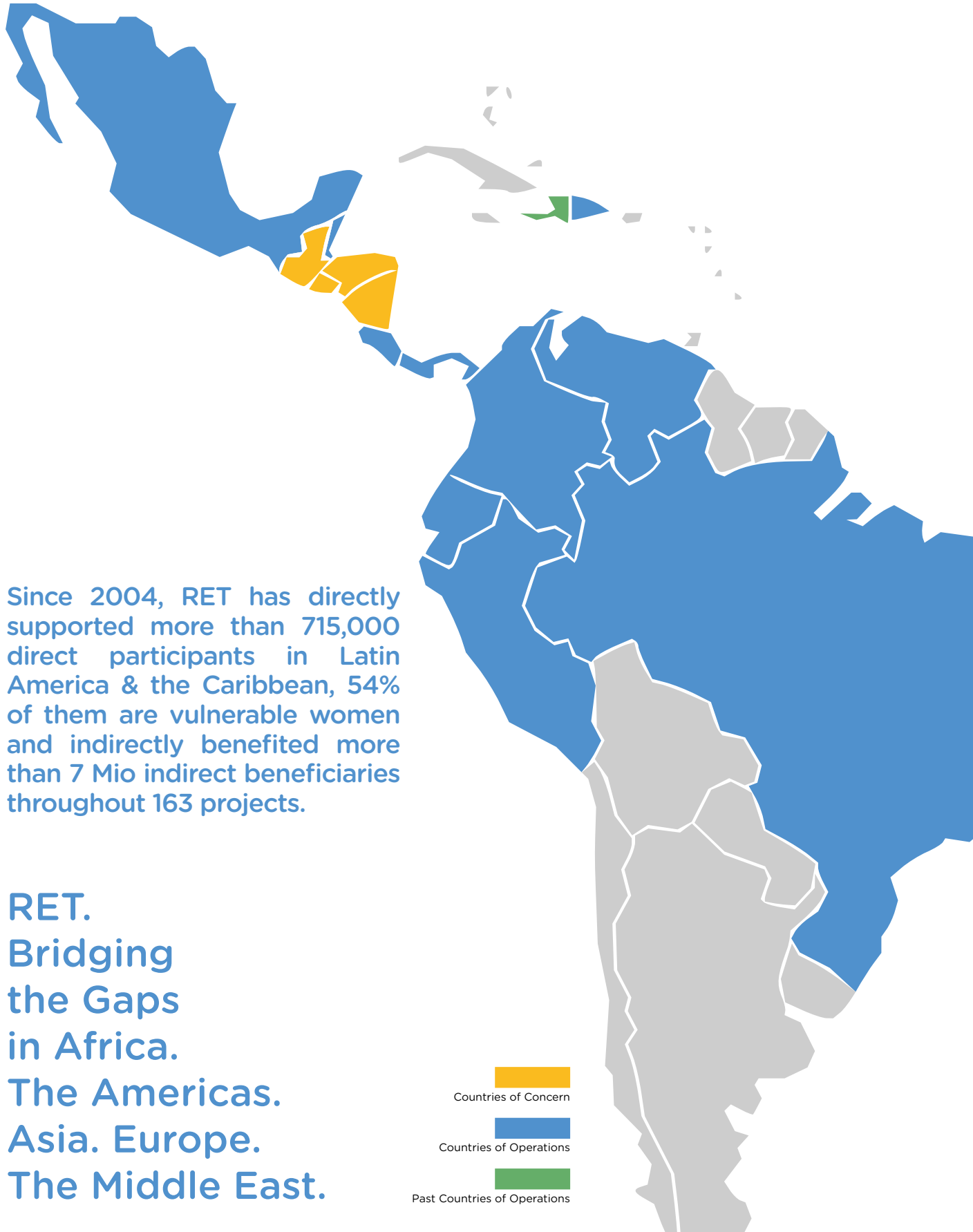
RET's project, therefore, focused on the refugees living in Dadaab who registered to return to Baidoa, Somalia. The main objective was to achieve a sustainable solution for Somali refugees through voluntary repatriation. The project built the

capacity of four thousand five hundred and fifty-three Somali refugees preparing to return to Baidoa through peace-building, conflict resolution, good governance, and civic awareness training and consultation forums.

The training was tailored to representatives of adolescent and youth leaders, who then cascade the knowledge and skills acquired to other community members. The interactions lead to an understanding of the challenges and conditions the returnees are likely to face upon return; as well as the acquisition of skills and knowledge allowing them to navigate these challenges, such as the governance systems in Baidoa, mechanisms, and strategies on peaceful co-existence or conflict prevention and resolution.

The project, completed between June 2017 and December 2017, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by RET in Kenya.

THE AMERICAS REGION



Latin America and the Caribbean covers an extensive region, ranging from Mexico and the Bahamas to Argentina and Chile. The area is home to around 660 million people and covers 21,951,000 km².

RET has been present in the region since 2004 and is currently implementing projects in Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela. RET was also present in Haiti between 2010 and 2013, RET is registered in Brazil, and will soon launch operations.

Latin America and the Caribbean region are affected by multiple migration patterns, in which its citizens see migration as the only solution to flee political and economic instabilities.

In south-to-north migration flows, people search for economic opportunities and reach Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala. There is also a north-to-south migration pattern originating from the same countries in Central America as well as El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, extending further south to find refuge in Belize, Costa Rica, or Panama. Another significant migration occurs from south-to-south. Crises such as the internal armed conflict in Colombia, or, more recently, the social and economic crisis in Venezuela, are forcing the population to displace internally and externally, and even return to their country of origin.

Given the internal conflict in Colombia, the violence in the Northern Territories, and the Venezuelan economic crisis, RET is expanding its operations in Central and South America.

RET's experience in Latin America in the field of human rights includes:

Prevention of violations of human rights for women affected by the armed conflict in Colombia; prevention of the involvement of children and adolescents into armed groups; guaranteeing access to fundamental human rights for displaced people; enabling the right to education for displaced, refugee and migrants children, adolescents and youth; access and promotion of refugees and migrants rights in host communities; ensuring the right of children and adolescents to education during emergencies and natural disasters; strengthening the response capacity of disabled children and youth in the face of natural disasters; social-education and labor reintegration of youth offenders; development of income generation activities and small micro-enterprises to facilitate economic rights for vulnerable women heads of household (indigenous, afro-descendants, refugee, migrants, victims of gender-based-violence); prevention of child labor; prevention of bullying and sexual harassment in adolescents and youth; prevention and response to gender-based-violence; amongst other.

RET has a substantial commitment to promoting and respecting human rights, particularly for vulnerable children, adolescents, youth, and women. All these initiatives have enabled the understanding and fulfillment of rights by concerned groups and the strengthening of the institution's functions to observe human rights.

BELIZE

OVERVIEW

Since 2015, RET has directly supported more than **4.000 direct participants** in Belize, **54% of them are vulnerable women** throughout **7 projects** focused on *Protection (Child protection, Gender-based Violence, and Refugee & Asylum Seekers RAS International Protection), Democracy & Governance (Youth Empowerment & Youth Civic Engagement), Economic Growth & Development (Business Development & Entrepreneurship, and Vocational Training and Livelihoods).*

Since 2015, RET has conducted operations in *Belize City, Cayo District, and Stann Creek, as well as in Scotland Halfmoon, Rancho Dolores and Double Head Cabbage.*

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over **5 million USD** towards the vulnerable communities in Belize, *with the generous support of the U.S. Department of State's Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the High Commission of Canada to Belize -the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).*

RET'S INTERVENTIONS

Belize is a Central American country neighboring the region, usually referred to as part of the Northern Territories, comprised of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The people fleeing from the latter countries seek refugee protection against violence in their own countries, linked mainly to gang activities, exacerbated by the drug route forcing itself through Central America.

Many of the refugees are vulnerable women and children taking this journey out of desperation, to flee violence and, in particular, gender-based violence. Belize, so



close to this epicenter of the crisis, is host to those seeking asylum. Accordingly, Belize shows a high unemployment rate and low secondary school attendance rates, creating the requisite conditions for similar violence to take hold and leaving youth to face a real lack of opportunities.

Since October 2015, RET began its operations in Belize with interventions centered in Belize City and the Cayo District, aiming to reduce the risk of youth engagement in criminal activities by building employment and leadership opportunities through income-generating opportunities for vulnerable youth. The programs focused on providing youth with skills and capacities to become employed or self-employed and enabled them to take up leadership roles in their communities, therefore becoming positive actors of social change. The holistic approach to working with youth showed a positive impact by increasing the number of youth associations and youth-led organizations in the communities. RET worked with national organizations to develop a national program that addresses the socio-economic, psychosocial, and educational challenges of vulnerable youth, families, and communities. Moreover, RET in Belize provided job creation opportunities for youth and marginalized communities as an alternative to crime and violence and

provided at-risk youth with productive alternative activities that increase their leadership skills, apprenticeship, and income-generating opportunities.

Moreover, RET was actively involved in protection projects to develop the government's capacity and strengthen civil society for timely, transparent responses to Gender-based violence (GBV) and trafficking in persons (TIP) in vulnerable communities in Belize. RET enhanced community service providers' capacity to assist women and youth at risk of GBV and referred them to legal services. It also created a "Resource and Reference Guide" to enhance access to services, build capacity development of key frontline responders and public education officials, in tandem with raising awareness in the affected communities on the mentioned issues. RET also strengthened civil society's capacity to monitor service delivery for accountability and transparency.

Finally, RET implemented an awareness campaign for full participation in the Referendum on the Belize-Guatemala territorial dispute. Young participants developed user-friendly documentation to support the national public campaign on the International Court of Justice Referendum.



BELIZE

PARTNERSHIPS

RET's experience in Belize is strengthened through successful coordination with the local government, the civil society organizations, the non-profit associations, in addition to the social actors to improve service delivery and create a significant impact, listing: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (donor), Belize History Association, Department of Youth Services and the National Youth Council, the National Library Services and the House of Culture and the History Association.

Department of Youth Services (DYS): RET engaged DYS at the district level to support youths' engagement in school and out-of-school. Collaboration at the Youth Jamboree provided DYS with an opportunity to share about their work and make connections for youth to access the spaces and services available at the DYS district youth centers.

RET was able to engage the DYS at the district level in Cayo to recruit vulnerable youths and actively participated in the Mentorship Training process.

Belize Action Community (BAC): In partnership with BAC, RET implemented the skills training in Carpentry, Concrete Finishing, Woodworks, and Agripreneur for 29 youths in Southern Belize.

Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA): a strategic partnership was formed with POWA for the selection, assessment, education, and empowerment of youth participating specifically in the Livelihoods. The collaboration resulted in the inclusion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence sessions with youth, in response to the high prevalence of these issues in the district.

Belize Association of Principals (BAPs): this partnership was strategic for the buy-in and support of the targeted high schools for piloting the Youth Leadership Program linked to the Positive Youth Development Program.

High Schools in Belize City, Cayo and Stann Creek: 8 High Schools in Belize City, Cayo and Stann Creek (Nazarene High School, Maud Williams High School, Sadie Vernon High School, Our Lady of Guadalupe RC High School, Valley of Peace SDA Academy, Delille Academy, Georgetown Technical High School, and Independence High School) collaborated in the implementation of RET Leadership and Community Engagement Program, including the implementation of Quick Impact Projects with the in-school populations. School management and Life Skills teachers participated in and supported the implementation of this program. Additionally, Independence High School and Georgetown Technical High School allowed the use of their spaces for the Leadership Summer Camp and the Leadership Forum.

Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture (MOEYSC): Through the Teacher's Education and Development Services (TEDS) and the Secondary Schools Support Unit, RET received an endorsement for the Youth Leadership Program as a support to the Positive Youth Development Life Skills Program.

Small Business Development Centre (SBDC Belize): This collaboration was developed to support the implementation and delivery of Business Development training sessions. The engagement provides RET youth participants with access to technical support beyond the life of the project. Additionally, youth participants will automatically become a part of the SBDC Belize family and access funding opportunities and scholarships.

Cayo Centre for Employment Training (CCET) and St. Ignatius High School and Adult Education (SIHSAE): a triangular collaboration between RET and these two institutions in Cayo provided vulnerable youths the opportunity to attend the Adult Education Program at SIHSAE, which includes vocational training at CCET. CCET and SIHSAE participated in the assessment process to better understand the selected youths' socio-economic challenges.

San Ignacio / Santa Elena Town Council and Business Community: RET coordinated with these stakeholders for a better understanding of the services available, the expectations for job placements, the gaps in skills. These discussions helped RET to provide informed guidance and support to youths in this district.

National Women's Commission (NWC): Main/key partner in implementing the RET-CARSI project. NWC provided coordination, administrative and technical support to both the National and District Committees. The Secretariat led by the Executive Director coordinated all activities related to integrating the National Gender Policy across sectors and levels and the coordination within state and non-state actors on issues related to gender equality and equity and women's empowerment.

Association of Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of the Supreme Court: A primary/key partner in bridging the gap between municipal

and community level to provide legal advice and support to community members, particularly women and youth, victims, or at-risk for Gender-based Violence GBV and Trafficking in Persons TIP.

Ministry of Human Development Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation: RET's collaboration and engagement with the Ministry across several departments improved the success and buy-in of interventions, building civil society partnerships and impactful engagement of key international and local support towards the community development and access to services.

Additionally, strong relations were established with the Refugees Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, and Sustainable Development and Immigration, the National Association of Village Councils (NAVCO), and District Association of Village Councils (DAVCO).



BELIZE

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

2019

**Building Youth Resilience:
Opportunities for Youth Leadership
and Self Sufficiency**

The root causes and effects of crime and insecurity continue to represent challenges for Belize, including the impacts of the illegal narcotics trade and criminal organizations' activities from neighboring countries. A rapidly growing population and immigration have increased demand for essential services, as the poverty rate reaches 44%, with high levels of unemployment, especially for women.

Belize City is home to approximately twenty to thirty street gangs, with about five hundred and thirty youths involved. Approximately 30% of all homicides in Belize occur among people between fourteen and twenty-four years old.

RET has expanded the lessons learned from the previous project to provide youths in- and out-of-school with practical, participatory training on social and leadership skills. Also, RET built young people's capacity to become agents of positive social change, tackling crime prevention in their communities through quick impact projects, and provided them with the necessary tools for income-generating and employment opportunities. The project was implemented in Belize City, as well as Cayo and Stann Creek Districts.

This project, implemented between October 2017 and May 2019, was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) and implemented by RET in Belize.



Refugee and Asylum Seekers in Belize

The Social Integration pilot project enabled a more comprehensive and sustainable integration of refugees, asylum seekers, and persons of concern (PoC's) in their respective communities.

This pilot project, implemented between September 2018 and December 2018, was funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and implemented by RET in Belize.

Refugee and Asylum Seekers in Belize

The continued escalation of violence in the Northern Triangle, and Belize's classification as a transient country, has led to an increased number of asylum seekers in Belize. Belize's laws governing refugees, asylum seekers, and other forms of migrants

incriminated status-related infractions and classified such persons as 'prohibited migrant'. These laws have created restrictions on the mobility of vulnerable groups trying to enter Belize through the proper legal channels and forced them to either entering Belize using an open port of entries or causing them to hide within communities along the borders. The social Integration project aimed to support and enable a more comprehensive and sustained integration of refugees, asylum seekers, and persons of concern (PoCs), through legal counseling and refugee status procedures, engagement in integration initiatives; and, access to livelihoods opportunities.

This project, completed between January 2019 and December 2019, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by RET in Belize.



COLOMBIA

OVERVIEW

Since 2003, RET has directly supported more than **70'000 direct participants** in Colombia, **100% of them are vulnerable women**, and indirectly benefited around **700,000 beneficiaries**. Also, RET facilitated the opening of more than **403 facilities** throughout **32 projects**, focused on *Protection, Education & Capacity-building, (including Institutional strengthening), Prevention & Management of Disasters and Natural Hazards, Democracy & Governance (including youth Civic Empowerment and Youth Development), Economic Growth & Development (Self-Reliance & livelihoods), and basic Infrastructure & Equipment.*

Since 2003, RET has provided interventions in vulnerable areas, mostly affected by violence, disasters, and by the influx of Venezuelan migrants, particularly: ***Bogota, Choco, Catatumbo, under the Cauca, Caqueta, Nariño, and Putumayo.***

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over **10 million USD** towards the vulnerable communities in Colombia, with the generous support of ***the Government of Canada-the International Humanitarian Assistance division (IHA), the Government of Norway, the Australian Aid Government Agency, the German Embassy in Colombia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Unidad de Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas" - UARIV (Unit of Attention and Reparation of Victims), the Ministry of Education in Colombia and multiple donors from the private sector.***



RET'S INTERVENTIONS

RET has been operating in Colombia since 2003, providing multiple programs to facilitate the transition of displaced youth and ensure the creation of sustainable livelihoods through education, training, and counseling. RET in Colombia was established in Bogota in 2008 and worked primarily with children, adolescents, and youth affected by conflict (preventing recruitment), violence, and disasters (including emergency responses) and teachers, parents, educational authorities, and political authorities nationwide.

RET also provided programs to mitigate the effect of conflict and disasters on vulnerable young people and women. Throughout its projects, RET ensured the creation of sustainable livelihoods, access, and permanence to education, psychosocial assistance, recovery of schools affected by disasters, prevention of accidents with anti-personnel mines, among others. RET has also implemented projects preventing child soldiers' recruitment and protecting young people and women (internally displaced (IDPs) and (refugees)) affected by Colombia's long-standing armed conflict.

During the fiscal year 2016, RET continued to support teachers and public workers of Education Secretaries through online workshops on the platform www.protegiendolaeducacion.org. With this platform, RET supported the participants of the online workshop "Articulation of Early Childhood Development and Disaster Risk Reduction" implemented by RET's regional office in Panama, through an agreement of cooperation signed with the United Nations Children's Fund's Latin America & the Caribbean Regional Office (UNICEF LACRO). RET signed an agreement with the "Unidad de Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas" - UARIV (Unit of Attention and Reparation of Victims) for the development of

psychosocial activities, the recovery of historical memory, and the orientation of the victims of the armed conflict. RET developed workshops to provide directions on psychosocial approaches, simple action, attention in crisis, and self-care for Colombian consulate workers in Panama and RET's team members who work with armed conflict victims.

Through RET's office in Colombia, refugee families received support to obtain legal documents and go through the necessary procedures to access the educational system in host countries (Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, and Venezuela). **In 2016, RET participated in the national response to assist Colombian returnees from Venezuela. RET was part of the cluster of organizations addressing this emergency and collaborating on the bi-national contingency plan.**

Since early 2019, RET has been present in the region of Catatumbo and attended to the basic humanitarian and protection needs of new internally displaced people in that zone. After four years of "Peace Dialogue," humanitarian relief was expected in many regions hit by violence; however, the deterioration of the internal humanitarian situation in Colombia was happening fast, and more than 5.1 million people were facing multi-dimensional adversities. Despite some significant progress, some regions are still affected by armed conflict and violence, subsequently causing forced displacement as well as an increase of homicides against social leaders and human rights activists. In 2019, 7.7 million people were victims of forced internal displacement in Colombia since the armed conflict.

RET has provided interventions in vulnerable areas, mostly affected by violence, disasters, and the influx of Venezuelan migrants, particularly: Choco, Catatumbo, under the Cauca, Caqueta, Nariño, and Putumayo.

COLOMBIA

2019

RET was involved in drafting the “Guiding Principles on Forced Displacement” in collaboration with UNHCR and participated in meetings with leaders of displaced persons, municipal representatives and the United Nations agencies (UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF) to discuss the prospects of the delicate situation of forced displacement that affected the region of Catatumbo.

RET has been involved in the “National and Regional Coordination Platforms for Refugees and Migrants” from Venezuela.

RET’s actions in Colombia in recent years have had a greater emphasis on supporting the development of public education policies and improving educational quality and inclusion in the formal education system, and strengthening the educational capacities in emergencies of Secretaries of Education and educational institutions.

RET is currently implementing projects benefiting Venezuelan refugees and migrants responding to the needs of Venezuelans in border areas, and on the six main migratory routes and addressing the basic humanitarian and protection needs of new internally displaced people (IDP’s) in Colombia.



Addressing the basic humanitarian and protection needs of new internally displaced people in Colombia

The project aims to provide humanitarian assistance and gender-based protection for displaced women, men, children, and adolescents in various municipalities in the Catatumbo region in Colombia.

RET’s humanitarian tailor-made response aimed to bridge the gaps and respond to the real needs and challenges of particularly vulnerable women and children, in addition to the victims of forced displacement, thus provided access to improved shelter conditions; provision of livelihoods opportunities to create more durable and sustainable impact, and timely assistance for the proper registration of victims in the government’s IDP registry. The project focused on protection interventions such as psychosocial care for survivors of sexual abuse and gender-based violence; comprehensive assistance (legal, medical and protection) for victims of sexual abuse and gender-based violence; the development of local mechanisms for GBV prevention and assistance; empowerment of the population in the exercising of their sexual and reproductive rights; and, the educational inclusion of displaced children and adolescents through the provision of schools inputs and supplies, infrastructure adaptation and the training of teachers.

This project, implemented between April 2019 and March 2020, was funded by The Government of Canada, the International Humanitarian Assistance Division (IHA), and implemented by RET in Colombia.

Bridging the Gaps



DID YOU KNOW?

RET in Colombia is an active member of:

- The Country's Humanitarian Team (led by the UN)
- The Protection Cluster (led by UNHCR), RET is involved in the Protection Cluster (in collaboration with UNHCR), where support has been provided for the management of the Delegate Ombudsman's Office for Human Rights.
- The Early Recovery Cluster (led by UNDP)
- The Board of Education (led by UNICEF)
- The Inter-agency Group of Mixed Migratory Flows to address the crisis in Venezuela (led by UNHCR - IOM)

COSTA RICA

OVERVIEW

Since 2010, RET has directly supported more than **51,000 direct participants** in Costa Rica; **55 % of them are vulnerable women**, and indirectly benefited **500,000 beneficiaries**.

RET, also supported the opening of more than **17 facilities** throughout **22 projects** focused on *Protection (Gender-based Violence Prevention & Mitigation, Response to Forced & Early Marriage, Sexual & Reproductive Health Programs, Child Protection, Legal Support, and Human Rights), Economic Growth & Development (Self-Reliance & livelihoods, Business Development & Entrepreneurship), Education (Post-primary Education including tertiary, Basic Education, Life & Soft Skills, Distance Learning), Peace, Stability & Transition (including Community Resilience), Prevention & Management of Disasters and Natural Hazards, and Basic Infrastructure & Equipment.*

Since 2010, RET has provided interventions in vulnerable areas, particularly in: *the Caribbean shores, Nicaraguan frontiers (Upala and Los Chiles), Sixaola, Paraíso, Puerto Viejo, and Cahuita, San Jose and Heredia, Guararí*; also in the fourteen Cantons of *Curridabat, Montes de Oca, Moravia, La Union de Tres Rios, Desamparados, Alajuelita, Escazú, Mora, Belén de Heredia, Alajuela, San Jose, Tibas, Goicoechea and Santa Ana.*

RET also supported the Nicaraguan refugees in Costa Rica, *in the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM)*, with a focus on the vulnerable communities of *Guararí, Desamparados and Cartago and in the districts of Aguas Zarcas, Alajuela and the cantons of Garabito, Puntarenas and Santa Cruz and Guanacaste.*

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over **12 million USD** towards the vulnerable communities in Costa Rica, with the generous support of *the U.S. Department of State's Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI); the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM); the Government of Canada-the International Humanitarian Assistance division (IHA); the Swiss Embassy in Costa Rica; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).*

RET'S INTERVENTIONS

RET started activities in Costa Rica in October 2010, with a vision of consolidating protective environments for refugee populations' social inclusion. Costa Rica has a large proportion of refugees, predominantly from Colombia, and Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Cuba, and lately, Venezuela. It is estimated that the immigration from Latin American countries with internal conflict situations reached approximately 55,000 people arriving in Costa Rica. This displacement into Costa Rica creates many challenges within the country, and the Costa Rican community is showing signs of xenophobia and violence. Asylum seekers, migrants, and the local population face significant risks and have become vulnerable to violence.

RET in Costa Rica implemented projects responding to violence linked to drug trafficking mainly at the Grand Metropolitan Area and other regions such as the Caribbean shores, Nicaraguan frontiers (Upala and Los Chiles), in addition to interventions aimed to prevent bullying and sexual violence and to promote the development of vulnerable young people by facilitating their participation and integration in the formal

education system. Additionally, RET provided holistic programs answering the specific social and economic integration needs of refugees and asylum seekers, and provided development opportunities for adolescents and young people in particular.

The number of refugee applications in Costa Rica grew by 225%, highlighting the significant influx of families and young people fleeing the Colombian armed conflict, Venezuela's socio-economic situation, and the violence and extortion of armed groups and gangs in El Salvador. Faced with the strain of this increase in arrivals, Costa Rica faces difficulties in protecting these families' rights and creating durable solutions for their integration.

More recently, RET implemented projects to increase the self-reliance and integration of the most vulnerable populations in need of international protection. It was designed to close the service gaps identified in providing assistance and the promotion of integration of this population. It was made possible through close collaboration with local partner institutions and working with young people and leaders from the people in need of international protection and the host community.



COSTA RICA

RET projects were designed to provide vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers from Venezuela with access to humanitarian assistance, education, and legal counseling in coordination with public institutions. Also, the projects offered individual and psychosocial support for vulnerable families and improved the response and protection services to gender-based violence survivors and at-risk women and girls, through humanitarian and legal assistance in coordination with national and local authorities. Finally, RET supported the government institutions by strengthening their capacities for the provision of services to Venezuelan asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants.

Additionally, RET responded to the migration crisis of the Nicaraguan refugee population and asylum seekers. The interventions addressed the needs of the Nicaraguan population in Costa Rica by providing basic humanitarian assistance such as health, education, shelter, and food, laterally promoting socio-cultural integration through awareness campaigns to prevent violent xenophobia. The project facilitated access to refugee rights through legal counseling and coordination with state and local institutions. Finally, it promoted the educational inclusion of Nicaraguan refugees and asylum seekers for integration into the host community's educational community. RET implemented this project in the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM), focusing on the vulnerable communities of Guararí, Desamparados, and Cartago and in the districts of Aguas Zarcas, Alajuela and the cantons of Garabito, Puntarenas and Santa Cruz and finally Guanacaste.

RET was also involved in projects to build local government capacity to prevent and provide services to gender-based violence (GBV) survivors in Costa Rica in the fourteen Cantons of Curridabat, Montes de Oca, Moravia, La Unión de Tres Ríos, Desamparados, Alajuelita, Escazú, Mora, Belén de Heredia, Alajuela, San José, Tibas, Goicoechea and Santa Ana. The project is aligned with the "Digital Local Government

Platform" to prevent and assist survivors of GBV, coordinated through a network at the GAM level, and using innovation methodologies for the socio-economic inclusion of female survivors of GBV. The project supported local government officials' training (TOT) to assist women with entrepreneurship initiatives, identify business opportunities, business planning, and critical thinking. Coordination mechanisms were put in place between public officials and civil society members to prevent GBV and provide assistance to GBV survivors.

RET used a comprehensive approach in its interventions in Costa Rica, addressing different areas related to the multiple needs of PNIPs and their integration in the communities. RET provided the most affected with humanitarian aid, such as healthcare rights, education, legal counseling, facilitated access to the educational system; psychological care, and improving young people's skills to enter the labor market and/or run income-generating activities. Furthermore, in collaboration with UNHCR and the ACAI, operational measures were established to participate in the "Live the Integration" program to improve the target population's access to the labor market.

PARTNERSHIPS & COORDINATION:

ENGAGEMENT IN COSTA RICA:

RET participated in the Multi-Functional Team for the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence, led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which brought together representatives from different entities such as the Ombudsman's Office, the National Children's Board, the Association of International Consultants and Advisors (ACAI), Senderos, and Casa Abierta, among others. The Multi-Functional Team focuses on assisting cases of GBV experienced by refugees and asylum applicants who have not had a positive resolution from the Costa Rican authorities.



RET in Costa Rica has been a member of the National Network of Civil Society Organizations for Migrations and the Permanent Migration and Refugee Population Forum to develop coordinated responses, and is a member of the Assistance and Protection Networks for Victims of Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence, in Alajuela, Heredia, Belén and Hatillo as well as in the Cantonal Employment Network and the Local Sub- Assembly for Child and Adolescent Protection of Alajuela.

PARTNERS IN COSTA RICA:

IOM, alianzavencr, local governments, general of migration

and foreigner-ship, refuge subprocess, mixed institute of social assistance, UNHCR, Civic Centers for Peace, Local Governments, Directorate-General for Migration and Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Public Education (MEP), National Institute of Women (INAMU), Curridabat Local Government, National Council of People with Disabilities, Institute of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Security, Chamber of Commerce, Incubator AUGE, University of Costa Rica, National Union of Local Governments, National Association mayoral and city halls.

COSTA RICA

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

Program for Responding to the Specific Needs of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The project aimed to offer a structure of support and response to the specific social and economic integration needs of people of concern to the UNHCR. RET worked to empower individuals to access their rights in society, enabling a participatory platform for social integration and strengthening their emotional or mental health through psychosocial support and attention.

The project offered individual attention and differentiated group spaces for men, women, and young people. Different formative processes were used for their empowerment and, eventually, integration in the country.

The project dealt with the main emotional aspects of the traumatic experience of flight: mourning, economic uncertainty, gender-based violence, and facilitated integration, solidarity, and resilience through self-help groups. Vulnerable women were among the groups that required the most psychosocial attention, which was implemented in the Great

Metropolitan Area of Costa Rica.

This project, completed between January 2018 and December 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by RET in Costa Rica.

Prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence: empowering refugee women and asylum seekers in Costa Rica

This project increased the capacity for prevention and timely response to sexual and gender-based violence of refugee and asylum-seeking women in Costa Rica by strengthening their capacities. Moreover, RET developed a guide on prevention, assistance, and response to SGBV and awareness-raising among asylum-seeking women and their family members.

This project, implemented between March 2018 and October 2018, was funded by the Swiss Embassy in Costa Rica and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.



Management and self-sufficiency: a proposal for the integration of Venezuelan asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants in Costa Rica

Over the last three years, a significant increase has been seen in the population that arrives in Costa Rica seeking refugee status or asylum due to conflict situations in different countries in the region.

To respond to the high influx of migrants in Costa Rica, RET is currently implementing a project aimed to improve the self-sufficiency of asylum seekers and vulnerable Venezuelan migrants in Costa Rica using an integrated approach in coordination with public institutions and local institutions.

The project was designed to provide vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers with access to humanitarian assistance, education, and legal counseling in coordination with public institutions.

Also, the project offered individual and psychosocial support for vulnerable families; improved the response and protection services to gender-based violence survivors and at-risk women and girls, through humanitarian and legal assistance in coordination with national and local authorities, and finally, supported the government institutions by strengthening their capacities for the provision of services to Venezuelan asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants.

This project, implemented between September 2018 and December 2019, is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.

Promotion of Refugees and Migrants Rights in Costa Rica

The project provided a capacity strengthening of public institutions to promote, support, and safeguard migrants' rights in San José, Costa Rica. RET identified public officials' needs facing inter-institutional management challenges in public institutions in the GAM region by helping them build a strategic articulation network to facilitate access to refugee rights and train their peers in various workspaces.

RET has developed several 'alternative' programs to guarantee adolescents, youth, and their families have access to fundamental human rights in different settings, during conflicts, post-conflict, and fragile contexts.

All these initiatives have promoted the understanding and fulfillment of rights by concerned groups and the strengthening of the institution's functions to observe human rights.

This project, implemented between October 2018 and March 2019, was funded by the German Embassy in Costa Rica and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.



COSTA RICA

Responding to the specific needs of refugees and asylum seekers in Costa Rica

The project aimed to offer a structure of support and response to the specific social and economic integration needs of people of concern to the UNHCR. RET worked to empower individuals to access their rights in society, enabling a participatory platform for social integration and strengthening their emotional or mental health through psychosocial support and attention. The project offered individual attention and differentiated group spaces for men, women, and young people. Different formative processes were used for their empowerment and, eventually, integration in the country.

The project dealt with the main emotional aspects of the traumatic experience of flight: mourning, economic uncertainty, gender-based violence, and facilitated integration, solidarity, and resilience through self-help groups. Vulnerable women & the LGBTQ community were among the groups that required the most psychosocial attention, which was implemented in the Great Metropolitan Area of Costa Rica. RET intervened on a community-based level through coordinating with community leaders, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, and public institutions to narrow the gap of human rights access for the population of concern.

This project, completed between January 2019 and December 2019, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by RET in Costa Rica.

(2018 - 2020) Building Local Governments Capacity to prevent and provide services to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Survivors

The project aimed to strengthen the local government capacities to prevent and provide services to survivors of gender-

based violence in the fourteen Cantons of Curridabat, Montes de Oca, Moravia, La Unión de Tres Ríos, Desamparados, Alajuelita, Escazú, Mora, Belén de Heredia, Alajuela, San José, Tibas, Goicoechea and Santa Ana. The project was aligned with the “Digital Local Government Platform” to prevent and assist survivors of GBV, coordinated through a network at the GAM level, and using innovation methodologies for the socio-economic inclusion of female survivors of GBV. The project supported local government officials’ training (TOT) to assist women with entrepreneurship initiatives, identifying business opportunities, business planning, and critical thinking. Coordination mechanisms were put in place between public officials and civil society members to prevent GBV and provide assistance to GBV survivors.

This project, implemented respectively between August 2018 and July 2020 was funded by the “The International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Office” (INL), U.S. Department of State’s Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.

(2019 - 2020) Response to the migration crisis of the Nicaraguan refugee population and asylum seeker

The political crisis in Nicaragua (2018) had a direct impact on the growing number of refugee requests of Nicaraguan people fleeing their homes in search of international protection in central America and particularly in Costa Rica.

The project addressed the needs of the Nicaraguan population in Costa Rica by providing basic humanitarian assistance such as health, education, shelter, and food, laterally promoting socio-cultural integration through awareness campaigns to prevent violence xenophobia.

The project facilitated access to refugee rights through legal counseling and

coordination with state and local institutions. Finally, it promoted Nicaraguan refugees' educational inclusion and asylum seekers for integration into the host community's educational community.

RET implemented this project in the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM), with a focus on the vulnerable communities of Guararí, Desamparados and Cartago and in the districts of Aguas Zarcas, Alajuela and the cantons of Garabito, Puntarenas and Santa Cruz and finally Guanacaste.

This project, implemented between November 2018 and July 2020, is funded by the Swiss Cooperation in Central América and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.



ECUADOR

OVERVIEW

Since 2005, RET has directly supported more than **140,000 direct participants** in Ecuador, **58% of them are vulnerable women**, and indirectly benefited more than **1.4 million beneficiaries** in Ecuador. RET also supported the opening of more than **199 facilities** throughout **28 projects** focused on *Protection (Child Protection and Prevention and Response to Early and Forced Marriage), Economic Growth & Development (Business Development & Entrepreneurship, Self-reliance, and Socio-economic Strengthening), Education, Prevention & Management of Disasters and Natural Hazards, and Youth Development.*

Since 2010, RET has provided emergency support for early recovery of internally displaced populations and Colombian refugees at the border between Ecuador and Colombia *in Lago Agrio, San Lorenzo, Tulcan, Quito, and Ibarra.* Also, RET supported the eradication of Child labor in *Lago Agrio, Esmeraldas, San Lorenzo, Atacames y Quito.* During the fiscal years 2016 to 2018, RET started implementing a multi-year program in the *northern border cities of Lago Agrio and Esmeraldas* to strengthen vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees' capacities.

RET provided Technical Assistance in the Field Assessment and Participatory and developed Codes of School Life in *Four Cantons of the Northern Border in Sucumbíos & in 14 schools in the Esmeraldas Provinces.* An addendum for the program expanded the strategy to reach 50 additional schools in the affected rural communities *of Muisne (Bolívar, Chamanga, DaulGalera, Quingue, Esmeralda's, and San Gregorio).*

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over **6 million USD** towards the vulnerable communities in Ecuador, with the generous support of *the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), the Government of Norway, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific*

and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Education Cannot Wait and donors from the private sector.

RET'S INTERVENTIONS

In 2005, RET opened its first office in Quito's Latin American region by establishing channels for integration and promoting education. RET provided opportunities to young displaced youth, particularly Colombian refugees, to reduce the education gap regarding accessibility, safety and quality, and post-primary education. It also provided emergency support for the early recovery of internally displaced populations and Colombian refugees at the border between Ecuador and Colombia in Lago Agrio, San Lorenzo, Tulcan, Quito, and Ibarra.

RET programs between 2011 and 2015 focused on efforts to eradicate child labor in Lago Agrio, Esmeraldas, San Lorenzo, Atacames y Quito. RET provided programs to prevent school drop-out, Technical and vocational training for worker adolescents, access to basic services and social programs, youth initiatives and life skills, and sensitization to parents.

During the fiscal year 2016, RET started implementing a multi-year program in the northern border cities of Lago Agrio and Esmeraldas, strengthening the capacities

of vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees and public institutions' ability to accomplish refugees' and asylum seekers' integration and self-reliance in Ecuador. The program sought to increase the self-reliance of vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees in Ecuador based on cross-sectoral interventions to humanitarian assistance, protection mechanisms, livelihoods, and socio-cultural integration.

RET in Ecuador also participated in the following inter-institutional networks: The Third Youth Environmental Conference "Youthab", the Gender Board, the Board for Violence Against Children and Adolescents, the Human Mobility Board in Esmeraldas, the Livelihoods Board in Lago Agrio, the Education Board in UIO and Esmeraldas and the Durable Solutions Committee in three localities.

Moreover, RET implemented programs to build the capacity and ensure the Rights of Children and Youth in Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Situations". The program involved the creation and implementation of a virtual training tool along with a government guide ("Actions for Resilience of Children and Youth") to build the capacity of key government, non-government and international entities responsible for the protection of the rights of children and

youth during disasters and emergencies. A pilot program was also applied in 16 schools in Ecuador and led to the development of guidelines and methodologies through field assessments of "codes of school life," which promoted a culture of peace in Four Cantons of the Northern Border in Sucumbíos. Based on these results, a guiding document on building such "codes of school life" was published in a participatory manner. The same process was replicated in the Province of Esmeraldas throughout 14 schools, to provide "Technical Assistance in the Field Assessment and Participatory Development of Codes of School Life" and eventually, the program was expanded to reach 50 additional schools in the affected rural communities of Muisne (Bolívar, Chamanga, Daule, Galera, Quingue, Salima and San Gregorio).

On April 2016, a massive earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter scale struck the northern coast of the country, leaving 668 dead, eight missing, and 16'600 injured. A state of emergency was declared, and humanitarian efforts were put in place. Immediately, RET activated its emergency response and coordination mechanism with the Education and Protection Cluster in coordination with UNICEF and local institutions such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion, and the Secretary of Risk Management.



ECUADOR

RET implemented a program to raise the awareness of adolescents and youths on the consequences of earthquakes. Participants identified weaknesses and opportunities in their communities regarding three main themes: Education, water and sanitation, and living conditions. RET reached an agreement with UNICEF to be a direct implementer for an emergency recovery program funded by ECHO, which focused on water and sanitation, disaster risk reduction, and protection.

More recently, Latin America's largest mass population migration in history has impacted Ecuador, with some 547,000 Venezuelans have entered Ecuador through the Colombian border (UNHCR, 2018). RET, operating from its main offices in the provinces of Sucumbíos, Esmeraldas, and Pichincha, provided humanitarian assistance to asylum seekers and refugees, enabled their socio-cultural integration into the host communities, and provided emergency care for displaced children and adolescents in different localities throughout Ecuador. RET was also involved in strengthening and supporting adolescents and young people and protecting children and adolescents by integrating them into the local education system.

RET implemented projects aimed at strengthening local capacities of adolescents and young people and promoting participation and inclusion spaces, in response to the Venezuelan migration crisis. The goal of this project was to increase the self-reliance of vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees in Ecuador and the ability of public institutions to provide services for them; bridging the gaps in critical humanitarian assistance through psycho-social care, GBV response and prevention mechanisms and education; development support through livelihoods, income-generating activities and socio-cultural integration in the host community.

As of February 2019, 58.8% of the Venezuelan children and adolescents between 3 and 17 years were excluded

from education (8,568 girls and 9,662 boys). The main reasons are economical, administrative (enrollment processes, overcrowded schools, and lack of information/awareness) and discrimination by peers and teachers and/or bullying by peers.

To respond to the needs of the Venezuelan refugees in Ecuador, RET and, in partnership with Education Cannot Wait (ECW), implemented a project to improve access to quality formal education for Venezuelan migrant and refugee adolescents. In tandem with supporting the host communities in Quito and Esmeraldas. The project strengthened the capacities of public officials of the Ministry of Education at national and sub-national levels to ensure access to public education and the implementation of inclusive Education for the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population. RET distributed essential supplies and supported eliminating the existing economic barriers to education for migrants and refugees from Venezuela. RET provided host schools with fundamental teaching and WASH materials and raised awareness about formal education enrollment process to out-of-school children and their families from the refugee and host communities.

In 2020, RET is currently implementing a project to develop and implement a methodology for psycho-social support in the five safe spaces, where children and adolescents participate in organized activities to play, socialize, learn, and express themselves as they rebuild their lives. This methodology was aligned with the Minimum Standards for the Protection of Children in Humanitarian Action - NMPI and Standard 17 for Child-Friendly Spaces. Finally, the project will promote the inclusion of children and adolescents in educational activities; the RET technical team will provide educational support in virtual mode, in line with the Ministry of Education's Plan and the program "Let's Learn Together at Home."

Bridging the Gaps

RET



ECUADOR

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

2019

Strengthening Capacities of Vulnerable Asylum Seekers and Refugees and the Ability of Public Institutions to Accomplish Refugees' and Asylum Seekers' Integration and Self-Reliance in Ecuador

The goal of this project was to increase the self-reliance of vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees in Ecuador and the ability of public institutions to provide services for them; bridging the gaps in critical humanitarian assistance through psycho-social care, GBV response, prevention mechanisms and education; development support through livelihoods, income-generating activities and socio-cultural integration in the host community.

RET provided 635 family members with emergency humanitarian aid (psycho-social care, GBV prevention, response mechanisms, education on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)).

Ninety family members were integrated into the local market processes through income generation activities, and 400 children, adolescents, and youths were able to access and/or remained in the educational system.

RET strengthened the capacity of more than 250 teachers to reduce discrimination and xenophobia in schools, according to the methodology developed by RET. Moreover, 200 adolescents and youths were integrated in socio-cultural networks to advance their self-sufficiency.

This project, implemented between September 2017 and December 2018, was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Ecuador.

Strengthening Local Capacities of Adolescents and Young People, from San Lorenzo Canton, Esmeraldas Province, for the Promotion of Participation and Inclusion Spaces

The project aimed to empower groups of young people with the knowledge and life skills necessary for the prevention and protection of rights, which articulate themselves in a network of adolescents and youth who can pursue their agenda and action plans to act within their families, communities and institutions. The project mapped vulnerabilities and risks identified by the adolescents and youth, through an understanding and acknowledgment of their rights.

This project, completed between November 2017 and November 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) by RET in Ecuador.





Strengthening Local Capacities of Adolescents and Young People

The project strengthened the local capacities of adolescents and young people from San Lorenzo Canton, Esmeraldas Province, to promote their participation and inclusion in safe spaces. They were offered psycho-social support and recreational activities to facilitate their formal education at a later stage.

The project offered emergency care for displaced children and adolescents from the Pan de San Lorenzo community and support displaced children and families that enter Ecuador through the San Miguel-CEBAF bridge in the province Sucumbíos.

This project, completed between November 2017 and November 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) by RET in Ecuador.

Strengthening the Community Protection System in the Nuevo Renacer Citadel and the institutional environment of the Muisne canton. (Muisne, Esmeraldas)

The project mitigated the risks for children and adolescents in Muisne, Esmeraldas, by establishing community and institutional protection mechanisms; it strengthened youth and their parents' capacities to promote participation and inclusion and supported displaced children in particular.

This project, completed between April 2018 and December 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) by RET in Ecuador.

MEXICO

OVERVIEW

Since 2017, RET has directly supported more than **58,000 direct participants** in Mexico, **48% of them are vulnerable women**, and indirectly benefited more than **600,000 beneficiaries**, throughout **6 projects** focused on *Protection (including Child Protection and Gender-based Violence Prevention & Assistance)*, *Education, Economic Growth & Development (including Livelihoods programs)*, *Youth Development*, and *Nutrition & Food Security*.

Since 2017, RET has been a strategic partner of UNHCR in Mexico, providing humanitarian assistance and strengthening vulnerable families in *Tapachula and Palenque, state of Chiapas, Tenosique, state of Tabasco, Acayucan, Oluta, Coatzacoalcas, Veracruz City, Xalapa and Tierra Blanca, state of Veracruz*. RET established “Friendly Spaces” in Mapastepec and Suchiate. As of February 2019, RET also became a UNICEF partner, implementing an emergency program to assist children on Mexico’s south border (*Tapachula, Chiapas*).

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over **4 million USD** towards the vulnerable communities in Mexico, with the generous support of *the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*.





RET'S INTERVENTIONS

Mexico is characterized as a country of origin, transit, destination, and return. Migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and victims of human trafficking all transit through what has become one of the world's largest migration corridors.

RET's interventions responded to the problems brought forth by the unprecedented arrival of families to Mexico's southern border, fleeing gang-based violence in their home countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. A lack of basic necessities, access to schools, child labor, refugee application processes, and organized crime are examples of what displaced populations face. In contrast, both internal and external displaced people have to contend with complex integration issues.

Child Protection

As part of its programs to strengthen the resilience of refugee families, RET provided holistic protection, case management, and multi-sectorial services that aim to improve their integration in the host community. The program targeted teachers to strengthen their knowledge

and awareness of child protection and prevention and response to SGBV. This approach sought to transform schools into safe spaces for children and adolescents in need of international protection.

RET's child protection experience consisted of providing psychosocial support to accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents in "Friendly Spaces" in Mapastepec and Suchiate. RET provided psychosocial support in shelters for migrants and at the Migration Station in Tapachula, Chiapas state, and public schools. The methodology involved strengthening teachers' and education representatives' knowledge and awareness of child protection and prevention and response to SGBV.

In 2019 the process included developing and implementing recreational, artistic, and sports activities with a psychosocial focus.

Gender-based Violence Prevention & Mitigation

RET began implementing GBV in October 2018 in the cities where there is a gender alert due to the number of femicide crimes (State of Veracruz: Coatzacoalcos,

MEXICO

Veracruz, Acayucan, and Oluta; State of Tabasco: Tenosique; State of Chiapas: Palenque). RET's experience consisted of identifying and referring to specialized services for individuals, couples to support group psychological care, utilizing a diagnostic instrument on violent situations. RET has experience implementing violence prevention workshops, creating support groups for women to strengthen the internal emotional resources of survivors to reduce violence, and formulating Support Groups for men and training in "New Masculinities" to minimize cases of violence against women.

Cash Support

RET started our activities in Mexico in March 2017 with the Humanitarian Assistance Project in partnership with UNHCR. However, in May 2018, our donor decided to deliver in all states of the Southern Border. In October 2019, RET restarted the delivery of CBI in Tapachula, state of Chiapas.

RET in Mexico has experience in registration, interviewing for the detection of primary needs of the population of interest, the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and follow-up cases following UNHCR's rules of operation.

Youth Development

The youth development components were implemented in cooperation between IOC, UNHCR, and RET in Mexico. They consisted of protecting against abuse, exploitation, and violence of adolescents and young people (12-25 years old) seeking refugee status, and vulnerable Mexicans.

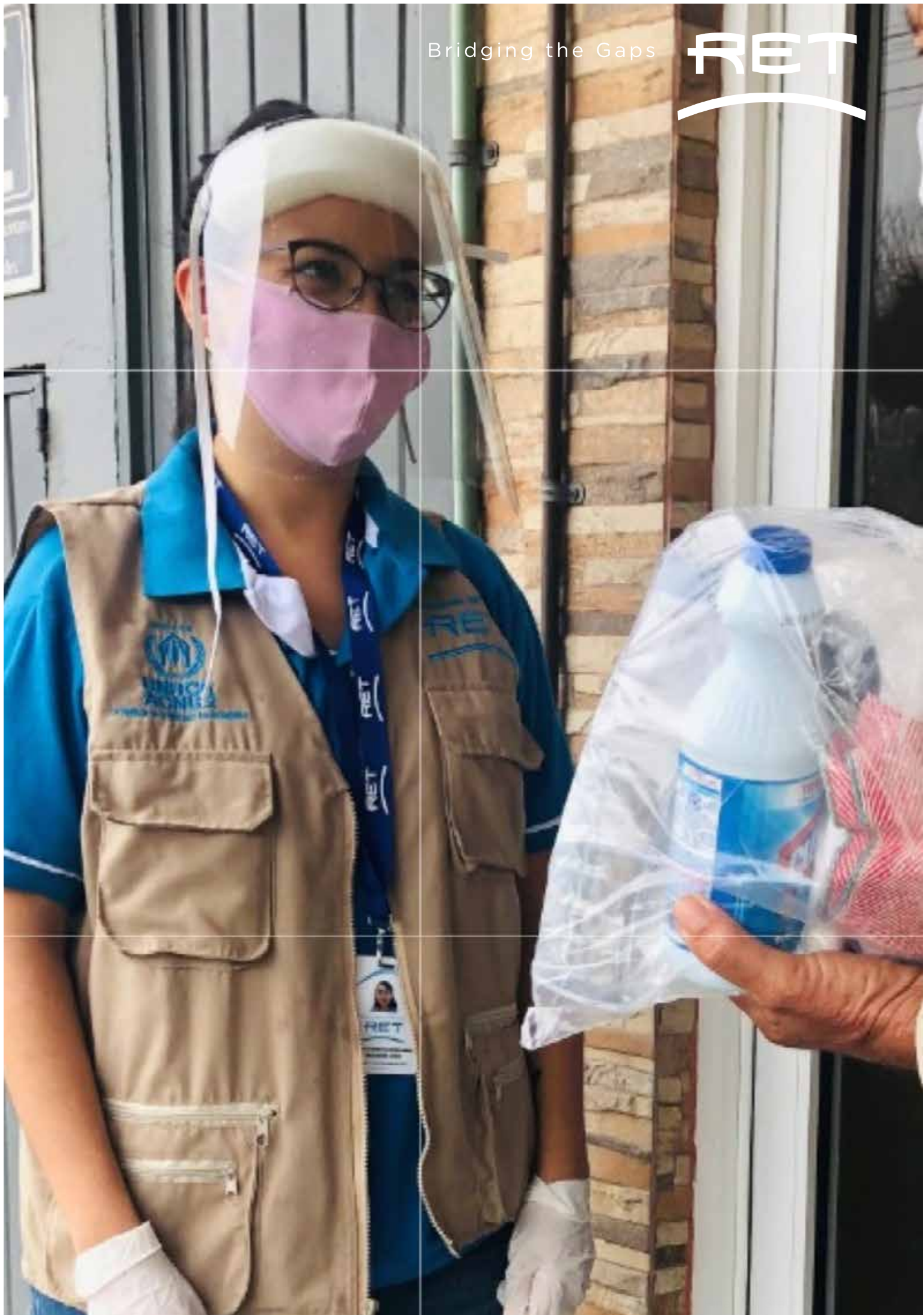
RET used sport and other recreational activities to increase resilience and life skills, thus impacting participants' well-being and protection. RET implemented youth development projects in 5 different cities: Tapachula, Palenque, Tenosique, Acayucan, and Oluta.

The work was done through a survey on preferences, skills, and hobbies that made it possible to determine the sports activities to be implemented with young people. Moreover, RET raised awareness and provided orientation for parents and caregivers for the development of sports training. RET held life skills camp, sports tournaments and implemented socio-cultural initiatives; eventually, RET formed youth clubs to sustain the actions' future sustainability. The work focused on improving the participants' emotional state and was mainstreamed with the education and livelihood components.



Bridging the Gaps

RET



MEXICO

Education

Since July 2017 and to date, RET has been implementing an education component in 4 cities of the country (Tapachula, Palenque, Tenosique, and Acayucan). The work consisted of the orientation and support for access and permanence in the Mexican educational system for children, adolescents, young people, and adults interested in continuing their studies; educational activities also complemented the formal education component. In tandem with raising teachers' awareness of rights issues.

RET's approach consisted of:

(a) guidance for parents and caregivers on the functioning of the Mexican education system and the right to education in Mexico; (b) financial support from the UNHCR for payment of registration fees and validation of studies, and other complementary support; (c) implementation of various strategies for academic upgrading and strengthening for children and adolescents (homework club, reading, writing and mathematics workshops, art workshops to prevent children from falling behind and dropping out of school, reading club, etc.); and (d) implementation of socio-educational initiatives in coordination with schools, teachers, and parents/caregivers.

Livelihoods

Since 2017, RET has been implementing a livelihood component in 4 cities (Tapachula, Palenque, Tenosique, and Acayucan). The work consisted of improving refugees' employment profile, providing guidance/counseling and monitoring cases, and accessing employment opportunities in various locations.

RET's approach to self-reliance consisted of

a) **Social training that focused on generating or developing personal and social skills, emphasizing aspects such as self-esteem, decision-making, empowerment, and emotion management. The final product of this training was the drafting of the Life Plan and was carried out in coordination with the psychosocial support component;**
b) **Technical and/or vocational training aimed at strengthening employment profiles;**
c) **Advice on employment opportunities and links with existing job centers;**
d) **Training and awareness-raising for potential local employers on the inclusion of the population of interest in the labor market.**



Bridging the Gaps

RET



MEXICO

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

2019

Improving local integration opportunities for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The project supported the newly recognized refugees and those in the process of obtaining a refugee status with humanitarian aid such as food, shelter, or hygiene products. It assisted them with emergency psychosocial support to strengthen their emotional stability, their resilience, and to contribute to their integration into the Mexican host communities.

Through its holistic approach, the project assisted the displaced families arriving at Mexico's southern border by strengthening their protection and integration mechanisms through individual and group psychosocial care, advisory services, and livelihoods training. The project also supported the youth within the families with educational training to facilitate their integration in the Mexican educational system.

The objective of the humanitarian assistance component was to provide livelihood assistance to 800 refugees. With a comprehensive approach to humanitarian assistance delivery, it was guaranteed that people have access to the basic means of subsistence and emotional restraint, allowing them to complete their asylum procedure before the Mexican Commission for Refugee Aid (COMAR).

The component to strengthening refugee families provided a multidisciplinary response aimed at enhancing the protection and integration mechanisms of refugee families on Mexico's southern border, through access to education and the strengthening of the educational system as a protective environment; psychosocial care; and the implementation of livelihoods. The purpose

was to reduce adversities to which these families are exposed, given their migratory and mobility status and Mexico's socio-economic conditions. The project will focus its interventions on 300 families (made up of 1,200 people) in need of international protection. To reduce youth's vulnerability, provide protect them, and prevent violence, the project offered sports/art and culture as a tool to their protection and integration.

The purpose of the component on youth protection through sports, art, and/or culture was to protect and prevent violence in 350 refugee adolescents and young adults (12 to 25 years old) in Mexico. It used sports, art, and/or culture as tools to promote favorable environments and protectors for their development and integration.

The project also strengthened the internal mechanisms responding to gender-based violence (GBV) and assisted the survivors of GBV with psychological first aid, individual, and group psychosocial support. The inclusion of men in GBV training and awareness-raising sessions contributed to modifying behavioral patterns, thus, reducing violence against women.

These projects, implemented between January 2018 and December 2018 and January 2019 and December 2019, were implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by RET in Mexico. The component of youth protection through sports/art and culture received funds from the International Olympic Committee in partnership with UNCHR.



Psychosocial support and protection for children and adolescents (accompanied and unaccompanied) in a situation of mobility in temporary and transit shelters for migrants and public schools in Tapachula and Suchiate, Chiapas

Among the members of the caravans, children and adolescents are the most vulnerable group. Given their young age, they are more likely to be emotionally affected by the difficult circumstances of migration and mobility, in addition to the already traumatic conditions that led to their departure from their places of origin. The program offered psychosocial care to children and delivered a series of recreational activities with a psychosocial

focus in shelters and spaces where children are temporarily housed.

As of May 2019, the program has included actions to raise awareness among Mexican children about inclusion, tolerance, and respect for human rights, intending to promote integration with the Central American population at an early age.

These projects implemented between February 2019 and April 2019, and May 2019 and June 2019 (extension), and June 2019 and December 2019 (extension), were implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) by RET in Mexico.



PANAMA

OVERVIEW

Since 2009, RET has directly supported more than **33,600 direct participants** in Panama, **44% of them are vulnerable women**, and indirectly benefited more than **300,000 beneficiaries**. RET also supported the opening of **20 facilities** throughout **27 projects** focused on *Protection (including Child Protection and Gender-based Violence Mitigation)*, *Education (including Basic, Primary and Tertiary Education)*, *Disaster Risk Reduction (including Management of Disasters and Natural Hazards, and safety in school settings)*, *Peace Stability & Transition (including Peace-building and Conflicts Resolution)* and *Youth Development*.

Since 2009, RET's operations were focused in the provinces of *Panama, Colon, San Miguelito and Darien with a long-lasting solution of integrating the asylum seekers into local communities. RET inaugurated Child spaces in Darien, (Panama - Colombia Border.)*

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over **6 million USD** towards the vulnerable communities in Panama, with the generous

support of *the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM)*, *the U.S. Department of State's Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI)*, *the U.S Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)*, *the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*, *the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*, *the U.S. Embassy in Panama*, *the Swiss Embassy in Panama*, *the Government of Germany (Human Rights Division)* and *funds from the private sectors*.





RET'S INTERVENTIONS

According to UNHCR statistics, there are 2,542 recognized refugees in Panama, of which 1,700 are refugees of Colombian nationality and a backlog of 13,500 pending applications (2019). This figure continues increasing due to several factors such as the high influx of refugees from the Colombian population impacted by the perpetual armed conflict in Colombia; the steady increase of Guatemalan, Salvadorian and Honduran asylum seekers in the country, and the significant increase in the number of Nicaraguan and Venezuelan applicants due to the political situation in both countries.

Moreover, the Cuban migrants in transit who enter through Darién, on the border with Colombia, and apply for refugee status as an alternative for regular stay, while continuing their journey to the United States. Moreover, Panama faces a growing wave of discriminatory and xenophobic attitudes/actions from public officials and host communities due to the steady increase of foreigners.

The most vulnerable families arrive without resources or support networks; access to health, education, food, and housing is a real challenge. Emergency

humanitarian assistance has proven to have a positive impact in closing the gaps that prevent families from accessing these rights and, in turn, reduce the effect of displacement.

Since 2009, and within a comprehensive response framework, RET provided humanitarian assistance to help people of interest (Refugees, and Asylum Seekers) with basic needs, such as food & nutrition, health (medicines, medical exams), shelter, and provided technical assistance and capacity building programs to government officials and institutions to help them strengthen their services available to refugees and asylum seekers (RAS). Government officials' training was comprehensive of children's rights and protection, migrant children and adolescents, unaccompanied or separated children.

RET's interventions in Panama also prioritized "Child Protection." It provided areas such as prevention of child labor, psychosocial support of children and adolescents in emergencies, disaster mitigation, and human mobility. RET established "Child-Friendly Spaces(CFS)" and offered psychosocial care for children and adolescents in Darien (Panama - Colombia Border). RET also provided

PANAMA

institutional strengthening to state officials to improve services to migrant, unaccompanied or separated children and children in need of international protection; moreover, RET assisted them with the improvement of national policies on child protection. Furthermore, RET provided Psychosocial support for refugee women and established support groups for the participation and articulation of Sexual and Gender Violence (SGBV) with partners and agencies of the United Nations, and provide legal support to users regarding their asylum application process and SGBV.

Youth Development was amongst RET's main focuses in Panama. Since 2009, RET supported youth development through a process that involved life and soft skills training, livelihoods, violence, and bullying prevention, promoted youth participation, and networking, and advocated issues of concern to youth and their rights.

RET has extensive experience in promoting and supporting youth development and meaningful participation at the community level to identify and address their needs. By providing youth with training,

mentorship, and the space to be creative. The following years were a consolidation of a vision to strengthen young people's participation and organization into groups, strengthening their capacities to meet their social change agents' aspirations.

During 2010-2015 a regional vision was consolidated in Ecuador, Costa Rica, Panama, and Venezuela, where RET implemented a multi-sectoral service approach to target youth and their families.

Within this framework, RET promoted youth participation and youth agency through local youth-led groups. Four countries actively designed, implemented, and led a regional campaign to end xenophobia and discrimination.

These youth networks have organized their local campaigns under the slogan "What Unites Us!" Young people who are members of the socio-cultural networks have taken on leadership and to mobilize their communities. They have been innovative in using social media, street theatre, and artworks, alongside more traditional awareness-raising mechanisms.



Bridging the Gaps

RET



PANAMA

They have taken advantage of public spaces and coordination with humanitarian organizations, public entities, and youth networks. Working with youth has always been one of RET's primary commitment in Panama. RET implemented a three-year regional program for and with displaced and refugee youth in Ecuador, Venezuela, Panama, and Costa Rica. RET organized recreational activities and celebrated thematic days to promote refugee youth's successful social integration into the local communities.

RET has promoted inclusive and safe educational community environments for vulnerable children, adolescents, and youth in Panama, allowing them to face the effects of crises, violence, and disasters since 2009, with particular attention given to young people with disabilities.

In terms of education, RET facilitated access to formal and non-formal education programs, including assistance for the legalization of educational documents granted abroad. RET worked on a comprehensive toolbox to follow up in school, implemented dropout prevention

strategies, and delivered school kits, uniforms, educational materials, and assisted RAS to cover enrollment and foreign fees to access tertiary education. RET implemented awareness-raising campaigns to prevent discrimination and provided teacher training covering inclusive approaches to teaching, bullying prevention, and psychosocial practice in school settings. RET also supported vocational education in association with the University of Panama and its adult education programs.

RET supported government institutions in developing and implementing inclusive programs and promoted people with disabilities' participation within their disaster risk management frameworks. RET provided young learners with disabilities with the skills needed to mitigate and overcome disaster risks within the school environment. The paradigm drove RET to seek the inclusion and active participation and engagement of persons with disabilities and acknowledged their specific capabilities and not only their special needs.



In collaboration with the Panamanian Institute for Special Training (IPHE), RET developed different approaches to mainstreaming inclusive practices in DRR within the education sector. Consequently, RET experienced running a successful, inclusive school safety project in Panama to teach students with disabilities how to manage the risks associated with natural disasters. It was one of the first projects in Panama to integrate disaster risk reduction and management practices into public schools to address the needs of children and youth with disabilities. This accomplishment led to the winning of the Zero project award for Innovative Practice 2020.

RET aimed to contribute towards the institutionalization of an inclusive, multi-sectoral, and community-based community disaster risk management (CDRM) and first response approach at a local level. Projects within DRR also focused on raising awareness on the effects of the El Niño phenomenon and integrated disaster risk management (IDRM) and information campaigns on how to mitigate and prepare for natural disasters at grassroots associations, youth, family members, and community leaders. Leaders, parents, and caregivers were trained to understand how to prevent, mitigate, and address the effects of natural disasters.

RET aimed to strengthen comprehensive disaster risk management capabilities, involving public officials' training, development of guides and manuals for the implementation of disaster risk reduction measures, and teacher training exercises. Moreover, RET developed educational strategies to incorporate risk management in the Ministry of Education's planning and budget, following INEE's Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies. RET also worked to ensure the right to an inclusive and safe education during emergencies for adolescents and youth living with disabilities by strengthening the Panamanian Institute for Special Adaptation (IPHE) capacities.



DID YOU KNOW?

ZERO Project Award for Innovative Practice 2020 - PANAMA

RET was granted the Zero Project Award 2020 for Innovative Practice for "Including Children, Adolescents, and Youth with Disabilities in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management practices."

RET has been implementing an inclusive school safety project in Panama to teach students with disabilities how to manage the risks associated with natural hazards. This unique project integrates Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Management Practices into public schools to address the needs of children and youth with disabilities. This project is the first in Panama to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Management practices into public schools to address the needs of children and youth with disabilities. This unique project empowers young people with disabilities to be positive agents of change in both Disaster Risk Reduction and first response. Since 2015, nearly 8,000 young people with disabilities have taken part in the project.

PANAMA

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening for the Education and Labor Permanence and Reinsertion of Adolescents and Youth in San Miguelito

San Miguelito is the 2nd most populated district of the country and is part of the metropolitan area of Panama City. Twenty-nine point five percent of its population is between ten and twenty-four years old. Poverty and urban density have caused a shortage of services and low quality of life. Its most visible problem is juvenile violence: there are thirty-five gangs with members between fourteen and twenty-seven years old.

The project worked with young people serving a law enforced socio-educational or occupational sentence under the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies supervision. On the one hand, the project strengthened the participants' socio-economic integration through insertion

in the formal and non-formal education system, the development of their capacities for employment and productive activities, psychological therapy, family integration, and strengthening community support networks. On the other hand, it focused on strengthening institutional protection mechanisms, such as building the capacity of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, developing an informative guide for adolescent and youth offenders to access available socio-economic rehabilitation and reintegration services as well as validating a "Local Road Map" for rehabilitation and socio-educational and employment reintegration.

This project, implemented between September 2016 and May 2018, was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) and implemented by RET in Panama.



Bridging the Gaps



PANAMA

2019

**Two projects (2017-2018 and 2018-2019)
Building networks to improve self-sufficiency and integration: strengthening institutional capacities for the assistance, protection, and inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees in Panama and Colon**

According to statistics from the National Office for Refugee Affairs, Panama has two thousand three hundred recognized refugees and a backlog of approximately two thousand applications from asylum seekers. These populations face essential limits to their socio-economic integration into the host community. A lack of access to health services and psychosocial support; high cost of living and basic food or school supplies; little access to documentation or psycho-educational and pedagogical support (which limits school enrolment and permanence) as well as scarce capacity building opportunities to start or strengthen sustainable livelihoods are all contributing factors to this limited integration.

The project focused on bridging these gaps using various approaches. It included access to health, shelter, and food during emergencies, legal assistance, psychosocial support, access to education and pedagogical support for educational permanence, access to bank accounts and loans, and the development of capacities to generate sustainable livelihoods. The project is also centered on protection and prevention against xenophobia and discrimination, supporting persons in need of international protection in the access and enjoyment of their rights (legal assistance), in addition to providing institutional strengthening to local government organizations and community groups.

The project increased self-sufficiency and integration opportunities for vulnerable refugee families and asylum seekers by strengthening partnerships and networks with key public institutions and civil society organizations to provide humanitarian assistance and basic services.

These projects, implemented between September 2017 and September 2018, and October 2018 and September 2019, were funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Panama.

Advocacy and institutional strengthening for the incorporation of integrated disaster and emergency risk management in public policies related to children and adolescents

The project strengthened the State entities' institutional capacities responsible for the education, social development, and integral protection of children and adolescents in the Darien province in Panama.

Panama has the highest urbanization rate in Central America: 68% of the population lives in urban environments. This urban growth has not been adequately planned or controlled by the State, generating an urban context highly vulnerable to geological and hydro-meteorological threats.

Natural disasters subtract children and adolescents from their protective environments, interrupting or limiting access and permanence in the educational system and social services of food, health, or identification. It increased the dropout rate, child labor, violence, and insecurity and limits access to water, housing, recreation, and compromises family and social relationships.



This program strengthened civil servants' institutional capacities to ensure participation and protection of those with and without disabilities in emergency and disaster situations in Panama and to promote inclusion and accessibility. RET used a multi-sectoral focus on public policies, programs, plans, and projects focused on childhood and adolescence.

This project, completed between July 2018 and July 2019, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) by RET in Panama.

Adolescents and young people with disabilities become resilient in prepared and inclusive communities in Panama

The project aims to strengthen adolescents and young people with disabilities to become actors of change for decentralized comprehensive disaster risk management and first response

actions using an inclusive, multi-sectoral and community-based approach in Herrera and Los Santos provinces.

The project contributed towards the institutionalization of an inclusive, multi-sectoral, and community-based community disaster risk management (CDRM) and first response approach at a local level.

RET offered a scalable and sustainable local model for integrated disaster risk management. The first response was generated by strengthening the community's capacities and local governing institutions responsible for inclusive education and the first response. Furthermore, RET bridged the gaps for the suitable protection and participation of people in integrated disaster risk management processes in schools and communities. **The following key activities were carried out to strengthen institutional, community, school, and CAYwD capacities:**

PANAMA

- 1) Develop/support CDRM strategies, tools, and plans.
- 2) Construct/reinforce intra and inter-institutional local coordination and communication mechanisms for participatory and joint work.
- 3) Construct/strengthen institutional monitoring and assessment plans.
- 4) Facilitate access to information, actions, and management for inclusive and community-based CDRM.
- 5) Strengthen existing planning processes to implement integrated risk management, emergency response preparation, and CAYwD participation and protection.
- 6) Develop recreational and educational sessions for disaster risk reduction with CAYwD and other students from inclusive schools.
- 7) Strengthen a CAYwD network to promote inclusive risk management with a rights-based perspective through which they exercise a leading role as agents of change in their communities.
- 8) Carry out projects for mitigation and/or sign-posting of evacuation routes.
- 9) Conduct emergency drills.
- 10) Disseminate and inform communities about public policies, regulations, and existing plans.
- 11) Develop and socialize the systematization of results, lessons learned, and best practices.

The two phases of the project, implemented between May 2019 and December 2019, and April 2019 and March 2020, were funded by the U.S Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and implemented by RET in Panama.

Promotion of access to rights and local integration of young migrants and refugees

Many local integration challenges face children, adolescents, and young people seeking asylum and taking refuge in Panama. The limited educational prospects,

livelihoods and/or entrepreneurial opportunities coupled with weak legal assistance services and socio-cultural tensions are amongst the different adversities facing the migrants in Panama. This project aimed to contribute to the integration and protection of children, adolescents, and youth seeking asylum or refugees/PNIP, through various interventions such as protection, education, socio-cultural programs to facilitate integration and generate sustainable solutions for safe and inclusive communities.

This project, completed between October 2018 and December 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by RET in Panama.

Prospective change to change lives.

Refugees, Asylum seekers, and migrants are facing many limitations finding economic opportunities in Panama. Those challenges are worsening by the complicated labor policies such as (permissions, titles certifications, careers not eligible for migrants, etc.) and the current tension with the host communities showing signs of xenophobia and discrimination. All these factors aggravated the refugees' vulnerabilities, especially young women and girls who are more exposed to gender-based violence. The project aimed to capacitate young refugees to become local guides and promote Panama's heritage in collaboration with "The Faculty of Alternative Tourism," the University of Panama, and six governmental organizations and civil society actors.

This project, completed between January 2019 and December 2019, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by RET in Panama.

Bridging the Gaps

RET



PERU

OVERVIEW

Since 2018, RET has directly supported more than **50,000 direct participants** in Peru, **50% of them are vulnerable women**, and indirectly benefited more than **500,000 beneficiaries** throughout **7 projects** focused on *Protection, Education, Self-reliance & Livelihoods, Nutrition & Food security*.

Since 2018, RET's operations were focused in the provinces of *Lima, Tumbes, Tacna and Arequipa*. Moreover, RET created better educational opportunities for Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Peru by reaching to out-of-school children and adolescents in the *Southern districts of Metropolitan Lima, Chorrillos, San Juan de Miraflores, Villa El Salvador y Villa María del Triunfo*.

RET provided individuals with essential health needs, multi-purpose cash assistance, and protection in *Lima, Tumbes, and Arequipa's priority districts*.

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over **7 million USD** towards the vulnerable host and refugee communities in Peru, with the generous support of *the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Education Cannot Wait*.



RET'S INTERVENTIONS

Asylum applications in Peru have significantly increased from 379 in January 2016 to more than 20,000 in 2017. According to the UNHCR, “an estimated 45,000 Venezuelan asylum seekers entered the country, resulting in 800 new asylum applications per day”, making Peru the second country following Colombia with the highest number of Venezuelan migrants. During the migratory journey and at border crossings, migrants or asylum seekers have food, water, health, and shelter needs and often face protection risks. UNHCR states that “the risk of sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking and exploitation is a growing concern for local and national authorities.”

Families are exposed to labor exploitation and financial difficulties in earning a living, and students face difficulties enrolling in the education system. Moreover, asylum seekers entering Peru do not have clear information on procedures and costs to formalize their immigration status at the “Special Commission’s Government offices for Refugees” or the “National Migration Superintendent” and in any other entity that facilitates their access.

In response, RET started its activities in Peru in 2018, with a vision of consolidating its efforts to protect and provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees coming from Venezuela in particular and assisting the most vulnerable Peruvian communities.

RET aimed to bridge the integration and socio-economic gaps in Peru and advance the self-sufficiency of refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants in Peru, in coordination with the local Government.

The projects focused on providing humanitarian assistance and protection aid to improve access to health, shelter, and livelihood services, and provide non-formal education services to Venezuelan

children and adolescents from Southern Lima. It strengthened their leadership skills and coping mechanisms by providing livelihood opportunities to advance integration into the Peruvian host community. The project also offered support to local public institutions and civil servants and protection to vulnerable young women and girls facing or at risk of gender-based violence. RET implemented its activities in coordination with the National Refugees and Migrants Working Group (RMWG), led by UNHCR and IOM. Moreover, RET created better educational opportunities for Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Peru by reaching to out-of-school children and adolescents in the Southern districts of Metropolitan Lima, Chorrillos, San Juan de Miraflores, Villa El Salvador y Villa María del Triunfo.

RET focused on increasing access to education by reinforcing the MoE capacity to enroll and provide education services for refugee and migrant populations and provide out-of-school children and adolescents with non-formal education programs that develop their competencies and skills and help them access the formal education system.

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In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and health emergency, RET developed a Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities and strategies to reinforce efforts led by PAHO/WHO and the Ministry of Health. RET promoted hygiene practices and provided basic training for infection prevention and control (IPC) to health personnel focusing on primary health care facilities and healthcare workers, and on medical waste management. Also, basic training on human waste management was provided, focusing on the handling and disposition of remains. RET also provided Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to the vulnerable communities to cope with the economic crisis related to the COVID-19 pandemic in Peru.”

PERU

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

2018- 2019

Strengthening bridges: assistance and protection focused on sustainable solutions, self-sufficiency, and the local integration of vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers in Peru

Building bridges of assistance, protection, and integration for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Perú between 2019 and 2021 (FY2019). The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. (PRM)

Peru is the second destination country for Venezuelan people fleeing the socio-economic and political crisis affecting their country. Peru also shows a high number of migrants and asylum seekers coming from the Americas. During their migratory journey and at the border crossing points, migrants and asylum seekers require basic assistance such as food, transportation, and shelter and often face protection risks.

This project provided humanitarian assistance, protection, and sustainable local integration of refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants in Peru, coordinating with local government entities in Lima, Tumbes, and Arequipa. The project provided humanitarian assistance to Venezuelan asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants, focusing on health, nutrition, water, and shelter. It strengthened their leadership skills and coping mechanisms by providing livelihood opportunities to advance integration into the Peruvian host community. The project also offered support to local public institutions and civil servants and protection to vulnerable young women and girls facing or at risk of gender-based violence.

This project implemented respectively between September 2018 and August 2019, was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Peru.



Apoyo financiero de: Bridging the Gaps



RET

RET

**Proyecto
“Fortaleciendo
puentes: asistencia y
protección enfocada
en soluciones
sostenibles,
autosuficiencia e
integración local de
migrantes,
solicitantes de asilo
y refugiados en Perú”.**



PERU

Better educational opportunities for Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Peru

The influx of refugees and migrant adolescents and children from Venezuela is over-stretching the Peruvian educational systems' capacity to accommodate students and provide them with quality education. According to the Metropolitan Lima Regional Education Directorate, 50,000 migrant and refugee children and adolescents face challenges to access the Peruvian education system due to several factors, including xenophobia and discrimination, with girls being the most vulnerable.

The project offered better educational opportunities for Venezuelan migrants in Peru by reaching to out-of-school children and adolescents (70 percent Venezuelans - 30% host) in the Southern districts of Metropolitan Lima, Chorrillos, San Juan de Miraflores, Villa El Salvador y Villa María del Triunfo. The project focused on increasing access to education for Venezuelan refugees and migrants and Peruvian children and adolescents by reinforcing the MoE capacity to enroll and provide education services.

RET provided out of school refugees, migrants, and vulnerable local children and adolescents access to non-formal education programs, allowing them to develop competencies and skills, increase self-esteem, and access the formal education system. RET worked towards strengthening local communities' capacities to protect out-of-school migrants, refugees, and host community children and adolescents, increasing their integration and mitigating xenophobia and discrimination.

Starting December and until February, RET implemented its non-formal education program "Aprendiendo Unidos" using a "Project-Based Learning Method (ABP)."

The project facilitated students' meaningful engagement in the "identification, development and implementation" of solutions, and strengthened their leadership, communication, and numeracy skills.

On March 15, 2020, the Government of Peru declared the State of Emergency and took lockdown measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; besides the population's quarantine, the school year's start was postponed. Subsequently, the Peruvian Government announced that in-person classes are canceled throughout the year 2020. Following these measures, the Ministry of Education (MINEDU) rethought their educational strategies and implemented a nationwide distance educational strategy named "Aprendo en Casa" (meaning "I learn at home").

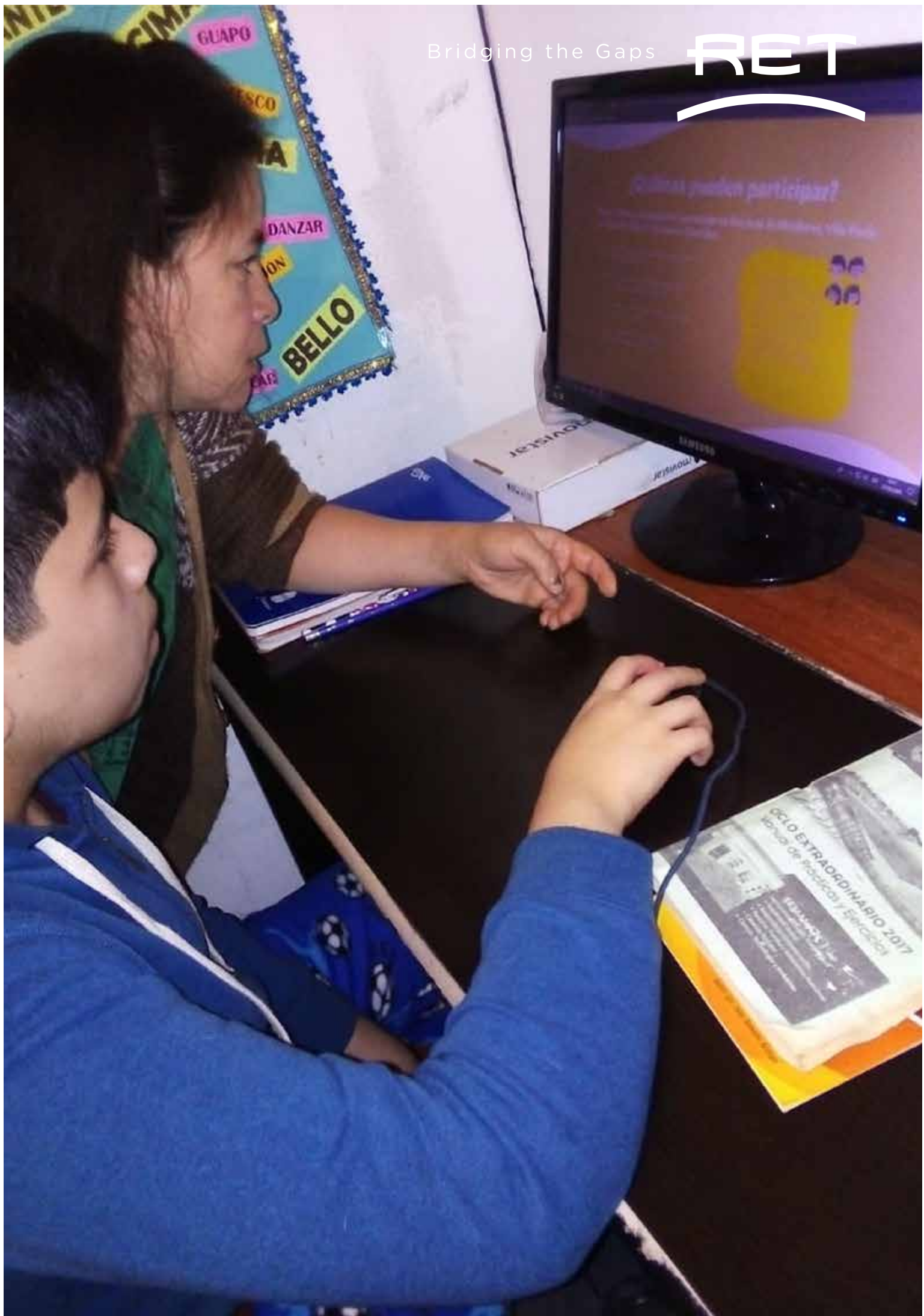
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The project was adapted to follow the "Aprendiendo Unidos" educational program's methodology and offered a distance learning program to children and adolescents quarantined in their homes. The "Aprendiendo Unidos" program was transformed into virtual sessions, including tutors' support, to help the children and adolescents follow the program remotely and develop competencies and skills."

The project provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Education to improve data collection and information systems to track children and adolescents outside the formal school system. The project also addressed the current health emergency and its impact on Venezuelan refugees by ensuring children's and adolescents' academic integration.

This project, implemented between July 2019 and June 2020, was funded by Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and implemented by RET in Peru.

Bridging the Gaps



VENEZUELA

OVERVIEW

Since 2012, RET has directly supported more than **130,000 direct participants** in Venezuela, **60% of them are vulnerable women**, and indirectly benefited more than **1.3 million indirect beneficiaries** throughout **11 projects** focused on *Protection, Education, Self-reliance & Livelihoods (including Business Development & Entrepreneurship Support), Food security and Agriculture, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), Health, and Infrastructure and Equipment.*

Since 2012, RET's operations were focused in *Bolívar, Mérida, Táchira, Trujillo and Zulia, Caracas, San Cristóbal and Maracaibo, and in the municipalities of Sucre, Maracaibo, San Francisco, Carraciolo Parra and Olmedo, Tulio Febres Cordero, Bishop Ramos de Lora, San Cristóbal, Seboruco, García de Hevia, Jáuregui, Cárdenas, Uribante, Bolívar, Sucre and La Ceiba.*

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over **11 million USD** towards the vulnerable communities in Venezuela with the generous support of *the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), the U.S Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).*



RET'S INTERVENTIONS

RET began its activities in Venezuela in 2012, as part of a regional program to support both Colombian refugees and the local host communities in neighboring countries. RET established its operation in Táchira and Zulia's states and expanded its operations to Bolívar, Mérida, and Trujillo with a vision to support both the host and refugee communities especially Colombian asylum seekers in need of international protection. RET opened national and field offices in Caracas, San Cristóbal, and Maracaibo.

Since the beginning of its operations, RET developed programs to strengthen formal and non-formal educational opportunities, provide employment guidance, livelihoods, and programs for youth, and was involved in violence prevention. Despite the critical situation it is currently facing, Venezuela is still a host country for Colombian victims of armed conflict.

During the fiscal year 2016, RET implemented a national program entitled "Refugee Families Integrated and Resilient in Venezuela." The program's implementation responded to the needs identified in the participatory assessments

RET carried out and in which the voice of the people in need of international protection was taken into consideration. RET gained the trust and respect of the participating population. The intervention areas were humanitarian assistance, protection mechanisms, livelihoods, sociocultural integration, institutional strengthening, and coordination with emerging socio-political organizations such as Townships (Comunas).

Venezuela's economic and social crisis has aggravated the living conditions of the host and Colombian refugee communities living there. People are struggling to survive due to the deterioration of the productive system and the unavailability of basic services and essential goods, in tandem with an unproductive agriculture sector, a lack of health services and health supplies, and consistent access reliable water and/or energy sources. This in turn, has led to a high rate of crimes, violence, and poverty in the country, leading to the internal and external displacement of large populations, an increase in the occurrence of common diseases, and malnutrition (in both children and adults).

RET implemented programs to strengthen the community by providing protection spaces for children and young people,



VENEZUELA

where they are empowered through capacity building training and leadership skills. The project reduced the protection risks linked to forced child recruitment due to family economic instability. It promoted access and retention to vulnerable students on the verge of dropping out of schools.

In 2019, RET continued its operations in Venezuela, responding to vulnerable people's challenging living conditions and assisting them with international protection and multi-sectoral humanitarian interventions. RET implemented a multi-sectoral and comprehensive response to address the population's essential needs in the States of Mérida, Zulia, Táchira, Bolívar, Trujillo, considered among the most vulnerable regions in the country due to the scarcity of basic goods, poverty, undernourishment, lack of safe water and deficiency in health services.

The project addressed several strategies of the goals from the 2030 "Agenda for Sustainable Development" in a multi-sectoral response through the priority sectors corresponding to:

Food Security and Nutrition (SDG2) "Agriculture & Food Security"; Health

(SDG3) "Provision of Health Services"; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (SDG6) "Access to safe water and improvement of hygiene conditions." **This project guaranteed the complementary nature of actions planned for the three sectors and the interdependence between them, providing the required comprehensive approach to achieve better results.** Additionally, this program's technical design followed the national priorities established in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2015-2019 and agreed on by the Government of Venezuela and the United Nations Country Team.

RET worked in partnership with Plan International, Don Bosco Foundation, and HIAS to recover the water supply systems in schools, health & community centers, and facilitated young migrants' access to the formal education system. RET also improved access to safe water, hygiene, and sanitation through WASH training, emphasizing WASH infrastructure management, hygiene, and cleaning protocols, through the rehabilitation of hygiene and sanitation facilities.



Bridging the Gaps

RET



VENEZUELA

PARTNERSHIP AND NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

RET developed training in coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), HIAS, the National Commission of Refugees, and the Nacional Experimental del Táchira University.

Joint work with different organizations and institutions was developed with a multi-sectorial approach to respond to the population's needs and enable social, economic, and cultural integration. The collective work has been fundamental to continue strengthening RET's presence in the field and having regular and safe access to vulnerable communities.

At a public level, actions were coordinated with the National Refugee Commission to assist persons in need of international protection (PNIP). Integrated health fairs were coordinated with associated health centers from the Ministry of Popular Power

for Health Care (in the states of Mérida and Zulia), the Barrio Adentro Healthcare System, the Azul Positivo Civil Association, and the National Institute of Nutrition.

To ensure the sustainability of the "Community Gardens" strategy, coordination continues with the Training and Innovation to Support the Agricultural Revolution Foundation (CIARA) and the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIA), as well as with organizations associated with the Ministry of Popular Power for Agriculture and Land.

Furthermore, work began with the Misión Ribas Productiva and the National Socialist Training and Education Institute (INCES). This collaboration promotes outputs from the Socio-Cultural Education and Integration Strategies. Actions were also coordinated with the Ministry of Popular Power for Culture, enabling RET's participation as an exhibitor in the Children's Pavilion of the 12th International Book Fair in Venezuela (FILVEN). In this



setting, the 103 stories were exhibited in the two “A Story to Tell” Festivals and art created by program participants was displayed. Furthermore, partnerships with public agencies from municipal and state-level authorities in the cultural sector have been strengthened, and coordinated actions with the Ombudsman’s Office were consolidated, which is essential to address education for PNIP.

Regarding the humanitarian aspect, RET continues its collaborative work with the UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations participating in inter-agency meetings, such as the Education and Livelihood Committees, the Refugee Group, the Legal Committee, and the Long-Lasting Solutions Committee. Joint actions have also been developed with

the Red Cross and the Azul Positivo Civil Association (which supports

Finally, work was carried out cooperatively with other humanitarian organizations such as HIAS and the Jesuit Refugee Service, as well as with Universities such as Rafael Urdaneta, the Católica Andrés Bello, and Nacional Experimental del Táchira.

RET’s support to research on the situation of PNIPs in Venezuela, conducted by the Centre for Social Research (CISOR), continued. Coordination meetings were also held with the Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF) to implement joint actions benefiting PNIPs through their partners (UniAndes Civil Association and the Popular Social Action Centre - CESAP).



VENEZUELA

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2019

2018 - 2019

Integrated and Resilient Refugee Families in Venezuela

The project was implemented in a complex context, characterized by precarious living conditions for people in need of international protection, young refugees, and the local population, due to the social and economic crisis in Venezuela. The attended families are victims of the Colombian conflict in need of protection. They are located in marginalized rural communities, facing limited access to essential services. In most cases, they have no documentation, a low average of education, a little understanding of their rights, are at risk of gender-based violence, and are socially excluded.

The project sought to increase the self-sufficiency of vulnerable families through humanitarian emergency support, access to public attention, psychosocial support, economic integration, the exercise of social, cultural, and educational rights as well as the participation of youth and adolescents in local affairs, thus increasing their resilience. RET implemented the project mainly in ***the municipalities of Sucre, Maracaibo, San Francisco, Carraciolo Parra and Olmedo, Tulio Febres Cordero, Bishop Ramos de Lora, San Cristóbal, Seboruco, García de Hevia, Jáuregui, Cárdenas, Uribante, Bolívar, Sucre and La Ceiba.***

This project, implemented between September 2017 and December 2018, was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Venezuela.

Community empowerment to reduce protection risks in adolescents and young people

The project strengthened the community by establishing protection spaces for children and young people. Young people were enabled through capacity building training and leadership skills. The project reduced the protection risks linked to forced recruitment due to family economic instability and promoted access and retention to vulnerable students on the verge of dropping out.

This project, completed between March 2018 and December 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by RET in Venezuela.



Bridging the Gaps

RET



VENEZUELA

Three Projects (2018 - 2019 - 2020) Addressing the urgent food, health and sanitation needs of vulnerable communities in five states of Venezuela

Venezuela is dealing with a complicated situation related to its economic, political, and social instability. It is characterized by the deterioration of the productive system and the quality and availability of essential services. It resulted in a shortage of supplies and essential goods, coupled with an unproductive agriculture sector, a lack of health services and supplies, and a lack of consistent access to reliable water and/or energy sources. This deterioration had led to the reappearance of previously eradicated diseases, increased common diseases, and malnutrition (in both children and adults).

In response, RET's project proposed a multi-sectoral and comprehensive response to address the essential needs of the population in the States of Mérida,

Zulia, Táchira, Bolívar, Trujillo, identified among the most vulnerable regions in the country, with a scarcity of basic goods, poverty and deteriorated living conditions, undernourishment, lack of safe water and deficiency in health services.

The project address several of the goals from the 2030 "Agenda for Sustainable Development" in a multi- sectoral response through prioritizing sectors corresponding to: Food Security and Nutrition (SDG2); Health (SDG3); and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SDG6).

It guaranteed the complementary nature of actions planned for the three sectors and the interdependence between them, providing the required comprehensive approach to achieve better results.

Additionally, this program's technical design followed the national priorities established in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework





(UNDAF) 2015-2019 and agreed on by the Government of Venezuela and the United Nations Country Team.

Three main sectors have been identified as fundamental to improve the life quality of the Venezuelan most affected population:

Agriculture & Food Security:

Agro-ecological strategies, such as family gardens, involved providing seeds and seedlings based on the needs identified with participants in coordination with the National Institute of Agriculture (INSAI).

- Strengthening of the existing agricultural structures through the provision of technical assistance, tools, and supplies.
- Collection and certification of harvested seeds.

- Implementation of strategies for the hermetic household storage of grains.

Moreover, the chosen approach also included an alternative food program (to take advantage of the garden's products).

A quarter of the land was allocated for the production/ harvesting of new seeds and seedlings, their certification, and subsequent household level hermetic storage in the family gardens.

The implementation involved local experts, RET technical staff, and technical assistance through partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture, INSAI, the farmers' associations, the universities, and external consultants. This local engagement facilitated the integration of the local agro-food production structure, ensuring the process's sustainability.

Provision of Health Services:

- Corrective maintenance of wards and water facilities of the primary care health centers and/ or Integral Diagnostic Centers (CDIs).
- Provision, repair and/or maintenance of essential medical equipment.
- Supply of prioritized of (basic) essential medicines.
- Training of staff from the primary care

VENEZUELA

health centers and/or CDIs in first aid and obstetric emergency care.

- Implementation of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health and post-rape treatment kit in crises.
- Holding of Integrated Health Fairs organized in partnership with primary care health centers or CDIs (general medicine, gynecology, physiatrists, nutrition including medical exams and the provision of available medications.)
- Capacity-building and empowering of Community Health Workers in the topics described under each subsector.

The following strategies were crucial to promoting sustainable health services:

1. Comprehensive health workshops in alliance with the primary health care centers and CDIs.
2. Provision of supplies and medication.
3. Corrective maintenance of WASH and sanitation areas in primary care health centers.

Access to safe water and improvement of hygiene conditions:

This sector was addressed through a three-fold strategy:

- A WASH family approach that included training on WASH in emergencies to family members complemented by providing hygiene kits to be distributed based on individual needs and gender.
- Creation of Hygiene Promotion Clubs made up of young people who will receive training on hygiene and hand washing accompanied by the distribution of hand-washing kits. They will design and implement hygiene campaigns in their respective family and community environments.
- Corrective maintenance of basic infrastructure for sanitary facilities and water systems in schools, guaranteeing access to drinking water and sanitation conditions for students and the education community.

Moreover, the education community is in charge of monitoring the schools' improvements due to the training and awareness-raising campaigns carried out. The role of the Hygiene Club was strategic to ensure the future sustainability of the interventions. Water Committees

run by members of the local population was responsible for supervising and safeguarding the resources delivered during the project and identifying risks and proposing water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions to local authorities.

This project, implemented between September 2018 and March 2020, is funded by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and implemented by RET in Venezuela.



Bridging the Gaps

RET



RET International's Organizational Structure

CEO
Board

Bridging the Gaps



The RET International Board - Geneva



**President & CEO
of RET International**
Ms Zeynep Gündüz



**Mr Thierry
Galissard
de Marignac
Chair**

Former Partner
at Banque
Mirabaud & Cie



**Mr James Russo
Treasurer**

Former CFO of CHF
International (Now
Global Communities)
for development and
humanitarian assistance
projects. 25 years of
experience in domestic
and international
non profit financial
management.



**Ms Zeynep Gündüz
Board Member**

RET's Chief Executive
since 2003, Former
senior and executive
management of Fortune
500 multinational
corporations of the
automotive and
telecommunications
sectors



**Mrs Janet Lim
Board Member**

Former Assistant High
Commissioner in charge of
operations in UNHCR for
34-year.
Janet is currently a Fellow
in the School of Social
Sciences at the Singapore
Management School (SMU)
and also an Executive in
Residence at the Geneva
Center for Security Policy.



**Mr Jean-Claude
Peterschmitt
Board Member**

Former Chairman of
Digital Equipment
Corporation -
Europe

Former Chair of RET



**Mrs Anne-Shelton
Aaron
Board Member**

Co-founder of the
Museum of Modern
and Contemporary
Art of Geneva



RET Germany's Organizational Structure

CEO
Board

Bridging the Gaps



The RET Germany e.V Board - Berlin

**President & CEO
of RET Germany**
Ms Zeynep Gündüz



**Mr Anne Willem
Bijleveld
Chair**

Former Director,
Division of External
Relations and Director
of Europe at UNHCR
Personal Envoy of the
High Commissioner for
the Western Balkans



**Ms Zeynep Gündüz
Vice Chair**

RET's Chief Executive
since 2003, Former
senior and executive
management of Fortune
500 multinational
corporations of the
automotive and
telecommunications
sectors



**Mr Jens Forkert
Treasurer**

Attorney at law/
Tax consultant/
CPA, Partner of
Duske, Becker &
Sozien



**Dr Frank
Nagelschmidt
Secretary**

Attorney at Law,
Partner at SES
Attorneys at Law
Berlin



**Dr Bahadır Engin
Co-Vice Chair**

Human Resources
management;
Executive Social Policy
and Employment -
industrial & Labour
relations. Ph.D. in Social
Policy and Employment
- Working Conditions
and Occupational
Accidents.



RET Americas Organizational Structure

CEO
Board



The RET Americas Inc. Board - Washington DC



**President & CEO
of RET Americas**
Ms Zeynep Gündüz



**Ms Zeynep Gündüz
Chair**

RET's Chief Executive since 2003, Former senior and executive management of Fortune 500 multinational corporations of the automotive and telecommunications sectors



**Mr James Russo
Treasurer**

Former CFO of CHF International (Now Global Communities) for development and humanitarian assistance projects. 25 years of experience in domestic and international non profit financial management



**Mr Alan P. Dye
Secretary**

Partner at Webster, Chamberlain & Bean, LLP specialized in the representation of non-profit organizations



**Mrs Janet Lim
Board Member**

Former Assistant High Commissioner in charge of operations in UNHCR for 34-year. Janet is currently a Fellow in the School of Social Sciences at the Singapore Management School (SMU) and also an Executive in Residence at the Geneva Center for Security Policy.



**Mrs Anne-Shelton
Aaron
Board Member**

Co-founder of the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Geneva





Ms Zeynep Gündüz
President & CEO at RET

Senior Management Reporting to RET's CEO

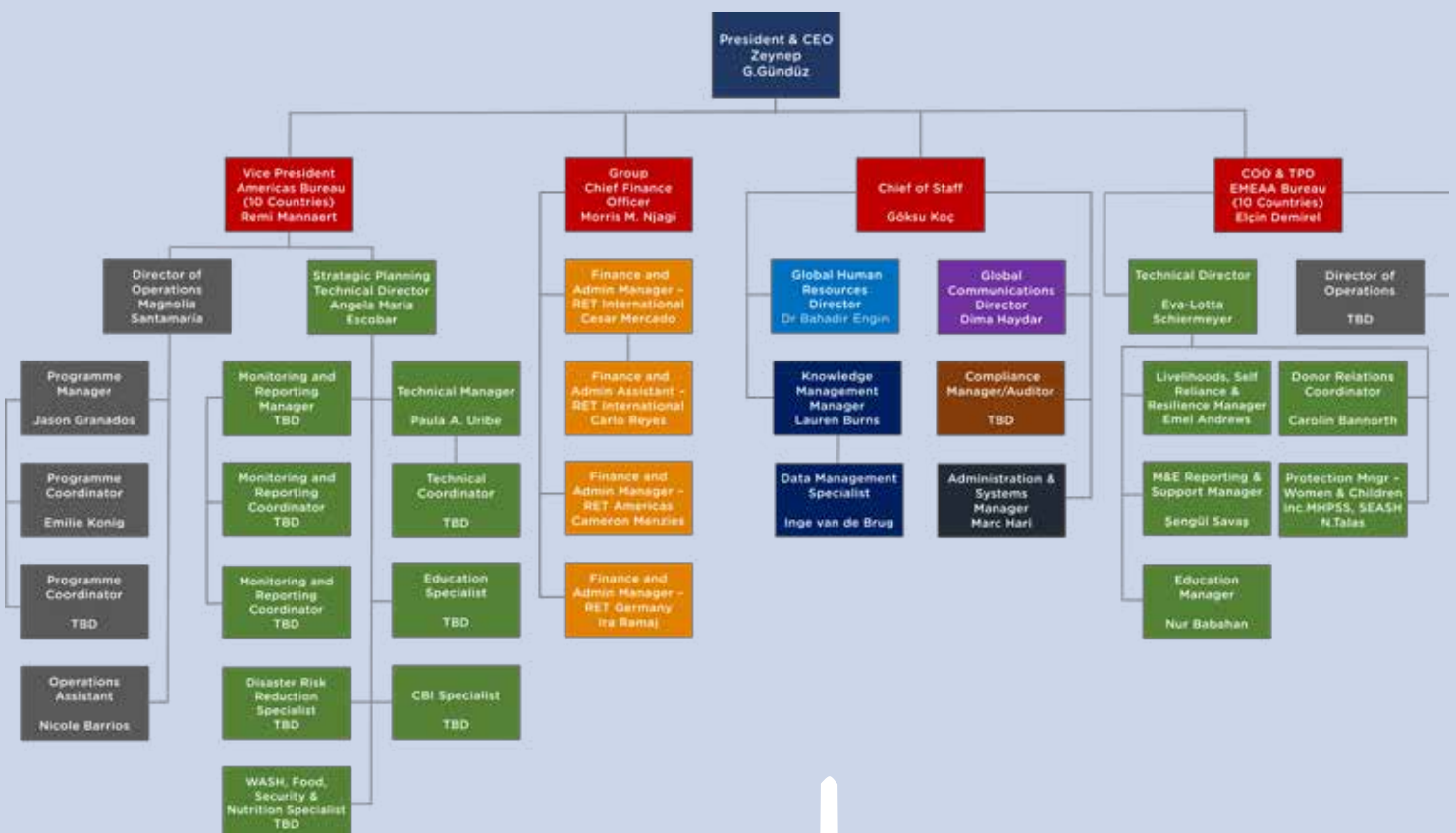
RET Americas: Remi Mannaert
Vice- President - Americas Bureau

Morris Muriithi NJAGI
Chief Finance Officer

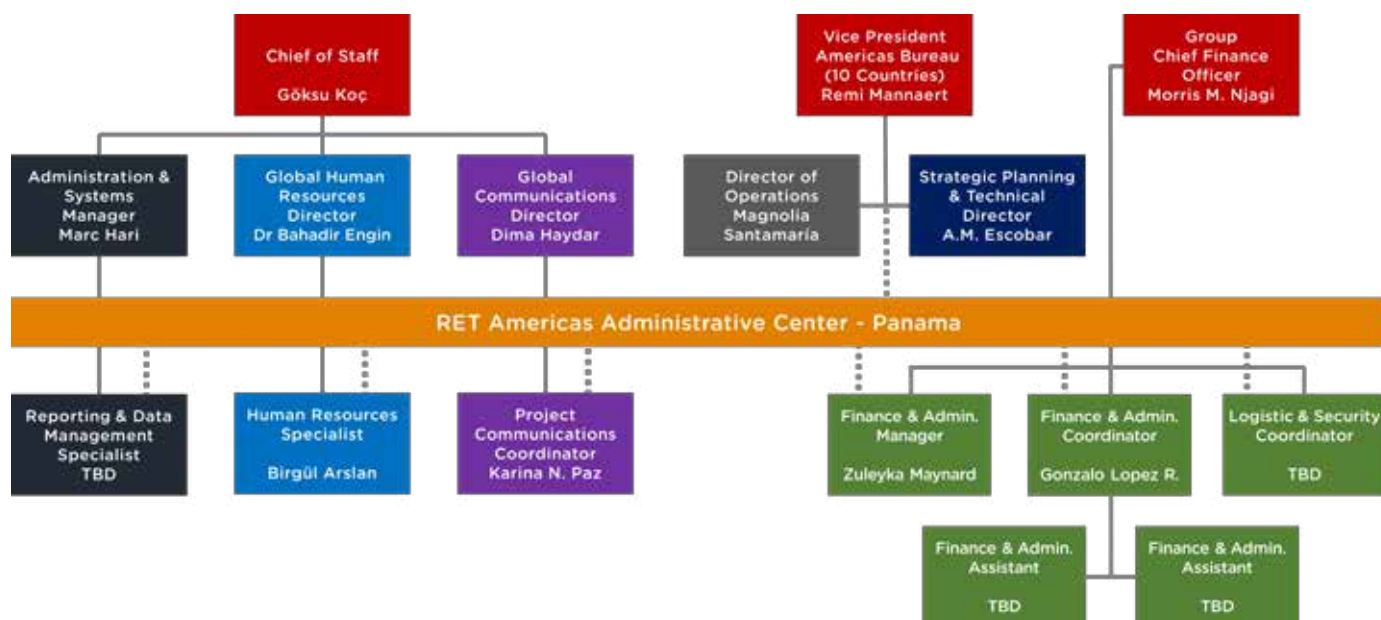
Göksu KOC
Chief of Staff

Elcin Demirel
Chief Operations Officer & Technical
Program Development - EMEAA Bureau

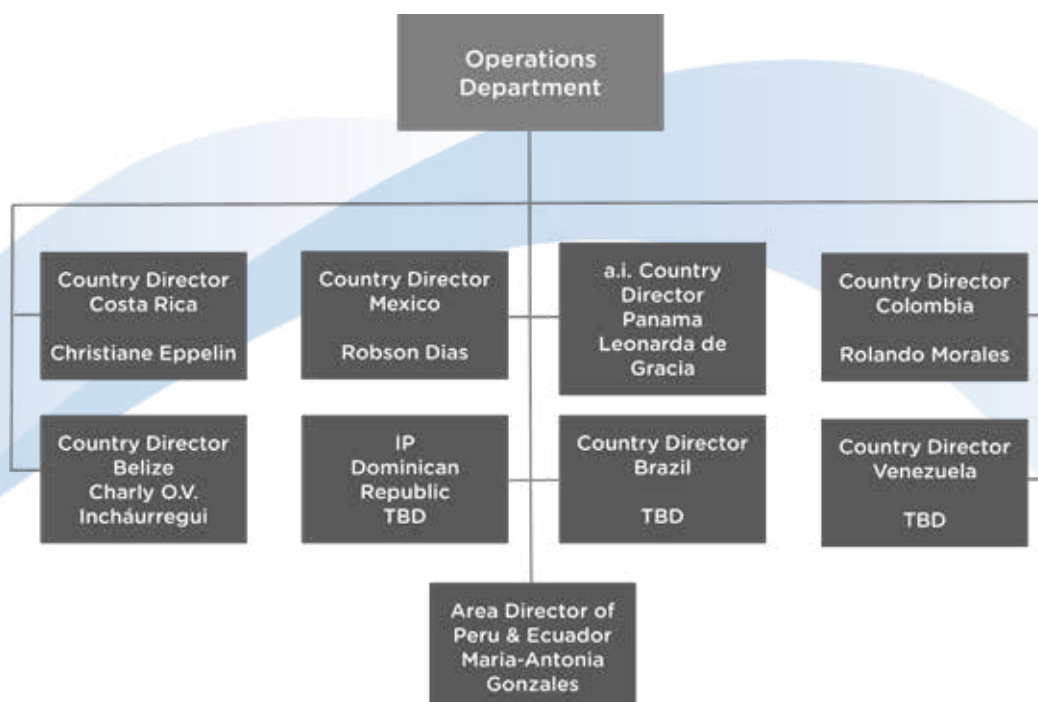
RET HQ Organization Chart



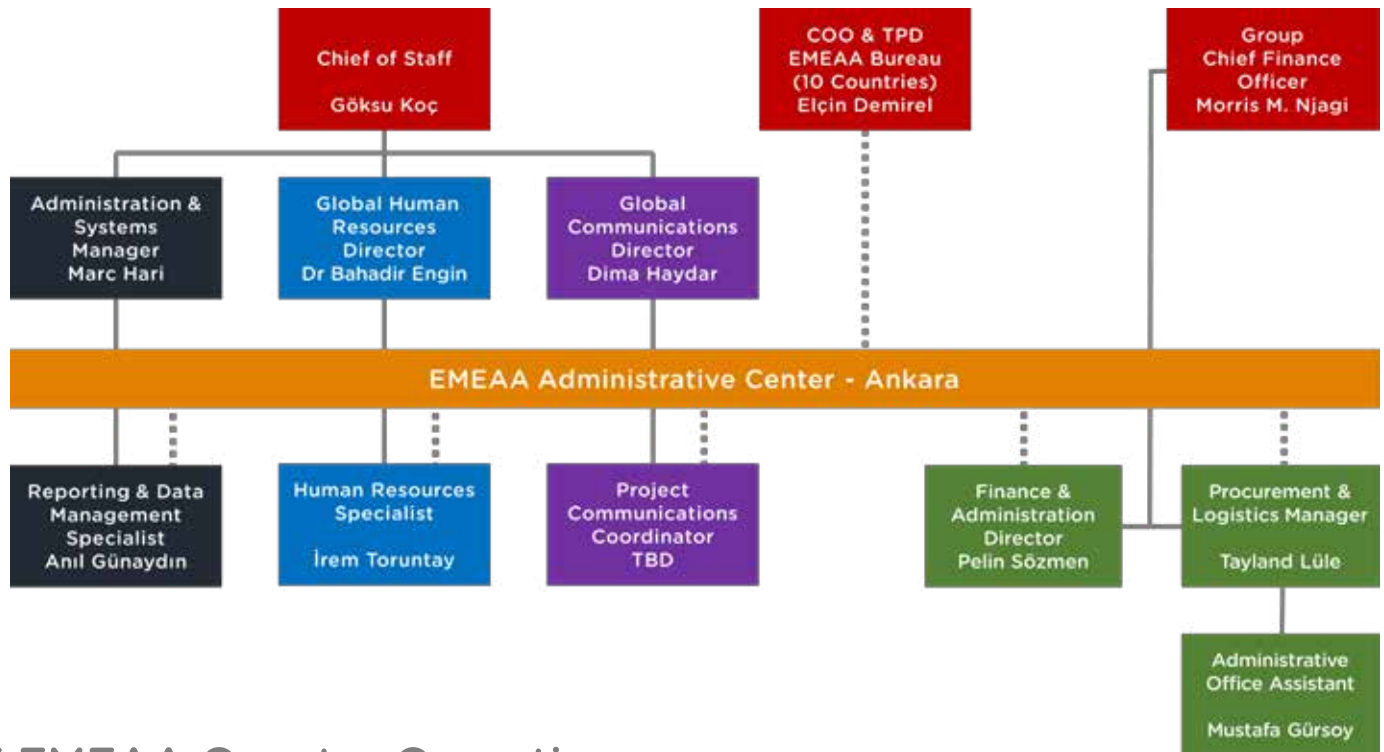
RET Americas Administrative Center - Panama



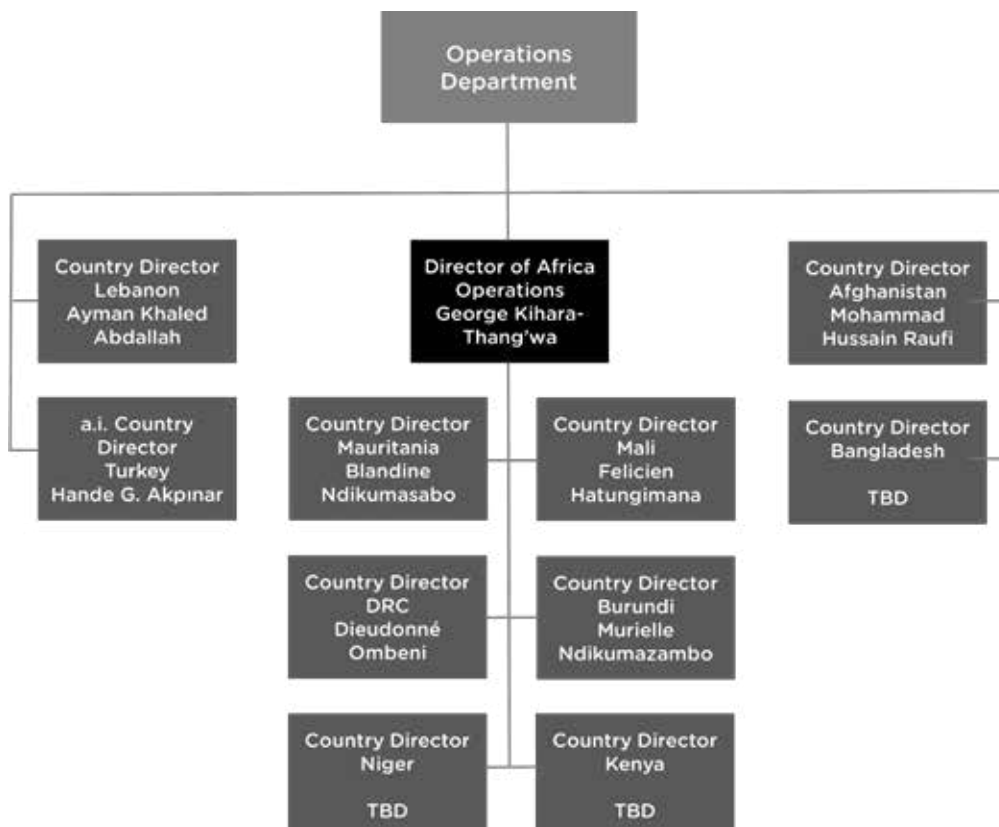
RET Americas Country Operations



RET EMEAA Administrative Center - Ankara



RET EMEAA Country Operations





List of RET Donors and Partners

Governments

Australia – Australian Agency for International Development - AUSAID

Kingdom of Belgium – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Canada – Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development - DFATD, International Humanitarian Assistance Division (IHA)

Colombia – Ministry of Education and the Government of Antioquia

Denmark – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom – Department of International Development - UKaid, DFID and FCO

Japan – Embassy of Japan in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Embassy of Japan in Lebanon, Embassy of Japan in Turkey

France – Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

Germany – Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), The German Embassy in Costa Rica.

Luxembourg – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Norway – Royal Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

Principality of Liechtenstein – Office of Foreign Affairs

Sweden – Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

Switzerland – City of Basel, Canton of Basel-Landschaft, Republic and Canton of Geneva, Ville de Genève, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)

The Netherlands – Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom – FCO – UK Embassy in Turkey

United States of America – Department of State – BPRM, Department of State – CARSI, Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) (formerly known as Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance OFDA), Department of State – GWI – Global Women’s Issues and WE Americas

Intergovernmental Institutions

ECHO – EU – European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – ECHO

UNDP – The United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO – The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

UNHCR – The UN Refugee Agency

UNICEF – The United Nations Children’s Fund

UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund

IOM – International Organisation for Migration

WHO – The World Health Organisation

OCHA – Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Bridging the Gaps

RET



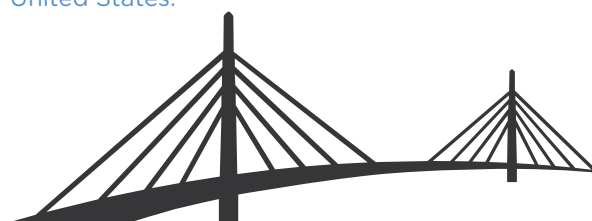
Thank You!

Private Sector, Corporate and Personal Foundations & Private Individuals

Alfred Herrhausen Society
Alistair Pilkington Trust
Arthur Anderson SA, Geneva
Asfari Foundation
Banque Cantonale de Genève
Barbara Hendricks Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation
CARAES (BE)
Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
Council for Better Corporate Citizenship, Japan
Credit Suisse
Delta Airlines
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ
Ecopetrol
Education Cannot Wait
Ernst & Young
Ford Foundation
Goldman Sachs Foundation
Hewlett-Packard Company Foundation
Intercontinental Hotel Hospitality Tokyo
International Council of Nurses
International Ladies Benevolent Society, Japan
Jagaimo-no-Kai
Japan Centre for Conflict Prevention (JCCP)
Japan Committee for Refugee Relief (JCRR)
Japan Ladies Tennis Federation

Keidanren
National Geographic
NHK Japan Broadcasting Corp, USA
Nike
Nikko Salomon Smith Barney
Sacred Heart University Students
Sammy Corporation, Japan
Seoul Peace Prize Cultural Foundation
Shell International
Shinnyo-en Youth Association
Star Dancers Ballet Foundation
Swiss Solidarity (Chaîne du Bonheur)
Telefónica, Ecuador
The Swatch Group, Japan
UBS Optimus Foundation
University of Georgia

Private individual donors from
France, Japan, The Netherlands, Switzerland,
Turkey, the United Kingdom and the
United States.



RET's Institutional Engagements at Global level

UNHCR

- Member of the Secondary Education Working Group

Global Refugee Forum - UNHCR

- Member of the Education Working Group
- Member of the Durable Solutions Working Group

The G-7 Global Task Force

- Member of the G-7 Education Working Group
- Member of the G-7 Gender Working Group
- Member of the G-7 Peace & Security Working Group

The Youth Compact in Humanitarian Action

- Member of the Task Team for Action 1:
Promote and increase age- and gender-responsive and inclusive programs that contribute to the protection, health, and development of young women, young men, girls, and boys within humanitarian settings.

Member of GADRRRES - Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience in the Education Sector.

IOM - International Organization for Migration

- Member of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working group

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

- Member of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Task Force
- Member of Family Strengthening Task Force
- Member of Assessment, Measurement and Evidence Working Group

INEE - International Network for Education in Emergencies

- Member of the Standards & Practice Working Group (2004+)
- Member of the Policy Education Working Group (2018+)
- Member of the Alternative Education Work Stream
- Steering Committee (2010 - 2017) Co-chair with the World Bank and IRC from 2012-2016.
- Member of the Youth & Prevention of Violent Extremism Group (2017-18)
- Co-convener of the INEE's Adolescents and Youth Task Team (2005+)

Education Cannot Wait Fund

- Member of the Educational Technical Task Team
- Member of Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) Northern Group

RECI - Réseau Suisse Education et Coopération Internationale

- Member of the RECI Executive Board (2015+)

Global Education Cluster

- Member of the Strategic Advisory Group (2017+)

ICVA - International Council of Voluntary Agencies

- Member of the Humanitarian & Development Nexus Group

Bridging the Gaps



2019

RET International
Audited Financial Statements
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

As RET International has grown significantly, more than doubling its income in the last four years, and tripling its income in the last eight years, RET International has spun off and created separate independent, legal entities in various countries around the world. Together they comprise the RET ALLIANCE. While RET International continues to be headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, RET Germany was founded in 2015 and is operating as RET Germany, e.V., headquartered in Berlin. RET Americas, Inc. was founded in 2005 and is headquartered in Washington, D.C. RETYKD is headquartered in Ankara and was founded in Turkey in 2016. RET Liban, founded in 2014, is headquartered in Beirut, and RET Kenya, founded in 2005 is headquartered in Nairobi. All incomes and expenses of each are separately and independently recorded within the legal, financial requirements, accounting principles of each host country, where each aforesaid RET is legally registered, i.e., Switzerland, Germany, U.S.A., Turkey, Lebanon, Kenya. A separate consolidation of incomes and expenses under “THE RET ALLIANCE” should be utilized when comparing any line items in the Audited Financial Statements of 2019 to 2018 and all prior fiscal years. Otherwise, the financial data is not relevant, as comparisons to prior years will be understated as in 2019, and not valid.

Balance Sheet

Balance sheet as of September 30, 2019

(with comparative figures as of September 30, 2018)

	<u>2019</u> USD	<u>2018</u> USD
<u>ASSETS</u>		
<u>Current assets</u>		
Cash	1,021,595	2,266,318
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,021,595	2,266,318
Prepaid expenses/advances to field offices	1,890,768	2,663,792
Interco RET Germany	428,232	0
Other receivables including accrued income	220,517	70,756
Total prepaid and other receivables	2,539,516	2,734,548
Total current assets	3,561,111	5,000,866
<u>Fixed assets</u>		
Fixed assets	59,363	59,363
Accumulated depreciation	(50,767)	(41,430)
Total fixed assets	8,596	17,934
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>3,569,707</u>	<u>5,018,800</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUNDS</u>		
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Line of credit	715,443	548,084
Interco RET Americas	426,446	0
Accrued salaries and social charges	128,175	253,759
Other payables including accrued liabilities	332,834	297,540
Commitments related to the projects	1,886,863	3,845,676
Total liabilities	3,489,762	4,945,059
<u>Capital of the Foundation / Unrestricted funds</u>		
Capital of the Foundation - at incorporation	50,000	50,000
Surplus/(deficit)	29,945	23,741
Total unrestricted funds	79,945	73,741
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS	<u>3,569,707</u>	<u>5,018,800</u>

RET International, Geneva Switzerland

Cash flow statement for the period ended September 30, 2019

(with comparative figures as of September 30, 2018)

(Currency - U.S. Dollars)

Statements of Financial Performance

Statement of financial performance for the year ended on September 30, 2019

(with comparative figures as of September 30, 2018)

		<u>2019</u> USD	<u>2018</u> USD
<u>REVENUES</u>			
Restricted income	5	17,604,706	20,081,222
Unrestricted income	6	<u>695,080</u>	<u>46,313</u>
Total income		18,299,786	20,127,535
<u>EXPENSES BY OPERATIONS</u>			
Operations	7	(16,058,256)	(17,474,396)
Development, External Relations & Administration	7	<u>(2,069,862)</u>	<u>(2,037,967)</u>
Total expenses		(18,128,118)	(19,512,362)
Operating surplus		171,667	615,173
<u>FINANCIAL RESULTS</u>			
Interest income on deposits		3,762	2,126
(Losses) / gains on currency conversion		(64,703)	(41,369)
Bank fees and interest expense		<u>(43,741)</u>	<u>(12,588)</u>
Net financial result		(104,682)	(51,831)
RESULT FOR THE YEAR BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES PRIOR YEARS		66,984	563,342
EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES PRIOR YEARS	8	(60,780)	(34,641)
RESULT FOR THE YEAR		6,204	528,701

Statements of Surplus/Deficit

Statement of surplus / deficit for year ended September 30, 2019

(with comparative figures as of September 30, 2018)

	2019	2018
	USD	USD
<u>Surplus / deficit</u>		
Surplus / deficit, beginning of the year	23,741	(504,960)
Result for the year	6,204	528,701
Surplus / deficit, end of the year	29,945	23,741

RET International, Geneva Switzerland

Cash flow statement for the period ended September 30, 2019

(with comparative figures as of September 30, 2018)

(Currency - U.S. Dollars)

Cash Flow Statement

Cash flow statement for the period ended September 30, 2019

(with comparative figures as of September 30, 2018)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	USD	USD
<u>Cash received from subsidies and donations</u>		
Unrestricted income - Subsidies from governments	0	0
Unrestricted income - Subsidies from foundations and associations	0	0
Unrestricted income - Private donations	51,143	49,310
Unrestricted income - Other revenues	636,099	4,472
Restricted income - Subsidies from governments	<u>15,653,730</u>	<u>21,776,257</u>
Total of the cash received from subsidies and donations	16,340,973	21,830,039
<u>Cash payments related to the program operations</u>		
Belize/Ecuador/Panama/Costa Rica/Venezuela/ Mexico/Colombia	(7,808,762)	(6,408,432)
Burundi	(159,368)	(599,768)
Chad	(1,022,093)	(2,876,591)
Afghanistan	(840,238)	(2,314,391)
DRC	(384,552)	(819,660)
Kenya	19,299	(549,739)
Lebanon	(315,565)	(980,092)
Turkey	<u>(4,783,435)</u>	<u>(4,498,345)</u>
Total cash expensed on projects	(15,294,712)	(19,047,017)
<u>Cash payments related to the direction & support function</u>		
General and administrative expenses	(2,121,305)	(2,009,323)
Prepayments, accruals and accounts payable	<u>(232,355)</u>	<u>(1,314,009)</u>
Total cash payments related to the direction and support function	(2,353,660)	(3,323,332)
<u>Cash from investing operations</u>		
<u>Acquisition of fixed assets</u>	0	(2,461)
Bank overdraft	167,359	548,084
Cash from the financial operations	(39,979)	(10,461)
<u>Exchange results</u>	(64,703)	(41,369)
Cash movements	<u>(1,244,723)</u>	<u>(46,516)</u>
Cash and equivalent beginning of year	2,266,318	2,312,837
Cash and equivalent at year end	1,021,595	2,266,318

Notes to the Financial Statements

As at September 30, 2019

1. Presentation

In the Public registry of Geneva under the name « RET International» (hereafter referred to as the Foundation) there exists a trust within the meaning of Article 80 ff of the Swiss Civil Code. The Foundation was created in Geneva, Switzerland, on December 20, 2000, as “Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust”, to then have its name changed to “RET International” on October 08, 2015.

The Foundation is under the supervision of the Swiss Confederation.

The main objective of the Foundation is to provide a broad diversity of programs aimed at protecting and building resilience of youth and women affected by crisis.

For this purpose, the Foundation has signed global Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with UNHCR, IOM, UNESCO, UNICEF (regional) to collaborate. For this purpose, RET International negotiates and signs MoUs with the relevant Ministries of Education, Labor, Women’s Affairs etc., and specific provincial and municipal authorities in each country of operation (host and/or home country) to ensure that there is transparency, acceptance and appropriate accreditation.

- RET International provides educational services to refugees, internally displaced young people, returning refugees and those communities affected by displacement due to conflict, violence and natural disasters,
- Create or strengthen adequate infrastructure for schools and other learning environments, such as classrooms, youth centers, dormitories, latrines, kitchens, etc.
- Furnish and distribute educational materials,
- Provide formal education programs in curricula accredited by the Ministry of Education, typically of the home country of origin of those displaced,
- Promote teaching and teacher training,
- Provide youth leadership training, peer educator, in addition to formal MOE-accredited teacher training,
- Encourage innovative, effective methods, e.g. through the use of modern technologies,
- Teach Livelihoods, vocational training, income-generating activities, small business administration – bookkeeping and management training,
- Provide psychosocial skills training, including basic health and hygiene, family and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS awareness and more,
- Teach responsible citizenship, civic rights, human rights, rights of the child, rights of women, rights of refugees, good governance, democracy, conflict prevention, conflict mitigation, peace education and peace building,

The Foundation is registered and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and nineteen other countries, as a non-profit legal entity in Afghanistan, Belize, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Panama, Somalia, South Sudan, Turkey, USA (501(c)3), and Venezuela. We are awaiting additional registrations of RET International in Bangladesh, Mauritania and Mali.

RET International, Geneva Switzerland

Cash flow statement for the period ended September 30, 2019

(with comparative figures as of September 30, 2018)

(Currency - U.S. Dollars)

2. Organization of the Foundation

The Foundation is composed of the following (article 5 of the Statutes):

The Foundation Council is the supreme body which determines the policy and supervises the administration;

The bank of the Foundation is Banque Cantonale de Genève (BCGE), Geneva. Accounting of RET International globally is handled by the fiduciary firm of Cesar Mercado Sarl, Genève. Financial statements are audited by Comtesas + Gerficom SA, Geneva.

3. Tax exemption

The Conseil d'Etat de la République et Canton de Genève decided on March 21, 2001, to exempt the Foundation from Cantonal and Communal income tax. This exemption was renewed in November 2006 for a further period of 5 years and again in January 2012 for a period of 10 years.

The Foundation also qualifies for an indefinite exemption from the Federal income tax, according to a decision of the Federal tax authorities of March 23, 2001.

4. Accounting principles

The accounts have been prepared according to Swiss law and accounting principles described below.

4 a. Accounting period

The Foundation's accounting period runs from October 1 to September 30.

4 b. Functional currency

Accounting records are kept in United States dollars, which is the functional currency of the Foundation. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from specific foreign currency transactions are included in the results of operations. The exchange gains and losses are recorded in the profit and loss account. The financial statements are translated from US dollars to Swiss francs using the following rates: Assets and liabilities at exchange rates prevailing at the year-end; income and expenses are translated at the average rate of the year and the capital of the Foundation at the rate of the incorporation date (historical rate).

4 c. Currency translation

Amounts denominated in or expected to settle in currencies other than the USD, are translated into United States dollars on the following basis:

Market value of investment securities, other assets and liabilities - at the closing exchange rate at the balance sheet date.

Income and expenses at the exchange rate prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions (or at an average rate if significant rate fluctuations have not occurred).

For Swiss reporting purposes, translation adjustments resulting from the above are reported under equity in a separate line.

4 d. Revenue recognition

All contributions are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Amounts that are designated for future periods or restricted by the donor for specific purposes are reported as temporarily restricted support and deferred until their use according to the requirements of the donors. If a restriction is fulfilled in the same time period in which the contribution is received, the organization reports the support as unrestricted in the statement of financial performance.

4 e. Accounting for projects/programs

Donor funds are recognized when the cash has been received and expenses relating to the programs when they incur. As at the fiscal year-end, a careful assessment is done to match income and expenses and defer donations to the future period if the expense has not yet taken place.

RET International, Geneva Switzerland

Cash flow statement for the period ended September 30, 2019

(with comparative figures as of September 30, 2018)

(Currency - U.S. Dollars)

5. Restricted Income

<u>GOVERNMENTS</u>	Project Location	Note	2019	2018
Germany FFO	Bagram, Afghanistan	5a	398,812	862,877
Germany FFO	DR Congo	5b	255,481	858,675
Germany FFO	Chad	5c	476,263	1,307,821
Germany FFO	Kunduz, Afghanistan	5d	442,970	1,012,590
Germany FFO	Burundi	5e		652,919
Germany FFO	Kabul, Afghanistan	5f	448,354	856,795
Germany FFO	Lebanon	5g	299,037	726,517
Germany	Costa Rica	5h	32,586	0
Liechtenstein MOFA	Turkey	5i	203,640	153,630
Luxembourg MOFA	DR Congo	5j	368,933	185,129
Luxembourg MOFA	Turkey	5k	60,000	527,000
Switzerland - Canton de Genève	Lebanon	5l	88,262	104,954
Swiss SDC	Costa Rica	5m	19,316	6,371
Swiss SDC	Costa Rica	5n	433,841	0
CARSI	Panama	5o		269,804
CARSI	Belize	5p	127,075	494,858
CARSI	Costa Rica	5q	87,552	0
U.S. AID - OFDA	Panama	5r	144,209	87,496
U.S. AID - OFDA	Venezuela	5s	1,328,041	0
U.S. State Department BPRM	Ecuador	5t	172,794	1,131,076
U.S. State Department BPRM	Panama	5u	1,017,460	798,855
U.S. State Department BPRM	Venezuela	5v	300,000	1,198,281
U.S. State Department BPRM	Chad	5w		827,832
U.S. State Department BPRM	Kenya	5x	49,023	625,194
Canada	Colombia	5y	248,160	0
			7,001,809	12,688,675

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNFPA	Lebanon	5aa	209,989	118,343
UNHCR/ACNUR	Costa Rica	5bb	2,366,179	1,199,291
UNHCR/ACNUR	Venezuela	5cc	55,280	36,007
UNHCR DAFI	Burundi	5dd	3,490	108,700
UNHCR DAFI	Chad	5ee		407,694
UNHCR	Kenya	5ff		19,693
UNHCR	Belize	5gg	121,886	0
UNHCR	Mexico	5hh	1,401,463	648,448
UNHCR	Panama	5ii	249,698	0
UNICEF	Burundi	5gg	16,418	47,417
UNICEF	Turkey	5kk	5,491,306	4,180,110
UNICEF	Ecuador	5ll	48,011	138,420
UNICEF	Chad	5mm	185,009	361,150
UNICEF	Panama	5nn	52,430	127,275
UNICEF	Mexico	5oo	99,679	0
UN Women	Turkey	5pp	35,389	0
			10,336,226	7,392,548

Other Donors

Carpe Vitam International	Burundi	5aaa	136,670	0
Microsoft	Turkey	5bbb	130,000	0
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			266,670	0
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			17,604,706	20,081,222

RESTRICTED INCOME

Governments

5a Germany FFO - Afghanistan - Bagram (phase II & phase III)

The projects “Stabilising Communities in Areas of High Migrant Return: Bagram II and Bagram III” implemented between January 2018 and December 2018 and January 2019 and December 2019 were funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division and implemented by RET in Afghanistan.

5b Germany FFO - DR Congo

The project “Stabilising Communities in Conflict Zones of Walikale, Rutshuru and Masisi (North Kivu)” implemented between October 2018 and October 2019, was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division and was implemented by RET in DR Congo.

5c Germany FFO - Chad

The project “Working for Peaceful Communities in and around the Refugee Camps in Southern Chad through Effective Youth Engagement, phase II” implemented between January 2018 and December 2018 was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division and implemented by RET in Chad.

5d Germany FFO - Afghanistan - Kunduz (phase III and phase IV)

The projects “Stabilising Communities in Areas of High Migrant Return: Kunduz III and Kunduz IV” implemented between January 2018 and December 2018 and January 2019 and December 2019 were funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division and implemented by RET in Afghanistan.

5e Germany FFO - Burundi

The project “Reducing the Potential for Conflict in Two Regions of Burundi by Harnessing the Energies of Youth to Act for Peace and Social Cohesion” implemented between April 2017 and March 2018, was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division and implemented by RET in Burundi.

5f Germany FFO - Afghanistan - Kabul (phase II and phase III)

The project “Stabilising Communities in Areas of High Migrant Return: Kabul II and Kabul III” implemented between January 2018 and December 2018 and January 2019 and December 2019 were funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division and implemented by RET in Afghanistan.

5g Germany FFO - Lebanon

The project “Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism in Lebanon” implemented between November 2018 and December 2019, was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division and implemented by RET in Lebanon.

5h Germany - Costa Rica

The project “Promotion of Refugees and Migrants Rights in Costa Rica” implemented between October 2018 and March 2019, was funded by the German Embassy in Costa Rica and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.

RET International, Geneva Switzerland

Cash flow statement for the period ended September 30, 2019

(with comparative figures as of September 30, 2018)

(Currency - U.S. Dollars)

5i Liechtenstein MOFA - Turkey

The projects "Women & Youth Empowerment Project in Mardin and Şanlıurfa" implemented between October 2018 and March 2019 and June 2019 and February 2020 were funded by the Government of Liechtenstein and implemented by RET in Turkey.

5j Luxembourg MOFA - DR Congo

The project "Demobilisation of Adolescents Associated with Armed Groups through Provision of Rehabilitation and Reintegration Support in North Kivu" implemented between May 2018 and December 2018 and January 2019 and December 2019 was funded by the Government of the Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs and was implemented by RET in DR Congo.

5k Luxembourg MOFA - Turkey

The project "Refugee and Local Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment" implemented between July 2018 and December 2018 and January 2019 and December 2019 was funded by the Government of the Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, Ministry of European Aid and Foreign Affairs and implemented by RET in Turkey.

5l Switzerland - Canton de Genève - Lebanon

The project "Strengthening the Well-being and Resilience of Vulnerable Youth through Education", implemented between August 2018 and April 2019, was funded by the Canton de Genève and implemented by RET in Lebanon.

5m Embassy of Switzerland - Costa Rica

The project "Prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence: empowering refugee women and asylum seekers in Costa Rica" implemented between March 2018 and October 2018, was funded by the Swiss Embassy in Costa Rica and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.

5n Swiss Cooperation in Central America - Costa Rica

The project "Response to the migration crisis of the Nicaraguan refugee population and asylum seeker" implemented between November 2018 and July 2020, is funded by the Swiss Cooperation in Central América and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.

5o CARSI - Panama

The project "Capacity building and institutional strengthening for the Education and Labour Permanence and Reinsertion of Adolescents and Youth in San Miguelito" implemented between September 2016 and May 2018 was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) and implemented by RET in Panama.

5p CARSI - Belize

The project "Strengthening the Government and Civil Society" implemented between September 2017 and May 2019, was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) and implemented by RET in Belize.

5q CARSI - Costa Rica

The project "Building Local Governments Capacity to prevent and provide services to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Survivors" implemented respectively between August 2018 and July 2020 was funded by the "The International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Office" (INL), U.S. Department of State's Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.

5r U.S. AID - OFDA/BHA - Panama

The projects "Adolescents and young people with disabilities become resilient in prepared and inclusive communities in Panama" implemented in two phases between May 2019 and December 2019, and April 2019 and March 2020, were funded by the U.S. Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and implemented by RET in Panama.

5s U.S. AID - OFDA/BHA - Venezuela

The 3-year project “Addressing the urgent food, health and sanitation needs of vulnerable communities in five states of Venezuela” implemented between September 2018 and March 2020, is funded by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and implemented by RET in Venezuela.

5t U.S. State Department BPRM - Ecuador

The project “Strengthening Capacities of Vulnerable Asylum Seekers and Refugees and the Ability of Public Institutions to Accomplish Refugees’ and Asylum Seekers’ Integration and Self-Reliance in Ecuador” implemented between September 2017 and December 2018, was funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Ecuador.

5u U.S. State Department BPRM - Panama

The project “Building networks to improve self-sufficiency and integration: strengthening institutional capacities for the assistance, protection, and inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees in Panama and Colon” implemented between October 2018 and September 2019, was funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Panama.

5v U.S. State Department BPRM - Venezuela

The project “Integrated and Resilient Refugee Families in Venezuela” implemented between September 2017 and December 2018, was funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Venezuela.

5w U.S. State Department BPRM - Chad

The project “Protecting Displaced Youth XIII - Through Sustainable Secondary Education” implemented from August 2017 to August 2018 was funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Chad.

5x U.S. State Department BPRM - Kenya

The project “Learning Together for a Sustainable Future” implemented between July 2017 and June 2018 was funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Kenya.
The project “Education and Livelihood” implemented between September 2018 and December 2018 was funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Kenya.

5y Canada IHA - Colombia

The project “Addressing the basic humanitarian and protection needs of new internally displaced people in Colombia” implemented between April 2019 and March 2020, was funded by The Government of Canada, the International Humanitarian Assistance Division (IHA), and implemented by RET in Colombia.

Intergovernmental Organisations

5aa UNFPA - Lebanon

The project “Community Empowerment to Mitigate and Respond to Early Marriage Project” completed between March 2018 - December 2018, was implemented by RET in Lebanon in partnership with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA).
The project “Enhancing National Capacity to Prevent and Respond to GBV in Lebanon” implemented between January 2019 and September 2019, was implemented by RET in Lebanon in partnership with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA).

5bb UNHCR/ACNUR - Costa Rica

The project “Programme for Responding to the Specific Needs of Refugees and Asylum Seekers” implemented between January 2018 and December 2018, was implemented by RET in Costa Rica in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

RET International, Geneva Switzerland

Cash flow statement for the period ended September 30, 2019

(with comparative figures as of September 30, 2018)

(Currency - U.S. Dollars)

5cc UNHCR/ACNUR - Venezuela

The project "Community empowerment to reduce protection risks in adolescents and young people" implemented between March 2018 and December 2018, was implemented by RET in Venezuela in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

5dd UNHCR/DAFI - Burundi - 2018

The project "Higher Education DAFI Scholarships" implemented between January 2018 - December 2018 was funded by Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative in partnership with (UNHCR), and implemented by RET in Burundi

5ee UNHCR/DAFI - Chad - 2018

The project "Higher Education DAFI Scholarships" implemented between January 2018 - December 2018 was funded by the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative in partnership with (UNHCR) and implemented by RET in Chad.

5ff UNHCR - Kenya

The project "The Kenya - Somalia Refugees and Peace Building Cross Border Pilot Project for Voluntary Return, Co-Existence and Sustainable Reintegration in the Areas of Return" implemented between June 2017 - December 2017, was implemented by RET in Kenya in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

5gg UNHCR - Belize

The project "Refugee and Asylum Seekers in Belize" implemented between September 2018 and December 2018, was implemented by RET in Belize in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The project "Refugee and Asylum Seekers in Belize" Phase II implemented between January 2019 and December 2019, was implemented by RET in Belize in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

5hh UNHCR - Mexico

The projects "Improving local integration opportunities for Refugees and Asylum Seekers" implemented between January 2018 and December 2018 and January 2019 and December 2019, were implemented by RET in Mexico in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The component of youth protection through sports/art and culture received funds from the International Olympic Committee in collaboration with UNCHR.

5ii UNHCR - Panama

The Project "Promotion of access to rights and local integration of young migrants and refugees" implemented between October 2018 and December 2018, was implemented by RET in Panama in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The Project "Prospective change to change lives" implemented between January 2019 and December 2019, was implemented by RET in Panama in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

5jj UNICEF - Burundi

The project "Mobilizing to overcome school dropout- Phase II" implemented between July 2018 and April 2019, was implemented by RET in Burundi in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

5kk UNICEF - Turkey

The project "Creating a Protective Environment for Syrian and non-Syrian Children and Adolescents in Mardin and Şanlıurfa and Supporting them Access Learning Opportunities" implemented between January 2018 and December 2018 (with Education Module implemented from September 2018 to December 2018) and (with an extension from January 2019 to March 2019 and from April 2019 to December 2019) was implemented by RET in Turkey in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

5II UNICEF - Ecuador

The project “Strengthening Local Capacities of Adolescents and Young People, from San Lorenzo Canton, Esmeraldas Province, for the Promotion of Participation and Inclusion Spaces” implemented between November 2017 and November 2018, was implemented by RET in Ecuador in partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The project “Strengthening Local Capacities of Adolescents and Young People” implemented between November 2017 and November 2018, was implemented by RET in Ecuador in partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The project “Strengthening the community protection system in the Nuevo Renacer Citadel and the institutional environment of the Muisine canton” implemented between April 2018 and December 2018, was implemented by RET in Ecuador in partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

5mm UNICEF - Chad

The project “Supporting the Communities Affected by the Central African Crisis” implemented between November 2017 and September 2019, was implemented by RET in Chad in partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

5nn UNICEF - Panama

The project “Advocacy and Institutional Strengthening for the incorporation of integral disaster risk management and emergency risk management in public policies related to children and adolescents” implemented between July 2018 and July 2019, was implemented by RET in Panama in partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

5oo UNICEF - Mexico

The project “Psychosocial support and protection for children and adolescents (accompanied and unaccompanied) in a situation of mobility in temporary and transit shelters for migrants and public schools in Tapachula and Suchiate, Chiapas” implemented between February 2019 and April 2019, and May 2019 and June 2019 (extension), and June 2019 and December 2019 (extension), was implemented by RET in Mexico in partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

5pp UN Women - Turkey

The project “Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Turkey” implemented between July 2019 and March 2020, was implemented by RET in Turkey in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

Other Donors

5aaa Carpe Vitam International - Burundi

The project “Improving the income generation and self-reliance prospects of youth through targeted capacity-building and vocational training – Phase I” implemented between April 2019 and December 2019, was funded by Carpe Vitam and implemented by RET in Burundi.

5bbb Microsoft - Turkey

The project “Empowering the Youth through Digital Literacy and Computer Training” implemented between October 2018 and May 2019, was funded by Microsoft and implemented by RET in Turkey.

RET International, Geneva Switzerland

Cash flow statement for the period ended September 30, 2019

(with comparative figures as of September 30, 2018)

(Currency - U.S. Dollars)

6. Unrestricted income

	2019	2018
Private Donors		
Other - individuals*	12,561	35,005
Other Revenues	51,143	11,308
Interco participations		
RET Americas	406,666	0
RET Germany e.V.	224,710	0
Total unrestricted income	<u>695,080</u>	<u>46,313</u>
* Madame Z. Gündüz	6,572	0
Madame G. Demole-Dominice	4,984	0
Mme et M. M. et G. Villard	<u>1,005</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>12,561</u>	<u>0</u>

7. Expenses classified by nature

The Statement of financial performance discloses the expenses classified according to the operations of the expenditures.

The table below presents the expenses classified by nature for both year 2018 and 2019:

	2019	2018
<u>Expenses related to the projects</u>		
Latin America	7,460,388	5,331,595
Burundi	1,178,997	725,904
Chad	1,360,286	2,674,052
Afghanistan	177,884	2,032,201
DRC	472,597	869,076
Kenya	80,283	545,182
Lebanon	382,646	924,122
Turkey	4,945,176	4,372,263
<u>Total expenses related to the projects</u>	<u>16,058,256</u>	<u>17,474,396</u>
<u>Direction and support</u>		
Salaries and social charges	1,229,768	1,079,829
Other expenses related to personnel	20,529	33,041
Travel and representation expenses	191,401	199,629
Audit, accounting and legal fees	240,006	210,089
Other administrative expenses	378,820	452,095
Depreciation on fixed assets	9,337	63,285
<u>Total direction and support</u>	<u>2,069,862</u>	<u>2,037,967</u>
Total expenses by nature	<u>18,128,118</u>	<u>19,512,362</u>

RET International, Geneva Switzerland

Cash flow statement for the period ended September 30, 2019

(with comparative figures as of September 30, 2018)

(Currency - U.S. Dollars)

8. Operating Surplus/Result for the Year

During fiscal year 2019, RET International reports an Operating Surplus of USD 171,667, demonstrating the continued efficiency of the organisation, and effective uses of its total income of USD 18,299,786 million less its Operating Expenses, including its G&A, of USD 18,128,118 million.

The financial results reflecting currency losses and bank interest and fees reduce this Operating Surplus by USD 104,682. Thus, the Result for the Year is a surplus of USD 66,984.

The extra-ordinary expenses of prior year relate to the final refund to the US Government for FY 2012- 2016 for a total of USD 622,936 of which USD 57,812 was paid during FY 2019, with the balance of USD 2,968 being prior year adjustment for related parties.

9. Investments for Future Programmes

As has been the norm in its operations, RET International continues to make future investments by conducting Needs and Assets Assessment Surveys (NAAS), establishing operations, and launching pilot programmes in different countries of interest. Where such expenses are incurred, the Board has thus established a policy on such amortisation which is applied accordingly. There was no amortisation for the FY 2019.

10. Capital of the Foundation

The Foundation decided in 2000 to attribute an amount of USD 50'000 of its revenues to the creation of a capital.

11. Guarantees in Favour of a Third Party

An amount of 60,000 USD, plus interest, is held in an account by BCGE in order to guarantee the lease of the RET International's headquarters at 34 rue de Saint Jean, Geneva, Switzerland.

12. Risk Assessment

A system of risk management is implemented by the Foundation Board. Based on a periodic assessment, risks related to the Foundation's activity are systematically assessed and their occurrence and their financial consequences are also appreciated.

13. Number of Staff

During fiscal year 2019 the Foundation employed an average of 9 persons for the year in Geneva, Switzerland headquarters. Throughout the FY 2019, there were a total number of employees in the RET organization within the range of 600-1300, varying depending on the project needs in the field.

14. Liabilities towards Leasing Contracts (with a residual duration of more than 12 months after the end of the fiscal year)

The foundation holds a debt of USD 12'087 in leasing contracts for fiscal year 2019 (USD 53,375 for fiscal year 2018).

15. Auditor Fees

The auditor fees for fiscal year 2019 were of USD 18,000 (USD 19,191 for fiscal year 2018).

16. Liabilities towards Employee Benefits Institutions

The Foundation did not hold any debts towards employee benefits institutions during fiscal year 2019 (no debts were held towards employee benefits institutions during the fiscal year 2018 either).

RET INTERNATIONAL, GENEVA

REPORT OF THE STATUTORY AUDITOR ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE COUNCIL OF FONDATION

Exercice 2018/2019

Report of the Statutory Auditor
on the Financial Statements to the
Council of Foundation

RET International, Geneva

Dear Sirs,

Report of the Statutory Auditor on the Financial Statements

As statutory auditor, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of RET International, which comprise the balance sheet, the income statement, the cash flow statement and notes as at September 30th, 2019.

Board of Council of Foundation

The Council of Foundation is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Swiss law and the company's articles of incorporation. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system relevant to the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Council of Foundation is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control system relevant to appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control system. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2019 comply with Swiss law and the company's articles of incorporation.

Information paragraph

RET Americas, Inc. was created as an independent legal entity, a 501 ©3, to work with U.S. and Canadian Government funding, as well as, other Latin American governments and the private donors and foundations within the Americas.

RET Germany e.V. was created as an independent legal entity for accessibility to funding and to work together with the EU, German and other European Governments, corporations, foundations and other private donors.

Following the separation of funding and operations of the three independent RET entities as described above, it is important to note that the comparability of the previous year's results in these financial statements may be misleading. While previously, all the transactions of the RET Alliance were reflected under RET International financial statements, the current year's results as contained in these financial statements relate only to RET International managed projects, and all other transactions relating to RET Americas and RET Germany are now included in those respective entity's financial statements

Report on Other Legal Requirements

We confirm that we meet the legal requirements on licensing according to the Auditor Oversight Act (AOA) and independence (art. 728 CO and art. 11 AOA) and that there are no circumstances incompatible with our independence.

In accordance with article 728a, para. 1, ch. 3 CO and Swiss Auditing Standard 890, we confirm that there is an internal control system relating to the preparation of the annual accounts, defined in accordance with the requirements of the Foundation Board.

In fact, in accordance with our recommendations in our report of April 8, 2019, written procedures completed the internal control system and were applied by RET International during the current financial year.

However, once again this year, our audit approach was based on in-depth controls of the financial statements, favoring a procedural approach over the next financial year.

In addition, we recommend that you approve the annual accounts submitted to you.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the ordinary general meeting has not been held within six months of the end of the financial year, contrary to the provisions of article 699 paragraph 2 CO.

Comtesas + Gerficom SA

Fabrice Gouthière
Expert réviseur agréé
(Agrément No 105145)

Giuseppe Lamicela
Agent fiduciaire diplômé
Réviseur agréé
(Agrément No 110703)

Geneva, January 21, 2021
FG/as/5 ex.

Enclosures : - financial statements
(total balance sheet USD 3'569'707, income statement, cash flow statement,
notes)

We thank all of our key stakeholders – our host country government partners, donors – government, institutional, and private, RET staff, volunteers, the communities where we work, the elders, the families, the educators, and the young people affected by displacement, violence, armed conflict, and disasters, for their support of RET's programs and RET's team, and for designing, delivering, monitoring, evaluating, improving the interventions that we bring with the passion and commitment to excellent quality and success necessary for the vital and sustainable future of all the regions where we are fortunate to be represented.

RET International
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RET.
Bridging
the Gaps
in Africa.
The Americas.
Asia. Europe.
The Middle East.




Annual Report & Financial Statements 2019
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Geneva, Switzerland - Berlin, Germany, Washington, USA


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