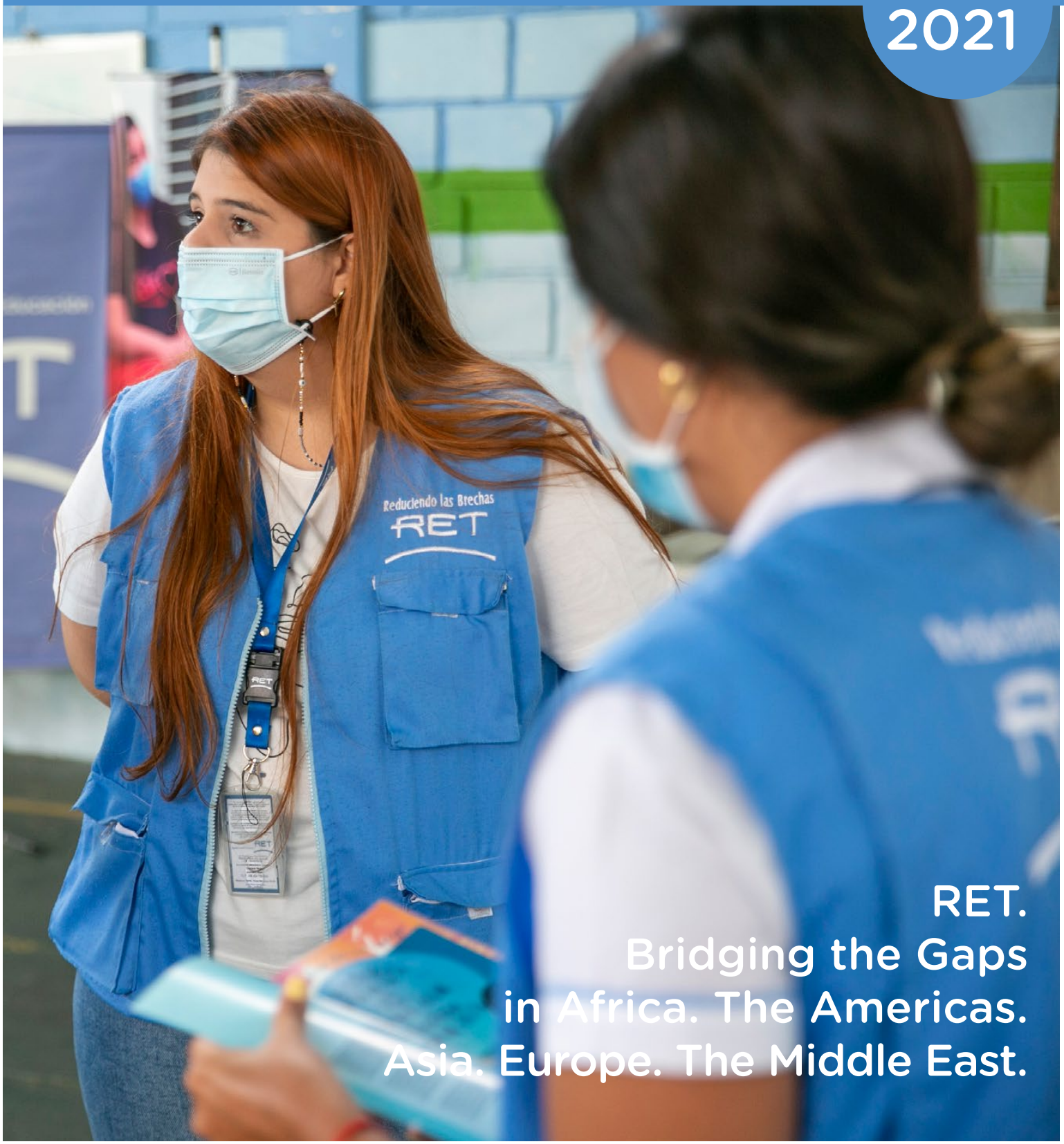
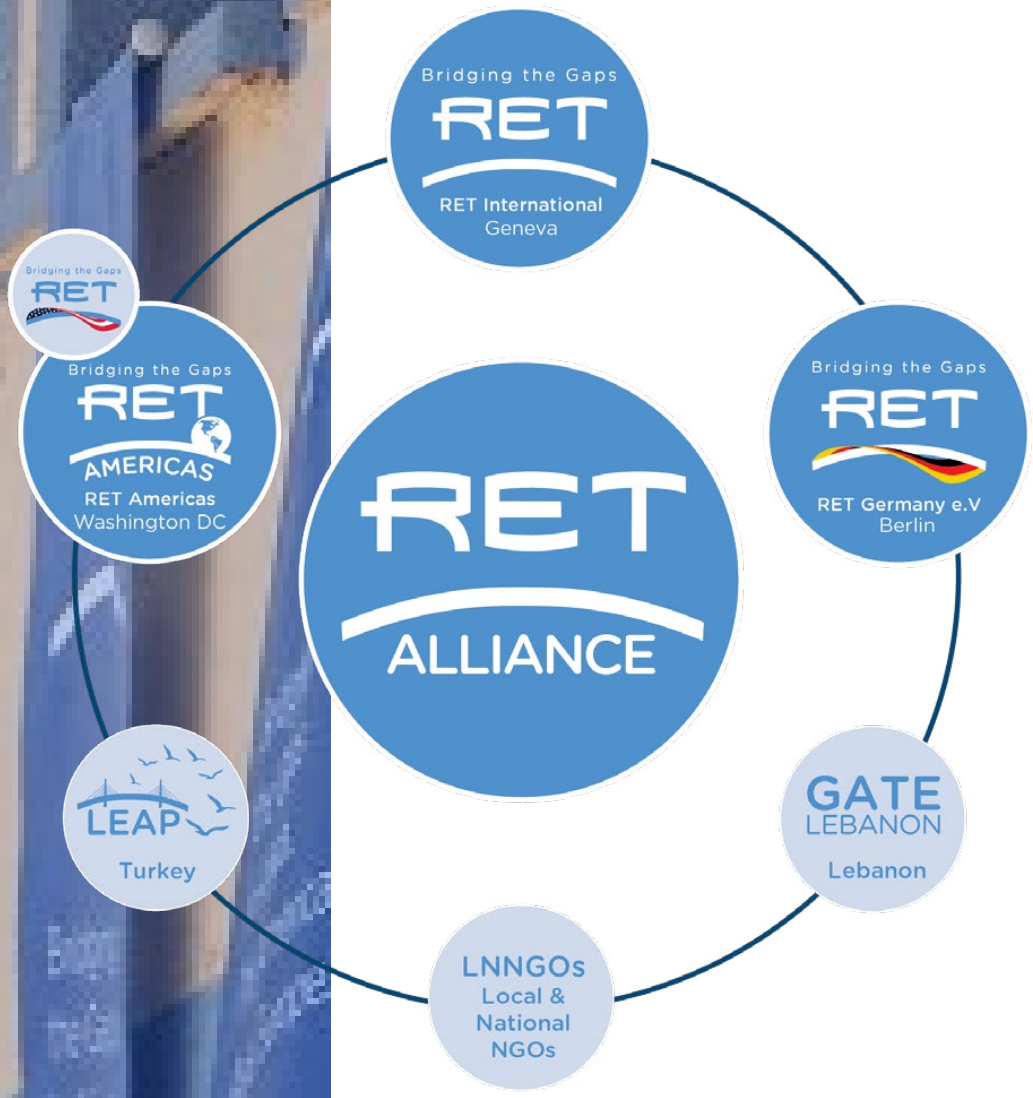
Bridging the Gaps

RET Alliance

ANNUAL REPORT
& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2021



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



Annual Report & Financial Statements 2021
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info@theRET.org - info@RETGermany.org -
info@RETAmericas.org theRET.org - RETGermany.de -
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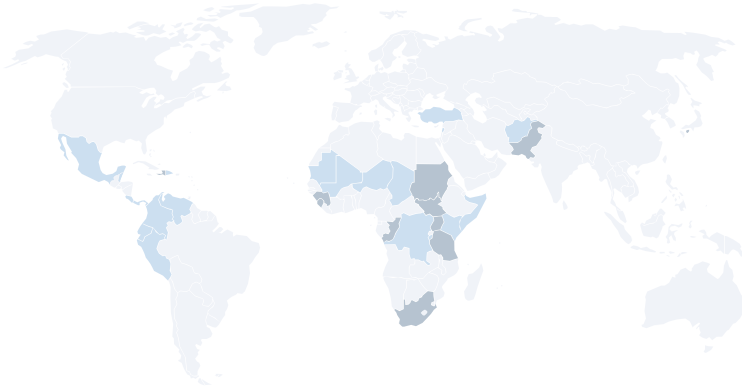
RET.
Bridging the Gaps in Africa. The Americas. Asia. Europe. The Middle East.

Bridging the Gaps

Since RET's founding in **2000,** we have worked in more than **32 countries,** implementing more than **405 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."**

More than...

2 million Program Participants

20 million Indirect Beneficiaries

55% Women Participants

250 million USD Channeled to Youth & Women

1'600 Schools/Women's Centers

32 Countries

405 Projects

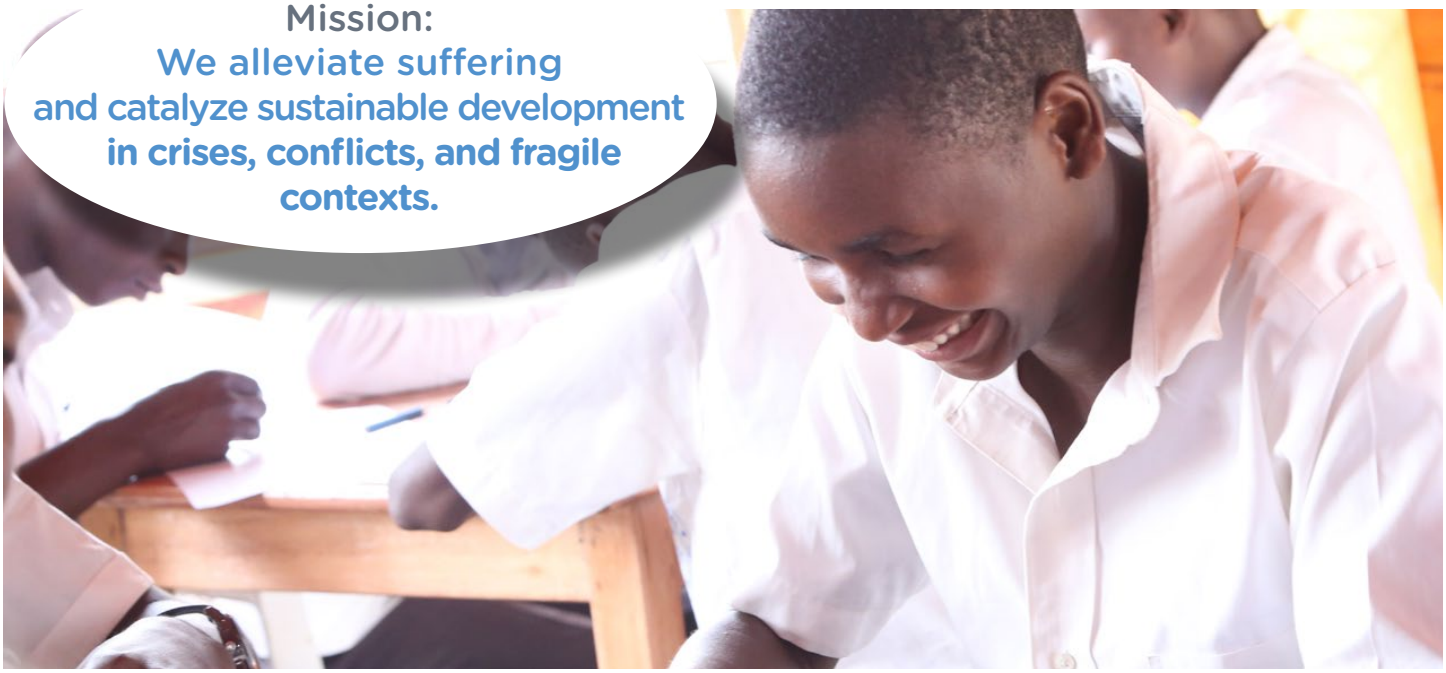
45 HQ & Administrative Centers

550 -1300 Field Staff

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.

Mission:

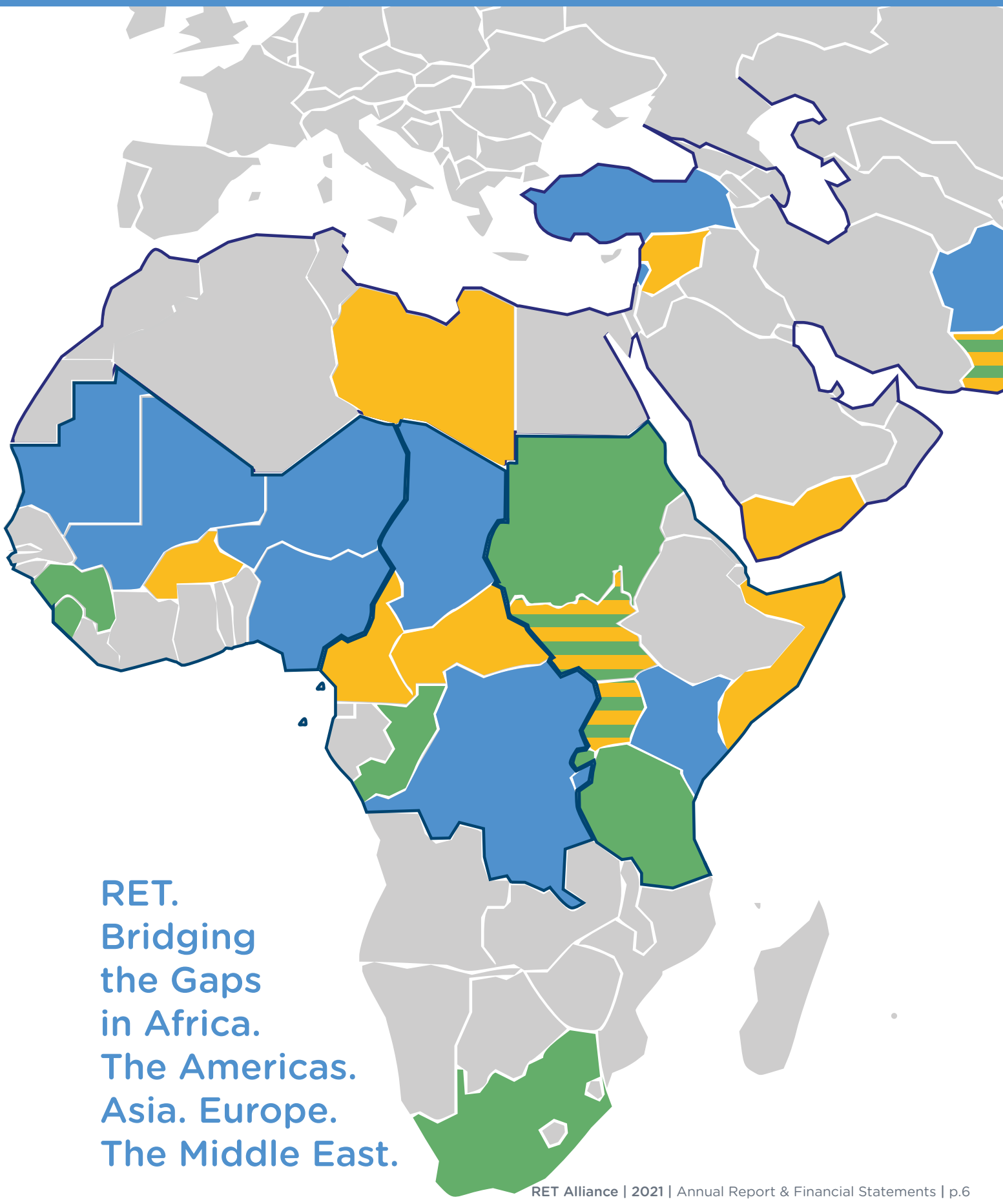
We alleviate suffering and catalyze sustainable development in crises, conflicts, and fragile contexts.



Bridging the Gaps

EUROPE - THE MIDDLE EAST - AFRICA - ASIA

EMEAA Region



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

In 2021, within the EMEAA Region, RET is currently conducting operations in **Burundi, DR Congo, Lebanon, Mauritania, Niger and Türkiye.** Operations will start soon in **Nigeria and Mali.**

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 Türkiye.
RET entered t**he Middle East** region, specifically Lebanon, in 2013, and Türkiye 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 Middle East, countries such as Syria, Yemen, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Algeria, Egypt, and Libya are closely monitored so that RET is ready for prompt interventions.

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, Panshir, Badakshan, Kunduz, Balkh, among others. Due to the latest development in Afghanistan, RET suspended its operations at the moment.

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

Given the tension in the Middle East region, 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.

Africa:

Since 2002, RET has been working 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, Chad and Kenya, and is currently implementing projects in Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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, Cameroon, and Nigeria. In 2019, RET launched operations in Mauritania and in Niger in 2021. RET is registered and will soom launch operations in Mali and Nigeria.

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

NO OPERATIONS
IN 2021

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).**

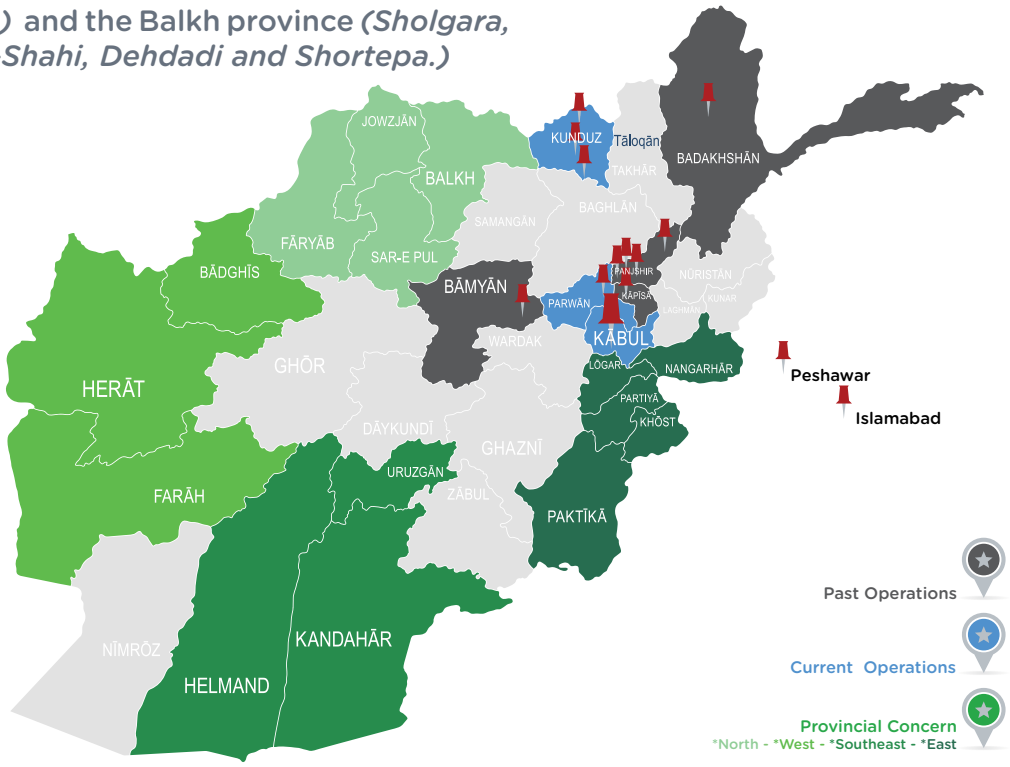
RET also supported the communities in Afghanistan & Pakistan with the inauguration of **406 facilities** *(35 in Afghanistan & 371 in Pakistan)*, including **35 community learning centers for women.**

Since 2001, RET has conducted operations in deep rural & urban areas in Pakistan and Afghanistan, namely in Peshawar, Islamabad, and in Bamyan, Parwan, Badakshan, 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

2018 - 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.***

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.

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.

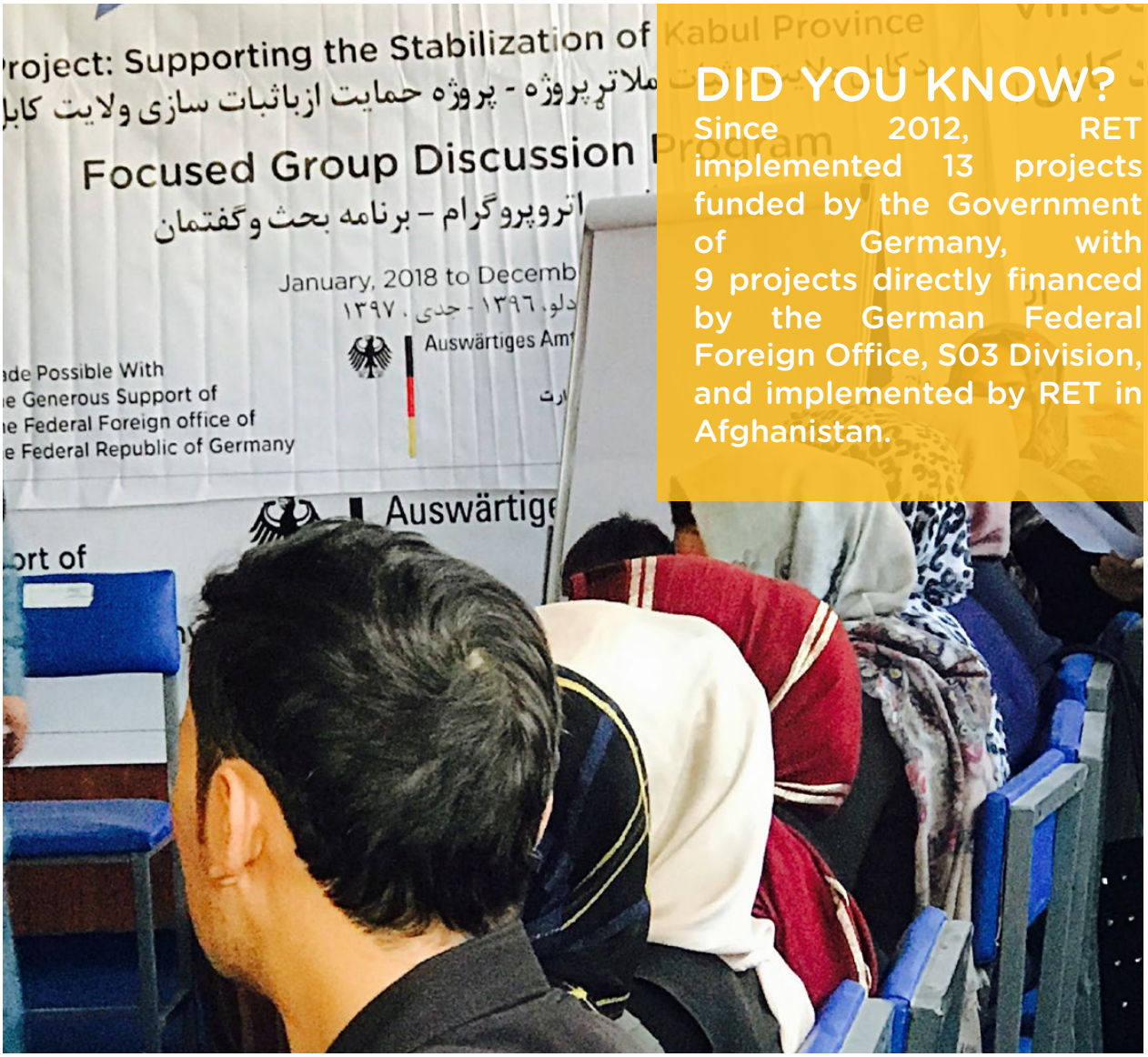
3. Sustainable Development interventions: Increasing the self-reliance of community members to enhance reintegration through Educational Programs (different levels), Small Business Training, Entrepreneurial Skills, Financial Literacy, and Micro-Credit Training & Job Counseling.

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.

AFGHANISTAN

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Year 2020

2020

Provision of access to inclusive and protective learning for emergency affected children in Balkh province in Afghanistan

It is estimated that more than 500,000 children are in need of Education in Emergency (EiE) interventions in Afghanistan. Many of the IDPs and returnees' children lack educational opportunities and are deprived of their fundamental right to education.

The project provided inclusive and protective learning opportunities in the Balkh province in Afghanistan. It reached 3500 children (2000 girls) in four districts of the Balkh province (Sholgara, Nahr-e-Shahi, Dehdadi and Shortepa) in Afghanistan. It also supported the establishment of 100 Competency-based Education (CBE) classes facilitated by 100 teachers (60% female teachers). RET also established school counsels to improve students' and teachers' attendance, security, protection, and inclusiveness.

RET and the project partners targeted 200 villages where IDPs and returnees are residing, including vulnerable host communities, are settled throughout this project.

The project, completed between August 2019 and July 2020, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF), in collaboration with Islamic Relief Worldwide, the Organization for Research and Development (ORCD), and Afghanistan General Help Coordination Office (AGHCO) and implemented by RET in Afghanistan.

DID YOU KNOW?

RET was presented with awards from the Upper House of the National Assembly of Afghanistan and the Massoud National Hero Medal for its concern and plight for Afghan refugees and returnees'. These prestigious recognitions were awarded to RET President and Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Zeynep Gündüz, for her role in advancing girls and women's empowerment and education in Afghanistan.

In 2019, RET's Area Director and Afghanistan Country Director were awarded a certificate from the Islam Republic of Afghanistan, the Ministry of Refugee and Repatriations Office for their services in training Afghan refugees, returnees, and IDPs, and their achievements in assisting the vulnerable communities in Afghanistan.

NO OPERATIONS
IN 2021

BANGLADESH

Since the beginning of the latest cycle of violence in Rakhine state, Myanmar, in August 2017, around 741,577 Rohingya refugees have sought refuge in neighboring Bangladesh, in Cox's Bazar. The crisis stems from Myanmar's decades-long persecution of about 1.3 million Rohingya, a Muslim minority denied citizenship by law since 1982. Due to many restrictions in Cox's Bazar, Rohingya refugees are highly dependent on food assistance, in-kind, and voucher programs. Many host community members are left more vulnerable by this rapid influx, not meeting the per capita minimum expenditure basket due to price hikes.

RET conducted multiple Fact Finding Missions and Needs Assessment in Bangladesh, in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar, in tandem with conducting 'Key Informant Interviews' with government officials, UN agencies, law firms, donors, and NGOs.

2020

RET is supporting local NGO's in Bangladesh. In 2020, RET funded a local NGO called SPACE, "Society for People's Action in Change & Equity," to implement the project **"Capacity Development for Employment through Eco-Friendly Jute Products"** in Kolyanpur Porabosti, Model Thana, Mirpur-1, under Dhaka North City Corporation. The project aimed to provide sustainable livelihoods through multi-sectoral interventions, advancing sustainable development goals 1, 2, 5 & 8.

Vulnerable young people are enabled through capacity-building to operate their businesses & market their Jute products, thus creating additional employment opportunities and ensuring a regular and sustainable income for young people and their families. The project built on youth and their families' resilience by reducing plastic pollution, and providing a better and clean living environment through (1) awareness among the targeted population on Jute products and its sustainable impact on their socio-economic status and livelihood, health, and on the environment; (2) strengthening the capacity of target people in designing, processing, producing & marketing jute products and enhancing skills on O&M of equipment as well.

- **70 young women and men received direct skill training from the project.**
- **30 young women and men and their 180 family members received equipment, training, and employment support from the project.**
- **1220 young women along with their mothers and community leaders sensitized through various awareness activities.**

BURUNDI
OVERVIEW

Since 2002, RET has directly supported more than **500K 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 **47 projects** (5 projects in Tanzania) and (42 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 worked 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 International (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.

GENERATION EQUALITY
TURWANYE IFATWA KUNGUVU RY'ABIGEME
hikanywe kwa muganga
akingirwa ingwara zifatira
oka hamwe n'inda atipfuza.
Uwahohotewe iyashikanywe kwa muga
imbere yamasaha 72, akingirwa ingwara z
mu bihimba vy'irondoka hamwe n'inda atip

BURUNDI

2021

Improving the income generation and self-reliance prospects of youth in Kanyosha and Mutimbuzi through targeted Capacity Building & Vocational Training

The goal of this project is to enhance the self-reliance and income generation prospects of targeted youth by building the entrepreneurial and self-reliance skills of 600 youth aged between 15-30 years through the administration of the Open Mind Global program along with providing 120 youth with professional skills training and accredited certification through the Vocational Training Centre in Kanyosha.

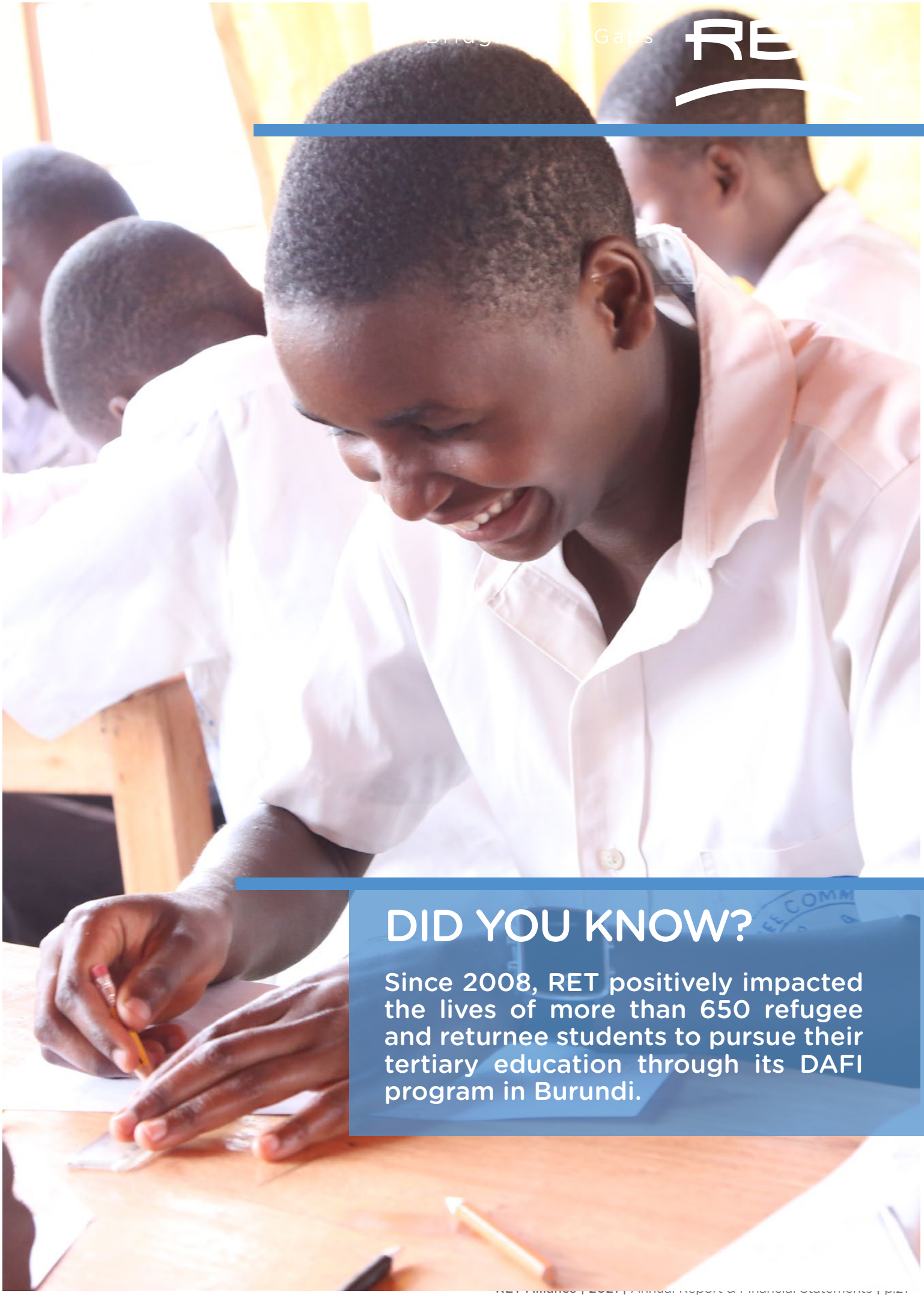
Youth unemployment is affecting both local and national development. Simultaneously, the limited economic and livelihood prospects can prompt the youth to resort to harmful coping mechanisms as a survival strategy, including joining armed or rebel groups. It is of fundamental importance for the stability of Burundi that realistic and relevant programs that aim at countering the marginalization of vulnerable adolescents by endorsing "a gender-balanced approach" to youth agency pillared around cultivating leadership; designing and administering technical and vocational capacity building modules conducive to economic integration; and supporting youth resilience as a conduit for conflict transformation and sustainable peace-building.
The youth need to engage them, train them to be job creators and role models for positive and responsible behavior. Only with the tools for self-reliance can this be achieved. One of the main challenges facing young entrepreneurs in Burundi is access to finance, so the project includes a micro-financing component to support new small businesses' launch. Through direct engagement with youth and communities, this is a bottom-up approach that will help build youth's self-reliance and income generation capacity. By positively engaging them at the local level, RET will endeavor to create 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 January 2021 and December 2021, was funded by Carpe Vitam and implemented by RET in Burundi.

Higher Education DAFI Scholarships- 4 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 projects implemented between January 2021 and December 2021, and September 2021 and May 2022 were funded by the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) in partnership with UNHCR and implemented by RET in Burundi.



DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2008, RET positively impacted the lives of more than 650 refugee and returnee students to pursue their tertiary education through its DAFI program in Burundi.

BURUNDI

HIGHER EDUCATION DAFI SCHOLARSHIPS: 2008 - 2022

The Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) is managed at the global level by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on behalf of the Government of Germany and implemented by RET in Burundi and Chad. The DAFI program aims to provide higher education scholarships for refugees and returnees living in crisis-affected areas to fulfill their tertiary education dream.

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. **Since 2008, RET positively impacted the lives of more than 620 refugee and returnee students to pursue their tertiary education in Burundi & Chad.**

A sparkle of hope in camps.

RET has been implementing the DAFI program in Burundi since 2008. During this period, 620 students, including 30.4% women and 69.6% men, 38% of whom are returnees, and 62% of refugees have benefited from the scholarship program.

The educational programs implemented in the refugee camps in Burundi focus on primary education for refugees or returnees. The latter faces lack of educational opportunities adapted to their needs and/or age and, more importantly, a lack of financial support to access university training and skills to become self-reliant individuals and responsible citizens.

The possibility offered by the "Albert Einstein German Academic Initiative for Refugees (DAFI) scholarship program" in Burundi represents an opportunity to support young refugees, especially Congolese youth living in camps (Kinama, Musasa, Bwagiriza and Kavumu), and or in urban areas (Bujumbura and Rumonge) as well as supports returnees in their higher education pursue; offering them professional qualification oriented towards gainful employment and prosperous future for their host communities.

The Integration Camp 2020

Beginning of 2020, RET in Burundi organized an integration camp for the new DAFI scholars in Bujumbura. The camp was organized to develop acceptable academic practices and facilitate community integration of 40 new students selected in December 2019 for the current academic year. Thirty-two refugees and eight returnees joined the camp to meet local universities' representatives and be informed about the universities' various fields. During the initiation camp, the scholars participated in multi-disciplinary training modules (presentations, application exercising, and role play) focusing on Social Integration, Financial Education, University Integration, and Leadership skills. The scholars are briefed about the academic environment, the integration process, budget management, credits, and saving. After going through the extensive training, the participants worked closely with university representatives, present in the camp to identify their relevant skills and the different disciplines offered by the universities.

Capacity- building - Internship - Entrepreneurship

During their academic tertiary education, RET supported scholars with various extra-curricular training courses to strengthen their life and professional skills and facilitated practical internships following their professional and academic outlooks.
In 2017, eight scholars were certified as trainers in financial education.

In 2018, 2019, and 2020, RET organized training and/or exchange sessions on financial education, life skills, climate change, leadership, and entrepreneurship. These sessions successfully reached 154 DAFI students (67 in 2018, 87 in 2019). An integration camp was organized in January 2020 by RET to facilitate the integration of 40 new DAFI students selected in December 2019 to start their university studies in January 2020.

Since 2015, RET has initiated an entrepreneurship training program for DAFI scholars to equip them with the relevant skills to facilitate

employment and income-generating activities (AGRs). Laterally, RET supported them to launch their business plans at the end of their academic studies and provided them with access to start-up costs. RET launched a competition for entrepreneurial micro-projects of DAFI finalist students to facilitate their transition to professional life and their socio-economic integration. Four (4) micro-projects were selected from seven (7) to benefit from this financial support. RET has assigned the carriers of these micro-projects a Coach for training on developing a Business Plan and for technical support throughout the execution of their micro-projects. They then received financial support from RET in terms of micro credits through DIFO (Micro-finance Institution identified by RET to financially support the projects of DAFI students).

RET also encourages DAFI students to participate in developing their communities through community-focused and youth-led activities (awareness-raising on behavior change, environmental protection, assistance to people with specific needs, etc.). In this context, 4 Associations have emerged: AFPD in 2017 (Association of fruits of the DAFI program), CubeMedia in 2017, ABAFEV in 2018 (Association for the good future of vulnerable women and children), PAXED in 2018 (Action for Peace, the Environment and Sustainable Development) and the DAFI Club in 2019.

DAFI scholars have already impacted the lives of their communities through the activities carried out by their associations. As an illustration, 20 young Burundian returnees benefited from a training workshop on life skills organized by the AFPD Association; the CubeMedia company has sensitized more than 300 young people (refugees and Burundians) on new information and communication technologies. They have also created a mobile application "GENIUS" application as an online encyclopedia to help young people with their studies and research in science. More than 1'500 young people were trained on the importance of protecting the environment and peaceful coexistence organized by the PAXED association.

> "The DAFI scholarship program brings durable solutions and a new socio-economic prospects to young Congolese refugees and young Burundian returnees. The scholars constituted successful models for their peers to follow and created a lasting positive change in their respective communities, leading to greater peace and stability."

NO OPERATIONS
IN 2021

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.

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.

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

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?

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CHAD

RET's work with the Communities during Fiscal Years 2018 - 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.

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 camps 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.

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 implemented in partnership with Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Chad.

Bridging the Gaps

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 **18 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 11 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), and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), 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

2018 - 2020

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.

This project implemented between May 2018 and December 2018, was funded by 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 groups 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.

> "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."

DRCONGO

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

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The project implemented between January 2020 and December 2020, is 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 in Rutshuru territory (North Kivu)

The project built communities' resilience in the Chieftaincy of BWITO, Rutshuru territory of North Kivu against armed violence, and prevented children and adolescents' future recruitment into armed groups.

RET in DRC raised the community awareness of key stakeholders and leaders of armed groups, building the capacities of local youth associations, and providing a pathway for positive youth engagement by implementing peace projects to prevent the recruitment of children adolescents into an armed group.

RET conducted a comprehensive support and rehabilitation program for identified ex-combatants in the "center of Transit and Orientation" CTO. It demobilized adolescents through psychosocial support, learning programs, peace-building activities, and life plan development.

The program's final stage provided a sustainable reintegration of the ex-combatants into their communities and promoted community stability through cooperative business practices. RET followed up on the youth's educational and business integration and supported them with school fees to prevent risks associated with recurrent recruitment into armed groups.

The project implemented between January 2020 and December 2020, is funded by the Kingdom of Belgium and implemented by RET in DR Congo.

DRCONGO

2021

Multi-sectoral support for sustainable quantitative and qualitative improvement of the food and nutrition situation and peaceful and inclusive co-existence of conflict-affected populations" project in eastern DRC (Ituri and North Kivu) (2021-2024)

Since 2021, RET Germany has been implementing the "Multisectoral support for improved food security and peaceful and inclusive co-existence of conflict-affected populations" project in Ituri and North Kivu, eastern DRC seeking to address the problems of food insecurity, risk of malnutrition, and lack of stability due to inter-community conflicts.

RET Germany is working with 4 local implementing partners that are IPAPEL (Provincial Inspectorate of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock), ACPEJ (Actions des Ex-Combattants Pour l'Encadrement des Jeunes et la lutte contre l'enrôlement des enfants et les violences sexuelles basées sur le genre), FDAPID (Foyer de Développement pour l'Autopromotion des Pygmées et Indigènes Défavorisés) and PAP-RDC (Programme d'Appui au développement des Populations forestières - Les Pygmées aussi) to implement this project that **aims at increasing food security and improving peaceful and inclusive co-existence of conflict-affected populations, especially demobilized youth (formerly associated with armed groups), Batwa, IDPs/returnees, and vulnerable host population** by:

(1) increasing food security for smallholder farmers in North Kivu and Ituri provinces while applying sustainable natural resource management,

(2) improving the balanced diet and nutritional practices for smallholder farmers and their families, and

(3) Improving peaceful relations between ethnic groups and integrating stigmatized, vulnerable, and traumatized groups, especially youth ex-combatants and indigenous Batwa, into the local community and economy.

The project targets demobilized child soldiers and youth formerly associated with armed groups, the Indigenous Batwa population, IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable host population, with particular attention to Female heads of households. The project will reach 6200 direct beneficiaries and over 40 000 indirect beneficiaries in three years implementation cycle.

Food Security

The project aims to increase food security through activities ranging from essential household items and food distribution to facilitating small farmer beneficiaries' access to agricultural lands and training.

Balanced Nutrition

To make sure that the dietary practices of small farmers and their families have improved, RET will, in collaboration with the implementing partners, organize training on nutrition-sensitive agriculture accompanied by the distribution of fruit tree seedlings proactive nutrition campaign for awareness-raising.

Social Cohesion and Wellbeing

RET has developed a number of creative activities like psychological support that will promote the integration of vulnerable and traumatized groups like ex-combatant youth and Batwa families into the local communities.

This project's implementation period is between 2021 and 2024 and is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented in partnership with IPAPEL (Provincial Inspectorate of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock), ACPEJ (Actions des Ex-Combattants Pour l'Encadrement des Jeunes et la lutte contre l'enrôlement des enfants et les violences sexuelles basées sur le genre), FDAPID (Foyer de Développement pour l'Autopromotion des Pygmées et Indigènes Défavorisés) and PAP-RDC (Programme d'Appui au développement des Populations forestières - Les Pygmées aussi) in DRCongo.

NO OPERATIONS
IN 2021

KENYA

OVERVIEW

Since 2004, RET has directly supported more than **36,000 direct participants, 39% are women,** and indirectly befitted 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 nighty-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.

Bridging the Gaps

RET

KENYA

2018

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) in Kenya.

KENYA

2019- 2020

Bridging the Digital Divide to Develop Livelihoods

The "Bridging the Digital Divide to Develop Livelihoods" (BTG) project is an information, communication, and technology (ICT) skills training project, delivered in partnership with the United States International University - Africa (USIU) and targeting out-of-school adolescents and youth in Kakuma refugee camp. BTG enhanced youth interaction with technology and enabled on-demand digital skills acquisition. Through a partnership with USIU, AppFactory received coding skills training necessary for building mobile and web applications and computer graphics animation. In collaboration with RET, USIU designed the course and modules aligned with the AppFactory and delivered it on a CSR basis to target 120 youth. Taking advantage of Kenya's technological advancement and high-speed Internet availability, RET implemented most Online courses through teleconferencing, social media, and boot camps.

The skills attained improved refugee youth income-generating capacities, improved employability, enabled their business creation, and developed scalable solutions to problems they face in the camp. Through the acquired skills, the youth were able to access online jobs in the outsourcing industry besides using animation in the camp for information dissemination, community mobilization, entertainment, and education for free or for pay. The project gave the youth an opportunity to be innovative in solving problems using technology.

This project, implemented between September 2019 and October 2020 is funded by the U.S. Embassy in Kenya, the Julia Taft Fund, and implemented by RET in Kenya.

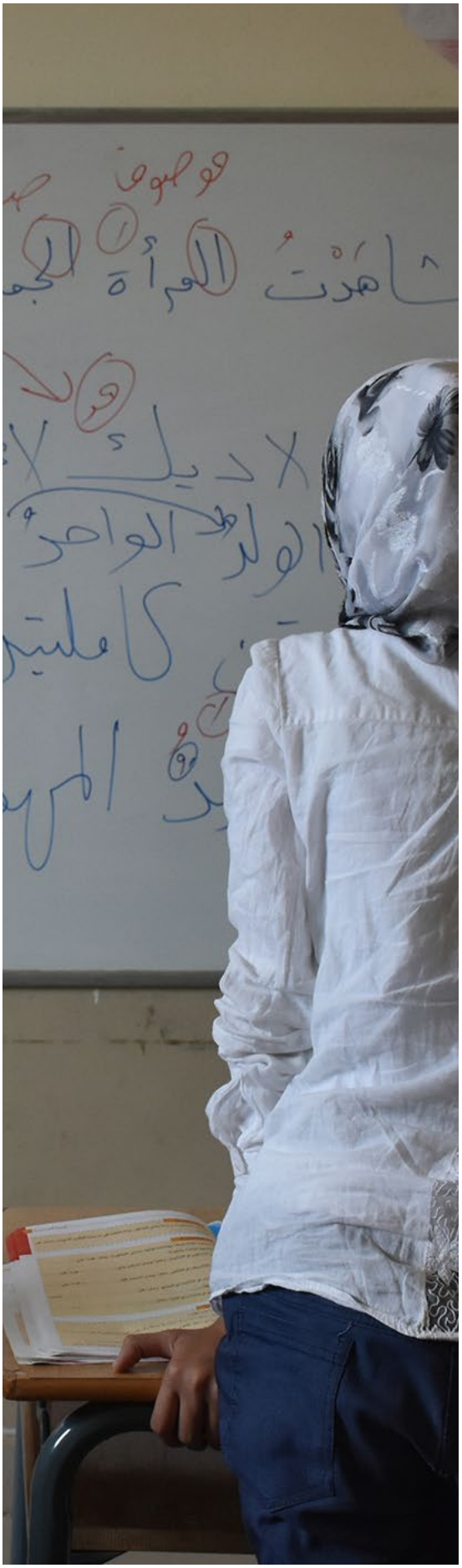
LEBANON
OVERVIEW

Since 2014, RET has directly supported more than **81K direct participants** in Lebanon and indirectly benefited more than **840,000 beneficiaries** throughout **16 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), and Economic Growth & Development.***

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, Arsal, Akoura, Meryata, and Kfarhazir.***

Main Donors & Partners:

RET has raised and channeled over 9 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, the German Federal Foreign Office S03/S04 and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), 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.



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

2018-2020

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) 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.

The consecutive projects, implemented between May 2017 and April 2018, and between August 2018 and April 2019, were 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) in Lebanon.

LEBANON

Strengthening social cohesion, promoting youth peace, and leadership agency conducive to social stability in Lebanon

Lebanon is facing imminent economic collapse that resulted in nation-wide mass protests in October 2019, accompanied by a rise in anti-Syrian/anti-refugee rhetoric with refugees being scapegoated and blamed openly for their Lebanese hosts' economic woes. According to the Social Stability Sector – National Working Group, positive relations between the Syrians and Lebanese are being eroded, particularly in vulnerable areas, including Wadi Khaled (Akkar). In many villages, there is a lack of interaction between refugees and the host community.

In Akkar, a survey was conducted to gauge the level of positive relations between the Lebanese and Syrians, only 27.5% and 10.6% of Syrians and Lebanese respectively described the relations as positive. Top three drivers of community tensions were: competition for jobs (46.0%), competition for resources/services (21.0%), and cultural differences (11.0%). The prolonged crisis has led to a rise in anti-Syrian rhetoric.

The Social Stability Sector focused in 2020 on **(a)** deteriorating intra-Lebanese tensions and implications on refugee-host community relations; and **(b)** communications, on traditional and social media, for peace-building. **The proposed intervention is in line with the revised strategy, focusing on vulnerable cadres identified in the "Map of Hot-spots and Places to Watch, August 2019". The proposed intervention is in line with the sector's November 2019 strategy and approach.**

The project Geo-targets Wadi Khaled, located in Akkar Governorate on the Lebanese-Syrian border, one of the poorest and most deprived areas in Lebanon. Due to the proximity of the border to Syria, the conflict has a strong spillover effect on the area, which is reflected in the high number of Syrian refugees and the deterioration of commercial and trade activities. Out of the total population of 428'600 residents in Akkar Governorate, 35.5% are displaced Syrians. According to RET's consultation with UNHCR, the Wadi Khaled area includes 40'000 (registered and non-registered) refugees and 50,000 Lebanese residents. 58.5% of the Lebanese in Akkar live in poverty.

UNDP classifies wadi Khaled under Code Red, which is indicative of the level of stress/rising tensions that characterize the type of hostile relations prevailing amongst the local and refugee communities.

The project focused on Lebanese and Syrian youth and adolescents aged 12-25 years, including males and females equally, with activities focusing on countering the marginalization of vulnerable youth

and adolescents by endorsing "a gender-balanced approach" to youth agency pillared around:

1. Cultivating leadership.
2. Designing and administering peace-building and social stability modules conducive to social cohesion.
3. Supporting youth resilience through art, as a conduit for conflict transformation and sustainable peace-building.

The project aimed to create an inclusive space for youth-led activities, using a human rights-based approach, strengthening dialogue, trust, peaceful coexistence, and nurturing civic partnership between the Syrian refugee and Lebanese host community members. This project also aimed to promote social cohesion through countering anti-refugee rhetoric by supporting volunteer-led peace tech activities.

The activities designed targeted youth aged between 14 & 25 and their families from the host and refugee communities using a gender-balanced approach by strengthening local mechanisms.

The activities focused on: Awareness Raising Sessions on Peace Building, Social Cohesion and Community Stability to 2'400 participants; Group and Individual Legal Aid/Assistance to 1200 beneficiaries; PSS Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). A Psychosocial Counselor and a Conflict Resolution Specialist will administer FGDs engaging 400 beneficiaries in community dialogue; Peace Camps training 400 youth attending three (3) workshops covering the following topics: **a.** Youth leadership & civic engagement. **b.** Conflict mitigation and resolution. **c.** Building resilience and social stability. RET selected 24 high-flyer's trained to act as mentors for the youth in their communities, providing Peer-to-Peer training to 1'500 peers.

RET designed and developed Knowledge Information Kits in Arabic on the issues of youth interest and provided peace-tech activities by training 200 beneficiaries on the responsible use of Social Media. RET selected 50 Responsible Social Media trainees for further training on the tracking, monitoring, and reporting anti-refugee rhetoric and messaging on social media platforms that fuel social instability.
Peace Events and Community Support Projects (CSPs) were designed and implemented by the youth as part of RET's approach to meaningfully engage young people and positively engage them in all phases of humanitarian work.
Young people identified needs, developed responses, and implemented initiatives to benefit their respective communities. The youth organized 25 Peace Events and CSPs targeting 1'500 beneficiaries.

This project, implemented between June 2020 and May 2021, was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, S03 Division, and implemented by RET in Lebanon.

DID YOU KNOW?

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, Democracy & Governance, Economic Growth & Development, and Gender Equality.

LEBANON

2021- 2024

Strengthening Lebanese and Syrian refugees' resilience and peaceful co-existence through increased income generation in the agricultural and food production sectors. (2021-2024)

The project targets Lebanese and Syrian refugee households and communities in rural areas of Baalbek-Hermel, experiencing poverty and food insecurity as they heavily depend on agriculture, which is insufficient to secure their livelihoods due to low productivity and profitability. RET promotes short and medium-term agriculture measures to revive rural areas that directly target the needs of the poorest refugees/local farmers and female-headed households while linking emergency food security/aid to longer-term structural support.

The objectives of RET's intervention are to improve the food security of farmers in Baalbek-Hermel by increasing their agricultural production through Good Agricultural Practices technical training, Seeds & Equipment provision, and training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in all target areas. Etc. RET will increase the income generation of refugees and the local population in Baalbek-Hermel by enhancing post-harvest and food processing practices.

Moreover, the project will support Lebanese fruit and fish farmers to increase their agricultural/aqua-cultural productivity and Syrian and Lebanese farmworkers to promote employment and livelihood opportunities. Through food security programs, RET is advancing peace-building, conflict prevention, and resolution and ensuring peaceful co-existence between refugees and the host community. RET will work to establish community relations between Lebanese and Syrian communities in Baalbek-Hermel and ensure marginalized groups are better integrated into the community.

Finally, RET will participate in infrastructure rehabilitation by constructing a 3.2 km irrigation system in Al Qaa, ensuring safe water reaches the most vulnerable, and the restoration of 2 main agricultural roads with 5km and 10km lengths benefiting a total of 2300 to access their farmland. RET will build the institutional capacity of 6 municipalities through training on local economic plans to promote Public-Private Partnership (PPP) investment in agribusiness and agriculture to increase local economic development projects. (LEDP)

This project, implemented between August 2021 and July 2024, is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented in partnership with GATE Lebanon (Local Lebanese non-governmental Organization) and the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute – LARI.

NEW FASHION

MALI
OVERVIEW

The conflict in Central and Northern Mali represents a complex web of long-running ethnic tensions, jihad movements, transnational organized criminal groups, and a military intervention by neighboring countries and the international community. Mali hosts approximately 26,763 refugees and 74,397 refugee returnees. By far, the largest groups are refugees from Mauritania (around 15,300) and refugees from Burkina Faso (8,457), Niger (1,024), CAR (962), Côte d'Ivoire (613), and DRC (271). Although nearly 25,000 refugees have been repatriated to Mauritania over the years under the assistance of UNHCR, many others remain in Mali and neighboring Senegal today.

Economic Background

Mali is one of the world's poorest countries, with an estimated GDP per capita of 762 USD. The country's economy is highly undiversified and vulnerable to the security situation and climate change.

Social Background

Almost half of Mali's population is currently under 15 years old, and population growth rates remain among the world's highest at around 3,6%. This population growth threatens to upend much of the progress made in poverty alleviation and puts a severe strain on food security.
90% of the country's population lives in the South of the country, mostly from agriculture but increasingly moving to the rapidly growing urban centers, especially to Bamako, where they face a lack of adequate housing, services, and jobs are suffering from poverty and food insecurity. Women face significant disadvantages, with 85% of Malian girls subjected to Female genital, and about half of all girls are being married before the age of 18.

RET's FUTURE INTERVENTIONS

According to RET's needs assessments in the past two years, the most urgently required interventions in MALI in 2020-2022 are currently in the areas of:

- Protection (child, youth, and women)
- Food Security and Nutrition
- Economic Growth and Livelihoods
- Social Cohesion programs
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (vulnerable groups, whether disabled,or groups of different ethnicities, including tribes)
- Education (formal, non-formal, and informal)

Peace – Food Security – Education

Despite the conclusion of peace negotiations, the situation in Northern and Central Mali (Tombouctou, Gao, Kidal, Ménaka, and Mopti Provinces) remains volatile and has even deteriorated, resulting from ongoing violence between different armed groups, intercommunal tensions, and terrorist threats, leading to displacement and the destruction of livelihoods. Peace-building and conflict prevention interventions in these areas could have a significant impact.

Mali, like the rest of the Sahel region, is suffering from an acute nutrition crisis. According to the World Hunger Index, Mali (along with Mauritania) is one of the few countries where undernourishment has been rising since 2000. Nationwide, 30% of Malians report that they have had to reduce their food consumption and other harmful coping mechanisms like selling cattle or borrowing money to pay for food.
In 2019, 2,761,676 people are estimated to need nutrition assistance, and 899,143 children are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition.

The conflict and ongoing fragile security situation have forced the closure of 1000 schools in the country, affecting more than 450,825 children. Schools are also being used as a shelter for people affected by recent floods. In Kidal, only one school remained open in 2017, leaving 78,000 children without access to education.

DID YOU KNOW?

RET is registered in Mali, and will be launching operation soon.

Only 45% of children complete primary schooling, according to UNICEF. The country's literacy rate is one of the lowest in the world, especially among women.

MAURITANIA
OVERVIEW

Since 2019, RET has directly supported more than 22k direct beneficiaries in Mauritania, 70% of them are vulnerable women & girls, and indirectly benefited more than 200K beneficiaries throughout 5 projects focused on Protection, Education, Livelihoods, Nutrition & Food security.

Mauritania hosts over 2'500 urban refugees and asylum- seekers and almost 55'000 Malian refugees in and around Mbera Refugee Camp. Despite the conclusion of a peace agreement in 2015, large-scale Malian refugees' large-scale returns are not expected due to persistent violence in northern and central Mali. In January 2019 alone, 313 new arrivals were registered in Mbera Refugee Camp; the crisis's protracted nature has prompted United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to engage actors critical to the strengthening of the humanitarian-development nexus. The refugee population in Mbera Refugee Camp is relatively young, with children (less than 18 years) numbering 32'653 (50.6% Female, 49.4% Male).

Out of a total of 32'653 children in the camp, around 20'000 are of school age. But according to UNHCR January 2019 statistics, 3'058 children attended primary school students (1'564 girls and 1'493 boys) and 353 students from secondary school.

According to findings by RET, poverty, and cultural norms (early marriage and pregnancy, low perception of the value of girls' education) are significant barriers impacting girls'. There are cases of sexual violence against girls within the school setting that are even perpetrated by the school staff; though, there are no available statistics to document these violations. The forms of gender-based violence most prevalent in camp and local communities outside continue to force child marriage, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation (FGM), rape, and physical assault.

While poverty and household socioeconomic vulnerability often pave the way to a child forced marriage, the latter is perceived as a 'protection marriage,' protecting young girls from premarital sex, a pregnancy outside marriage, sexual assault, and rape. In reality, it compromises a girl's future by resulting in early pregnancy, interrupting her schooling, and placing her at increased domestic violence risk. Rape is often unreported due to mistrust, and the victims' fear of marginalization, rejection and stigmatization.

RET entered Mauritania in 2019 to ensure inclusive and equitable access to educational opportunities and provide protection services and tailor-made solutions, building on the field mission findings to address existing and/or recurring humanitarian, peace, and development gaps.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2019, RET has targeted more than 6,000 direct participants in the Mbera refugee camp in 6 villages in Moughataa of Bassikounou (SIDRE (Bassikounou), AGHOR (Megve), LEMGHAISS (Bassikounou), KLEIVE (Fassala), KINDJERLE (Fassala), BERETOUMA (Fassala) throughout 2 projects currently being implemented and supported by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (UNHCR)

MAURITANIA

2020

Peaceful coexistence and livelihoods support in the Moughataa of Bassikounou.

This project aims to enhance the peaceful coexistence between Malian refugees and the host community in 6 villages through various livelihood support measures.

Since January 2012, Mauritania has been hosting Malian refugees fleeing the insecurity situation linked to political instability in northern Mali. Since 2012, the Moughataa of Bassikounou, in south-eastern Mauritania, has been hosting more than 56,000 Malian refugees who fled the unrest and insecurity in their country in the Mbera camp the surrounding villages. This influx of people into the region poses several challenges, especially in terms of social cohesion in this region: host populations, as well as refugees, depend on agricultural activities, mainly transhumant livestock farming, for their food and income, and the presence of refugees represents competition for access to natural resources. From an environmental point of view, refugees' presence means additional pressure on natural resources leading to their deterioration. This deterioration of the environment is likely to accentuate the tensions between host populations and refugees significantly. It is important to note that the refugee population continues to increase and exceed the host community's population.

To ensure peaceful coexistence between communities, RET will promote economic and social development activities by creating income-generating activities and developing resources to encourage diversification of economic activities for women and men. Given that the refugees'

activities have significant environmental impacts in the Moughataa of Bassiknou (impoverishment of natural resources, soil degradation, deforestation, pollution, etc.), the project will also implement awareness-raising and training sessions for actors on adaptation and mitigation techniques. Moreover, RET will ensure green SMEs' creation through actions of soil restoration, nurseries, reforestation, agro-ecology and management, monitoring and surveillance, etc ...) According to studies carried out by the UNHCR on value chains and socioeconomic profiling of households, there are real investment opportunities at the local level, in sectors and niches that promise and provide jobs for refugees Malians than for the host populations.

The project contribute to the mitigation of tension between the refugees and the host community through actions to improve the living conditions, empowerment, and resilience of the host populations and strengthen peaceful coexistence between the two communities. This project will emphasize the involvement of women, young people, and minorities and the poorest and most vulnerable groups in the community.

The project proposed relevant activities:

(1) to structure small agricultural producers into a transhumance management committee and train in horticultural techniques, reforestation, and soil restoration;

(2)to manage the natural resources through the constitution of a community program that brings together all the key actors (host communities, civil society, and local authorities and refugees);

(3) to establish relations between refugee herders and host populations to ensure sound management of the sharing of pastures and the distribution of limited resources and to promote crafts and trade for women;

(4)to train the participants on the techniques of artisan productions from local products;

(5)to manage artisanal processing units of local products (milk, leather, etc.) in Bassiknou, Fassala, and Megva;

(6)to establish efficient monitoring of activities linked to the co-management and to guarantee a system for managing complaints and feedback;

(7)to sell the products online to international markets through RET's Leap Natural brand, which sells the products to diverse global customers and the beneficiaries' products.

(8)to generate income for women (75%) and men (15%) in identified sector niches (cutting and sewing, processing of agricultural products, trade, various services, etc.)

(9)to establish green small and medium-sized enterprises SMEs that comply with the strategic approach in the selected value chains, taking into account local markets and involving beneficiaries in the design of projects;

(10)to raise awareness on the "Do No Harm" to benefit the host and refugee communities.

The project is implemented according to the concerted execution approach with beneficiaries and local communities, in partnership with decentralized State services and private structures, to create the conditions for an immediate and lasting impact on the empowerment of this project's target host populations.

Main activities:

1:Environment and peaceful management of natural resources.
2:Promotion of crafts and trade.
3:Diversification of women's and men's economic activities:

This project, completed between January 2020 and December 2020, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and in collaboration with the European Union in Mauritania.

MAURITANIA

2021

Building Educational Resilience of Vulnerable Out-of-School Youth & Adolescents in Mbera Refugee Camp, Mauritania

RET is currently implementing the project "Building Educational Resilience of Vulnerable Out-of-School Youth & Adolescents in Mbera Refugee Camp" in Mauritania. The project aims to reach out-of-school adolescents and youth (refugee & host) to provide them with Secondary Education, Functional Literacy, and Numeracy classes (FLNP), in addition to Protection and Psychosocial Support.
The project goal is to enhance the educational resilience and psychosocial wellbeing of out-of-school 'vulnerable youth and adolescents' who are not covered by any other organization in the Mbera refugee ramp. To achieve this goal, RET works on improving vulnerable youth and adolescents' access to accredited education, developing teaching human capital in the Mbera refugee camp, and improving the psychosocial wellbeing of vulnerable refugees residing in the camp. **Moreover, RET provided protection services that build on RET's field mission findings intended to address the existing protection service gaps and respond to the vulnerable under-served population's protection needs.**

The forms of gender-based violence most prevalent in camp and local communities outside continue to be: child forced marriage, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation (FGM), rape,

and physical assault. While poverty and household socioeconomic vulnerability often pave the way to forced marriages, the latter is perceived as a 'protection marriage,' protecting young girls from premarital sex, a pregnancy outside marriage, sexual assault, and rape. In reality, it compromises a girl's future by resulting in early pregnancy, interrupting her schooling, and placing her at increased domestic violence risk.

RET's intervention within this project aims at ensuring inclusive and equitable access to educational opportunities, in line with "SDG 4: Education" through a three-pillared approach that addresses the gap in transitioning to secondary education of school-aged and over-age learners; focuses on bridging the qualification-gap and enhancing returns in the classroom through capacity building; and endorses "a gender-balanced approach" to youth agency pillared around cultivating leadership, in tandem with supporting youth resilience, as a conduit for conflict transformation and sustainable peace-building.

The two projects, were implemented between September 2020 & September 2021, and, September 2021 & September 2022 were funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Mauritania.

MAURITANIA

Reintegrate out-of-school children into the education system and preventing school dropout in the Hodh Chargui region of Mauritania. (2021-2022)

Quality education is the basis for developing sustainable, independent communities and stable societies. Despite significant progress at the national level, challenges remain in the primary education system in Mauritania, both on the demand and supply side. According to the 2015 MICS report, the demand refers to a general lack of interest in schooling and the need to work, with the decision to end schooling being mainly taken by the family. The supply side refers to a lack of adequate school infrastructure/ materials and a limited qualification of teachers.

Despite the efforts made by the government to address these challenges, the education system continues to suffer from problems of access to education, coupled with a poor perception of the communities on the national education system, both formal and non-formal (literacy), as well as on the quality of the educational service due to the limited language skills of teachers. Hence, an innovative educational program is needed to reintegrate these children, who are often in a vulnerable situation.

To bridge those gaps, RET set up:
(1) a 9-month accelerated learning program in RET's alternative education centers, intending to reintegrate out-of-school children into formal primary schools,
(2) RET supported schools to create an enabling environment and provide quality education to prevent vulnerable children from dropping out of school and finally,
RET (3) built the capacity of APE/CGE members to improve the management of their school; effective and efficient program management has accompanied all these efforts.

This project has touched 4,147 direct beneficiaries (students, out-of-school children, teachers, members of the APE/ CGE), in addition to approximately 25,233 indirect beneficiaries (family members of direct beneficiaries, community members).

RET chose areas with schools serving large numbers of students to maximize the number of beneficiaries reached by the program. In addition to supporting at-risk students in these formal primary schools, RET also provided an accelerated education to out-of-school children to reintegrate them into the formal education system.
The gender aspect was an essential element of this program. Girls being the most disadvantaged group in the Mauritanian education system. To this end, RET adopted an integrated approach that aimed not only to educate girls but also to strengthen the role and capacities of women in the targeted communities.

As part of this project, training were organized for teachers in the fight against violence and inequalities in the school environment (corporal punishment, gender-based violence, etc.)

To successfully execute this project, RET closely worked with the Ministry of Education and involved ministry staff in the training and development of the project content and approach.

Concerning the sustainability of interventions, this program adopted a participatory approach to strengthening the sustainability of activities. APEs/CGEs were mobilized, trained, and supported in managing their schools and have a better capacity to manage them in the future.

RET's actions were carried out in close collaboration with the leading local players in education, namely the DRENs and the IDENs. By implementing this integrated approach and involving local actors, RET aimed to strengthen the sustainability of project results.

This project was implemented between March 2021 and February 2022 in partnership with UNICEF in Mauritania.

unicef
pour chaque enfant
RET
Convoy

NIGER
OVERVIEW

According to the 2020 UNDP Human Development Report, Niger is the least developed country globally. The volatile security situation, migration flows, high population growth, low literacy and education levels, coupled with climate change and natural disasters, decrease in agricultural production, and gender inequalities, are hampering the country's long-term human development. Niger has one of the fastest-growing and youngest populations in the world. Over 58% of Nigeriens are under 18. 84% of the population lives in rural areas. The extreme poverty rate remained high at 42.9% in 2020, affecting more than 10 million people. Niger is among the world's countries with the lowest girls' enrollment, retention, and school completion rates. According to UNICEF, 2.5 million children and adolescents are out of school. Only 19% of girls in rural areas complete primary education, and this number drops to a worrying 8% among the poorest wealth quintile. The low female education rates directly translate to long-term gender inequality and systematic social and economic dis empowerment of women.

There are a complex range of demand-side and supply-side barriers that prevent the fulfillment of girls' rights to education:
On the demand side, harmful social beliefs, norms, and practices include: a lack of recognition of the importance of girls' education, conservative/traditional women's roles associated with religious believes (including the spread of jihadism); heavy burden of domestic labor on girls; high poverty levels; early marriage and teenage pregnancy. Niger has the highest child marriage prevalence rate in the world, according to UNICEF, with 76% of girls married before the age of 18 and 28% married before they turn 15. The link between education and the prevalence of child marriage is particularly evident in Niger: 81% of women aged 20-24 with no education and 63% with only primary education were married or in a union at age 18, compared to only 17% of women with secondary education or higher. In 2017, the government raised the mandatory school leaver's age for girls to 16 – but much work remains to be done to change conservative social norms that prevent girls from accessing education and women from being socially and economically empowered. Acute poverty prevents families from paying school-related costs for girls, and insecurity puts girls at risk on their commute to school in Tillaberi, effectively preventing their attendance.

On the supply side, schools are insufficiently prepared to provide a safe and conducive environment for girls to be educated. Teachers lack training not only on basic pedagogy but also on the concept of gender-sensitive education and safe schools for girls. There is a lack of female teachers as role models for providing girl-sensitive psychosocial support and life skills education. Classrooms are overcrowded and poorly equipped, and insufficient education materials are available to create a quality learning environment.

Women are disproportionately affected by poverty in Niger; they lack vocational/professional training, entrepreneurship skills, and access to credit/loans from banks and microfinance services; and females have limited access to asset ownership. Limited mobility due to insecurity and conservative social norms makes it difficult for women to expand their social networks required to market and sell products in far-away markets. As a result, even if mothers have understood the importance of girls' education, they lack the means to invest in their daughters' futures. To respond to those needs, RET aims to increase girls' access and retention in quality primary and secondary education and to promote women's social and economic empowerment.

2021

Promoting girls' access and retention in quality primary and secondary education and women's social and economic empowerment for inclusive and peaceful development in Tillabéri, Niger. (2021-2024)

Since 2021, RET Germany has been implementing a project aimed at promoting girls' access and retention in quality primary and secondary education and women's socio-economic empowerment for inclusive and peaceful development in the Tillabéri region, namely in 3 localities of Sakoira, Hamdallaye, and Tamou, and in 10 schools (7 primary schools and three colleges).

RET Germany is implementing the project in partnership with "Soutien aux ONG, SongES," a local implementing partner in Niger that implements both the education component and the women's empowerment component.
The project aims to increase girls' access and retention in quality primary and secondary education and promote women's social and economic empowerment by (1) increasing girls' access and retention in schools and their transition to the next school grade. (2) Sensitizing communities on the importance of girls' education and women's empowerment through a community-based approach involving traditional leaders in campaigns. (3) Increasing women's income generation through participation in women's cooperatives and reinvesting a share of their revenues in girls' education.

The project will reach up to more than 4,800 direct beneficiaries, including 900 out-of-school children, particularly girls; 2520 primary and secondary school children with a particular focus on girls, 174 education staff, 180 school committee members, 36 traditional and religious leaders, 30 members of women's and youth association, and 1000 women cooperative members, reaching 34,000 indirect beneficiaries in three-year implementation cycle 2021-2024.

Education
RET will implement a holistic approach to create a conducive environment that facilitates access and retention of girls in school while integrating children into the basic education system in the targeted schools of the Tillaberi re**gion, including:**

- Setting up six accelerated learning

NIGER

centers equipped and provided with trained teachers with a target to enroll 900 out-of-school children, of which 720 are girls.
- Building the capacity of 174 education personnel in the "Child-Friendly Quality School," including monthly psychosocial support for 95 education staff throughout the project.
- Promoting community participation and capacity through school committees in school management by identifying, establishing, training, and supporting community school committees of 90 members for the nine targeted schools to improve their performance in school governance with a particular focus on girls. Students' committees will also be created, trained, and supported in school governance in target schools.
- Rehabilitating or/and constructing 20 classrooms in 9 target schools benefiting 1500 students in three years, nine blocks of hygienic, safe, accessible, and gender-separated latrines, water supply in all nine schools benefiting 6400 students and 174 teachers, fencing and greening them to benefit the entire school community, all these aiming at improving the schools.
- Providing new school furniture and/or repairs to fill the gaps based on the needs assessments, including training, and employing 18 young to repair school furniture. This includes the provision of individual study/learning kits to at least 2,080 vulnerable girls from all ethnic groups and menstrual hygiene kits to 2,390 girls, complemented by awareness-raising on sexual and reproductive health.
- Recruiting, training, and deploying 27 female teachers to support in delivering remedial lessons and exam preparation sessions for 2,025 girls.
- Setting up a mentorship system made of 54 trained women volunteer mentors while including them in women's cooperatives for income generation.
- Establishing working income-generating activities at the nine schools.

Community Sensitization

To reduce the cultural barriers to girls' education, RET will conduct community sensitization and awareness-raising on girls' education and women's empowerment, including activities such as:

- Sensitize and mobilize 36 traditional and religious leaders on the importance of girls' education and the prevention of early marriage.
- Developing and broadcasting 300 radio messages on three local radio stations, promoting girls' education, prevention of early marriage, gender-based violence, and women's empowerment.
- Developing and disseminating messages on girls' education and female empowerment via radio by 30 local youth, women's association members, and community leaders.

- Organizing 6 girls' days and girls' empowerment events (including theatre, sports, music, dance, etc.). in each of the nine target schools (2 days per year), to promote the education and development of girls.

Increase Women's Income

RET will implement a set of activities to empower women, particularly mothers and families of vulnerable out-of-school girls, to meet the objective of economic empowerment while enabling them to support their daughters' education. RET will implement a series of activities, including:

- Creating 20 women's cooperatives and start-up grants to be given away for income-generating activities.
- Training and Participation of 1000 women members in cooperative management, business management, and technical trade training.
- Mentoring and business follow-up to capacitate 20 women's cooperatives to become independent after three years.
- Facilitating access to microfinance loans for 20 women's cooperatives to develop income-generating activities and connect them with potential buyers in Tillabéri and Niamey.

This project, implemented between October 2021 and September 2024, is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented in partnership with the local partner "Soutien aux ONG, SongES".

lecture

TÜRKIYE OVERVIEW

Since 2014 RET in Türkiyehas touched the lives of over **300,000 direct program participants, 66% are female,** and indirectly benefited around **3 million beneficiaries** throughout **37 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 Türkiye, 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 **30 million USD** towards empowering the Syrian, Iraqi, and Afghan refugees and the most vulnerable host community members in Türkiyewith the generous support of ***the Government of Germany, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ)/Bengo in partnership with GIZ, the Government of the Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, the Government of Liechtenstein, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the Government of the United Kingdom, the Japanese Embassy in Türkiye, the Swiss Embassy in Türkiye, 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 Türkiyehave 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 Türkiyehas 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 Türkiye'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 Türkiyeestablished a national network of businesswomen to support local women income-generating opportunities in its Centers for Livelihoods."

TÜRKIYE

Education & Child Protection

Since 2015, RET has been implementing a program aiming to avert a lost generation that could be ushered by Türkiye'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 Türkiye, 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.**

Bridging the Gaps

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.

TÜRKIYE

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.

Türkiye'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 Türkiye, 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 Türkiyeresponse. **It is in line with the government of Türkiye'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 Türkiyeand 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 Türkiye.

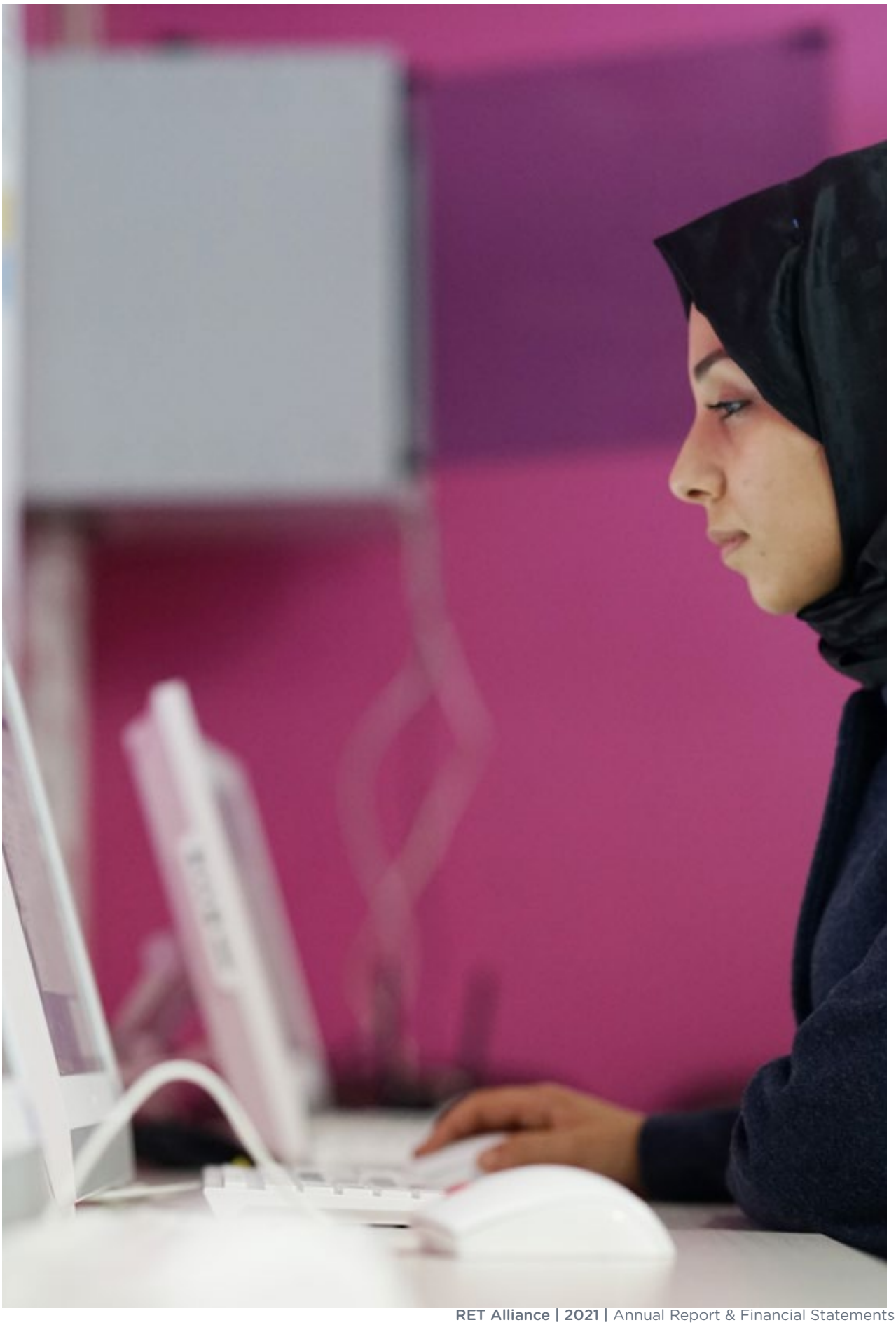
TÜRKIYE

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 Türkiye" "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 inTürkiye.

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.



TÜRKIYE

2018 - 2020

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 Türkiye'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 Türkiye, 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.

Türkiyehas 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) in Türkiye.

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

The protracted nature of the Syrian crisis, coupled with the huge influx of Syrian refugees into Türkiye, has led to increased demographic and economic pressure. The influx of Syrian refugees and the nature of Türkiye'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) in Türkiye.

Communities in (1) Çorum & (2) Samsun (Two projects)

The protracted nature of the Syrian crisis, coupled with the massive influx of Syrian refugees into Türkiye, 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 & Samsun" through a community-based approach conducive to reducing vulnerabilities. This project is initiated within the scope of the "Local Initiative Fund in Türkiye" "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 Türkiye.

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.

The two projects (Corum & Samsun), implemented respectively between October 2019 and August 2020, and September 2020 and February 2021 (extension) are 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 Türkiye.

PEP - Promotion of Economic Prospects for refugees and the host community in Türkiye

The need for professional, effective, and coherent social cohesion measures remains high in Türkiye. One can witness a somewhat growing demand for social cohesion activities due to rising tensions between the Turkish population and the SuTP's amidst a struggling economy and increasingly critically local politics. However, many local and international organizations, active in Türkiye, are working to improve the socio-economic relief of SuTP, lack knowledge and expertise, and train staff in the sphere of social cohesion. Thus, the positive effects of the socio-economic activities of many locally active organizations, such as Turkish NGO's, Turkish-Syrian NGO's, international NGO's, chambers of commerce and industry, and other actors such as municipalities, sometimes do not reach their full aim, of improving the living conditions of SuTP and members of the host communities holistically, e.g., economically and with regards to social integration. There is a high demand for those organizations for additional measures to be taken to improve their expertise in social cohesion.
The PEP program strengthened the employment prospects of Syrian refugees and the host community members in the provinces and municipalities hosting high numbers of refugees. The project enabled 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. The project provided skills development and facilitated access

to decent work for the target groups, also, strengthened the supply side of the private sector. To reach this goal, RET offered PEP's implementing partners' additional training activities for their project staff and other social cohesion activities for the beneficiaries of their specific project (SuTP and Turkish members of the host community).

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 vulnerability and 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) Macrosystems Level (e.g., cultures, governments, social mediums, belief systems).

The pilot 6-month project, implemented between January 2020 and June 2020 is co-implemented with Gesellschaft für Internatonale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and funded by Bundesministerium für Internationale Zusamenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ) and implemented by RET in Türkiye.

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

The socio-economic empowerment project addresses the needs of refugee and vulnerable local women and their families' living in semi-urban and peripheral areas, in particular Mardin, Kilis, and Çorum, by (1) strengthening their self-reliance (2) building their employability profile and (3) improving their income generation prospects; in tandem with raising their awareness regarding gender-based violence & sexual and reproductive health matters.

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 Waldorf 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.

Leap Natural

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.

Leap natural brand embraces RET's approach to self-reliance: to build resilience & end dependency. It promotes crafted natural products, handmade by empowered, resilient women, part of Leap Naturals "Women Business Network" that supports a livelihoods-focused intervention towards sustainable development.

Handmade Soap Production

RET started the soap production workshop in 2015, providing vocational training aimed at empowering local and Syrian refugee women and their families in Mardin.

The women worked with top quality

natural materials to perfect the production of natural artisan soap. As the participants became more practiced, recipes were perfected, and production methods were revisited. Today RET Leap Natural soap workshop offers nine types of standard soaps, custom soaps for special occasions, three types of scrubs, Turkish bath sets, and hand-woven loofahs through individual packages or customized packages. Leap Natural brand offers as well guided visits to the Soap workshop in Mardin for groups.

Natural Dolls Making Workshop

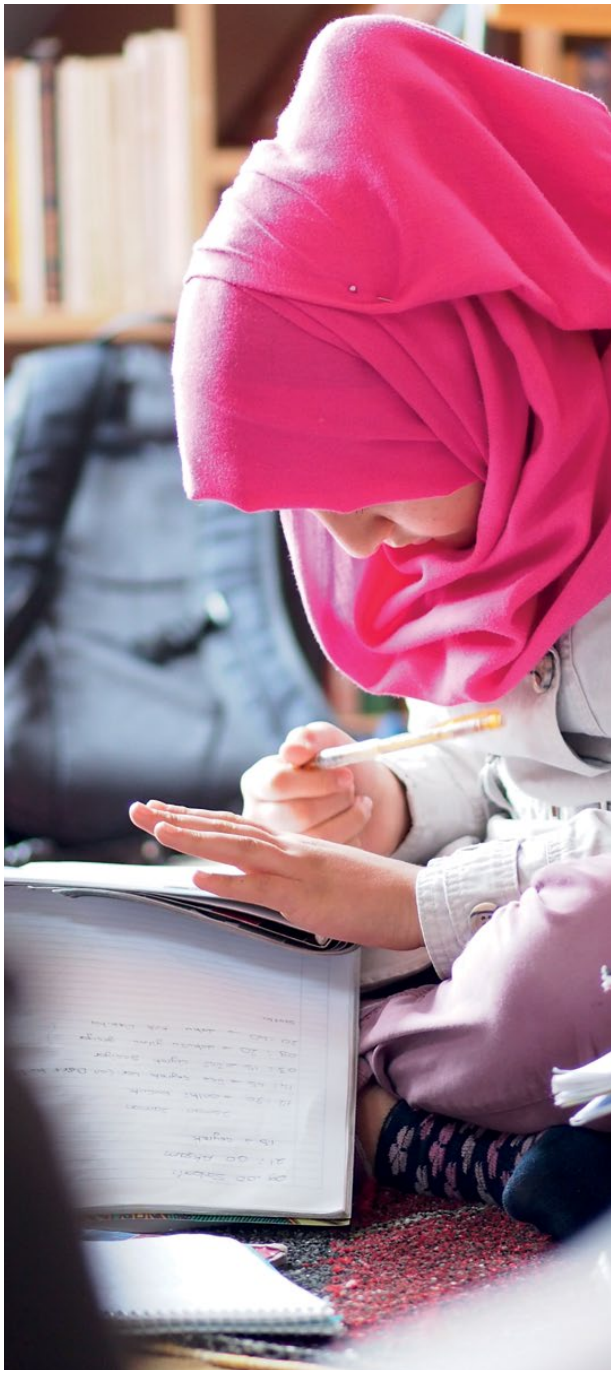
In 2018, RET opened "Natural Dolls Making Workshop" - a workshop in Kilis for Syrian refugee & local women to learn not only doll-making from sewing and embroidering, but also marketing, entrepreneurship, product design, and basic financial training. Natural dolls are produced using a methodical approach to arts education, advancing children's social, emotional, physical, and mental development. The act of playing has a central role in developing children's creativity. It is how children impersonate and understand the real world. Leap dolls are handmade with natural materials, with a basic structure, neutral facial expressions. More importantly, Leap dolls are genderless as to leave the doll details to the child's imagination.

Natural Dyeing and Woodblock Printing Workshop

In Çorum, the Natural dyeing and block printing workshop is offered to women aged between 18 and 45, providing them with a safe space as part of RET's inclusive approach, socializing, learning, and applying their skills. In the workshops, Iraqi and local women share their life experiences, increasing their awareness of gender-based violence matters, and promoting social cohesion. At the Natural dyeing and woodblock printing workshops, the women learn printing techniques and art fundamentals through color mixing, tracing, and fabric painting.

To date, throughout the specific "Economic Growth & Development" sector, particularly the socio-economic empowerment of women, RET has directly supported more than 10,000 women to become more resilient.

This project, implemented between January 2020 and December 2020, was funded by the Government of the Grand-Duché de Luxembourg and implemented by RET in Türkiye.



TÜRKIYE

2021

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 Türkiye.

The projects, implemented between May 2021 and December 2021 & August 2021 and July 2022, were funded by the Government of Liechtenstein and implemented by RET in Türkiye.

TÜRKIYE

Turkish and English Language Learning Program as a tool for Empowerment and Social Cohesion

Refugees in Türkiyeface many challenges, from shelter to food to providing their families needs. The limited working knowledge of the Turkish language impedes SuTPs from accessing income generation opportunities to reduce their multidimensional vulnerabilities. Hence, 3RP 2019-2020 emphasized language training, with the plan recommending "complimenting vocational training and entrepreneurial support with training on other critical skills such as Turkish language courses." Limited language proficiency also prevails against SuTPs knowing their rights and accessing much-needed public services in different fields, including education and health. Language is particularly problematic for female refugees who have trouble integrating more into social life. De-spite the significant human and financial resources allocated to the Syrian crisis, specifically in capacity building, awareness-raising sessions, livelihood sup-ports, and/or social cohesion programs, little has been dedicated to bridging the language barrier. Bridging the language barrier is necessary to ensure better refugee integration and service accessibility and improve access to the labor market.

The project empowered youth, women, and refugees by bridging the language divide, advancing social cohesion, and increasing participation in the public sphere. RET aimed to integrate adolescent, youth, and women refugees and support social cohesion through Turkish and English language learning classes in Mardin, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, Ankara, and Çorum.

In collaboration with "Liela" a charitable foundation supported by Liechtenstein's Government, RET will prepare and adapt the Turkish and English language learning materials as part of a "language mediation project" within the Liechtenstein Language program. RET will also provide Training of Trainers (ToT) of English and Turkish language courses and Turkish Language Classes, as well as English Language Classes for refugees in Mardin, Sanlıurfa, Kilis, Ankara, and Çorum.

This project will enhance social cohesion by facilitating the communication between two communities by establishing trust, value sharing, and social integration, thanks to the language learning programs. In addition to that, refugees will rely on others/translators for their daily tasks because of the language barrier. Through this program, refugees can benefit from social services like health, education, or legal services more quickly and efficiently.

This project, implemented between January 2020 and December 2022, was funded by the Government of Liechtenstein and implemented by RET in partnership with LEAP (LNGO) in Türkiye.

Bridging the Gaps
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TÜRKIYE

Strengthening the Resilience and Social Cohesion of Syrian and Turkish Women in Şanlıurfa (TVET), (2021-2022)

The sudden and violent demographic changes in Şanlıurfa as a result of the displacement of the Syrian population, combined with the challenges of job search, lack of or irregular income, competition for the already limited resources and obstacles to access to basic services such as health and education, have worsened the living conditions of Syrian refugees and Turkish residents in the region alike and increased the risk of social tensions between Syrian refugee and Turkish host communities.

In consortium with RET Germany (INGO), LEAP has been implementing a project targeting Syrian refugees and Turkish women through TVET training courses and awareness courses on GBV and social cohesion.

The project provides Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for women from the refugee and host communities. The vocational training focuses on vegetable and fruit drying based on an innovative and advanced industrial solar drying process that is environmentally friendly and delivers high-quality products.

Almost every household in Şanlıurfa traditionally dries vegetables and fruit in summer. Many women produce dried vegetables and fruits at home and sell their products in small quantities in a limited market. Their production capacity at home is not sufficient to generate a sustainable income and meet their basic needs. Moreover, the drying of traditional vegetables and fruits at home does not meet hygienic standards and is limited to the summer season, while the drying with solar cells that LEAP intends to operate within the project can be done all year round with hygienic methods. In collaboration with the Food Technology Department of Harran University, RET developed a tailored methodology for the TVET training, providing courses on Food Technology, Food Security, Hygiene and Sanitation, and Work Safety for the women participants through interactive training modules.

The project aims to sensitize and empower more than 1000 women amongst Turkish and Syrian/Iraqi refugees and their family members, including male members, through awareness sessions on Gender-based Violence (GBV) and social cohesion. To “Leave No One Behind”, LEAP has been targeting rural districts and villages around Şanlıurfa with #GBV training, namely in Suruç District Sağlık, Mutluca, and Havşanlı in partnership with the Public Education Center and the Governorship of Şanlıurfa.

The women’s products are marketed for (retail and wholesale) through the @ leapNatural social media account and via e-mail marketing, face-to-face and virtual meetings with the private sector. Follow @ LeapNatural on Instagram and/or check out www.leapnatural.com to support women’s socio-economic empowerment.

The projects, implemented between February 2020 and February 2021, and February 2021 and December 2021 were funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – BENGO and implemented in consortium with RET Germany e.V. (INGO, Berlin) and LEAP in Türkiye.

Latin America and the Caribbean
REGION

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

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, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Venezuela. RET was also present in Haiti between 2010 and 2013.

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 are in search of 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 the crisis in Venezuela, are forcing the population to become displaced and/or return to their country of origin.

Given the internal conflict in Colombia, the violence in the Northern Territories, and the Venezuelan crisis, RET is expanding its operations in both Central and South America. RET is registered in Brazil and will soon launch operations. The northern triangle countries Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador remain countries of concern for the RET.

RET´s experience in Latin America 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 **5.000 direct participants** in Belize, **54% of them are vulnerable women** throughout **11 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 assisted 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), and the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the United States Department.***

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 Gemder-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

2017 - 2020

Reducing the Risk of Youth Engagement in Criminal Activities: Building Employment and Leadership Opportunities in Belize City and Cayo District

The program's objective is to provide 200 youths with skills and capacities to become employed or self-employed and enable them to take up leadership roles in their communities, therefore becoming actors of positive social change. The intervention areas for this program were humanitarian assistance, livelihoods, sociocultural integration, and institutional strengthening.

The program has led 164 youths to increase their capacity to become employed or self-employed through training in life skills, employability skills, and entrepreneurship. Twenty young people have also participated in capacity building aimed at helping them take on leadership roles in their communities. Thirty-four businesses have been involved and supported the program by providing technical support and apprenticeship opportunities. Partnerships were formed for institutional strengthening, and fifteen youths have benefited from mentoring support in 3 different communities.
The social assessments conducted show that the program has directly reached over 300 youths and their families.

The holistic approach to working with youth has also begun to show positive impacts by increasing the number of youth associations, youth-led organizations, and other organizations that provide services to youth expressing interest in working with RET.
Through the technical support of RET, national organizations worked together to develop a national program that addressed the socio-economic, psychosocial, and educational challenges of vulnerable youths, families, and communities.

This project, implemented between October 2015 and July 2017, was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) and implemented by RET in Belize.

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 2016 and March 2018, 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, completed between September 2018 and December 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Belize.

BELIZE

Strengthening the Government and Civil Society

This project aimed to develop the capacity of the government and strengthen the civil society for timely, transparent responses to Gender-based violence (GBV) and trafficking in persons (TIP) in vulnerable communities in Belize, and enhances the capacity of community service providers to assist women and youth at risk of GBV and referring them to legal services.
The project highlights RET's successful coordination with the local government, the civil society organizations, the non-profit associations, and social actors to improve service delivery and create a significant impact in response to GBV and TIP violations in the most vulnerable and marginalized communities throughout Belize.

This project, implemented between September 2016 and June 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 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) in Belize.

User-friendly documentation to support the national public awareness campaign on the International Court of Justice Referendum

This project engaged young participants to develop user-friendly documentation with clear information on the nationwide Referendum (border dispute with Guatemala) to submit to the International Court of Justice.

This project, implemented between February 2019 and March 2020, was funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Belize and implemented by RET in Belize.

Bridging the Gaps

RET

BELIZE

2021

Responsible Engagement for Transition to Improved Response to Gender-based Violence and Trafficking in Persons

The proposed intervention aims to reduce violence against women and youth, particularly Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Trafficking in Persons (TIP), by strengthening government response through civil society engagement.

The project will focus on creating a Resource and Reference Guide for enhanced access to services, capacity development of key front line responders; public education and awareness-raising initiatives; and strengthened civil society capacity to monitor service delivery for accountability and transparency.

This project, implemented between October 2019 and March 2021, was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) and implemented by RET in Belize.

RET Youth Ambassadors in Belize: Empowering Capacities to Reduce Gender Based Violence Incidences and Respond to Community Challenges

The project aimed to increase the resilience of young people in Belize by empowering their capacities related to Mental Health, Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Young people were trained through a collaborative and youth-centered approach led by RET according to its institutional youth methodology. The training enabled the creation of a group of young leaders, which led and organized awareness raising activities in their communities. The young leaders group in Belize was related to the RET Youth Ambassadors Group (YAG) at global level. A total of 80 youth were directly reached by the project and up to 500 people by the awareness campaign and activities led by the youth.

The group created through this intervention will become a community-based actor that will contribute to respond to specific challenges and issues in their communities in the Belize district, namely: Double Head Cabbage, Rancho Dolores and Scotland Half-moon. The process will empower youth as capable agents of change in Belize by addressing the protection needs of the population in the country, as the COVID-19 pandemic and the containment measures increased their vulnerability.

A newly youth-led group/network was formed, "Helping Hands Youth Council" which is now a community-based actor created to respond to multiple challenges in the three communities in the Belize District.

This project, implemented between September 2020 and September 2021, was funded by the Canadian Government, Canada Fund for Local Initiatives and implemented by RET in Belize.

Funded by:
Canada
Bridging the Gaps
RET
AMERICAS
Project:
"RET Youth
Ambassadors in
Belize: empowering
capacities to red
GBV incidences
respond to
community
challenges"

TIPS
cases call:

BELIZE

Shelters with Adequate Functioning for an Effective response to human trafficking in Belize (SAFE Belize) (2021-2025)

The proposed intervention aims to build the institutional capacity of existing and potential shelters through the elaboration of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), advocacy actions, and an awareness campaign, resulting in improved and more significant response to Human Trafficking (HT) victims in Belize.

RET will develop a bottom-up strategy to create the SOP to be discussed and validated with the Government of Belize and identify and support newly organized groups that can help counter Human Trafficking by focusing on target groups and service deliverers as the actual policy implementers.

RET will lead a strategy that will allow 30 representatives of GoB/CS and the three existing shelters to jointly engage in discussions to develop the SOP. Subsequently, 80 shelter staff and frontline workers (Community Advocates, Defense and Police Forces, Custom and Immigration Officers) will be trained on the SOP to assist better and support HT victims.
Once the SOP is created and validated, three potential new shelters (organized/ advocacy groups) will be identified to formally become shelters for HT victims. Consequently, members of different NGOs, CSOs, and CBOs will receive training and support on the procedures to become a shelter and on the SOP package; the GoB will be represented through officers from the A-TIPS Council, Women's Department and the Domestic Violence Unit. A Task Force Group will be created to guarantee collaborative actions counter HT at the national level.

Finally, an HT public education campaign will be conducted, directly sensitizing people and guaranteeing that at least 50% of them commit to taking action, pledging to advocate against HT.

The project, implemented between July 2021 and July 2024, is funded by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the United States Department and implemented by RET in Belize.

Bridging the Gaps
RET
SAFE
BELIZE
WORLD DAY
AGAINST
TRAFFICKING
in PERSONS
#SEESOMETHINGSAYSOMETHING

RET
LETS PROTECT
LGBT+ YOUTH
BELIZE
LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

Building a strong foundation
for our children ensures
their safety as they grow.

Factors that contributes to refugees being at risk
being trafficked
New Environment
Lack access to resources
No support systems
Social and cultural isolati
Leaving by requesting smuggling services

Thank
you!

Bridging the Gaps
RET

Bridging the Gaps
RET
SAFE
BELIZE

NO OPERATIONS
IN 2021

COLOMBIA
OVERVIEW

Since 2003, RET has directly supported more than **70'000 direct participants** in Colombia, 1**00% 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 supported 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 - 2020

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 (UHNCR, 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 August 2020, was funded by The Government of Canada, the International Humanitarian Assistance Division (IHA), and implemented by RET in Colombia.

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)**

COLOMBIA

International Cooperation Agreement No. 1248 signed between the Unit for the Victims Assistance and Reparation and RET

This project strengthened alliances to facilitate the access services for the "victims of the internal armed conflict" (in exile) and the returnees in Colombia.
The activities sought to create a direct impact on the stabilization and community integration of victims who are living abroad permanently, as well as to facilitate returnees repatriation to Colombia through:

1. Technical assistance to consulates and organizations (9 consulates and 11 victims' organizations abroad), through the support of proposals that strengthen community initiatives for victims. This activity aimed to support the implementation of projects and initiatives proposed by organizations and consulates targeting victims of the armed conflict living abroad. Three projects (related to web platforms) have been selected and benefited up to 10,000 victims.
To develop this component, RET designed a tool to enable the formulation and monitoring of the projects. This tool was used to establish an agreement with organizations, consulates, and embassies to support the projects' planning and follow-up stages. RET became a strategic ally in developing these digital educational modules and programs, transforming a generation of young people into active and positive actors of social change.

2. Supporting Returnees to Colombia (100 victims from abroad). This activity sought to provide support and accompaniment to victims returning from abroad (humanitarian assistance and support during their integration processes).

3. Access to rights (direct assistance to victims abroad: Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador). RET facilitated access to rights for 100 victims living abroad through humanitarian aid, psychosocial care, legal advice, and the strengthening of capacities, in tandem with engaging them in the prevention of gender-based violence awareness and socio-cultural events in Panama, Venezuela, and Ecuador.

This project, implemented between June 2020 and December 2020, was funded by the Unit for the Victims Assistance and Reparation and implemented by RET at a regional level.

Bridging the Gaps
RET

COSTA RICA

OVERVIEW

Since 2010, RET has directly supported more than **130,000 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 32 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 assisted 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 Union de Tres Rios, Desamparados, Alajuelita, Escazú, Mora, Belén de Heredia, Alajuela, San Jose, 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

2018- 2020

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) 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 January 2018 and December 2018, was funded by the Swiss Embassy in Costa Rica and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.

Promotion of Refugees and Migrants Rights in Costa Rica - Germany Embassy 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.

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.

COSTA RICA

2021

Response to the migration crisis of the Nicaraguan refugee population and asylum seeker (2019 - 2021)

The political crisis in Nicaragua (2018) had a direct impact on the growing number of refuge 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 December 2020 and March 2021, was funded by the Swiss Cooperation in Central América (SDC) and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.

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

This project has been implemented by RET International since 2017 and targets the population of refugee claimants, people who have obtained their refugee status, people who are stateless, and those who have been forcibly displaced from their countries of origin, primarily Nicaragua, Venezuela, North Central America , Haiti

and Cuba. During 2021 the project was implemented in the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM) (Heredia and San José) and in the Northern Zone (Los Chiles and Upala).

The general objective of the project was to improve the living conditions of people of interest to UNHCR who enter Costa Rica. This was achieved through improving institutional structures that provide assistance and supporting the delivery of an effective response to the population's basic and specific needs.

Objective 1: Facilitate access for the target population to services provided by public institutions that meet their basic and/or specific needs and offer complementary basic services.

Objective 2: Improve the mental and physical health conditions of asylum seekers, refugees, stateless people and/or those at risk of statelessness through individual and group psychosocial and therapeutic assistance and facilitating access to information and health services.

Objective 3: Promote that communities with the target population, including groups living in vulnerable conditions, are empowered to respond to protection risks by increasing their well-being, self-confidence and peaceful coexistence with host communities.

Objective 4: Promote access to emergency shelters for persons of concern as a support mechanism for improving living conditions.

Objective 5: Facilitate the integration of persons of interest by reducing gaps in terms of access to the Costa Rican educational system and linking and coordinating the project's actions with the Ministry of Public Education and other educational institutions.

The project directly reached 6924 beneficiaries and indirectly reached 3347 people.

This project, completed between May 2021 and December 2021, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Costa Rica.

COSTA RICA

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 Union de Tres Rios, Desamparados, Alajuelita, Escazú, Mora, Belén de Heredia, Alajuela, San Jose, 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.

The projects, implemented respectively between (August 2018 and July 2020) and between (October 2020 and September 2022), were 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.

Strengthening comprehensive disaster risk management at the local level in Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic

The Program for Strengthening Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management at the local level is funded by the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/BHA), its objective is to provide technical assistance and knowledge exchange to strengthen the capacity for DRM at the local level.
Four sub-sectors will implement the actions of the project: Building Community Awareness, Capacity Building and Training, Integration/Enhancement within Education Systems and Research, and Policy and Planning.
The activities will directly reach more than 3,000 beneficiaries in Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico; and indirectly, more than 1,444,000 individuals.

This project, implemented between October 2020 and September 2022, is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and implemented by RET in Costa Rica, Panama, and México, and in partnership with Plan International in the Dominican Republic.

Developing a model of work between DGME, MEP and PANI to regularize children and adolescents that are registered in the education system

The main objective of this project was to support the provision of an immediate response by public institutions and civil society actors at national and local levels to guarantee rights and meet the needs of migrant minors who are enrolled in the education system and who have an irregular migratory status targeting 1005 direct beneficiaries.

Objective 1: Strengthen the capacities of public officials at national and local levels so that they are familiar with the protocols for the protection of migrant children and adolescents.
Objective 2: Design a working model with the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME), the Ministry of Public Education (MEP) and the National Children's Board (PANI) that contributes to progress with the migratory regularization of children and adolescents enrolled in the Costa Rican public education system.
Objective 3: Strengthen the capacities of public officials at national and local levels to promote safe and friendly spaces in communities that have a high concentration of the migrant population. These safe and friendly spaces provide listening, counseling and information and refer participants to support services for migrant children and adolescents who are facing difficulties and increased health restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This project, implemented between January 2021 and March 2021, is in partnership with UNICEF and implemented by RET in Costa Rica

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Tema/Acción o Int.
Préstamo de instalaciones
Manejo de R. interno
Charlas educativas sobre preparación y respuesta en el Hogar.
Capacitación en P.A a comités comunales
A partir de Cuando
2022
Mecanismo
Resultado
Orientar a los Asadas y lugar de incidentes
Educar pobla... identif. y ... Hogar
Contar con municipios preparados

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Strengthening comprehensive disaster risk management at the local level in Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic

The Program for Strengthening Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management at the local level is funded by the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/BHA), its objective is to provide technical assistance and knowledge exchange to strengthen the capacity for DRM at the local level.
Four sub-sectors will implement the actions of the project: Building Community Awareness, Capacity Building and Training, Integration/Enhancement within Education Systems and Research, and Policy and Planning.
The activities will directly reach more than 3,000 beneficiaries in Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico; and indirectly, more than 1,444,000 individuals.

This project, implemented between October 2020 and September 2022, is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and implemented by RET in Costa Rica, Panama, and México, and in partnership with Plan International in the Dominican Republic.

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OVERVIEW

Since 2005, RET has directly supported more than **175,000 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 35 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, Tuclan, Quito, and Ibrra.*** 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 assisted 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, Tuclan, Quito, and Ibrra.

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.
RET implemented a program to raise

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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."

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2017 -2020

Technical assistance in the Field Assessment and Participatory Development of Codes of School Coexistence in Two Cantons of the Northern Border in the Sucumbíos Province – Phase 1 and Phase 2

In collaboration with UNESCO and the Ecuadorian Government, RET developed a diagnosis to identify schools' problems and generate a Code of Coexistence, which could then be replicated and proposed as public policy. RET carried out the diagnosis in two provinces: Sucumbíos and Esmeraldas. In a first stage, the diagnostic was developed in sixteen educational units of the cantons of Sucumbíos, Lago Agrio, Cascales and Putumayo (Sucumbíos Province) and in a second stage, it was carried out in fourteen educational units of the cantons of San Lorenzo and Eloy Alfaro (Esmeraldas Province). It led to a compilation of relevant Ecuadorian regulations, a report on the field diagnosis and a socialization workshop on types of violence within educational institutions and ways to prevent them, and a report on technical assistance for participative constructions of codes of school coexistence in Sucumbios and Esmeraldas. An instruction document was created on how to promote a climate of harmonious coexistence in educational institutions and conflict resolution strategies for teachers of the educational institutions and staff of the Student Counselling Centres (Departamentos de Consejería Estudiantil – DECEs).

This series of projects, implemented between November 2016 and August 2017, were implemented in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Ecuador.

Immediate WASH Response for the Population Affected by the Earthquake in the Esmeraldas Province Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Program: Integral Assistance to the People Affected by the Earthquake and its Aftershocks in the Muisne Canton (Province of Esmeraldas)

On 16 April 2016, the coastal areas of Northwest Ecuador confronted an earthquake of 7.8 magnitudes on the Richter scale. Until October of that year, more than two thousand six hundred replicas were recorded. According to the Government of Ecuador, six hundred sixty-three people died, six thousand two hundred and seventy-four were injured, and nine disappeared. The earthquake affected over one hundred and twenty thousand children and teenagers. RET has since implemented three different projects to address the different consequences of the disaster.

The lack of water and sanitation was a problem before the earthquake that was then greatly aggravated by the event. Therefore, RET operated in hygiene promotion and complemented infrastructure activities with a training and awareness project on good hygiene practices and disease prevention to reduce risks associated with water, sanitation, and vector control. The project focused on children and youth up to eighteen years old and used playful methodologies adapted to the local reality. The intervention was carried out in collaboration with the communities, educational centers, shelters, parishes of San Francisco del Cabo, San Gregorio, Bolívar, Sálima, and Muisne of the Canton Muisne, Province of Esmeraldas.

Training in risk management in rural communities of the Esmeraldas Province was also crucial. Therefore, RET trained children, adolescents, youth, teachers, and the population at large in risk analysis, using the Analysis, Vulnerability, and Capacities (AVC) methodology. RET developed, together with the people, contingency plans at the community and school level in Sálima, León Campus, Tres Vías, Balsalito, Bunche, San Francisco del Cabo, Canton of Muisne.

The most affected areas generally tended to be peri-urban and rural, where the population has traditionally high vulnerability indexes. In coordination with UNICEF, RET responded with a protection training project for children and adolescents with a multi-sectoral approach and playful methodologies to break cycles of violence and build protective spaces. Six hundred and eighty-four young people participated in the self-mapping, self-care, and children's and adolescents' rights training. They led to three youth protection groups created in educational centers.

This series of projects, implemented between November 2016 and August 2017, were implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with the European Commission (ECHO) in Ecuador.

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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 and 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 September 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 April 2017 and June 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 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 April 2017 and June 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 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) in Ecuador.

ECUADOR

Improving access to quality Education for Venezuelan Refugees and migrants and Host Communities

The political and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela has triggered massive mobility of the Venezuelan population in the Americas, with an influx of refugees and migrants transiting and residing in Ecuador. According to the analysis developed by UNICEF between 2018 and 2019 and based on official data on the inclusion of Venezuelan refugee and migrant children into the national education system, currently, 18,293 out of the 37,000 Venezuelan children and adolescents between 3 and 17 years of age residing in the country need urgent access to education.

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), peers' and teachers' discrimination and/or bullying.
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 Ministry of Education's capacities 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.

This project, completed between November 2019 and November 2020, was implemented in partnership with Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and (UNICEF) in Ecuador.

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Implementation of Friendly Spaces and Psycho-social Support for children and adolescents in human mobility

This project implemented five friendly spaces for girls, boys, and adolescents in shelters, and provided playful-pedagogical materials to 2000 children and adolescents in mobility. The activities included developing and implementing a methodology for psycho-social support in the five safe spaces. Children and adolescents participated 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. Also, the distribution of play kits, differentiated by age, for boys, girls, and adolescents in transit centers and reference centers in Ecuador. The kits included educational and recreational supplies and a backpack.

As a result of the emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ecuador's government implemented measures to contain the virus's spread, including restriction on mobility, confinement, social distancing, the suspension of public & private activities, and school attendance. In this context, RET and IOM included protection supplies such as antibacterial gels, masks, COVID-19 prevention materials, hygiene promotion, and thermometer within the friendly spaces, and distributed Hygiene kits, such as masks, antibacterial gel, and water bottles for hydration. In tandem with information kits on coexistence in the context of COVID-19, aligned with WHO and the Ecuadorian health authorities' recommendations.

Finally, the project promoted the inclusion of children and adolescents in educational activities; the RET technical team provided educational support in virtual mode, in line with the Ministry of Education's Plan and the program "Let's Learn Together at Home."

This project, completed between October 2019 and June 2020, was implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ecuador.

ECUADOR

2021

Direct assistance in health and education to the most vulnerable populations -especially children, adolescent girls and women- affected by the Venezuelan Crisis in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador

The intervention aims to meet the needs of vulnerable populations, focusing on children, adolescent girls, and women affected by the current crisis in Venezuela, by enhancing access to health and education in emergencies (EIE) in Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia.

In Colombia and Venezuela, the access to primary health care, including response to COVID-19, sexual and reproductive health and mental health were facilitated by providing access to health consultations, medicines, and medical supplies, as well as identification and provision of medical assistance to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), health education activities and counseling, amongst others.

In Education in Emergencies, the actions will enhance access to an inclusive and quality education to Venezuelan migrants and refugees during quarantine and when returning to school. The activities will promote the retention of migrant/refugee children in schools, through case tracking and referral mechanisms accompaniment, improvement of school environments and infrastructure, capacity building of the educational community to support learning during and after COVID-19, providing distance education, support and access to non-formal education spaces and the delivery of Educational and/or hygiene kits to support children during the COVID19 and returning to school.
In terms of implementation, the education component will be implemented directly by Plan International (PI thereafter) in Colombia and Ecuador. RET will be implementing the component in Ecuador (alongside PI) and in Venezuela. The health component will be implemented directly by Medécins du Monde (MdM thereafter) in Venezuela and Colombia.

RET is implementing the EiE component in Venezuela in the states of Táchira and Zulia, and in Ecuador, it is working together with Plan Internacional to implement the EiE component in the province of Pichincha

The intervention in EiE inside Venezuela will propose multiple objectives:
1) to improve education access and the services offered to contribute to the quality education, school permanence, and learning for children and adolescents;
2) to strengthen institutional capabilities and techniques of education communities to guarantee quality and integrity of the teaching that enables affected schools as safe spaces that enforce Children's Rights which is crucial for both the protection and socio-emotional development of girls and boys affected by crises.
3) to foster the resilience of the education community by developing sustainable programs adapted to the needs of vulnerable groups that guarantee the continuous delivery of education services.

The before-mentioned objectives will be accomplished by providing educational materials, incentives for teachers (training sessions and learning material), economic subsidies for families, minor rehabilitations of school facilities (mainly WASH facilities), direct support to the school feeding program, and awareness-raising activities for parents and caregivers. The project will prioritize hygiene supplies and materials and promote hygiene habits to support COVID-19 prevention.
4) Building capacities of local actors in CPIE and EiE to ensure that local actors provide integrated assistance to girls and boys victims of violence, abuse, and exploitation (including gender-based violence).

This project, implemented between July 2020 and October 2021, was implemented in partnership with the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations - European Commission (ECHO) in Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador.

Reduciendo las Brechas
RET
CERTIFICADO

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 **8 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, Coatzacoalcos, 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 assisted 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

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.

2018-2020

Management and Administration of a Humanitarian Assistance Network

On the southern border of Mexico, thousands of people from the Northern Territories (Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras) arrive fleeing the violence caused, in no small degree, by gangs in their home countries.

Upon arrival in Mexico and throughout their process to gain refugee status, these displaced communities face difficulties paying for food and lodging expenses, for example. In some cases, they require medical assistance or access to school for their dependents. RET's Humanitarian Assistance Project aimed to support the newly recognized refugees and those in the process of obtaining refugee status.

The project delivered two types of assistance. First, it provided humanitarian aid such as food, shelter or hygiene products to mitigate the risk of participants abandoning the refuge application process, as they were too preoccupied with the day-to-day lack of basic necessities. Its second leg offered emergency psychosocial support to strengthen their emotional stability, their resilience, and to contribute to their integration in the hosting Mexican communities. The project was implemented in Tenosique (State of Tabasco), Tapachula and Palenque (State of Chiapas), and Acayucan (State of Veracruz).

This project, completed between January 2017 and April 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Mexico.

Strengthening Displaced families in the Southern Border of Mexico

Due to the situation of violence in the Northern Territories (Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras) in recent years, there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of families arriving at the southern border of Mexico and applying for refugee status. Families face a complicated situation upon arrival, and the youth facees risks such as child labor, recruitment by organized crime and gangs, or dropping out of school.

The "Strengthening Refugee Families Project" was implemented in the communities of Tenosique (Tabasco), Palenque, and Tapachula (Chiapas), and acted as a complement to the "Humanitarian Assistance Project (see above)." It provided families with humanitarian assistance to contribute to their integration in host communities and reduce negative behaviors or activities.
The project provided individual and group psychosocial care, advisory services, training, and educational leveling to allow children and adolescents' entry and permanence in the Mexican educational system and training and advice to procure livelihoods for families.

This project, completed between June 2017 and December 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Mexico.

MEXICO

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, completed 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) in Mexico.
The component of youth protection through sports/art and culture received funds from the International Olympic Committee in collaboration 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.

This project completed between November 2019 and February 2020 was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Mexico.

MEXICO

Improving the integration conditions for asylum seekers and refugees

The increase in violence in Central America has contributed to many applicants seeking refugee status and International Protection in Mexico.
According to the Mexican Refugee Aid Commission, 70,302 applications for asylum have been submitted in 2019 alone.

The project proposed five components: 1) First comprehensive protection interview with activation of possible routes of referral and/or monitoring / humanitarian assistance through Multipurpose Cash Grants (MPG), 2) Education with access and permanence in the Mexican Education System, 3) Strengthening livelihoods, 4) Psychosocial intervention and 5) Youth protection through sport (PJD).

RET started with a comprehensive protection interview and identified possible routes of referral and / or monitoring and humanitarian assistance through Cash-Based Intervention (CBI).
The first comprehensive protection interview's objective was to ensure that the registration interview is approached from a protection perspective and focused on early identification of specific needs, which allowed for the appropriate response and attention. This first interview provided a safe, reliable, and confidential space for the population and is the beginning of individual case management.

During the registration of persons of interest, the Humanitarian Assistance surveys were conducted utilizing the Kobo tool to evaluate vulnerability following UNHCR internal policies to deliver MPG through a debit card (from SiVale). This assessment allowed an understanding of vulnerability levels based on living conditions, socio-economic status, and protection needs.

The RET team received training and workshops in different modalities, using a multi-functional approach to identification and registration management, International protection; interview techniques, identification of specific protection needs, communication, and outreach with communities, among other topics.
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.

To reduce youth's vulnerability, protect, prevent violence, the project offered sports/art and culture as a tool for their protection and integration. The project also aimed to strengthen the internal mechanisms responding to gender-based violence (GBV) and assisted the survivors of GBV with psychological first aid, individual, and group psychosocial support. In tandem with creating support groups for both women and men.

The inclusion of men in GBV training and awareness-raising sessions contributed to modifying behavioral patterns, and reducing violence against women.

This project completed respectively, between January 2020 and June 2020 and July 2020 and December 2020 were implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Mexico.

Bridging the Gaps

MEXICO

2021

Strengthening comprehensive disaster risk management at the local level in Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic

The Program for Strengthening Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management at the local level is funded by the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/BHA), its objective is to provide technical assistance and knowledge exchange to strengthen the capacity for DRM at the local level.
Four sub-sectors will implement the actions of the project: Building Community Awareness, Capacity Building and Training, Integration/Enhancement within Education Systems and Research, and Policy and Planning. The activities will directly reach more than 3,000 beneficiaries in Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico; and indirectly, more than 1,444,000 individuals.

This project, implemented between October 2020 and September 2022, is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and implemented by RET in Costa Rica, Panama, and México, and in partnership with Plan International in the Dominican Republic.

Strengthening Disaster Risk Preparedness in Panama and Mexico.

The project's objective is to strengthen Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (CDRM) capacities in Panama and Mexico, providing continuity to the pre-existing work that RET has been carrying out in both countries with the support of BHA-USAID. The project sought to strengthen the implementation of Disaster Risk Preparedness Processes, and Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (CDRM) processes at the national level by creating opportunities, mechanisms, and capacities to link and implement the initiatives at the local and community levels (Panama). All that while actively involving local governments, civil society organizations, and communities in the respective areas.

In Panama, the project has two main focus areas: first, to assist in creating a new national CDRM policy and ensure its practical implementation in collaboration with local municipalities, and second, community CRDM at regional and provincial levels. At the local communities level, the interventions in Panama are being implemented in sixteen municipalities: fourteen municipalities in the Azuero region, within the Provinces of Los Santos and Herrera, one in the Province of Darien, and one in Ngäbe-Buglé Reserve, in the Municipality of Besikó. In all municipalities, the objective is to promote the active participation of key actors in CDRM processes in alignment with the public policies established by the National Government.

The municipalities involved in the project will receive two tailored training per year to assist them in creating inclusive CDRM plans for their respective area. The municipalities involved will develop a CDRM project, three of which will be presented to the municipal funding process at the end of the project. Considering the particularities and needs of each area, including the distinctive characteristics of remote and hard-to-reach locations, such as the indigenous communities and their traditional authorities in the Ngabe-Bugle and Darien regions, is critical to the successful implementation of the projects.

At the national level, RET supports creating and implementing a CDRM process in partnership with the federal government, providing technical support to create a new National CDRM Policy (PNGIRD) and associated National CDRM Plans (PENGIRD). RET is working with the Ministry of Government Affairs (MINGOB) and the newly established CDRM Cabinet (Gabinete GIRD), which have the legal power and responsibility to implement this process. RET provides technical support to ensure that these policies and plans are linked to the needs of the local-level actors in the country's provinces. RET is also building the municipal authorities' resource capacity to implement the programs successfully. Related activities include:
1) the design and development of a

Conceptual Framework and Glossary of key terminology for the PNGIRD and PENGIRD and the coordination of participatory meetings with local municipalities to provide feedback,
2) technical support and accompaniment for creating the PNGIRD and PENGIRD within the Technical Working Groups (Mesas Técnicas) in the Gabinete GIRD,
3) developing capacity-building resources for local municipalities to ensure effective implementation of the PNGIRD and PENGIRD,
4) designing a new multi-level, decentralized mechanism to link local and national implementation of the PNGIRD and PEGIRD, linking local and national level jurisdictions, with the participation of civil society actors,
5) creating new local-level M&E indicators to ensure effective implementation of the PNGIRD via the mechanisms, indicators, and targets within the PEGIRD.

In Mexico, the project addresses CDRM priorities identified as part of an accompaniment process at the national, federal, and municipal levels, in collaboration with the "National Civil Protection Coordination (CNPC)," including the following activities:

- Strengthening Situation Rooms and Operation Centers at sites selected by the Government of Mexico.
- The creation of a new Comprehensive Risk Management Committee (CRMC) at the local level.
- The implementation of an Action Plan agreed upon by the CNPC at sites selected by the Government of Mexico with the Comprehensive Risk Management Committee (CRMC).
- The design and development of a Public Awareness Campaign to shift the paradigm from a civil protection culture (based on response) to one of CDRM (which takes a more holistic approach) amongst the key public, municipal, State and federal officials.

The listed activities contribute to better positioning CDRM within the agenda of the government agencies and amongst the general public while promoting the involvement of all social actors in CDRM.

The main focus of the actions is on capacity building namely:

- Standardization of the DANA mechanism at the national level, which includes the design and development of the "DANA Online."
- Preparation and development of the Incident Command System (ICS) projects in new priority geographic areas, including an ICS Online Introductory Course and implementing a Basic Course in Incident Command System (ICSBC).
- Expansion of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) project, initiated in the previous USAID/RET project (BHA CAM 2020), expanding this to new geographic areas and developing new national (re) accreditations, and implementing national level USAR exercises.

This project, implemented between September 2021 and September 2024, is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and implemented by RET in Panama and Mexico.

PANAMA
OVERVIEW

Since 2009, RET has directly supported more than **111,000 direct participants** in Panama, **44% of them are vulnerable women**, and indirectly benefited more than **1 million beneficiaries.** RET also supported the opening of **20 facilities** throughout **42 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 assisted 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.

ndo a través de la Educación
RET
#CONLOS REFUGIAD
#SALUDMENTAL
DESARROLLO
#LOQUENOSUNE
#GRUPODEAPOYO
LUZ VIRGINIA

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

2018 - 2020

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.

Strengthening Capacities for the Incorporation of Integral Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Situations 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.
Panama has the highest urbanization rate in Central America: 68% of the population lives in urban environments. This urban growth had 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 project, completed between July 2016 and January 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Panama.

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

Many local integration challenges have been facing 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 are refugees/PNIP.
It has been done through various interventions such as protection, education, socio-cultural programs to facilitate integration and generating 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) in Panama.

PANAMA

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 August 2018 and September 2019, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 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 January 2019 and December 2019, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 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 May 2019 and December 2019, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Panama.

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:

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 project, implemented between April 2019 and June 2020 (Two Phases), was funded by the U.S Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and implemented by RET in Panama.

NOVEY

PANAMA

Closing gaps for self-reliance and integration: Consolidating networks for the assistance, protection, and inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees in Panama and Colón

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. This figure continues to increase due to factors such as persistence of requests for refuge from the Colombian population due to the impacts of the armed conflict in Colombia; significant increase in the number of Nicaraguan and Venezuelan applicants due to the political situation in both countries; 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.

The most vulnerable families arrive without resources or support networks; access to health, education, food, and housing is a real challenge. Emergency humanitarian assistance had a positive impact on closing the gaps that prevented families from accessing these rights and, in turn, reduced the impact of displacement. The situation of vulnerability extended overtime demands productive alternative solutions that do not contravene the law and allow their subsistence in the country while they wait to resolve their process.
The project consolidated all efforts and actions developed by RET in the past years, for the protection of RAS families (mostly of Colombian nationality). It ensured that the different actors involved, individuals, groups, communities, institutions, and CSOs, acted as one network.

Four components were proposed to achieve the project objective while addressing Institutional Strengthening as a cross-cutting practice in each of the below components:

Emergency Humanitarian Assistance:
RET worked to strengthen the capacities of public institutions and CSOs for improved provision of humanitarian assistance services (psychosocial support, health, accommodation, and food) to the RAS population, following Sphere and IASC guidelines.

Livelihoods:
ET worked to strengthen the leadership and management capacities of members of the practice community for Income Generating Activities to increase economic self-sufficiency and facilitate socio-economic integration processes with new peers.

Protective Mechanisms:
ET worked to strengthen a protective environment for RAS populations and other vulnerable groups with the participation of 2500 people from the host community, members of RAS families, and strengthened institutions with improved capacities.

Socio-cultural integration:
ET worked to consolidate and achieve recognition of the project's youth group as a youth movement that autonomously leads and implements a culture of peace and integration initiatives, impacting 600 community members.
This project responded to refugees and asylum-seekers (RAS) needs within the framework of the closure of the process developed over several years for the sustainability of interventions. It provided a strengthened and comprehensive institutional response. It empowered RAS families and protected their rights with established support networks. It sensitized the community and supported the fulfillment of persons' rights, without discrimination of nationality and migratory condition. The project contributed to the systematization of the interventions, shared with strategic partners to replicate the RAS population's differential attention.

This project, implemented between September 2019 and September 2020, was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Panama.

Friendly spaces for migrants' girls, boys and adolescents in Darien border

In response to human mobility in the Americas and the lack of a comprehensive and effective response tailored to children and adolescents' needs, the project offered cross border "Friendly Spaces" for migrant children. It supported the families entering the Panamanian territory through the Darien jungle on the border with Colombia.
The safe spaces acted as a "Temporary Humanitarian assistance station (ETAH)." They provided children and adolescents with psychosocial support and recreational activities to ensure their well-being while on the route.

This project, completed between September 2019 and March 2020, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Panama.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A pilot-level curriculum for staff capacity building, psychosocial care and psychological first aid was developed and transferred to universities or academies.
- A Methodology for Income Generating Activities under a differential approach for RAS people, systematized by RET.
- A Marketing Strategy was developed by the practice community for livelihoods to improve its members' socio-economic integration.
- Communication products were created to support the socio-cultural integration of young RAS with young people from the host community in local participation spaces.

PANAMA

2021

Strengthening Disaster Risk Preparedness in Panama and Mexico.

The project's objective is to strengthen Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (CDRM) capacities in Panama and Mexico, providing continuity to the pre-existing work that RET has been carrying out in both countries with the support of BHA-USAID. The project sought to strengthen the implementation of Disaster Risk Preparedness Processes, and Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (CDRM) processes at the national level by creating opportunities, mechanisms, and capacities to link and implement the initiatives at the local and community levels (Panama). All that while actively involving local governments, civil society organizations, and communities in the respective areas.

In Panama, the project has two main focus areas: first, to assist in creating a new national CDRM policy and ensure its practical implementation in collaboration with local municipalities, and second, community CRDM at regional and provincial levels. At the local communities level, the interventions in Panama are being implemented in sixteen municipalities: fourteen municipalities in the Azuero region, within the Provinces of Los Santos and Herrera, one in the Province of Darien, and one in Ngäbe-Buglé Reserve, in the Municipality of Besikó. In all municipalities, the objective is to promote the active participation of key actors in CDRM processes in alignment with the public policies established by the National Government.

The municipalities involved in the project will receive two tailored training per year to assist them in creating inclusive CDRM plans for their respective area. The municipalities involved will develop a CDRM project, three of which will be presented to the municipal funding process at the end of the project. Considering the particularities and needs of each area, including the distinctive characteristics of remote and hard-to-reach locations, such as the indigenous communities and their traditional authorities in the Ngabe-Bugle and Darien regions, is critical to the successful implementation of the projects.

At the national level, RET supports creating and implementing a CDRM process in partnership with the federal government, providing technical support to create a new National CDRM Policy (PNGIRD) and associated National CDRM Plans (PENGIRD). RET is working with the Ministry of Government Affairs (MINGOB) and the newly established CDRM Cabinet (Gabinete GIRD), which have the legal power and responsibility to implement this process. RET provides technical support to ensure that these policies and plans are linked to the needs of the local-level actors in the country's provinces. RET is also building the municipal authorities' resource capacity to implement the programs successfully. Related activities include:
1) the design and development of a Conceptual Framework and Glossary of key terminology for the PNGIRD and PENGIRD and the coordination of participatory meetings with local municipalities to provide feedback,
2) technical support and accompaniment for creating the PNGIRD and PENGIRD within the Technical Working Groups (Mesas Técnicas) in the Gabinete GIRD,
3) developing capacity-building resources for local municipalities to ensure effective implementation of the PNGIRD and PENGIRD,
4) designing a new multi-level, decentralized mechanism to link local and national implementation of the PNGIRD and PEGIRD, linking local and national level jurisdictions, with the participation of civil society actors,
5) creating new local-level M&E indicators to ensure effective implementation of the PNGIRD via the mechanisms, indicators, and targets within the PEGIRD.

In Mexico, the project addresses CDRM priorities identified as part of an accompaniment process at the national, federal, and municipal levels, in collaboration with the "National Civil Protection Coordination (CNPC)," including the following activities:

- Strengthening Situation Rooms and Operation Centers at sites selected by the Government of Mexico.
- The creation of a new Comprehensive Risk Management Committee (CRMC) at the local level.
- The implementation of an Action Plan agreed upon by the CNPC at sites selected by the Government of Mexico with the Comprehensive Risk Management Committee (CRMC).
- The design and development of a Public Awareness Campaign to shift the paradigm from a civil protection culture (based on response) to one of CDRM (which takes a more holistic approach) amongst the key public, municipal, State and federal officials.

The listed activities contribute to better positioning CDRM within the agenda of the government agencies and amongst the general public while promoting the involvement of all social actors in CDRM.

The main focus of the actions is on capacity building namely:

- Standardization of the DANA mechanism at the national level, which includes the design and development of the "DANA Online."
- Preparation and development of the Incident Command System (ICS) projects in new priority geographic areas, including an ICS Online Introductory Course and implementing a Basic Course in Incident Command System (ICSBC).
- Expansion of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) project, initiated in the previous USAID/RET project (BHA CAM 2020), expanding this to new geographic areas and developing new national (re) accreditations, and implementing national level USAR exercises.

This project, implemented between October 2021 and September 2024, is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and implemented by RET in Panama and Mexico.

PANAMA

Strengthening comprehensive disaster risk management at the local level in Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic

The Program for Strengthening Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management at the local level is funded by the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/BHA), its objective is to provide technical assistance and knowledge exchange to strengthen the capacity for DRM at the local level.
Four subsectors will implement the actions of the project: Building Community Awareness, Capacity Building and Training, Integration/ Enhancement within Education Systems and Research, and Policy and Planning.
The activities will directly reach more than 3,000 beneficiaries in Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico; and indirectly, more than 1,444,000 individuals.

This project, implemented between October 2020 and September 2022, is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and implemented by RET in Costa Rica, Panama, and México, and in partnership with Plan International in the Dominican Republic.

Protection services for children and adolescents and their migrant/refugee families in Panama during the COVID-19 pandemic and Post COVID

In response to human mobility in the Americas and the lack of a comprehensive and effective response tailored to the needs of children and adolescents, RET is proposing a project to create cross-border "Friendly Spaces" for migrant children on the Darien border. The project will support the families entering the Panamanian territory through the Darien jungle at the border with Colombia, particularly children and adolescents.
The safe spaces will act as a "Temporary Humanitarian assistance station (ETAH)". They will provide children and adolescents with psychosocial support and recreational activities to ensure their well-being while on the route and in the context of the COVID pandemic.

Even though activities are focused on children and adolescents, psychosocial training and activities are carried out with parents and caregivers to improve a protective environment for children.

This project will reach more than 500 asylum seekers, migrants, and refugees children in the Darien Province in Panama.

The project, implemented between April 2021 and December 2021, is implemented by RET in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Panama.

Promotion of access to rights and local integration of refugee children, adolescents, and youth

This project aims to contribute to the protection and local integration of asylum seekers and refugee children, adolescents, and young people, through their access to protection mechanisms, education, socio-cultural programs, and the development of spaces for their participation that enhance their local integration and the generation of lasting solutions in safe and inclusive communities.

RET seeks to guarantee access and permanence in the educational system of children, adolescents, and young applicants for refugee status and refugees in Panama through the support for the registration procedures and academic validation in response to identified needs.

Considering that the 2020 school year was interrupted and many students started late or missed classes due to technical and economic difficulties, RET will support children and adolescents with individual and group reinforcement classes to achieve a progressive recovery and improve their academic performance. Children and adolescents with disabilities and/or learning difficulties will be referred to the Panamanian Institute of Special Habilitation (IPHE) for evaluation, attention, and inclusion in inclusive education programs in their facilities or centers of inclusive education.

At the same time, to optimize virtual classes, RET will accompany and guide parents and caregivers about virtual

PANAMA

study tools, managing emotions and conflicts within the family nucleus, and techniques for study at home through group workshops and individual attention.

Finally, a package of early childhood care activities will be implemented for children between 0 and 4 years of age, including sessions to stimulate the psycho-motor areas, affective and cognitive partners for better child development, and kit distribution.

Also, as part of the project, The RETArte strategy will be implemented with a community approach to new young people (who are not currently in RET or UNHCR programs) to strengthen the leadership and capacity for action of the group as agents of social change in their host communities.
In close coordination with government authorities, youth movements, and civil society organizations, the project will propose integration initiatives and socio-cultural interventions that develop the soft skills of young people. The initiatives will be held through workshops on multiple topics, including: Teamwork, argumentation, and debate, leadership, Panamanian culture, art and theater, awareness of gender roles and masculinity, and prevention of gender-based violence, among other recreational activities, artistic exploration, and activities to strengthen young people's self-sufficiency.

Active young people with more experience and having completed the RETArte process will co-facilitate each training process for new young people. The development of youth integration initiatives will be promoted through campaigns against cyber-bullying #NOMÁSMIEDO aimed at the local community, seeking to promote peaceful coexistence, enhance the capacities of young people in virtual environments and minimize risks present on the internet. The project reached more than 300 children and adolescents in the province of Darien and Panama City.

This project, completed between July 2021 and December 2021, is implemented in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Panama.

Reduciendo las Brechas
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 supported 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

PERU

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.

“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

2019 - 2020

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,

Apoyo financiero de:
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

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").

> **"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, completed between July 2019 and July 2020, was implemented in partnership with Education Cannot Wait (ECW) in Peru.

Andean Corridor and Brazil Emergency Response: Humanitarian Assistance and Protection to Migrants from Venezuela - International Organization for Migration (IOM)

This project is part of the intervention strategy of the IOM Peru Emergency Program, which aimed to directly assist the Venezuelan population that transited and resided in the country.

The project started provided multiple interventions, including
i) Distribution of Non-Food Items (NFI) in the Tacna and Lima region and ii) multi-purpose cash (CBI) for service of protection cases in the Tacna and Lima Region.

As a result of the emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Peruvian Government implemented immobility and quarantine measures. COVID 19 pandemic directly affected the income generation capacity and livelihood of Venezuelan migrant and refugee families, and further aggravating their vulnerability, in tandem with being excluded from the Government's national aid programs.

Therefore, as of June 2020, the project focused on the newly emerging needs due to the pandemic (food, room rental, personal hygiene items, etc.) of the Venezuelan population in Lima and Tacna.

This project, completed between January 2020 and June 2020, was implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Peru.

POR UN TRABAJO
DIGNO SIN
DISCRIMINACION
NI EXPLOTACION

PERU

2021

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) - Site Assessment for Shelters with Venezuelan Population in Metropolitan Lima - International Organization for Migration (IOM)

According to data from the Peruvian State, Peru is the second destination country for the Venezuelan population, with more than 860,000 Venezuelan nationals currently in Peru. Temporary accommodation and access to decent housing are some of the urgent needs for Venezuelans. According to official information from the Peruvian Government, Lima is hosts the highest number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Peru. It is also one of the areas with the highest concentration of temporary shelters for the Venezuelan people.

The project collected information to identify the main characteristics of shelter sites and the population's needs. The aim was to understand the demographic composition of shelters and assess the potential risks and hazards that may affect the people to, ultimately, provide relevant solutions and improvements to temporary shelters' management and coordination. The project focused on temporary shelters located in Metropolitan Lima and offered a methodology consisted of conducting structured interviews with key actors from each of the identified shelters.

This project, completed between January 2020 and March 2020, was implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Peru.

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.

These projects implemented respectively between September 2019 & August 2020 and October 2020 & September 2021, were funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Peru.

Promoting inclusive Education with equal opportunities for migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents, and from host communities in Peru (+DIVERSITY)

The program will target 30,000 children and adolescents in three prioritized areas: North Lima, South Lima and Trujillo, in La Libertad.

The ECW Program is aligned with the country's strategy so that children and adolescents can access relevant, inclusive and quality education with equal opportunities for all, in particular for migrants and refugees.

The program proposes to achieve five results:

1) Migrant, refugee and host community children and adolescents benefit from increased access to quality, inclusive education.
2) Migrant, refugee and host community children and adolescents remain in the education system.
3) Migrant, refugee and host community children and adolescents develop life skills and socio-emotional skills.
4) Education authorities and officials at the national and local levels improve decision-making based on available data and evidence on best practices in the region on access and inclusive education.
5) The ECW Peru Project promotes the mobilization of resources to improve inclusive access and retention in the educational system of migrant and refugee students.

The project, to be implemented between August 2021 and December 2023, is financed by Education Cannot Wait (ECW), led by UNICEF and implemented by RET, UNESCO and World Vision.

PERU

2021

Humanitarian Response to COVID-19 in three regions of Peru

This project targeted 11,600 direct individuals and 25,200 indirect individuals. The goal was to address the basic needs in health, multi-purpose cash assistance, and protection of the most vulnerable Peruvian population, especially children, adolescents, women, and older adults, including health personnel, affected by COVID-19 in the priority districts of Lima, Tumbes, and Arequipa. The program complemented the Government of Peru's interventions to improve the population's resilience in the context of COVID-19.

The response in the Health sector was fundamental due to the short- and medium-term impact of COVID-19 on the population. RET developed a Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities and strategies to reinforce efforts led by PAHO/WHO and the Ministry of Health. The project 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.

Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) is a vital intervention to cope with the economic crisis related to the COVID-19 epidemic in Peru. The most vulnerable populations are now unable to cover their basic needs and those of their families in terms of food, rent, personal hygiene, and transportation to health facilities, among others. In response to this emergency, RET offered multi-purpose cash assistance to the beneficiaries to access hygiene and cleaning materials, among other urgent needs, to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Protection sector is also crucial to respond to mental health-related adverse effects to the COVID-19 pandemic. The compulsory confinement, the economic crisis, and the threat of acquiring the COVID-19 disease affected people's mental health, producing stress and anxiety. Health workers are the most affected by stress and mental health during their work. Moreover, extended quarantines, curfews, and restriction measures have led to increased child abuse cases and gender-based violence (GBV) due to forced coexistence in confined living spaces. In response, RET provided virtual PSS (individual and group psychosocial sessions) using a brief therapy modality with a referral mechanism put in place for severe cases in collaboration with the Ministry of Health's mental health centers. A hotline was established in multiple regions, providing emotional support and therapy sessions to families and/or health workers. Virtual counseling was provided to prevent child abuse and Gender-based violence.

This project, implemented between August 2020 and January 2021, was funded by the U.S. Aid, Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and implemented by RET in Peru.

DIVERSIDAD

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 assisted 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 Columbian 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, Bolivar, 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.

Reduciendo las Bi
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

2018-2020

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 January 2018 and December 2018, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Venezuela.

VENEZUELA

2021

Humanitarian Assistance Response in the areas of Agriculture and Food Security; Health; and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, to populations affected by the deepening of the socioeconomic crisis and collapse of basic service in 5 states of Venezuela

The project will reach more than 37,000 direct beneficiaries and more than 180,000 indirect beneficiaries in five states of Venezuela. The program strategy emphasizes reinforcing the successful interventions towards beneficiaries' resilience, mainly around food security and agriculture, while supporting the maintenance of achievements in improving services to facilitate access to water, sanitation, and health.

The goal is to meet the immediate food needs of households directly affected by food insecurity and facilitate their access to agriculture, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene services in the most vulnerable zones of Venezuela. The new phase of the Agriculture and Food Security sector seeks to reinforce the actions carried out in the previous project and guarantee their continuity. As such, food security will be promoted at two levels: family gardens will be supported to complement the family diet. Based on the recent experience, family gardens will be developed and/or strengthened in the project's localities. Targeted households will receive certified seeds for growing their gardens and collecting seeds from their crops for future agricultural cycles. The use of low-cost irrigation systems, bio preparations, and biofertilizers will be promoted and supported through technical assistance and the delivery of agricultural inputs and farming tools to mitigate the gap in access to agricultural supplies.

Beneficiaries will also be supported to adopt techniques to overcome electricity outages, reduce fuel consumption, and depend on renewable energy sources (solar cookers and artisanal fridges). It is foreseen that the size of the family gardens and the type of crops that will be harvested will provide a good and fast source of foods that will support diet diversity.
The project will implement essential complementary activities to promote healthy food habits . These activities will include promoting good feeding practices for infants, young children, and pregnant women, as well as promoting food safety and intelligent food choices in the face of economic uncertainty.

The response in the health sector is vital for mitigating the short-and medium-term impacts of the crisis on the increasing spread of infectious diseases and the collapse of health services.

The project aims to improve the water and sanitation infrastructure of health facilities, the delivery of consumable supplies, equipment, and medical commodities to reduce barriers in the provision of services and to expand the coverage of health centers. Moreover, the project will be building the capacity of health staff, delivering health services in coordination with local health services and strengthening a Community Health Workers (CHW) network that covers primary health activities and health promotion. 16 health centers will be supported in this new intervention, some centers already established will continue to be supported, and 7 new centers will be inaugurated based on identifying unique needs.

The participation of young people in CHW networks is crucial. A cascading model will be used for young people to disseminate health promotion to their peers. The project will also consider strengthening measures for differentiated treatment in the care of adolescents.
These strategies, together with the new partnerships with universities and other civil society organizations, will ensure the health intervention's monitoring, sustainability, and effectiveness.

As in all components in the context of the COVID19 Pandemic, all health activities incorporate awareness-raising, training, and implementation of measures to prevent and contain the transmission, in accordance with the parameters established at the global and national levels for attention strategies.

This project, implemented between October 2020 and March 2022, is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), and implemented by RET in Venezuela.

The WASH sector program guarantees that people in households, schools, and communities have access to safe water and adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities. Actions will be implemented following the Sphere Standards, the recommendations of the Sphere Standards for COVID19, and in coordination with the WASH cluster.
Communities will be incorporated in the identification, rehabilitation, and appropriate use of water and sanitation projects. RET will seek to strengthen the capacities of youth for health promotion, water management, vector control, and food safety. Hygiene kits will be distributed to new households.

The project will continue to improve water and sanitation infrastructures in schools, health facilities, and communities while strengthening Hygiene Promotion Clubs (CPH) based on the success of the previous phase.

VENEZUELA

Improved access to essential WASH services in households, health facilities, schools, and vulnerable communities

This project improved WASH services in schools, health facilities, and communities in the state of Bolivar.
In each of these spaces, the project improved access to safe water and hygiene and sanitation through WASH training, emphasizing WASH infrastructure management and hygiene and cleaning protocols, through the rehabilitation of hygiene and sanitation facilities and the delivery of hygiene cleaning kits.

Additionally, the project proposed a community-based focus that sought to develop and form WASH multiplier clubs in communities focusing on children and adolescents as agents of positive change in their communities.
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, bio-security and hygiene inputs were provided to protect the population of interest and train them on infection prevention.

This project, completed between January 2020 and December 2020, was implemented in partnership with the United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF) in Venezuela.

Humanitarian response in the sectors of Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition and Food Assistance; Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in six states of Venezuela

The project will reach more than 6,000 participants in Venezuela, which will benefit from agricultural production support, improved WASH, food security and nutrition services. In the state of Bolivar, RET will carry out the implementation in association in partnership with "Fe y Alegria", an organization with more than 65 years of experience in Venezuela.

The intervention methodology has a gender focus that will promote positive changes in gender norms, revaluing the role of women in the implementation of family gardens, strengthening their leadership for decision making related to food production, and the empowerment of women, girls, and adolescents in WASH interventions. The proposed framework contributes to the development of public policy for agricultural development, and water and sanitation in Venezuela.

Agriculture and Food Safety: participants will receive training on best-practices concerning crop protection, irrigation activities, as well as the implementation of home/school gardens for self-consumption and self-sustainability.

Nutrition and Food Assistance: food vouchers and school lunches will be distributed to the most vulnerable population, and activities will be developed to improve eating habits in crisis contexts.

WASH: Hygiene kits and handwashing kits will be distributed respectively to children, adolescents and their families who participate in the training in schools. Also, sanitation and/or water sources will be rehabilitated in schools and affected communities. Finally, the previously established School Hygiene Clubs and Water Committees will be strengthened and mobilized.

This project, implemented between November 2020 and July 2022, is funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Swiss Embassy and implemented by RET in two states in Venezuela: Sucre and Bolivar.

Bridging the Gaps

VENEZUELA

School feeding for children under six years of age

To address food insecurity in the country and, in particular, its impact on the development of preschool children, RET will implement a humanitarian assistance program in Venezuela focused on school feeding for children under six years of age. The project will reach out to more than 4,000 people in Falcon, Venezuela.

RET will distribute dried food baskets monthly to school-enrolled boys and girls and active school personnel through schools while closed as part of COVID-19 safety measures.

A gradual adaptation of the program will be carried out - once the schools reopen. The school infrastructure is evaluated and rehabilitated with the support of WFP (storage spaces, kitchen, etc.), progressively moving from the delivery of baskets from take-home food to the provision of nutritious school meals served in schools accompanied by capacity-building activities and integrated health and nutrition interventions for the community. In addition, the enrollment of boys and girls in initial school will be encouraged, and attendance is retained once the schools open.

The project, implemented between July 2021 and September 2021, is implemented in partnership with the World Food Program and RET in Venezuela.

Promoting empowerment, participation, and community outreach (2021)

The project will reach out to 500 families directly and more than 500,000 people indirectly in Zulia, who will benefit from Food Security & Empowerment through the construction and use of food preservers and solar cookers.

The project's objective is to identify and develop the capacities of the communities to identify their needs and respond to them, outlining solutions to achieve individual and collective appropriation of the implemented projects. Thus, RET will strengthen community capacities in the use of low-cost resources available at the local level, positioning the population of interest in agents of change and community mobilization.

The people trained will be able to transmit the experience of the process to other members of their family and members of their community. In addition, RET will provide the information and basic technical training on the construction of food preservatives and solar artisanal kitchens and will accompany the process of awareness and training on these alternative means. This objective will be carried out through promotional campaigns in the communities on the benefits of the use of alternative energy such as solar cookers and artisan food preservatives, educational, vocational and technical sessions to community structures on solar cookers and artisan food preservatives, supplies of supplies for the realization of solar stoves and artisan food preservatives to improve access to energy in homes and information sessions given by community structures trained in alternative energy (solar cookers and artisanal food preservatives).

The project, implemented between April 2021 and October 2021, is implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner (UNHCR) and RET in Venezuela.

VENEZUELA

Direct assistance in health and education to the most vulnerable populations -especially children, adolescent girls and women- affected by the Venezuelan Crisis in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador

The intervention aims to meet the needs of vulnerable populations, focusing on children, adolescent girls, and women affected by the current crisis in Venezuela, by enhancing access to health and education in emergencies (EIE) in Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia.

In Colombia and Venezuela, the access to primary health care, including response to COVID-19, sexual and reproductive health and mental health were facilitated by providing access to health consultations, medicines, and medical supplies, as well as identification and provision of medical assistance to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), health education activities and counseling, amongst others.

In Education in Emergencies, the actions will enhance access to an inclusive and quality education to Venezuelan migrants and refugees during quarantine and when returning to school. The activities will promote the retention of migrant/refugee children in schools, through case tracking and referral mechanisms accompaniment, improvement of school environments and infrastructure, capacity building of the educational community to support learning during and after COVID-19, providing distance education, support and access to non-formal education spaces and the delivery of Educational and/or hygiene kits to support children during the COVID19 and returning to school.
In terms of implementation, the education component will be implemented directly by Plan International (PI thereafter) in Colombia and Ecuador. RET will be implementing the component in Ecuador (alongside PI) and in Venezuela. The health component will be implemented directly by Medécins du Monde (MdM thereafter) in Venezuela and Colombia.
RET is implementing the EiE component in Venezuela in the states of Táchira and Zulia, and in Ecuador, it is working together with Plan Internacional to implement the EiE component in the province of Pichincha

The intervention in EiE inside Venezuela will propose multiple objectives:
1) to improve education access and the services offered to contribute to the quality education, school permanence, and learning for children and adolescents;
2) to strengthen institutional capabilities and techniques of education communities to guarantee quality and integrity of the teaching that enables affected schools as safe spaces that enforce Children's Rights which is crucial for both the protection and socio-emotional development of girls and boys affected by crises.
3) to foster the resilience of the education community by developing sustainable programs adapted to the needs of vulnerable groups that guarantee the continuous delivery of education services.

The before-mentioned objectives will be accomplished by providing educational materials, incentives for teachers (training sessions and learning material), economic subsidies for families, minor rehabilitations of school facilities (mainly WASH facilities), direct support to the school feeding program, and awareness-raising activities for parents and caregivers. The project will prioritize hygiene supplies and materials and promote hygiene habits to support COVID-19 prevention.
4) Building capacities of local actors in CPIE and EiE to ensure that local actors provide integrated assistance to girls and boys victims of violence, abuse, and exploitation (including gender-based violence).

This project, implemented between July 2020 and October 2021, was implemented in partnership with the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations - European Commission (ECHO) in Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador.

Reduciendo las Brechas
RET

REGIONAL PROJECTS

2021

Strengthening Disaster Risk Preparedness in Panama and Mexico.

The project's objective is to strengthen Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (CDRM) capacities in Panama and Mexico, providing continuity to the pre-existing work that RET has been carrying out in both countries with the support of BHA-USAID. The project sought to strengthen the implementation of Disaster Risk Preparedness Processes, and Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (CDRM) processes at the national level by creating opportunities, mechanisms, and capacities to link and implement the initiatives at the local and community levels (Panama). All that while actively involving local governments, civil society organizations, and communities in the respective areas.

In Panama, the project has two main focus areas: first, to assist in creating a new national CDRM policy and ensure its practical implementation in collaboration with local municipalities, and second, community CRDM at regional and provincial levels. At the local communities level, the interventions in Panama are being implemented in sixteen municipalities: fourteen municipalities in the Azuero region, within the Provinces of Los Santos and Herrera, one in the Province of Darien, and one in Ngäbe-Buglé Reserve, in the Municipality of Besikó. In all municipalities, the objective is to promote the active participation of key actors in CDRM processes in alignment with the public policies established by the National Government.

The municipalities involved in the project will receive two tailored training per year to assist them in creating inclusive CDRM plans for their respective area. The municipalities involved will develop a CDRM project, three of which will be presented to the municipal funding process at the end of the project. Considering the particularities and needs of each area, including the distinctive characteristics of remote and hard-to-reach locations, such as the indigenous communities and their traditional authorities in the Ngabe-Bugle and Darien regions, is critical to the successful implementation of the projects.

At the national level, RET supports creating and implementing a CDRM process in partnership with the federal government, providing technical support to create a new National CDRM Policy (PNGIRD) and associated National CDRM Plans (PENGIRD). RET is working with the Ministry of Government Affairs (MINGOB) and the newly established CDRM Cabinet (Gabinete GIRD), which have the legal power and responsibility to implement this process.
RET provides technical support to ensure that these policies and plans are linked to the needs of the local-level actors in the country's provinces. RET is also building the municipal authorities' resource capacity to implement the programs successfully. Related activities include:

1) the design and development of a Conceptual Framework and Glossary of key terminology for the PNGIRD and PENGIRD and the coordination of participatory meetings with local municipalities to provide feedback,
2) technical support and accompaniment for creating the PNGIRD and PENGIRD within the Technical Working Groups (Mesas Técnicas) in the Gabinete GIRD,
3) developing capacity-building resources for local municipalities to ensure effective implementation of the PNGIRD and PENGIRD,
4) designing a new multi-level, decentralized mechanism to link local and national implementation of the PNGIRD and PEGIRD, linking local and national level jurisdictions, with the participation of civil society actors,
5) creating new local-level M&E indicators to ensure effective implementation of the PNGIRD via the mechanisms, indicators, and targets within the PEGIRD.

REGIONAL PROJECTS

In Mexico, the project addresses CDRM priorities identified as part of an accompaniment process at the national, federal, and municipal levels, in collaboration with the "National Civil Protection Coordination (CNPC)," including the following activities:

- Strengthening Situation Rooms and Operation Centers at sites selected by the Government of Mexico.
- The creation of a new Comprehensive Risk Management Committee (CRMC) at the local level.
- The implementation of an Action Plan agreed upon by the CNPC at sites selected by the Government of Mexico with the Comprehensive Risk Management Committee (CRMC).
- The design and development of a Public Awareness Campaign to shift the paradigm from a civil protection culture (based on response) to one of CDRM (which takes a more holistic approach) amongst the key public, municipal, State and federal officials.

The listed activities contribute to better positioning CDRM within the agenda of the government agencies and amongst the general public while promoting the involvement of all social actors in CDRM.

The main focus of the actions is on capacity building namely:

- Standardization of the DANA mechanism at the national level, which includes the design and development of the "DANA Online."
- Preparation and development of the Incident Command System (ICS) projects in new priority geographic areas, including an ICS Online Introductory Course and implementing a Basic Course in Incident Command System (ICSBC).
- Expansion of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) project, initiated in the previous USAID/RET project (BHA CAM 2020), expanding this to new geographic areas and developing new national (re) accreditations, and implementing national level USAR exercises.

This project, implemented between September 2021 and September 2024, is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and implemented by RET in Panama and Mexico.

Institutionalizing Sustainable Community Based Disaster Risk Management

Due to insufficient adaptive capacity, such as the low levels of community awareness and communication, poverty, inequality along with political economy factors that hold back community resilience such as the lack of local governance, coordination problems, and regulatory environment, the negative impacts of disasters on communities are persisting
and organizations and governments fail to institutionalize effective and sustainable approaches to manage those risks at the local level.
This project facilitated the scale-out and institutionalization of sustainable CBDRM approaches by increasing the understanding of common success factors for the scale-out of community-based DRR along with increasing the capacity of governments, CSOs, and other actors to work together to co-create the enabling environment factors for DRR preparedness, and increasing the political commitments and accountability across the LAC region.

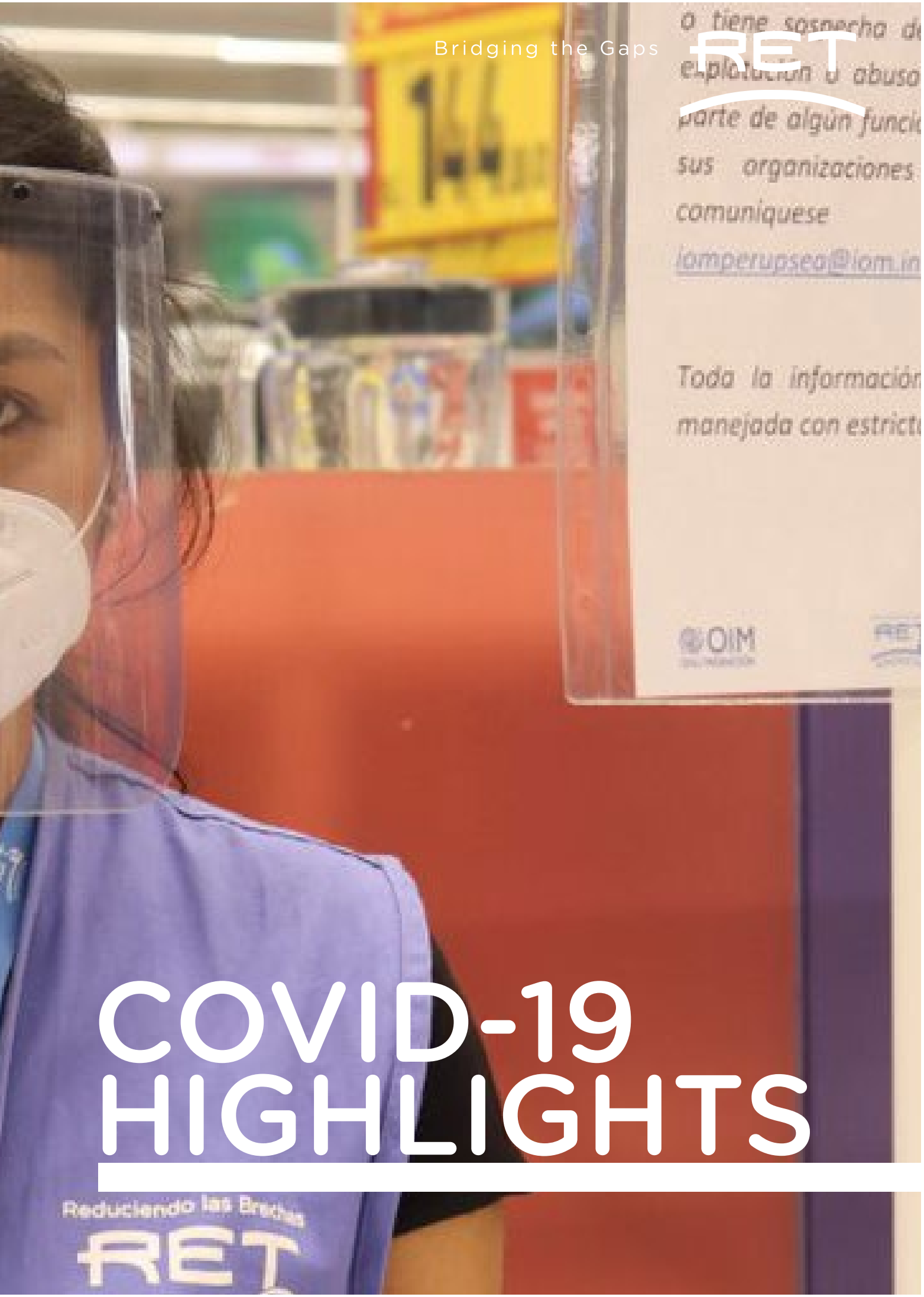
This project, implemented between July 2017 and Mach 2021, was funded by the Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) and implemented by RET in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Technical workshop on the northern triangle initiative and Mexico

Technical workshop on the progress, processes, lessons learned from the components of the Northern Triangle Education initiative.

This project, implemented between February 2020 and March 2021, is implemented in partnership with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in Latin America and the Caribbean.

USAID
CNE
RET



COVID-19 HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 HIGHLIGHTS

SINCE MARCH 2020

More than 61,000 people were directly reached through messaging and awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 prevention.

More than 6,500 people were provided with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support MHPSS, during the pandemic.

More than 24,300 people received Cash Assistance -humanitarian multi-sector cash grants for basic needs, including hygiene products and food baskets.

More than 4,000 young students were supported through distance-based learning during the pandemic.

More than 240 people with disabilities were supported during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

RET Teams and program participants follow the procedures and guidelines set by the respective national governments and ministries (Public Health, Education & Social Affairs), in tandem with following the recommendations and updates from global sources such as WHO and CDC on preventive measures. RET provided training for national staff about COVID-19 preventive measures, with modules from the World Health Organization, UNHCR and UNICEF.

RET ensures all preventive measures are put in place at national and sub-national offices. *(When applicable)*

1.Disinfection of footwear
2.Temperature Measurement upon admission
3.Disinfection of hands with alcohol gel
4. Use of face mask and/or face shield
5.Use of acrylic protector on counters
6.Establishment of hand washing points in the office and/or field rural areas and/on the entrance.
6.Routine Surface Disinfection (floors, bathrooms, handrails, handles, etc.)
7. Observation of physical distancing and reducing the number of beneficiaries per session.
8.Equipping the offices with disinfectants and WASH kits.
9. Visibility awareness materials on COVID-19 in all offices (language-sensitive)
10. Application of preventive measures in the office with entry and exit protocol for staff.
11. Establishing remote working, *when applicable*
12. Preparation of an **"Operational Guide"** for the execution of the activities. This guide contains self-protection measures for the staff, a process for periodic tests, and guidelines to protect the beneficiary population and not increase contagion risk. (e.g., Colombia)
13. Project activities have been redesigned to virtual format (Online and/or via cell phone calls, when applicable.

COVID-19 NEWS PER COUNTRY

PROTECTION

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

- **Peru:** Adaptation of the Online psychosocial support processes allowed more coverage and attention to direct causes of stress and tension derived from the COVID-19 emergency. PSS activities continue to be provided in virtual form, including information to prevent GBV and child abuse. **In total, 2,094 people have received PSS assistance in Peru. (1,594 funded by PRM project and 500 funded by Education Cannot Wait (ECW) for COVID-19 interventions.)**

- **More than 232 people are provided with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Costa Rica.**

- **More than 300 people are provided with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Ecuador.**

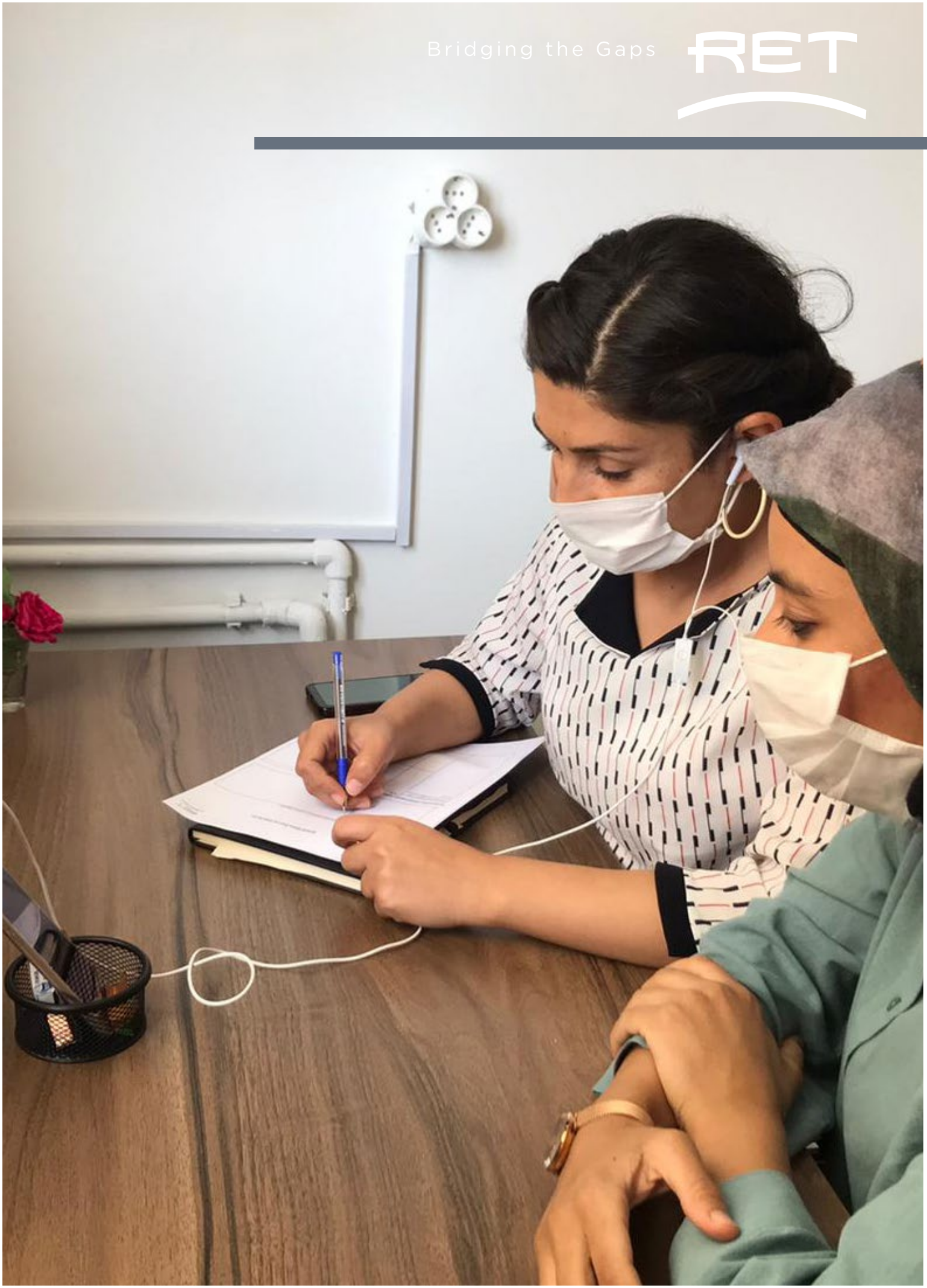
- **More than 1423 people were provided with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Colombia.**

- **Mexico:** The psychosocial components were remodeled into long-distance modality with support groups established on WhatsApp. The individual therapeutic sessions were also offered by phone in Mexico.
More than 625 people were provided with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Mexico.

Panama: multiple telephone hotlines were set up to provide psychosocial and educational care. **More than 5012 people were provided with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Panama.**

- **Türkiye:** PSS Family Counselling was provided for households via WhatsApp call and video. The Online group PSS counseling sessions complemented the PSS Counsellor's work to identify cases requiring individual care and further protection assistance. Online counseling is a modality developed during COVID-19 emergency. Still, it will expand to the normalization process, as it presents several benefits, including reaching the entire family holistically and providing timing flexibility for working persons.
RET also provided online PSS Handcraft Activities for children: During the quarantine period, RET PSS Activity Trainers prepared activities for children to implement remotely from their home. RET delivered the crafts materials to the beneficiary's homes, and the instructions were sent either via WhatsApp videos or given over the phone. Children shared pictures of their final crafts via WhatsApp.
As the lock-down measures started easing, RET provided PSS handcraft activities collectively in neighborhood gardens and streets.
More than 794 people were provided Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Türkiye.

- **Mauritania:** The COVID-19 emergency increased the daily stress factors as it reduced the social support between the community members, creating a negative psychosocial impact on the entire community at Mberra camp. To respond to the needs of the refugee community, RET adjusted its strategy to provide PSS through small groups. **In total, 323 beneficiaries (305 women) participated in the PSS sessions.**



COVID-19 NEWS PER COUNTRY

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- **Peru:** The incidence of GBV and child abuse cases has increased since the beginning of the pandemic. All PSS activities were redesigned to include GBV awareness and response

- **Costa Rica:** RET re-activated its women's networks and focal points at community levels and set up hot-lines to report and refer GBV survivors. An entire care route was established, including emergency shelter, emotional support, complaint mechanism, following the national protocol.

- **Ecuador:** RET has developed a protocol to assist women facing protection risks, including SGBV. Cases of GBV were identified, administered, and referred to safe sanctions in Ecuador.

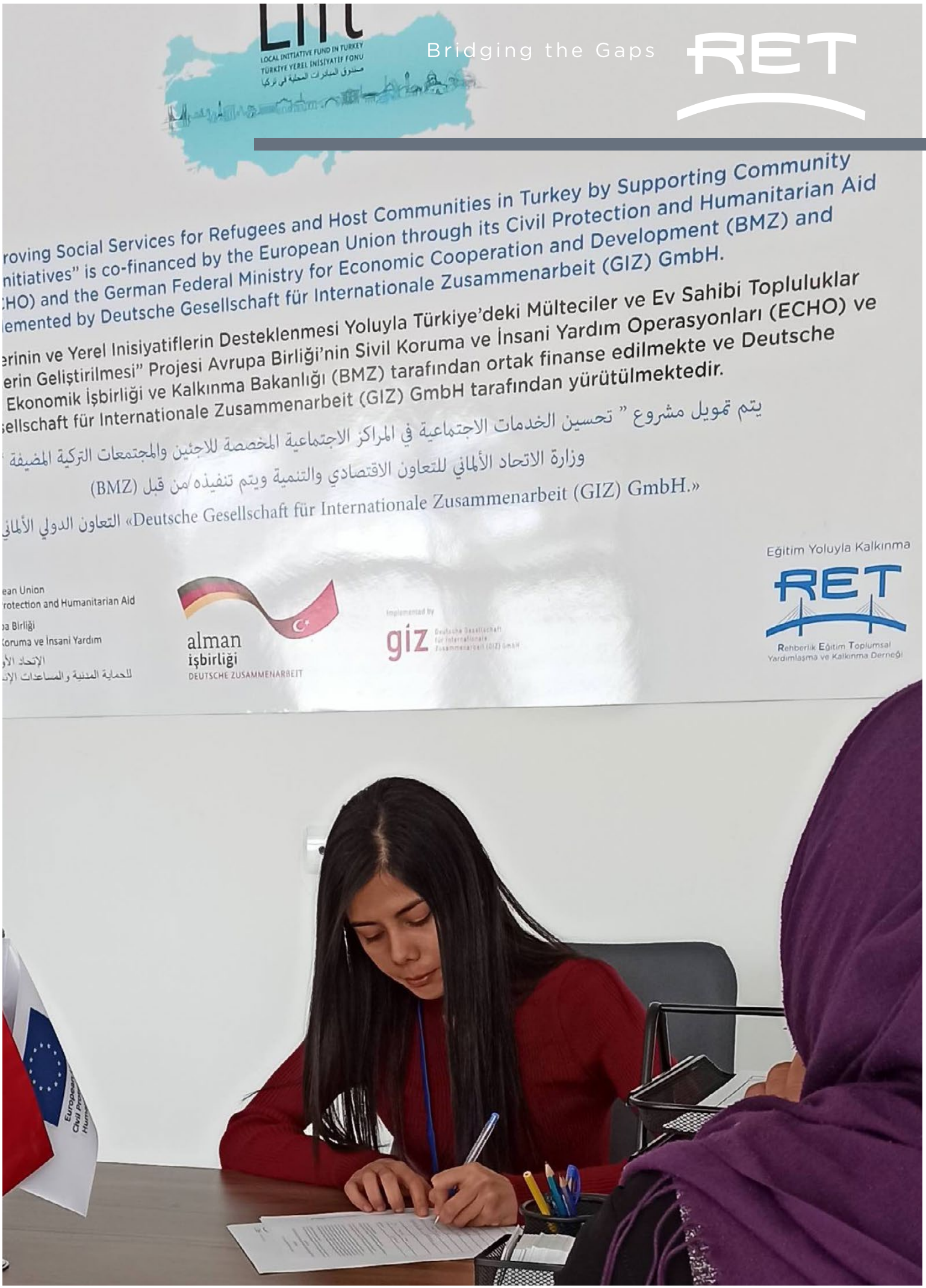
- **Mexico:** RET was part of an awareness campaign to respond and mitigate the risks of GBV in Mexico. "Violentómetro" was the tool used to identify all types of violence. RET elaborated Audio - Stories to create a space of reflection in situations of risk. Similarly, RET worked on developing methodologies for creating support groups for women with an approach to GBV prevention, in tandem with creating groups for men to address new masculinity and stereotyping in Mexico.

- **Colombia:** One of the most significant risks during COVID-19 was isolation during quarantine, which increased GBV cases. To reduce the risk of GBV, RET in Colombia established a virtual line (telephone + WhatsApp) to attend to GBV cases in coordination with the local authorities of the Family Commissioners of eight municipalities in Colombia. RET activated the emergency phone line and provided information to beneficiaries on protection or care routes during COVID-19; in tandem with delivering psychological first aid, referring and channeling GBV survivors to the relevant authorities.

- **Panama**: An exclusive telephone line was set up to attend to cases, especially SGBV, in coordination with the local legal authorities for a comprehensive approach. RET is an active member of the working group on SGBV led by UNHCR with local partners, where the road maps and coordination for SGBV were re-activated. In coordination with local organizations and the Ombudsman's Office, RET facilitated four workshops with at-risk populations and provided information on care-routes to respond and mitigate gender-based violence GBV.

- **Belize:** RET Belize activated its youth groups to reduce GBV incidences and respond to community challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. ***"RET Youth Ambassadors in Belize: empowering capacities to reduce GBV incidences and respond to community challenges"*** aimed to increase the resilience of young people in Belize by empowering their capacities related to Mental Health, Gender Equality, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The process designated youth as positive agents of change to address the country's protection needs and the increased vulnerability due to the containment measures of COVID-19.

- **Türkiye:** RET conducted a rigorous awareness campaign to respond and prevent GBV. Awareness materials, such as brochures, posters, and videos (in Arabic), were prepared and disseminated over WhatsApp to the targeted population and hanged in targeted neighborhoods. The materials provided information on RETYKD SGBV services and care routes and contact hot-lines for women at-risk.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erinin ve Yerel Inisiyatiflerin Desteklenmesi Yoluyla Türkiye'deki Mülteciler ve Ev Sahibi Topluluklar
erin Geliştirilmesi" Projesi Avrupa Birliği'nin Sivil Koruma ve İnsani Yardım Operasyonları (ECHO) ve
Ekonomik İşbirliği ve Kalkınma Bakanlığı (BMZ) tarafından ortak finanse edilmekte ve Deutsche
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COVID-19 NEWS PER COUNTRY

EDUCATION

- **Peru:** RET non-formal education projects were adapted to a virtual educational format through a Moodle platform in Peru. **2,317 children and adolescents received assistance in education through the APRENDIENDO UNIDOS program *(funded by Education cannot Wait (ECW))* in Peru.**

- **Venezuela:** Distance training of educators has been carried out within the ECHO project in Merida and Tachira in Venezuela. **More than 2000 adolescents and youth were supported with distance/home-based learning in Venezuela.**

- **More than 446 adolescents and youth supported through distance/ home-based learning in Costa Rica.**

- **Ecuador:** In Ecuador, a yellow traffic light by the government implies restrictions; teleworking is mandatory, and activities cannot be carried out with children; schools are still closed, and distance-learning education is applied. RET provided Training of Trainers TOT for teachers for the pedagogical reinforcement of children. **More than 300 adolescents and youth were supported with distance/home-based learning, and more than 450 School kit were distributed in Ecuador.**

- **Mexico:** Due to the many adversities adolescents and youth face to access education virtually in Mexico during COVID-19, (lack of resources such as phone, internet to establish communication between teachers and parents and caregivers, the lack of resources to print the material...) RET produced a school reinforcement guide for the different school grades and delivered school kits with educational material.

RET also provided numerous teacher training in Acayucan, Palenque, Tapachula, and Tenosique, and supported students with school activities and homework support through whatsapp, in tandem with supporting the schools enrolled in the Mexican educational system with information and updates during COVID-19.

RET launched the "Once upon a time" campaign to call on Civil Society Organizations CSO's to protect and advance children's rights by promoting reading and sharing stories and tales via WhatsApp with refugees and migrants children.

RET is also supporting the enrollment of adolescents in Mexican educational institutions through mothers, fathers, and caregivers' accompaniment during the registration process in August. This accompaniment is given virtually in three stages. The first is to guide those responsible for the care of children on their dependents' rights to register in Mexican educational institutions, the documentation they require, and the current route of registration.

- **Colombia:** RET provided support to the Departmental Education Secretary to design distance education programs during the quarantine. **As a result, new School Guides were updated, and 300 school kits were distributed to students in rural areas**.

- **Panama:** RET conducted multiple activities related to institutional strengthening: training, tools/ methodologies, as well as the delivery of educational kits, support with

Internet data, access to virtual classes, workshops for access to information, and technical assistance to MEDUCA (Ministry of Education), for safe return to school plan.
More than 549 adolescents and youth were supported with distance/home-based learning in Panama.

- **Burundi :** During COVID-19, RET set up a Digital Space equipped with computers and Internet connection for the DAFI scholars' to facilitate their studies and limit their risk of getting contracting COVID-19 at public research centers.

- **Kenya :** Classes were transferred to an Online learning basis. RET provided laptops, internet modems, and other accessories to help retain trainees and supporting them with remote learning.

- **Mauritania:** RET provided education for more than 417 youth and adolescents (251 female) to small groups in Mbera Refugee Camp blocks. (All students were offered with face masks, disinfectants gel, and school materials.) RET trained 86 secondary and primary teachers (14 women) through small group sessions in Mbera camp.

COVID-19 NEWS PER COUNTRY

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS

- **Peru:** CBI was delivered in the form of supermarket vouchers in Peru. **In total, 12,649 people have received multipurpose cash, and 100 have received baskets of food through programs funded by BPRM (7,282); Education Cannot Wait(2,200); IOM- Central Emergency Response Fund (2,767) in Peru.**

- **2,150 people were provided with food and cash assistance (humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs) in Costa Rica.**

- **Mexico:** RET adjusted the application of the KoBo interview through phone calls, and continued the delivery of respective cards for Multipurpose Cash Grants (MPG). **More than 5,999 people were provided with food and cash assistance (humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs) in Mexico.**

- **Colombia: More than 200 families, a total of 1,132 people were provided with food and cash assistance (humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs) in Colombia.**

- **Panama: More than 1,815 people provided food and cash assistance (humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs) in Panama.**

- **Türkiye: More than 122 individuals were provided with in-kind support in Türkiye.**

WASH *(Water, Sanitation & Hygiene)*
In Colombia, the project activities were complemented with a focus on reducing the risk of contracting Covid-19, such as improving drinking water systems in schools, and the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to public officials.

RET

COVID-19 NEWS PER COUNTRY

AWARENESS-RAISING WITH THE COMMUNITIES

- **Peru:** RET in Peru disseminated information on COVID-19 prevention measures through telephone calls to vulnerable communities in Peru. **More than 3,353 families and 10,351 people, were reached through RET direct awareness raising and messaging in Peru.**

- **Venezuela:** RET adapted news and preventive measures about COVID-19 sources to friendly talks and presentations disseminated to the communities, in health centers, and schools in Venezuela. **More than 11296 people reached through messaging and awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 prevention in Venezuela.**

- **Costa Rica:** Information on preventive measures and timely updates about COVID-19 were disseminated through WhatsApp and via telephone in Costa Rica.

- **Ecuador:** COVID-19 prevention awareness materials were shared with the project participants through WhatsApp groups in tandem with disseminating the Awareness materials with 2000 kits delivered to children and adolescents in human mobility in various provinces of the country with IOM, local NGOs, and the local government. **More than 2000 people reached through messaging and awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 prevention in Ecuador.**

- **Mexico:** RET in Mexico was part of a COVID-19 campaign to inform the refugees, migrants, and Asylum seekers about the care routes established for Hospitals and Health Centers in the case of COVID-19. **More than 11,009 people reached through messaging and awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 prevention in Mexico.**

- **More than 2000 people reached through messaging and awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 prevention in Panama.**

- **Belize:** RET in Belize disseminated awareness-raising materials on COVID-19 in supermarkets, bus stations, and other public places; collected and sent timely national information through emails, Whatsapp, and took part in the National Women's Commission (NWC) campaign to raise awareness about COVID-19. **More than 1500 people were reached through messaging and awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 prevention in Belize.**

- **Afghanistan: More than 1235 CBE class students and their family members were reached through awareness-raising COVID-19 prevention activities in Afghanistan.**

- **Lebanon: More than 2385 people were reached through messaging and awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 prevention in Lebanon.**

- **Türkiye:** In Arabic, a COVID-19 Newsletter was prepared periodically and sent to beneficiaries through WhatsApp to prevent misinformation

among the Syrian and Iraqi refugee population in Türkiye. Informative brochures, including but not limited to RET and WHO resources, as well as RETYKD GBV posters, were attached to the Newsletter. **More than 4038 people were reached through RET Newsletter.**

RET also provided psycho-education regarding COVID-19 and how to cope during stress to families via phone. **More than 1.719 participants were provided with awareness-raising sessions on GBV, child protection, hygiene, health rights, law, and prevention of violence against women and gender forums.**

- **Burundi:** The trained DAFI fellows provided training on COVID-19 preventive measures to more than 1000 people in the community alongside RET and CVI students. **More than 1600 people were reached through messaging and awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 prevention in Burundi.**

- **Kenya:** RET is a member of a Communication Group in Kakuma. Partners established this group in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to sensitize the community about COVID-19. RET and in coordination with the group, provided training and timely news to ensure the beneficiaries are well informed and are taking extreme precautions to stop the spread of the virus.

- **Mauritania:** During COVID-19, RET, and in coordination with UNICEF, UNDP, WLF, ACF, ALIMA, Save the Children sensitized **more than 10,658 people on the prevention against COVID-19.**

COVID-19 NEWS PER COUNTRY

COORDINATION

• RET has been closely coordinating with the Ministry of Health, Regional Health Directorates, Health Facilities, and the National Humanitarian Network in Peru.

• RET has been closely coordinating with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF in Venezuela.

• RET has been closely coordinating with the Ministry of Education, educational districts, and academic units in Ecuador.

• RET has been closely coordinating with multiple Foundations in Mexico:(Foundation Amara, Everywhere Schools), UNCHR, Hospitals in the four communities where RET has a presence: Tenosique, Acayucan, Tapachula and Veracruz, MSF, Municipalities in the four districts, and the Mexican Commission for Assistance of Refugees in Mexico.

• RET has been closely coordinating with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Education, OCHA, Municipal mayors of 8 municipalities, the Unit for the Attention of Victims, and NGOs belonging to the Local Coordination Team, the Commissioners of Family of 8 municipalities, and the Government of Norte de Santander in Colombia.

• RET has been closely coordinating with the "Cámara Panameña de Desarrollo Social, the Ministry of Social Development, the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and the Family, the Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Government" in Panama.

• RET has been closely coordinating with UNHCR in Lebanon.

• RET has been closely coordinating UNHCR, Local NGO (SGDD/ASAM), Provincial Directorate of Migration Management, Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation, Municipalities (especially Canik Municipality in Samsun) in Türkiye.

• RET has been closely coordinating with UNHCR and the Refugee Affairs Secretariat in Kenya.

RET

RET International's Organizational Structure

CEO
Board

Bridging the Gaps
RET

President & CEO
of RET International
Ms Zeynep Gündüz

The RET International Board - Geneva

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

President & CEO
of RET Germany
Ms Zeynep Gündüz

The RET Germany e.V Board - Berlin

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 Bahadir 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

President & CEO of RET Americas
Ms Zeynep Gündüz

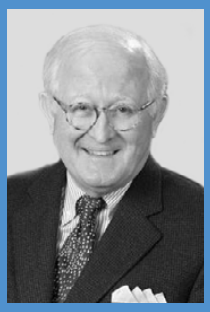
The RET Americas Inc. Board - Washington DC

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

Bridging the Gaps

Ms Zeynep Gündüz
President & CEO at RET

Senior Management Reporting to RET's CEO

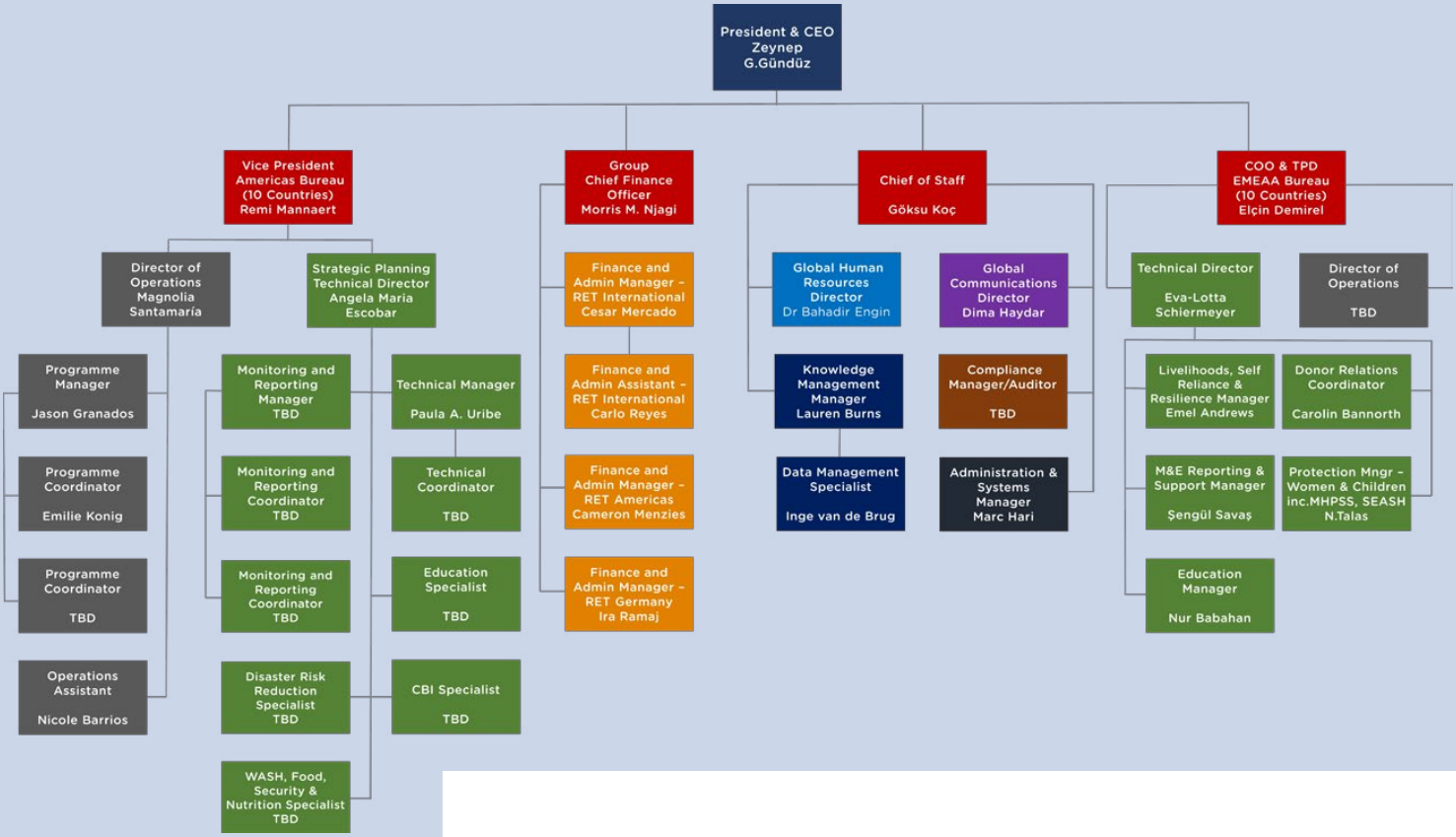
RET Americas: Remi Mannaert
Vice- President - Americas Bureau

Morris Muriithi NJAGI
Chief Finance Officer

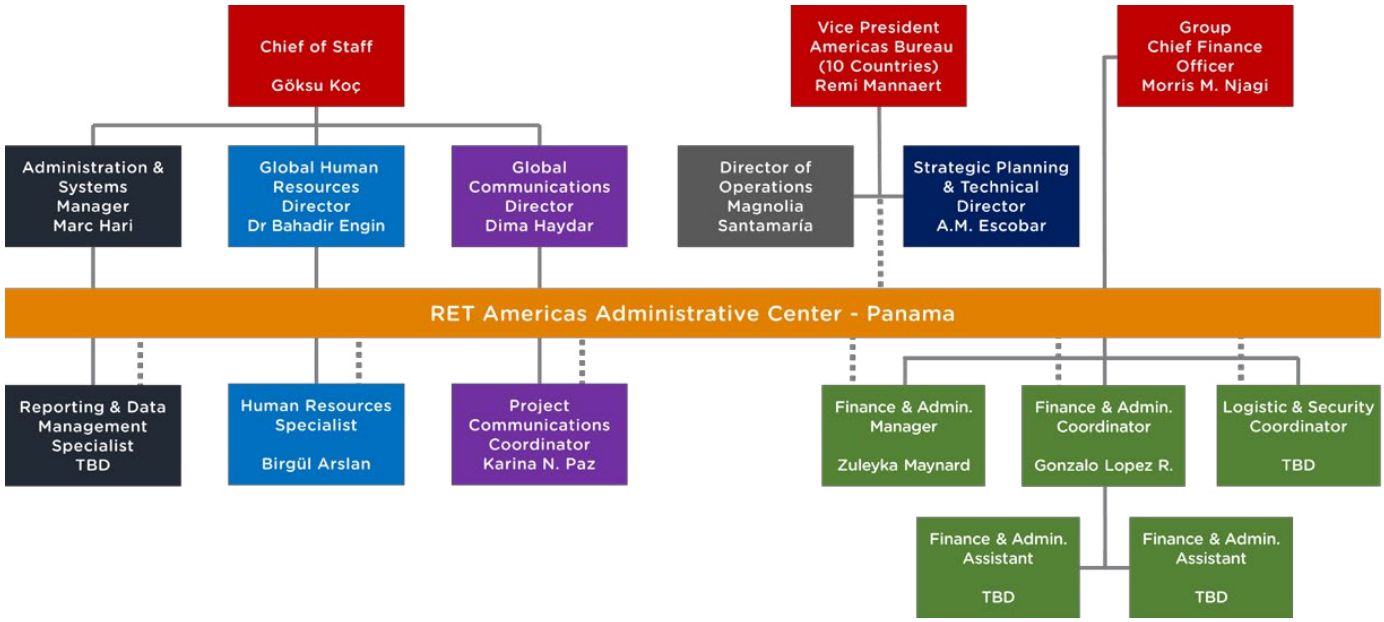
Göksu KOC
Chief of Staff

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

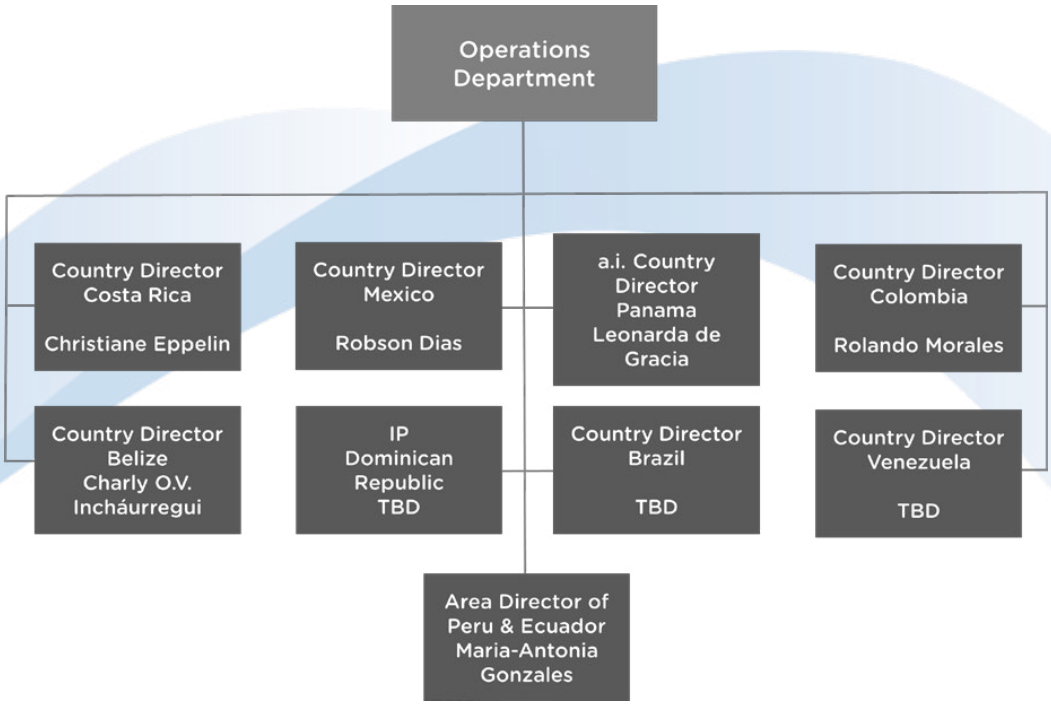
RET HQ Organization Chart



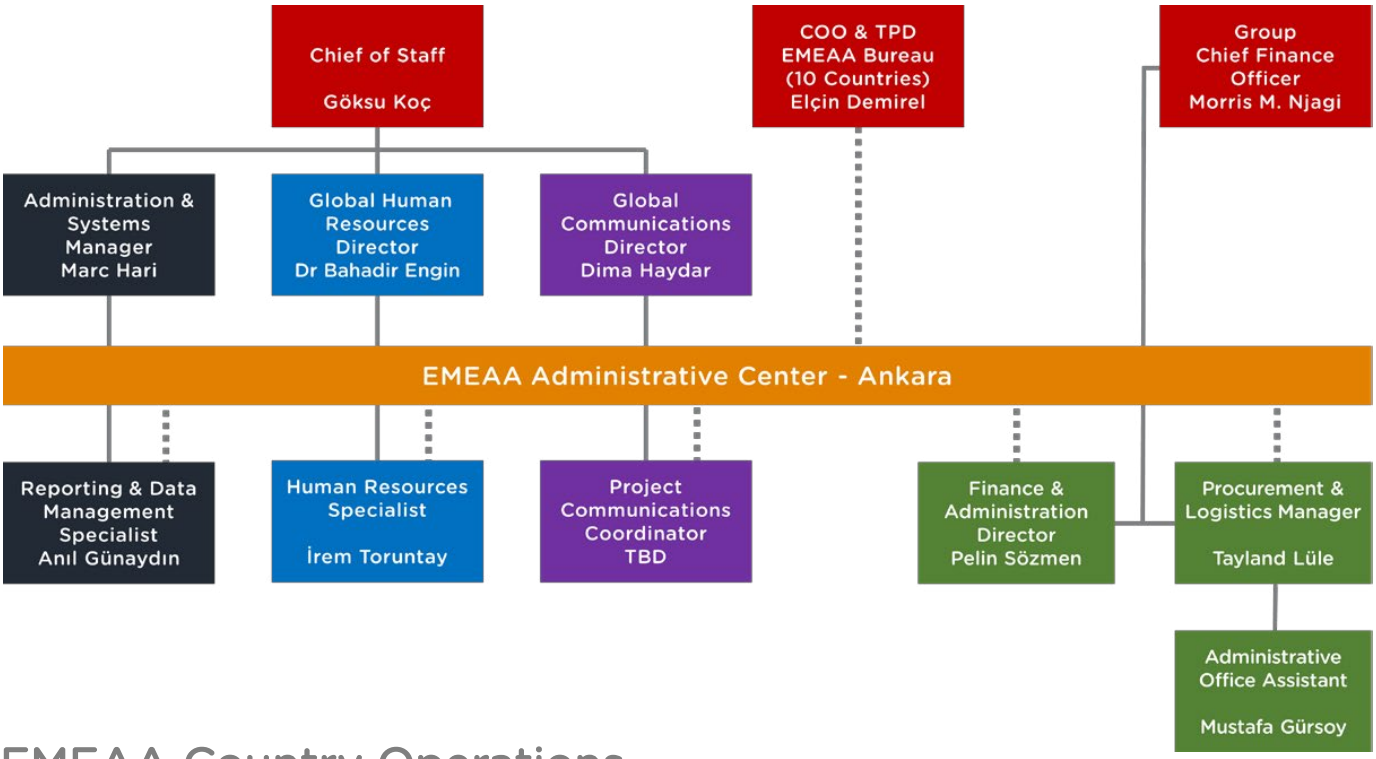
RET Americas Administrative Center - Panama



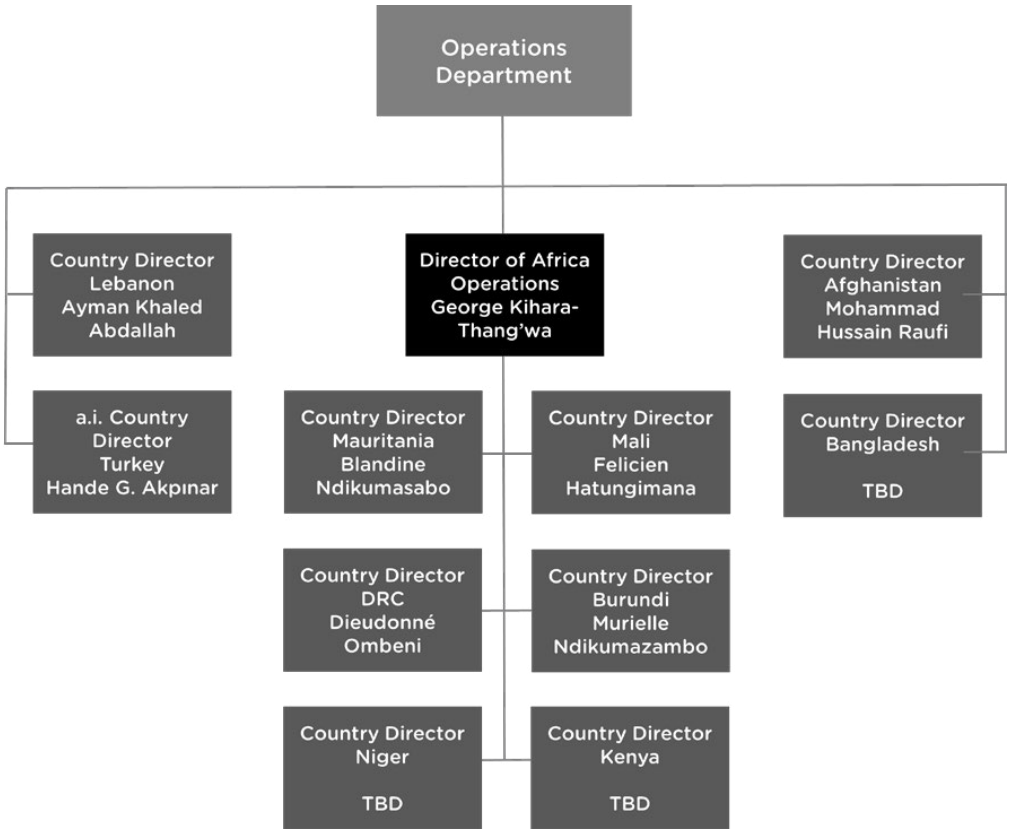
RET Americas Country Operations



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 Türkiye
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-Landshaft, Republic and Canton of Geneva, Ville de Genève, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)
The Netherlands – Ministry Of Foreign Affairs
United Kingdom - FCO – UK Embassy in Türkiye
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

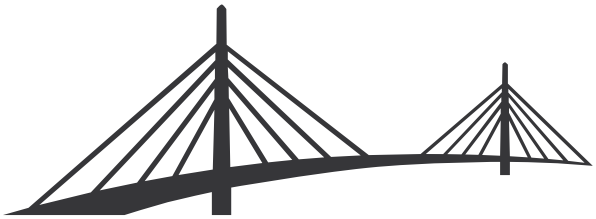
RET

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, Türkiye, 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

2021

RET International

Audited Financial Statements

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

RET INTERNATIONAL, Geneva Switzerland

Statement of Financial position as at December 31, 2021
(with comparative figures as at December 31, 2020)

Financial Overview

Summary

It is important to note here that the composition of RET International changed after 2018, where the portions that relate to what became effectively RET Germany and RET Americas in 2019, 2020, and thereafter, were removed from the accounting and audited Financial Statements of RET International, as of 2019, 2020 and thereafter, leaving the perception that RET International's revenues had reduced.

As of FY 2019, we refer to the RET ALLIANCE, the consolidation of RET International, RET Germany, RET Americas, and the various local RETs, which have been spun off from RET legally, but which contribute income to the RET Alliance through consortia partnerships.

2021 Operating Environment:

In 2021, RET continued to operate in an environment punctuated by lockdowns, restricted travel, reduced in-person meetings with donors, and prospective donors, and other negative aspects brought about by the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic. As with the previous financial year, this continued to have a direct effect on the resource mobilization (fundraising) efforts, implementation of the funded projects, reporting of the completed projects, as well as the mandatory monitoring and evaluations missions. Most resource mobilization efforts continued to be restricted to online meetings and the awareness-raising and marketing of the RET through online media, the results of which there were generally reduced revenues as compared to the usual successful efforts which had been applied in the past.

Current Situation:

In 2021, while RET International's total income USD 11.4 million, the RET ALLIANCE total income is USD 16.5 million. For 2022, the unaudited RET Alliance total income remains steady at USD 17.4 million (USD11.9M for RET International), whereas for 2023, approved contracts in the pipeline for RET Alliance as at the date of this report total USD 14.4 million (USD 8.8 million for RET International) and are forecast to close at USD 23 million for the RET Alliance.

In 2021 RET International benefitted from the conversion of the USD 500,000 private loan from RET's benefactor to an unrestricted donation of USD 500,000.

Future Outlook:

While 2021 shows a surpus to RET International of USD 352,618, in FY 2022, RET reported an unaudited surplus of USD 611,000, and projects a surplus of USD 433,000 in 2023.

It is important to reiterate that RET International has already met all of its obligations within one year post 2021 closing of the accounts. As explained above and demonstrated through performance in 2022 and the rebound in 2023, coupled with retention of operating expenses at the low levels of 2022, RET International should have a higher surplus in 2023.

Balance Sheet

Statement of Financial position as at December 31, 2021
(with comparative figures as at December 31, 2020)

		2021 USD 12 months	2020 USD 15 months
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash	11	702.547	598.514
Total cash and cash equivalents		702.547	598.514
Prepaid expenses/advances to field offices		2.350.719	2.605.104
Interco RET Germany		1.063.870	799.651
Other receivables including accrued income		-	14.326
Total prepaid and other receivables		3.414.589	3.419.080
Total current assets		4.117.136	4.017.594
Fixed assets			
Fixed assets		59.363	59.363
Accumulated depreciation		(58.739)	(57.354)
Net fixed assets		625	2.009
Investments in future projects		123.736	123.736
Accumulated depreciation		(49.494)	(24.747)
Net investments in future projects		74.242	98.989
TOTAL ASSETS		**4.192.002**	**4.118.592**
LIABILITIES AND FUNDS			
Liabilities			
Line of credit	11	994.961	1.006.383
Interco RET Americas		118.037	145.488
Other payables including accruals		115.584	136.157
Commitments related to the projects		2.087.391	1.842.262
Local loans		546.250	511.143
Local loans subordinated		-	500.000
Total liabilities		3.862.224	4.141.432
Capital of the Foundation / Unrestricted funds			
Capital of the Foundation – at incorporation		50.000	50.000
Surplus/(deficit)		279.779	(72.839)
Total unrestricted funds		329.779	(22.839)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS		**4.192.002**	**4.118.592**

Statements of Financial Performance

Statement of financial performance for the 12 months period ended December 31, 2021

(with comparative figures for the 15 months period ended December 31, 2020)

		2021	2020
		USD	USD
		12 months	15 months
REVENUES			
Restricted income	**5**	10.455.968	10.682.424
Unrestricted income	**6**	984.152	819.779
Total income		11.440.119	11.502.203
EXPENSES BY OPERATIONS			
Operations	**7**	(8.587.168)	(9.168.826)
Development, External Relations & Administration	**7**	(2.042.695)	(2.350.966)
Total expenses		(10.629.863)	(11.519.792)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		**810.256**	**(17.589)**
FINANCIAL RESULTS			
Interest income on deposits		504	1.684
(Losses)/gains on currency conversion		(80.825)	37.980
Bank fees and interest expense		(28.298)	(39.523)
Net financial result		(108.619)	141
RESULT FOR THE YEAR BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES PRIOR YEARS		**701.637**	**(17.448)**
EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES PRIOR YEARS	**8**	(349.019)	(85.337)
RESULT FOR THE YEAR		**352.618**	**(102.785)**

Statements of Changes Surplus/Deficit

Statement of changes in surplus/(deficit) as at December 31, 2021

(with comparative figures as of December 31, 2020)

	2021 USD 12 months	2020 USD 15 months
Surplus /(deficit)		
(Deficit)/Surplus beginning of the year	(72.840)	29.945
Result for the year	352.618	(102.785)
Surplus/(Deficit) end of the year	**279.779**	**(72.840)**

Cash Flow Statement

Cash flow statement for the period ended December 31, 2021
(with comparative figures as of December 31, 2020)

	2021 USD 12 months	2020 USD 15 months
Cash received from subsidies and donations		
Unrestricted income - Private donations	517.532	12.691
Unrestricted income - Other revenues	174.949	808.771
Restricted income - Subsidies from governments	10.969.808	10.636.139
Total of the cash received from subsidies and donations	11.662.289	11.457.602
Cash movement related to the programme operations		
Colombia	-	(460.990)
Belize	(86.673)	-
Costa Rica	(2.058.339)	(2.831.252)
Ecuador	-	(384.760)
Panama	(1.303.706)	(1.543.845)
Peru	(482.756)	(432.824)
Venezuela	(3.179.115)	(823.309)
Mauritania	(622.024)	(113.449)
Mexico	(13.062)	(1.756.673)
Burundi	(570.260)	(542.804)
DRC	-	(68.601)
Kenya	-	(108)
Turkey	(271.234)	(927.373)
Total cash expensed on projects	(8.587.168)	(9.885.987)
Cash payments related to the direction & support function		
General and administrative expenses	(2.365.583)	(2.528.704)
Prepayments, accruals and accounts payable	(20.572)	(644.478)
Total cash payments related to the direction and support function	(2.386.155)	(3.173.182)
Cash from investing operations		
Acquisition of fixed assets	-	(123.736)
Cash from financing operations		
Net Interest	(27.794)	(37.839)
Line of credit	(11.422)	290.940
Local loans	(464.893)	1.011.143
	(504.109)	1.264.244
Exchange results	(80.825)	37.980
Net Cash movements	**104.033**	**(423.080)**
Cash and equivalent beginning of the period	598.515	1.021.595
Cash and equivalent at the end of the period	**702.547**	**598.515**

Notes to the Financial Statements
As at December 31, 2021

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, 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) and with the appropriate UN agency partners, such as UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, UNESCO, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP 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., using 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 headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and registered in various other countries, as a non-profit legal entity in Afghanistan, Belize, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, South Sudan, Turkey, and Venezuela. We are awaiting additional registrations of RET International in Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Peru. RET is operational by partnering with/supporting other registered INGOs and local NGOs in Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Mauritania, Peru, Niger and Mali.

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 internally. Financial statements are audited by MOORE STEPHENS REFIDAR 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, and once again, on June 2nd, 2021, for an indefinite period or perpetually, i.e., une durée indeterminée.

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 January 1st to December 31st.

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.

5. Restricted Income

Restricted Income	Project Location	Note	2021 USD 12 months	2020 USD 15 months
GOVERNMENTS				
Germany ECHO	Venezuela	5a	-	163.804
Liechtenstein MOFA	Turkey	5b	389.347	147.611
Luxembourg MOFA	DR Congo	5c	-	54.000
Swiss SDC	Costa Rica	5d	-	739.163
Swiss SDC	Venezuela	5e	300.403	5.921
CARSI	Costa Rica	5f	125.749	217.489
U.S. AID – OFDA	Panama	5g	926.158	246.581
U.S. AID – OFDA	Venezuela	5h	2.813.580	971.354
U.S. AID – OFDA	Peru	5i	653.538	540.872
U.S. JTIP	Belize	5j	110.450	-
U.S. State Department BPRM	Mauritania	5k	1.076.511	648.685
Canada	Colombia	5l	-	276.000
			6.395.735	**4.011.480**
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS				
UNHCR/ACNUR	Costa Rica	5aa	2.126.524	2.170.675
UNHCR DAFI	Burundi	5bb	363.759	238.635
UNHCR	Mexico	5cc	-	2.014.956
UNHCR	Panama	5dd	77.681	134.854
UNHCR	Venezuela	5ee	54.530	-
UNICEF	Costa Rica	5ff	162.197	-
UNICEF	Turkey	5gg	-	701.617
UNICEF	Ecuador	5hh	-	286.304
UNICEF	Panama	5ii	207.556	227.879
UNICEF	Mexico	5jj	-	100.994
UNICEF	Venezuela	5kk	242.240	21.249
UN Women	Turkey	5ll	-	123.742
OIM	Ecuador	5mm	-	114.110
WFP	Venezuela	5nn	169.131	-
UARIV	Colombia	5oo	16.249	153.600
			3.419.867	**6.288.614**
Other Donors				
Carpe Vitam International	Burundi		263.761	358.560
HQ Income RET Americas Projects	Various		376.605	-
Julia Taft	Kenya		-	23.769
			640.366	**382.329**
			10.455.968	**10.682.424**

RESTRICTED INCOME
Governments

5a Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations -European Commission (ECHO) - Venezuela
The project "Direct assistance in health and education to the most vulnerable populations -especially children, adolescent girls and women- affected by the Venezuelan Crisis in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador," implemented between July 2020 and October 2021, was implemented in partnership with the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations -European Commission (ECHO), in collaboration with Plan International in Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador.

5b Government of Liechtenstein MOFA – Turkey (3 Projects)
The two projects "Local Women' Socio-Economic Empowerment and Performing Arts Centre as a tool for Social Cohesion and Youth Empowerment" were implemented between August 2021 & July 2021, and May 2021 & December 2021, and were funded by the Government of Liechtenstein and implemented by RET in Turkey.

The project "LEILA - Turkish and English Language Learning Program as a tool for Empowerment and Social Cohesion" implemented between January 2020 and December 2021, was funded by the Government of Liechtenstein, and implemented by RET in Turkey.

5c Luxembourg MOFA – DR Congo
The project "Demobilization of Adolescents Associated with Armed Groups through Provision of Rehabilitation and Reintegration Support in North Kivu" implemented between January 2020 and December 2020 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.

5d Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)- Costa Rica
The project "Response to the migration crisis of the Nicaraguan refugee population and asylum seeker" was implemented between December 2020 and March 2021, was funded by the Swiss Cooperation in Central América (SDC) and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.

5e Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) – Venezuela
The project "Humanitarian response in the sectors of Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition and Food Assistance; Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in six states of Venezuela" implemented between November 2020 and July 2022, is funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Swiss Embassy and implemented by RET in two states in Venezuela: Sucre and Bolivar.

5f U.S. Department of State - Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) – INL - Costa Rica
The project "Building Local Governments Capacity to prevent and provide services to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Survivors" implemented between October 2020 and September 2022, was funded by the U.S. Department of State's Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI), the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Office (INL) and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.

5g The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA/ OFDA) - Panama (2 projects)
The project "Strengthening comprehensive disaster risk management at the local level in Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic" implemented between October 2020 and September 2022, was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) (Formerly known as U.S Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)) and implemented by RET in Panama.

The project "Strengthening Disaster Risk Preparedness in Panama and Mexico" implemented between October 2021 and September 2024, was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) (Formerly known as U.S Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)) and implemented by RET in Panama Mexico.

5h The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA/ OFDA) – Venezuela
These project "Humanitarian Assistance Response in the areas of Agriculture and Food Security; Health; and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, to populations affected by the deepening of the socioeconomic crisis and collapse of basic service in 5 states of Venezuela" implemented between October 2020 & March 2022 was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) (Formerly known as U.S Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)) and implemented by RET in Venezuela.

5i The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA/ OFDA) - Peru
The project "Humanitarian Response to COVID-19 in three regions of Peru" implemented between August 2020 and January 2021, was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) (Formerly known as U.S Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)) and implemented by RET in Peru.

5j U.S. Department of State – JTIP – Belize
The Project "Shelters with Adequate Functioning for an Effective response to human trafficking in Belize (SAFE Belize), implemented between July 2021 and July 2024, is funded by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the United States Department and implemented by RET in Belize.

5k U.S. State Department - BPRM – Mauritania
The two projects "Building Educational Resilience of Vulnerable Out-of-School Youth & Adolescents in Mbera Refugee Camp, Mauritania," were implemented between September 2020 & September 2021, and September 2021 & September 2022, were funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Mauritania.

5l Canada IHA - Colombia
The project "Addressing the basic humanitarian and protection needs of new internally displaced people in Colombia" implemented between April 2019 and August 2020, was funded by The Government of Canada, the International Humanitarian Assistance Division (IHA), and implemented by RET in Colombia.

Intergovernmental Organizations

5aa UNHCR/ACNUR – Costa Rica
The project "Responding to the specific needs of refugees and asylum seekers in Costa Rica" completed between March 2021 and December 2021, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Costa Rica.

5bb UNHCR/DAFI – Burundi
The two projects "Higher Education DAFI Scholarships" implemented between January 2021 & December 2021, and September 2021 and May 2022, were funded by the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and implemented by RET in Burundi.

5cc UNHCR – Mexico
The projects "Improving local integration opportunities for Refugees and Asylum Seekers" completed between January 2019 - December 2019, and January 2020 -June 2020 and July 2020 -December 2020, were implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Mexico.

5dd UNHCR - Panama
The project "Promotion of access to rights and local integration of young migrants and refugees" completed between July 2021 and December 2021, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Panama.

5ee UNHCR – Venezuela
The project "Promoting empowerment, participation, and community outreach (2021)" implemented between April 2021 and October 2021, is implemented in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner (UNHCR) and RET in Venezuela.

5ff UNICEF – Costa Rica
The project "Developing a model of work between DGME, MEP and PANI to regularize children and adolescents that are registered in the education system" completed between January 2021 and March 2021, is implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and implemented by RET in Costa Rica.

5gg UNICEF – Türkiye
The projects "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) were implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Türkiye.

5hh UNICEF - ECW – Ecuador
The project "Improving access to quality Education for Venezuelan Refugees and migrants and Host Communities" completed between November 2019 and November 2020, was implemented in partnership with Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Ecuador.

5ii UNICEF - Panama
The project "Protection services for migrant/refugee children and adolescents and their families in Panama during the COVID-19 pandemic and post-COVID" completed between April 2021 and December 2021, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Panama.

5jj 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" completed between November 2019 and February 2020, was implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Mexico.

5kk UNICEF – Venezuela
The project "Improved access to essential WASH services in households, health facilities, schools, and vulnerable communities" completed between January 2020 and December 2020, was implemented in partnership with the United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF) in Venezuela.

5ll UN Women - Türkiye
The project "Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Turkey" 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) in Türkiye.

5mm International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Ecuador
The project "Implementation of Friendly Spaces and Psycho-social Support for children and adolescents in human mobility" completed between October 2019 and June 2020, was implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ecuador.

5nn WFP- Venezuela
The project "School feeding for children under six years of age" implemented between July 2021 and September 2021, is implemented in partnership with the World Food Program and RET in Venezuela.

5oo UARIV/Government of Colombia - Colombia
The "International Cooperation Agreement No. 1248 signed between the Unit for the Victims Assistance and Reparation and RET" aimed to facilitate the access services for the "victims of the internal armed conflict" (in exile) and the returnees in Colombia. This project, implemented between September 2020 and December 2020, was funded by the Unit for the Victims Assistance and Reparation, and implemented by RET in Colombia and regional level.

Other Donors

5aaa Carpe Vitam International - Burundi - Two projects
The project "Improving the income generation and self-reliance prospects of youth through targeted capacity-building and vocational training – Phase III" implemented between January 2021 and December 2021, was funded by Foundation Carpe Vitam International and implemented by RET in Burundi.

5bbb - HQ Income RET Americas Projects

5ccc Julia TAFT - Kenya
The project "Bridging the Digital Divide to Develop Livelihoods," was implemented between September 2019 and October 2020 is funded by the U.S. Embassy in Kenya, the Julia Taft Fund, and implemented by RET in Kenya.

6. Unrestricted income

Unrestricted income	2021 USD 12 months	2020 USD 15 months
Private Donors		
Other – individuals*	508.527	11.053
Other Revenues	9.005	1.638
Interco participations		
RET Americas	150.000	150.000
RET Germany e.V.	316.619	657.087
Total unrestricted income	984.152	819.779
* Madame Z. Gündüz	7.027	7.049
Madame G. Koc	1.500	-
Other Board Members	500.000	-
Mme Anne-Shelton Mobley-Aaron	-	1.096
Paypal	-	2.908
	508.527	11.053

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 2020 and 2021:

	2021 USD 12 months	2020 USD 15 months
Expenses related to the projects		
Colombia	-	465.121
Belize	86.673	-
Costa Rica	2.058.339	2.756.024
Ecuador	-	384.760
Panama	1.303.706	693.172
Peru	482.756	379.286
Venezuela	3.179.115	835.153
Mauritania	622.024	113.225
Mexico	13.062	1.998.669
Burundi	570.260	544.585
DRC	-	68.601
Kenya	-	23.769
Turkey	271.234	906.461
Total expenses related to the projects	**8.587.168**	**9.168.825**
Direction and support		
Salaries and social charges	1.682.977	1.637.222
Other expenses related to personnel	30.648	18.701
Travel and representation expenses	24.130	46.560
Audit, accounting and legal fees	135.866	262.388
Other administrative expenses	142.941	354.761
Depreciation on fixed assets	26.132	31.334
Total direction and support	**2.042.695**	**2.350.966**
Total expenses by nature	**10.629.863**	**11.519.791**

8. a) Operating Result for the Year

During fiscal year 2021, RET International reports an Operating Surplus of USD 810,256. This is a rebound from the challenging environment which was experienced during the previous year post Covid-19 pandemic emergence. The total income reduced to USD 11.1 million compared to total income of USD 11.5 million in the previous 15 months period.

	2021 USD 12 months	2020 USD 15 months
Surplus /(deficit)		
(Deficit)/Surplus beginning of the year	(72.840)	29.945
Result for the year	352.618	(102.785)
Surplus/(Deficit) end of the year	**279.779**	**(72.840)**

The financial results reflecting currency losses and bank interest and fees reduced the Operating surplus by USD 108,619. Thus, the Result for the Year is a surplus of USD 352,618. The extra-ordinary expenses relate to NICRA refunds to the US Government amounting to USD 349,019 during FY 2021.

b) Going Concern

With the foregoing results for the fiscal year 2021, RET management holds the opinion that the going concern of the organisation remains solid for the forth coming 12 months. As at the date of this reporting, the organisation has continued its normal operations in the field as well as in its HQ and continues to fund raise for the future growth of its humanitarian and development activities.

Based on the financial projections for the FY 2022, as well as the results from the management accounts for 2022, the Board is of the opinion that the going concern of RET International is on solid grounds for the 12 months from the date of this report.

9. Investments for Future Programmes

As has been the norm in its operations, RET International continues to make future investments by conducting Fact Finding Missions, 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. The amortised amount for the fiscal year 2021 was USD 24,747.

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 CHF 20'000, plus interest, is held in an account by BCGE to guarantee the lease of the RET International's headquarters at 34 Rue de Saint Jean, Geneva, Switzerland. All assets (including a fixed deposit of USD 500,000) held at BCGE serve as guarantee against USD 1 million line of credit (overdraft facility).

12. Related Parties

The composition of RET International changed after 2018, where the portions that relate to what became effectively RET Germany and RET Americas in 2019, 2020, and thereafter, were removed from the accounting and audited Financial Statements of RET International, as of 2019, 2020 and thereafter. RET Germany and RET Americas are legally separate entities incorporated in Germany and the USA respectively.

At the end of each financial year, the management consolidates the results for the three organisations and presents these in the annual report of the RET Alliance. The consolidated annual results give the full picture of the performance of the alliance as well as the projections for the coming fiscal period. However, there is no legal entity registered by the name 'RET Alliance', the presentations made by management are intended for disclosure purposes only.

Since January 1, 2019, all ongoing EU projects from October 1, 2018 onwards are managed in the accounts of RET Germany. RET International always intervenes on these projects and invoices the expenses of the HQ in accordance with the contracts of the various projects.

As much as it is actually due to Germany, most of these balances will be repaid in the course of the year and during the normal intern-company transfers and recharges. Management control in place is to ensure that no organization owes the other for more than the duration of a fiscal period, without having made a refund (through inter-co transaction). There is an intention to avoid significant balances between the alliance members and for each organization to only recharge limited personnel costs especially for the management staff who work across the three RET partners.

Additionally, there are Management Agreements in place between RET International and RET Americas. Depending on the operational circumstances for each signed award, RET management, in consultation with the donor, decides on which legal entity to implement the projects on the ground. The resulting management costs are invoiced to the appropriate organisation appropriately.

All inter-company balances are considered payable and receivable accordingly by the respective Board of each of the RET Alliance members, i.e. RET Germany, RET International and RET Americas. Specifically, the outstanding balances from RET Germany in the FY 2021 amounting to USD 1,063,870 is considered recoverable by the Board of both organizations. The payable balance to RET Americas by RET International amounting to USD118,037 is

considered recoverable by RET Americas.

13. 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. In addition, typically projects include a risk assessment outlined and presented to donors in the proposal submission stage.

14. Number of Staff

During FY 2021, the Foundation employed an average of 6 persons for the year in Geneva, Switzerland headquarters. Throughout the FY 2021, the total number of employees in the organization varied within a range of 400- 500 depending on the project needs at different times in the field.

15. Liabilities towards Leasing Contracts (with a residual duration of more than 12 months after the end of the fiscal year)

The foundation holds no debt in leasing contracts for fiscal year 2021.

During the year, the Foundation benefited from Local loans provided by local benefactors amounting to USD 546,250.

16. Auditor Fees

The auditor fee for fiscal year 2021 was USD 18,996 (2020: USD 18,000

17. Liabilities towards Employee Benefits Institutions

The Foundation did not hold any debts towards employee benefits institutions during fiscal year 2021 (2020: Nil).

MOORE

Moore Stephens Refidar SA
Avenue de France 23
Case Postale 90
1211 Genève 20
T +41 (0)58 911 86 00
F +41 (0)58 911 86 97
geneva@moore.swiss
www.moore.swiss

Report of the statutory auditors
on the financial statements
to the Foundation Board Meeting of
RET INTERNATIONAL
Geneva

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, income statement, cash flow statement and notes for the year ended 31 December 2021. The audit of the prior year financial statements was performed by another auditor who expressed an unmodified examination conclusion on those financial statements on 29 July 2022.

Board of Foundation's Responsibility
The Board of Foundation is responsible for the preparation of the 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 Board 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 the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are 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 the 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 31 December 2021 comply with Swiss law and the Foundation's statutes.

MOORE

Report on Other Legal Requirements

We confirm that we meet the legal requirements on licensing according to the Auditor Oversight Act (AOA) and independence (article 728 CO and article 11 AOA) and that there are no circumstances incompatible with our independence.

In accordance with article 728a paragraph 1 item 3 CO and Swiss Auditing Standard 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of financial statements according to the prescriptions of the Board of Directors.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

The Board Meeting did not convene within six months of the end of the financial year, which is contrary to the requirements of article 699 Swiss Code of Obligations in conjunction with article 83b paragraph 3 Swiss Civil Code.

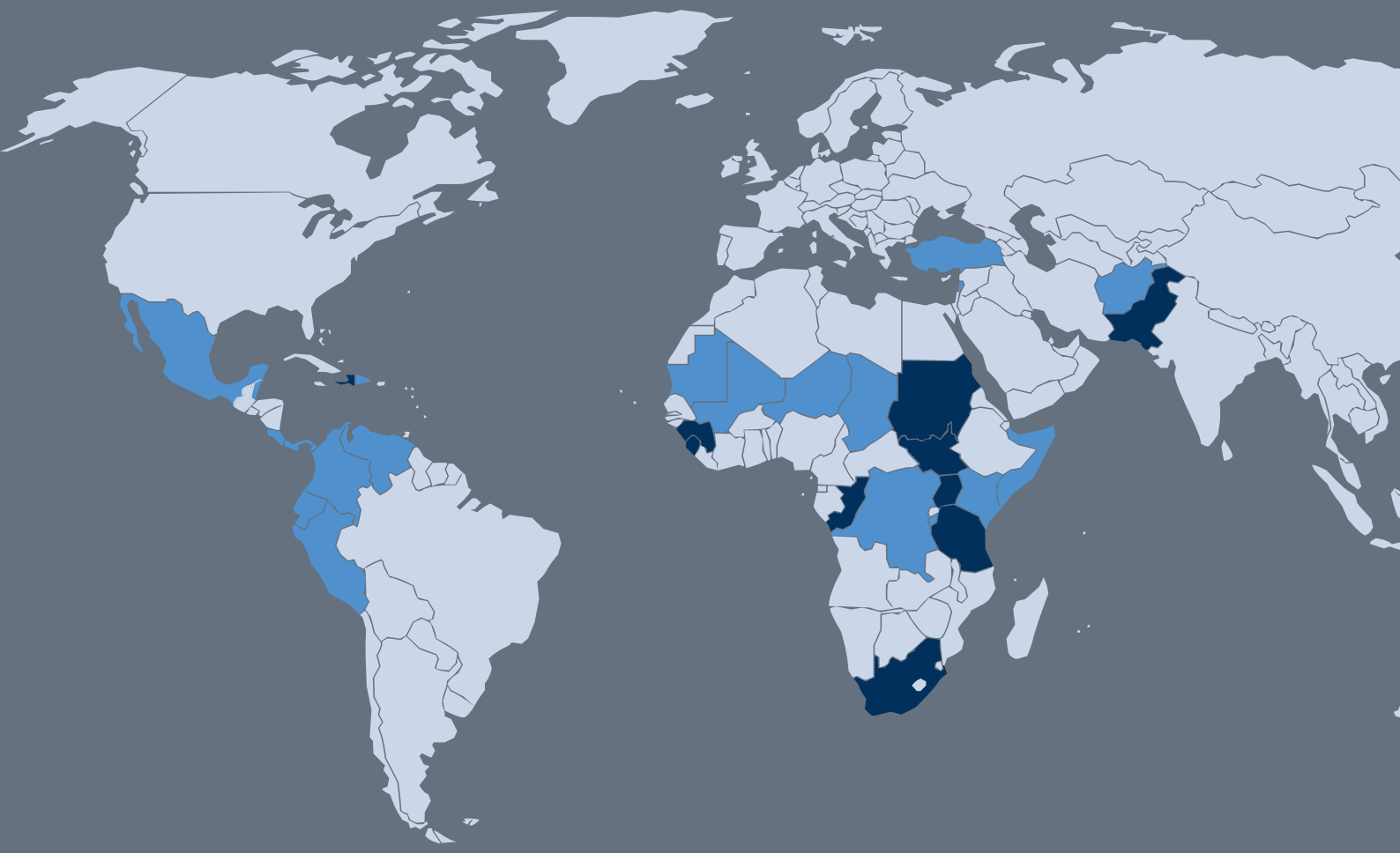
Geneva, 2 May 2023

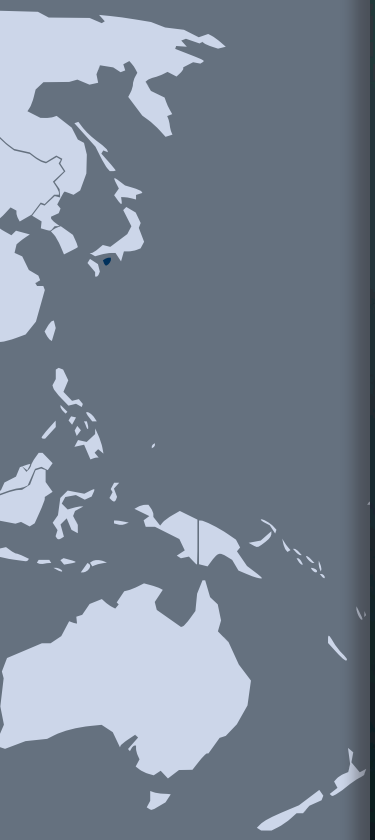
MOORE STEPHENS REFIDAR SA

Patrick Baer
Licensed Audit Expert
Auditor in charge

Angelo Musaro
Licensed Audit Expert

Enclosures:
- Financial statements (balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement and 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 2021 ©

Bridging the Gaps

RET

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

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info@theRET.org
theRET.org

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