



Bridging the Gaps

RET



2023

ANNUAL REPORT



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ALLIANCES AND SUPPORT

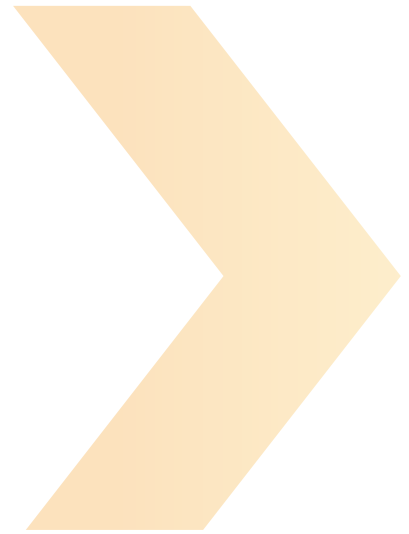
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OVERVIEW



OUR MISSION



Since our founding in 2000, we've worked in more than 34 countries, implementing over 450 projects, providing critical protection and education programs to build the resilience and self-reliance of women, girls, and youth.

Our mission is to alleviate suffering and catalyze sustainable development in crises, conflicts, and fragile contexts.

We provide humanitarian assistance during emergencies, in protracted crises, and in fragile environments, which can relieve the deepest sufferings.

We work with groups made vulnerable by violence, armed conflicts, and disasters – from adolescents and youth in refugee camps to displaced communities in urban and rural settings – to bridge the gaps and respond to the real needs and challenges of the communities.

At the same time, by providing the tools to become self-reliant, provide for their families, and become actors of positive social change, we build people's resilience.

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear friends of RET,

As an organization, we accomplished much in 2023, despite facing numerous challenges. We continued to uphold our mission of aiding and supporting vulnerable communities around the world, and I present to you our annual report, highlighting our achievements and outlining our plans for the year ahead.

First, looking back on 2023, our organization was tested in several ways:

- In February, a devastating earthquake struck Türkiye, leaving communities reeling from the destruction. Our dedicated teams swiftly mobilized, providing crucial aid and support to those affected. Through our presence on the ground and coordinated response efforts, we were able to assist in the recovery process and offer hope to those in despair.
- In July, a coup in Niger threatened the stability of the region. Despite the challenges posed by the unfolding situation, we remained steadfast in our commitment to the people of Niger and continued to provide services and support, ensuring that our presence remained a beacon of hope in uncertain times.
- In October, renewed conflict in Gaza highlighted the importance and urgency of our work in Lebanon. Recognizing the increased need for assistance, RET redoubled our efforts to support vulnerable communities in Lebanon, providing vital resources and aid to those affected by the crisis.
- Furthermore, in Darién in Latin America, over half a million individuals traversed this treacherous zone in 2023 – the largest migration flow on record. RET continued working with the most vulnerable, providing educational programs and protection and health services, among others.

Amidst the challenges, there were also moments of triumph.

- In Mali, we celebrated a successful first year, marked by our support for community agriculture and vocational training programs. Our local partners are critical allies in ensuring the success of this multi-sector project.
- Likewise, our multi-sector program in Mauritania continued to thrive, emphasizing education and support for refugees and host communities. These successes serve as a testament to the enduring relevance of our mandate, which remains as vital today as it was a quarter-century ago.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are prepared to tackle new challenges and continue our vital work in communities around the world.

- This year will see many changes in governments through elections, and ongoing crises do not appear to be ending soon. As such, we remain vigilant, monitoring situations across Latin America, as well as in South Sudan and Chad, where the number of refugees and IDPs has grown to 7.5 million.
- The recovery efforts in Türkiye will continue for years to come, and RET remains committed to supporting non-Syrian refugees in underserved areas, in addition to our support to Syrian refugees and host communities.
- Our work in the DRC and Venezuela remains a top priority, as we continue to address these complex situations, which often overlooked by the media. By remaining there, we strive to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those affected by crisis and conflict.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, we will continue to focus on supporting vulnerable refugee and host communities, as well as people in flight and exile. Through education, livelihood, and protection projects, among others, we will strive to make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need.



In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support of RET. Together, we have made a difference in the lives of countless individuals and communities, and I am confident that with your continued support, we will continue to do so in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Zeynep G. Gündüz
President & CEO

2023 AT A GLANCE

We worked in

15

COUNTRIES

This included

48

ACTIVE PROJECTS

funded by

26

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS
AND GOVERNMENTS

We helped



285K program participants

and impacted



2.85M lives

of which



53%

were women and girls

OUR IMPACT SINCE FOUNDING

➤ **34**
Countries

➤ **450**
Projects

➤ **1,600**
Schools and
women's centers

➤ **2.5 million**
Program participants

➤ **55%**
Women participants

➤ **25 million**
Lives impacted by RET

➤ **260 million**
USD channeled to youth and women



Agissons ensemble
pour la protection
des Droits de l'Enfant
et la Continuité de sa
scolarisation

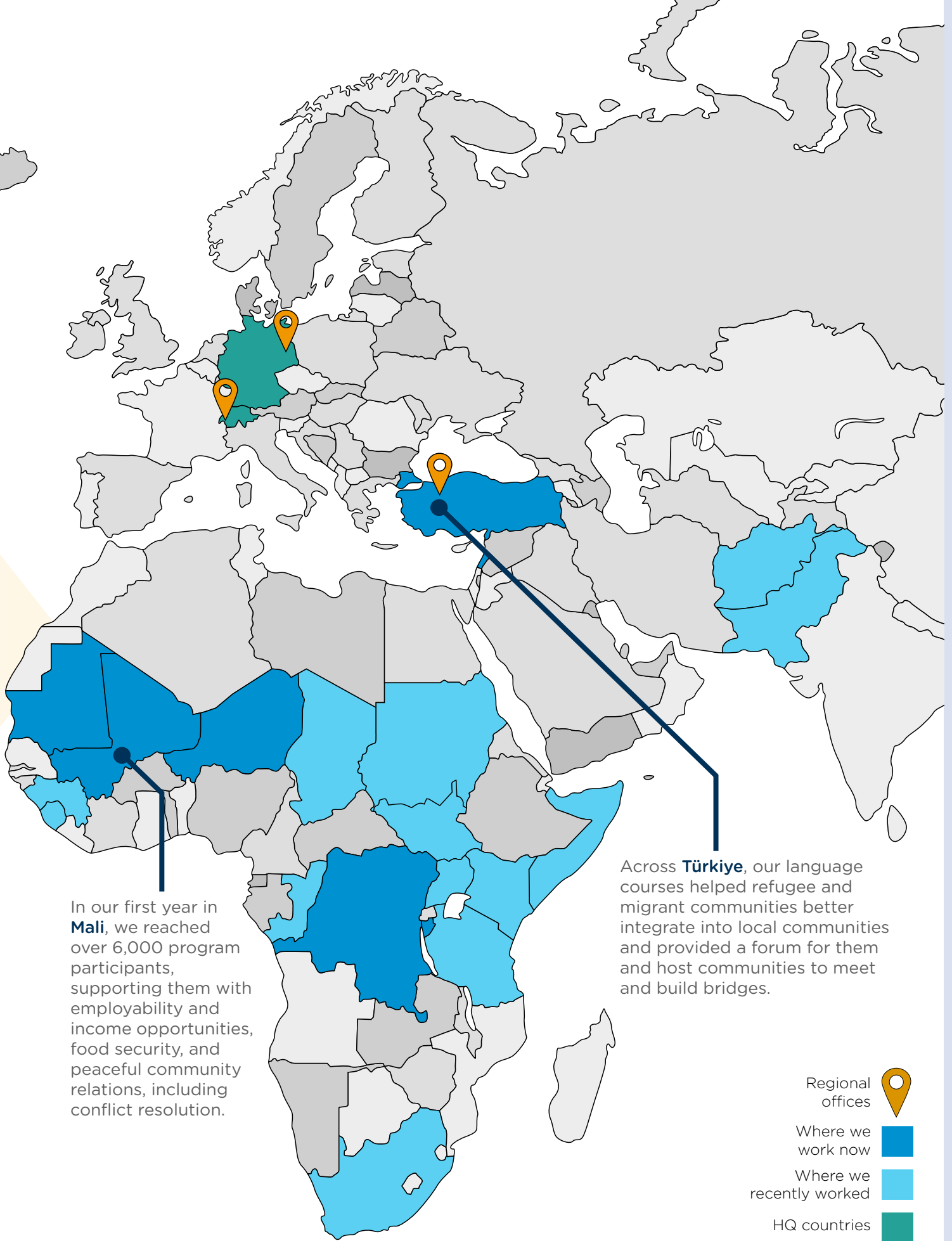
PROGRAMME
KOMEZAWIGI

A map of Central and South America. Mexico is colored teal, and Central American countries are colored blue. South American countries are colored light blue. A large orange location pin is placed in Mexico, and a smaller orange location pin is placed in Belize. Two dark blue lines with circular endpoints at the pins lead to text blocks. A large, light orange diagonal shape is in the background.

2023 AT A GLANCE

In **Mexico**, we continued work on a regional disaster risk preparedness program aimed at strengthening local entities and their Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (CDRM) processes.

Our SAFE **Belize** program is generating awareness about – and countermeasures against – human trafficking. In 2023, we developed a Standard Operating Procedures document for shelters and other accommodations for trafficking in persons.



COMMITMENT TO THE SDGs



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2015, serving as a global call to action to – among other aims – end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030, all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

We are committed to helping achieve these ambitious goals. From Quality Education (SDG 4) to Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), many of our projects cut across sectors and goals. Each of our country teams and the projects they're implementing are doing their part to help reach these goals.



PROGRAMS BY COUNTRY

BELIZE



405,272
POPULATION



6,984.20
GDP PER CAPITA (USD)

2015

RET began local
operations

13

Projects

5,000

Program
participants

50,000

Lives impacted



BELIZE

Our programs in Belize have focused on:



Democracy and governance



Economic growth and development



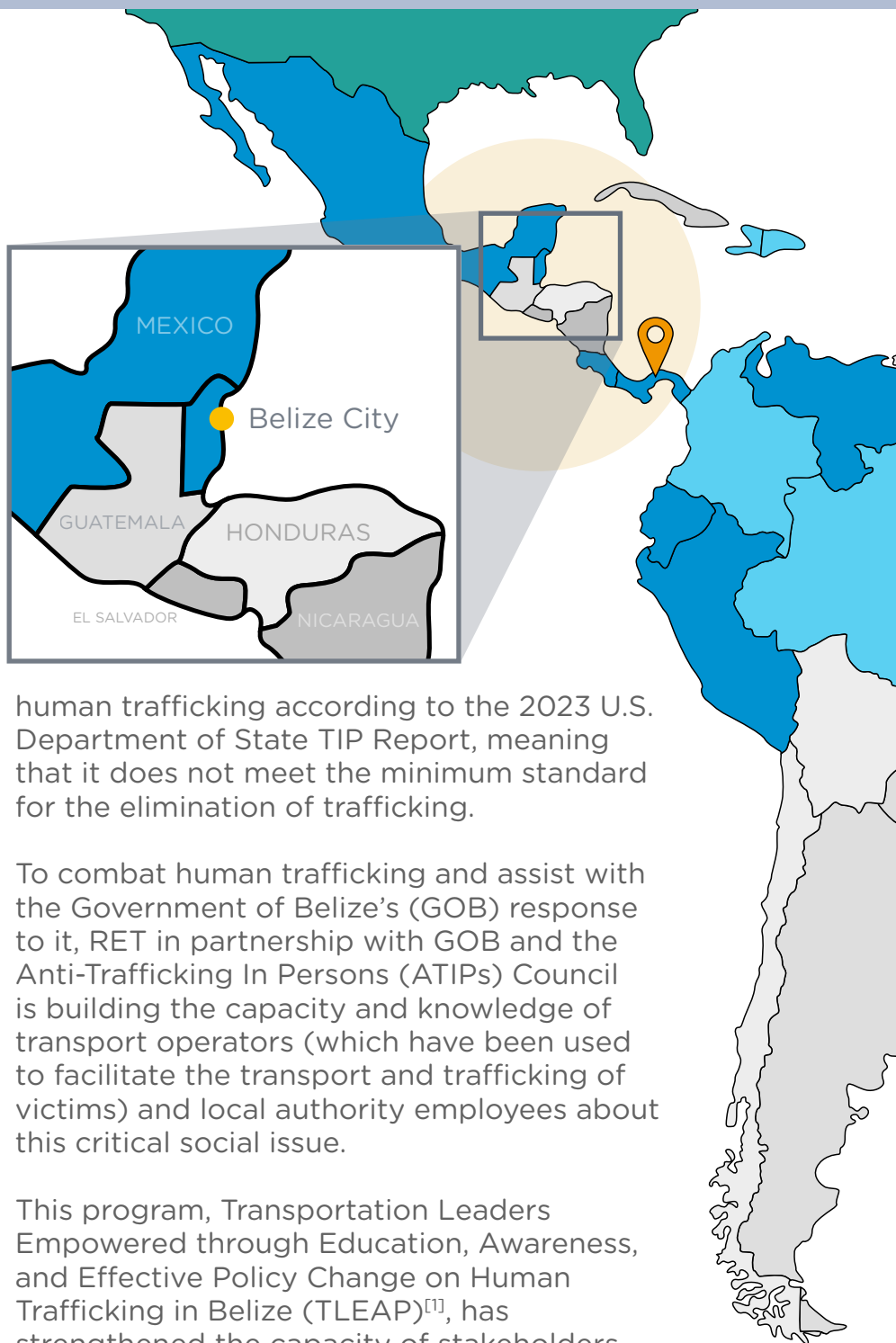
Health and WASH



Protection

Our presence in Belize has been growing steadily over the past years, and 2023 was no different. Situated in Central America and bordering Mexico and Guatemala, Belize has been a hub for migratory flows, especially for many women and child refugees seeking protection from violence in their own countries. This violence primarily stems from gang activities and is exacerbated by the drug route forcing itself through Central America.

As a small country, the influx of people has strained local systems and led to increased unemployment and decreased secondary school attendance rates. It's also endangered the current, limited opportunities that youth in the country are afforded and led to human trafficking. The country remains on the Tier 2 for



human trafficking according to the 2023 U.S. Department of State TIP Report, meaning that it does not meet the minimum standard for the elimination of trafficking.

To combat human trafficking and assist with the Government of Belize's (GOB) response to it, RET in partnership with GOB and the Anti-Trafficking In Persons (ATIPs) Council is building the capacity and knowledge of transport operators (which have been used to facilitate the transport and trafficking of victims) and local authority employees about this critical social issue.

This program, Transportation Leaders Empowered through Education, Awareness, and Effective Policy Change on Human Trafficking in Belize (TLEAP)^[1], has strengthened the capacity of stakeholders within the transportation Industry to identify and report suspected cases of human trafficking. It has deployed a comprehensive training program and contributed to Belizean governmental efforts in implementing the national antitrafficking information, education, and communication operational plan by raising awareness on human trafficking.



Furthermore, RET continues its targeted capacity building efforts through the Providing Tools to Healthcare Workers Through Education and Coordination to Eliminate Human Trafficking in Belize (PROTECT)^[2] which aims to raise awareness through the provision of a guidebook on identification, assessment and response to human trafficking in the health care setting and strengthen the capacity of 450 healthcare workers to identify and respond to suspected cases of human trafficking through e-learning and instructor-led training.



Our work in Belize has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 4
QUALITY
EDUCATION

SDG 5
GENDER
EQUALITY

SDG 8
DECENT WORK
AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH

SDG 16
PEACE, JUSTICE,
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

BELIZE



Through 2025, and complementing the efforts of TLEAP, RET’s “Shelters with Adequate Functioning for an Effective Response to Human Trafficking in Belize” (SAFE Belize) project^[3] is working to build institutional capacity in Belize to combat human trafficking. Highlights from 2023 include:

- Conducting wide-reaching consultations with more than 30 civil society organizations, spearheaded by RET and key partners resulted in the finalized standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- Launch of the “Standard Operating Procedures for Shelters and Other Accommodations for Survivors of Trafficking in Persons” document and presented and validated it with the Government of Belize. We will now work to support development of regulations for shelter operations and continue our work raising awareness about – and promoting countermeasures against – human trafficking in the country. This live document is now being used by shelters, stakeholders, and the government to standardize procedures within facilities catering to survivors of human trafficking.
- Organizing a walkathon in collaboration with a CSO coalition group and in partnership with Benque

Viejo Del Carmen Town Council, to commemorate World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (July).

- Actively engaging students and out-of-school youth from across Belize in October and November in knowledge-sharing on gender-based violence (GBV), violence against women and girls, and human trafficking as a part of the SAFE Belize project. These sessions culminated in the third annual Youth Panel Discussion that took place in Belize City in December.

[1] This multi-year project (2022–2024) is funded by the U.S. Embassy’s Central American Regional Security Initiative – Economic Support Fund (CARSI-ESF).

[2] This multi-year project (2023–2025) is funded by the U.S. Embassy’s Central American Regional Security Initiative – Economic Support Fund (CARSI-ESF).

[3] SAFE Belize is funded by the Department of State, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (JTIP).

BURUNDI



12,889,576
POPULATION



259.00
GDP PER CAPITA (USD)

2002

RET began local
operations

48

Projects

570,000

Program
participants

5,700,000

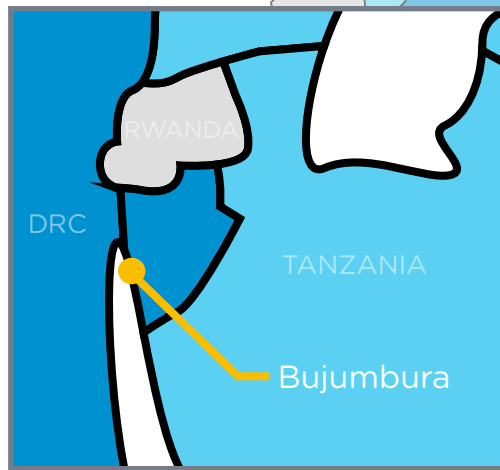
Lives impacted



BURUNDI

Our programs in Burundi have focused on:

-  Basic equipment and infrastructure
-  Democracy and governance
-  Economic growth and development
-  Education and capacity building
-  Peace, stability, and transition



Located in central Africa between Rwanda, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi has faced many challenges, and 2023 saw a further decline in the quality of life for its citizens. The country has been fragile following a series of conflicts that resulted in large-scale interethnic massacres and mass displacements. While a peace agreement was signed in 2000 and half a million Burundian refugees have returned to their country, this has created tensions between returnees and those that stayed in the country post-conflict.

RET has worked in the country for over two decades, and the situation remains tenuous. The World Bank estimates that chronic malnutrition causing stunting affects 55.8% of children under five and the poverty rate at 62% of the population (or those living on USD 2.15 or less). And according to UNESCO, “Burundi is facing a learning crisis” with learning poverty – or the share of children not able to read and understand age-appropriate context by age 10 – at a stunning 96%.

To enable the effective integration of young repatriates into the Burundian school system, RET began taking action in favor of Burundian refugees living in Tanzania in 2001. Between 2001 and 2005, we provided direct support to all secondary schools offering the Burundian curriculum in Kirundi and French in Ngara camps in Kigoma, as well as those located in the unprotected refugee camps not covered by UNHCR, from where many repatriates from 1972 originated, and who had adopted the Tanzanian curriculum in English and Swahili.

In 2023, we continued implementing KOMEZAWIGE^[1] (“Keep Studying” in Kirundi), a project that aims to improve education for crisis-affected children in Burundi. The main objective of this program has been to ensure inclusive, quality,



and equitable education, including in emergencies for girls and boys, and young people aged 3 to 18 years old. Ambitious in scope, it has targeted 300,000 children and prioritized vulnerable groups. It has rehabilitated classrooms, provided WASH facilities, reintegrated out-of-school children, offered cash-based assistance, and provided school meals. It has also included a teacher training and life skills component. Those life skills tie directly into another program: Enhancing income generation and self-sufficiency among young people.

RET has targeted over 2,000 young people ages 15–30, tapping into previous relationships with four youth centers and 24 youth associations, as well as new partnerships with four girls' committees and 12 additional youth associations. The project is intended to provide vocational training and capacity building, as well



Our work in Burundi has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 4
QUALITY
EDUCATION

SDG 5
GENDER
EQUALITY

SDG 8
DECENT WORK
AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH

SDG 9
INDUSTRY,
INNOVATION, AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

SDG 16
PEACE, JUSTICE,
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

as promotes access to credit and organizes forum discussions.

The vocational training includes certifications to enhance youth's employability and economic development. In addition to vocational training, French and English languages are offered to ensure that participants have the basic language skills to take advantage of all offered courses.^[2]

BURUNDI

To support program participants on their learning journey, we've worked with refugees in the Kinama Camp through an innovative program^[3] to help them access information and obtain computer skills. Through a multimedia center we've established, we now offer convenient access to computer literacy and a chance to connect with the world. The center has also conducted a training program, focusing on effectively utilizing social media to positively impact communities and enhance income-generating activities.

Through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI), we closely worked with refugees, and returnees to facilitate their professional integration by ensuring access to quality higher education that promises a bright future for the community. It specifically focused on young refugees living in various camps in Burundi (Kinama, Musasa, Bwagiriza, Kavumu, and Nyankanda), in urban areas, as well as on repatriated Burundians.^[4]



[1] KOMEZAWIGE is led by World Vision and UNICEF, funded by Education Cannot Wait (ECW), and will be implemented through December 2024.

[2] This project was funded by Carpe Vitam International and implemented by RET in Burundi beginning in March 2022 and concluding in February 2023.

[3] This project was implemented by RET between January 2022 and December 2023 in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Burundi.

[4] The Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) was implemented between January 2022 and December 2022 in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Burundi.

COSTA RICA



5,044,197
POPULATION



13,356.40
GDP PER CAPITA (USD)

2010

RET began local
operations

40

Projects

140,000

Program
participants

1,400,000

Lives impacted



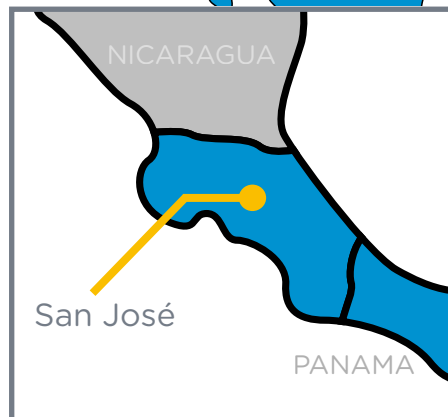
COSTA RICA

Our programs in Costa Rica have focused on:

-  Basic equipment and infrastructure
-  Disaster risk reduction and climate change
-  Economic growth and development
-  Education and capacity building
-  Health and WASH
-  Peace, stability, and transition
-  Protection

In Latin America, where governance is often unpredictable, Costa Rica is serves as a point of relative stability, with a well-functioning democracy and reliable governance. In recent years, the country has experienced economic growth, but the results have not been distributed evenly, creating a high level of inequality across the country.

The country also hosts a large proportion of refugees from Colombia, as well from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Cuba, and – since the onset of its economic crisis – Venezuela. In the past six years, Costa Rica has seen an increase in asylum seekers, with 90%



being Nicaraguans, and the remainder being Cubans, Salvadorians, and Colombians. In 2023, several restrictive legislative measures against migrants drastically reduced the number of applications for refugee status (from 86,788 in 2022 to 30,823 in 2023 – a 65% decrease).

For over a decade, RET has worked with the most vulnerable in Costa Rica, and in 2023, we continued work on two important projects in the country. We are working with state institutions to include methodologies for the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and thus strengthen the capacities of officials who provide services. Dubbed *Hacete Escuchar* (“Make Yourself Heard”), we are building capacity at the municipal and national levels better ensures that together we can develop a long-term, durable strategy to combat GBV in Costa Rica.^[1]

This project is being implemented in six provinces in Zona Norte and three provinces in Caribe. So far, around 8,000 public officials have received information regarding the communication campaign with 160 officials trained, two pilot projects implemented, and eight strategic plans



for the prevention and intervention of violence against women developed and implemented.

We also continue to work closely with UNHCR and IMAS (*Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social*, the Costa Rican government's social assistance ministry) to reach and assist the refugee populations, asylum seekers, and stateless individuals^[2]. We're augmenting the capacity of IMAS to manage the influx of requests received and are operational in six local units of social development in Upala, Los Chiles, Desamparados, Cartagos, SW (San Jose), and Heredia/Barrio Amon.

During our time operating in the country, we are proud to have built strong relationships with different governmental and non-governmental institutions, resulting in the trust of the state and civil society. We



Our work in Costa Rica has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 4
QUALITY
EDUCATION

SDG 5
GENDER
EQUALITY

SDG 8
DECENT WORK
AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH

SDG 10
REDUCED
INEQUALITIES

SDG 16
PEACE, JUSTICE,
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

have developed a solid relationship with not just the leaders of these institutions, but also staff at intermediate levels, which has ensured our work has a durable and lasting impact.

[1] This work is being implemented through a multiyear project (September 2022–August 2025) and is funded by the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Office (INL).

[2] RET has maintained a working agreement with IMAS since 2017, and this project is implemented with funding from UNHCR.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



99,010,212
POPULATION



653.70
GDP PER CAPITA (USD)

2012

RET began local
operations

19

Projects

55,765

Program
participants

557,650

Lives impacted



DRC

Our programs in DRC have focused on:

-  Economic growth and development
-  Education and capacity building
-  Gender equality and social inclusion
-  Health and WASH
-  Food security and Nutrition
-  Peace, stability, and transition
-  Protection

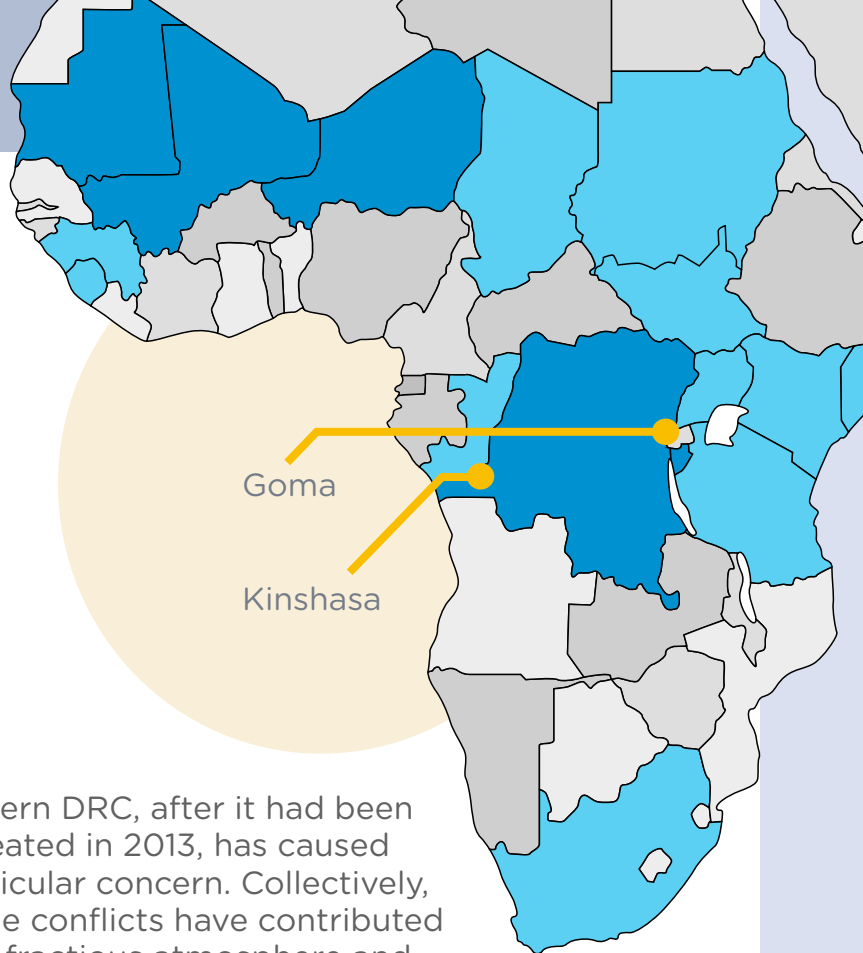
The Democratic Republic of Congo, abbreviated as DRC, is a central African country and home to the largest Francophone population in the world – approximately 72 million people speak the language. While extremely rich in natural resources like cobalt and copper, political instability, corruption, a lack of infrastructure, especially after centuries of colonial extraction, have left the sprawling country severely underdeveloped. An estimated 74.6% of its citizens live in extreme poverty (less than USD 2.15 per day).

The eastern part of DRC has been insecure for many years, including during the civil wars in the 1990s. The reemergence of the M23 rebel group in 2021 in

eastern DRC, after it had been defeated in 2013, has caused particular concern. Collectively, these conflicts have contributed to a fractious atmosphere and several challenging factors, including the large-scale use of child soldiers, forced labor, and frequently, violence against women and children.

Since 2012, RET has directly supported more than 55,765 participants in DRC (20% of them women) through 19 projects. This has included the critical but fraught effort to demobilize and rehabilitate some 1,177 ex-combatants, and in our estimation, has impacted more than 557,650 indirect beneficiaries.

RET has been implementing a multi-year project (2021-2024) focused on improving the food security and nutrition situation in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu.^[1] This has included efforts by RET to educate a wide demographic – from demobilized child soldiers and youth formerly



DRC

associated with armed groups to the Indigenous Batwa population, female heads of households, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) – on how to self-produce food as smallholder farmers and sustainably manage natural resources.

Food security remains a critical issue in conflict-affected regions of eastern DRC, and since 2021, this intervention has established and guided 28 agricultural cooperatives, which serve as hubs for activities producing food for consumption and for sale and engaging in Income Generating activities and impact of VSLAs that has seen a significant number of project/program participants being food secure and able to generate revenue that contributed to better education, housing and health of families.



Our work in DRC has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 2
ZERO HUNGER

SDG 3
GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING

SDG 4
QUALITY
EDUCATION

SDG 5
GENDER
EQUALITY

SDG 8
DECENT WORK
AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH

SDG 10
REDUCED
INEQUALITIES

SDG 16
PEACE, JUSTICE,
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS





By providing training and resources, we empower local farmers with the knowledge and tools needed to increase agricultural productivity. We've also implemented Village Peace Committees (*communautés de paix villageoises*, or CVP) to foster peaceful relations and inclusive coexistence between ethnic groups and integrate stigmatized, vulnerable, and traumatized groups, especially youth ex-combatants and indigenous Batwa, into the local community and economy. The CVPs have been instrumental in resolving over 500 disputes, 80+% which are land resource related.

During its three-year implementation period, this project will directly affect 6,200 program participants and impact 40,000 in total. To ensure its durability, the project includes an element of psychosocial support, which has so far sensitized 4,800 smallholder farmers and family members on mental health issues and existing psychosocial support services. It's also supported 10% of the smallholder farmers (120 people) with home visits conducted by a psychologist and/or psychosocial workers – all aimed at promoting their integration into local communities.

[1] This project 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 (Action des Ex-Combattants Pour l'Encadrement des Jeunes et la lutte contre l'enrôlement des enfants et les violence 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 Population Forestières).

ECUADOR



18,001,000

POPULATION



6,391.30

GDP PER CAPITA (USD)



2005

RET began local operations

177,000

Program participants

39

Projects

1,770,000

Lives impacted

ECUADOR

Our programs in Ecuador have focused on:

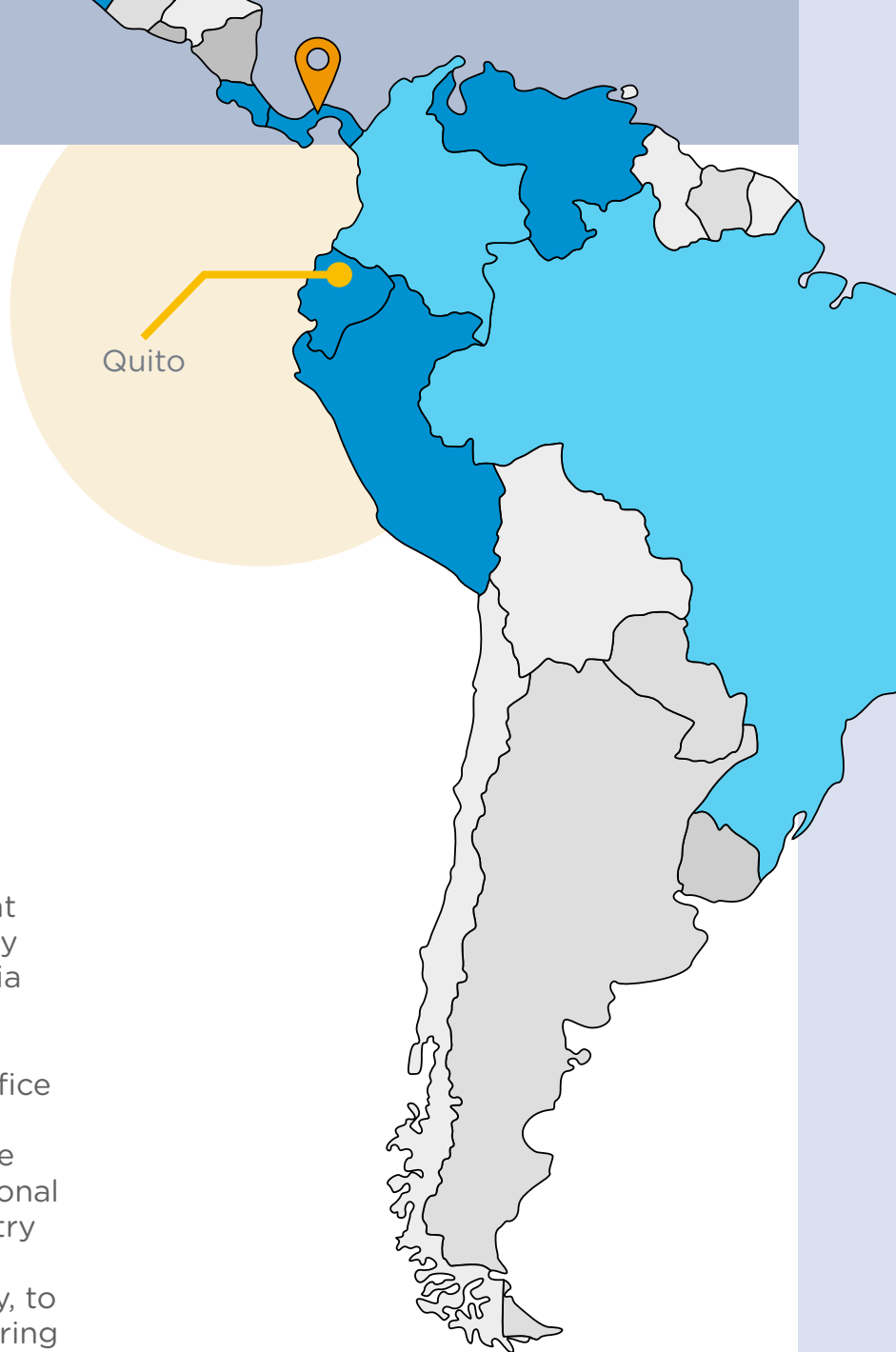
-  Economic growth and development
-  Education and capacity building
-  Disaster risk reduction and climate change
-  Protection
-  Youth empowerment

Sharing borders with Colombia to the north and Peru to its east and south, Ecuador has, in recent years, been the recipient of many displaced peoples from Colombia and Venezuela. RET has been working in the country for two decades (we opened the first office in Quito in 2005), and we have worked to establish and promote channels to support the educational system in the country. The country faces a slew of challenges, from political and economic instability, to increasing violence which is filtering into communities at all levels (the country surpassed all records for violence), and a poor health care system that leaves many vulnerable. It's no wonder, then, why it's been such a critical mission of ours to support education in the country.

We have provided opportunities to displaced youth – particularly Colombian refugees – to reduce the education gap by addressing accessibility, safety and quality, and post- primary education. We have been a part of the Working Group

for Migrants and Refugees (GTRM) led by UNHCR and IOM since 2018. And in 2022, we co-led the Education Working Group (EWG) alongside UNESCO and UNICEF.

In 2023, we continued implementing a Multiyear Resilience Program (MYRP) in partnership with Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and UNESCO^[1]. This project has included RET's own methodology "Active Search," which aims to support to



families and ensure the inclusion of children and adolescents who are outside the national education system in the provinces of Pichincha, Carchi, Imbabura, Manabí, Guayas, El Oro and Azuay. It includes identification and territorial tracking, the provision of information, and the registration and systematization of records.

This project aims to ensure the educational inclusion of Venezuelan refugee and migrant children and vulnerable host communities. This includes:

- Access, permanence, learning and promotion of the education system
- Responding to the needs and gaps identified
- Comprehensive support programs for children and adolescents at risk of dropping out of the educational system,
- Permanent spaces for reinforcement, leveling and pedagogical support,
- Family follow-up and psychosocial care
- Integration programs for children and adolescents in human mobility and vulnerable host communities

The project has also focused on protection, prevention of gender-based violence and discrimination, diversity, and creating a culture of peace.

[1] The multiyear project was implemented between October 2022 and September 2023, in partnership with Education Cannot Wait (ECW) in Ecuador.



Our work in Ecuador has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 4
QUALITY EDUCATION

SDG 5
GENDER EQUALITY

SDG 16
PEACE, JUSTICE, AND
STRONG INSTITUTIONS

LEBANON



5,489,739

POPULATION



4,136.10

GDP PER CAPITA (USD)

2014

RET began local operations

15

Projects

810,000

Program participants

8,100,000

Lives impacted



LEBANON

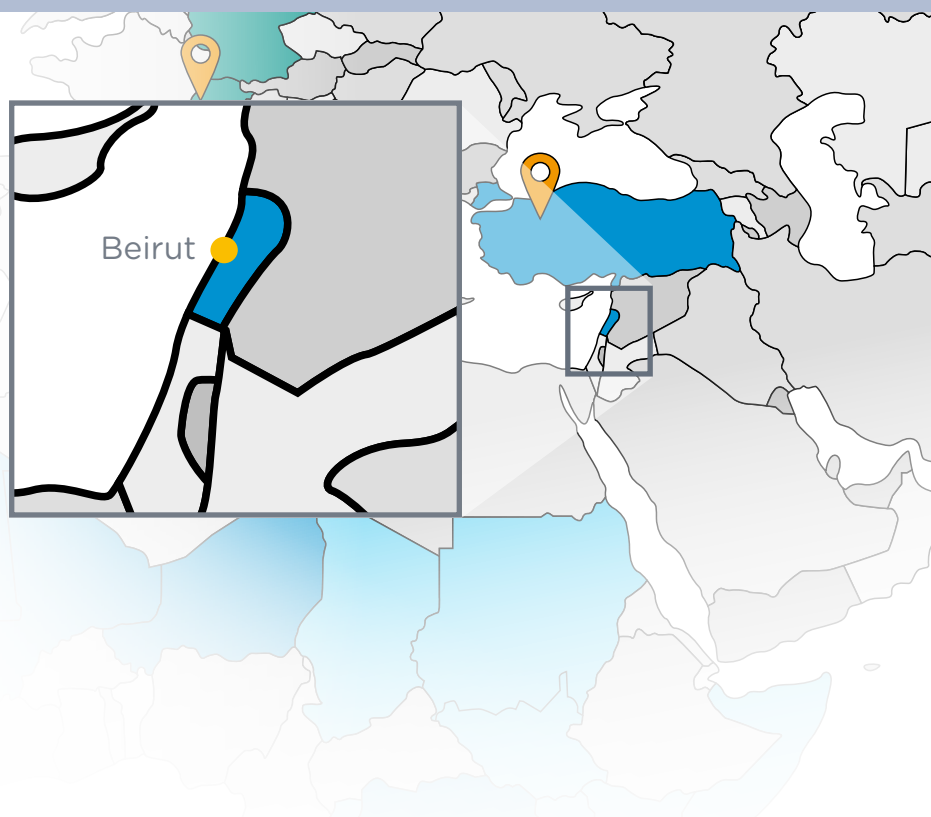
Our programs in Lebanon have focused on:

-  Education and capacity building
-  Gender equality and social inclusion
-  Nutrition and food security
-  Peace, stability, and transition
-  Protection
-  Youth empowerment

With Syria to the east and north and Israel to the south, Lebanon has taken on an even more critical regional role in 2023. The last decade has seen it severely impacted by the ongoing Syrian civil war, and the conflict in Israel has further strained the country.

UNHCR estimates that Lebanon currently hosts 1.5 million refugees from Syria, and UNICEF estimates the country is home to 210,000 Palestinian refugees. The influx has added pressure to an already fragile socio-economic situation, marred with political instability, inter-community tensions, coupled in some areas with sectarian divisions.

The economy also remains extremely fragile: Inflation has been in the triple digits since 2021, and the World Bank estimated the rate at 231.3% in



2023. Add to this the exhaustion of social services, a political vacuum, a decrease in security, and a deteriorating quality of life, and it becomes abundantly clear how important our work is in Lebanon.

In 2023, we continued working with Lebanese and Syrian refugee households with a specific emphasis on female-headed households – and communities in the rural areas of Ballbek- Hermel^[1]. Low productivity and profitability meant that these groups were facing food insecurity in addition to endangered livelihoods. Along with local partner GATE Lebanon and Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI), we're working with Lebanese and Syrian refugee households to improve food security and livelihoods by providing technical training, seeds and equipment provision, and training on integrated pest management (IPM) in order to increase their agricultural productivity, overall resilience, and promote peaceful co-existence.

Lebanon continues to face an acute economic crisis (its per capita GDP has



dropped by 56% since 2019 – from USD 9,225.80 to USD 4,136.10), making livelihoods programs critically important to individuals, families, and rural communities who are often hit hardest by these trends.

In 2023, we supported the local fish farming industry by distributing an incredible 1.7 million fish fingerlings to 167 local fish farmers, representing a significant leap forward for the region's industry. Beyond the sheer numbers, this effort was about instilling a sense of responsibility among farmers for the industry's future sustainability.

The project will continue through 2024, and in that time, we will also:

- Assist with infrastructure rehabilitation: Construction of 10.7 Km water pipes irrigation system in Al Qaa, ensuring safe water reaches the most vulnerable.



Our work in Lebanon has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 2
ZERO HUNGER

SDG 5
GENDER
EQUALITY

SDG 4
QUALITY
EDUCATION

SDG 16
PEACE, JUSTICE,
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

- Restore agricultural road, in Aarsal village of 15 Km length, 1530 meters with asphalt in critical sections, benefiting more than 3000 farmers.
- Build the institutional capacity of six municipalities through training on local economic plans to promote Public- Private Partnership (PPP) investment in agribusiness and agriculture to increase local economic development projects.

[1] This transitional development project 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.

MALI



22,593,590
POPULATION



833.30
GDP PER CAPITA (USD)



2022

RET began local
operations

1,372

Program
participants

1

Project

13,720

Lives impacted

MALI

Our programs in Mali have focused on:



Economic growth and development



Education and capacity building



Gender equality and social inclusion



Nutrition and food security



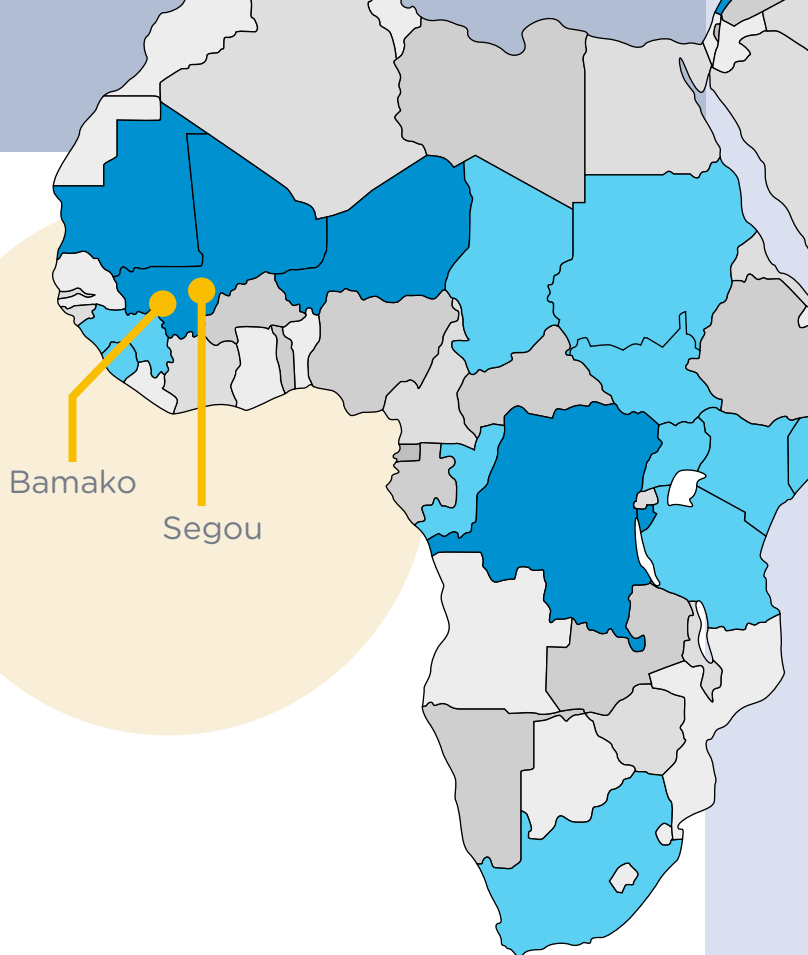
Peace, stability, and transition



Protection

Landlocked and with territory running deep into the Sahara Desert, Mali's population is concentrated in the southern part of the country in the savanna. RET's work in the country has focused on the Segou region, about 120 mi (200 km) from the capital city of Bamako. The last decade has been turbulent for this African nation, with armed conflict breaking out in early 2012, followed by a military coup. Since then, insurgencies have gathered pace, and two more coups (2020 and 2021) have taken place, the first of which overthrew the civilian government, and second of which saw another change of military power. The withdrawal of French troops in 2022 has made the security situation even more tenuous, with the Islamic State occupying large areas of southeast Mali.

It's in this context that RET's local team has been supporting tens of thousands of program participants



through a multi-sector program that includes three pillars:

1. Employability and income opportunities
2. Nutrition and food security
3. Peaceful community relations

By linking these three needs, we're building a durable solution for local communities. With one of the youngest populations in the world and a median age of just 16 years old, Mali's youth need opportunities to generate income and find work. This project has provided vocational training in business management, plumbing, masonry, welding, electricity, and mechanics, as well as processing of agricultural goods.

With over 40% of the population living below the poverty line and nearly 20% – or about 4.5 million people – suffering from



food insecurity and a quarter of Malian children malnourished, our initiatives like community farms, teaching modern agricultural techniques and climate-smart water management, have enabled women, youth, and entire communities to provide for themselves. This project has also supported disabled members of the communities, who previously suffered from isolation and a lack of viable income opportunities. Now, they have adapted ways to work alongside their neighbors.

In these same villages, we have worked with local authorities – from mayors and village elders to regional governors and government agencies – to encourage



Our work in Mali has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 2
ZERO HUNGER

SDG 4
QUALITY
EDUCATION

SDG 5
GENDER
EQUALITY

SDG 8
DECENT
WORK AND
ECONOMIC
GROWTH

SDG 10
REDUCED
INEQUALITIES

SDG 16
PEACE,
JUSTICE,
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

dialogue and promote peaceful community relations through conflict mediation committees. 2023 saw the first full year of implementation of this project, and it has already garnered approximately 19,400 program participants.

Mali is at a critical juncture, and RET is proud to have launched operations and implement this project in partnership with local NGOs ALPHALOG and REFOR while building their capacity for the future.^[1]

[1] This project's implementation began in late 2022, will run through 2025, is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and implemented by RET Germany in partnership with ALPHALOG and REFOR.

MAURITANIA



4,736,139
POPULATION



2,065.20
GDP PER CAPITA (USD)



2019

RET began local
operations

7

Projects

53,600

Program
participants

536,000

Lives impacted

MAURITANIA

Our programs in Mauritania have focused on:

-  Basic equipment and infrastructure
-  Economic growth and development
-  Education and capacity building
-  Gender equality and social inclusion
-  Nutrition and food security
-  Peace, stability, and transition
-  Protection

With 90% of its territory harsh and sandy, Mauritania is synonymous with the Sahara Desert. Many of the country's 4.7 million people live in or around the coastal capital of Nuakchot. Bordered by Algeria, Mali, and Senegal, the country is also home to urban refugees, asylum-seekers, and Malian refugees in and around Mbera refugee camp. Despite a peace agreement in Mali in 2015, large-scale Malian refugee returns are not expected due to persistent violence in northern and central Mali.

In Mauritania, there is a general lack of interest in schooling and a higher emphasis placed on entering the workforce, with the decision to end schooling being mainly taken by the family. That's why in the Hodh

Nouakchott

Bassikounou/
Mbera Camp

Chargui region, we worked to re-integrate out-of-school children into the educational system and prevent school dropout by setting up a 9-month accelerate learning program in our alternative education centers.^[1]

Mbera refugee camp is home to over 107,000 Malian refugees who have fled their country due to this ongoing violence and instability. Established in 2012, the camp provides essential services such as education, healthcare, and food assistance to its residents, who face significant challenges in their daily lives.

Since 2019, RET has been working in the camp to address the educational needs of out-of-school children, youth, and support women. Through our innovative



Accelerated Learning Program (AEP), we have identified and worked with children who have exceeded school age or have interrupted their studies due to poverty, marginalization, or other challenges. The AEP aims to provide these children with a quality education in an accelerated timeframe, ensuring they can reintegrate into the formal education system or pursue vocational training. We've worked to support girls and women through the distribution of menstrual hygiene kits as well as through dedicated learning centers, among other initiatives.

In 2023, we completed a project to build educational



Our work in Mauritania has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 2
ZERO HUNGER

SDG 4
QUALITY EDUCATION

SDG 5
GENDER EQUALITY

SDG 8
DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH

SDG 9
INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

SDG 10
REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDG 16
PEACE, JUSTICE, AND
STRONG INSTITUTIONS

MAURITANIA

resilience in the Mbera camp by providing secondary education, functional literacy, numeracy classes, and psychosocial support to out-of-school adolescents and youth. We anticipate reaching over 15,000 youth directly, indirectly benefitting over 40,000. Through this project, we'll enhance educational resilience, improve access to accredited education, and promote psychosocial well-being, as well as address gender-based violence issues and emphasizes inclusive and equitable educational opportunities.^[2]

Quality education is the basis for developing sustainable, independent communities and stable societies. To this end, we supported schools by working with them to make their program management more effective and efficient and ultimately create a more inviting environment while also providing quality education.



[1] This project was implemented between March 2021 and June 2022 in partnership with UNICEF in Mauritania.

[2] This project is made possible through the generous support of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM).

MEXICO



127,504,125

POPULATION



11,496.50

GDP PER CAPITA (USD)



2017

RET began local operations

81,000

Program participants

10

Projects

810,000

Lives impacted

MEXICO

Our programs in Mexico have focused on:

-  Disaster risk reduction and climate change
-  Economic growth and development
-  Education and capacity building
-  Gender equality and social inclusion
-  Nutrition and food security
-  Protection

As the tenth most populous nation in the world and the thirteenth largest by area (761,610 sq. mi/ 1,972,550 sq. km), Mexico is a large and complex country that has been characterized as a country of origin, transit, destination, and return as migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and victims of human trafficking all transit through what has become one of the world's largest migration corridors. In December 2023 alone, U.S. officials processed an estimated 300,000 individuals at the border – the highest ever recorded.

In addition to migratory patterns, the country has also been vulnerable to changes in climate and disasters like Hurricane Otis in October 2023, which devastated the Acapulco region. Economically, around 40% of the population lives below the poverty line, and inequality has soared with an estimated 10% of the population controlling over half of the nation's wealth. And this is all under the context of gang and cartel

violence, which continue to be a major issue throughout the country.

RET's previous work in Mexico has responded to 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. These groups lack basic necessities, access to schools, are subjected to arduous refugee application processes, and are vulnerable to child labor and organized crime.

In 2023, we continued implementing a multiyear, regional disaster risk preparedness program that has been strengthening local entities and their



Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (CDRM) processes. This project is also being carried in Panama. In Mexico, it addresses already-identified CDRM priorities at the municipal level, as well as national and federal, in collaboration with the Coordinación Nacional de Protección Civil (CNPC, or National Civil Protection Coordination).^[1]

It has included:

- Strengthening situation room and operation centers at sites selected by the Government of Mexico and the implementation of an Action Plan agreed upon by the CNPC at sites selected by the Government of Mexico.
- The creation of a new Comprehensive Risk Management Committee (CRMC) for the standardization of the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis methodology at the national level.
- The dispersion of the Incidents Command System course (as well as the incorporation of the online mode) in three locations selected by the Government of Mexico.
- The strengthening of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) groups in the country through the creation and reaccreditation of various groups in the country.



Our work in Mexico has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 5
GENDER EQUALITY

SDG 10
REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDG 12
CLIMATE ACTION

SDG 16
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS

- 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, with a focus on inclusivity through the intersectionality concept.

In 2023, we also completed a related project that strengthened risk management at the local levels in Mexico also includes Costa Rica, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.^[2]

[1] This project will run through 2024 and is funded by the United States Agency for International Development's Bureau of Humanitarian Services (USAID-BHA) and implemented by RET in Panama and Mexico.

[2] This project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development's Bureau of Humanitarian Services (USAID-BHA) and implemented by RET in Costa Rica, Panama, and Mexico, and in partnership with Plan International in the Dominican Republic.

NIGER



26,207,977
POPULATION



585.40
GDP PER CAPITA (USD)



2021

RET began local
operations

55,038

Program
participants

5

Projects

385,266

Lives impacted

NIGER

Our programs in Niger have focused on:

-  Economic growth and development
-  Education and capacity building
-  Nutrition and food security
-  Peace, stability, and transition
-  Protection

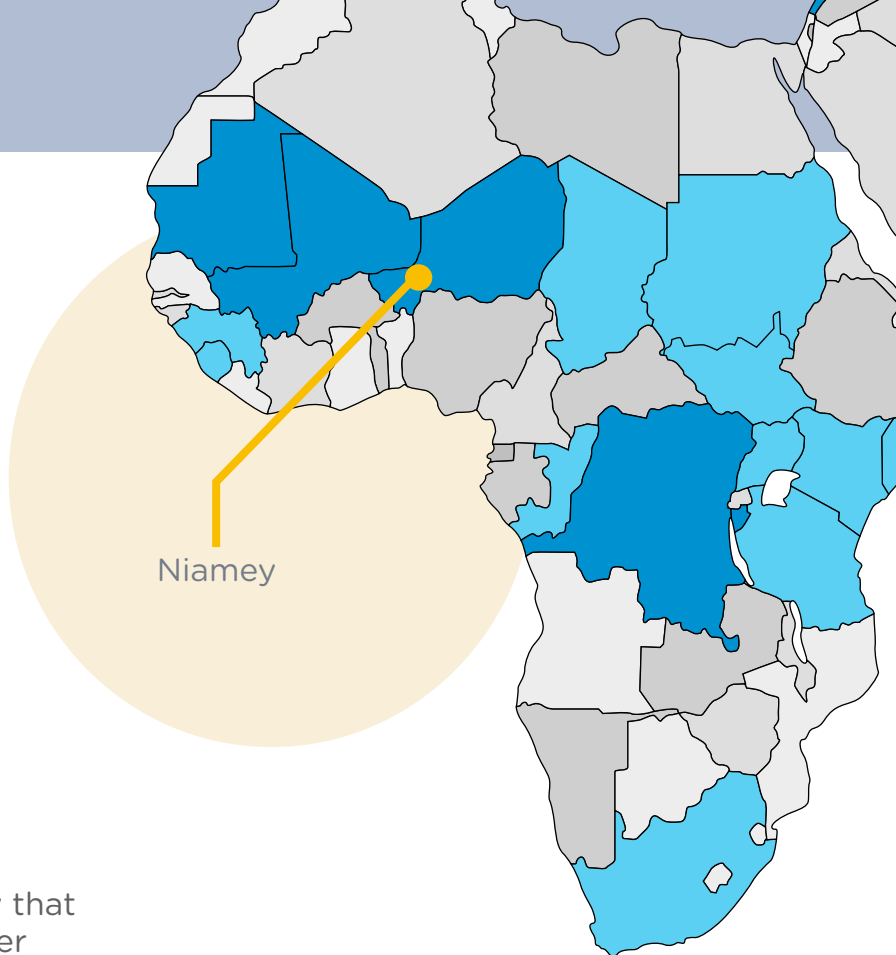
Niger is a West African country that shares a border with seven other countries: Algeria, Libya, Chad, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali. The country boasts one of the fastest growing and youngest populations in the world: Nearly 60% are under the age of 18. However, the World Bank estimates that 41.8% (around 10 million people) are living in extreme poverty, and the nation has been the destination for large numbers of refugees from Nigeria and Mali. This, coupled with a volatile security situation, low literacy and education levels, decreases in agricultural outputs, and climate change and natural disasters have made the country a priority for RET in recent years.

In 2021, RET began working to promote girls' access to quality education and empower women in the Tillabery region by improving girls' enrollment and retention rates in schools, raising awareness in communities about the importance

of girls' education and women's empowerment, and improving women's income generation through training and support.^[1]

In the Diffa region, we are working with refugees and displaced persons to improve their livelihoods and economic inclusion amidst insecurity from armed groups. By developing market gardening, supporting fish farmers in aquaculture feed production, and enhancing income-generating activities through training, cash grants, and financial inclusion initiatives, RET has helped create socioeconomic opportunities, reduce vulnerability, and improve self-reliance in one of the most fraught environments.^[2]

In 2023, working together with UNHCR, we launched projects to strengthen community protection, safeguard children, and prevent





gender-based violence (GBV) in Agadez, Maradi, and Tillabery.

In Agadez, we focused on providing psychosocial support, distributing food and non-food items, building community capacity, raising awareness, and mobilizing the community with a gender-sensitive approach.^[3]

In Maradi, our efforts have been directed towards building community capacity, mobilizing the community, offering material support and accompaniment, and raising awareness on GBV and protecting children.^[4]

In Tillabery, we also concentrated on addressing GBV, protecting children, assisting people with special needs, and mobilizing the community.^[5]



Our work in Niger has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 2
ZERO HUNGER

SDG 3
GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

SDG 4
QUALITY EDUCATION

SDG 16
PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

[1] This project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through 2024. It is being implemented in partnership with the local organization Soutien aux ONG, SongES.

[2] The project was implemented in partnership with UNHCR from January to December 2023.

[3] [4] [5] These projects were implemented in partnership with UNHCR between January and December 2023.

PANAMA



4,408,581

POPULATION



17,357.60

GDP PER CAPITA (USD)



2009

RET began local
operations

138,000

Program
participants

51

Projects

1,380,000

Lives impacted

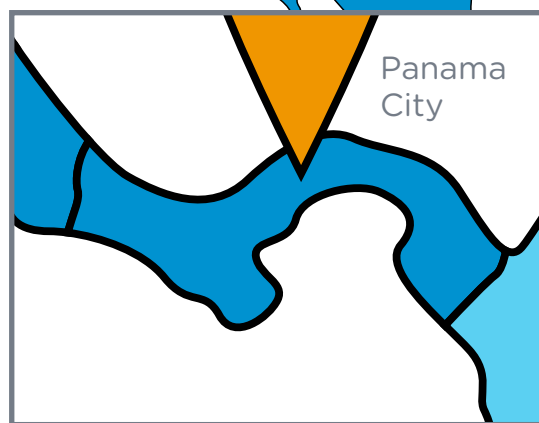
PANAMA

Our programs in Panama have focused on:

-  Disaster risk reduction and climate change
-  Education and capacity building
-  Health and WASH
-  Nutrition and food security
-  Peace, stability, and transition
-  Protection
-  Youth empowerment

With a geopolitically and economically significant location on the isthmus connecting North and South America, Panama is also an important country for RET. It's home to our regional office for our Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) operations and serves as a valuable base of operations for connecting with intergovernmental agencies that maintain regional headquarters in the country.

Our RET Panama Office's, we coordinate with humanitarian agencies and organizations in Panama through the Human Mobility Group (GMH) led by UNHCR and IOM. The purpose of this group is to facilitate coordination between partners and interventions in the territories, avoid the duplication of efforts, and facilitate the identification and referral of vulnerable cases.



Because of its geographic location, though, Panama is a nexus for migration. Specifically, migrants must traverse a densely forested 60 mi (97 km) stretch known as the *Darién Gap*.

In 2023, it's estimated that 520,000 people crossed this area, the highest number on record, and an unsettling reminder of the lengths that many are driven to when fleeing violence, political, and economic instability in their own countries. August and September were the months with the highest flow of migrants, reaching an average of 2,000 people per day.

The people who passed through this zone come mostly from: Venezuela, Ecuador, Haiti, China and Colombia.

In response to the emergency in Darien, since the end of 2018, RET has been working on six projects funded by UNICEF.



Our work in Panama has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

As of 2023, RET has impacted 95,247 migrants and 4,376 people from host communities in Darien and in the last quarter of the year, we provided care in the Province of Chiriqui (border area with Costa Rica). Actions have included:

- Permanent presence with 52 trained professionals to guarantee services every day of the week, in the two temporary migrant reception stations in Darien (Lajas Blancas and San Vicente) and two host communities (Bajo Chiquito and Canaan Membrillo)
- Child protection: identification, care and referral of unaccompanied/separated children; Psychosocial care through a friendly and safe space; Construction of protective environments in host communities
- Providing protection from, prevention of, and care for victims of gender-based violence (GBV), specifically for people in flight and exile and host community girls, boys, and adolescents and their families
- Ongoing actions in 12 host communities in Darien, 10 of which belong to the Embera Wounnan Indigenous Region, where we promote children's rights, the participation of adolescents and young people in their traditional congresses and the development of community initiatives led by children, adolescents and young people.

SDG 3
GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-
BEING

SDG 4
QUALITY
EDUCATION

SDG 5
GENDER
EQUALITY

SDG 13
CLIMATE
ACTION

SDG 16
PEACE, JUSTICE,
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

SDG 17
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



PANAMA



With over a decade of experience working in Panama, RET has opened 20 facilities across our dozens of projects. Youth development has been an area of focus, and we have provided life and soft skills training to create resilience and improve livelihoods, violence and bullying prevention, promoted youth networking and advocated for issues of concern to youth. In 2023, the main actions consisted of:

- Accompaniment and technical assistance to the Central Government, in the public policy of Disaster Risk Management and its Strategic Plan.
- Construction of the Guide for the elaboration of Municipal Risk Management Plans and advice to local governments for their elaboration.
- Promotion and active participation of key actors at the municipal level in DRM processes aligned with public policies. Focused mainly on organized groups of young people and women.

Beginning in 2021 and continuing through 2024, we are working to strengthen the disaster risk preparedness of local and national governments. At the local level, we are working in 16 municipalities: 14 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 areas, the objective is to promote the active participation of key actors in comprehensive disaster risk management (CDRM) processes in alignment with the public policies established by the National Government.^[1]

[1] This project is being funded by the United States Agency for International Development's Bureau of Humanitarian Services (USAID-BHA).

PERU



34,049,588

POPULATION



7,125.80

GDP PER CAPITA (USD)



2018

RET began local
operations

85,600

Program
participants

11

Projects

856,000

Lives impacted

PERU

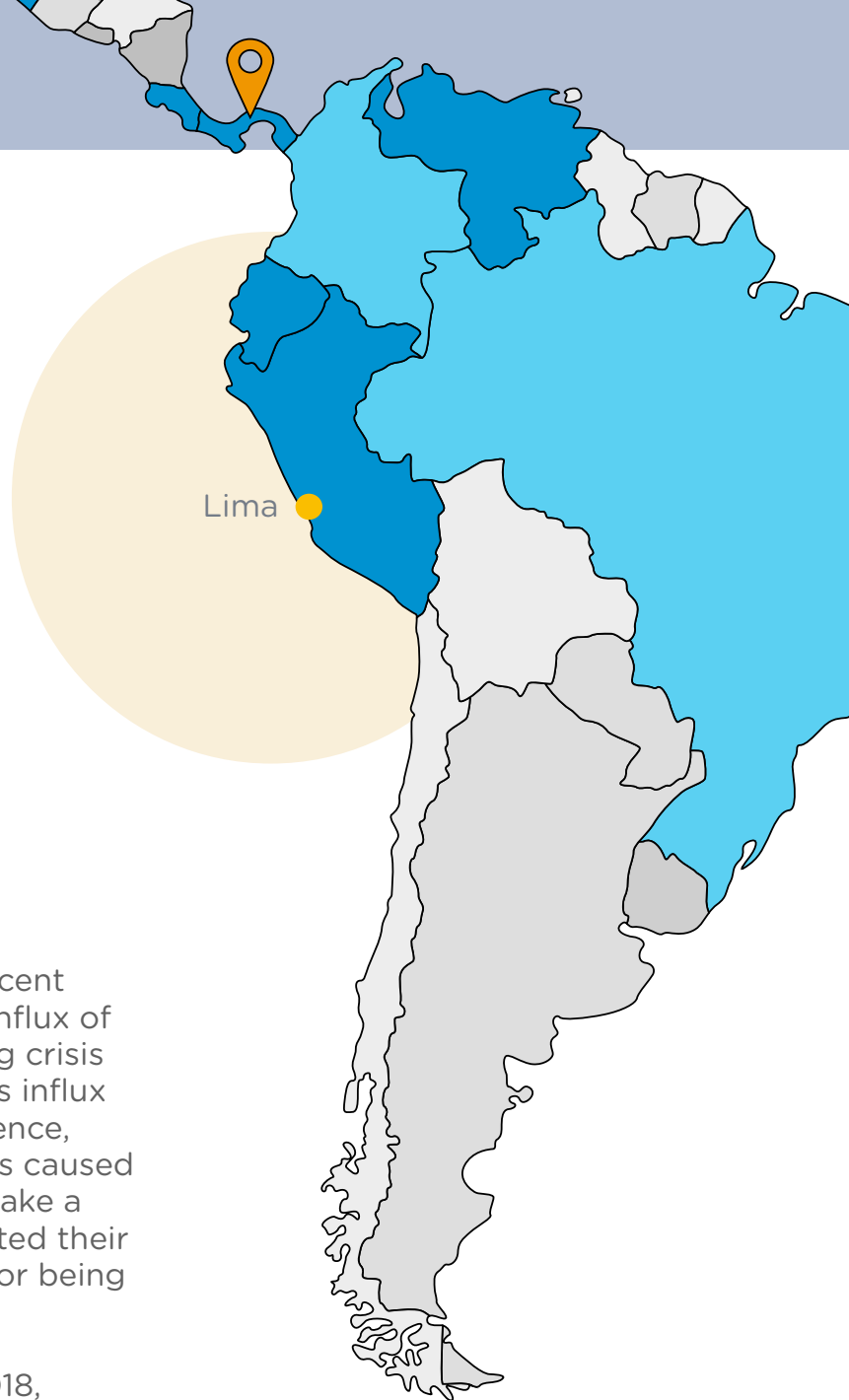
Our programs in Peru have focused on:

-  Economic growth and development
-  Education and capacity building
-  Gender equality and social inclusion
-  Nutrition and food security
-  Peace, stability, and transition
-  Protection

Peru has faced many challenges in recent years, from political instability to an influx of displaced peoples fleeing the ongoing crisis in Venezuela and other countries. This influx of people has increased risks for violence, trafficking, and exploitation, as well as caused economic strain as families seek to make a living. For the youngest, it has disrupted their schooling and created the potential for being left behind academically.

RET first began working in Peru in 2018, and over the past year, in collaboration with UNICEF, we have focused on increasing the educational inclusion of migrant and refugee children and adolescents in Lima and Tumbes through educational programs.

In Tumbes, we completed the implementation of *COMPARTIMOS+* (“We Share More”), a program that has targeted upwards of a thousand girls and boys, as well as their teachers, principals, and schools, and seeks to improve the access to- and quality of education.^[1]



In Lima, and in coordination with ECW, we also completed implementation of *+DIVERSIDAD* (“More Diversity”), a program that directly benefited 6,280 children and adolescents in Lima Norte, Lima Sur, and Trujillo (La Libertad). This program was designed to complement the Peruvian government’s national strategy to ensure access

to quality, relevant, and inclusive education with equal opportunities – especially for Venezuelan refugees and migrants who are particularly vulnerable.^[2]

The program created a more robust and inclusive educational system in several ways:

- Migrant, refugee and host community children and adolescents benefitted from greater access to inclusive and quality education.
- Migrant, refugee and host community children and adolescents remained in the education system.
- Migrant, refugee and host community children and adolescents developed life skills and socio-emotional skills.
- Education authorities and officials at the national and local levels improved decision-making based on available data and evidence on best practices in the region on access and inclusive education.
- The project promoted the mobilization of resources to improve inclusive access and retention in the educational system of migrant and refugee students.

Under the banner of *+DIVERSIDAD*, we implemented a school support program called *DIVERTICLASES* to contribute to the effective permanence in schools of girls, boys and adolescents with low levels of learning achievement and high probabilities of failure or dropping



Our work in Peru has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 3
GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

SDG 4
QUALITY EDUCATION

SDG 10
REDUCED INEQUALITIES

out of school, generating strategies for strengthening their capacities and abilities, and thus being able to achieve the minimum learning expected at the end of the school year. *DIVERTICLASES* served more than 2,000 refugee, migrant, and Peruvian girls, boys, and adolescents.

And our work has gone beyond primary and secondary education: In 2023, we provided a training service for 85 health personnel and 67 community promoters on access to health right, with an intercultural approach, to reduce stigmatization and discrimination of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population in Metropolitan Lima.^[3]

[1] This project is being financed by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), led by UNICEF, and implemented by RET locally in Peru.

[2] This project was funded by Education Cannot Wait (ECW). The implementation was led by UNICEF in partnership with RET, UNESCO and World Vision.

[3] This project was financed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and implemented by RET in Peru.

TÜRKIYE



85,372,377
POPULATION



13,243
GDP PER CAPITA (USD)



2014

RET began local
operations

315,000

Program
participants

41

Projects

3,150,000

Lives impacted

Our programs in Türkiye have focused on:

-  Basic infrastructure and equipment
-  Economic growth and development
-  Education and capacity building
-  Gender equality and social inclusion
-  Peace, stability, and transition
-  Protection

Spanning both Europe and Asia – very literally, *bridging the gap* between continents – Türkiye has been a hub for RET’s work for a decade. The country shares an extensive border with Syria, and the ongoing civil war has led many Syrians to seek refuge in Türkiye. ECHO estimates that the country now hosts 3.6 million refugees. And while Türkiye boasts both a large population and economy (it passed USD 1 trillion in GDP for the first time in 2023), the lowest and middle socioeconomic groups have been heavily impacted by continued inflation and a weakened lira.

In 2023, we implemented five projects in Türkiye, making it our most active country. It’s also home to our regional office that oversees operations across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia (EMEA). Active projects included:

Increasing Resilience of Refugees and Vulnerable Host Community

Members and Fostering Peaceful Co-Existence in Çorum: We aimed to increase the resilience of refugees and vulnerable host community members and promote peaceful co-existence through a series of social cohesion, non-formal education, and protection interventions adopting a community-based approach. The project targeted Syrians and non-Syrian refugees, primarily from Afghanistan and Iraq, including disadvantaged host community members in Çorum as the primary target groups.^[1]

Multi-Sectoral Approach for Fostering Resilience Among Non-Syrian Refugee and Vulnerable Host Communities: In its second phase, this project focused on Syrian and non-Syrian refugees, vulnerable host community members – especially those sharing the same neighborhoods, workplaces, or classes with refugee groups – and

public and civil service providers directly providing services for refugees. In addition to Kayseri (phase one), this phase expanded its intervention area with Aksaray and aimed to foster social cohesion in both provinces through activities like Turkish language courses, focus group discussions (FGDs) for youth and women, and awareness-raising sessions focused on social cohesion, gender-based violence (GBV), sexual and reproductive health, and inter-family communication, among other topics.^[2]

Aiming to support the empowerment of vulnerable refugee and local women aged 16–55 years by building their professional skills – which would allow them to generate income – we also implemented the Local Women’s Socio-Economic Empowerment and Social Skills Development for Social Cohesion and Youth Empowerment project in Şanlıurfa, Mardin, and Kilis beginning in January 2023. The project empowered vulnerable young people (aged 12–25 years) from the refugee and host communities in Mardin by providing awareness-raising sessions on social cohesion, communication skills workshops, and music courses.^[3]

Also, in 2023, we initiated the multiyear second phase of the Turkish and English Language Learning



[1] This project was co-funded by the European Union through its Humanitarian Aid Operations Department (ECHO) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by LEAP in Türkiye in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) between February and December 2023.

[2] This project is being funded by the UK Embassy in Ankara and implemented by RET from June 2023 through March 2024 in partnership with Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality, Aksaray Municipality, and LEAP in Türkiye.

[3] This project was implemented between January and December 2023 by RET in partnership with LEAP in Türkiye.

Program as a Tool for Empowerment and Social Cohesion project. The language barrier is one of many reason that refugees face social exclusion in the public sphere, and by facilitating communication between them and the host community, we're working to create stronger links between the communities.

The Turkish language courses will help participants integrate into the community independently, and promote social, educational, and professional opportunities. The English language courses will enable them to break prejudices by offering a venue for peaceful coexistence amongst the refugee and host community members.^[4]

In September, we began implementing an Integrated Approach to Increase Resilience in Underserved Communities in Çorum, Aksaray, Kayseri, and Samsun. The program aims to enhance the resilience of vulnerable, underserved refugee communities and promote social cohesion among refugees and host community members. This is achieved by increasing access to protection and improving psychosocial well-being through community centers, strengthening protection mechanisms through capacity-building trainings, and fostering and connecting local human resources with the labor market.^[5]



Our work in Türkiye has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 4
QUALITY
EDUCATION

SDG 5
GENDER EQUALITY

SDG 8
DECENT WORK
AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH

SDG 9
INDUSTRY,
INNOVATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

SDG 10
REDUCED
INEQUALITIES

SDG 16
PEACE, JUSTICE,
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

[4] This project began implementation in January 2023 and will continue through December 2025. It is implemented by RET in partnership with LEAP in Türkiye.

[5] This program began implementation in September 2023 and will continue through August 2026. It is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Türkiye.

VENEZUELA



28,301,696
POPULATION



3,474.33
GDP PER CAPITA (USD)



2012

RET began local
operations

339,350

Program
participants

26

Projects

3,393,500

Lives impacted

VENEZUELA

Our programs in Venezuela have focused on:

-  Basic infrastructure and equipment
-  Economic growth and development
-  Education and capacity building
-  Health and WASH
-  Nutrition and food security

Venezuela has been in the midst of a prolonged economic and social crisis since around 2010. Unfortunately, this continued in 2023, with UNHCR estimating that 7.7 million Venezuelans have left the country in the last decade. Its 2023 population (estimated at 28 million) is a notable decrease from its peak of nearly 31 million in 2016.

This has made our mission in Venezuela even more critical. RET has been active in the country since 2012, and we have worked to stabilize communities and regions through initiatives in education, health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and nutrition and food security, among others. Our work in the country began with a regional program to support both Colombian refugees and local host communities, providing comprehensive care according to needs in psychosocial support, education, livelihoods, protection, socio-cultural initiatives and local capacity building, all with a focus on strengthening integration. It has grown to include health and sanitation,

agriculture, nutrition and food security, disaster risk reduction, and gender, among other sectors.

In 2023, we worked to improve WASH services and infrastructure in the state of Bolívar. Though a project developed with the accompaniment and financing of IOM^[1], we directly served 3,731 beneficiaries in 19 health centers and 20 communities.

Our actions focused on WASH issues essential for a dignified life, adapted to the context and environment. Aside from impacting individual lives, we made a tangible impact on these communities, including:

- 19 health centers that received assessments, recommendations, training, and staffing related to WASH in healthcare settings, to adequately care for and protect



patients, staff, and caregivers from infection risks (PCI).

- 19 WASH teams that were formed and remained active to monitor the activities and management of the ICH programs established in each health center, through action plans and follow-up forms for health personnel, focal points, promoters and volunteers.
- 19 health centers received disinfection kits and 2 replacements, for a total of 57 deliveries.
- 10 health facilities selected from the application of the assessment tools (WASHFIT) were rehabilitated, and improvements were made in minor rehabilitations in terms of WASH, complying with standards in sectors such as water, sanitation, hand hygiene, environmental cleanliness, health care waste management, and certain aspects of facilities management. buildings and energy.
- 1,800 water filters that were delivered in the municipalities of Cedeño and Gran Sabana in the state of Bolívar, ensuring access to drinking water in a sustainable way in the communities.
- 1,778 heads of household and 22 educational centers with representation of principals and teachers were trained in the use of water filters, safe water use practices and maintenance of filters.

[1] This project began implementation in June 2023 and will continue through March 2024, with funding from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).



Our work in Venezuela has contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 2
ZERO HUNGER

SDG 3
GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING

SDG 4
QUALITY
EDUCATION

SDG 5
GENDER
EQUALITY

SDG 8
DECENT WORK
AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH

SDG 13
CLIMATE ACTION

SDG 16
PEACE, JUSTICE,
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

SDG 17
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



- 3,424 people were sensitized around health centers on community issues of good hygiene practices, including hand washing, waste disposal, safe treatment and storage of water at home, as well as disease prevention.

RET INTERNATIONAL
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023
(WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Summary

The composition of RET International financial reporting was changed after 2018, where the financial positions and income statements that relate to what became effectively RET Germany and RET Americas in 2019, 2020, and thereafter, were separated from the accounting and audited Financial Statements of RET International, as of 2019, 2020 and thereafter.

RET Germany and RET Americas are now independently reported.

As of FY2019, 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.

2023 Operating Environment

In 2023, there were fewer unrestricted donations, which reflected in the total income of RET international. Some major project were ending in 2023, hence there was a reduction in the income from these projects. Likewise, this is reflected in the reduced expenditure. RET has continued to fund raise with an objective of

returning the revenues and operation back to FY 2019 which had the highest income in the history of the organization.

Current Situation

In FY2023, RET International's total income CHF 8.5M, with the net surplus reducing to -CHF 17K in FY2023 compared to CHF162K in FY2022. It is imperative to point out that RET does have a fixed deposit guarantee of USD 500,000 (CHF 441,826) which is held with BCGE as security against the overdraft facility. This effectively reduces the overdraft exposure by that amount. The RET Alliance revenues closed at CHF 12.7M in FY2023, compared to USD CHF 16.4M in FY2022.

In 2024, RET International has already met all of its obligations within 12 months post 2023 closing of the accounts.

Future Prospects

RET's 2025 outlook is promising with multi-year funding from the German and U.S. governments, and potential new projects from governments and private donors.

RET is actively seeking to re-enter operations in Chad, Kenya, and South Sudan, and monitoring developments in Syria for a possibility of launching operations in that country. Solid donor relationships, local-based and fair budgeting as well as experienced management are strong pillars which have kept RET prepared for the years ahead.

Key points looking ahead include:

- Stable and multiyear operations in Lebanon, Niger, Nigeria, and Mali (funded by the German Government), and in Türkiye and Mauritania (funded by U.S. Government) provide stability and impactful operations in those countries.
- New initiatives of funding for projects in Niger, Chad, South Sudan, and the DRC.

- Funding efforts and engagements with various governments and exploring new donor opportunities for expanded operations.
- Private donations from individuals and foundations to increase the pool of funds available for deployment to operations and administration as needed.
- Strategic planning by updating country strategies and preparing a regional response strategy for key crises to which RET has identified and/or responded to.

RET is focused on expanding impact and ensuring sustainability in 2025.

BALANCE SHEET

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 WITH
COMPARATIVE FIGURES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

		2023	2022
		CHF	CHF
		12 months	12 months
<u>ASSETS</u>			
<u>Current assets</u>			
Cash	11(a)	4,780	45,428
Total cash and cash equivalents		4,780	45,428
Prepaid expenses/advances to field offices	11(b)	1,982,309	1,938,457
Interco RET Balance	12	1,009,355	1,121,168
Total prepaid and other receivables		2,991,664	3,059,625
Total current assets		2,996,444	3,105,053
<u>Fixed assets</u>			
Financial assets	11(a)	441,826	482,775
Fixed assets		49,962	54,829
Accumulated depreciation		(49,962)	(54,829)
Net fixed assets		441,826	482,774
Investments in future projects	9	104,139	114,285
Accumulated depreciation		(83,311)	(68,571)
Net investments in future projects		20,828	45,714
TOTAL ASSETS		3,459,097	3,633,542
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUNDS</u>			
<u>Liabilities</u>			
Line of credit	11(a)	822,944	902,678
Interco RET Americas	12	-	12,221
Other payables including accruals		80,345	99,797
Commitments related to the projects	11(c)	1,658,150	1,652,310
Local loans		500,000	500,000
Total liabilities		3,061,438	3,167,006
<u>Capital of the Foundation / Unrestricted funds</u>			
Capital of the Foundation – at incorporation	10	50,000	50,000
Accumulated Reserves		416,536	251,857
Currency exchange reserves		(85,805)	2,733
Results for the year		16,927	161,946
Total unrestricted funds		397,658	466,536
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS		3,459,097	3,633,542

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 2023 WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

		<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
		CHF	CHF
		12 months	12 months
<u>REVENUES</u>			
Restricted income	5	8,416,606	10,028,918
Unrestricted income	6	<u>120,883</u>	<u>1,127,362</u>
Total income		8,537,489	11,156,281
<u>EXPENSES BY OPERATIONS</u>			
Operations	7	(6,843,113)	(9,115,860)
Development, External Relations & Administration	7	<u>(1,601,974)</u>	<u>(1,740,034)</u>
Total expenses		(8,445,087)	(10,855,894)
Operating Surplus		92,402	300,387
<u>FINANCIAL RESULTS</u>			
Interest income on deposits		299	233
(Losses) on currency conversion		(8,356)	(59,220)
Bank fees and interest expense		<u>(67,417)</u>	<u>(43,952)</u>
Net financial result		(75,474)	(102,939)
RESULT FOR THE YEAR BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES PRIOR YEARS		16,927	197,447
EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES PRIOR YEARS	8 (c)	<u>-</u>	<u>(35,502)</u>
RESULT FOR THE YEAR		<u>16,927</u>	<u>161,946</u>

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES SURPLUS/DEFICIT

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023
WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	CHF	CHF
	12 months	12 months
<u>Surplus</u>		
Surplus beginning of the year	416,536	251,857
Result for the year	16,927	161,946
Currency exchange reserves	<u>(85,805)</u>	<u>2,733</u>
Surplus end of the year	<u>347,658</u>	<u>416,536</u>

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023
WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	CHF	CHF
	12 months	12 months
<u>Cash received from subsidies and donations</u>		
Unrestricted income - Private donations	-	1,074,712
Restricted income - Other revenues	120,883	52,650
Restricted income - Subsidies from governments	8,353,191	9,983,805
Total of the cash received from subsidies and donations	<u>8,474,074</u>	<u>11,111,167</u>
<u>Cash movement related to the programme operations</u>		
Belize	(305,189)	(273,561)
Costa Rica	(581,893)	(1,662,317)
Ecuador	(443,637)	(195,534)
Panama	(1,713,214)	(2,378,803)
Peru	(97,364)	-
Venezuela	(1,542,040)	(2,582,574)
Mauritania	(415,479)	(459,258)
Mexico	(296,541)	-
Burundi	(742,954)	(1,034,694)
Türkiye	(704,803)	(529,119)
Total cash expensed on projects	<u>(6,843,113)</u>	<u>(9,115,860)</u>
<u>Cash payments related to the direction & support function</u>		
General and administrative expenses	(1,626,891)	(1,994,401)
Prepayments, accruals and accounts payable	(10,593)	(6,001)
Total cash payments related to the direction and support function	<u>(1,637,484)</u>	<u>(2,000,402)</u>
<u>Cash from investing operations</u>		
Acquisition of fixed assets	-	-
<u>Cash from financing operations</u>		
Net Interest	(67,118)	(42,503)
Line of credit	399	(8,042)
Local loans	-	0
	<u>(66,719)</u>	<u>(50,545)</u>
Exchange results	(8,356)	(59,220)
Net Cash movements	<u>(81,598)</u>	<u>(114,860)</u>
Cash and equivalent beginning of the period	528,203	643,064
Cash and equivalent at the end of the period	<u>446,605</u>	<u>528,203</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

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 8, 2015.

The Foundation is under the supervision of the Swiss Confederation. The main objective of the Foundation is to provide protection, education, and other vital services necessary in the humanitarian and transitional development context for youth and specifically young women, who are made vulnerable by violence, war, conflict, and disasters, as well as those who are displaced and those communities affected by displacement. The main outcome is to increase and improve resilience.

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 is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and registered in various other countries, as a non-profit legal entity in Belize, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Mauritania, Mexico, Panama, South Sudan, Türkiye, and Venezuela. We are awaiting additional registrations of RET International in Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Peru. RET is operational by partnering with/supporting other registered INGOs and local NGOs in Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Peru.

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 indéterminée*.

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.

4a. Accounting period

The Foundation's accounting period runs from January 1st to December 31st.

4b. 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.

4c. 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).

4d. 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.

4e. Accounting for projects/programs

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

RET INTERNATIONAL GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE 12 MONTHS
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023
WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

5. Restricted Income

			2023	2022
			CHF	CHF
Restricted Income			12 months	12 months
<u>GOVERNMENTS</u>	Project Location	Note		
Liechtenstein MOFA	Türkiye	5a	473,078	648,407
Swiss SDC	Venezuela	5b	434,505	546,537
CARSI	Costa Rica	5c	168,388	121,595
CARSI	Belize	5d	22,557	-
U.S. AID – BHA	Panama	5e	788,273	1,893,899
U.S. AID – BHA	Venezuela	5f	373,418	1,012,566
U.S. AID – BHA	Dominican Republic	5g	40,131	-
U.S. AID – BHA	Mexico	5h	389,120	-
U.S. TIP	Belize	5i	322,554	265,912
U.S. State Department BPRM	Mauritania	5j	399,808	987,282
U.S. State Department BPRM	Türkiye	5k	1,018,539	-
UK FCDO	Türkiye	5l	311,226	176,388
			4,741,597	5,652,586
<u>INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS</u>				
UNHCR	Costa Rica	5aa	424,837	1,568,996
UNHCR DAFI	Burundi	5bb	172,180	896,143
UNHCR	Panama	5cc	-	88,230
UNHCR	Burundi	5dd	230,940	-
UNICEF	Belize	5ee	100	43,146
UNICEF	Panama	5ff	1,025,599	646,250
ECW	Burundi	5gg	267,328	-
ECW	Ecuador	5hh	443,637	22,980
IOM	Ecuador	5ii	-	184,598
IOM	Venezuela	5jj	201,986	-
WFP	Venezuela	5kk	735,323	731,482
			3,501,931	4,181,825
<u>Other Donors</u>				
Carpe Vitam International	Burundi	5aaa	173,078	194,506
			173,078	194,506
			8,416,606	10,028,918

5. Restricted Income

Governments

5a) Government of Liechtenstein MOFA - Türkiye (2 projects)

The project “Turkish and English Language Learning Program as a Tool for Empowerment and Social Cohesion (2023-2025)” began implementation in January 2023 in collaboration with Liela, a charitable foundation supported by Liechtenstein’s Government.

RET in Türkiye also began implementation “Local Women’s Socio-Economic Empowerment and Performing Arts Centre as a Tool for Social Cohesion and Youth Empowerment,” with support by the Government of Liechtenstein.

5b) 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.

5c) 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.

5d) U.S. Department of State - Central America Regional Security Initiative

(CARSI) - INL - Costa Rica - Belize

The project “Transportation Leaders Empowered through Education, Awareness, and Effective Policy Change on Human Trafficking in Belize (TLEAP),” implemented between September 2022 and March 2024, 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 Belize.

5e) The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) - 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) 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) and implemented by RET in Panama Mexico.

5f) The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) - 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) and implemented by RET in Venezuela.

5g) The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) - Dominican Republic

The project “Strengthening comprehensive disaster risk management at the local level in Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic” was implemented between October 2020 and March 2023, 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 Mexico, and in partnership with Plan International in the Dominican Republic.

5h) The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) - Mexico

The project “Strengthening comprehensive disaster risk management at the local level in Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic” was implemented between October 2020 and March 2023, 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 Mexico, and in partnership with Plan International in the Dominican Republic.

5i) U.S. Department of State - TIP - 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.

5j) U.S. State Department - BPRM - Mauritania

The two projects “Building Educational Resilience of Vulnerable Out-of-School Youth and 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.

5k) U.S. State Department - BPRM - Türkiye

The project “An Integrated Approach to Increase Resilience in Underserved Communities” is being implemented between September 2023 and August 2026. It has been funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and implemented by RET in Türkiye.

5l) UK FCDO - Türkiye

The project “Multi-sectoral Approach for Fostering Resilience among Non-Syrian Refugee and Vulnerable Host Communities” is funded by the UK Embassy in Ankara and began implementation in 2022.

Intergovernmental Organizations

5aa) UNHCR - Costa Rica

The project “Responding to the specific needs of refugees and asylum seekers in Costa Rica” completed between March-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-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 - Panama

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

5dd) UNHCR - Burundi

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

5ee) UNICEF - Belize

The project “Promoting Gender Equity and Non-Violence, Enhancing Capacities, Addressing Family Violence” was implemented between June–December 2022 in partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Belize.

5ff) 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.

5gg) ECW - Burundi

The project “KOMEZAWIGE” (Keep Studying) was implemented from 2022–2024, with funding by Education Cannot Wait, and implemented by RET in Burundi.

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) 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.

5jj) International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Venezuela

The project “Assistance to improve WASH services and infrastructure in the state of Bolívar” was implemented from June 2023 to March 2024 by RET in Venezuela.

5kk) WFP - Venezuela

The project “School feeding for children under six years of age” implemented between July–September 2021, is implemented in partnership with the World Food Program and RET in Venezuela.

Other Donors

5aaa) Carpe Vitam International - Burundi (2 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–December 2021, was funded by Foundation Carpe Vitam International and implemented by RET in Burundi.

RET INTERNATIONAL GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE 12 MONTHS
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023
WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

6. Unrestricted Income

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	CHF	CHF
	12 months	12 months
Unrestricted income		
<u>Private Donors*</u>		
Other individuals	6,525	961,466
<u>Payroll Insurance Reimbursement</u>		
Insurance reimbursement **	114,358	113,247
<u>Interco participations</u>		
RET Americas	-	-
RET Germany e.V.	-	52,650
<u>Total unrestricted income</u>	<u>120,883</u>	<u>1,127,362</u>
Private donors*		
Madame Z. Gündüz	4,480	-
Other private donors	2,044	959,964
Anonymous private donors	-	1,502
	<u>6,525</u>	<u>961,466</u>

** A necessary disclosure on this income is that it relates to reimbursement by AXA Insurance as per the terms of HQ management medical insurance cover contract. This was following indisposition of a member of RET International HQ management, which qualified for such refunds to RET by the insurance. As such, the income did not arise from normal trading activities of RET International.

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 2022 and 2023:

	2023	2022
	CHF	CHF
	12 months	12 months
<u>Expenses related to the projects</u>		
Belize	305,189	273,561
Costa Rica	581,893	1,662,317
Ecuador	443,637	195,534
Panama	1,713,214	2,378,803
Dominican	97,364	-
Venezuela	1,542,040	2,582,574
Mauritania	415,479	459,258
Mexico	296,541	-
Burundi	742,954	1,034,694
Türkiye	704,803	529,119
<u>Total expenses related to the projects</u>	<u>6,843,113</u>	<u>9,115,860</u>
<u>Direction and support</u>		
Salaries and social charges	1,251,710	1,212,102
Other expenses related to personnel	38,479	47,938
Travel and representation expenses	36,194	11,905
Audit, accounting and legal fees	113,358	86,260
Other administrative expenses	141,405	358,395
Depreciation on fixed assets	20,828	23,434
<u>Total direction and support</u>	<u>1,601,974</u>	<u>1,740,034</u>
<u>Total expenses by nature</u>	<u>8,445,087</u>	<u>10,855,894</u>

8a. Operating Result for the Year

During fiscal year 2023, RET International reports an Operating Surplus of CHF 92,402. The total income decreased to CHF 8.5 million compared to total income of CHF 11.1 million in the previous 12 months period.

	2023	2022
	CHF	CHF
	12 months	12 months
<u>Extraordinary expenses prior years</u>		
NICRA reimbursements	-	35,502
	-	35,502

The financial results reflecting currency losses and bank interest and fees reduced the operating surplus by CHF 207,985. Thus, the result for the year is a surplus of CHF 16,927. There were no extra-ordinary expenses in FY2023.

8b. Going Concern

With the foregoing results for the fiscal year 2023, RET management holds the opinion that the going concern of the organization remains solid for the forth coming 12 months. As at the date of this reporting, the organization has continued its normal operations in the field as well as in its HQ and continues to mobilise resources for the future growth of its humanitarian and development activities.

Based on the financial projections for the FY2024, as well as the results from the management accounts for 2024, 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 Programs

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 programs in different countries of interest. Where such expenses are incurred, the Board has thus established a policy on such amortization which is applied accordingly. The amortized amount for the fiscal year 2023 was CHF 20,828.

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.

11a. Guarantees in Favor 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 CHF 441,826) held at BCGE serve as guarantee against USD 1 million line of credit (overdraft facility).

11b. Advance to field offices

This is the cash transferred to and available in the country offices, and which has not been spent in project operations as at the close of the Financial year.

11c. Commitments relating to projects

The balance corresponds to the deferred grants on the projects.

All projects whose contracts are not completed and reported, but whose funds have been received, are recorded as liabilities until these funds are spent in the implementation of the project as per the terms of the donor contract.

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 organizations 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 was the case in the previous year, there were significant movement of trade related transactions with RET Germany. The closing balance marginally increased and ended as a receivable of CHF 1.05M, compared to the previous year CHF 1.12M. The Management continues to handle these related parties balances as normal business closing balances. There is an intention to reduce significantly the 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. This effort has led to a significant reduction in this balance in FY2024, as evident in the management accounts as at November 2024.

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 organization 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 FY2023 amounting to CHF 1,052,925 is considered recoverable by the Board of RET International and payable by the Board of RET Germany.

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 FY2023, the Foundation employed an average of 3 persons for the year in Geneva, Switzerland headquarters. Throughout the FY2023, 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 FY2023.

16. Auditor Fees

The auditor fee for fiscal year 2023 was CHF 21,461 (2022: CHF 23,550).

17. Liabilities towards Employee Benefits Institutions

The Foundation did not hold any debts towards employee benefits institutions during FY2023 (2022: Nil).

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

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of RET INTERNATIONAL (the Foundation), which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2023, the income statement and the cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements comply with Swiss law and the Foundation's statutes.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Standards on Auditing (SA-CH). Our responsibilities under those provisions and standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our report. We are independent of the Foundation in accordance with the provisions of Swiss law, together with the requirements of the Swiss audit profession, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The Board of Foundation is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Board of Foundation's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Board of Foundation is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the provisions of Swiss law and the Foundation's statutes, and for such internal control as the Board of Foundation determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Foundation is responsible for assessing the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern, and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board of Foundation either intends to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Swiss law and SA-CH will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Swiss law and SA-CH, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Foundation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Foundations' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with the Board of Foundation or its relevant committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with article 728a para. 1 item 3 CO and PS-CH 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of financial statements according to the instructions of the Board of Foundation.

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, 17 December 2024

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)

ALLIANCES AND SUPPORT



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

France

- Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

Germany

- Federal Foreign Office
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- German Embassy in Costa Rica

Japan

- Embassy of Japan in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- Embassy of Japan in Lebanon
- Embassy of Japan in Türkiye

Principality of Liechtenstein

- Office of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Netherlands

- Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

Norway

- Royal Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

Sweden

- Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

Switzerland

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

United Kingdom

- Department of International Development (UKaid), DFID
- FCO
- UK Embassy in Türkiye

United States of America

- Department of State (BPRM)
- Department of State (CARSI)
- Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)
- Department of State (GWI)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS



ECHO

European Union, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

IOM

International Organization for Migration

OCHA

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UNDP

United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA

United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR

UN High Commission for Refugees

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

WHO

World Health Organisation

INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

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

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

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.

Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GADRRRES)

- Member

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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

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

International Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)

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

Education Cannot Wait Fund

- Member of the Educational Technical Task Team
- Member of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Northern Group

Réseau Suisse Education et Coopération Internationale (RECI)

- Member of the Executive Board (since 2015)

Global Education Cluster

- Member of the Strategic Advisory Group (since 2017)

International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

- Member of the Humanitarian and Development Nexus Group

RET BOARD MEMBERS

RET is composed of three independent organizations that work together to implement projects and bridge the gaps. Our President and CEO maintains an active role in all three.

RET INTERNATIONAL



Chair
**Mr. Thierry Galissard
de Marignac**

Former Partner at Banque
Mirabaud & Cie.



Board Member
**Mr. Jean-Claude
Peterschmitt**

Attorney at Law, Partner at
SES Attorneys at Law Berlin.



Board Member
Mr. Patrick Odier

President, Swiss Sustainable
Finance and Building
Bridges and former Senior
Managing Partner of
Lombard Odier.



Treasurer
Mr. James Russo

Former CFO of CHF
International (now
Global Communities) for
development/ humanitarian
assistance projects.



Board Member
**Mrs. Anne-Shelton
Aaron**

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



President and CEO
Ms. Zeynep Gündüz
Board Member for **RET
INTERNATIONAL**
Vice Chair for **RET GERMANY**
Chair for **RET AMERICAS**

RET AMERICAS



Secretary
Mr. Alan P. Dye

Partner at Webster,
Chamberlain & Bean,
LLP, specialized in the
representation of
organizations.



Chair
**Mr. Anne Willem
Bijleveld**

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



Co-Vice Chair
Dr. Bahadır Engin

HR management/ executive.
Ph.D. in Social Policy and
Employment: Working
Conditions and Occupational
Accidents.



Secretary
**Dr. Frank
Nagelschmidt**

Attorney at Law, Partner at
SES Attorneys at Law Berlin.



Treasurer and
Board Member
Ms. Ute Kollies

Former Head of Office
for the UN Coordination
of Humanitarian Affairs
(OCHA).

RET GERMANY

Bridging the Gaps



RET Alliance Annual Report and Financial Statements 2023
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RET ALLIANCE

RET International (Geneva, Switzerland)

RET Germany (Berlin, Germany)

RET Americas (Washington, D.C., United States)



RET International



RET International



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