

# REFUGEE BIRIYANI & BANANAS

England & Wales · Charity number 1189561

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2020-05-19

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 52 Clifton Road  
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**Website** [www.refugeebiriyanibananas.org](http://www.refugeebiriyanibananas.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO RELIEVE POVERTY, DISTRESS AND SUFFERING IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO HUNGER, SICKNESS OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY, OR EMOTIONAL OR MENTAL ILL-HEALTH), PRIMARILY ARISING FROM PUBLIC CALAMITY (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, WAR, CONFLICT AND NATURAL DISASTERS) AND GEO-POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, OPPRESSION OR POLITICAL PERSECUTION) IN PARTICULAR BY THE PROVISION OF, OR ASSISTANCE IN THE PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN, MEDICAL, DEVELOPMENTAL, HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL OR SOCIAL PROGRAMMES.

**Activities:** Refugee Biryani & Bananas is a female and community-led grassroots humanitarian organisation providing emergency aid, advocacy and support to people affected by war, displacement and poverty. We deliver food, water and essential aid, and run the Community Humanitarian Leaders Programme (CHLP), supporting people with lived experience to be involved in humanitarian response and leadership.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Egypt
- Greece
- Occupied Palestinian Territories
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£423,041	£373,007	-	-
2024-03-31	£240,505	£238,928	-	-
2023-03-31	£203,373	£188,132	-	-
2022-03-31	£210,951	£137,628	-	-
2021-03-31	£119,277	£105,590	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Aliya Abidi		2024-12-29
Amber Ritson		2024-12-21
Elena Martinez Garcia		2025-01-05
Mantaqaa Akhtar		2024-12-21
Munira Ahmed Yusuf		2025-02-01
Triana Riazor Marquina		2024-12-26

**REFUGEE BIRIYANI & BANANAS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1189561

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# Accounts

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**REFUGEE**  
BIRIYANI & BANANAS

Trustees Annual Report  
& Financial Statement  
1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025

Charity Commission  
Registration No. 1189561

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# Our Mission

## Who We Are

### Community-Led Field Team

85% of our field team and coordinators have lived experience of displacement and forced migration. With team representation from countries including Sudan, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea, Cameroon, Gambia, Sierra Leone, UK, USA, and Spain, this diversity strengthens our ability to respond with cultural understanding and community-rooted trust.

### Leadership and Governance

We are a proudly female-led organisation, with seven of our eight leaders being women and five from the global majority. Our leadership combines professional expertise with lived and community-rooted experience. Our Board brings strengths in humanitarian aid, finance, governance, refugee protection, and grassroots organising, with several members connected to refugee and diaspora communities through heritage or family ties.

### Inclusive Core Team

Our core team—including staff, advisors, and ambassadors—reflects a wide range of identities and backgrounds, including those who have historically faced discrimination, prejudice, or marginalisation. We are committed to equity, inclusion, and challenging systemic bias in all we do. People with lived experience of displacement are central to our work, actively shaping decisions and leading delivery across all areas.



## Our Aims: Delivering Humanitarian Aid, No Matter What

At Refugee Biriyani & Bananas, our aim and mission is to provide urgent, dignified humanitarian support to displaced individuals, guided by a flexible “whatever it takes” approach. From distributing food, shelter items, and winter essentials to advocating for human rights, we respond to unmet needs with care, equity, and respect.

As a community-led organisation, we centre people who are refugees and asylum seekers in every stage of our work—from shaping decisions to delivering aid—recognising their knowledge, skills, and lived experiences. Our mutual accompaniment model means we work with, not for, communities, enabling shared learning and more responsive, grounded support.

Our advocacy amplifies the voices of those we stand alongside, raising awareness and driving action to uphold their rights. Beyond direct aid, we step in where gaps exist—volunteering, coordinating, and showing up—offering solidarity and consistency in a landscape too often defined by absence.



# About Us

## Background

Refugee Biryani & Bananas (RBB) began in 2015 as a grassroots response to the Syrian refugee crisis. It started with a group of friends from the North East of England who cooked and distributed 2,500 portions of biriyani and bananas to people living in an unofficial refugee camp in Dunkirk, Northern France.

The image of Alan Kurdi—a young Syrian child whose body washed ashore while fleeing war—left a lasting impact. It stirred a sense of urgency and responsibility that the group could not ignore. On returning home, they committed to continuing their support for people affected by displacement and crisis.

While not everyone from those early days remains involved in the same way, many continue to contribute in different ways, and new people have since joined the journey—bringing fresh energy, perspectives, and commitment. That early moment laid the foundation for what would become RBB: an organisation rooted in justice, community, and the belief that no one should be forgotten.

On May 19, 2020, RBB became a registered organisation, dedicated to supporting and advocating for people displaced by war, persecution, and poverty. Today, we stand in solidarity with over 122 million people who are forcibly displaced worldwide (UNHCR, 2025). Since our founding, we've gone on to support more than 1 million people—delivering aid, amplifying voices, and addressing urgent needs where others fall short.



## Where We Are

Since September 2015, Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (RBB) has provided vital humanitarian support to people who are displaced, living in refugee camps, war zones, informal settlements, and unstable conditions along migratory routes. Over the years, we have responded in key locations across Europe and the Middle East, including:

- France: Calais, Dunkirk, and Paris
- Greece: Idomeni Camp, Thessaloniki, Athens, Lavrio, Samos, and Chios
- Northern Iraq: Duhok and Sinjar
- Serbia: Belgrade Barracks
- Bosnia & Herzegovina – Croatia Border: Vučjak Camp
- Turkey: Istanbul
- Poland – Belarus – Lithuania Border
- Ukraine Border
- Gaza, Palestine
- Cairo, Egypt



While we remain rooted in a legacy of grassroots emergency response, our current focus centres on three critical regions where needs remain immense and under-addressed. Guided by the strength of our community and networks, we concentrate our efforts where we believe we can currently make the most meaningful impact:

**Greece**, where arrivals continue despite dwindling funding and fading international attention, leaving many displaced people in increasingly difficult and neglected situations.

**Cairo**, supporting communities displaced by conflict in Sudan, Palestine, Yemen, Somalia, and other crises.

**Gaza**, where we work with local networks to respond to catastrophic needs amid ongoing conflict.

# Trustees Statement

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am proud to share this year's report for Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (RBB). Appointed since December 2024, we are a newly formed Board and each of us feels privileged to serve an organisation as inspiring and community-driven as RBB.

Throughout 2024–25, against a backdrop of intensifying conflicts, economic hardships and unreasonable political hostility towards people who are refugees and displaced, RBB continued to deliver rapid, compassionate and community-rooted humanitarian support. What sets RBB apart is not only what we do, but how we do it. Involving at every stage of our work those with lived experience of displacement. That includes 80% of our field team, as well as the community leaders and changemakers we train and support through initiatives like our Community Humanitarian Leaders Programme.

During this financial year we enable more than 173,000 women, children and men to access essential aid in Greece, Cairo and Gaza.

In Chios, Greece, we provided consistent, culturally appropriate food, hygiene items, clothing and other support to people navigating the asylum system, often in appalling conditions. In Gaza, through trusted community-led coordination, we mobilised urgently needed aid in response to a devastating humanitarian emergency. We reached tens of thousands of people with water and food demonstrating that solidarity, when done right, can save lives.

As trustees, we are especially proud of RBB's commitment grassroots action, not top-down aid, driven by love, trust and the belief that people experiencing displacement must shape the solutions. From funeral support in Athens to aid trucks at the Rafah crossing, every intervention is a reminder that humanity transcends borders.

Over the coming year, our Board will continue to support the charity's mission, ensuring we remain accountable, agile and deeply aligned with our values. We will expand our operational capacity, prioritising lived experience and critical on the ground skills and continue to prioritise financial sustainability in a very challenging funding landscape.

To our partners, volunteers, donors and the displaced communities who trust us: thank you. We are inspired by your courage, wisdom and solidarity every day.

Warmest Wishes



**Amber Bauer**  
*Chair of Trustees*

# A Note from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On 3rd September 2025, Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (RBB) will mark ten years since it began as a volunteer-led response, born out of deep outrage and heartbreak. Like many around the world, I was shaken by the image of Alan Kurdi—just three years old, lying lifeless on a beach after fleeing war in Syria. That moment changed everything. What followed was not a campaign or a plan, but a promise: to act, to listen, and to never turn away.

A decade on, that promise still shapes everything we do.

This year, RBB has continued to navigate the impossible: rising needs, shrinking support, and systems that fail the very people they claim to protect. Yet we've remained present—rooted in relationships and trust—with a small but fierce team of volunteers and coordinators across Greece, Cairo, and Gaza.

In Greece, despite having to close our Qalbi Centre in Athens due to limited resources, we've continued to support displaced individuals in the city through collaborative and targeted emergency distributions. Our work on the islands remains a core part of our identity — particularly in Chios, where we are often the first point of contact for people arriving in distress, and where our presence is valued by both the community and other frontline actors.

In Cairo, we have built new relationships and a deeper understanding of the needs of Sudanese and other displaced communities. It has been a milestone for RBB: an opportunity not only to respond, but to grow closer to people often left out of aid conversations entirely.



Our work in Gaza has tested every part of our network and resolve. When trucks were no longer able to cross into Gaza, and the route through Rafah became blocked, we found other ways—supporting our local, community-led teams to reach tens of thousands with food, hygiene kits, and clean drinking water. We faced extraordinary obstacles, but we continued, and we will continue, for as long as needed.

The Community Humanitarian Leaders Programme (CHLP) has grown to include more coordinators and volunteers from displaced backgrounds, many now leading efforts in places like Gaza. In March 2025, over 50 volunteers from Sudan, Palestine, and Egypt came together in Cairo to support RBB, driven by their own experiences and personal commitment to helping others. As one volunteer put it: “We’ve been helped before—now it’s our turn to help others.” Another asked, “When are you coming back? We want to work with you again.”

Internally, RBB has also taken steps to strengthen its foundations. This year, we welcomed a newly recruited Board of Trustees, bringing fresh insights and experience to guide us into our next chapter. Their support is helping us navigate this critical period with renewed clarity and accountability.

As we approach our tenth anniversary, I want to honour the people we serve. People who have endured far more than most can imagine—and who still find ways to share food, stories, and laughter with us. I want to thank every supporter who has helped keep this work alive—your solidarity is not forgotten. And I want to thank our team—most of whom are themselves displaced—for showing what dignity, strength, and leadership truly look like.

We are small. But we are not alone. And we’re not done yet.

With gratitude and determination,



**Ruhi Loren Akhtar**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



# Key Achievements | Impact Report

Thank you to everyone who donated funds, raised funds, provided in-kind donations and services, volunteered in the field or remotely, supported procurement of aid, shared our social media posts, and offered encouragement. A special thanks to the members of our communities of support who volunteered with us despite their own challenging circumstances.

**A comprehensive financial overview is included after this section with our Accountant's Independent Examination.**

Together, we supported approximately **173,219** (287% increase from previous year) people across all sites, providing ongoing care where needed and one-time assistance for those on the move. This equated to **188,398** (225% increase from previous year) individual distribution or support instances over the year.

**Our distributions and interventions this year supported people affected by war and displacement from Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, Palestine, Yemen, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Greece, and multiple regions across East, West, and Sub-Saharan Africa, including Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan.**

**We focused our efforts on three key areas:**

- **Greece: Chios and Athens**
- **Palestine: Gaza**
- **Egypt: Cairo**

**In addition to direct aid, we provided social support, remote interventions, and stood alongside individuals by advocating for their access to safety, services, and dignity—particularly those facing urgent needs or systemic barriers. We also extended targeted remote emergency support and advocacy efforts to other parts of Greece, including the islands of Rhodes, Lesbos, Samos, and Leros, responding wherever we were needed and able to do so.**

## **Food, Water and Hygiene Products**

With a primary focus of providing food security and hygiene items we purchased:

- **£167,394** of Food Supplies (50.4% increase from previous year)
- **£26,299** of Hygiene Products (175% increase from previous year)

With financial and in-kind donations, a total of **18,107** (42.5% increase from previous year) individual, community directed, food & hygiene packs were distributed. The average number of items per pack was **10** products, ranging between **6** items and **25** items per pack.

## GAZA CLEAN WATER DISTRIBUTIONS

For the first time since RBB began, we launched a dedicated and large-scale clean drinking water project in Gaza, responding to the urgent need caused by infrastructure collapse and water contamination. While we have supported water access in the past, this was our most extensive effort to date—delivering safe water to thousands, with **£26,606** allocated to this critical response.



**76 WATER TRUCKS**



**380,000 LITRES**



**120,000 PEOPLE (3 L Each)**



## Individual Food Item 285,851

(Average Standard Sized Packs)

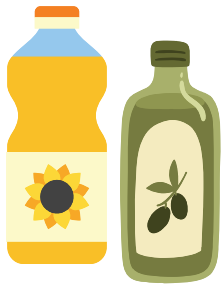
234% increase from previous year

## Individual Hygiene Products 16,336

(Average Standard Sized Packs)

33.7% increase from previous year

While this is not a complete representation of all the food and hygiene products distributed this year, it provides insight into some of the most popular items and quantities made possible thanks to your support.



11,124 Bottles of 1 Litre  
Cooking Oil



15,807 Cans / Bottles of 500 g Vegetables  
and Varied Tomato Preparations.



16,609 Cans of 100 g  
Tinned Fish



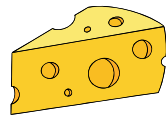
11,147 Packs of  
1kg Sugar



3,740 Packs of  
1kg Pasta



13,436 Bags of  
1kg Rice



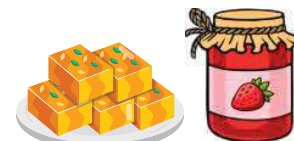
14,268 Packs of  
300 g Cheese



11,192 Packs / Tins of 250g  
Fresh and Canned Halal Meats



11,419 Packs containing salt,  
flour, spices, and stock (750g)



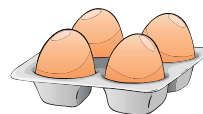
6,984 1 Kg Jam and Halwa



28,213 Tins / Packs of 1 kg Dried and  
Tinned Lentils, Chickpeas, Pulses and Beans



7 Tonnes of Dates



7,560 Individual Eggs



43,760 portion sized packs of  
biscuits, crisps and snack items.



1,389,960 cups of Soft Drinks, Fruit  
Juices, Tea and Coffee (250 mls)



7.5 tonnes of fresh vegetables



3,246 Cartons of  
1 Litre Milk



4,213 Bottles of 750 ML Dishwashing Liquid



4,233 Boxes of 500 g Soap Powder



175 Bottles and Bars of 100g of Body Wash and Soap



300 Bottles of 400 ML Shampoo



36,834 individual Sanitary Towels



147 Toothbrushes & 150 g Toothpaste



3,585 Deodorant and packs of wet wipes (72 pieces)

### Non-Food Items



In Chios and Athens, **10,276** (66.4% increase from previous year) pieces of non-food / hygiene aid items were also distributed. These included blankets and sleeping bags, tents, children's educational supplies, laptops, gifts and art supplies, kitchen equipment, household items, shoes, clothes, suitcases, backpacks, plastic storage boxes and winter thermal accessories. These items were donated in-kind by private donors, businesses, and other NGOs, with additional items purchased as needed.

# OTHER KEY SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

## Support for the Deceased & their Families



We supported the burial, funeral and commemoration services of five people in Chios and Athens by facilitating communication with their community groups, attending the services, and providing materials, volunteers, and transportation for the burials. Additionally, we offered social support to the family members.

## Supermarket Vouchers



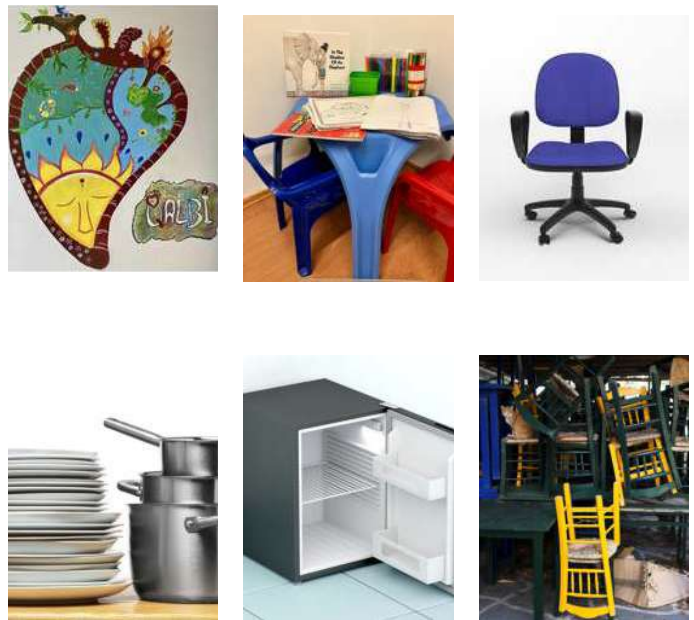
We distributed £2,500 worth of supermarket shopping vouchers to 145 people in emergency and homeless situations in Athens, allowing them to purchase easy to eat and fresh food items of their choosing.

## Hot Meals



In Chios, Athens, Gaza and Cairo, we provided 3,605 individual portions of hot meals and cooked food. These were cooked / prepared / bought and distributed during outreach sessions, for celebrations and activities, field work, for community volunteers, and during emergencies.

## Aid from Qalbi Centre



Following the closure of the Qalbi Centre in Athens, we donated approximately three pallet loads of materials and aid to partner organisations, including furniture, hygiene items, and distribution supplies. An additional pallet of aid and household / kitchen items was shared with our community team for targeted distributions to those in need.

## Community Coordinators and Volunteers

Across all our sites of support during the year—including Chios, Athens, Cairo, and Gaza—a total of **355 individuals** from displaced communities and conflict-affected areas engaged in meaningful humanitarian opportunities with RBB. These included volunteer roles and coordinator placements, enabling them to contribute directly to the delivery of aid while gaining valuable hands-on experience.

In addition to these roles, participants received essential support such as food, refreshments, and access to study materials—including laptops where available and necessary—to help them pursue their personal, educational, and professional development.

Of the 355 individuals supported, 65 were provided with additional assistance with accommodation, travel, and transport as and when necessary, helping to reduce the financial and logistical barriers that often prevent displaced individuals from participating in such programmes. Additionally, 5 individuals were offered continued mentoring focused on humanitarian work and the development of their own projects—supporting them to take on leadership roles and make a lasting impact within their communities.

We also took part in peer-to-peer learning and strategy workshops in Belgium, with our Gaza project remote coordinator in attendance and others from Gaza joining via video call to contribute their insights and lived experiences.



## #EndPushbacks Interventions, Advocacy & Crisis Support

162 groups and approximately 6000 people contacted our emergency helpline in distress, reaching out from across the Greek islands for urgent support and guidance. This is a 200% increase of people accessing the emergency helpline from the previous year.

Throughout the year, we maintained our emergency helpline for people in distress arriving in Greece, providing urgent guidance based on their location and available support mechanisms. In these cases, we were the first or one of the first points of call, directly contacted by people stranded after arrival, before involving other actors. We handled **86 incidents** involving people in distress post-arrival, offering advice, facilitating reporting mechanisms, and advocating for their registration onto the asylum-seeking process.

In some instances, groups were split after arrival, due to the circumstances on the ground, and we would receive multiple calls from different numbers and individuals within the same group, sometimes reporting their location and condition separately.

The majority of cases we reported on involved groups arriving on Chios (30%), followed by Lesbos (19%), Samos (14%), Rhodes (13%), and Farmakonisi (13%). Smaller numbers were recorded on Ikaria, Oinousses, and Vrachonisida Agios Nikolas, a small islet near Samos.

We communicated with the emergency services and collaborated with human rights NGOs, legal support teams, advocates, monitoring groups, and journalists to raise awareness via various means including social media and engage relevant authorities, including the Greek Ombudsman. Through these collective efforts, we supported 3,148 individuals with access to asylum procedures, rescue, medical care, safety and transfers to camp facilities — reducing their risk of being subjected to pushbacks, detention, or other forms of border violence.



A further 57 groups (approximately 2,852 people) contacted us through the helpline, with many cases involving multiple numbers and individual calls from people within the same group. These groups reached out while either in distress at sea or after arrival on land.

In several instances, communication was lost, making it difficult to maintain contact or provide continued support. Despite these challenges, we provided advice and reporting to the best of our ability and whenever contact was possible. Unfortunately, it was not always clear what happened to these groups afterwards or whether they reached safety.

Our support for all these cases varied from a few hours to several days depending on the complexity of each case, often involving aftercare and follow-up. People contacting us reported injuries sustained during crossings or while stranded, urgent medical needs, exposure to severe weather, and imminent threats of pushbacks. Sadly, this year we also responded to two cases of missing people, and received reports of deaths during arrival journeys. We assisted families, friends, and other NGOs in filing reports and directing them to the appropriate authorities and support services.





## Social Support & General Well Being

Over the past year, we provided social support and promoted general well-being on **8,735 occasions**, advocated for individuals, and supported a total of **9,907 people**.

These interventions range from one-time actions to ongoing, consistent support over time. They are community-driven and can be directed towards individuals or groups. The activities include:



### Referrals and Facilitation of :

- Medical support
- Legal Aid
- Education
- CV Writing and Employment
- Sports, Music and Social Activities
- Housing and Shelter
- Other Integration Services
- Accessing specialist community groups and organisations
- Clothing and baby specialist services



### Translation

### Transportation Support and Travel Tickets

### Accompanying to appointments if necessary



### Activities and Celebrations:

- Cooking Sessions
- Football and Sports
- Festivals and Celebrations
- Commemorations
- Day Trips
- Community meals
- Children's activities



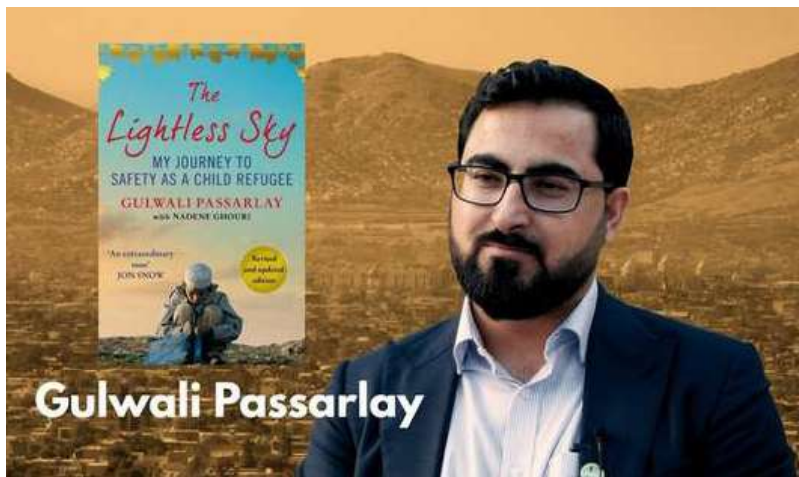
## Ambassadors, Events and Highlights

We were honoured to have the renowned musician and artist **Aria Wells**, known as **Greentea Peng**, host a fundraiser in support of our Gaza efforts. Our trustee, Aliya, spoke at the event, sharing insights from our work. We were even more grateful when Aria later joined us on the ground as a volunteer in Greece.



We're proud to share that RBB's founder, Ruhi Loren Akhtar, was named Bangladeshi Person of the Year at the 2024 North East Bangladeshi Awards (NEBA)! As Ruhi was in Chios leading an aid distribution, her father, Kaptan, collected the award on her behalf.





We were delighted to welcome RBB's brother, friend, and ambassador, **Gulwali Passarlay**. Originally from Afghanistan, Gulwali travelled the refugee route to the UK as a child and is now a respected refugee and human rights advocate, as well as the bestselling author of *The Lightless Sky*. He joined us to volunteer in Greece and helped us raise both awareness and funds for our work.

Over the past year, fundraising events for RBB — mainly supporting our work for Gaza — were held worldwide, from Newcastle, Australia to Newcastle, UK, including by former volunteers and long-standing team members. The RBB team also took part in awareness-raising, peace, and unity events in the UK, sharing a stage with Jeremy Corbyn and Muzoon Almellehan (Syrian activist and UNICEF's youngest Goodwill Ambassador).



# Community Stories 1: The Smallest Survivor

## A Child's Struggle for Survival in Gaza

### Background

In the shattered remains of what was once her family's home, three-year-old Hanin\* clung to her mother's side. The walls were gone, reduced to rubble by an airstrike that took the lives of her father, older sister, and brother. Only she and her mother, Ahlam\*, survived. But survival came at a cruel cost—Ahlam's legs had been crushed in the blast, leaving her unable to walk. Without a wheelchair, she was trapped, unable to move beyond the broken space they now called home...

**\*Name changed to protect identity**

For weeks, Ahlam and Hanin had no way to reach food lines or distributions by aid organisations. Each day blurred into the next, the weight of grief and hunger pressing down. Ahlam's greatest pain, however, was not her injuries - it was watching her daughter grow weaker.

*'I tried to keep her from seeing my pain, but how do you hide hunger from a child? She stopped crying after a while, and stopped asking for food. That terrified me more than anything', Ahlam shared.*

### RBB's Intervention

When RBB's outreach team in Gaza moved tent to tent, building to building, speaking to trusted local contacts, they learned of Ahlam and Hanin's desperate situation. Without mobility, Ahlam had no way to reach help, and without an adult to collect food, Hanin had no way to eat. When our team arrived, we found Hanin sitting quietly next to her mother, too weak to play, her small hands gripping the edge of her tattered dress. A food pack was placed in front of them and for the first time in weeks, Ahlam could offer her daughter something to eat.

*'This food means my daughter will wake up tomorrow with strength in her body. She will not go to sleep on an empty stomach. I have not been able to give her that. You found us when no one else could.'*

**For Ahlam and Hanin, this was more than a meal. It was proof that they were not forgotten. And it was a reminder of why RBB's direct, localised approach-finding those cut off- is so crucial in times of crisis.**



## Community Stories 2: A Youth-Led Volunteer Response in Cairo

### 50 Sudanese and Palestinian Volunteers Step Up

#### Background

In February 2025, when two RBB aid trucks destined for Gaza were turned back at the border, the team returned to Cairo with no clear plan. A kind local couple offered the use of a warehouse, but the situation felt uncertain — and the scale of the work ahead was unknown. However, we knew the aid couldn't go to waste. It was urgently needed, and we were determined to get it to people who had already been overlooked by many systems of support.

The night before the aid distribution was due to begin, there weren't enough people to help. Even the following morning, only around ten volunteers were expected.

#### **Then something powerful happened.**

Word spread through community leaders and group chats. Youth began showing up — in groups of 15, in pairs, and alone. In the end, nearly 50 volunteers took part, the majority of them Sudanese, alongside Palestinian, Egyptian, and other local youth. Together, we sorted, packed, and distributed 2,000 food parcels to displaced communities across Cairo.

This wasn't just an emergency response — it became a grassroots, youth-led volunteer programme shaped by people with the same lived experiences as those being supported.

One volunteer said, *“We've been helped before – now it's our turn to help others.”*



Another asked, *“When are you coming back? We want to work with you again.”*

This moment reflects the heart of RBB’s Community Humanitarian Leaders Programme (CHLP) — creating meaningful, practical opportunities for displaced communities to take part in humanitarian action, not just as recipients but as leaders and organisers.

It also highlights what’s possible when people are trusted, included, and resourced.

All the food and hygiene parcels that were cleaned, sorted, and packed were then distributed by these very same volunteers—under the guidance of their grassroots leaders—to people who had recently fled the war in Sudan and Palestine, as well as other displaced communities in their respective areas.

The RBB team would love to return and build on this energy in Cairo, working alongside these local communities to support even more displaced people, while also creating further opportunities for volunteering and leadership.



# Financial Overview

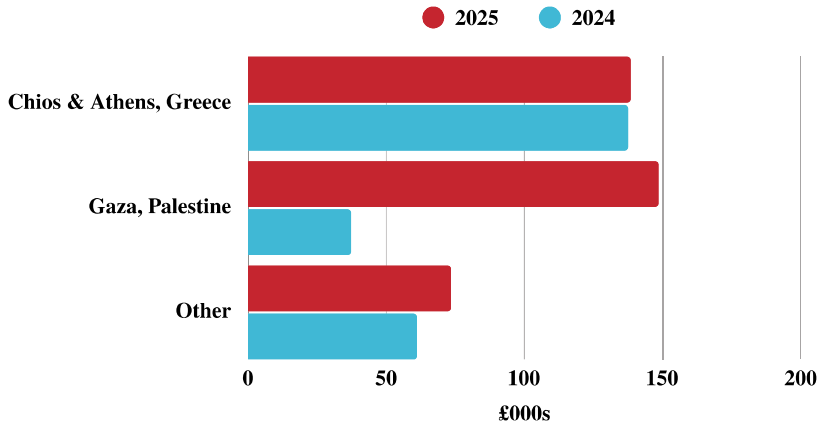
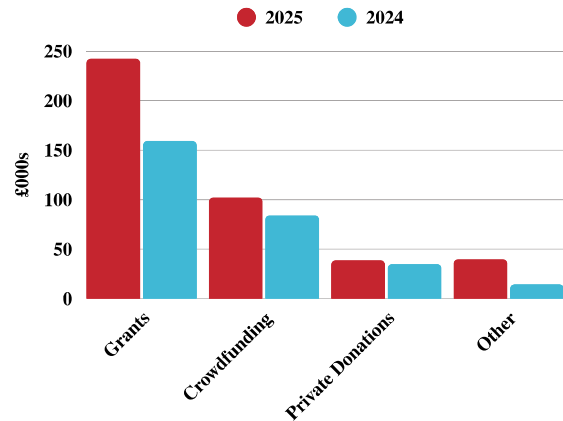
## Funds Raised - £423,041

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we have been able to increase our revenue by over 40% year on year, this has enabled us to spend more on aid than ever before.

The increase in income came from almost all fundraising categories, with significant growth from Grants and Crowdfunding in particular.

Other fundraising sources include events, corporate donations, collections and Gift Aid.

Fundraising by Source

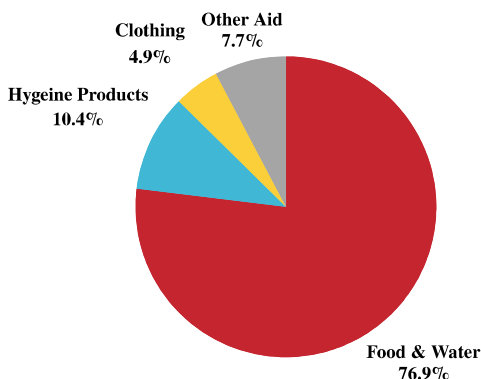
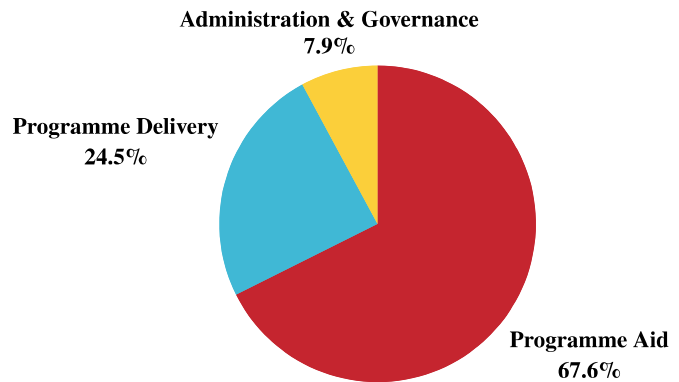


## Spend by Location

The increase in donations meant that we were able to maintain our support for refugees in Greece whilst also providing much needed aid to people in Gaza.

## Total Expenditure - £373,007

Over two thirds of our spending went directly on programme aid. A further 24.5% was spent on programme delivery on the ground.



## Programme Aid Spend - £252,156

The majority of this came in the form of Food & Water, alongside spends on Hygiene Products and Clothing.

The remaining 7.7% of “other aid” was spent on a variety of small projects such as shopping vouchers and social support.

# Reserves Policy

The trustees have established a reserves policy to ensure Refugee Biriyani & Bananas is able to continue to operate effectively and meet its obligations in the event of financial uncertainty or unforeseen circumstances. The trustees aim to maintain designated reserves of approximately £45,000–£55,000, held from unrestricted funds only. This comprises a Designated Emergency Fund of £10,000, intended to enable a timely response to acute humanitarian emergencies without disrupting existing activities, and a Designated Reserve Fund of £35,000–£45,000, intended to support organisational continuity, manage short-term cash flow pressures, and meet unexpected or exceptional costs. At the year end, the level of reserves held was in line with the RBB reserves policy, and the trustees consider this level to be appropriate having regard to the size, activities, and risk profile of the organisation. The trustees keep the reserves policy under regular review.

# What's next for RBB?

As we look ahead, RBB remains deeply committed to amplifying our impact and reaching more communities facing displacement, injustice, and crisis. Our focus for the coming year is on expanding our core, community-led programmes to ensure we continue delivering meaningful and sustainable support where it is most urgently needed.

This next phase of growth will involve strengthening partnerships with local and international organisations, as well as trusted community leaders. We will also be investing in our volunteer and support networks, and broadening our outreach so that more people—especially those often overlooked—are reached. To enhance our capacity and service delivery, we plan to bring in new specialist support, including fundraising and communications experts, to help us work more effectively and sustainably.

A key priority will be securing new and diverse sources of funding. We recognise that financial resilience is essential to sustaining our mission. That's why we are actively pursuing a mix of grants, partnerships, and community-driven fundraising campaigns—to ensure we can continue this work, even in times of economic uncertainty.

We invite our supporters, friends, and extended community to be part of this journey. Whether through volunteering, donating, organising or attending a fundraising event, or simply helping to raise awareness—every action contributes to something bigger. Every gesture brings us closer to a world rooted in compassion, equity, and collective responsibility.

Together, we can make a lasting difference. The future of RBB is bold and grounded in hope—and with your continued support, we will keep pushing boundaries, growing stronger, and standing in solidarity with those most in need.



# Charity Information

## Trustees for 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Tom Snape - Chair of Trustees (Resigned 31/12/24)

Abdelilah Alhamoud - Vice Chairperson (Resigned 1/9/24)

Jacob Warn - Treasurer (Resigned 15/2/25)

Jennifer Capasso - General Trustee (Resigned 31/1/25)

Frances Loring - General Trustee (Resigned 31/12/24)

Amber Bauer - Chair of Trustees (Appointed 21/12/24)

Aliya Abidi - General Trustee (Appointment 29/12/24)

Mantaqaa Akhtar - General Trustee (Appointment 21/12/24)

Elena Martinez Garcia - General Trustee (Appointed 5/1/25)

Triana Riazor Marquina - General Trustee (Appointed 26/12/24)

Junaed Razaq - Treasurer (Appointed 18/2/25)

Munira Yusuf - General Trustee (Appointed 1/2/25)

## Registered Address

52 Clifton Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne. NE4 8DQ

## Constitution

Registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in England and Wales, no. 1189561

## Independent Examiner

Robert Wilson FCA. Godfrey Wilson Limited, 5<sup>TH</sup> Floor, Mariner House, 62 Prince Street, Bristol. BS1 4QD.

## Banks

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c. P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

Wise Payments Limited. 56 Shoreditch High Street, London, E1 6JJ

**Website:** [www.refugeebiriyanibananas.org](http://www.refugeebiriyanibananas.org)

**Facebook:** [RefugeeBiriyaniAndBananas](#)

**Instagram:** [Refugee\\_biriyanibananas](#)

**TikTok:** [Refugeebiriyani\\_bananas](#)

**YouTube:** [@refugeebiriyanibananas](#)

# Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

## Year Ending 31st March 2025

The Trustees are pleased to present the Annual Report and financial statements for Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (RBB) for the year ending 31 March 2025. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards, including the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), and comply with the charity's constitution and the requirements of the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

As part of their legal responsibilities under the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities and position, including the income received and how it has been applied.

In preparing these statements, the Trustees have:

- Selected and consistently applied appropriate accounting policies;
- Followed the principles and methodologies set out in the Charities SORP;
- Made reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- Confirmed compliance with relevant UK accounting standards, disclosing and explaining any material departures; and
- Prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are also responsible for ensuring that proper accounting records are maintained, which accurately reflect the financial position of the organisation and enable the charity to meet its statutory requirements. This includes safeguarding the charity's assets and ensuring that robust internal controls and procedures are in place to prevent fraud and financial mismanagement.

Approved by the CIO Trustees on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Amber Bauer

Chair of Trustees

# Structure and Governance

During the year, Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (RBB) was governed by a board of five to seven trustees, in line with our constitution which requires a minimum of three. Trustees are appointed by the existing board for a term of three years and are eligible for reappointment.

All trustees volunteer their time and expertise without remuneration. Board meetings were held every 8–12 weeks via video call, with every meeting chaired and minuted. Trustees also remained in regular contact through email, WhatsApp, and phone calls to review updates, approve or decline initiatives and finances, and provide support to the organisation as needed.

In addition to full board meetings, trustees worked within sub-groups to provide focused oversight in key areas such as safeguarding, finance, and strategic development. This allowed for more efficient decision-making and ensured timely responses to urgent matters.

Several trustees who joined the board since December 2024 had previously volunteered with RBB in the field and/or were known to the organisation as colleagues and peers working in the same sector. Since their appointment, there have been occasions where several trustees have met in person with Ruhi (CEO), the field teams and each other in Greece and Cairo, collaborating on key thematic areas and actively supporting operational activities.

Our strategic direction and areas of activity are continuously reviewed to ensure we remain responsive to the shifting realities faced by displaced people. This flexible, needs-led approach allows us to respond quickly to emerging crises while remaining rooted in our values and long-term mission.



**WE THANK YOU!**

## **Independent examiner's report**

**To the trustees of**

### **Refugee Biriyani & Bananas**

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (the CIO) for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 30 to 42.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

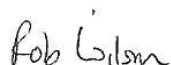
Since the CIO's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

Godfrey Wilson Limited also provides ad-hoc consultancy services to the CIO. I confirm that as a member of the ICAEW I am subject to the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2024, which I have applied with respect to this engagement.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Date: 8 January 2026

**Robert Wilson FCA**

**Member of the ICAEW**

**Godfrey Wilson Limited**

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

## Refugee Biriyani & Bananas

### Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £	Restated 2024 Total £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations	3	113,472	79,628	<b>193,100</b>	143,163
Charitable activities	4	<u>229,941</u>	<u>-</u>	<b>229,941</b>	149,910
<b>Total income</b>		<u>343,413</u>	<u>79,628</u>	<b>423,041</b>	293,073
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		-	38,281	<b>38,281</b>	30,706
Charitable activities		<u>294,880</u>	<u>39,846</u>	<b>334,726</b>	208,222
<b>Total expenditure</b>	6	<u>294,880</u>	<u>78,127</u>	<b>373,007</b>	238,928
<b>Net income and net movement in funds</b>	7	48,533	1,501	<b>50,034</b>	54,145
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>41,700</u>	<u>111,410</u>	<b>153,110</b>	98,965
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>90,233</u>	<u>112,911</u>	<b>203,144</b>	153,110

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 13 to the accounts.

Prior period income and expenditure have been reclassified to reflect the requirements of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and to be comparable with the current year as outlined in note 15 to the accounts.

## Refugee Biryani & Bananas

### Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	Restated 2024 £
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	10	-		5,139
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>209,142</u>		<u>152,161</u>
		<b>209,142</b>		<b>157,300</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	11	<u>(5,998)</u>		<u>(4,190)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u><b>203,144</b></u>	<u>153,110</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	12		<u><b>203,144</b></u>	<u>153,110</u>
<b>Funds</b>	13			
Restricted funds			<b>90,233</b>	41,700
Unrestricted funds				
General funds			<u><b>112,911</b></u>	<u>111,410</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<u><b>203,144</b></u>	<u>153,110</u>

Approved by the trustees on 5 January 2026 and signed on their behalf by



Amber Bauer - Chair of Trustees

## Refugee Biryani & Bananas

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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#### 1. Accounting policies

##### a) General information and basis of preparation

Refugee Biryani & Bananas is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is 52 Clifton Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 8DQ.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Refugee Biryani & Bananas meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

##### b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

##### c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

##### d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

##### d) Donated services and facilities (continued)

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

##### e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

## Refugee Biriyani & Bananas

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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##### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

###### f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

###### g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

###### h) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities based on the proportion of cost as follows:

	2025	2024
Raising funds	10.3%	12.9%
Charitable activities	89.7%	87.1%

###### i) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

###### j) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

###### k) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

###### l) Financial instruments

The trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

## Refugee Biryani & Bananas

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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##### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

###### m) Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

###### n) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

###### o) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

##### 2. Prior period comparatives: statement of financial activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restated 2024 Total
	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations	71,277	71,886	143,163
Charitable activities	<u>149,910</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>149,910</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<u>221,187</u>	<u>71,886</u>	<u>293,073</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Raising funds	-	30,706	30,706
Charitable activities	<u>206,044</u>	<u>2,178</u>	<u>208,222</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>206,044</u>	<u>32,884</u>	<u>238,928</u>
<b>Net income and net movement in funds</b>	<u>15,143</u>	<u>39,002</u>	<u>54,145</u>

## Refugee Biryani & Bananas

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 3. Income from donations

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £
Donations	113,472	69,873	183,345
Grants	-	9,755	9,755
<b>Total income from donations</b>	<b>113,472</b>	<b>79,628</b>	<b>193,100</b>

#### Prior period comparative:

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restated 2024 Total £
Donations	71,277	62,594	133,871
Grants	-	9,292	9,292
<b>Total income from donations</b>	<b>71,277</b>	<b>71,886</b>	<b>143,163</b>

#### 4. Income from charitable activities

	2025 Total £	Restated 2024 Total £
Grants	<b>229,941</b>	149,910

Income from charitable activities was restricted in both the current year and the prior year.

#### 5. Government grants

No government grants were received in the current or prior year.

## Refugee Biryani & Bananas

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2025 Total £
Direct aid costs	-	252,156	-	<b>252,156</b>
Staff costs	13,492	27,954	12,443	<b>53,889</b>
Other staff costs	-	-	18,989	<b>18,989</b>
Advertising and marketing	18,543	-	-	<b>18,543</b>
Professional fees	-	-	13,016	<b>13,016</b>
Premises costs	-	-	6,746	<b>6,746</b>
Bank fees	-	-	6,097	<b>6,097</b>
Office costs	-	-	3,571	<b>3,571</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>32,035</b>	<b>280,110</b>	<b>60,862</b>	<b>373,007</b>
Allocation of support and governance costs	<u>6,246</u>	<u>54,616</u>	<u>(60,862)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b><u>38,281</u></b>	<b><u>334,726</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>373,007</u></b>

Total governance costs were £4,853 (2024: £1,860).

#### Prior period comparative (restated)

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	Restated 2024 Total £
Direct aid costs	-	145,149	-	145,149
Staff costs	11,781	24,487	11,781	48,049
Other staff costs	-	-	15,510	15,510
Advertising and marketing	13,235	-	-	13,235
Premises costs	-	-	5,886	5,886
Professional fees	-	-	5,437	5,437
Office costs	-	-	3,314	3,314
Bank fees	-	-	2,348	2,348
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>25,016</b>	<b>169,636</b>	<b>44,276</b>	<b>238,928</b>
Allocation of support and governance costs	<u>5,690</u>	<u>38,586</u>	<u>(44,276)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b><u>30,706</u></b>	<b><u>208,222</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>238,928</u></b>

Prior period raising funds expenditure has been reclassified to include advertising and marketing costs to be comparable with the current year. In addition, other expenditure in the prior year of £1,988 has been reclassified within the standard expenditure headings to meet the requirements of the Charities SORP.

## Refugee Biryani & Bananas

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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#### 7. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	-	245
Trustees' remuneration	<b>Nil</b>	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	<b>1,250</b>	-
Independent examiner's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Independent examination	<b>2,500</b>	500
▪ Other services - restated	<b>1,544</b>	1,050
	<u><b>1,544</b></u>	<u>1,050</u>

In common with other charities of our size and nature we use our independent examiners to assist with the preparation of the financial statements. Our independent examiners have also provided consultancy and bookkeeping services to the charity during the year.

During the year 2 trustees (2024: Nil) were reimbursed £1,250 (2024: £Nil) for expenses relating to travel and printing.

#### 8. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	<b>39,463</b>	38,000
Social security costs	<b>683</b>	-
Pension costs	<b>1,329</b>	1,270
Freelance staff	<b>12,414</b>	8,779
	<u><b>53,889</b></u>	<u>48,049</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £44,983 (2024: £43,259).

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Average head count	<u><b>1.00</b></u>	<u>1.00</u>

#### 9. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

**Refugee Biryani & Bananas**

**Notes to the financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

**10. Debtors**

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	£	£
Accrued income	<u>-</u>	<u>5,139</u>

**11. Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year**

	<b>2025</b>	Restated 2024
	£	£
Accruals	<b>3,000</b>	1,860
Other taxation and social security	<u><b>2,998</b></u>	<u>2,330</u>
	<u><b>5,998</b></u>	<u>4,190</u>

**12. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Restricted funds £	General funds £	<b>Total funds £</b>
Current assets	90,233	118,909	<b>209,142</b>
Current liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,998)</u>	<u><b>(5,998)</b></u>
<b>Net assets at 31 March 2025</b>	<u><b>90,233</b></u>	<u><b>112,911</b></u>	<u><b>203,144</b></u>

<b>Prior year comparative</b>	Restricted funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Current assets	41,700	115,600	157,300
Current liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,190)</u>	<u>(4,190)</u>
Net assets at 31 March 2024	<u>41,700</u>	<u>111,410</u>	<u>153,110</u>

## Refugee Biryani & Bananas

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 13. Movements in funds

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2025 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Athens	-	419	(404)	<b>15</b>
Cairo	-	232	(232)	-
Chios	430	23,985	(24,415)	-
Gaza	40,284	219,167	(169,460)	<b>89,991</b>
Greece General	986	98,110	(98,869)	<b>227</b>
UK	-	1,500	(1,500)	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>41,700</u>	<u>343,413</u>	<u>(294,880)</u>	<u><b>90,233</b></u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General funds	<u>111,410</u>	<u>79,628</u>	<u>(78,127)</u>	<u><b>112,911</b></u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>111,410</u>	<u>79,628</u>	<u>(78,127)</u>	<u><b>112,911</b></u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>153,110</u></u>	<u><u>423,041</u></u>	<u><u>(373,007)</u></u>	<u><u><b>203,144</b></u></u>

#### Purposes of restricted funds

Athens	To support the purchase and distribution of humanitarian aid, and to enable essential social support for people from the affected populations in Athens.
Cairo	To support the purchase and distribution of humanitarian aid, and to enable essential social support for people from the affected populations in Cairo.
Chios	To support the purchase and distribution of humanitarian aid, and to enable essential social support for people from the affected populations in Chios.
Gaza	To support the purchase and distribution of humanitarian aid, and to enable essential social support for people from the affected populations in Gaza.
Greece General	To support the purchase and distribution of humanitarian aid, and to enable essential social support for people from the affected populations in Greece.
UK	To enable UK-based work connected to Refugee Biryani & Bananas' mandate, including facilitation, coordination, awareness-raising, and advocacy that supports and amplifies responses to displacement and humanitarian crises.

## Refugee Biryani & Bananas

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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#### 13. Movements in funds (continued)

##### Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

Other restricted Restricted funds designated for specific organisational and support functions, rather than area specific direct aid or programme management, including administrative and accounting costs.

##### Prior year comparative (restated)

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2024 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Athens	-	6,530	(6,530)	-
Chios	-	9,954	(9,524)	430
Gaza	-	97,414	(57,130)	40,284
Greece General	-	77,613	(76,627)	986
Other restricted	26,557	29,676	(56,233)	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>26,557</u>	<u>221,187</u>	<u>(206,044)</u>	<u>41,700</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General funds	72,408	71,886	(32,884)	111,410
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>72,408</u>	<u>71,886</u>	<u>(32,884)</u>	<u>111,410</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>98,965</u>	<u>293,073</u>	<u>(238,928)</u>	<u>153,110</u>

#### 14. Related party transactions

A Bauer, a trustee, is also a trustee of ForRefugees, charitable incorporated organisation. During the year the charity received grants and fundraising event income of £9,450 (2024: £Nil) and also donated £2,998 to ForRefugees Big Give Campaign. There were no amounts outstanding at the year end.

## Refugee Biryani & Bananas

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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#### 15. Prior period restatement

Prior period income, deferred income, restricted expenditure, and restricted funds balances have been restated in order to apply the requirements of the SORP in relation to the criteria for recognition of grant income. Grant income which had been deferred has been released into the prior year.

Restricted expenditure has increased based upon expenditure allocated against the released grant income.

Restricted grant income has been reclassified in the prior period to income from charitable activities to reflect income recognition requirements of the Charities SORP.

#### Deferred income

	2024 £
Original deferred income	52,568
Released deferred grant income	<u>(52,568)</u>
Adjusted deferred income	<u><u>-</u></u>

#### Restricted grant income

	Donations £	Charitable activities £	2024 Total £
Original restricted grant income	97,342	-	97,342
Released deferred grant income	-	52,568	52,568
Reclassify to charitable activities	<u>(97,342)</u>	<u>97,342</u>	<u>-</u>
Adjusted restricted grant income	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>149,910</u></u>	<u><u>149,910</u></u>

#### Funds carried forward

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Original funds held as at 31 March 2024	17,889	82,653	100,542
Released deferred grant income	56,365	(3,797)	52,568
Additional restricted expenditure allocated against released deferred income	<u>(32,554)</u>	<u>32,554</u>	<u>-</u>
Adjusted funds held as at 31 March 2024	<u><u>41,700</u></u>	<u><u>111,410</u></u>	<u><u>153,110</u></u>

**Refugee Biryani & Bananas**

**Notes to the financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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**15. Prior period restatement (continued)**  
**Expenditure**

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Original total expenditure	173,490	65,438	238,928
Additional restricted expenditure allocated against released deferred income	<u>32,554</u>	<u>(32,554)</u>	<u>-</u>
Adjusted total expenditure	<u><u>206,044</u></u>	<u><u>32,884</u></u>	<u><u>238,928</u></u>



**REFUGEE**

**BIRIYANI & BANANAS**

**REFUGEE BIRIYANI & BANANAS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1189561

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# Accounts

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**REFUGEE**  
BIRIYANI & BANANAS

Trustees Annual Report  
& Financial Statement  
1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024

Charity Commission  
Registration No. 1189561

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# OUR MISSION

## Who We Are

### Field Team Composition:

- 80% of our field team is composed of individuals from refugee and asylum-seeking communities.
- Our team represents a diverse range of countries, including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, UK, Gambia, Cameroon, USA, Poland, Sierra Leone, Palestine, and Yemen.

### Leadership and Project Focus:

- We are a female-led initiative.
- Our project is driven by community involvement.

### Diverse Core Team:

- Our core team includes members, advisors, and ambassadors from diverse backgrounds.
- We prioritise involving those with lived experiences of migration within our organisation and team, from the decision making processes to the delivery of humanitarian assistance.



## OUR VALUES

Empowerment

Voice

Inclusion

Equity

Family

Dignity

## **Aims: Humanitarian aid whatever it takes!**

Our aim at Refugee Biryani & Bananas is to provide humanitarian aid with a "whatever it takes" approach. We deliver urgent aid, basic necessities and advocate for displaced individuals, ensuring dignity and equity in all our actions. This can range from distributions of food, shelter items and winter clothing to campaigning for human rights.

We strive to empower displaced individuals by actively involving them in the decision-making processes to the delivery of humanitarian support.

We use a mutual accompaniment model, which allows us to work and learn alongside our communities of support to ensure their needs are met effectively and resourcefully.

Our advocacy efforts focus on sharing the stories of the people we support, raising awareness, and amplifying their voices to the wider community, as well as actions within our expertise to ensure the rights of displaced people are upheld.

Additionally, we address gaps in humanitarian care by volunteering and assigning team members where they are most needed. Our presence helps boost morale and sustain those who are forcibly displaced on their journeys, offering support and solidarity every step of the way.



# ABOUT US

## Background

Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (RBB) began as a grassroots movement in response to the escalating Syrian refugee crisis in 2015. It all started with a dedicated group of friends who, driven by compassion, cooked and distributed 2,500 portions of biriyani and bananas to every resident of the unofficial refugee camp in Dunkirk, Northern France.

Upon returning home, they were profoundly moved by the experience and resolved not to turn their backs on those affected by displacement and crises. Recognising the urgent need for continued support, they founded Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (RBB), inspired by their initial mission. What began as a local effort quickly evolved into a committed organisation with a global vision.

On May 19, 2020, RBB became a registered charity with a mission to support and advocate for the 120 million displaced people worldwide, as reported by the UNHCR. In addition to assisting displaced individuals, we are committed to providing aid and advocacy to diverse populations facing vulnerabilities due to war, persecution, and poverty.

## Where We Are

Since September 2015, Refugee Biriyani & Bananas has been dedicated to providing vital humanitarian assistance to displaced individuals residing in refugee and IDP camps, squats, and other unstable settlements along migratory pathways. Our presence has spanned several critical locations, including:

**France:** Calais, Dunkirk, and Paris

**Greece:** Idomeni Camp, Thessaloniki, Athens, Lavrio, Samos, and Chios

**Northern Iraq:** Duhok and Sinjar

**Serbia:** Belgrade Barracks

**Bosnia & Herzegovina - Croatia Border:** Vucjak Camp

**Turkey:** Istanbul

**Poland, Belarus & Lithuania Border**

**Ukraine Border**

**Gaza, Palestine**

Our commitment to these areas reflects our dedication to reaching those in urgent need, wherever they may be, and delivering support to the most vulnerable populations along their arduous journeys to seek sanctuary.

# TRUSTEES STATEMENT

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I pleased to present our annual report. Over the last year, RBB has been through a great deal of change. We have further strengthened our governance, begun to review strategic priorities, and continued to have a significant impact despite a challenging fundraising environment.

Through our deep and trusted connections across the communities we support, and with the direction of our innovative and driven CEO, we have maintained our nimble and responsive approach.

Our vital work In Greece has remained at the core of our work, supporting those who have recently made crossings and long standing communities. In response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, we are proud to say our organisation has been able to respond quickly via our network of supporters and leaders.

Our Humanitarian Leaders Programme reflects the deep commitments we have to the value of investing in the capacity and development of communities to own and direct this work on the ground. We will continue to invest in this capacity as a matter of course, both through dedicated programmes and through our standard operating procedures.

As our trustees enter the final year of their inaugural terms, we will be reviewing our trustees numbers and likely opening up several phases of recruitment to expand the range of skills we can draw on.

We look forward to reporting on further progress and impact in coming years.



**Tom Snape**  
*Chair of Trustees*

# A Note from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As the Chief Executive Officer of Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (RBB), I am honoured to lead our small but powerful organisation through another challenging year. In the face of formidable global challenges, particularly for grassroots organisations like ours dedicated to supporting refugees and displaced individuals, our resolve remains strengthened.

This year, we navigated a landscape marked by diminished funding, waning awareness, and critical shortages of volunteers and staff. Like many of our peer organisations, we have faced significant struggles. Some of our partners have sadly closed their doors, while others have scaled back operations, leaving the communities we support more vulnerable than ever. Yet, as we celebrate our fourth year as a registered charity and our ninth year as an organisation, we remain steadfast and resilient.

Our efforts this year focused on providing aid to displaced individuals on the Greek Island of Chios, Athens and in Gaza. In Chios, we continued large-scale aid distributions to those living in the Vial refugee camp and surrounding apartments. In Athens, our 'Qalbi' distribution centre has consistently provided essential food, hygiene products, and other non-food items to those in need. Beyond material support, we launched the Community Humanitarian Leader Programme (CHLP), offering training and mentoring to two individuals from Cameroon and Syria in humanitarian aid work and leadership. This initiative underscores our commitment to empowering community members to lead with empathy and effectiveness.

Our deep-rooted trust within our communities has established us as one of the key organisations on Chios Island, responding to individuals in distress after arrival to Chios. We continue to advocate tirelessly for the asylum rights of people on the move, confronting border violence with unwavering determination, working with a network of human rights defenders.

As global crises persist, such as the conflicts in Sudan and Congo, our community members are profoundly affected, worried for the safety of their friends, families, and homelands. People continue to arrive in Greece, driven by war, conflict, oppression, and poverty, seeking refuge and a chance at a better life.

On October 7, 2023, the escalation of violence in Palestine, following an attack by Hamas, resulted in a devastating response from Israeli authorities. The assault on Gaza has deeply impacted our Palestinian community members, colleagues, and the public at large, with over 38,000 lives lost and approximately 15,000 of them children. Nearly 2 million Gazans are now displaced, living in dire conditions, many suffering severe injuries.

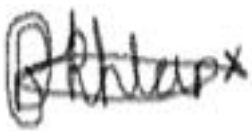
In response, our dedicated volunteers, with strong ties to Gaza, supported us to initiate an emergency aid response. RBB formed a team to support nearly 50,000 people in Gaza (at the point of writing this report), delivering dried food packs, fresh vegetables, cooked food, baby products, and hygiene items. Our teams have facilitated the distribution of locally sourced aid and coordinated shipments from Cairo to the Rafah crossing, ensuring that essential supplies reach those in desperate need. In addition to immediate aid, we are committed to providing resources and capacity-building support for our Palestinian team members, equipping them to support their communities in the long term.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering trust and support of our partners and donors. To each of you, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. I also wish to thank the RBB team for their remarkable dedication and resilience. Our volunteers, both on the ground and supporting us remotely, have been instrumental in large scale aid distributions, raising awareness and fundraising, enabling us to continue our vital work.

On behalf of RBB, I extend heartfelt thanks to the communities we serve for their trust and mutual accompaniment. We are honoured to be part of their journey and are committed to improving and expanding our efforts in the coming year and beyond.

Together, we promise to persevere, striving to support those in need for as long as we can.

With sincere gratitude,



**Ruhi Loren Akhtar**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who donated, raised funds, volunteered in the field or remotely, supported procurement of aid, shared our social media posts, and offered encouragement. A special thanks to members of the asylum-seeking community who volunteered with us despite their own challenging circumstances.

**A comprehensive financial overview is included after this section with our Accountant's Independent Examination.**

Together, we supported approximately **44,800** people across all sites, providing ongoing care where needed and one-time assistance for those on the move. This equated to **57,970** individual distribution instances over the year.

**Our distributions were aimed at people from Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, Palestine, Yemen, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Albania, Greece, and various regions of Africa, including East, West, and Sub-Saharan Africa (Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan). These efforts targeted individuals who are displaced or in need in Chios, Athens, and Gaza.**

## Food and Hygiene Products



**With a primary focus of providing food security and hygiene items we purchased £111,300 of Food Supplies and £9,555 of Hygiene Products**

With financial and in-kind donations, a total of **12,705** individual, community directed, food & hygiene packs were distributed. The average number of items per pack was **10** products, ranging between **5** items and **16** items per pack.

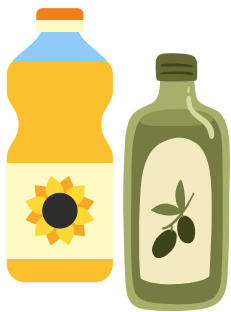
## Individual Food Items

85,712

## Individual Hygiene Products

12,217

While this is not a complete list of all the food and hygiene products distributed this year, it provides insight into some of the most popular items and quantities made possible by your support.



6,104 Bottles of 1 Litre  
Cooking Oil



3,290 Cans / Bottles of 500 g  
Vegetables and Varied Tomato  
Preparations.



41,395 Cans of 100 g  
Tinned Fish



6,116 Packs of  
1kg Sugar



16,432 Bags of  
1kg Rice



3,390 Packs of  
1kg Flour



8,648 Packs / Tins of  
250g Fresh and Canned  
Halal Meats



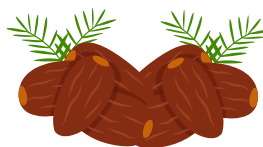
1,130 Packs of  
1kg Pasta



210,000 cups of Soft Drinks, Fruit  
Juices, Tea and Coffee



10,563 Tins / Packs of 500 g Dried  
and Tinned Lentils, Chickpeas,  
Pulses and Beans



3.5 Tonnes of Dates



15,253 packs of salt, spices, crisps,  
croissants, biscuits and bread roll



5 tonnes of fresh vegetables



2,320 Cartons of  
1 Litre Milk



2,300 Bottles of 750 ML Dishwashing Liquid



4,060 Boxes of 500 g Soap Powder



1,000 Bottles and Bars of 100g of Body Wash and Soap



300 Bottles of 400 ML Shampoo



35,800 individual Sanitary Towels

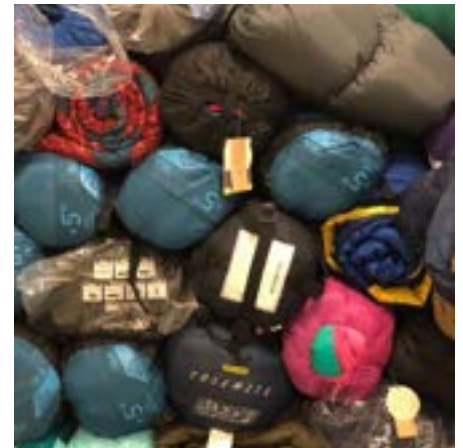


322 Toothbrushes & 150 g Toothpaste



567 Deodorant and packs of wet wipes

### Non-Food Items



In Chios and Athens, **6,176** pieces of non-food aid items were distributed. These included blankets and sleeping bags, tents, children's educational supplies, gifts and art supplies, kitchen equipment, household items, shoes, clothes, suitcases, backpacks, and winter thermal accessories. The majority of these items were donated in-kind by private donors, businesses, and other NGOs, with additional items purchased as needed.

## OTHER KEY SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

### Support for the deceased & their families



We supported the burial and funeral services of six people in Chios and Athens by facilitating communication with their community groups, attending the services, and providing materials, volunteers, and transportation for the burials. Additionally, we offered social support to the family members.

### Supermarket vouchers



We distributed £12,332 worth of supermarket shopping vouchers to 822 individuals and families in Athens, allowing them to purchase fresh food items such as fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and meats.

### Hot meals & other food



In Chios, Athens, and Cairo, we provided 12,370 individual portions of hot meals, cooked food, water, and drinks. These were distributed during outreach sessions, at the 'Qalbi' center, for celebrations and activities, to community volunteers, and during emergencies.

### Aid trucks to Gaza



In February and March 2024, we traveled to Cairo, Egypt, to dispatch two trucks of aid to Gaza. The shipment included 40 pallets of supplies, such as food, water, baby wipes, and sanitary towels. Our field teams in Gaza received and distributed these items.

## Community Humanitarian Leaders Programme (CHLP)



**Objective:** The Community Humanitarian Leaders Programme (CHLP) empowers communities with experience in forced displacement by providing capacity training and employment for participation in humanitarian aid, management, and leadership. The program focuses on a person-centered, integrated approach to support individual growth, community strengthening, and transferable skills development.

**Fourth Year Achievements:** As a registered charity, we offered opportunities to two individuals from Cameroon and Syria. This year, the initiative was more structured compared to previous years, providing field experience and on-the-job training with a basic living stipend or salary.

**Specialist Training and Mentorship:** Participants received 208 hours of training and mentorship from consultants and experts, both pro bono and paid. The training included:

- Induction to RBB and humanitarian work principles
- Start-up and hospitality / social centre management
- Financial management basics
- First aid and basic life support
- Introduction to fundraising
- Photography, videography and digital content creation for NGOs, humanitarian work and awareness raising
- Online Orientation, which covered:
  - Humanitarian aid work, terminology, and principles of accompaniment vs. saviourism
  - Background on forced migration, operational contexts, and power dynamics
  - Safeguarding and data protection
  - Wellness and self-reflection practices
- Field training, including criminalization aspects
- Driving lessons (theory and practical) with tests
- Emergency response management relevant to RBB's work
- Overview of evolving support systems for displaced people on Greek Islands since 2015
- Roles and responsibilities of the trustees board
- Coaching and mentorship by an experienced humanitarian leader with lived experience of displacement and seeking asylum in Greece, who is also founder and CEO of their own NGO.

**In addition to offering a structured training program for the two participants, we delivered essential support sessions and mentoring for our Gaza coordination team. These sessions focused on due diligence processes, charity governance, reporting and assessments for humanitarian aid delivery. See Case Study 2: Empowering Community Leaders Through Collaboration and Trust on Page 18 for further details on this.**

**These mutual support sessions enabled us to learn from each other's experiences in providing aid in Gaza, empowering the team to navigate the challenges of operating in an acute war zone while upholding charity best practices. This collaboration not only strengthened our team's capacity but also ensured the effective and responsible facilitation of humanitarian support in a highly complex environment.**

## **#EndPushbacks Interventions, Advocacy & Crisis Support**



Throughout the year, we maintained our helpline to support individuals arriving in Greece, providing guidance based on their location and available support mechanisms. We handled 78 incidents involving people in distress post-arrival to Greece, offering advice and facilitating a reporting mechanism to help them register for asylum. Of these incidents, 85% involved groups arriving on the island of Chios, while the remaining 15% occurred on other islands such as Lesbos, Samos, Ikaria, Oinousses, with a few cases on mainland Greece.

We collaborated with human rights NGOs, legal support teams, advocates, monitoring groups, and journalists to raise awareness and engage relevant authorities, including the Greek Ombudsman. Our efforts aided 1,656 individuals in seeking asylum, rescue, medical support, and transfers to camp facilities, enhancing their chances of asylum registration instead of risks associated with such a perilous journey, facing pushbacks, other border violence related consequences.

Our remote support for individuals in distress varied from a few hours to several days, depending on each situation's complexity, including aftercare and follow-up. We also assisted friends, families, and other NGOs who were searching 17 missing persons throughout the year, filing reports with our collective, directing them to appropriate organizations, services, and authorities.



## Social Support & General Well Being

Over the past year, we provided social support and promoted general well-being on **5,655 occasions**, advocated for individuals, and supported a total of **6,901 people**.



These interventions range from one-time actions to ongoing, consistent support over time. They are community-driven and can be directed towards individuals or groups. The activities include:

### Referrals and Facilitation of :

- Medical support
- Legal Aid
- Education
- CV Writing and Employment
- Sports, Music and Social Activities
- Housing and Shelter
- Other Integration Services.
- Accessing their community special groups and organisation.
- Clothing and baby specialist services



### Translation

**Transportation Support and Travel Tickets**  
**Accompanying to appointments if necessary**



### Activities and Celebrations:

- Cooking Sessions
- Football and Sports
- Festivals and Celebrations
- Commemorations
- Day Trips
- Community meals
- Children's activities



# CASE STUDY 1: Golsana's Journey to Hope and Stability



**This case study showcases the vital work of RBB and our partners in transforming lives and underscores our commitment to building inclusive and supportive communities.**

## **Background**

Golsana's story is one of resilience in the face of unimaginable adversity. Forced to flee her home country after the tragic suicide of her husband, for which she was wrongfully blamed, Golsana's life was plunged into turmoil. As a single mother, she was compelled to protect her three-year-old son, Rahman, from the threats that surrounded them. Their journey led them through numerous countries, including Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey, where Golsana and Rahman endured the harrowing experiences of human trafficking.

Upon reaching Greece, her application for asylum was rejected, leaving her with few options. To survive, she entered into a marriage with an older man who provided little care for her and her son. Although they had shelter, Golsana struggled to secure basic necessities like food, schooling for her son, and was unable to work due to her responsibilities as a mother. By the time Rahman was seven years old, they had reached a critical point, and it was then that they encountered RBB.

## **RBB's Intervention**

RBB's commitment to diversity and holistic support proved to be a turning point in Golsana's life. As one of the few organisations with a Bengali-speaking female team member, RBB was uniquely positioned to assist Golsana. Our organisation was asked to provide translation services for an assessment session conducted by another NGO, which was offering social services and legal aid for her asylum case. Additionally, due to Golsana's complex medical needs and the sensitivity of her situation as a survivor of gender-based violence, a female translator was essential—a need RBB could meet.

Recognising the additional challenges Golsana faced, including illiteracy and unfamiliarity with technology, RBB expanded its support. We facilitated her access to food supplies and hygiene products, guiding her through our

systems with the aid of our Bengali translation support. Our team also assisted her in navigating the local area, ensuring she could reach essential services and our own Qalbi Centre.

## Community and Collaborative Efforts

Golsana's visits to our Qalbi Centre provided a supportive environment for her and Rahman. While Golsana found solace in speaking her mother tongue and connecting with others over a cup of tea, Rahman enjoyed participating in activities organized by our volunteers. This sense of community played an important role in their journey toward stability.

Through collaboration with partner organizations, Golsana was referred to a women's centre that offered comprehensive legal assistance for her asylum case. They also facilitated the process for Rahman to receive necessary vaccinations and enroll in school. Throughout these steps, RBB continued to offer moral support and translation services whenever needed.

## Outcomes and Future Prospects

Today, Golsana's life has transformed significantly. She is employed as well as participating in the learning of Greek and English, Rahman is attending school, and they are no longer dependent on external aid for basic needs. Golsana's story exemplifies the impact of coordinated support efforts and highlights the importance of linguistic and cultural diversity in service provision.

RBB is committed to working alongside individuals like Golsana, demonstrating that with community support and access to resources, even the most challenging circumstances can lead to positive outcomes. This case underscores the critical role of diverse teams and collaborative networks in delivering effective and compassionate care to those in need.

**Please note Golsana and Rahman's names have been changed to protect their identity**



# Case Study 2: Empowering Community Leaders Through Collaboration and Trust

## The Story of Osama and RBB's Response to the Gaza Crisis

### Background

Osama's journey with RBB began as a volunteer on Chios Island in 2020, where he was seeking asylum in Greece. While there, he played an essential role in providing translation, conducting outreach, and assisting with humanitarian aid distributions. His dedication to helping others made him a key part of our team, and over time, he became a close friend to many of us at RBB.

After leaving Greece, having received his asylum, Osama remained committed to our mission. He continued to support RBB remotely by using his language skills to facilitate communication and aid delivery across borders.

### The Escalation of war in Gaza, Palestine

On October 7th, when the conflict in Gaza escalated, Osama was pivotal in shaping RBB's response. Leveraging his strong ties to Gaza through family and friends, Osama proposed a plan to support the people in the besieged region. His insight and connections allowed RBB to rapidly mobilise resources and establish a team on the ground comprising of his sister, brother and best friend. Our friendship and trust with Osama played a crucial role in how we were able to adapt quickly to the evolving situation.

### RBB's Emergency Response

In response to Osama's proposal, RBB formed a dedicated team to address the urgent needs in Gaza. At the time of writing this report, our efforts have supported nearly 50,000 people by delivering essential items, including dried food packs, fresh vegetables, cooked meals, baby products, and hygiene items. Our approach involved both the distribution of locally sourced aid and the coordination of shipments from Cairo to the Rafah crossing, ensuring timely delivery of critical supplies.



Our Gaza team leading aid distributions includes Ahmed and Mustafa who are brother and best friend of Osama

## Empowering Local Communities

RBB's response in Gaza was not only about immediate relief but also focused on long-term sustainability. We are committed to empowering our Palestinian team members through capacity-building initiatives, equipping them with the skills and resources needed to support their communities effectively. This approach underscores our dedication to listening, fostering mutual trust, involving community members in decision-making, and taking their ideas forward.

## Impact and Future Prospects

Osama's continued involvement with RBB exemplifies how empowering people who are refugees and community leaders can lead to impactful change. By listening to those directly affected and involving them in decision-making processes, we can develop more effective and culturally sensitive solutions to complex humanitarian challenges.

RBB remains committed to working alongside individuals like Osama, recognizing the value of their insights and experiences in shaping our response efforts. By investing in capacity-building and providing the necessary tools, we aim to support communities in building resilience and achieving long-term stability.

**This case study highlights RBB's collaborative efforts and emphasizes the importance of empowering community leaders in crisis response. Osama's story demonstrates how listening and mutual trust can lead to meaningful and sustainable impact while reflecting the friendship and solidarity that strengthens our efforts.**



**Osama volunteering with RBB in Chios, Greece**

**Year 2020**

**Year 2024**

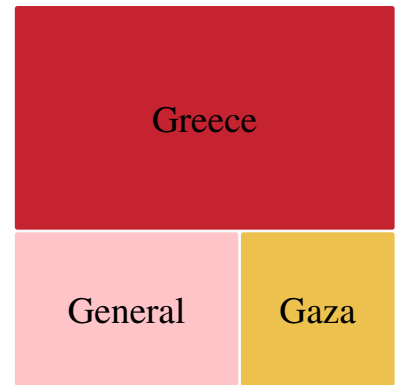


**Osama, Ruhi & The Gaza Team in Belgium**

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Over the past year, we've been able to not only continue but increase our level of support for refugees and displaced individuals, operating in Greece and Gaza. This is thanks to the generosity and trust of hundreds of individuals as well as from granting bodies and corporations.

Income increased across all fundraising streams in comparison with the previous year, from grants and corporate donations to individual giving. Meanwhile, expenditure for this year has also increased, primarily due to our additional support provided in Gaza.



Where our money went

## Total funds raised: £240,505

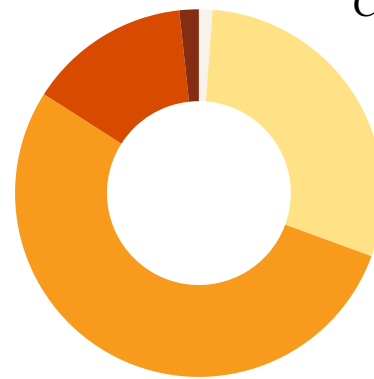
This year, we raised a total of £240,505, compared with £203,373 last year.

Private donations

14.3%

Crowdfunding

29.4%

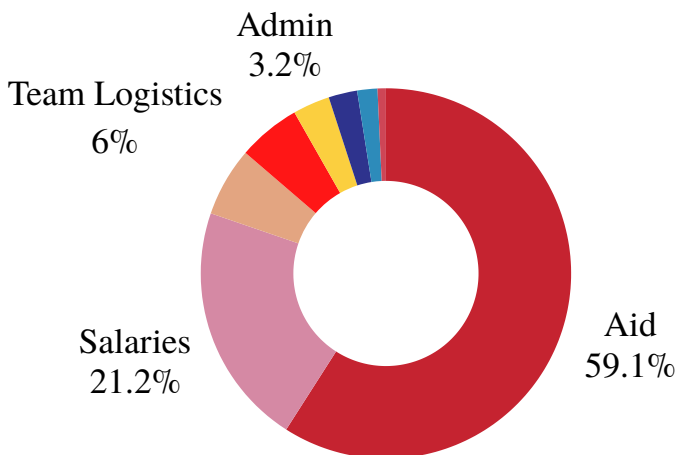


Grants

53.5%

## Total funds spent: £238,928

This year, we spent £238,928 on our charitable activities, compared with £191,164 last year. The main expenditure categories include:



- Aid provided = £137,685
- Staff salaries and stipends = £41,930
- Team costs (travel, accommodation) = £22,995
- Freight, transport & fuel = £5,897
- Distribution centre rent = £3,506
- Storage and warehousing = £1,720

# What's next for RBB?

As we look ahead, RBB is committed to amplifying our impact and reaching even more communities in need. Our primary focus for the upcoming year will be on expanding our core programs, ensuring that we provide sustainable and meaningful support where it is needed most. This will involve deepening our partnerships with local and international organisations and community leaders, enhancing our volunteer / support network, and broadening our outreach initiatives. We also plan to leverage new specialist service provisions to streamline our operations and improve service delivery, allowing us to operate more efficiently and extend our reach.

In addition, RBB will place a strong emphasis on securing new funding sources. We recognize the importance of financial sustainability and are actively pursuing diversified funding streams, including grants, corporate partnerships, and community-driven fundraising campaigns. These efforts will ensure that we remain resilient in the face of economic uncertainties and are able to continue our mission-driven work without compromise.

We invite our supporters to play a key role in this journey. There are many ways to get involved, from becoming a volunteer, to making a donation, joining one of our fundraising events, to spreading the word about our mission in your communities and networks. Every action, whether big or small, helps us move closer to our vision of a more equitable and compassionate world. By donating, fundraising, or simply sharing our story, you can help us extend our reach and impact.

Together, we can make a real difference. The future of RBB is bright, and with your continued support, we will build upon our successes and drive positive change, guided by our mission to serve those in need with compassion, efficiency, and dedication.

# CHARITY INFORMATION

## Trustees for 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Tom Snape - Chair of Trustees  
Abdelilah Alhamoud - Vice Chairperson  
Jacob Warn - Treasurer  
Jennifer Capasso - General Trustee  
Frances Loring - General Trustee

## Registered Address

52 Clifton Road  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE4 8DQ

## Constitution

Registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in England and Wales, no. 1189561

## Independent Examiner

Louise A. Considine, M.A., C.A.  
The Grant Considine Partnership  
Chartered Accountants  
46 High Street  
Banchory  
Aberdeenshire  
AB31 5SR

## Banks

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c.  
P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

Wise Payments Limited  
56 Shoreditch High Street, London, E1 6JJ

**Website:** [www.refugeebiriyanibananas.org](http://www.refugeebiriyanibananas.org)

**Facebook:** RefugeeBiryaniAndBananas

**Instagram :** Refugee\_biriyanibananas

**Twitter :** RBBOrganisation

**YouTube :** @refugeebiriyanibananas

# STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

## Year Ending 31st March 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statements for the year ending 31st March 2024. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting principles outlined by the Charity Commission and comply with the charity's constitution.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in line with the applicable UK Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Under the law governing charities in England and Wales, trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year. These statements must provide a true and fair view of the charity's financial position, including incoming resources and their application for the period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees must:

- Select and consistently apply suitable accounting policies.
- Follow the methods and principles outlined in the Charities SORP.
- Make reasonable and prudent judgments and estimates.
- Confirm adherence to applicable accounting standards, noting any material departures in the financial statements.
- Prepare the statements on a going concern basis, unless there is evidence suggesting the charity may not continue operations.

The trustees are also responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose the charity's financial position with reasonable accuracy and ensure compliance with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the trust deed.

# STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

During the year, RBB has been governed by five charity trustees, while our constitution requires a minimum of three. New trustees are appointed by existing trustees and serve a term of three years, with eligibility for reappointment.

Trustees volunteer their expertise and time without remuneration. Meetings were held every six to eight weeks, both via video call and in person when possible, as per our constitution. All meetings were chaired, and minutes were recorded. Trustees also communicated regularly through email, WhatsApp, and phone calls to stay updated on projects and to approve or decline initiatives and expenditures, either as a group or in sub-teams.

Our strategic priorities and areas of activity are continuously reviewed to adapt to the evolving crisis for displaced people and respond to sudden emergencies with a flexible, needs-based approach.



## WE THANK YOU!

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**  
**for**  
**Refugee Biryani & Bananas**

The Grant Considine Partnership  
Chartered Accountants  
46 High Street  
Banchory  
Aberdeenshire  
AB31 5SR

**Refugee Biriyani & Bananas**

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

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<b>Independent Examiner's Report</b>	2
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>	3
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	4
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>	5 to 10
<b>Detailed Statement of Financial Activities</b>	11 to 12

**Refugee Biryani & Bananas**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Refugee Biriyani & Bananas**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Refugee Biriyani & Bananas**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Louise A Considine, M.A., C.A.  
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland

The Grant Considine Partnership  
Chartered Accountants  
46 High Street  
Banchory  
Aberdeenshire  
AB31 5SR

Date: Dec 19, 2024 .....

**Refugee Biryani & Bananas**

**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		<u>68,885</u>	<u>171,620</u>	<u>240,505</u>	<u>203,373</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds		11,986	-	11,986	6,906
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Charitable Activities		51,464	173,490	224,954	184,258
Other		<u>1,988</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,988</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u>65,438</u>	<u>173,490</u>	<u>238,928</u>	<u>191,164</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		3,447	(1,870)	1,577	12,209
Transfers between funds	9	<u>6,798</u>	<u>(6,798)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		10,245	(8,668)	1,577	12,209
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>72,408</u>	<u>26,557</u>	<u>98,965</u>	<u>86,756</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>82,653</u>	<u>17,889</u>	<u>100,542</u>	<u>98,965</u>


The notes form part of these financial statements


## Refugee Biriyani & Bananas

### Balance Sheet 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	6	-	-	-	742
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	7	-	5,139	5,139	-
Cash at bank		<u>86,705</u>	<u>65,456</u>	<u>152,161</u>	<u>101,626</u>
		86,705	70,595	157,300	101,626
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(4,052)</u>	<u>(52,706)</u>	<u>(56,758)</u>	<u>(3,403)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>82,653</u>	<u>17,889</u>	<u>100,542</u>	<u>98,223</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>82,653</u>	<u>17,889</u>	<u>100,542</u>	<u>98,965</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>82,653</u>	<u>17,889</u>	<u>100,542</u>	<u>98,965</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	9				
Unrestricted funds				82,653	72,408
Restricted funds				<u>17,889</u>	<u>26,557</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>100,542</u>	<u>98,965</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on  
Dec 19, 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
Jacob Warn (Dec 19, 2024 14:08 GMT+1)  
.....  
Mr J Warn - Trustee

  
Thomas Snape (Dec 19, 2024 13:07 GMT)  
.....  
Mr T Snape - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

## **Refugee Biriyani & Bananas**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements** **for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

#### **1. STATUTORY INFORMATION**

Refugee Biriyani & Bananas is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is registered in England. The charity's registered number and registered office can be found in the Reference and Administration Details section of the Report of the Trustees.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

#### **2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

##### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

This is the first year that the accounts have been prepared using the accruals accounting method. The comparative figures for 2023 have therefore been restated. This has resulted in an increase to costs in 2023 of £3,031.

##### **Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions**

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows;
- the requirement of paragraph 3.17(d);
- the requirements of paragraphs 11.42, 11.44, 11.45, 11.47, 11.48(a)(iii), 11.48(a)(iv), 11.48(b) and 11.48(c);
- the requirements of paragraphs 12.26, 12.27, 12.29(a), 12.29(b) and 12.29A;
- the requirement of paragraph 33.7.

##### **Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

##### **Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Income to cover provision of services is recognised when the service has been delivered.

##### **Grants Received (including Government Grants)**

Income from Government and other grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, and any conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amounts can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

##### **Donations**

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions, then the income is deferred and not recognised until either the conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of the conditions are wholly within the control of the charity and it

is probable that those conditions will be met within the reporting period.

## **Refugee Biryani & Bananas**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements - continued** **for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

#### **2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

##### **Income**

##### **Gift Aid**

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

##### **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable expenditure is incurred in direct pursuance of the charity's principal objectives and includes staff costs and support costs.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include general overheads and governance costs.

##### **Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and carried at cost. Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost, less estimated residual value, of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives. The rates applied are:

Computer equipment	33% on straight line
--------------------	----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

##### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

##### **Foreign currencies**

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

##### **Hire purchase and leasing commitments**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

##### **Going concern**

The future operation of the charity is dependent on the receipt of grants and donations from outside sources. Whilst the funding for subsequent years has yet to be confirmed, the trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

## Refugee Biriyani & Bananas

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

##### Going concern

##### Financial Instruments

The following assets and liabilities are classified as financial instruments - trade debtors and trade creditors.

They are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received.

#### 3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

During the year, a total of £2,064 was donated to the charity by trustees.

##### Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

#### 4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	<u>62,724</u>	<u>140,649</u>	<u>203,373</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising funds	6,906	-	6,906
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Charitable Activities	<u>69,525</u>	<u>114,733</u>	<u>184,258</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>76,431</u>	<u>114,733</u>	<u>191,164</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	(13,707)	25,916	12,209
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	86,115	641	86,756
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>72,408</u>	<u>26,557</u>	<u>98,965</u>

**Refugee Birivani & Bananas**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**5. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S FEES**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees	600	750
Accountancy fees	660	

**6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Computer equipment £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 April 2023	970
Disposals	<u>(970)</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 1 April 2023	228
Charge for year	245
Eliminated on disposal	<u>(473)</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2024	<u><u>-</u></u>
At 31 March 2023	<u><u>742</u></u>

**7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>5,139</u>	<u>-</u>

**8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	2,331	2,053
Accruals and deferred income	<u>54,427</u>	<u>1,350</u>
	<u><u>56,758</u></u>	<u><u>3,403</u></u>

Deferred income represents advance funds received for services which the charity had not delivered by the year end.

	2024
	£
Charitable Activity Income deferred at year end	<u>52,567</u>
Deferred income carried forward	<u>52,567</u>

**Refugee Biryani & Bananas**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	72,408	3,447	6,798	82,653
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Restricted	26,557	(1,870)	(6,798)	17,889
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>98,965</u>	<u>1,577</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,542</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	68,885	(65,438)	3,447
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted	171,620	(173,490)	(1,870)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>240,505</u>	<u>(238,928)</u>	<u>1,577</u>

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	86,115	(13,707)	72,408
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted	641	25,916	26,557
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>86,756</u>	<u>12,209</u>	<u>98,965</u>

**Refugee Biriyani & Bananas**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	62,724	(76,431)	(13,707)
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted	140,649	(114,733)	25,916
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>203,373</u>	<u>(191,164)</u>	<u>12,209</u>

A designated reserve fund is maintained to allow the charity to respond rapidly in emergencies.

**10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

The Trustees commissioned the services of Global Solidarity Foundation CIC to design, maintain and host a new website for the charity. Jacob Warn (Treasurer) is a director of this CIC. This conflict of interest was recognised and he was not part of the decision-making around this contracting.



**REFUGEE**

**BIRIYANI & BANANAS**

**REFUGEE BIRIYANI & BANANAS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1189561

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# Accounts

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**REFUGEE**  
BIRIYANI & BANANAS

Trustees Annual Report  
& Financial Statement  
1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023

Charity Commission  
Registraion No. 1189561

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# OUR MISSION

## Humanitarian aid whatever it takes!

Aiming to empower people who are displaced by involving them in the decision-making processes to the provision of support, we at Refugee Biryani & Bananas provide urgent aid and basic necessities with dignity and equity.

We advocate for and share stories of, or from, the people we support; we aim to raise awareness and be a voice.

We volunteer to fill gaps in humanitarian care, boosting morale and sustaining those who are forcibly displaced on their journeys.

## OUR VALUES

- **Empowerment**
- **Voice**
- **Inclusion**
- **Equity**
- **Dignity**
- **Family**



## Who We Are

- ➔ A field team consisting of 80% people from the refugee and asylum seeking community, currently representing Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Gambia, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Palestine and Yemen.
- ➔ A female and community-led project.
- ➔ Core team members, advisors and ambassadors from all backgrounds, including those with lived experience of the migratory pathway and from Black, Asian, Minority and Ethnic communities.

# ABOUT US

## Background

Refugee Biryani & Bananas (RBB) was formed initially as a grassroots movement in response to the escalation of the Syrian refugee crisis in 2015. They were a group of friends who decided to cook and distribute 2,500 portions of biriyani and bananas for all residents of the unofficial refugee camp in Dunkirk, Northern France.

When the group returned home, they felt that they could not turn their backs on the people affected by the refugee crisis, and they knew they had to continue to help. They then decided to form a grassroots organisation called Refugee Biryani & Bananas (RBB) after ‘The Biryani Mission.’ In an effort to support some of the 82.4 million people currently displaced globally (UNHCR), RBB became a registered charity on 19th May 2020 and aims to support vulnerable people worldwide, including but not limited to:

- **Victims of War**
- **Natural Disaster**
- **Oppression**
- **Refugees and Asylum Seekers**
- **Political Persecution**
- **Displaced People**
- **Poverty**
- **The Homeless**

## Where we are

Since September 2015, RBB has been involved in providing humanitarian assistance to displaced people residing in refugee and IDP camps, squats and other unstable settlements along the migratory pathway at the following locations:

France: Calais, Dunkirk & Paris

Greece: Idomeni Camp, Thessaloniki, Athens, Lavrio, Samos & Chios

Northern Iraq: Duhok

Serbia: Belgrade Barracks

Bosnia & Herzegovina - Croatia Border: Vucjak Camp

Turkey: Istanbul

Poland, Belarus & Lithuania Border

Ukraine Border

**This annual report highlights our activities in the third year as a registered charity. It shares where our funds come from and the difference it is making in the lives of those we are supporting.**

# TRUSTEES STATEMENT

This year was involved in a period of significant change in the composition of the board. An entirely new set of trustees were appointed, including a new Chair. This was supported via an external partner organisation 'Fair Development' who advised on the makeup of the board, advertised the positions, and provided support and advice through the interview process.

As a number of members did not have experience working on UK charitable boards, our first priority has been ensuring everyone met a baseline of understanding of responsibilities. Another early focus of the new board has been reviewing governance and assurance processes, to ensure the board is fulfilling its duties effectively. This included reviewing our Risk Register, and Cycle of Business. Our new cycle outlines four main meetings a year, focusing on: Strategic Planning, Financial Accounts, Policies & Compliance, and Managing Risk. This is supplemented by four shorter meetings, which include operational updates, and discussing our financial position. This ensures that our major duties are fulfilled over the course of the year, and that they are kept under constant review. Coordination and facilitation of these meetings is provided by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board.

Our most significant financial decision has been to appoint our first Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This was made based on the needs of our charitable community of support on the ground, and our need to develop sustainable services to meet those needs - which could not be met by volunteers on stipends. Our appointment process was robust, and supported by an external partner agency - we were delighted to appoint Ruhi Loren Akhtar to the role. The Chair of Trustees serves as the line manager for the CEO, drawing on support from the wider board.

As a small charity, it has been necessary for trustees to take an active role in our running than a larger charity's board might. One trustee focuses on fundraising, supporting the CEO to convene a team of fundraising volunteers to write bids for project funding. Another trustee, our Treasurer, focuses on our finances, and has been supporting the CEO to ensure our financial processes are robust. Other trustee roles are kept non-specific, to allow them to focus on projects and priorities as required.

Three of the current trustees spent a week volunteering on the ground in Athens working with the distribution team, and held an away day with the CEO to discuss some of the future aspects of the organisation. Some of the appointed trustees we initially recruited during this restructuring period made the decision to step down from the board due to other commitments, which has prompted us to think about how to ensure effective recruitment moving forward. At time of writing we are completing a Skills Audit of the Board, to ensure that new appointments fill any gaps we may have and provide relevant expertise.



**Tom Snape**

*Chair of Trustees*

# A Note from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Readers and Supporters,

This year I stepped down as the Chairperson of Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (RBB) and was extremely honoured to be appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the organisation.

As the founder of RBB I am proud and pleased at the growth and progress of the organisation in terms of our governance and field operations despite the global challenges faced by many small grassroots organisation in relation to funding, support and volunteers/staffing.

During this year our efforts focussed on supporting people who are displaced on the Greek Island of Chios where we continued large scale aid distributions; and in Athens where we opened 'Qalbi' a free shop for food, hygiene products and other non-food items. We expanded our distributions working closely with the communities we support, using a person centred approach to be able to provide increased aid items with more choice. For example whenever there was an opportunity, we were able to provide personalised food and hygiene packs in Chios which people chose from a catalogue and in Athens people were able to choose from 147 items as well as receiving supermarket vouchers at our 'Free Shop'.

We also focused on continuous assessments and outreach sessions to be able to reach communities who may not be receiving support from other aid agencies and this was primarily supported by our team members from the community with a range of different backgrounds, languages and knowledge of hotspots to reach out to people even more marginalised in our areas of support.

## **KEY PROJECTS - ATHENS & CHIOS, GREECE**

- Support with food, nutrition and hygiene products
- The Brothers Campaign - aid and advocating for males who are displaced
- Urgent aid, social care, and community centred / season specific aid
- Raising awareness on pushbacks, criminalisation of aid workers, criminalisation of people on the move, food insecurity and reception and identification centre conditions.

None of this would have been possible without the continued trust and support of our partners and donors, to whom I would like to extend my gratitude. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the RBB team for their commitment and resilience and most importantly, on behalf of RBB, I would like to thank the community we are supporting for trusting us and allowing us to be part of their journey and accompanying us in all that we do. We promise to continue and improve our efforts in the upcoming year.



**Ruhi Loren Akhtar**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who donated to us, raised funds for us, volunteered with us remotely or in the field, sent us aid, shared our social media posts and gave us the encouragement to keep going. Special THANKS to all those from the asylum-seeking community who volunteered with us despite living in challenging conditions themselves.

**A comprehensive financial overview is included after this section with the Accountants Independent Examination.**

Together we were able to support approximately 14,750 people over all sites, with some people receiving ongoing care where appropriate and others as a one time if they were on the move. Here are some of our key achievements and examples of the difference we were able to make with your monetary and material donations:

## Food and Hygiene Products



**With a primary focus of providing food security and hygiene items we purchased £102,869.31 of Food Supplies and £11,063 of Hygiene Products**

With financial and in-kind donations, a total of **17,980** individual, community directed, food & hygiene packs were distributed. The average number of items per pack was **16** products, ranging between **5** items and **24** items per pack.

## Individual Food Items

59,486

## Individual Hygiene Products

15,777

Although the following is not exhaustive of all food and hygiene products distributed within the year, it gives insight into some of the popular items and quantities distributed, only possible with your support.



5,806 Bottles of 1 Litre  
Cooking Oil



4,814 Cans / Bottles of 600 g  
Vegetables and Varied Tomato  
Preparations.



6,771 Cans of 120 g  
Tinned Fish



4,703 Packs of  
1kg Sugar



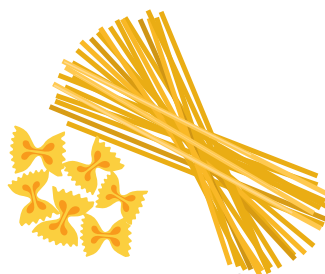
15,446 Bags of  
1kg Rice



3,500 Packs of  
1kg Flour



6,024 Packs / Tins of  
250g Fresh and Canned  
Halal Meats



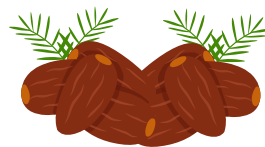
4,114 Packs of  
1kg Pasta



5,647 Bottles (2 Litre) / Cartons (1  
Litre) / Boxes (200 g) of Soft  
Drinks, Fruit Juices, Hot Drink  
Ingredients.



8,426 Tins / Packs of 750 g Dried  
and Tinned Lentils, Chickpeas,  
Pulses and Beans



1,5 Tonnes of Dates



5,568 Jars, Packs, Bottles of 350 g Special and Cultural Food Items such as:  
Vine Leaves, Spices, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Tahina, Peanut Butter, Molasses  
Syrup, Jam, Chocolate Spread, Nuts and Dried Fruit, Honey, Dried Jute Leaves,  
Halwa, Cereals. Etc.



4,697 Cartons of  
1 Litre Milk



2,815 Bottles of 750 ML Dishwashing Liquid



2,917 Boxes of 500 g Soap Powder



1,402 Bottles (400 ml) and Bars 90g of Body Wash and Soap



1,691 Bottles of 400 ML Shampoo



554 Packs of 18 Sanitary Towels



1,210 Toothbrushes



1,015 Tubes of 150 g Toothpaste

## Non-Food Items



**4,176** pieces of Non Food aid items were provided in Chios and Athens. This included: blankets and sleeping bags, children's education and art supplies, kitchen equipment, household items, shoes, clothes, suitcases and backpacks, emergency survival pack items, winter accessories, Qurans and Bibles. The majority of these items were donated in-kind by private donors, businesses and other NGOs, and supplemented with bought items as necessary.

# OTHER KEY SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

## Support for the Deceased



We funded and organised the repatriation of a woman to Somalia who sadly died after arrival, running out of food and water, as she hid outside for 5 days fearing pushback in Chios. In addition, we arranged a gathering and memorial for her departure.

We also supported her brother with accommodation, translation, transportation, moral and social support as he travelled to Chios to identify his sisters body.

## Hot Meals & Other Food



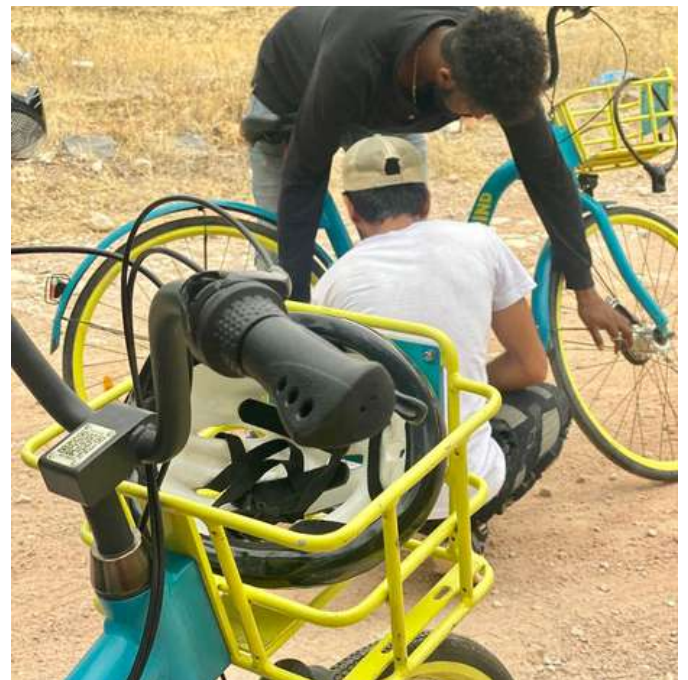
11,570 individual portions of hot meals, solid baby food, cooked food, water and drinks for outreach sessions, at 'Qalbi' centre, celebrations / activities, for volunteers from the community and emergencies was shared in Chios and Athens.

## Supermarket Vouchers



A total of £11,070 worth of supermarket shopping vouchers was distributed to 1371 people from families and individuals in Athens to buy fresh food items including fruits, vegetables, dairy products and meats. £7,756.31 of this was bought with RBB funds and the remainder of vouchers were donated.

## Bicycle Distribution



21 Bicycles, helmets and locks were given to people living in Vial Camp, Chios for shared usage amongst their communities.



## Social Support & General Well Being

During this year there was **3,285** occasions of social support and general well being, as well as advocating for individuals, supporting **5,301** people.

These can be one off interventions to more regular and consistent accompaniment over time. This is community led and can be for an individual to groups of people. These activities include:

### Referrals and Facilitation of :

- Medical support
- Legal Aid
- Education
- CV Writing and Employment
- Sports, Music and Social Activities
- Housing and Shelter
- Other Integration Services.
- Accessing their community special groups and organisation.

### Translation

### Transportation Support and Travel Tickets

### Accompanying to appointments if necessary

### Activities and Celebrations:

- Cooking Sessions
- Football and Sports
- Festivals and Celebrations
- Commemorations
- Day Trips
- Community meals

**Advocating** for people newly arrived to Greece to be able to access the asylum service and for Pushback victims.

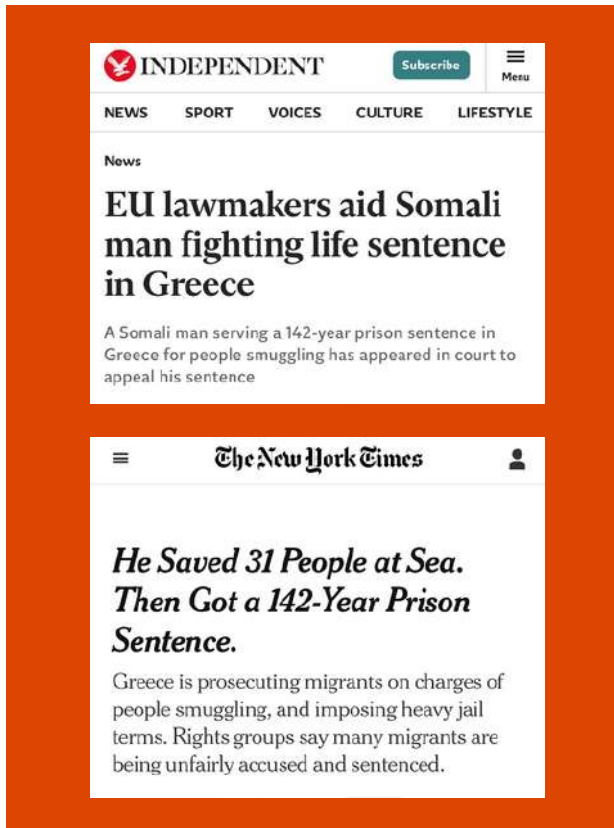
**Missing persons reports** and support for family and friends of those missing.

**Funeral arrangements / repatriation** and support for friends and family of the deceased.

Identifying and directing towards support networks for people in other countries.



# CASE STUDIES



**Mohamad Hanad Abdi arrives at a court in Lesvos  
(AP Photo/Panagiotis Balaskas)**

## **Accompaniment, Raising Awareness and Advocating for Communities Case Study:**

Mohammed Hanad, 28 years old, from Somalia, was imprisoned on Chios Island. After arrival to Lesvos he was accused of human trafficking and smuggling and sentenced to 152 years in jail as there had been deaths as the boat capsized. A few years before RBB even knew his name, his lawyer Alex Georgoulis asked us to supply an emergency clothes pack with shoes for him in prison. Since then Hanad had been tried and sentenced, and re sentenced to 142 years on an appeal.

Fast forward to January 2023, when Alex Georgoulis informed us that Hanad was having a re trial on appeal in Lesvos courts and as we (Ruhi/RBB) and Amber Bauer (ForRefugees) were due to attend the court hearing or Sara Mardini, Sean Binder and other aid workers criminalised in Lesvos around the same time, we quickly changed our flights to be able to attend the court hearing of Hanad also.

We waited outside court the entire day in solidarity and support. Although we weren't in contact prior to this; Hanad's family and friends were attending from Austria and UK and they came over to us and told us that they had already seen the posts Ruhi/RBB had shared advocating for Mohammed Hanad and how much their whole family appreciated our posts. We continued to host a social media campaign to advocate for justice and the release of Mohammed Hanad.

That day Hanad's sentence was reduced and he was soon to be released. A few months later he was released in Chios. We, with translators, went to support him and show our support. Hanad eventually became a member of our volunteer team in Chios!

## Outreach, Food Security and Referrals Case Study:

Sammy\*\* is 25 years old and from Ghana. We came across Sammy during an outreach session in Athens. He had been in Greece for 5 years and had been rejected on his asylum claim multiple times. Unable to read or write, with old injuries from his home country making him limp and blind in one eye where part of his eyeball is not there, leaving an open wound.

We were shocked to find Sammy living in conditions that he was. He was homeless and therefore he was climbing up to the top floor of an abandoned building with no toilet or washing facilities to live there. The building was boarded up with barbed wire and looked like it was caving in. The only way for him to survive was to go through trash bins and source whatever he could find, hosting a small side street shop.

As it can take time to build trust with those we support our initial interventions were to provide regular food and hygiene products suitable to use in the squat he was living in. We also provided him with clothes, shoes, and sleeping bags at the height of winter.

With time we were able to refer him for legal support to re-start his asylum claim, medical support for the wound in his eye socket, and soon after we were also able to find him housing with an organisation providing shelter. Sammy also found a job in a factory.

On Sammy's birthday we hosted a dinner with other brothers from the community and surprised him with a birthday cake. Clearly overwhelmed but with a big smile we could see tears in Sammy's eyes as he blew out his candles and we sang him happy birthday.

\*\*Name changed to protect identity



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

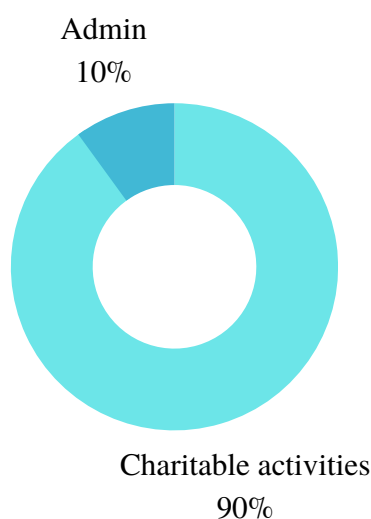
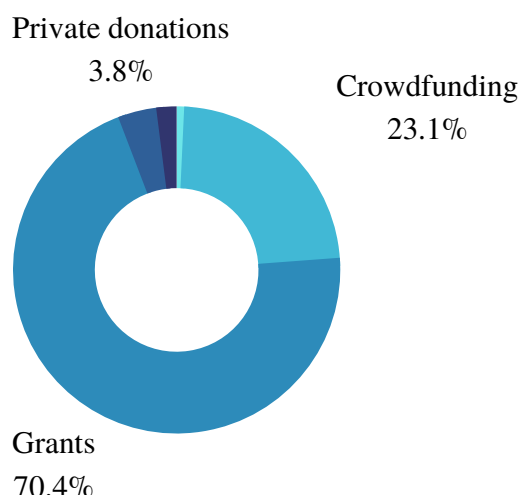
This year, we've been able to keep supporting the asylum-seeking community in Greece and further afield thanks to the support from hundreds of individuals as well as from granting bodies and corporations. Despite a difficult year to raise funds with a lot of public attention directed towards other crises, the Charity has successfully fundraised to to a similar level as the previous year. This has enabled the Charity to operate effectively and continue its services in delivering aid via distributions of food, clothes, vouchers and other items.

Expenditure for this year has increased due to both an increase in funding spent on aid items, as well as with the hiring of the Charity's first employee - it's CEO and founder Ruhi Akhtar. This is an important step which has enabled the Charity to move in the direction of long-term stability, and to recognise properly the contributions of key individuals who, to date, have worked on a voluntary basis.

## Total funds raised: £203,373

This year, we raised a total of £203,373, compared with £210,951 last year. These funds are broken down into:

- Private donations = £7,749
- Grants = £143,100
- Crowdfunding = £46,924
- Corporate donations = £1,500
- Other revenue = £4,078



## Total funds spent: £188,132

This year, we spent £188,132 on our charitable activities, compared with £137,628 last year. The main expenditure categories include:

- Aid provided = £133,721
- Staff salaries = £4,316
- Freight, transport & fuel = £7,617
- Storage and warehousing = £2,649
- Team costs (travel, accommodation) = £21,571
- Fundraising costs = £6,906
- Administrative costs = £11,352

# CHARITY INFORMATION

## **Trustees for 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023**

Ruhi Akhtar - Chair of Trustees (resigned 19/7/22)

Rhian Planchant - Treasurer (resigned 19/7/22)

Jane Elizabeth Hetherington - General Trustee (resigned 19/7/22)

Angela Curry - General Trustee (resigned 19/7/22)

Debbie Flounders - General Trustee (resigned 1/9/22)

Tom Snape - Chair of Trustees (appointed 20/7/22)

Abdelilah Alhamoud - Vice Chairperson (appointed 1/7/22)

Jacob Warn - Treasurer (appointed 1/8/22)

Jennifer Capasso - General Trustee (appointed 1/8/22)

Frances Loring - General Trustee (appointed 20/7/22)

## **Registered Address**

52 Clifton Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 8DQ

## **Constitution**

Registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in England and Wales, no. 1189561

## **Independent Examiner**

David Collier, Wharfedale Accountancy, Wharfedale, West Yorkshire, UK.

## **Bank**

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c.

P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

**Website:** [www.refugeebiriyanibananas.org](http://www.refugeebiriyanibananas.org)

**Facebook:** [RefugeeBiriYaniAndBananas](#)

**Instagram :** [Refugee\\_biriyanibananas](#)

**Twitter :** [RBBOrganisation](#)

**YouTube :** [@refugeebiriyanibananas](#)

# STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

## Year Ending 31st March 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2023. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting principles set out by the Charity Commission and comply with the charity's constitution.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law of the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. This must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed.

# STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

During this year, RBB has been governed by three to five charity trustees at a time with new board members joining us mid year replacing the previous. Our constitution provides for a minimum of three trustees. New trustees can be appointed by existing trustees and can serve for three years and any charity trustee is eligible for reappointment.

Upon appointment, trustees offer their expertise and time freely. No trustee received any remuneration during this period.

Trustees met via video call and in person where possible over the previous year as indicated by our constitution. Meetings were held every six to eight weeks. All meetings were chaired and minutes recorded by the trustees. In between meetings, trustees communicated regularly using email, WhatsApp and phone calls to keep each other up to date on projects and to approve or decline projects and expenditures; together or in sub teams depending on topics addressed. In addition we were able to host an in person trustees meeting and planning session with our CEO and three members of the trustees board, in Athens, Greece. They also participated in volunteering activities gaining a clearer in-sight of our current field operations.

Our high-level strategy and areas of activity are reviewed on an ongoing basis due to the fast-changing nature of the crisis for displaced people and sudden emergencies requiring a flexible and needs-based approach.



**WE THANK YOU!**



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
REFUGEE BIRIYANI AND BANANAS CIO

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2023

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1189561

**Set out on pages**

3 – 4 .

3-4(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023. DD / MM / YYYY.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

24 October 2023

**Name:**

David Collier

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

FCIE

**Address:**

10 Marlborough Square

ILKLEY

LS29 8PU

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

---

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period  
from

1/4/2022

To

31/3/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Grants and donations	62,726	140,647	-	203,373	210,951
<b>Sub total(Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>62,726</b>	<b>140,647</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>203,373</b>	<b>210,951</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>62,726</b>	<b>140,647</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>203,373</b>	<b>210,951</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
<b>DIRECT COSTS</b>					
Aid provided	33,455	100,266	-	133,721	110,728
Staff salaries	4,316	-	-	4,316	-
Freight, transportation and fuel costs	3,716	3,901	-	7,617	4,006
Storage and warehousing	381	2,268	-	2,649	3,492
Team expenses - travel, accommodation and stipends	12,747	8,824	-	21,571	13,513
<b>FUNDRAISING COSTS</b>					
Staff salaries	6,906	-	-	6,906	-
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS</b>					
Staff salaries	6,043	-	-	6,043	-
General overheads	2,617	2,692	-	5,309	5,205
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>70,181</b>	<b>117,951</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>188,132</b>	<b>136,944</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Computer equipment	-	-	-	-	684
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>684</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>70,181</b>	<b>117,951</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>188,132</b>	<b>137,628</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 7,455</b>	<b>22,696</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,241</b>	<b>73,323</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>84,016</b>	<b>2,369</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,385</b>	<b>13,062</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>76,561</b>	<b>25,065</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>101,626</b>	<b>86,385</b>

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank and cash accounts	76,561	25,065	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>76,561</b>	<b>25,065</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK



B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		Office equipment	General	-
		-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	

B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		Payroll tax and national insurance	General	2,653
Independent Examination Fee	General	750	31 October 2023	
		-		
		-		
		-		

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Jacob Warn	9/10/2023
	Tom Snape	9/10/2023



**REFUGEE**  
**BIRIYANI & BANANAS**

**REFUGEE BIRIYANI & BANANAS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1189561

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# Accounts

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A person is walking away from the camera on a dirt path, wrapped in a crinkled yellow thermal blanket. The background shows trees and a clear sky. The text is overlaid on a dark blue semi-transparent box.

Trustees Annual Report  
& Financial Statement  
1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022

Charity Commission  
Registraion No. 1189561



**REFUGEE**  
BIRIYANI & BANANAS

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# OUR MISSION

## Humanitarian aid whatever it takes!

Aiming to empower people who are displaced by involving them in the decision-making processes to the provision of support, we at Refugee Biryani & Bananas provide urgent aid and basic necessities with dignity and equity.

We advocate for and share stories of, or from, the people we support; we aim to raise awareness and be a voice.

We volunteer to fill gaps in humanitarian care, boosting morale and sustaining those who are forcibly displaced on their journeys.



## OUR VALUES

EMPOWERMENT

INCLUSION

VOICE

EQUITY

DIGNITY

FAMILY

# CHARITY INFORMATION

## **Trustees on 31st March 2022**

Ruhi Akhtar - Chair of Trustees

Rhian Planchant - Treasurer

Angela Curry

Deborah Flounders

Jane Elizabeth Hetherington

## **Registered Address**

52 Clifton Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 8DQ

## **Constitution**

Registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in England and Wales, no. 1189561

## **Independent Examiner**

Amsel Page von Spreckelsen

Blackbird Charity Finance

Shoreham-by-Sea, United Kingdom

## **Bank**

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c.

P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

**Website:** [www.refugeebiriyaniбанanas.org](http://www.refugeebiriyaniбанanas.org)

**Facebook:** RefugeeBiriyanAndBananas

**Instagram :** Refugee\_biriyaniбанanas

**Twitter :** RBBOrganisation

# STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed.

# ABOUT US

## Background

Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (RBB) was formed initially as a grassroots movement in response to the escalation of the Syrian refugee crisis in 2015. They were a group of friends who decided to cook and distribute 2,500 portions of biriyani and bananas for all residents of the unofficial refugee camp in Dunkirk, Northern France.

When the group returned home, they felt that could not turn their backs on the people affected by the refugee crisis, and they knew they had to continue to help. They then decided to form a grassroots organisation called Refugee Biriyani & Bananas (RBB) after 'The Biriyani Mission.' In an effort to support some of the 82.4 million people currently displaced globally (UNHCR), RBB became a registered charity on 19th May 2020 and aims to support vulnerable people worldwide, including but not limited to:

- Victims of War
- Oppression
- Political Persecution
- Poverty
- Natural Disaster
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Displaced People
- The Homeless

## Who We Are

A female and community-led project.

Core team members, advisors and ambassadors from all backgrounds, including those with lived experience of the migratory pathway & from black, asian, minority and ethnic communities.

A field team consisting of 85% people from the refugee and asylum seeking community, currently representing Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Gambia, Ethiopia, Palestine and Yemen.

# WHERE WE ARE

Since September 2015, RBB has been involved in providing humanitarian assistance to displaced people residing in refugee and IDP camps, squats and other unstable settlements along the migratory pathway at the following locations:

France: Calais, Dunkirk & Paris

Greece: Idomeni Camp, Thessaloniki, Athens, Lavrio, Samos & Chios

Northern Iraq: Duhok

Serbia: Belgrade Barracks

Bosnia & Herzegovina - Croatia Border: Vucjak Camp

Turkey: Istanbul

Poland, Belarus & Lithuania Border

Ukraine Border



**This annual report highlights our activities in the second year as a registered charity. It shares where our funds come from and the difference it is making in the lives of those we are supporting.**

**There will be insights from the RBB Family and our community as we try to do our part in accompanying and supporting people during a humanitarian crisis.**

# WHAT WE DO

This year, we expanded our operations to Athens, whilst continuing to support primarily people who are displaced on the Greek Island of Chios.

In November 2021, we also travelled to the borders of Poland, Belarus and Lithuania to assess the situation for thousands of people stuck at the border there, to provide humanitarian aid, and to raise awareness.

In March 2022, we continued our emergency response and travelled to the Polish-Ukrainian border to assist those affected by the war in Ukraine.

We assess needs and communicate with affected populations as well as colleagues on the ground to identify priority gaps in humanitarian care. We specialise in equitable and dignified mass aid distributions of food items and non-food items. To achieve these, we have been able to develop systems that adapt to the different crisis zones we operate in, where the needs and dynamics can vary greatly.

## Food Insecurity Case Study 1 Quote:



*"My brothers and I collect cardboard from trash in the streets of Athens and we sell it for around 10-15 Euros after working eight hours. There are eight people in our family and we have to do this otherwise our family will go hungry." - Yusuf is 12 years old from Afghanistan.*

As well as population wide distributions, we also have an individual, person-centred care approach. We implement our humanitarian efforts after liaising closely with those we work with and for, always ensuring continuity and building deep trust.

As such, our support over the past year has ranged from supporting funerals for those who have sadly died on the island, supporting the community with transportation, assisting with funeral arrangements following boat capsizes, distributing face masks and hand sanitiser as part of an urgent COVID-19 response, and providing sleeping bags and basic necessities to those released from quarantine to Vial Camp, Chios.

Our advocacy efforts include campaigning for human rights and against the violations faced by those we are supporting. By speaking out, we aim to create positive social changes within the world we live in, influencing the general public, lobbying politicians and other key decision-makers.

Food is one of the most requested and urgently needed aid item by those displaced in Greece and therefore, **RBB's Food Security with Dignity Project** has been our primary focus.

### RBB Helpline Example Distress Messages Received

The collage displays ten individual messages:

- Message 1:** "Hello angel. I'm in Germany and safe. But I would like to tell you about my sister in Vial and maybe you can help. They have cut her food and she is being hungry most of the time. Do you think you can send her some food baskets for her and her boyfriend to support?"
- Message 2:** "The food is ready-made meals, rice, some cooking and plants But the food is not cooked well and was not good sometimes but we eat it because we need it"
- Message 3:** "Apart from that, I am in a caravan that does not have heating, and the caravan has 9 people, and it is very small, and the people are"
- Message 4:** "But I have no food, my salary has stopped for young children. I want help for my children, I cannot buy food"
- Message 5:** "I'm new to Elephants and I don't have anything I don't have food, I don't have sleep, I don't have clothes, I don't have any money, I'm just in a caravan and I receive my food from the kitchen and clothes are the same from the first time I arrived here"
- Message 6:** "I just have a bed and put a cover on it"
- Message 7:** "Hello, my sister, how are you? We are a family of seven people, mother, father, and five children. My condition is extremely difficult. I don't have a salary. My son's illnesses. I suffer from severe asthma. My wife is very sick, I mean, can I help me with foodstuffs. I don't have food and diapers. Please help. On the day I need help, may God protect you and protect you, Lord"
- Message 8:** "I am going through bad conditions, my dear, from lack of food. We are going to start another distribution in a few weeks. I have no food for lunch at all. Madam, I can not bear it for two weeks or so, please dear dear."
- Message 9:** "Ok, we want food to see, because the food is finished, we are picking up bread from the street, I will send you a picture to see"

**REFUGEE**  
BIRIYANI & BANANAS

# STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

During this year, RBB has been governed by five charity trustees each in place for the full term. Our constitution provides for a minimum of three trustees. New trustees can be appointed by existing trustees and can serve for three years and any charity trustee is eligible for reappointment.

Upon appointment, trustees offer their expertise and time freely. No trustee received any remuneration during this period.

Trustees met via video call over the previous year as indicated by our constitution. Face to face meetings were not possible due to Coronavirus pandemic and for safety measures. All meetings were chaired and minutes recorded by the trustees. In between meetings, trustees communicate regularly using email, WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger to keep each other up to date on projects and to approve or decline projects and expenditures.

Our high-level strategy and areas of activity are reviewed on an ongoing basis due to the fast-changing nature of the crisis for displaced people and sudden emergencies requiring a flexible and needs-based approach.

## Food Insecurity Case Study 2

### Quote:



*"I cannot receive food as I received refugee status in 2019. The food served in camp is inedible, however, I wait at the end of the food line to see if there is any bread and water left, that they might give us. 95% of the time after waiting two hours, there is none left. I then have no choice but to go and beg other people to see if they can spare me some of the what they received."*

*Living in a tent in Vial Camp, a 21-year-old single man from Yemen is unable to work, due to the poor job market and the fact his Greek ID has expired.*

# CHAIRPERSON & FOUNDER'S STATEMENT



I am proud to introduce the Refugee Biriyani & Bananas April 2021 - March 2022 annual accounts on behalf of our team.

In spite of ongoing challenges this year, we continued to work towards our goals to advocate for and support the people within our population of care. The people we are supporting in Greece (our base) have arrived from countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Pakistan as well as East, West and Sub-Saharan Africa (Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Somalia).

For a large part of this financial year, we were subject to restrictions due to Covid-19 pandemic and therefore had to adapt our efforts around this. The people we were supporting also struggled. Already residing in a precarious environment, lockdown meant they were further unable to readily access basic life resources or support from NGOs.

As people left Chios Island and those able to be registered upon arrival reduced, we identified capacity to support on the mainland in Athens. We also travelled to the borders of Poland, Belarus and Lithuania border and continued to support these sites remotely directing volunteers, aid and other resources to those on the ground.

Towards the end of the year we decided to focus on strengthening our Board of Trustees as well as planning to appoint our first salaried employee. This growth and development phase of RBB aims to:

- Improve aid provision and the effectiveness of our advocacy and social awareness efforts
- Execute a long-term, sustainable, organisational model with high staff wellbeing, improved governance, reporting, accountability, policies, safeguarding and operational procedures.

During this year our key projects were:

- The Brothers Campaign - Providing support and advocating for displaced males who are single and from family units, sometimes neglected in aid work.
- Food security and nutrition with dignity.
- The Prison Run - Supporting and advocating for asylum seekers who are in detention or recently released from detention.
- Additional support for people whose governmental allowances have been cut after receiving refugee status or a second rejection on their asylum application.
- Support during crises including fires in camp and extreme weather.
- Advocacy efforts in relation to pushbacks, criminalisation of aid workers, criminalisation of people on the move, food insecurity and reception and identification centre conditions.

None of this would have been possible without the continued trust and support of our partners and donors, to whom I would like to extend my gratitude. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the RBB team for their commitment and resilience and most importantly, on behalf of RBB, I would like to thank the community we are supporting for trusting us and allowing us to be part of their journey and accompanying us in all that we do. We pledge to continue and improve our efforts in the upcoming year.

**Ruhi Akhtar**



*Chairperson*

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who donated to us, raised funds for us, volunteered with us remotely or in the field, sent us aid, shared our social media posts and gave us the encouragement to keep going. Special THANKS to all those from the asylum-seeking community who volunteered with us despite being in a difficult situation themselves.

**A comprehensive financial overview is included after this section in the Accountants Independent Examination.**

Together we were able to support approximately 10,000 people over all sites, with some people receiving ongoing care where appropriate and others as a one time if they were on the move. Here are some of our key achievement and examples of the difference we were able to make with your monetary and material donations combined:

## FOOD SECURITY WITH DIGNITY



**We purchased £93,696.28 of Food Supplies and £5,401 of Hygiene Products for Monthly Distributions in Chios**



In total **16,979** Food & Hygiene Packs were distributed. The average number of items per pack was **14** products, with the range being between **5** items and **22** items per pack.

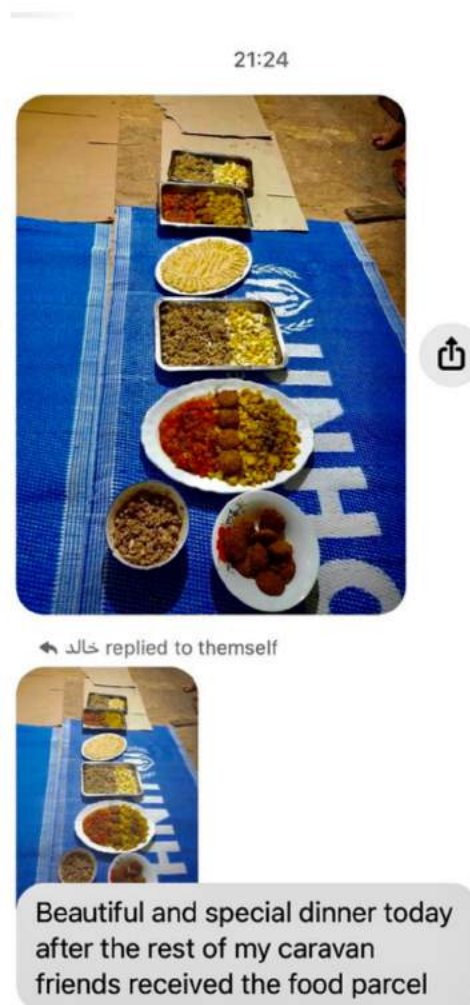
The provision of aid items is decided after liaising with the community of support.

The packs include nutrient-dense and long-lasting staple foodstuffs, as well as specially chosen items by the people themselves, such as Pepsi (a hot favourite!) and dates (popular in Middle Eastern and South Asian cultures).

**Although the following table is not exhaustive of all food and hygiene products within the year, it gives an insight into some of the popular items and quantities distributed, only possible with your support.**

Item	Individual Unit Size	Total Distributed
Sunflower Oil	1 Litre	12,228 Bottles
Basmati Rice	1 KG	9,800 Packs
Milk	1 Litre	7,776 Cartons
Pulses and Beans	1 KG	8.867 Tins
Pepsi	1.5 Litre	2,498 Bottles
Box of Eggs	6 Eggs	10,566 Eggs
Fruit and Vegetables Pack	4 KG	4.6 Tonnes Mixed
Tinned Tomatoes	450 Grams	111,058 Tins
Tinned Tuna / Sardines	150 Grams	9,554 Tins
Dates	1 KG	7,423 Packs
Dishwashing Liquid	0.75 Litres	1,231 Bottles
Clothes Washing Powder	500 Grams	3,338 Boxes
Reusable Face Masks	1 Piece	35,000 Masks

## Recent feedback received after a food distribution



## A lovely message from a resident of Vial Camp leaving Chios



## OTHER KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



We supported the funeral services of 5 people. One woman and two children sadly died as their boat capsized upon arriving to Chios. One other man and woman passed away whilst in the asylum seeking process in Chios.

With donated funds we bought flowers, white cloth, towels, hand sanitiser and water canisters so that the community could hold their culture-appropriate funeral service. We also transported community members from the camp to attend.



£3,962.97 worth of shopping vouchers were distributed to families and individuals in Athens. Lunch items and refreshments were provided with each of these distributions for recipients.



1097 Backpacks and 307 Suitcases (small, medium and large sizes) were provided to over 2000 people leaving the island to ease their travels and to store their belongings whilst living in Vial Camp.



282 baby packs were distributed consisting of first stage solid baby food. Each pack contained 60 portions of 400g of baby food which was two portions per day for the entire month per baby. The numbers of babies supported each month varied however at most we provided for 63 babies in one month.



With the baby food we also provided instruction cards, storage boxes to protect the items from snakes and rats, baby spoons and also heavy duty reusable bags to support parents storage concerns often needing extra for infants.



We volunteered at the Poland, Belarus and Lithuania border and bought emergency supplies for people forced to spend the night in the forest in frozen condition. This included extreme cold weather suitable sleeping bags, medical aid, food, water, backpacks, power banks, winter clothing, thermal wear and insulation blankets.



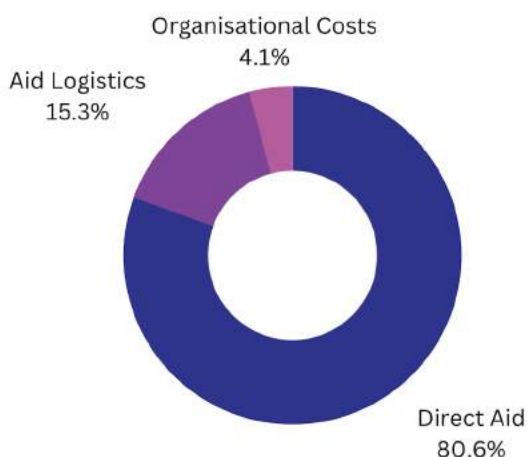
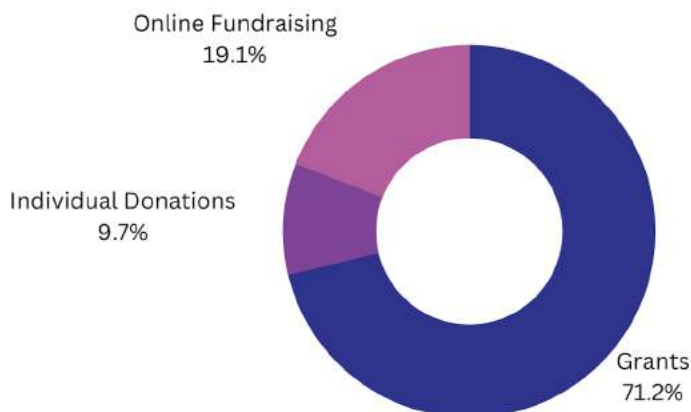
In response to the war in Ukraine, we went to Warsaw and then the Polish border points of Rawa Ruska-Hebrenne, Medyka, Ustrzyki Dolne and the associated refugee reception centres in these areas. We then volunteered at Shehyni in Ukraine where we supported local volunteers with transportation for people fleeing the war and bought and collected 15 pallets worth of aid which was transported across the border by volunteers on foot by trolley. We also helped organisations there with distributions and warehouse management.



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

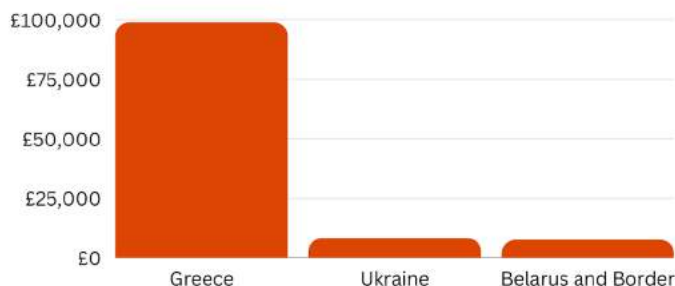
This year, we've been able to increase our support for the asylum-seeking community in Greece and further afield thanks to the support from hundreds of individuals as well as from foundations. Here is an overview of our financial income and expenditure. A full report on our funds is available as part of the Independent Examination.

## Where our funds came from



## How we spent our funds

## Where we spent our funds



	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
<b>Income</b>	£119,277	£210,951 <sup>+77%</sup>
<b>Expenditure</b>	£105,590	£136,944 <sup>+31%</sup>

## In perspective



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Refugee Biryani and Bananas CIO

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31/03/2022

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1189561

**Set out on pages**

3-4

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2022**.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**

**Date:**

10/11/2022

**Name:**

Amsel Page von Spreckelsen

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

CIMA DipMA

**Address:**

92 Melbourne Road, Eastbourne BN22 8BA

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Refugee Biriyani and Bananas CIO	No (if any) 1189561
--	------------------------

CC16a



## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2021	To	Period end date 31/03/2022
---------------------	---------------------------------	----	-------------------------------

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Grants	51,275	97,911	-	149,186	39,210
Individual Donations	19,457	971	-	20,427	9,600
Online Fundraising	37,660	-	-	37,660	70,467
Individuals Fundraising for RBB	2,898	780	-	3,678	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>111,290</b>	<b>99,661</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>210,951</b>	<b>119,277</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>111,290</b>	<b>99,661</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>210,951</b>	<b>119,277</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Aid - Direct Costs	22,786	87,942	-	110,728	78,036
Freight, Transportation & Fuel Costs	3,616	391	-	4,006	9,209
Storage & Warehousing	3,492	-	-	3,492	4,929
Team Expenses - Travel, Accommodation and Stipends	9,898	3,615	-	13,513	8,733
Overheads and Administration	5,205	-	-	5,205	4,683
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>44,996</b>	<b>91,948</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>136,944</b>	<b>105,590</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Computer Equipment	684	-	-	684	625
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>625</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>45,680</b>	<b>91,948</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>137,628</b>	<b>106,215</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>65,610</b>	<b>7,713</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>73,323</b>	<b>13,062</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>10,465</b>	<b>2,597</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,062</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>76,075</b>	<b>10,310</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,385</b>	<b>13,062</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Co-Operative Current Account	76,075	10,310	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>76,075</b>	<b>10,310</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	VIS INT'L 0065323769		286	191
	AMAZON.CO.UK*E72KH AMAZON.CO.UK		684	551
	ASUS VivoBook M513UA			
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Independent Examination Fee		600	01 November 2022
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	 <small>Thomas John Snape (Nov 10, 2022 17:55 GMT)</small>	Thomas John Snape	Nov 10, 2022	
		Jacob Warn	Nov 10, 2022	











# Independent\_Examiners Report and Accounts RBB

Final Audit Report

2022-11-10

Created:	2022-11-10
By:	Amsel von Spreckelsen (amsel@bcfconsulting.co.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAUqTj0Wko1_ut2dSqJ2NUw9pFQAzOV7fb

## "Independent\_Examiners Report and Accounts RBB" History

-  Document created by Amsel von Spreckelsen (amsel@bcfconsulting.co.uk)  
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-  Document emailed to tomjsnape@gmail.com for signature  
2022-11-10 - 3:46:15 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by tomjsnape@gmail.com  
2022-11-10 - 5:54:22 PM GMT
-  Signer tomjsnape@gmail.com entered name at signing as Thomas John Snape  
2022-11-10 - 5:55:30 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Thomas John Snape (tomjsnape@gmail.com)  
Signature Date: 2022-11-10 - 5:55:32 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Document emailed to hello@jacobwarn.com for signature  
2022-11-10 - 5:55:33 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by hello@jacobwarn.com  
2022-11-10 - 8:55:36 PM GMT
-  Signer hello@jacobwarn.com entered name at signing as Jacob Warn  
2022-11-10 - 8:56:19 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Jacob Warn (hello@jacobwarn.com)  
Signature Date: 2022-11-10 - 8:56:21 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2022-11-10 - 8:56:21 PM GMT

**REFUGEE BIRIYANI & BANANAS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1189561

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# Accounts

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Trustees Annual Report  
& Financial Statement  
1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021

Charity Commission  
Registraion No. 1189561

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**Independent Examination**



# OUR MISSION

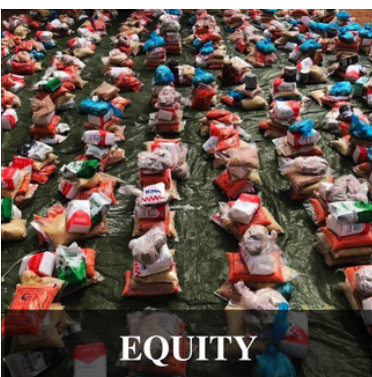
## Humanitarian aid whatever it takes!

Aiming to empower people who are displaced by involving them in the decision-making processes to the provision of support, we at Refugee Biryani & Bananas provide urgent aid and basic necessities with dignity and equity.

We also advocate for and share stories of, or from the people we are supporting; aiming to raise awareness and be a voice.

We volunteer to fill gaps in humanitarian care, boosting morale and sustaining people on their journeys as people who are displaced.

# OUR VALUES



# LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

## **Trustees on 31st March 2021**

Ruhi Akhtar - Chair of Trustees

Rhian Planchant - Treasurer

Angela Curry

Deborah Flounders

Jane Elizabeth Hetherington

## **Registered Address**

52 Clifton Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne. NE4 8DQ.

## **Constitution**

Registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with England and Wales number 1189561

## **Independent Examiner**

Kay Wightman / Accounting for Good CIC.

10a Front St, Winlaton, Blaydon-on-Tyne. NE21 6DD

## **Bank**

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c.

P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester. M60 4EP

**Website:** [www.refugeebiriyanibananas.org](http://www.refugeebiriyanibananas.org)

**Facebook:** RefugeeBiriYaniAndBananas

**Instagram :** Refugee\_biriyanibananas

**Twitter :** RBBOrganisation

# STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES

## RESPONSABILITIES

### Year Ending 31st March 2021

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2021. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting principles set out by the Charity Commission and comply with the charity's constitution.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law of the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. This must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed.

# ABOUT US

## Background

Refugee Biryani & Bananas (RBB) was formed initially as a grassroots movement in response to the escalation of the Syrian refugee crisis in 2015. They were a group of friends who decided to cook and distribute 2,500 portions of biriyani and bananas for all residents of the unofficial refugee camp in Dunkirk, Northern France.



When they group returned home, they felt that could not turn their backs on the people affected by the refugee crisis, and they knew they had to continue to help. They then decided to form a grassroots organisation called Refugee Biryani & Bananas (RBB) after 'The Biryani Mission.' With 82.4 million people currently displaced globally (UNHCR), since 19th May 2020, RBB is a registered charity in the UK and aims to support vulnerable people worldwide, including but not limited to:



- Victims of War
- Oppression
- Political Persecution
- Poverty
- Natural Disaster
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Displaced People
- The Homeless



RBB consists of a team of volunteers and aid workers from all over the world and is led by Ruhi Loren Akhtar, a team of trustees and field coordinators on the ground.



This annual report highlights our activities in the first year as a registered charity. It shares where our funds come from and the difference it is making in the lives of those we are supporting.

There will be insights from the RBB Family and our community as we try to do our part in accompanying and supporting people during a humanitarian crisis.



# WHERE WE ARE

During this year we have primarily been supporting those on the Greek Island of Chios, where the majority of the people who are displaced there, were residing in Vial Camp. It has been a distressing time for those in the crisis where :

- At its peak, there were approximately 6000 people in our population of support.
- People were subject to another terrifying winter, living in tents and makeshift shelters without heating, lighting, electricity and basic life necessities.
- The volunteers and NGO community were still recovering from right-wing attacks on aid workers and the community we are supporting, including a colleagues warehouse being burnt down.
- There were major fires in Vial Camp, burning down infrastructure and leaving people with even less to survive on.
- Governmental changes meant people were further at risk facing cuts in the meagre cash, food and accommodation allowances they received.
- The Coronavirus pandemic left people further isolated, with less resources as NGO's struggled to operate due to safety and restrictive measures.

## Case Study 1 Quote:

*'I was worried that I would have to sell my body to feed my children, I had no other way. I am alone here with my children. When you give us monthly food packs it helps.'*

A message from a single mother from Afghanistan who receives our aid packages, with two children aged three and five years old. She was living in Vial Camp in an unofficial make-shift shelter; and after receiving a positive decision on her asylum application, her cash, food and accommodation allowances were cut.

# WHAT WE DO

Our provision of emergency aid and basic necessities can include food, water, shelter, medical supplies, clothes, shoes, season specific aid (i.e. sunscreen in the summer or firewood in the winter), baby products and hygiene packs.

We assess the needs and communicate with the affected populations as well as colleagues on the ground to identify priority gaps.

We work with the community we are supporting, providing opportunities to be a part of the RBB team and family.

We remain mobile, pivoting to meet the most urgent needs and staying until the situation is stable.

Where applicable we will raise funds to buy aid on the ground, supporting the local economy. Otherwise we seek aid from supporters elsewhere who can send containers or pallets of aid filled with collected and bought aid, if deemed that this is more cost for specific aid distribution goals.

We aim to be a voice and raise awareness about the global displaced peoples crisis. We share people's stories and experiences, advocating for them and campaigning for human rights.



# Structure, Governance and Management

During this year, RBB Has been governed by five charity trustees each in place for the full term. Our constitution provides for a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of seven trustees. New trustees can be appointed by existing trustees and can serve for three years and any charity trustee is eligible for reappointment.

Upon appointment trustees declare their commitment and giving of their time and experience freely and no trustee remuneration was paid during this period.

Trustees met via video call over the previous year as indicated by our constitution. Face to face meetings were not possible due to Coronavirus pandemic and for safety measures. All meetings were chaired and minuted by the Chair of trustees. In between meetings, trustees communicate regularly using email, WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger to keep each other uptodate on projects and to approve or decline projects and expenditures.

The broad strategy, areas of activity and focus for the charity are reviewed on an ongoing basis due to the fast changing nature of the crisis for displaced people and sudden emergencies requiring a flexible and needs based approach.



# RBB Chairperson and Founder Statement

I am proud to introduce the Refugee Biriyani & Bananas 2020-2021 annual accounts on behalf of our team.

Despite the challenges we faced within this year we continued to strive towards our goals to advocate for and support the people within our population of service. The people we are supporting in Greece come from countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Pakistan as well as East, West and Sub-Saharan Africa (Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Somalia). I am burdened by the injustices against mankind and the inhumanity I witness. The conditions in the Greek refugee camps are poor and you can sense depression, desperation, and isolation in the air for those seeking asylum at the gateway to Europe.

We have grown stronger as an organisation by introducing and implementing better processes and policies to strengthen our safety, governance, transparency, financial diligence and accountability.

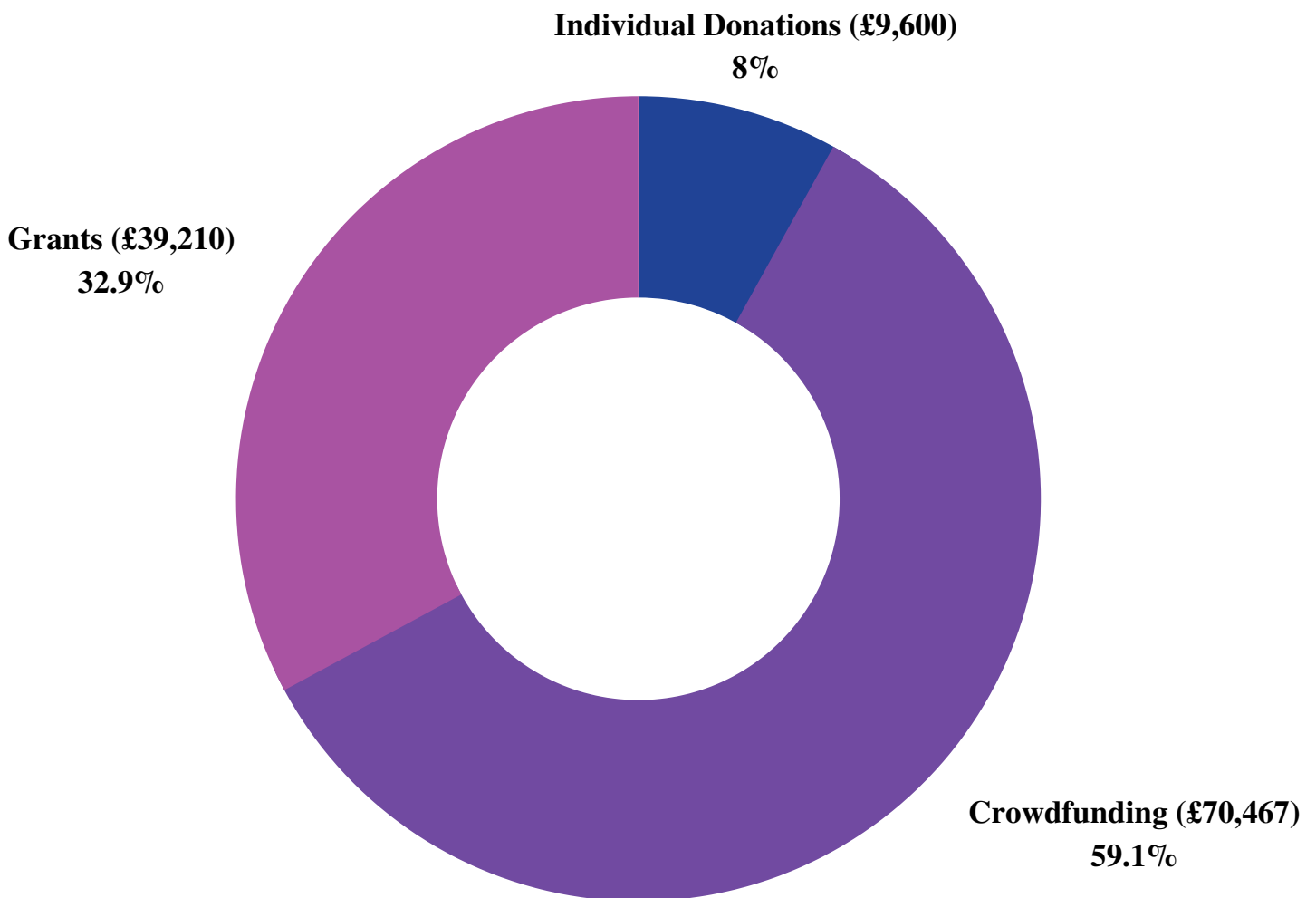
During this year our key projects were:

- The Brothers Campaign - Providing support and advocating for displaced males who are single and from family units residing in refugee camps, squats and other unstable settlements, who can often be left behind in aid work.
- Food security and nutrition with dignity.
- The Prison Run - Supporting and advocating for asylum seekers who are in detention or recently released from detention.
- Providing additional support to people who have had their cash, food and accommodation allowances cut as they have received a positive decision on their asylum cases or a second rejection on their asylum applications. This includes ferry tickets for those with second rejections and having to leave the island and suitcases/backpacks for those travelling to the mainland.
- Additional support during crises including fires in camp, snowfall and extreme weathers and Coronavirus Pandemic.
- As well as population wide distributions, we also have an individual, person-centred care approach. We base our humanitarian efforts after liaising closely with those we work with and for and focus on continuity and building trust.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## INCOME

During the financial year of 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 our income totalled £119,277.00. Here is the breakdown of the income and relevant categories:



**TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS : £51,915**

**TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS : £67,362**

The Accountants Independent Examination can be viewed at the end of this report.

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who donated to us, raised funds for us, volunteered with us remotely or in the field, sent us aid, shared our social media posts and gave us the encouragement to keep going. Special THANKS to all those from the asylum-seeking community who volunteered with us despite being in a difficult situation themselves.

Together we are the RBB family and here are some examples of the difference we were able to make with your monetary and material donations combined:



£2,698.80 was raised and spent to repatriate the body of a young man from Palestine, who sadly died on the Greek island of Chios whilst seeking asylum.



£56,065 was spent on food and water. With funds raised and donated items we were able to distribute 21,401 individual food packs and hygiene items.



We bought enough shoes and socks to keep 1,859 pairs of feet warm at the height of winter.



With in-kind donations and bought aid 1,887 sleeping bags and 3,774 thermal socks were distributed for winter and after a camp fire destroying belongings.



We provided 120 donated bicycles with helmets and locks bought with £1,147.35 of RBB funds to families and individuals.

# THANK YOU

We are grateful to all our supporters, donors, volunteers and coordinators on the ground and also those who worked with us remotely.

Together we were stronger to provide humanitarian aid en mass with dignity.

Together we were able to use a person centred approach to care and support people on their journeys to safety and a better life.

Together we advocated for and raised awareness of the people we are aiding and the situations they face as displaced.

We pledge to continue to support and advocate for displaced people in the upcoming year.

Ruhi Loren Akhtar



## Case Study 2 Quote:

*'Ruhi and the RBB team are fabulous. The work they do is amazing, making a huge difference to a lot of lives. Lives that have been made so difficult by circumstances outside of their control.'*

*'Volunteering with RBB has been life changing for me and my wife Leila, and we can't wait to get involved again!'*

*'I am honoured to be a part of the team and through them I've met people, both within the organisation and the community we are supporting, who'll be friends for life.'*

- Richard Sheridan from London, UK volunteered with RBB, with his wife Leila and daughter Ruby, in Chios and Thessaloniki, Greece.

**Section A**                      Independent Examiner's Report

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	Charity Name		
	Refugee Biriyani & Bananas CIO		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 March 2021	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1189561
	<b>Set out on pages</b> 1-4		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2021.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.


**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**                       **Date:** 7 June 2022

**Name:** Kay Wightman

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** FFA, FFTA

**Address:** Accounting for Good CIC, 10a Front Street, Winlaton, Tyne and Wear  
NE21 6DD

**Section B**                      Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

*D J Houndery*  
26/6/22

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

Although extensive records were kept these were not of the standard needed to enable us to complete our work and substantial reworking was required to ensure that the recorded information was kept correctly including assigning it to restricted and unrestricted funding and ensuring that personal (related party) and charity expenditure were separated.

This was due to the charity being unable to open a charity bank account during the pandemic and as the trustees were out of the UK they used a personal bank account for charity business. We needed to split personal and charity expenditure resulting at the year end of a bank personal bank account to have had £13062.07 of charity money and £4100.06 of personal (related party) money.

This practice was discontinued in 2021 when a charity bank account was opened, and the personal account use has been discontinued, any balance in the personal account was paid to the charity in August 2021 and therefore does not form part of these accounts.

*D. Groundley*  
26/6/22



Charity Name  
**Refugee Biriyani & Bananas CIO**

No (if any)  
**1189561**

### Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from **01/04/2020** To **31/03/2021**

#### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations Received	7,065	2,535	-	9,600	-
Fundraising Received	50,841	19,626	-	70,467	-
Grants Received	9,456	29,754	-	39,210	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>67,362</b>	<b>51,915</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>119,277</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>67,362</b>	<b>51,915</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>119,277</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Clothing	2,002	11,848	-	13,850	-
Food & Water	19,535	36,530	-	56,065	-
Distribution Costs	9,151	58	-	9,209	-
Medical Aid	6,041	2,080	-	8,121	-
Rent	4,929	-	-	4,929	-
Legal Expenses	988	-	-	988	-
Travel Costs	3,228	-	-	3,228	-
Volunteer Stipend	-	5,505	-	5,505	-
Other Admin Costs	2,842	853	-	3,695	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>48,716</b>	<b>56,874</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>105,590</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Computer Equipment	625	-	-	625	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>49,341</b>	<b>56,874</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,215</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>18,021</b>	<b>4,959</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,062</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>7,556</b>	<b>7,556</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>					
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>10,465</b>	<b>2,597</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,062</b>	<b>-</b>

Dyblouderg 26/6/22

**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	14,565	2,597	-
	Trustee's Personal Money	- 4,100	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>10,465</b>	<b>2,597</b>	<b>-</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

	Details	OK Unrestricted funds to nearest £	OK Restricted funds to nearest £	OK Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Computer Equipment	General	625	417
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Independent Examiner's Fees	General	350	01 July 2022
	Bookkeeping Fee	General	600	01 July 2022
	Repayment to trustee	General	4,100	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>D. Foundey</i>	Debbie Founders	26/6/22
<i>R. Planchon</i>	Rhian Planchon	27/6/22