

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

Charity Commission
Registraion No. 1189561

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OUR MISSION

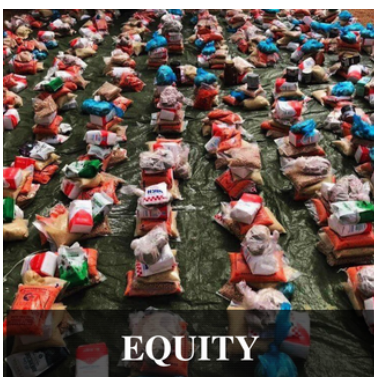
Humanitarian aid whatever it takes!

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 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.refugeebiriyaniбанanas.org

Facebook: RefugeeBiriyanibанanas

Instagram : Refugee_biriyaniбанanas

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.

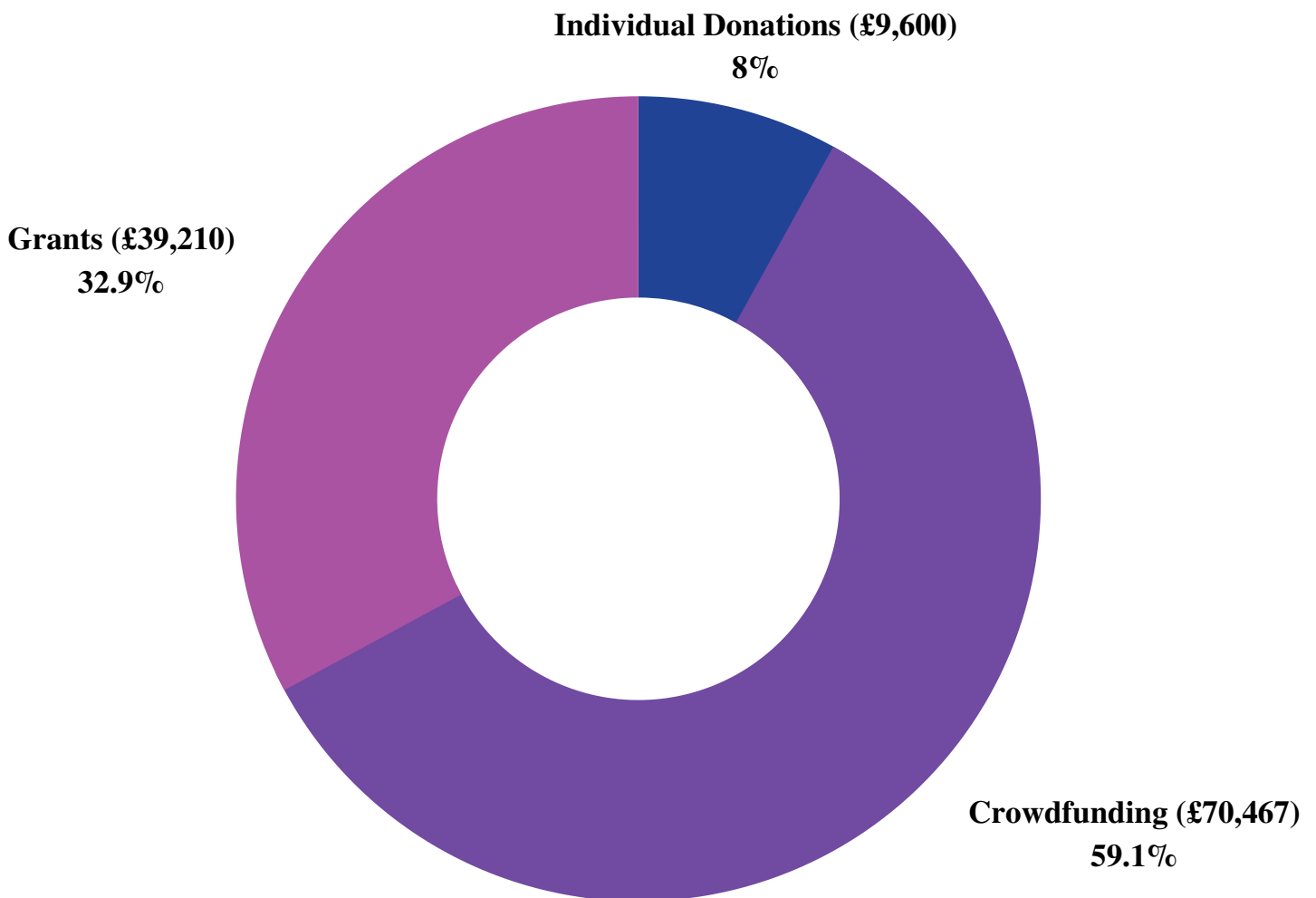
During this year our key projects were:

- 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.

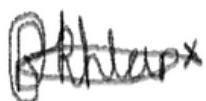
Together we were stronger to provide humanitarian aid en masse with dignity.

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

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Refugee Biryani & Bananas CIO		
On accounts for the year ended	31 March 2021	Charity no (if any)	1189561
Set out on pages	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

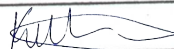
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 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).

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 is the personal account was paid to the charity in August 2021 and therefore does not form part of these accounts.

D. Houlden
26/6/22



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

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/2020		31/03/2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations Received	7,065	2,535	-	9,600	-
Fundraising Received	50,841	19,626	-	70,467	-
Grants Received	9,456	29,754	-	39,210	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	67,362	51,915	-	119,277	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	67,362	51,915	-	119,277	-
A3 Payments					
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	-
Sub total	48,716	56,874	-	105,590	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Computer Equipment	625	-	-	625	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	625	-	-	625	-
Total payments	49,341	56,874	-	106,215	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	18,021	4,959	-	13,062	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	7,556	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	10,465	2,597	-	13,062	-

Dyboundery 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 £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	14,565	2,597	-
	Trustee's Personal Money	4,100	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	10,465	2,597	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets				
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				
	Computer Equipment	General	625	417
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities				
	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. Flounders</i>	Debbie Flounders	26/6/22	
	<i>R. Planchant</i>	Rhian Planchant	27/6/22	