

# ANNUAL REPORT

2018



## Message From Our Executive Director

2018 was another year of great challenges – here in the US and around the world. RSN was established to respond to one of our generation’s most complex and increasingly divisive issues: forced migration.

Conflict, war, persecution, as well as economic inequality and climate degradation continue to drive migration. Borders are increasingly closed to all outsiders as populist movements around the world seek to limit immigration of all kinds. But underlying the negative headlines are stories of resilience, perseverance, and resistance. Refugee families not only endure great hardship, they transform those difficulties into positive contributions to their new home countries and a determination to ensure better conditions for their children.

Host communities open their arms and provide a helping hand, challenging their neighbors who wish to turn refugees away.

Year after year we find that through meaningful engagement with civil society actors in refugee host countries we can have a great impact. We are committed to consultative project design and equitable partnership.

Thanks for being a part of our network.

In solidarity,

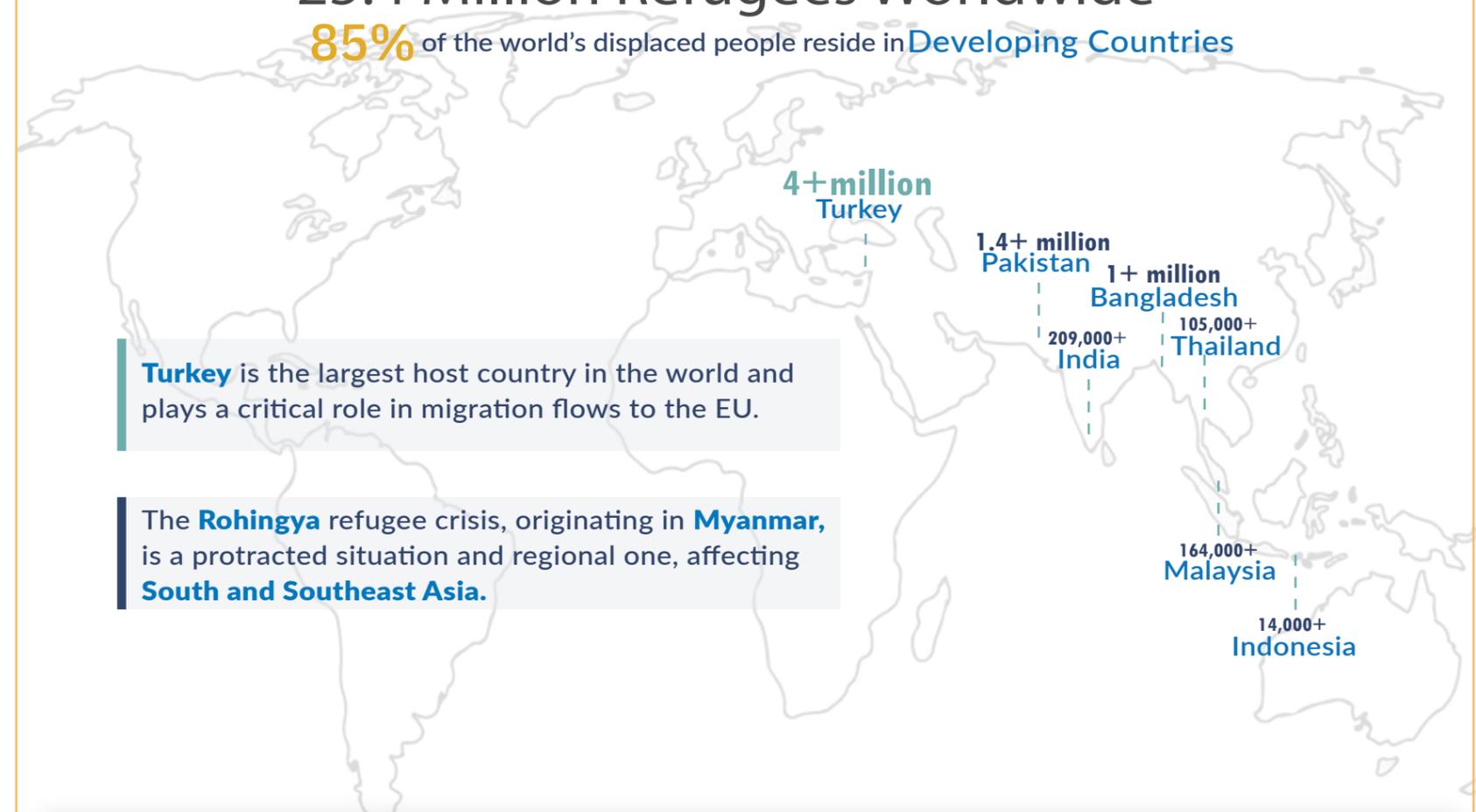


**Zaid Hydari**  
Executive Director

## Context of Our Work

### 25.4 Million Refugees Worldwide

85% of the world’s displaced people reside in **Developing Countries**



RSN works to ensure timely support for refugees that is tailored to the local context. In states where an asylum system exists, we work to ensure policies and practices are fairly implemented in accordance with the rule of law. For states without a national asylum system, RSN works to help establish rights-based policies founded on human rights principles. In all cases, we mobilize strategic resources to strengthen national infrastructures and build the political will to respect and uphold the rights of refugees.



**A YEAR  
IN REVIEW**

## The Mediterranean

### Turkey: The World's Largest Host Country

Turkey has remained a focus area for RSN's efforts since the organization's launch. RSN aims to support the country in hosting over 4 million refugees and implementing its asylum law. One of the primary means of focus for RSN is on expanding the availability of quality legal assistance services for refugees and asylum-seekers. This year we helped explore how pro bono partnerships can play a role, and complement the Legal Aid scheme in Turkey.

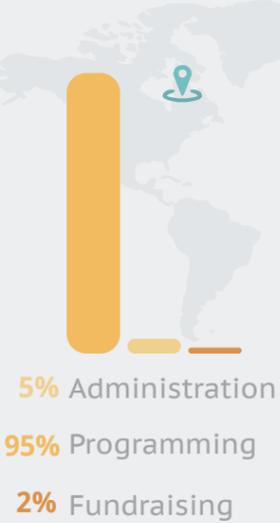
## South & Southeast Asia

### Rohingya Refugee Crisis

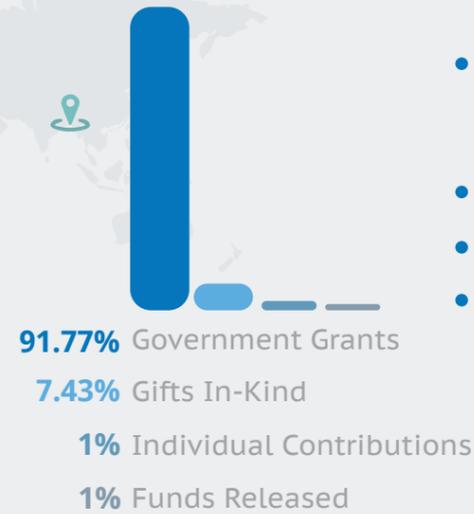
RSN is responding to the plight of the Rohingya, a persecuted minority from Myanmar that has sought safety across Asia. RSN is conducting comparative research for civil society partners working to improve conditions for the Rohingya, primarily in Bangladesh, but also other host countries. The research will lead to continuing capacity development, advocacy and strategy formulation on refugee protection by RSN and partners in the region.

## Financials

### Expenses



### Income



**We would like to acknowledge with special appreciation our institutional supporters:**

- U.S. Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration
- White & Case LLP
- Paul Hastings LLP
- Open Society Foundations Justice Initiative

## Message From the Board

2018 was a year of growth and development. RSN embarked on a new collaboration with the Open Society Foundation's Justice Initiative to provide expert research on legal frameworks and policies impacting Rohingya refugees, with a focus on Bangladesh. Our work in Turkey continued apace with the expansion of Refugee Rights Turkey's program. On the organizational front, we have developed a new 4-year strategic plan, launched a new RSN website, and welcomed Alexandra Zetes as the Global Policy and Advocacy Manager, along with two new Board Members, Aysu Kirac and Diana Sidakis.

The importance of rights-based advocacy has never been more critical as forced displacement continues to grow at record rates around the globe. By supporting local NGOs in refugee host communities, RSN ensures that vulnerable populations have access to functioning asylum systems that uphold international human rights law. As we reflect on 2018, we are proud of the accomplishments and look forward to advancing refugee rights in 2019.

## About Refugee Solidarity Network

**Refugee Solidarity Network** protects the rights of people uprooted from their homes and strengthens the communities where they seek safety. In partnership with advocates and local stakeholders, we develop capacity in refugee host countries outside the U.S. and advance legal frameworks that uphold human rights. We believe the complexity of forced migration requires a flexible, collaborative response focused on achieving sustainable solutions.

Local Solutions to Global Challenges

Stay Informed and Join the Conversation

[www.refugeesolidaritynetwork.org](http://www.refugeesolidaritynetwork.org)

