



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

WHO WE ARE

Reclaim Childhood creates **safe** and inclusive **spaces** for refugee and local girls in Jordan to thrive by **playing sports**, **working with coaches**, and **building community**.

WHAT WE DO

RC gets girls out of the house and onto the field, working towards three main goals:

- 1) To provide a **safe space** where participants can “Reclaim Childhood” and just be kids.
- 2) To **empower and inspire girls** and young women, by employing the **positive impact of sport and play** to build socioemotional and life skills.
- 3) **To connect diverse communities that otherwise may not interact** – refugees and host community Jordanians alike.

All programs are held in female only spaces and led by local and refugee women who act as role models for participants.

HOW WE DO IT

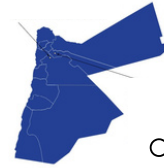
- Weekly afterschool programming
- Teen leadership program
- Summer camps
- Coach clinics

RC programs impact
10+ neighborhoods
across Jordan

WHERE WE WORK

AMMAN

Amman, the capital, is Jordan's largest city. It is also the most diverse: the Amman metro area is home to Palestinian, Iraqi, Syrian, Sudanese, Somali, and Jordanian families.



ZARQA

Originally a military hub and a destination for Palestinian refugees, Zarqa is Jordan's second-largest city and home to a growing number of Syrian and Iraqi urban refugees.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After RC's first strategic planning retreat in February 2020, 2020-21 was initially envisioned to be a year of growth for RC. However, as the program year started in September 2020, Jordan was facing its first major COVID19 surge, a rapid closing of schools, and widespread economic devastation. In a context where the need had multiplied exponentially, we were forced to completely re-imagine what RC looked like on a day-to-day basis.

The refugee and Jordanian girls in RC's programs have faced countless challenges since the start of the pandemic. Some were new and unfamiliar, but some - social isolation, economic instability, and gender inequality - were only exacerbated by the new context. Once again, RC's participants would be hit twice as hard as the multilayered effects of the pandemic disproportionately began to impact girls and women, refugees, and low-income populations. While data about the long-term effects of the pandemic continues to be gathered, we know that kids are becoming less active and that social isolation from friends, coaches, and other caring adults is contributing to significant increases in mental health concerns.

As we reinvented programming again and again to align with new safety procedures and government regulations, we realized that despite the obstacles, RC had a critical role to play in this new context, and the coaches and longstanding community relationships to do so. With this in mind, we've consistently been guided by two core beliefs of RC: it helps to get moving, and community matters. I am in awe of the resilience and adaptability shown throughout the year by coaches, participants, and families, and we were grateful to be able to continue to be part of their support system.

As we look forward, we continue to explore the best ways to support girls and coaches in an ever changing world. At the same time, we are once more cautiously starting to plan for expansion, growth that would include both providing access to sport for more girls in Jordan and increasing the depth of our programming for existing participants. As everyone navigates their own pandemic challenges and grief, we are especially grateful for your support over the past year.

Best,



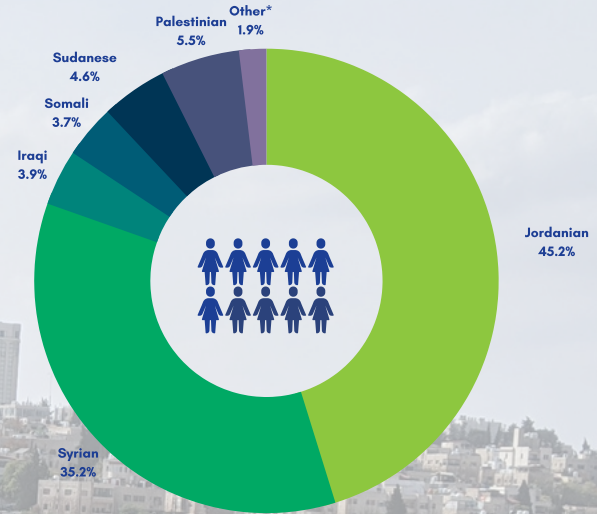
Anna Barrett, Executive Director



2020-21 IMPACT

340+
GIRLS
PARTICIPATED

760+
PROGRAM
HOURS



**Includes Yemeni and Egyptian national identities*

87%
OF GIRLS USED SKILLS
THEY LEARNED AT RC
DURING LOCKDOWN

96%
OF MOTHERS SAID
THEIR DAUGHTERS
GAINED SELF-
CONFIDENCE

99%
OF PARTICIPANTS
MADE NEW FRIENDS
THROUGH RC

IMPACT

AFTERSCHOOL PRACTICE

With schools closed for all but two weeks of the year, afterschool practices became even more vital as an outlet for girls to combat social isolation. Faced with frequent changes in public health regulations, RC's coaches and staff rotated through virtual practices, small group activities focusing on connection and socioemotional support, and - when possible - a return to semi-normal life with soccer, basketball, and frisbee practices. Despite the unconventional programs, coaches continued to provide consistent support for girls, as participants learned techniques like dribbling and shooting while coaches help make connections to important skills such as self-control and collaboration. After a year of smaller group sizes, we welcomed over 50 new girls in the spring!



PROGRAMS

OFF THE FIELD

With the sports sector closed down intermittently throughout early 2021, RC turned to small group off-field activities. Girls were able to gather in masked, socially distanced small groups with their teammates and coaches for some much-needed social interaction. Girls played games, shared their challenges, and used drawing to depict their experiences being at home during lockdowns.



“RC is the only place where I really express myself...here I play unconditionally and comfortably without any pressure.”

-Dana, 2020-21 RC Participant



SUMMER CAMP

RC adjusted its flagship camp model to provide sessions over the course of six weeks, allowing girls to spend more time outdoors safely playing and connecting with each other. While families have requested longer programming in the past to fill the summer vacation months, it was especially important this year as girls worked to overcome the social and emotional impacts of isolation from the past year. Coaches and interns were excited to welcome both year round RC participants and new girls to the field for soccer, basketball, frisbee, Zumba, and a closing week of Olympic-themed competitions! We were even able to invite the mothers of our Qudrati participants to visit and participate in practice - an important RC tradition.

PROGRAMS



QUDRATI TEEN LEADERSHIP

25 young women graduated from the Qudrati Teen Leadership Program. Qudrati means "my ability," which is the focus of the program - helping RC participants ages 14 and up explore and expand on their own abilities. Girls meet on the weekends to discuss topics important to their lives and their communities, strengthening their leadership skills both on and off the playing field. This cohort started in Fall 2019, and like all of RC's programs, Qudrati operated in a hybrid model this year, utilizing both virtual and in-person sessions. Facilitated by RC coaches, the curriculum contains topics such as identity, body image, and discussing difficult feelings, as well as community service projects and visits to local social entrepreneurs. Our Qudrati participants also had the chance to put their leadership skills to the test by running younger girls' practices.



100%

OF GRADUATES FELT LIKE A LEADER IN RC, THEIR FAMILY, AND THEIR COMMUNITY BY THE END OF THE PROGRAM



PROGRAMS

"I am a very ambitious and passionate student, whenever I do anything I do it with love and passion. I love life no matter how hard it can be, because there are things that make us hold on so tight to our dreams and goals. My biggest dream has always been to be a successful person who can live her life minute by minute and enjoy every moment, to study at one of the best universities, to access the best education. I dream of traveling the world, getting introduced to new cultures, and my biggest goal in life is to make the world a better place.

"One of my friends introduced me to this amazing program [RC], and I can say within a year my personality changed. Every minute I learn something new. In training and when I play matches, I learned how to challenge myself before challenging anyone else, how to improve my skills and my own being every day. I learned how to be a strong girl, both from within and from without.

"When I got the opportunity through RC to apply to King's Academy, I was so happy and I started working so hard to improve my language skills...one month later I received the news that I was accepted. This is my biggest achievement, and it would never have happened without the support of RC...

"RC is the place I feel home, with my family that loves me, without any fear of judgment or prejudice, because we are accepted for who we are, irrespective of our differences and diverse cultures.

"At the end of the day, nothing is impossible no matter how far away the goal looks to you, it is just like the moon, and we can always get to the moon if we get on a rocket. Don't be silenced; scream, don't give up, and make your dreams come true."

Special thanks to former Jordan Program Director Jessie Wyatt and Coach Fathia for their support for Aya throughout the process.



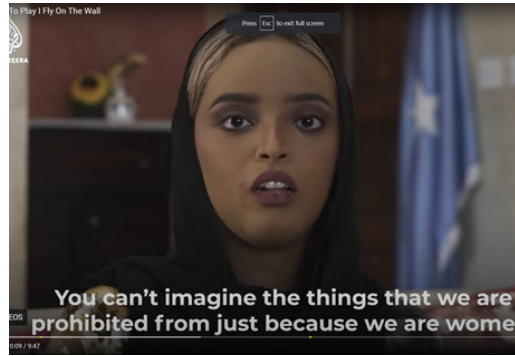
Aya, a Somali refugee born in Yemen, joined RC in the 4th grade and was immediately one of the most engaged participants. She was introduced to King's Academy through RC's partnership with the school and attended a summer program there before being accepted as a full-time student. While she is no longer able to attend RC due to her school commitments, we were thrilled to have her rejoin us for summer programming after she completed her first year!

RANEEM

Raneem joined RC in 2019, with parents who encouraged her to commit to training and Qudrati sessions. Before she joined RC, she never liked sports and thought they were too hard. After joining RC practices regularly, she realized how important it was, and says she feels that sports changed her life. She loves training and being surrounded by her friends. She says that these are the happiest moments for her, especially when they help each other. Through participating in the Qudrati program this year, she got to better understand herself and her own identity. Her ability to problem solve improved drastically, and she is now more confident in what her dreams and goals are. She wants to be someone who can make an impact in society and help anyone who needs it.



Raneem is 15 years old and is part of our Zarqa program. She is originally from Kerak, a city in the south of Jordan.



Credit: Raul Gallego Abellan, Al Jazeera English

IN THE NEWS

Al Jazeera released a Dare To Play video following Jordan's all-female Global Goals World Cup (GGWCUP) tournament featuring Amman Head Coach Reem and Amman Coach and Qudrati Teen Program Mentor Fathia. They discuss the challenges faced by women in Jordan, but also how women are helping to shift long-entrenched gender norms and traditions through sport.

IMPACT



COACH TRAINING

During the 2020-21 program season, RC ran 15 hours of training for its ten coaches. These trainings, held before each season, also incorporated local facilitators to review sports skills and best practices in youth development. A highlight of this year's coach clinics was a training by Enshirah Al-Hyasat (left), a player for the Amman Club and Jordanian national soccer team.

In March 2021, coaches also participated in a 15-hour training run by the La Liga Foundation for RC, focusing on teaching values through soccer for young players.



DISCOVER FOOTBALL

Some of RC's coaches traveled to Berlin to take part in the 2021 Discover Football Festival. The event brought 100 players, coaches, referees and activists from around the world together for three days of workshops, training sessions, and peer exchanges. This year's festival theme was focused on health, giving participants an opportunity to discuss their experiences in the pandemic and learn new techniques for implementing sport in a changing society.

2020-21 COACHES

Reem Neyaz
(Amman Head Coach))
Wala Abu Shihab
(Zarqa Head Coach)

Rasha Al-Ghuwari
Yasmine Owaimer
Fathia Musse
Wala Al-Samarae
Hanan Kudra
Razan Gazawi
Afra'a Qahtan
Heba Sawafhah

COACHES



GGWCUP

The Global Goals World Cup is an international soccer tournament for all-women teams who champion one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to their soccer skills, teams are scored on their relationship to the crowd, style, and actions taken off the field. Reclaim Childhood was invited to take part in Jordan's first GGWCUP held in May 2021. The coaches chose to play for Goal 5, Gender Equality, in line with RC's mission. While they didn't win the soccer tournament, the coaches received the 2021 Inclusion Award for their work with another team, Amani Charity from Gaza Camp.

AMIDEAST JORDAN

Over summer break, RC coaches ran a series of 6 half-day sessions for girls from AMIDEAST Jordan, a local branch of an international development organization that uses education and training to empower communities. Each day included training in soccer, frisbee, and basketball and concluded with a group discussion to plan a small community service project.



COMMUNITY

BUILDING BRIDGES

From January to June, RC facilitated a series of community engagement sessions, bringing together RC participants and their mothers with girls and mothers from Jerash/Gaza Camp – a Palestinian refugee camp where women face many barriers to full participation in sport and public life. 95 mothers and daughters took part in dialogues to share their experiences with sport and how it elevated their self-confidence, discuss the roles they play in their communities, and strategize how women can work together to overcome challenges and empower the next generation of girls. They also had a chance to play together, participating in friendly soccer and frisbee scrimmages.

In celebration of International Women's Day, HRH Princess Lara Faisal, a champion of women's rights in the region, joined one of these sessions. A good friend of RC, she also presented the RC coaches team with the 2021 Global Goals World Cup Inclusion Award for their work with Gaza Camp and the Amani Charity.

The program was funded by the Australian Embassy's Direct Aid Program and closed with a visit to frisbee practices from the Australian Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Bernard Lynch.



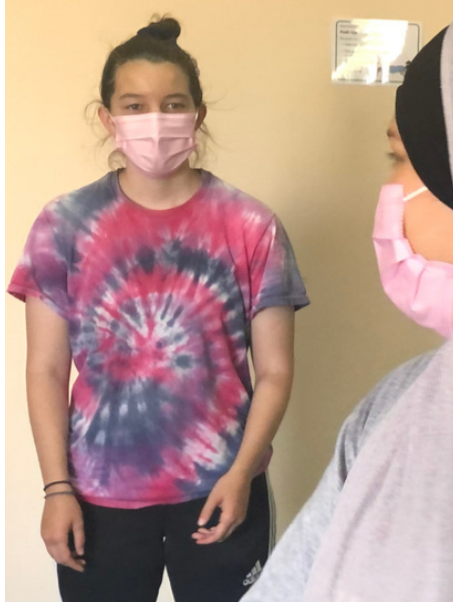
COMMUNITY

BOARD TRANSITIONS

We welcomed Judith Dunbar and Ladd Hamrick as incoming board co-chairs, while two board members transitioned into board emeritus roles this year - Magnús Bernhardtsson and Sam Krieg. Magnús was a founding board member and spent over a decade as an invaluable guide for the organization. Sam, a former chair of the board, joined the Junior Board in 2013 before transitioning to the Board of Directors in 2016. He was a driving force in the organization's development throughout his time. RC would not be where it is today without their contributions.

INTERNS

RC was excited to welcome back in-person interns to our summer camps! Four volunteer-interns worked in the Amman office and trained with coaches to help prepare and facilitate programs. Over the course of six weeks, they learned the inner workings of a small NGO, got hands-on experience with community engagement through sport, and practiced their Arabic. Interns are an essential part of RC's summer programs, bringing energy and new perspectives for the girls we work with.



Dead to Red

VIRTUAL RACE

Each year, Reclaim Childhood sends teams of volunteers to take part in the annual Dead to Red relay race through the Jordanian desert. Due to the pandemic, volunteers had to race virtually in 2021, but it was still a huge success!

116 Runners
16 Teams
4,535 miles run
\$28,000+ raised

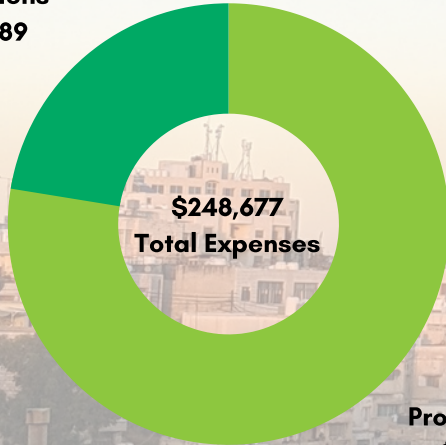
Winner (Team): Bex & The Beasts
Most Miles (Team): Scrambled Legs
Winner+ Most Miles (Ind.): KK Fischer

VOLUNTEERS



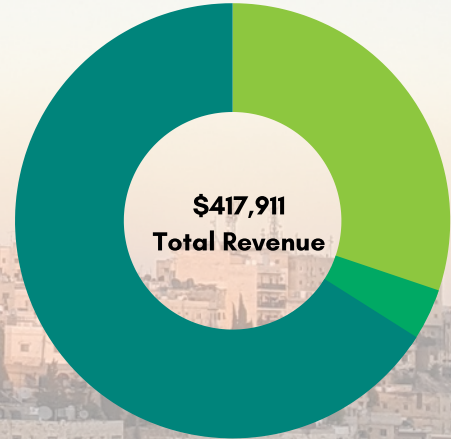
2020-21 FINANCIALS

Operations
\$55,789



Programming
\$192,888

Foundation
\$275,906



Individual
\$126,135

Government
\$15,870

These revenue numbers include a grant from the Boeing Community Investment Fund in honor of Sam Pegram. These funds will be spent across the next three years but were recognized in 2020-21.

2020-2021 ROSTER

Thank you to everyone who made this year possible!

BOARD

Judith Dunbar (Co-chair)
Ladd Hamrick (Co-chair)
Katherine Fischer (Secretary)
Brandan Rivard (Treasurer)
Dalia Al Sharif
Matthew Conroy
Wendy McWeeny
Claire Spofford

INTERNS

Melissa Garand
Grace Harlan
Morgan Hoffman
Maya Jamroz
Madeline Kaplan
Rachel Morrow
Sara Van Loon

JR. BOARD

Julia Cobb (Co-chair)
Ian Armory
Rachel Brissette
Becca Christiani
Peter Christiani
Hill Hamrick
Drake Hicks
Robin Lippman
Alyssa Ponzo
Elise Racine
Zoe Robbin
Louisa Spofford



OPS BOARD

Hunter Lent
Nancy Palmer
Taylor Smith
Peter Stavros

PARTNERS

Amani Charity and Elderly Center
AMIDEAST Jordan
Australian Embassy, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Coaches Across Continents
Common Goal
FIFA Foundation
GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation)
GlobalGiving Girl Fund
Global Ties US
La Liga Foundation
Mankind is My Business
Mennonite Central Committee
Rise for Good

STAFF

Anna Barrett (Executive Director)
Rima Yacoub (Program Director)

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