



# ANNUAL REPORT

2018

# BLAZING NEW TRAILS

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## A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDERS

Dear friends of RUN,

In January this year, one of our female refugees completed the iconic Hong Kong 100 Ultra Marathon - a 100km trail race through some of the most beautiful trails in Hong Kong. **This marked the longest distance any refugee in Hong Kong has ever run.** While this is the achievement of one athlete, it would not have been possible without the support of the RUN community. In this report, you'll see the many ways that you, our community, have helped us to make 2018 a record-breaking year.

At RUN, our vision is to **create a resilient and empowered refugee community in Hong Kong.** We do that by **rehabilitating vulnerable refugees through running and other sports.** We focus on the most vulnerable refugees in Hong Kong - in fact, just under half of our participants have been officially recognised as refugees, while statistics show that less than 1% of claimants are recognised in Hong Kong. **In 2018, we served 104 vulnerable refugees (43 women, 19 men, 45 children/teenagers) from 17 countries including Rwanda, Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea, and Burundi.**

In the coming year, we will continue the important work of rehabilitating vulnerable refugees, particularly by investing more time and resources into our education programme. Education is core to our work, because learning new skills and developing professionally means that our refugees have a better chance of securing stable employment in their future country of resettlement, receiving exceptional authorisation to work in Hong Kong, and ultimately building a better future for themselves and their families.

**We are incredibly thankful** for every individual or organisation that generously gave time, energy, and resources in 2018. Our refugees have big plans for the future - whether that means competing in a race, completing an online course, learning new skills, getting physically and emotionally fit, or taking up a leadership role - and we know that with your support, they will achieve audacious goals this year.

With sincerest gratitude,  
Virginie & Brenda  
RUN Co-Founders

# REFUGEES AROUND THE WORLD AND IN HONG KONG

## GLOBALLY



68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide;



1 person is displaced every 2 seconds as a result of conflict or persecution



25.4 million refugees worldwide; over half are under 18, some are unaccompanied by an adult



10 countries host 60% of the world's refugees

## HONG KONG\*



7,397 asylum seekers and 125 refugees



Rate of approval for refugee claims is 0.52%



Monthly allowances of HK\$1,500 for rent, HK\$1,000 in food coupons, HK\$300 for utilities



No right to work

\*as of November 2018

**“REBUILDING REFUGEES’ LIVES THROUGH SPORT IS JUST ONE OF MANY INNOVATIVE WAYS IN WHICH SOCIETY CAN USE NON-TRADITIONAL SOLUTIONS TO EMPOWER REFUGEES AND ALLOW THEM TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THE FUTURE AHEAD, WHEREVER THAT MAY BE.”**  
- OFFICIAL FROM THE UNHCR IN HONG KONG



# THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

On 17th December 2018, the UN General Assembly presented a plan to strengthen international support for refugees and the countries who host them. This plan, which is known as the Global Compact on Refugees, was affirmed by all 193 Member States of the United Nations.

## Ease pressures on host countries

RUN's Education Programme and support for exceptional authorisation to work in Hong Kong, show successful examples to the government of the positive outcomes of granting the right to work, including but not limited to, increased self reliance of refugees, potential decrease in reliance on government handouts, and closing the skills gaps for employers.

## Enhance refugee self-reliance

With sports as the linchpin, RUN's holistic approach to rehabilitation aims to increase the self-reliance of refugees and asylum seekers.

## Key Objectives of the Compact

## Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

## Expand access to third-country solutions

As only 1% of refugees worldwide will be resettled by the UN, RUN's programmes, particularly the Education Programme, open pathways to alternatives to resettlement either through sponsored resettlement, exceptional authorisation to work, working visas or university education in Hong Kong.

# 10 THINGS YOU HELPED US ACHIEVE IN 2018

## 1. WE RELAUNCHED AS RUN

In 2018, RUN came to life. Starting in 2015, we operated as the Hong Kong programme of an international organisation, Free to Run. As our programmes grew to adapt to the needs of the refugees in Hong Kong, we recognised that it was time to branch off as a separate organisation. With the blessing of the Free to Run team, we became RUN in early 2018, with a focus on rehabilitating refugees through running and other sports. At RUN we **Rebuild, Unite, Nurture.**



## 2. WE HIKE TO GREATER HEIGHTS IN OUR HIKING TO HEAL PROGRAMME

**In 2018, we organised 43 women's only sessions for 32 participants.**

Hiking to Heal was our first programme in 2015 and targeted vulnerable women recovering from severe trauma. While hiking is still the primary focus of this programme, we have expanded to include other complementary sports such as swimming, yoga, and self-defence. Recognising the nutritional needs of our participants, who rely on a small food stipend from the government, we also provide a healthy breakfast and lunch.

### 3. WE RAN TOGETHER TO OVERCOME TRAUMA IN OUR WEEKLY TRACK TRAINING PROGRAMME

In 2018, we provided 45 track sessions to 40 adults: 19 males, 21 adult females, and 11 teenagers. Our weekly mixed gender track training programme is led by a volunteer professional running coach, **Charlotte Cutler**, and offers a greater physical challenge.

### 4. WE LEARNED NEW SKILLS

Although we are most known for our sports programmes, our **education programme is core to our work**. As Hong Kong does not provide access to education for adult refugees, our programmes give our participants the opportunity to continue to develop professionally and learn new skills. Using a combination of online learning, in person classes, mentorship, and leadership training, our participants improve their chances of securing stable employment, being resettled, and ultimately building a better future for themselves and their families.

- 22 participants earned an impressive **44 online certificates** in subjects such as English, IT, accounting, law, and business
- **6 participants graduated as caregivers** in Hong Kong and are studying to receive US certification
- 3 participants are developing their skills in woodworking, laser cutting, and metal work as part of their participation in a **Creative Technologists programme**
- 4 refugees in our programmes were able to **obtain exceptional authorisation to work** from the Hong Kong government





## 5. WE HOSTED ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

**54 of our participants have children aged 18 or under.** Our childcare programmes are a critical part of our holistic support for mothers, giving them the opportunity to focus on their own healing journeys with peace of mind knowing that their children are being cared for. In addition to childcare, we also organised **17 weeks of sports activities such as track activities and swimming classes for children and teenagers**, particularly over the school holidays. For some young people who may struggle with depression and other trauma-related issues, these activities give them a reason to get out of the house and be active and social.



## 6. WE BROKE NEW RECORDS

2018 was a year of achievements for our participants. We encourage all of our participants to sign up for races not only because we love the feeling of being out on the trails with our fellow competitors, but because races help to boost self-esteem through achieving a goal, and increase sense of belonging and integration with the local community.



- **90% of participants** from our Thursday track training programme participated in one or more races, competing in **13 different races** across Hong Kong with distances ranging from 5km to 30km.
- 9 female participants trained hard for 4 months to complete the **32km Country of Origin trail race** on Lantau Island in April. **For 6 of the participants, this was their very first race!**
- 15 participants entered the AVOHK Reservoir Series races in the autumn and many of them received **medals in their various categories.**
- 4 female participants began **5 months of physically and mentally intense training** for the 2019 Hong Kong 100 Ultra Marathon - the longest distance any refugee in Hong Kong has ever run.

## 7. WE PILOTED OUR FIRST GREAT REFUGEE CHALLENGE

In recognition of World Refugee Day in June, we piloted the very first **Great Refugee Challenge - a challenge organised by refugees in benefit of refugees**. Four corporate teams competed at our inaugural event to immerse themselves in the lives of refugees living in Hong Kong as they competed in a series of exciting challenges and activities. After our successful pilot in 2018, this will be a regular event in the coming years, using it as a fun way to engage the local community, help them to gain insight into the lives of refugees, and to fundraise to support our programmes.



"Think Amazing Race with a charitable focus. Great fun afternoon with colleagues exploring Hong Kong, whilst understanding different global cultures and tasting foods! As a group it was sobering to meet with refugees from all over the world, understand where they have come from and some of the challenges they face on a daily basis in Hong Kong. Definitely to be recommended!"

- Edward Peters

*Executive Director, CBRE*



## 8. WE HOSTED OUR SECOND ANNUAL RUN CHARITY RACE

After organising our first race in 2017, we partnered with RaceBase again for our second annual RUN Charity Race on 10th November 2018 at Tai Tam. We were incredibly grateful to the nearly 300 individuals for participating in our 14km or 19km races and thrilled to see our refugees challenge themselves in the race (25 adults and 20 children participated!). The refugees who didn't race helped at checkpoints or the finish line, coordinated musical performances, and prepared gourmet food for the runners! In addition to being a fun event for the running community, the RUN Charity Race is also our main fundraiser of the year, and we are thankful to all the wonderful individuals and organisations who helped us to raise just under HK\$300,000!



## 9. WE SAID "SEE YOU LATER" TO A REFUGEE WHO WAS RESETTLED TO CANADA

We ultimately want our refugees to have a successful future, and in most cases, this means starting a new life in a country of resettlement. We are so thrilled to announce that one of our male refugees from East Africa, Adam\*, was **resettled to Toronto, Canada, through a private sponsorship**, where he was recently accepted to study Business Management at a local university. Adam was a victim of torture in his home country, came to Hong Kong five years ago, and has been a part of the RUN family from the very beginning.

"RUN prepared me for my resettlement. I was part of the Study & Mentorship Programme, and it forced me to think ahead and prepare myself for my future. As refugees, we often only think about food and housing as surviving here is so difficult, but we need to look ahead and be ready for a new life so that we do not waste time when we are resettled." - Adam\*

## 10. WE GREW...AND WE'RE STILL GROWING

RUN is a volunteer driven NGO and grateful for our 60 active volunteers! This year we also **hired new team members** to help us take our work to the next level. We welcomed Pristine Lampard, our new Programme Director, to oversee the **expansion of our education programme** and support our core programmes, and Serrie Fung, our Communications Consultant, who is tasked with helping us to better **tell our story and the stories of refugees in Hong Kong**. We're hiring for more positions in 2019 so stay tuned!



*\*Name has been changed*



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Whether through spreading awareness through our Great Refugee Challenge, or organising talks at corporates, RUN continues to engage the local community.



## CORPORATE PARTNERS

- Presentations about our work to 7 new corporates/ foundations
- CSR events (movie night/ hiking/ track training) with 5 corporate groups
- 4 corporate teams for the Great Refugee Challenge

## LOCAL EVENTS

- Participated in 15 races
- Volunteered in 12 races
- Co-Hosted World Refugee Day Movie Screening
- Spoke at the public hearing of USM Subcommittee

## STUDENT OUTREACH

- Worked with 6 schools by giving talks and involving their students with refugees through community engagement projects
- Student volunteers from 4 secondary schools at our weekly track training

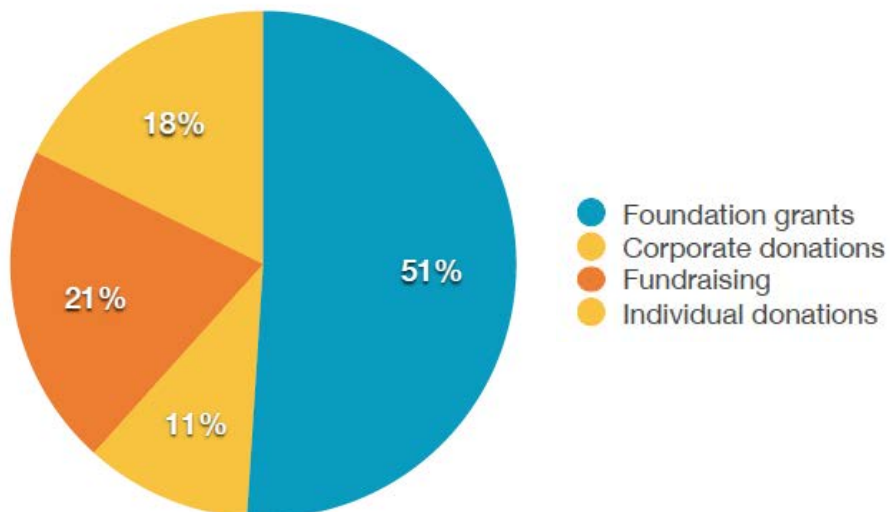




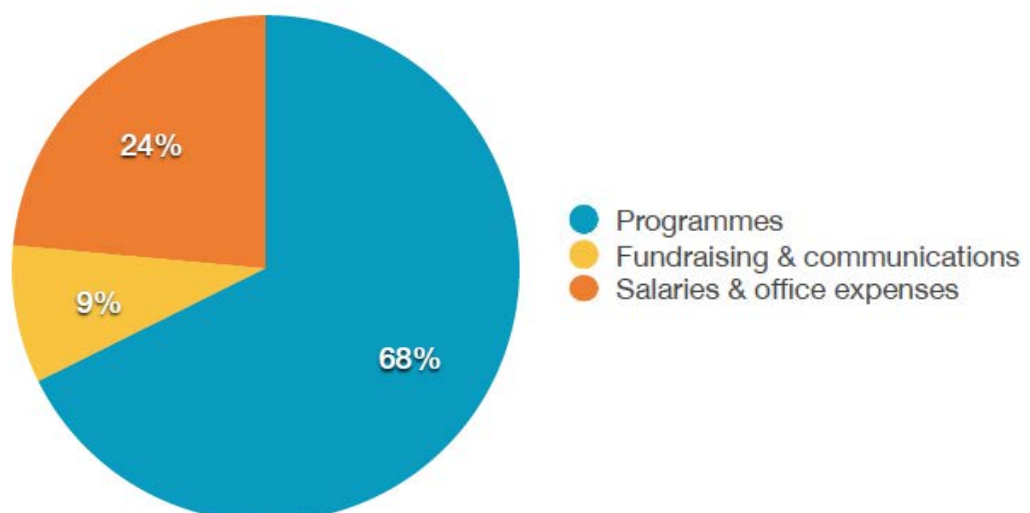
# FINANCIALS

Every dollar we raise means a more hopeful future for our participants, whether that's building mental and physical strength through our sports programmes, developing skills through our education programme, or facilitating exceptional authorisation for employment through partnership with the corporate community.

**TOTAL INCOME: HK\$ 2,004,205**



**TOTAL EXPENDITURE: HK\$ 1,870,690**



# FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

Thank you for sharing our vision to create a resilient and empowered refugee community through sport! We are extremely grateful to the Ronald and Rita McAulay Foundation and the following organisations who supported us in 2018.

AB Bernstein  
Athletic Veterans of Hong Kong (AVOHK)  
Dimension Data  
Feeding Hong Kong  
Flex Studio  
Freshfields  
Foodlink  
Fung, Yu & Co CPA Limited  
Gibson Dunn  
Gone Running  
HandsOn Hong Kong

HK100  
The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels Limited  
The Hong Kong Club Foundation Limited  
Joint Dynamics  
Kering Foundation  
LinkedIn  
LocalMotion  
Macquarie  
Proof  
RaceBase  
Women in Finance Asia (WiFA)



# RUN IN 2019

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RUN will be slightly growing the number of its participants but will be focusing on strategically improving our programmes to accelerate the number of participants that go through our programmes and leave to start new lives through resettlement or alternative paths to resettlement.

## EDUCATION

RUN is preparing to launch our new **PATHS for the Future** programme which builds on the success of our pilot study & mentorship programme and expands **access to education to all** of our sports participants.

## ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATION

Over the next year, RUN will continue to work closely with other NGOs that serve refugees and asylum seekers in Hong Kong. This includes joint events for **World Refugee Day** and organising a series of **education forums** for the community focusing on resources from kindergarten through university.

## ALTERNATIVE PATHS TO RESETTLEMENT

As only 1% of refugees worldwide will ever be resettled, per the Global Compact on Refugees, RUN's programmes will prepare participants for alternative paths to resettlement and empower them to be their **own actors of change**.

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# SUPPORT RUN

Visit our website at [runhk.org/donate](http://runhk.org/donate) or contact us at [info@runhk.org](mailto:info@runhk.org) for more information on how you or your company can support us in the coming year!

## RUN CHARITY RACE - NOVEMBER 9, 2019

Save the date for our RUN Charity Race on Saturday, November 9, 2019! By running with us, you'll be helping to raise critical funds to support our sports and education programmes. More details on registration will be posted on <https://www.racebase.asia/runcharity> soon!

## GREAT REFUGEE CHALLENGE

Immerse yourselves in the lives of refugees living in Hong Kong, as you and your team complete a series of exciting challenges and activities! Sign up for an upcoming Challenge, or gather your friends and colleagues to host your own Challenge on your preferred date.

## RACE (AND RAISE FUNDS!) FOR RUN

If you'll be running a race this year, consider running for a purpose by fundraising for RUN using our crowdfunding partner, SparkRaise! Fundraising for RUN is a fun way to tell your friends and family about the situation refugees in Hong Kong face, and get them involved with RUN. Visit [sparkraise.com](http://sparkraise.com) or email [info@runhk.org](mailto:info@runhk.org) to get started!

