



ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2022-2023







TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission	3
A Message from Leadership	5
Our Values	7
Our Priorities	8
A Year of Dreaming Big	10
iACT by the Numbers	20
Program Reach	21
Financials	22
Partners	24
Thank You	25

The image shows three women in the foreground, smiling and looking towards the right. They are wearing colorful headscarves and dresses. The woman on the left is wearing a light-colored headscarf and a dress with small green floral patterns. The woman in the middle is wearing a pink headscarf and a dress with large yellow floral patterns. The woman on the right is wearing a multi-colored floral headscarf and a dress with large red, green, and white floral patterns. In the background, there is a building with a corrugated metal roof and several blue doors. Other people are partially visible in the background.

Our mission is to **resource** and **partner** with people affected by war and conflict, to **amplify** their voices and create opportunities for them to **thrive**.

OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION IN PRACTICE

iACT achieves its mission by working alongside families seeking refuge from war and conflict, listening deeply to their needs, and together with them creating safe and joyful preschools, soccer academies, trainings, and employment opportunities.

Our community-led programs focus on children ages 3 to 13 and their families through three areas:



Early Childhood Education: Play-based and community-led early learning and care for children ages 3 to 5 in their most critical stage of development, that also enables mothers and caregivers child-free hours of the day.

Sports: Community-led soccer academies that support the social-emotional development of children ages 6 to 13 while advancing soccer skills and nurturing hope.

Employment & Leadership: Fostering self-reliance and purpose for adults and families.

iACT intentionally works alongside forgotten populations who are out of the media headlines, in protracted displacement situations, and are part of marginalized refugee and conflict-affected communities.

DEAR FRIENDS,

We have navigated extraordinary hardships these past two years: tragically losing our founders and leaders, Gabriel Stauring and Katie-Jay Scott, and bearing witness to horrific war, conflict, and displacement across the globe. In the midst of trauma and pain, our staff of four in the US leaned into hope and joy, and our partners and supporters — like you — rallied around iACT and our commitment to refugee-led programs.

Our teams of coaches and teachers — all from communities experiencing active conflict — continued to be amazing leaders and beacons of light for the children and families they serve.

Together, we centered play, established a new strategic direction, launched soccer and preschool programs, hired more team members, wrote a new mission statement, and were able to support even more families at the Mexico border, across Armenia and the Central African Republic, and refugee camps in Chad.

In this report you'll see what we have accomplished together. This work is only possible because of the contributions of each and every member of our community: from our donors, to our coaches, to our volunteers, to our preschool teachers.

Because of each of you — our iACT community — more children and families have the opportunity to thrive.



SARA-CHRISTINE DALLAIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DEBORAH A. SENIOR
BOARD CHAIR



A MESSAGE FROM iACT LEADERSHIP



————— ” —————

“I feel a big responsibility towards iACT’s future in order to make [Gabriel’s] vision continue. And not only me, there are thousands of people iACT saved their lives and helped them. They created a football team and built preschools and sports academies, and the positive thing is they appointed only the refugees as employees in all these programs and livelihood projects too, so that they are refugee-led.”

————— ” —————

MURTADA HAROUN ADAM
iACT COORDINATOR, CHAD

OUR VALUES



Compassionate Humanitarian Response

as a practice of taking action grounded in love.

Relationships First as a practice of centering the people with whom we work in an atmosphere of mutuality and collaboration.

Principled Use of Power as a practice of recognizing existing power imbalances and making intentional shifts to create balance.

Radical Hope as a practice of always orienting toward hope to fuel, sustain, and resource us to continue the work.

OUR PRIORITIES

Deepen our **refugee- and community-led** frameworks and processes to reach more children and families.

Build evidence to show the impact and scalability of community-led program processes, frameworks, and outcomes.

Amplify the voices of refugees.

Scale through consulting and partnerships.

Strengthen our organization's systems, for sustainability.





— ” —

“They see the soccer ball, and that’s the joy they are chasing.”

— ” —

SOULEYMANE ADAM

iACT VOLUNTEER &
FORMER DARFUR UNITED PLAYER



A YEAR OF DREAMING BIG

For iACT, this was a year for reaffirming our core beliefs, mapping out the present, and dreaming big about the future. One thing we have always known about our programs is that they fill a critical gap in the humanitarian system through our focus on early childhood education and soccer for refugee youth. This gap became even more apparent this year.

Today, early childhood education continues to receive **less than 2%** of global funding. This means young children and their families are left on their own to create safe and nurturing spaces during the most important years of a child's development, and in the midst of forced displacement. Sports programming for refugee children and youth is also under-prioritized, and in fact often seen as unimportant. **When sitting with and listening to refugee families, what we actually hear is just how important safe places for children to play sports and learn are to them.** Where these sorts of programs do exist, there is still a lack of meaningful action towards **shifting power and resources** to refugee- and community-led programs.

In FY 2022-2023, we continued our focus on all three of these things: early childhood education, soccer for youth, and resourcing men and women in conflict-affected communities to lead programs that create safe and nurturing spaces for children to thrive.



EDUCATION

A Year of Growth and Teacher Training

Our Refugee Team in Chad Expanded Little Ripples

Led by Program Coordinator Al-Fateh Younous Haroun, our refugee-led expansion team launched 12 preschools across 3 refugee camps in eastern Chad, hiring and training 24 teachers, 24 cooks, 3 camp coordinators, and 3 education directors in the process. This is part of the work to shift power and ownership to refugee and conflict-affected communities, resourcing local refugee leaders to grow and expand the Little Ripples preschool program themselves. The hope is that this model can be a catalyst for change in the humanitarian system.

We Returned to the Central African Republic to Train More Preschool Teachers

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a country caught in cycles of violence and conflict, and a place where preschools lack materials and funding. It is also a country filled with dedicated and passionate advocates for early childhood education. In partnership with Jesuit Refugee Service and local education actors, iACT returned to CAR in spring and fall 2023 to facilitate Little Ripples teacher training. The aim was to reinforce and strengthen the capacity of local preschool teachers, as they incorporate play-based learning and look for ways to use their local environment and resources to create safe and joyful spaces for children. This year, we trained 60 teachers who are collectively reaching more than 3,000 children.



— — — — — “ — — — — —

"I learned the benefits of teaching through games and using mindfulness in the classroom."

— — — — — “ — — — — —

PRESCHOOL TEACHER

BANGUI, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



Bringing Social and Emotional Support Through Soccer to Even More Children

We Launched a Soccer Academy at the US-Mexico Border

In March 2023, we launched our first soccer academy in Mexico, at the Senda de Vida 1 shelter in the city of Reynosa, in support of migrant and asylum-seeking children and families waiting at the border. The situation for people staying at the “Senda 1” shelter is very difficult, mainly because migrants don’t know if and when, after all they have endured, they will be allowed to legally cross the border. In Mexico, iACT is filling a gap in programs that support the social-emotional development of children, while also giving parents and caregivers respite. iACT employs five local team members who implement and manage the program five days a week.

An iACT Team Trained Soccer and Basketball Coaches in Armenia

In partnership with Girls of Armenia Leadership Soccer (GOALS), iACT returned to Armenia to facilitate a Refugees United Soccer Academy (RUSA) training with soccer and basketball coaches from across the country. The aim of our training was to strengthen their knowledge, confidence, and skills to create safe and inclusive spaces for children through sport — whether it be soccer or basketball. We trained 30 coaches, both men and women, who are collectively coaching 747 boys and girls.



SPORTS

Celebrating 10 Years of Soccer!

Tenth Anniversary of the Refugees United Soccer Academy!

Co-created in 2013 with Darfuri refugees living in refugee camp Djabal, eastern Chad, RUSA supports the wellbeing of refugee and conflict-affected communities, advances gender equality, and inspires and connects a generation of boys and girls. In the 10 years since its inception, the program has expanded to six countries — including a recently launched academy in Mexico — and continues to grow as a direct result of the community-led framework and deep commitment of the men and women who step into leadership roles and take program ownership.





——— ” ———

“I love playing football very much. It is an important part of my life. It gives us the chance to make many friends. Our trainings are very fun, especially when we gather together, greet one another, and also when we have new players and start getting to know them as well as making more friends.”

——— ” ———

AREVIK BABAYAN
ACADEMY PLAYER, ARMENIA



LEADERSHIP

Employment and Leadership

Supported a Refugee-led Response in Chad

When violence broke out in Sudan on April 15, 2023, families began to flee across the border into Chad. To date, more than 610,000 people have crossed — including more than 136,000 Chadian returnees — joining the existing 387,000 refugees who were already living in refugee camps there. Our refugee teams throughout the camps along the Chad-Sudan border have been welcoming new families and finding ways to bring them into our Refugees United Soccer Academy program. The needs are staggering and iACT is doing everything we can to advocate for a humanitarian response that prioritizes preschools, sports, and programs determined and led by refugees themselves.

Amplified Refugee Voices

iACT employs 249 refugee and conflict-affected men and women across six countries. They adapt, lead, and scale iACT programs in their communities and regions. It is vital that their voices are heard and efforts seen. Our global team members face barriers as refugees, asylum-seekers, and members of otherwise-marginalized communities; so iACT has made it a priority to create space and opportunity for them to use their voices. This past year, we were able to bring our program coordinator, Al-Fateh Younous Haroun, from a refugee camp in Chad to Rwanda, for a workshop on scaling early childhood programs, as well as include his voice on two international panels on Sudan. We also shared messages from Darfuri refugees directly with members of the US Senate and House.



——— ” ———

We thank you for helping us during this difficult time, to get away from difficult realities. I am very happy I am an iACT coach. You gave me the opportunity to do work in the job I love.

——— ” ———

COACH

REFUGEES UNITED SOCCER ACADEMY



THE ORGANIZATION

Organizational Highlights

We Leaned into Partnerships and our Global Peers

We are so thankful to be a part of a global community of people and organizations who share our values and sense of urgency in supporting and working next to refugee children and families. This past year, we established partnerships and relationships with InterAction, Football for the Goals, Angel City FC, The Sidewalk School, and Refugees International; and expanded our work with Jesuit Refugee Services, Moving Minds Alliance, GOALS Armenia, and Plan International.

Growth of our US Team

At the end of 2023, we added to our small but mighty US staff, bringing us to five full-time and two part-time team members. This year saw the addition of a Senior Manager, Sports for Development, an Operations Administrator, and an Office/Administrative Assistant. Additionally, we brought on two new board members, and two of our team members grew into new roles.

Set the Vision for the Next Three Years

Over a six-month period, iACT employees, board members, volunteers, donors, and global refugee team members collaborated on re-writing our organization's mission statement and shared vision for exponential impact over the next three years. The core of our work remains the same, but the new sentiment is clear: *create opportunities for refugees to thrive.*



— — ” — —

“Being an iACT volunteer enriches my life in so many ways. iACT not only reinforces my professional interests, but provides me with invaluable friendships and interactions with fascinating individuals that make me realize the value of people. Volunteering with iACT is a privilege in which I take great pride. iACT is not only an organization: iACT is love, iACT is care, iACT is family.”

— — ” — —

MARCELO GONZÁLEZ MEIER
iACT CORE VOLUNTEER



iACT BY THE NUMBERS

268,200

Total number of meals served in iACT's Little Ripples meal program during FY 2022-2023.

13,000+

Total number of children reached by iACT programs during FY 2022-2023.

249

Total number of refugees receiving payment as teachers, coaches, coordinators, and directors.

22

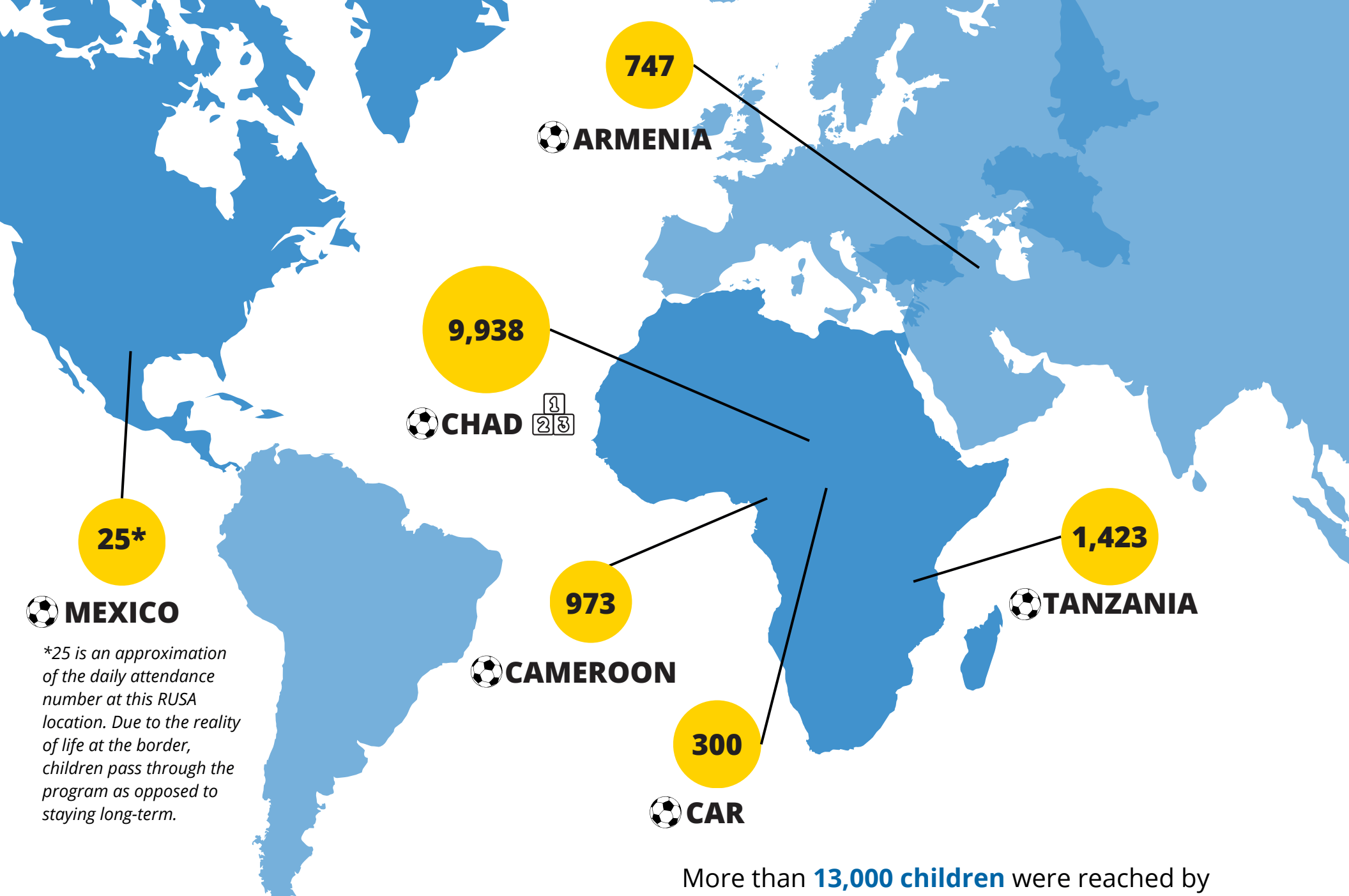
Total number of Refugees United Soccer Academies currently running across the globe.

4

Total number of US team members on staff at iACT during FY 2022-2023.

40

Total number of Little Ripples classrooms (Ponds) currently running in Chad.



**25 is an approximation of the daily attendance number at this RUSA location. Due to the reality of life at the border, children pass through the program as opposed to staying long-term.*

iACT PROGRAM REACH IN FY 22-23

More than **13,000 children** were reached by iACT's refugee-led soccer and early childhood programs this year.

In fiscal year 2022-2023, iACT
RAISED:

\$988,536

Funded our soccer and preschool
programs with total
PROGRAM EXPENSES of:

\$695,120

Covered all **ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPENSES** with:

\$190,853

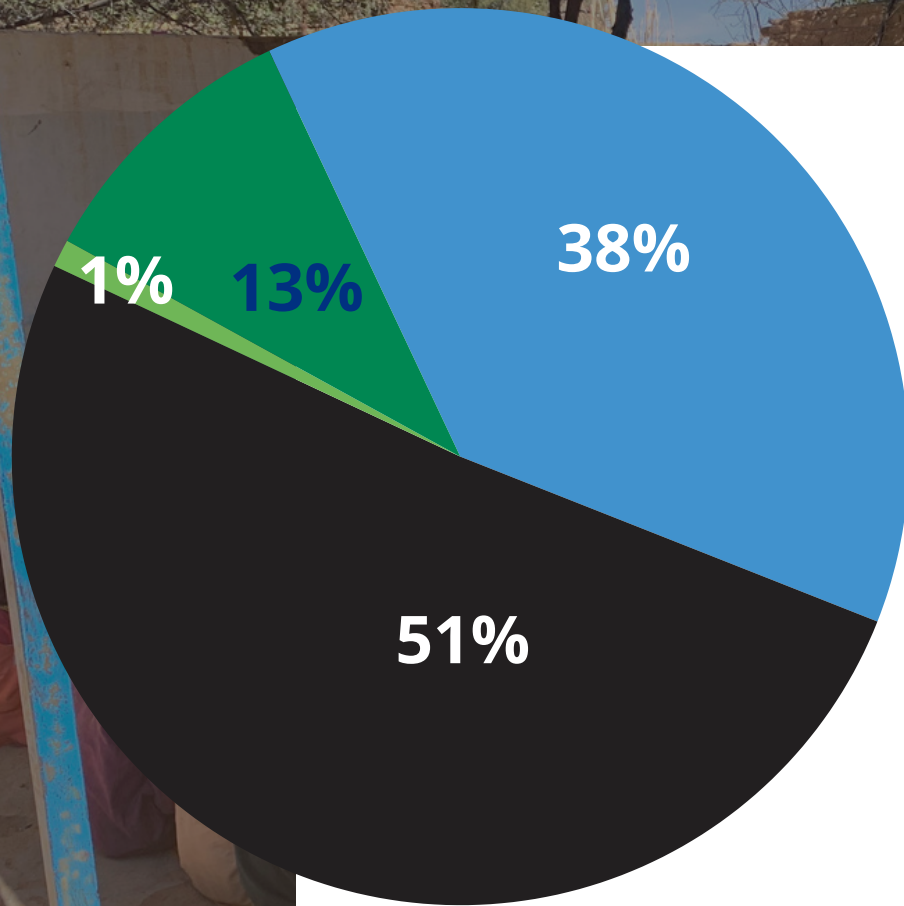
Ended the year with total
NET ASSETS of:

\$402,400



FINANCIALS

FUNDING SOURCES



- DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS**
38% of iACT's funding comes from individual, corporate, and foundation giving.
- GRANTS**
51% of iACT's funding comes from restricted and unrestricted non-governmental grants.
- EVENTS**
10% of iACT's funding comes from our annual fundraising event: impACT.
- SALES & OTHER**
1% of iACT's funding comes from the sale of apparel items and other additional giving.

PARTNERS / COLLABORATIONS



THANK YOU

Our togetherness is what makes our impact possible.

iACT BOARD

Lena Adishian
Eric Angel
Dave Davis
Christian Dietch, Treasurer
Ben Grossman
Joanna Grossman
Al-Fateh Younous Haroun
Joslyn Hitter
Nezia Munezero Kubwayo
Liam Monaghan
Stacey Martino Rivera
Eddie Salcedo
Deborah A. Senior, Chair
Marisusan Trout, Secretary
Rachel Veerman
Merri Weir

CORE VOLUNTEERS

iACT is supported by a dedicated group of core volunteers who support our work with their time, skills, and knowledge. You are an extension of our staff and we could not do this work without each and every one of you.

GLOBAL TEAM MEMBERS

Thank you to our refugee and conflict-affected team members around the world for your leadership, friendship, compassion, and dedication. We are so grateful to be working next to you. Let's keep going.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to the Stauring family for being a part of iACT since the beginning, for your steadfast commitment still today, and for welcoming all of us into your family with open arms, love, compassion, and joy.