

COORDINATING NATIONWIDE EMERGENCY AID DISTRIBUTION

HOW RE:ACT PROVIDED RAPID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEET THE CRITICAL NEEDS OF EVACUEES FROM AFGHANISTAN



60

**TONNES OF AID
DISTRIBUTED**

Due to the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan in August 2021, over 15,000 people were evacuated to the UK with little to no personal possessions, creating a surge of humanitarian needs. Following local community appeals for vital aid, there was an influx of donations that needed to be quickly collected, organised and distributed to evacuees who were quarantining in hotels to comply with Covid-19 guidelines.

“RE:ACT’s support has been both essential and invaluable in assisting the City Corporation to respond to an unprecedented challenge and, more importantly, helping the families we are hosting transition build new lives in this country.”

Simon Cribbens, Assistant Director, Commissioning and Partnerships, City of London Corporation

RE:ACT was requested to provide urgent support, and within 24 hours, the first RE:ACT volunteers were deployed to identify the most critical needs, as well as organise and coordinate the distribution of donated aid. Simultaneously, the RE:ACT Regional Champion for London oversaw the full management of 15 quarantine locations across London, as well as tracking the most urgent 24/7 requests from over 30 hotels. RE:ACT volunteers also supported quarantine and bridging hotels in Luton, Oxford and Leeds, where RE:ACT volunteers were the first people to welcome the evacuees as they were transferred to their quarantine hotel after an urgent request from the Home Office. RE:ACT also provided essential wellbeing and cultural support, including arranging urgent medical assistance, ensuring dietary requirements were met, and delivering welcome messages and toys from local communities. During the six week operation, 101 RE:ACT volunteers were deployed, directly assisting over 8,300 evacuees. RE:ACT also placed an experienced logistician with the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership (VCSEP) to develop an enduring national logistical capability for the voluntary sector, to ensure the timely and sustainable management of aid in the future.

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**REFUGEES DIRECTLY
SUPPORTED**

