**RST Destitution Grants
April – December 2017 (Q1 – Q3 2017-18)**

**Overview**October to December 2017 saw the Refugee Survival Trust distribute a record-breaking number of destitution grants – we awarded 428 grants, to a total of £37,889.57 during this period. This is significantly more in one quarter than we distributed in the whole of 2014-15.

**Total number of grants distributed**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **14-15** | **15-16** | **16-17** | **17-18** |
| **Q1** | 59 | 128 | 212 | 229 |
| **Q2** | 58 | 242 | 198 | 298 |
| **Q3** | 102 | 313 | 209 | 428 |
| **Q4** | 117 | 194 | 212 | 0 |
|  | **336** | **877** | **831** | **955** |

The surge at the end of 2017, in addition to increasing demand throughout the year, means that for the first year ever we distributed more than £100,000 and more than 1000 grants (1167) during one calendar year [January – December 2017].

In Q1 – Q3 of 2017-18 we have already distributed £82,534.35 of destitution grants, already exceeding any other financial year in the history of RST, with another quarter still to come.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **14-15** | **15-16** | **16-17** | **17-18** |
| **Q1** | 3270 | 9221 | 16195.22 | 19638.27 |
| **Q2** | 3590.27 | 16600.3 | 19449.23 | 25006.49 |
| **Q3** | 5170 | 20825.75 | 18355.48 | 37889.59 |
| **Q4** | 6125 | 12014.87 | 18188.63 | 0 |
|  | **18155.27** | **58661.92** | **72188.56** | **82534.35** |

**Total value of grants distributed**

**Countries of origin**We continued to see a high number of applications from Iran in Q3; 1 in 5 of all applicants come from Iran. Q3 also saw a significant surge in applications from Iraqis, with more than 60 Iraqi applicants in this quarter alone. Only 36 of the 955 grant applicants this year so far were Syrians. Eritrea has also seen a drop in the number of applications compared to the last two years when it has consistently been the top country of origin of our applicants.

Top five countries of origin:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Q1 – Q3 2015-16** | **Q1 –Q3 2016-17** | **Q1 –Q3 2017-18** |
| 1 Eritrea | 112 | 1 Eritrea | 90 | 1 Iran | 200 |
| 2 Sudan | 111 | 2 Syria | 73 | 2 Iraq | 122 |
| 3 Iran | 81 | 3 Iran | 69 | 3 Eritrea | 74 |
| 4 Syria | 60 | 4 Sudan | 62 | 4 Sudan | 61 |
| 5 Iraq | 48 | 5 Iraq | 45 | 5 Pakistan | 56 |

**Asylum status**

52% of all grant applicants during Q1-Q3 2017 were at the stage of submitting fresh claims or further submissions. This highlights the fact that this is a particularly vulnerable period for asylum seekers. Firstly, this is a time when most applicants have support cut off and they have to rely on RST for essential living expenses. Secondly, since January 2015 any asylum seeker wishing to submit a fresh claim has to travel to Liverpool to submit paperwork. This is an arduous and potentially dangerous journey that asylum seekers usually undertake in one day, travelling down on the overnight bus, waiting for an early morning connection, staying most of the day in Liverpool and returning late. At the stage of making a fresh claim, because most applicants would have had other support removed they would not have the means to pay for their travel without the support of RST.