



"We were living a peaceful life,+says Angelina, 38, who fled Guatemala with her three children. %Then, when they killed my brother, that's when everything was disrupted. Every two blocks sometimes you'd find a body. I decided [to leave] because of that situation and also to give [my children] a better life.+

Photo: Andrew Oberstadt/IRC

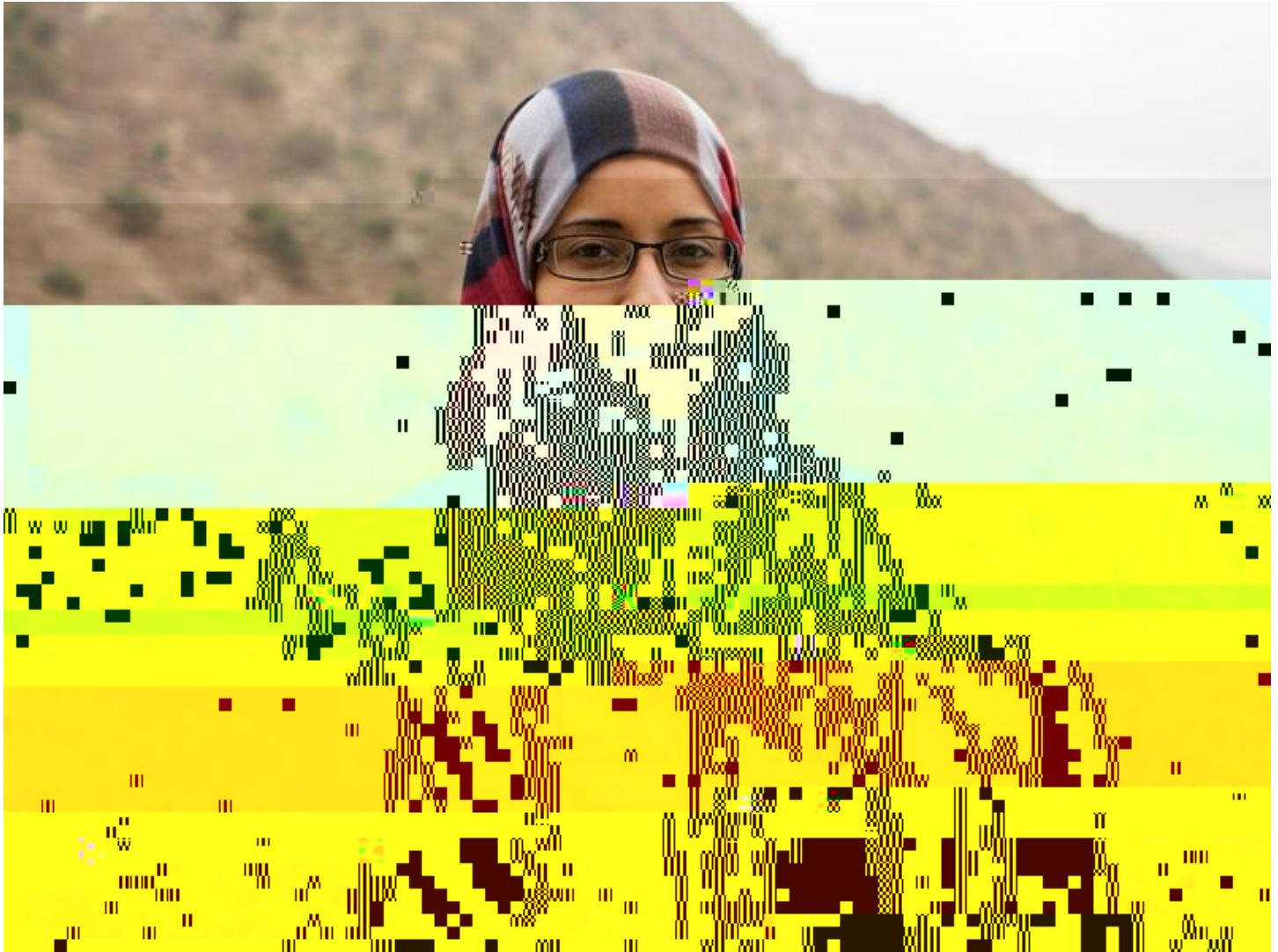
When President-elect Biden takes office, we need change on day one. Because the stakes are so high, \_\_\_\_\_ in asking our nation's leaders to do the following:

**Repair the broken asylum system. Invest in a new system that keeps asylum seekers safe until their case is heard.** Asylum seekers have a right to have their cases heard without having to put their lives at further risk. Under the Trump Administration, many have found themselves in detention centers with track records of neglect for sanitation, medical care and personal safety or turned away at the border and sent into dangerous conditions in Mexico.

**Recognize that seeking asylum is legal. Halt deportations without due process.** The Trump Administration is using COVID-19 as an excuse to deport asylum seekers, often sending people straight from overcrowded detention centers and worsening the pandemic in the process.



The world has felt the absence of U.S. leadership during this pandemic. The Biden Administration must lead by example through fast and flexible financing to front-line humanitarian responders, global coordination to ensure supplies and help get to the people who need it most, and global leadership to secure ceasefire agreements to reach people in need.



COVID impacts every home, says Dr. Rasha Rashed, an IRC reproductive health manager in Yemen. It's like the war. In every home there is someone who has lost their father or mother or brother or husband or son.

Photo: Kellie Ryan/IRC

## Address the modern face of humanitarian crisis: climate change.

Climate change exacerbates ongoing crises such as conflict, hunger, and forced displacement. It is already impacting communities the IRC serves in African countries such as Niger and Chad, northern Central America, South Asia, and the Middle East. In

fact, in 2019, more than half of the countries most vulnerable to climate change were also experiencing humanitarian crises.

When it comes to climate change, the cost of failure is too high for the U.S. to sit on the sidelines. The Biden Administration must act and call for bold and urgent action from countries around the world.