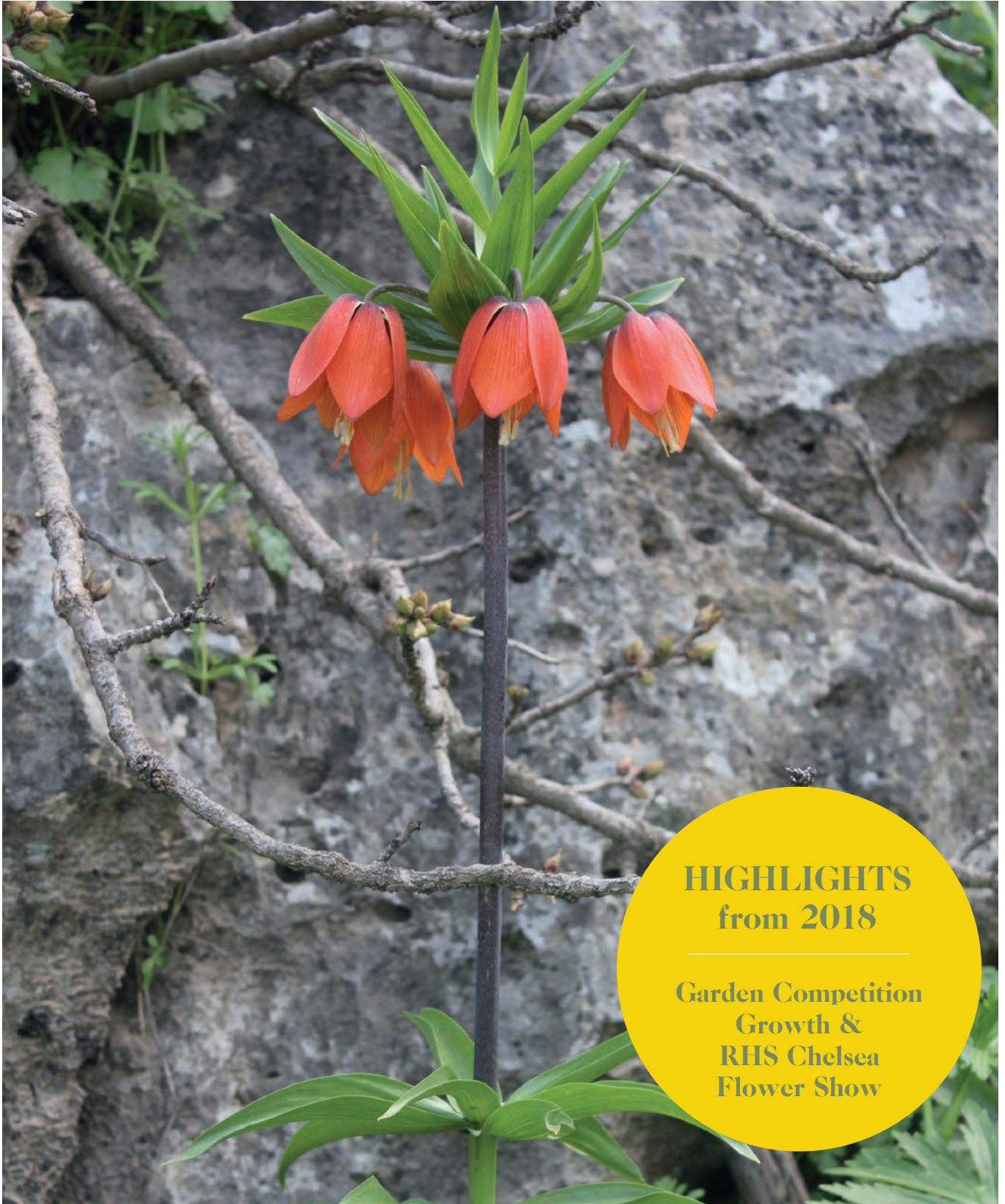


Impact Report 2018



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
from 2018

Garden Competition  
Growth &  
RHS Chelsea  
Flower Show

*Fritillaria imperialis* growing wild in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.





Views of the Lemon Tree Trust Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018, with visitor crowds and BBC film crews.



(Above from left) Aveen Ibrahim, the Lemon Tree Trust Community Outreach Manager in Kurdistan Region of Iraq with Lemon Tree Trust Founder, Stephanie Hunt.

# Lemon Tree Trust at the 'greatest flower show on Earth'

At the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2018, the Lemon Tree Trust introduced a conversation about people who have been forcibly displaced by war and persecution and their transformative relationships with gardening. We told the story about the power of gardens to create beauty, community and opportunity in the harshest of situations. Our story was heard by over 40 million people through media coverage of our award-winning garden at the show and is still being shared today.

This report shares some of the projects the Lemon Tree Trust has worked on over the last year, including the distribution of 1,250 Crisis Garden Response Kits in Iraq and Syria; the successful running of garden competitions in

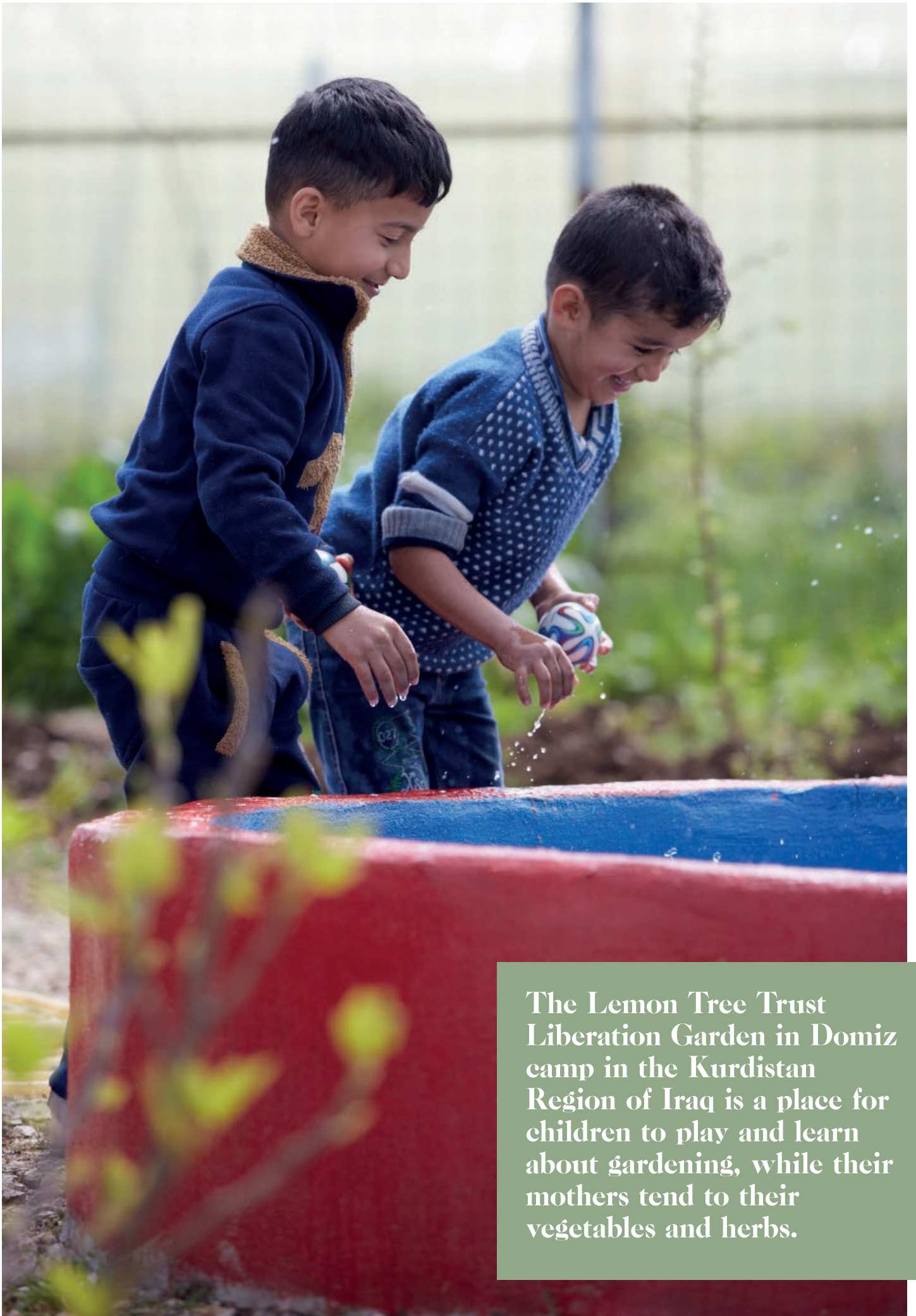
five camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), which attracted 1,000 entrants in 2018, and a pilot greywater reuse project to demonstrate that some waste water can be safely reused to irrigate both ornamental and edible plants in camp situations. We also grew and distributed over 90,000 plants and trees from Domiz camp in the KRI, a significant contribution to a host country that experienced substantial environmental damage under Saddam Hussein, Taliban and ISIS control.

Looking ahead, the Lemon Tree Trust plans to expand work in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and beyond to refugees and IDPs (internally displaced people) and their host communities, as well as to communities of persecuted

minorities globally. We are working with a number of well-established partners to bring our initiatives to communities in Jordan and Greece in the coming year. We continue to support home gardens through our garden competitions, which took place across seven camps this spring. We have also secured funding for more Crisis Response Garden Kits, which we plan to distribute to individuals and families in Iraq and Greece in 2019. We look forward to continuing the conversation with gardeners across the world this year.

**Stephanie Hunt**  
 Founder & CEO, Lemon Tree Trust





The Lemon Tree Trust Liberation Garden in Domiz camp in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is a place for children to play and learn about gardening, while their mothers tend to their vegetables and herbs.



## KEY PROJECTS:

### Liberation Community Garden

The Liberation Community Garden in Domiz I camp in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq has continued to gain momentum over the past 12 months. Over 50 women visit the garden daily to take tea, socialize and teach their children how to grow herbs and vegetables. It is a safe place for women to grow food for their families and come together as a community to support each other. Over 1,000 baskets of food produced in the garden were distributed to vulnerable families in 2018. Improvements to the garden continue. A new fence, toilet and bread oven have been installed over the past six

months to improve the overall environment for the women who work in the garden together.

Future plans include the introduction of a Lemon Tree Trust market place to sell surplus plants, produce and pickled goods to ensure minimal waste from the garden. We are creating a second, larger, community and production garden in a different neighborhood of Domiz I camp and an additional community garden in Domiz II camp. We are actively seeking new funding partnerships in order to further expand our women-led gardening initiatives to other communities, with interest identified in Greece and Jordan.



### Tree Planting & Water Conservation

Since 2016, we have produced, distributed and planted 18,400 shade trees and 3,500 fruit trees. Since spring 2018, we have produced and distributed 91,350 plants and trees across the seven camps we are active in. Planting trees and building gardens in refugee and displaced communities around the world has many

positive impacts on the local and global environment including improved air quality, access to shade and enhanced biodiversity. Following a successful pilot funded by Lush Cosmetics in 2018, we continue to research and improve methods of greywater use to conserve camp drinking water and allow residents to safely irrigate both ornamentals and edible crops with waste dishwater.



### Crisis Response Garden Kits

In summer 2018, with funding from Lush Cosmetics and logistical support from Mercy Hands in Iraq, we distributed over 1,250 Crisis Garden Response Kits to vulnerable families living in and around Mosul. While many people have fled their war-torn homes in Iraq, others have stayed to attempt to rebuild their lives. Our garden kits, each of which carried a hand-embroidered message of solidarity and hope, were made by the Lemon Tree Trust team in Domiz I. The kits and messages, sent from

gardener to gardener, extended a helping hand to each recipient to encourage and enable home growing and subsistence gardening.

In spring 2019, the first phase of funding was secured to enable the creation of additional garden kits for other communities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, as well as in Greece and Jordan. In addition to seeds, garden tools and messages of hope and encouragement, a new Lemon Tree Trust home garden manual will be included in future kits to support recipients in starting their gardens.



## SPOTLIGHT ON:

### Garden Competitions 2018

In 2018, over 1,000 entrants participated in Lemon Tree Trust garden competitions across five refugee camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, more than twenty times the participants of the initial garden competition

held in 2015. In 2019, garden competitions took place in seven refugee camps in the KRI and attracted nearly 1,500 entrants. The consistent annual increase in participation confirms the interest in gardening in refugee and IDP communities in the region, and validates the garden competitions as wonderful opportunities to introduce gardening to more communities in the

future. To support the development of additional competitions, a Lemon Tree Trust manual is in production to share with partner organizations and community leaders interested in initiating their own garden competitions. In addition, a new "Gardener of the Month" program will recognize camp gardens and showcase innovation and creativity throughout the year.



One of our winners from the 2018 Garden Competition



## HIGHLIGHTS:

### Spring 2018

We brought the first ever refugee inspired show garden to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London, UK. It was awarded an RHS Silver Gilt Medal and was widely praised by the public and commentators worldwide for its beauty and underlying message – that gardening can help bring people together in the harshest of environments. During the week of the show over 150,000 people visited our garden and witnessed first hand how the gardener to gardener conversation transcends all boundaries.

Simultaneously, we held our largest garden competition to date, in five refugee and IDP camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. This helped us draw direct parallels between

the Lemon Tree Trust Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show – arguably the most famous garden competition on Earth – and the home gardens being created by people living in challenging conditions in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Our garden competitions continue to grow, and despite relentless rain in the region, we received 1,500 entries over seven camps in spring 2019.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and seed company Mr Fothergills in the UK donated 2,000 packets of seeds for distribution to gardeners in the camps we are active in, replicating a 'seed lift' made by the RHS 100 years ago during WWI to UK prisoners of war in Germany. As a result, we grew thousands of seedlings in our production garden in Domiz I camp for distribution to residents as mature plants and

distributed packets directly to people interested in creating home gardens. We are thrilled that a further seed lift from Mr Fothergills and the RHS is confirmed for 2019 and that our partnership is evolving as we continue to work with the RHS on a number of other projects.



### Summer 2018

While development of the Liberation Garden continued apace, our team in Domiz I camp helped create Crisis Response Garden Kits, – which were distributed on our behalf to families in Mosul, Iraq and Syria by Mercy Hands, an NGO active across the region. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we plan to distribute more kits in 2019.



In addition, we visited camps in Greece to determine how we can support refugee communities there with gardening activities. We donated seeds, gardening tools and booklets with gardening instructions to the refugee community in Ritsona camp, Greece. The garden kits were distributed to interested residents with the help of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Lighthouse Relief. Lemon Tree Trust granted additional funds to Lighthouse Relief to purchase seeds for gardens in community spaces, in particular, projects supporting women, young people and unaccompanied children.

We are now building on this work to identify community leaders and organizations to establish Lemon Tree Trust community gardening projects and initiate garden competitions in camps across Greece.



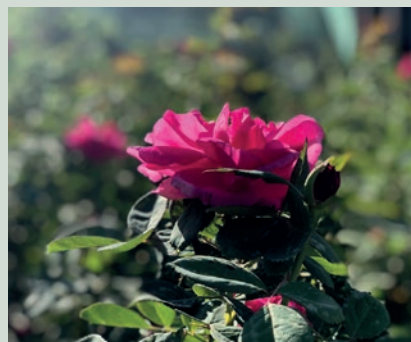
### Autumn 2018

To support our planned project expansion and to enable us to build more sustainable income streams for future growth, Tatiana Blatnik (pictured below left with Aveen Ibrahem in Domiz camp) joined our team as Vice President of Business Development in autumn 2018. Based in Athens, Tatiana is working to create funding partnerships in Europe and beyond to allow us to bring gardens and gardening to a greater number of people.



Work began to cultivate roses in the Liberation Garden in Domiz to support our urban rose farm plans. To date, the team has produced almost 6,000 rose plants which have been distributed among gardeners in Domiz I camp as a pilot cooperative.

This project will allow us to harvest rose petals for aromatic tea and, in time, rose water for cosmetics and herbal remedies.



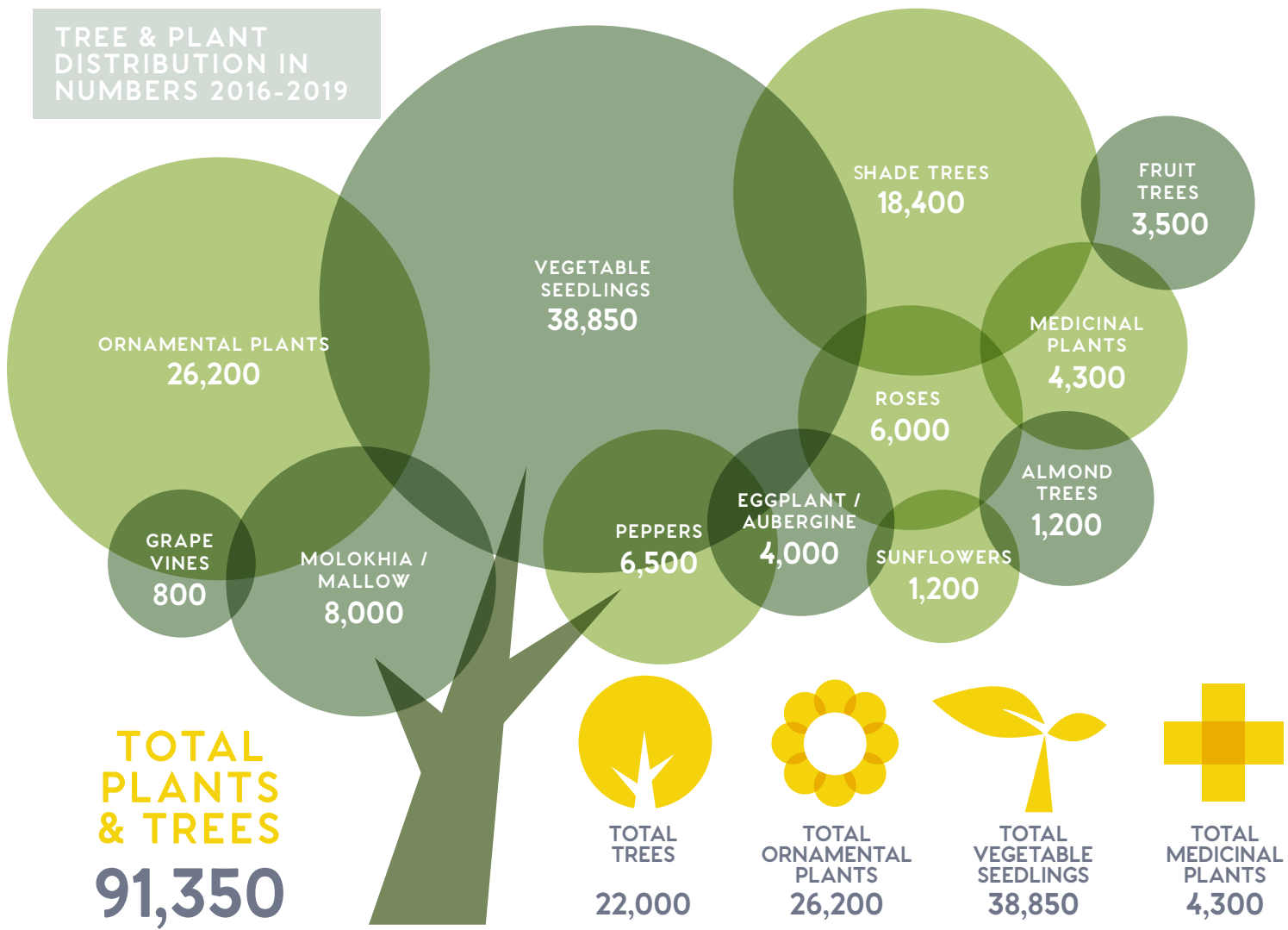
### Winter 2018/2019

In December, the Lemon Tree Trust was honored by the Laudato Si Challenge in Vatican City, hosted by His Eminence Cardinal Turkson. We presented our innovative approach to addressing mental health, urban greening and women's empowerment and made valuable connections with others who are using technology and alternative funding models to support refugee and displaced communities

across the world. In early 2019, Dr. Sami Youssef (pictured below in Domiz camp) joined the Lemon Tree Trust team. He is based in Duhok in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. A Syrian refugee and a member of the international community 'Scientists in Exile', Sami is leading research and development pilots to enable us to scale our projects in other camps and countries. Furthermore, we have appointed Rody Sher as Country Director in Iraq, coordinating our efforts in this region and establishing links with potential partners. Based in Erbil, Rody is providing invaluable 'on the ground' support to Aveen Ibrahem, our Community Outreach Manager, who lives in Domiz I camp.



TREE & PLANT  
DISTRIBUTION IN  
NUMBERS 2016-2019



**LOOKING FORWARD:**

In the remainder of 2019 and into 2020, the Lemon Tree Trust is planting the seeds for a number of exciting projects. We are developing partnerships with Turquoise Mountain in Jordan and Home Project in Greece to extend our reach to those countries. In partnership with the UK's Royal Horticultural Society, we will implement a new

educational program for schools in refugee and IDP camps. We remain committed to empowering women by supporting grassroots leadership initiatives from the ground up. We continue to explore ways to expand our work to bring garden initiatives to survivors of war the world over.

We support gardening initiatives in refugee camps and communities of people forcibly displaced by war and persecution as a way to restore dignity, purpose, and cultural identity. We help bring people together through the provision of seeds and plants, garden competitions, and education projects.

**To find out more and to support our work:**  
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[www.lemontreetrust.org](http://www.lemontreetrust.org)

In the USA, the Lemon Tree Trust is managed as a fund under The Dallas Foundation. In the UK, the Lemon Tree Trust is a restricted fund under the auspices of Prism the Gift Fund, registered charity 1099682.



**LEMON  
TREE  
TRUST**