

# THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE RESPONDS TO THE WORLD'S WORST HUMANITARIAN CRISES AND HELPS PEOPLE SURVIVE, RECOVER AND REBUILD THEIR LIVES.

WE RESTORE SAFETY, DIGNITY AND HOPE TO MILLIONS WHO ARE UPROOTED AND STRUGGLING TO ENDURE. THE IRC LEADS THE WAY FROM HARM TO HOME.

#### THE IRC'S IMPACT

IN 2009, THE IRC RESTORED HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR MILLIONS OF CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. HERE'S A LOOK AT JUST A FEW OF OUR RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:

OUR DOCTORS, NURSES AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS SERVED OVER 12 MILLION PEOPLE WITH PRIMARY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE.

WE VACCINATED 390,000 CHILDREN FOR MEASLES AND OTHER CHILDHOOD DISEASES AND OUR IRC-SUPPORTED CLINICS AND HOSPITALS HELPED 145,000 WOMEN DELIVER HEALTHY BABIES.

WE TRAINED SOME 9,000 EDUCATORS AND SUPPORTED SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY 440,000 CHILDREN, OVER HALF OF THEM GIRLS.

WE REUNITED OVER 1,400 SEPARATED CHILDREN WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND SUPPORTED SKILLS TRAINING FOR OVER 13,000 YOUNG PEOPLE.

WE COUNSELED AND CARED FOR NEARLY 11,000
SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND EDUCATED AND
TRAINED NEARLY 570,000 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN
IN WAYS TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

IN THE UNITED STATES, WE HELPED RESETTLE SOME 12,000 NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES AND PROVIDED SERVICES TO OVER 37,000 REFUGEES, ASYLEES AND VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

#### WHERE WE WORK



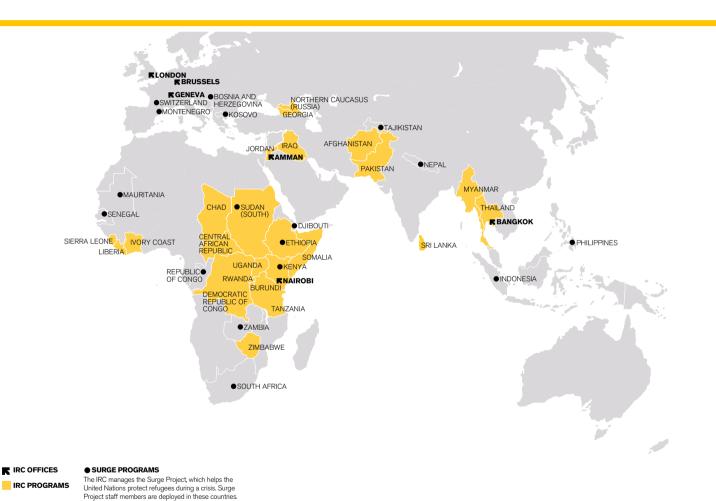
#### **ON THE COVER:**

An IRC-supported school for children displaced by the conflict in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo.

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### THE IRC'S RATINGS

- The American Institute of Philanthropy gives the IRC an A+.
- Charity Navigator awarded the IRC its highest rating.
- BBB Wise Giving Alliance notes the IRC meets all 20 standards.





As of May 1, 2010

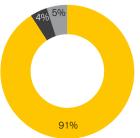


#### THE IRC'S EFFICIENCY

PROGRAMME SERVICES

MANAGEMENT & GENERAL

FUNDRAISING



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE IRC BOARD AND OVERSEERS



SARAH O'HAGAN CO-CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



THOMAS SCHICK CO-CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



SCOTT PELLEY
CO-CHAIR, OVERSEERS
CO-CHAIR, OVERSEERS

#### **DEAR FRIENDS.**

As co-chairs of the International Rescue Committee Board of Directors and Overseers, we are pleased to have the opportunity to serve in a leadership capacity at a critical time when uprooted people in all parts of the world are looking to the IRC for a desperately needed helping hand.

Worldwide, more than 42 million people, the majority of them women and children, have had to flee their homes because of war and persecution. In addition, in recent years a number of natural disasters have caused major humanitarian crises in which the IRC was able to play a crucial role because of its unique capabilities or geographic presence. In the United States, the IRC also assists those for whom returning home is impossible and who have been admitted as refugees. The IRC works with as many as 12,000 of these resettled refugees annually, welcoming them to their adoptive communities and assisting them in starting life anew.

Although the global scale of displacement may seem overwhelming and perhaps hopeless, the reality is that year after year the IRC is able to make a measurable improvement in the lives of millions of people and help many refugees and their communities begin returning to a normal life. We believe that the ability to make such a difference in the lives of others is the reason for the long-term loyalty shown by the IRC's donors, volunteers, board members, overseers, and staff.

This tradition of service began in 1933 when, at the request of Albert Einstein, prominent citizens from all walks of life formed the committee that ultimately became today's IRC. Current members of the board and overseers are an accomplished group that includes business executives, labor leaders, lawyers, physicians, journalists, authors, and educators, as well as former diplomats and Cabinet members. Over a dozen of them are former refugees themselves.

The IRC Board of Directors is responsible for the governance of the IRC, overseeing the organization's programs, finances, external relations, legal affairs, and executive succession. In doing so, the board ensures that the contributions of our donors are well spent. The IRC Overseers, meanwhile, assist the board through their advocacy, fundraising, and public relations efforts, all of which are crucial to the organization's long-term health.

We wish to thank our predecessors for their outstanding service. Alan Batkin and Jonathan Wiesner ably and effectively co-chaired the IRC Board from November 2004 through February 2010—a period that saw the IRC respond admirably to a long list of major natural and manmade disasters. Tom Brokaw, Winston Lord, and Maureen White each either chaired or co-chaired the Overseers for varying periods over the same timeframe and provided first-rate leadership. The IRC is in their debt.

We look forward to emulating our predecessors' excellent records and building upon their achievements in service to the world's most vulnerable people.

Sincerely,

**SARAH O'HAGAN** 

**THOMAS SCHICK** 

**SCOTT PELLEY** 

**GLENDA BURKHART** 

#### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT





Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present you with our annual report for 2009, a year that tested our ability to save lives, protect the vulnerable, and rebuild communities. Despite the stiff obstacles, the IRC came through under pressure. As a result, life for millions of people was safer, healthier, and more hopeful than it would have been without us.

Especially tough challenges came in Somalia, Congo, the Central African Republic, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. There, continuing outbreaks of violence wreaked havoc on displaced people, the majority of them women and children, and complicated our efforts to provide relief or development assistance. We persevered nonetheless – and were rewarded by heartfelt expressions of gratitude from those we aided, as I saw during visits with Somali refugees in Kenya, displaced Iraqis in the Middle East, and villagers in Myanmar whose communities had been devastated in 2008 by Cyclone Nargis.

Our biggest disappointment came in March 2009, hours after an arrest warrant was issued for the president of Sudan by the International Criminal Court, which had been investigating war crimes in Darfur. Sudan summarily expelled the IRC and 12 other aid organizations from Darfur, where the IRC served over 650,000 internally displaced people, as well as from the north and east of Sudan, regions in which we had carried out humanitarian programs for 28 years. As best we could, we assisted the U.N., remaining aid agencies, and local officials who tried to fill the huge gaps created by our departure. Meanwhile, we continue serving some 60,000 refugees from Darfur in camps in neighboring Chad as well as over 450,000 people in semi-autonomous Southern Sudan.

In an era of short attention spans, the IRC also strived to alert the world to the worsening situation of over three million uprooted Iraqis. Roughly half are displaced inside Iraq itself, while most of the remainder are in neighboring Jordan and Svria.

We also raised the alarm about the state of refugees from Iraq and other countries who have recently been resettled in the United States but who cannot find jobs. We pointed out that over the last 30 years, U.S. government funding for refugee resettlement has not kept pace with the cost of living – and that the shortfall had grown so large that the IRC and other agencies could no longer bridge it completely – a situation exacerbated by the recession. But there was good news: the Obama administration began a thorough review of the nation's resettlement program. And effective January 1, 2010, the State Department significantly increased the support it provides to cover the initial expenses of arriving refugees.

Throughout 2009, our emergency response and preparedness team honed its readiness to move quickly when crises develop. Two weeks into the New Year, these efforts paid off, and the team's members responded immediately when the devastating earthquake struck Haiti. Now we are working all out in Haiti to help its people recover and rebuild.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our loyal donors, dedicated board and overseers, and our hardworking staff, all of whom are responsible for the IRC's humanitarian accomplishments worldwide. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

**GEORGE RUPP** 

# WHAT WE DO

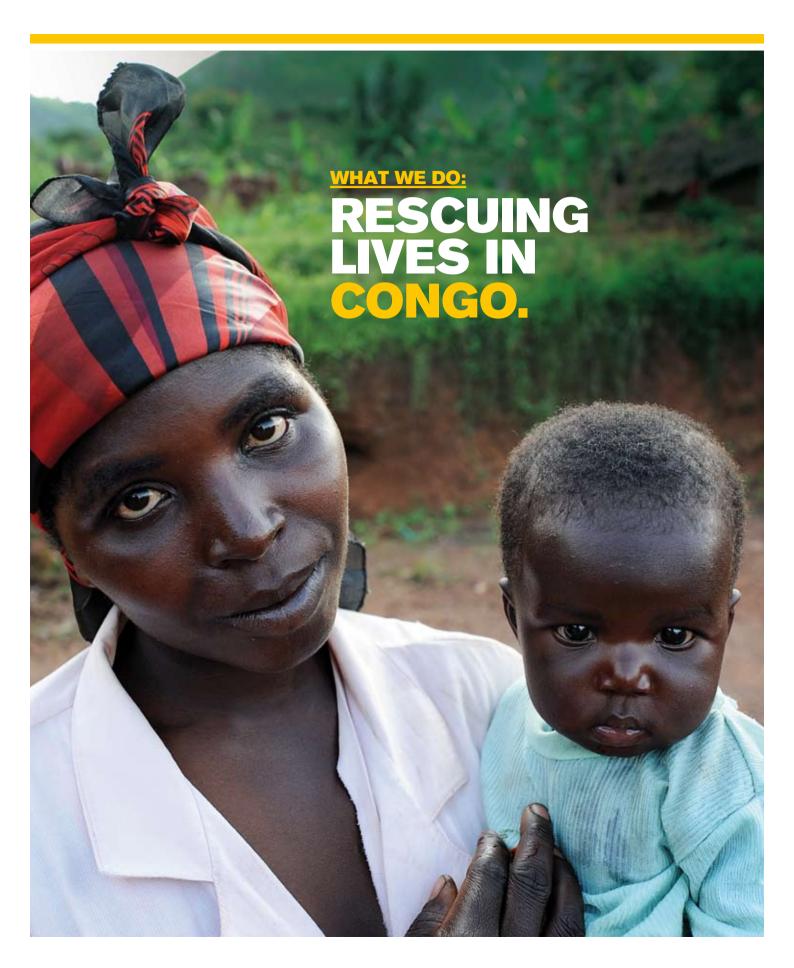
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# WAR-TORN COMMUNITIES UNITE AND REBUILD





**ABOVE:** The Tuungane program has helped nearly two million people living in remote war-torn eastern Congo rebuild their homes and elect members of their villages to local redevelopment committees.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Noela M'Nagashenyi lost her baby and almost died trying to walk to a health clinic. Later, she became pregnant again and gave birth to a healthy girl, Jolie.

NOELA M'NAGASHENYI'S LABOR PAINS BEGAN EARLY IN THE MORNING. SHE LIMPED OUT OF THE HUT SHE CALLS HOME AND BEGAN WALKING.

It was a day's trek to the nearest health clinic where she hoped to give birth. Two friends accompanied her, helping Noela navigate the muddy paths that cut across the steep green hills overlooking Lake Kivu in eastern Congo. Two hours later, Noela suddenly stopped, crawled under some shrubs and gave birth.

"There was no one to help us," Noela recalls as she sits among the banana trees in her village of Mabula. "My friends didn't know how to deliver a baby. It was very painful and in the end I lost my child. He is buried under a tree."

Noela, 33, lost so much blood that she nearly died during the six hours it took to carry her to the clinic that was her original destination. Her ordeal is common in Congo, a country the size of Western Europe. After years of war and neglect, Congo has few hospitals, health clinics, paved roads or passable bridges.

#### A DEADLY CONFLICT

According to studies conducted by the IRC, the conflict in Congo has claimed the lives of 5.4 million people, mostly as a result of the disease and malnutrition that are byproducts of the violence. For the people of Mabula, however, change is coming. Thanks to Tuungane, an innovative IRC-run program, the village will soon have a health clinic as well as doctors to deliver babies, treat injuries and administer medicine. Tuungane means "Let's Unite" in Swahili, and the program has helped nearly two million people in eastern Congo rebuild villages and construct new clinics, wells, schools and roads since 2007. Just as important, the program introduces participatory methods to people who previously have had little influence over their own communities. Tuungane encourages villagers to nominate and elect local

development committees that then decide what reconstruction projects a village should pursue.

#### TRAINING VILLAGERS

The projects are ambitious: Tuungane funds school construction, helps communities link up with local health authorities who in turn supply clinics with medicines, and trains villagers in skills such as bookkeeping and financial management.

Emmanuel Rugango, a 45-year-old farmer from Mabula, recently experienced Tuungane firsthand when he was elected to his village development committee.

"This is the first time we have ever decided to build something together," Rugango says. "Before, villagers only looked after their own plots. Tuungane has changed the way people think."

#### **WOMEN SPEAK OUT**

Tuungane is also helping women achieve greater equality with men. "Women are speaking about things that are normally decided by men," says Gina Xaverine, president of the development committee in Ihoka, an isolated hamlet on an island in Lake Kivu. "I was nervous the first time I spoke, but soon realized that the men were listening to me and thought that my ideas were good."

Thanks in part to Xaverine's advocacy, her village voted to build a school and a clinic. "Tuungane makes women and men more confident," she says. "Our lives are so much better."

THE IRC AIDS 2 MILLION PEOPLE IN EASTERN CONGO.

# BRINGING EDUCATION TO THE DISPLACED





**ABOVE:** Men seeking information about benefits line up at the IRC-run legal center in Jalozai camp in northwestern Pakistan.

**THIS PAGE TOP:** The IRC's Alia Fahim says education is as essential as food and water. "Without it, Pakistan has no future."

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Some 6,000 students are studying at five IRC-run schools in Jalozai camp, including these girls in a kindergarten class.

## THE SCHOOL DAY HAS JUST BEGUN IN DUSTY AND CROWDED JALOZAI CAMP FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE IN NORTHWESTERN PAKISTAN.

Students listen attentively as a teacher explains addition and subtraction. The children and their parents are among the many thousands who have ended up in Jalozai and other camps after fleeing fierce fighting between the Pakistani army and Taliban militants.

Sitting under a tree in the schoolyard, Alia Fahim, the IRC's education coordinator in Pakistan, discusses lessons with a group of teachers. They are among 100 new educators being trained to teach 6,000 students at five IRC-run schools in Jalozai. "It is important to remember that body language affects how children learn," Alia tells the teachers. "Speak slowly and use gestures to illustrate what you are saying."

Due to a lack of school supplies, simple everyday objects are turned into teaching tools, Alia explains. Dry leaves pasted on paper can be turned into an art lesson.

"Even after experiencing the terror of war and being torn from their homes, the children here are eager to learn," says Alia, a 27-yearold psychology graduate of the University of Peshawar. "You can see the hope in their eyes. It is amazing."

#### **THREE MILLION DISPLACED**

Northwestern Pakistan has experienced conflict between the army and the Taliban before but nothing to compare with the past year. After the army launched a major military offensive in the Swat Valley, three million people fled their homes. Many found refuge with family and friends or in schools and abandoned buildings. But others were forced to seek safety in government-run camps such as Jalozai outside Peshawar, the capital of the North-West Frontier Province. Jalozai camp alone is home to over 100,000 people who live in tents or behind clotheslines covered with blankets and plastic sheeting to provide a scant measure of privacy. The conflict has been especially hard on children who have been forced from their homes and seen their schooling cruelly interrupted.

In response, the IRC launched one of its largest aid efforts in recent years, providing drinking water, sanitation, health services, protection and education to some 700,000 displaced people, while ensuring that people living in camps such as Jalozai receive services and government benefits.

#### **FRESH FIGHTING**

Meanwhile, fresh outbreaks of fighting elsewhere in northwestern Pakistan have triggered a new wave of mass displacement and humanitarian need.

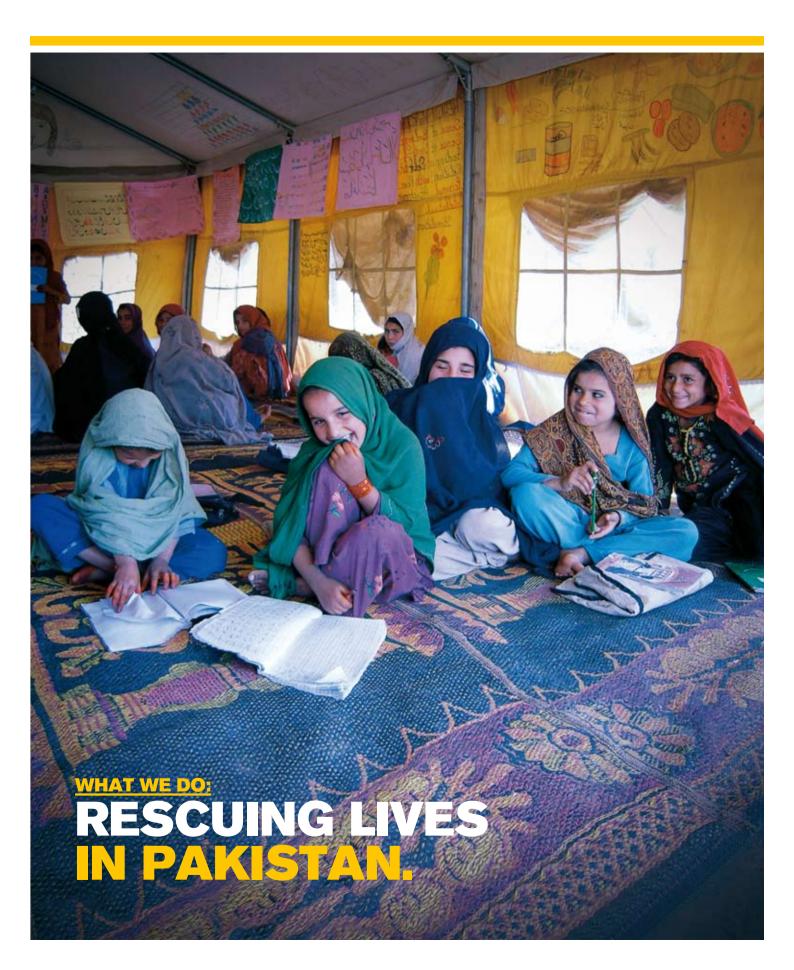
Alia worked as a psychologist and a counselor to survivors of Pakistan's devastating 2005 earthquake before joining the IRC. She says the current crisis presents stark new challenges to humanitarian aid workers. Bombings are a near daily occurrence in the North-West Frontier Province and elsewhere. Taliban militants have made deep inroads in the region and, despite the government offensive against them, continue to threaten local people. Women who do not wear traditional dress or who are in public without a husband or male relative are particular targets of the militants. Alia says she must always be vigilant, especially as a woman aid worker.

Despite the danger, the long workdays and time away from her family, Alia says that working for her people during this time of trial and crisis is what she must do.

"Food and water are essential, but so is education," she says. "Without it, Pakistan has no future. By doing all we can to make sure our children are able to attend school, we contribute to a more open and prosperous society."

### THE IRC PROVIDES SERVICES TO 700,000 DISPLACED PAKISTANIS.





### A LONG ROAD TO PEACE



SOUTHERN SUDAN IS ONE OF THE POOREST AND LEAST DEVELOPED PLACES ON EARTH. MILLIONS OF ITS PEOPLE ARE DEPENDENT ON FOOD AID, MALNUTRITION IS RAMPANT, AND LESS THAN HALF THE POPULATION HAS ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER.

The semi-autonomous region has made little progress since 2005, when a landmark peace accord ended decades of civil war with the Sudanese government based in the north. The long-running conflict killed more than two million people and displaced millions more. Much of Southern Sudan's social and economic infrastructure was left in ruins.

Now political tensions are again rising ahead of a referendum scheduled for next year. Voters in Southern Sudan will be asked to decide whether they want the south to secede formally from Sudan. Neutral observers say it's crucial that there be a free election whose results are accepted by both the north and the south. Otherwise, a return to widespread



#### **BELOW RIGHT**

Most Southern Sudanese have little or no access to health care and must travel long distances to find treatment. In an effort to meet the overwhelming demand, the IRC operates 23 health clinics throughout the region. In 2009, these clinics treated over 300,000 people. This couple sought medical attention for their child at an IRC-sponsored clinic on the outskirts of Aweil.



conflict would be a disaster for an already beleaguered people.

The IRC has been working in Southern Sudan for over two decades, helping to reduce violence and rebuild communities. Today, the IRC aids more than 450,000 people across the region.

IRC HEALTH CLINICS SERVE 300,000 PEOPLE ACROSS SOUTHERN SUDAN.

#### **BELOW LEFT**

The IRC's Institute for Community Health Workers in Ganyliel trains dozens of medical workers and advocates who every year spread out across the region to help those in need. At the clinic near Aweil, this pharmacist dispenses medicine to sick patients.



#### **BELOW RIGHT**

Women in Southern Sudan suffer from terrible health conditions. Ninety percent of all births are unattended and maternal mortality levels are among the highest in the world. The IRC runs "safe motherhood" programs for pregnant women and new mothers and provides prenatal care and training in safe delivery. This mother and her baby are resting at an IRC-sponsored clinic in Malualkon.



#### **RFI OW**

Sexual violence against women and girls is widespread, although often hidden and ignored. In Rumbek, the IRC is supporting community groups where women can speak out through songs, drama and discussion. "We talk about violence, early marriage and why girls are forced to drop out of school," one group member explains. "We say these things should be stopped."



#### RIGHT

Children are especially scarred by poverty and the legacy of a war that destroyed many schools. In Bahr el Ghazal, the IRC works with the community to raise awareness about children's needs and the importance of education. Many children in Bahr el Ghazal do not get enough to eat at home and hang out in the public market to see what morsels they can find.





#### LEFT

Following the 2005 peace accord, more than two million uprooted people returned to Southern Sudan. To help them rebuild their lives, the IRC offers support in everything from health care and psychological counseling to job training and education.

"Economic progress will take time but I feel things are getting better," says John Akot, an IRC field manager. Akot fled to Ethiopia as a teenager to escape the conflict. "I'm optimistic," he says. "All those who died during the war won't get the chance, but I am lucky that I will get to see our country develop."

#### **RIGHT**

"Sudan is a difficult place to raise a family," says photojournalist Christopher Scott. "But the people exhibit an intense determination and pride. These mothers and their children are sitting outside the IRC clinic in Malualkon. One can see from the strength in their faces that given the opportunity the future generations of Sudan could flourish."

#### **ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER**

Last year photojournalist Christopher Scott traveled throughout Southern Sudan as a volunteer to document the IRC's work.



# JUSTICE FOR REFUGEE WOMEN





**ABOVE:** Ban Mai Nai Soi refugee camp is one of nine camps on the Thailand–Myanmar border that are home to some 140,000 refugees.

**THIS PAGE TOP:** The IRC's Ei Ei (left) and Wannipa Tuaton discuss Saymeh's case with her.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Over 15,000 members of the Karenni ethnic group live in Ban Mai Nai Soi, a maze of thousands of houses.

FOR YEARS, SAYMEH\* LIVED IN TERROR. EVERY EVENING IN A CAMP FOR BURMESE REFUGEES IN WESTERN THAILAND, HER HUSBAND WOULD COME HOME DRUNK AND ANGRY. HE WOULD THEN BEAT AND RAPE HER. SOMETIMES FOR HOURS.

"Finally, I divorced him, but he would come to my house and beat me anyway," Saymeh says. "The neighbors knew what was going on, but nobody helped me."

The Ban Mai Nai Soi refugee camp is one of nine camps on the Thailand border that house some 140,000 refugees. Most are members of the Karenni ethnic group who have fled conflict and poverty in Myanmar, also known as Burma.

Unemployment, alcohol abuse and the stress of camp life have contributed to the high levels of sexual violence among the refugees. The IRC, which has been working in the camps since 1984, offers counseling and other aid to victims of violence. But few of the perpetrators are caught or punished.

#### **A FIRST FOR REFUGEES**

That began to change after the IRC opened a legal aid center at Ban Mai Nai Soi in 2008, the first such center to open inside a refugee camp anywhere in the world. The centers—three more have been established at other camps—help abused refugees such as Saymeh seek and find justice, many for the first time in their lives.

Volunteer lawyers help the refugees log their cases into the camp's own legal system or, in the case of crimes like rape and murder, bring them before the Thai courts.

"Most refugees are totally unaware that Thai law applies to them," says Shane Scanlon, who coordinates the legal aid centers for the IRC. "Now this is changing." This was certainly true for Saymeh, who had no idea she had any legal recourse against her abusive husband until she learned of the legal center at the IRC-run women's shelter where she had taken refuge.

\*NOT HER REAL NAME.

At the center, a lawyer recorded Saymeh's testimony, photographed her many bruises and cuts, and accompanied her to a Thai police station, where she filed a formal complaint against her husband, who was then arrested.

"I wanted justice; I wanted my ex-husband in jail," she says.

"Saymeh was very brave," says Wannipa Tuaton, an IRC legal manager in Ban Mai Nai Soi. "Many refugee women are reluctant to report crimes because of embarrassment or fear of retaliation."

#### A POWERFUL PRECEDENT

After a trial that lasted seven months, Saymeh's ex-husband was convicted of rape and sentenced to eight years in a Thai prison. The verdict set a powerful legal precedent that no one is above the law, not even inside a refugee camp.

"A conviction in a case like this is unique in a refugee camp in Thailand," Scanlon says. "It will now be easier to file and win similar complaints."

Indeed, more than 1,000 refugees have been assisted by the four legal centers in cases including rape, murder and human trafficking.

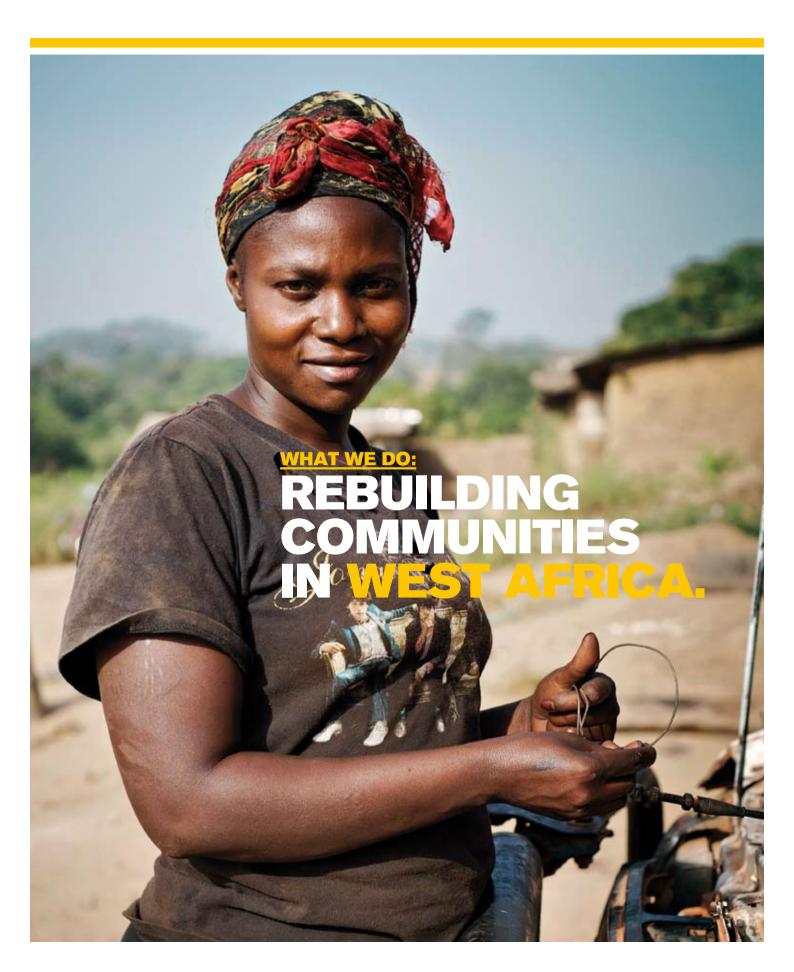
For Saymeh, her victory means that she can raise her children in peace; that she doesn't have to fear the sound of her tormentor coming up the stairs to her home.

"The legal system stopped him," Saymeh says. "If it hadn't, he would have ultimately killed me. I can now live in peace."

IRC LEGAL CENTERS
HAVE AIDED 1,000
REFUGEES
IN THAILAND.







# SCHOOLING AND SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE





**ABOVE:** The IRC helped Prisca Mondo, center left, register her child. Birth registration enables children to access education in Ivory Coast.

**THIS PAGE TOP:** Students in Kenema, Sierra Leone, participating in the IRC's distance-learning program.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Nancy Cole at the garage where she works as an apprentice. During Liberia's civil wars Nancy fled to Guinea. When she returned, the IRC helped train her as a mechanic.

"I STARTED AT THIS GARAGE AFTER I GRADUATED," SAYS 29-YEAR-OLD NANCY COLE. "IT WASN'T EASY, BUT I CONVINCED MY BOSS TO TAKE ME ON AS HIS APPRENTICE."

Sixteen years earlier, Nancy had fled from Liberia to neighboring Guinea when her country's brutal civil war reached her hometown of Zorzor. Her mother died in the heavy fighting.

"It was hard for us in the refugee camp and we didn't always have enough to eat," she recalls. Nancy, her two sisters and brother didn't know where their father was. "I had to be the breadwinner. I broke firewood to sell but the local people harassed us. 'Don't come here and take our wood!'"

Nancy returned to Zorzor in 2006 and enrolled in a mechanics course at the IRC-supported Lutheran Technical Institute. Even though she had left school after the fourth grade (when she was 12 years old), she soon graduated.

"The training was hard. There were more girls than boys doing the mechanics course, but these days they say anything a man can do a woman can do too. What are you going to do if there's nobody around to do it for you? You just have to do it yourself!"

Now Nancy, a single mother, earns enough money to feed her three children and, thanks to her new skills, she's not exhausted by day's end. "It's not physical work like farm work—you're using your knowledge."

#### **MULTIPLE WARS**

Nancy was one of tens of thousands of refugees who fled Liberia and Sierra Leone during the 1990s. In all, more than a million people were displaced and 250,000 killed in Liberia's two civil wars between 1989 and 2003. In Sierra Leone, two million people (more than a third of the population) were forced from their homes and 50,000 were killed during fighting between 1991 and 2002.

In 1991, the IRC began to coordinate education programs in the camps in Guinea after schools began to spring up spontaneously. Now that the region's wars have ended (including one that plagued Ivory Coast between 2002 and 2007), the IRC is helping each country to recover and rebuild.

One of the IRC's biggest efforts is the Legacy Program, a region-wide education initiative which grew out of the IRC's work in the refugee camps in Guinea but now focuses on the particular needs of each country.

#### **ACCESS TO EDUCATION**

The program emphasizes access to education in rural areas in both Liberia and Sierra Leone. But in Liberia it also focuses on technical and vocational training and in Sierra Leone on improving the quality of teaching and the curriculum. In Ivory Coast the emphasis is on vocational training and registering births to ensure children and older youth gain access to schooling.

The IRC's work in Guinea helped tens of thousands of young refugees obtain an education. It has also enabled them to contribute to rebuilding their country and community when they returned home. And the IRC is continuing to help them do just that. As Nancy says, "Zorzor is my home. I'm happy I came back."

### 11,000 STUDENTS ATTEND IRC-SUPPORTED

EDUCATION CENTERS
IN WEST AFRICA.



#### **US PROGRAMS**

# THE REFUGEE'S JOURNEY FROM HARM TO HOME

Throughout our history, the IRC has helped refugees build new lives in the United States. Our staff and volunteers ensure that newcomers have what they need to get started in their adopted land—a place to live, food, clothing, encouragement and emotional support. We introduce them to new communities, help them find jobs and learn English. We also provide families with special programs that help them adjust. In 2009, the IRC helped resettle 12,000 newly arrived refugees and provided services to over 37,000 others.

### ON THE NEXT FOUR PAGES WE WILL HEAR SOME OF THEIR STORIES.



#### CALICIDO SALIMA

**HOME COUNTRY:** Burundi **LIVES IN:** Boise, Idaho

FROM LEFT: Nitunga Chamim, 19; Hassan Chamim, 2; Gahigiro Salima, Ingabire Nurati, 9. Gahigiro Salima became a refugee in 1972 when a wave of ethnic violence engulfed her country. She fled to Rwanda, where she was orphaned. Salima would grow up in refugee camps there and in Tanzania. In 2007, she and her four children were resettled by the IRC in Boise, Idaho.

As an orphan in a refugee camp, I resigned myself to poverty, misery and desperation. I fetched water, worked on a farm and collected firewood. These are typical duties for an African woman. I viewed this as my lot in life. I married at 19 and had a family. Then the war in Rwanda forced us to flee again. I wasn't afraid to come to the United States. If I had survived as an orphaned refugee girl, I was confident I could make it in America. The most important thing was to give my children an education. Education became my mantra. My children thought education was another word for America. It hasn't been easy, but my children are enrolled in school and I have a job. I hope to save enough to send them to college. I'm proud of my accomplishments since arriving in Boise, including my role as a leader of the Burundian community. I'm grateful to the IRC and the volunteers who have helped us. Where else on earth would anyone imagine a future for a vulnerable woman like me?



**KOE POE LAH** 

**HOME COUNTRY:** Myanmar (Burma) **LIVES IN:** New York City

Koe Poe Lah grew up in northern Myanmar, also known as Burma. When he was 11, the country's longrunning civil war reached his village. Poe's family escaped to a refugee camp on the border with Thailand. In 2008, Poe, then 20, and his sister, 21, resettled in New York City.



TARA NEPAL

**HOME COUNTRY:** Bhutan **LIVES IN:** Phoenix, Arizona

Tara Nepal was 10 years old when his family was expelled from Bhutan, a tiny Buddhist kingdom nestled in the Himalayas. They were among 100,000 ethnic Nepalese forced by the Bhutanese government to live in refugee camps in neighboring Nepal. In 2008, 18 years later, the family resettled in Phoenix. Arizona.

"

When I was a little boy, I went to school and helped my mother on the weekends by doing chores on our farm. Then the fighting came and we moved to the camp to seek a better life. My sister said she had heard that refugees could register to move to Australia or the United States. I didn't want to go. I was worried about how my life would change. But I agreed to accompany my sister. When I arrived in New York, I didn't know a word of English and had never been to a big city. Then I learned about the IRC and they helped me get into school and find work. After four months of studying every day, I learned enough English to enroll in night school, along with my sister. I will graduate next year. I also have a full-time job. I don't have a lot of free time, but when I do I go to museums. I want to become a social worker and go back to the refugee camp to help my people. I want to help them as I was helped.

**Early one morning, the soldiers came and forced us out of our house.** Everyone was crying. I thought we were going to be killed. We crossed a river into Nepal and built our camp on the bank. There was nothing to eat, no house to live in, just the dirt on the ground. **If I had an enemy, I would not wish that he would become a refugee.** Think about stormy weather and birds losing their nests. Being a

Think about stormy weather and birds losing their nests. Being a refugee is like that. Even basic necessities are but dreams. I learned English in the camp, at a school run by the United Nations. In Bhutan, they didn't let our people study. I had almost forgotten my ABCs. I had to learn simple math and English all over again. Eventually I graduated and became a teacher. Many of the refugees talked of going home. We all missed our country. But my family decided that returning to Bhutan was a mirage. And we heard good things about life in America. When I arrived in Phoenix, the IRC offered to train me as an interpreter, so right away I was able to help my community. Now, I speak at churches, schools and universities. I am able to introduce our refugee community to the people of Phoenix.

#### **US PROGRAMS**

# REFUGEES PLANT NEW ROOTS AT COMMUNITY FARM

IMAGINE BEING UPROOTED BY WAR FROM A RURAL VILLAGE IN SOUTHERN SOMALIA, FLEEING TO A REFUGEE CAMP IN KENYA AND RESETTLING IN AN URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD IN SAN DIEGO.

This is the journey of Bilali Muya and his wife, Johora Musa, who arrived in the United States in 2004. The contrast between southern Somalia and Southern California is astonishing, Muya says. "Where I grew up we were farmers. We didn't worry about putting gas in a car or going to a job, like people do here."

Like many refugees, Muya missed working his own land and growing crops for food, activities that have sustained generations of Somali Bantu. In San Diego, Muya's only connection to food was visiting the local grocery store.

With refugees like Muya in mind, the IRC launched an effort to create a community farm in the City Heights neighborhood of San Diego, home to many refugees and immigrants. It took nearly two years to win the city's permission, but in September 2009, New Roots Community Farm celebrated its grand opening.

#### **ROCKS TO ORGANIC CROPS**

When the IRC broke ground on the 2.3-acre site, it was nothing more than rocks and weeds. Now, 80 refugee families have planted a variety of organic crops, and one gardener has sold his first harvest of kale to a local restaurant. Although the IRC spearheaded the effort, the farm wouldn't exist without the efforts of the refugee community, says Amy Lint, the IRC's community development coordinator. "We had been thinking about how to provide more nutritious food to the community, but the idea for the farm came from the refugees themselves."

An important goal of New Roots is to provide enough food to eat and access to healthy food in a community that often lacks

both. "Once these basic goals are met, people should be producing enough greens for their own consumption plus a surplus, which could then be sold," says Lint. New Roots is in the process of gaining certification to sell produce at the City Heights farmers market.

#### **SHARING EXPERIENCES**

For the refugee farmers, who hail from Somalia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Uganda, Congo, Kenya, Mexico, Vietnam and Guatemala, New Roots is also a place to come together and share experiences. "The farm has been wonderful for people who can't speak English and often don't leave their apartments and feel isolated," says Muya, who recently was hired by New Roots as a part-time farm educator. "People can walk to the farm, get exercise and avoid stress."

Adds Muya, "People are coming together, borrowing and sharing seeds with each other. I've eaten different kinds of food from different parts of the world. Sharing food is an important part of a people's self-respect and pride."

New Roots Community Farm has been granted a three-year permit. After that, its future is uncertain. Muya's greatest hope is "to see this garden made permanent. I hope to spread the word about the farm and how it is helping people. We look forward to working with people not just in San Diego, but across the state and the country."

FARMERS FROM A
DOZEN COUNTRIES
HAVE PLOTS AT THE
NEW ROOTS FARM.





RIGHT: Refugees at the IRC-supported community farm in San Diego.

**BELOW:** Bilali Muya, a refugee from Somalia, digs into his plot of ground at the New Roots Community Farm in the City Heights neighborhood of San Diego.





# ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION



THE IRC IS HIGHLY EXPERIENCED IN CALLING THE ATTENTION OF POLICYMAKERS AND GLOBAL LEADERS TO THE NEEDS OF REFUGEES AND OTHER DISPLACED PEOPLE. BECAUSE OF THEIR HANDS-ON WORK IN OVER 40 COUNTRIES, MEMBERS OF OUR FIELD STAFF AND ADVOCACY TEAMS SPEAK KNOWLEDGEABLY AND AUTHORITATIVELY ABOUT THE ISSUES—AND POLICYMAKERS DO LISTEN AND RESPOND. HERE ARE THE KEY ADVOCACY EFFORTS ON WHICH WE FOCUSED IN 2009.



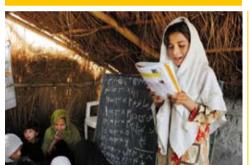
#### **IRAQI REFUGEES**

In June 2009, a report published by the IRC Commission on Iraqi Refugees shone a spotlight on the economic hardships affecting Iraqi refugees who were being resettled in the United States. The report, "In Dire Straits," attracted much attention from the news media and policymakers. It helped spur the Obama administration to launch a review of the U.S. refugee resettlement program and helped convince the State Department to provide emergency funding to cover refugee housing costs and later announce a significant increase in aid for newly arrived refugees.



#### **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The IRC and the Women's Refugee Commission helped influence the U.N. Security Council's adoption in 2008 of Resolution 1820, which recognizes that violence against women and girls in conflict zones threatens international security. In 2009, as violence escalated in countries like Congo, the IRC pushed the U.N. to go further. Subsequently, the council adopted a second resolution that establishes a high-level special representative to ensure that the international community's response to sexual violence in conflict is swift, coordinated and robust. The IRC also briefed the U.S. Secretary of State's top adviser on women's issues and gave testimony to Congress about programs to prevent and respond to violence against women.



#### **AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN**

Soon after the Obama administration took office, senior IRC staff members met with key officials responsible for shaping policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan, including the special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan and the new American ambassador to Afghanistan. The IRC supports stronger civilian-led efforts to spur sustainable development in both countries. After the Pakistani army launched a major military campaign in the Swat Valley in spring 2009, the IRC spoke out to ensure that aid reached families displaced by the conflict there, in South Waziristan, and elsewhere in northwestern Pakistan.



#### SUDAN

More than 28,000 people signed an IRC petition asking the U.N. to protect humanitarian aid delivery after Sudan expelled the IRC and 12 other aid agencies from Darfur in March 2009. IRC President George Rupp hand-delivered the petition to John Holmes, U.N. under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs. The IRC met with U.N. and numerous government officials to urge continuing aid to Darfur despite the expulsions, and advocated for preserving the peace between north and south Sudan. Later in the year, the U.S. special envoy to Sudan met with aid agency leaders at IRC headquarters in New York.



#### **FOREIGN AID REFORM**

In Washington, London and New York, the IRC suggested ways to improve delivery of international aid. The IRC briefed U.S. officials and Congressional offices on the need to revitalize and strengthen the U.S. Agency for International Development. Meanwhile, the IRC-UK was one of six aid agencies involved in producing a major report on reforming the global system, with a focus on U.N. reform efforts in the areas of leadership, coordination and funding. The IRC-UK convened a meeting of British aid agencies, U.K. government officials and U.N. representatives to discuss the report, while the IRC helped disseminate it to U.N. and U.S. government officials.

# IRC LEADERSHIP BOARD STAFF DONORS

OUR SUPPORTERS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SENIOR STAFF
FINANCIAL REPORT

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### **OUR SUPPORTERS**



THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE **EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS** WHO HELP US RESTORE DIGNITY AND HOPE TO THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE PROFOUNDLY CHANGED BY WAR, VIOLENT CONFLICT, OPPRESSION AND NATURAL DISASTER. THE COMMITMENT O INDIVIDUALS, FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS **VOLUNTEERS, GOVERNMENTS, NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MULTILATERAL AGENCIES ENABLES THE IRC TO RESPOND SWIFTLY IN EMERGENCIES AND TO HELP COMMUNITIES TO** 

RECOVER. ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES. WE SALUTE THE GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORTED THE IRC DURING THE PAST FISCAL YEAR, WHICH BEGAN OCT. 1, 2008, AND ENDED SEPT. 30, 2009.

#### Lifetime Giving

The IRC is grateful to many supporters whose compassion and generosity over the decades have brought families around the globe from harm to home.

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FAR RIGHT: Nina Weisenhorn, an IRC child and youth protection coordinator, distributes school materials to a class in Congo's South Kivu province.

RIGHT: IRC education supervisor Noé Kabano leads a song at a school for displaced children in North Kivu, Congo.





#### **Leaders Circle**

The IRC's visionary partners save lives and rebuild communities. Members of the Leaders Circle give boldly and generously to champion the IRC's annual work and long-term mission. Leaders Circle members travel with IRC staff to experience firsthand our international and resettlement programs. They advocate for lasting solutions and share in the IRC's successes, challenges and future plans.

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LEFT: The IRC's Legacy Program supports education in West Africa. Here high school students attend class in Kenema, Sierra Leone.

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RIGHT: A billboard for an IRC campaign to stop violence against women in Sierra Leone.



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**LEFT:** A baby has just been born at an IRC-supported hospital in Congo's war-torn North Kivu province.

Harriet and George Baldwin

Margaret and Rick Baldwin

"WHAT IMPRESSES US ABOUT THE IRC IS THE EXTRAORDINARY EFFECTIVENESS WITH WHICH IT DELIVERS LIFESAVING AID AND OTHER CRITICAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE DESPERATELY IN NEED AROUND THE WORLD."

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LEFT: A boy collecting firewood on the outskirts of the Muhanga camp, North Kivu, Congo.

FAR LEFT: An IRC worker building a new latrine for a school in eastern

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LEFT: The IRC's Dr. Hnin Phyu examines patients at an IRC-run clinic at a refugee camp near the town of Mae Hong Son on the Thailand-Myanmar border.

FAR LEFT: IRC health programs have helped to reduce child mortality in parts of Southern Sudan.

RIGHT: Children watch their mothers pick up aid distributed by the IRC outside of Goma in eastern Congo.



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FAR LEFT: A Burmese refugee on the Thailand-Myanmar border is rushed to a clinic by an IRC speed boat.

LEFT: Burmese refugees in Tham Hin, the southernmost refugee camp in Thailand.

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Glendale Chamber of Commerce Glendale Unified School District

Goodwill (Seattle)

Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns

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Society (KURDS)
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Management Sciences for Health (MSH) Management Systems International (MSI)

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McLean Bible Church

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Miracle Center

Montgomery County Refugee Training

Mosaic Family Services

Mountain View Community Church National Asian Pacific Center on Aging

National Bank of Arizona

Near East Foundation (NEF)

Neighborhood House

Neighborhood Legal Services of

Los Angeles

NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI)

Norwegian Refugee Council

Old Dominian University, Human Services Program

PACT

The Peace Village

Pima County Health Department

Pima County Public Library
Population Services International (PSI)

Princeton University Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH)

Refugee Integration Services Provider

Network

Refugee International Japan (RIJ)

Refugee Women's Network

Regional Management Resources for the Foreign Born, Inc. (FIRN)

Samara Apartments

San Diego Community College District

Schools Out Washington

Seattle Marathon

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Somali Community Services Coalition

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Treasure Valley YMCA

A Tree House

TRIO/Upward Bound Programs Trocaire

Communities

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Medicine Clinic University of Virginia, International

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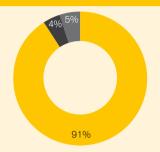
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#### **USE OF FUNDS**

PROGRAM SERVICES

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL

FUNDRAISING



#### **PROGRAM SERVICES**

HEALTH

RESETTLEMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WATER AND SANITATION

EDUCATION

DISTRIBUTION

OTHER PROGRAMS\*

\*INCLUDES PROTECTION, SHELTER AND LIVELIHOODS.

### CONDENSED AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPT. 30, 2009 AND SEPT. 30, 2008 (IN THOUSANDS)

	2009	2008
OPERATING REVENUES		
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$43,072	\$44,076
CONTRIBUTED GOODS AND SERVICES	6,396	6,798
• GRANTS AND CONTRACTS	231,135	204,576
INVESTMENT RETURN USED FOR OPERATIONS	3,487	3,586
LOAN ADMINISTRATION FEES AND OTHER	2,436	1,759
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	286,526	260,79
OPERATING EXPENSES		
PROGRAM SERVICES		
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	189,166	179,420
US PROGRAMS	53,059	45,245
• EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, TECHNICAL UNITS AND OTHER	15,008	14,024
• WOMEN'S REFUGEE COMMISSION	4,927	4,958
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	262,160	243,647
SUPPORTING SERVICES		
• MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	15,301	16,306
• FUNDRAISING	10,375	10,176
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	25,676	26,482
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	287,836	270,129
EXCESS OF OPERATING REVENUES OVER OPERATING EXPENSES	(1,310)	(9,334
EXCESS RELATED TO UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	739	2,032
(DEFICIENCY) RELATED TO TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUNDS*	(2,049)	(11,366
ENDOWMENT, PLANNED GIVING AND OTHER NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES (NET)	(2,179)	(10,077
(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(3,489)	(19,411
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	117,553	136,964
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$114,064	\$117,553

<sup>\*</sup> UNSPENT TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS ARE CARRIED FORWARD AND THEREFORE MAY PRODUCE DEFICITS IN THE YEARS WHEN EXPENDED.

COMPLETE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AUDITED BY KPMG LLP, ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

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