The American Refugee Committee is – and always has been – about people.
“As a volunteer, I was reminded of the precious nature of human relationships, the incredible strength of human resilience and the fortunate generosity of the human spirit.”

— Carol Pavlish, nurse, longtime volunteer and collaborator on gender-based violence prevention programs.

“I love my country, and after the earthquake, I saw many people who needed help. I chose to work in construction and help rebuild.”

— Architect Marjory Policard lived through the 2010 Haiti earthquake. She joined our staff and oversaw the transitional shelter program, constructing 2,000 shelters for families who had lost their homes.

“It’s really incredible to see people get excited, knowing they’re making a difference. They’ll never get to know firsthand the difference they made in the lives of the people they helped, but on some kind of spiritual or supernatural level, they do understand.”

— Hahn Chang, recent high school graduate, organized Run for Darfur and Hope for Haiti charity events.

“I was able to treat a man who had the most severe case of anemia I had ever seen. I was the first doctor he had seen in five years. When I was there in Somalia, there was hope. There is hope and we can do more!”

— Dr. Ismail Mualin volunteered at a pediatric and maternity hospital in Mogadishu for two weeks.

“As a volunteer, I was reminded of the precious nature of human relationships, the incredible strength of human resilience and the fortunate generosity of the human spirit.”

— Carol Pavlish, nurse, longtime volunteer and collaborator on gender-based violence prevention programs.
You are needed.

If we’ve learned one thing this year, it’s that. And I think this story illustrates it well.

I was being interviewed on the radio some months ago. A Somali gentleman called in and asked why ARC wasn’t working in Somalia. I agreed whole-heartedly that we should, but that we would need partners from the Somali community to make it work.

That gentleman — his name is Said Sheik-Abdi — didn’t let me forget it. First he came to meet with me. Then he brought some friends in. They formed an advisory council of Somali professionals. They set up meetings with community leaders. Council members traveled with us to Somalia on an assessment mission. And then they really got to work...

As I write this, thousands of people are out in their neighborhoods — collecting signatures for petitions, putting on car washes, holding charity picnics, organizing 5k walks, giving up their birthday gifts — creating awareness and raising money for famine in Somalia.

Today, ARC is one of the only major relief organizations working inside southern Somalia to help families survive the famine. We’re there for 70,000 people who need food, relief supplies, shelter, clean water and good sanitation. And we are urgently working to help even more people.

But how did this happen? And so fast?

It began with Said. And after Said got it started, Ifrah, Sarah, Mohamed, Eric, Adan and so many others made it grow and spread.

This is just one example. We need every one of you. There are millions of people who need your action and creativity. They need someone who believes in them, someone who will work with them, someone who will support them and someone who will spread the word about what they’re going through.

Don’t get caught up in the numbers. Each of us has the power to help someone in desperate circumstances. You are needed!

Sincerely,

Daniel & John

John A Gappa
Board Chair, American Refugee Committee

To All Our Partners.

You are needed.

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Sincerely,

Daniel & John

Daniel Wordsworth
President, American Refugee Committee

John A Gappa
Board Chair, American Refugee Committee
I shouldn't have made it
But I did
Because we do
We climb mountains like we got wings
Because we do
We are more than a body
More than flesh, bones and cartilage
Just eight fingers and two thumbs
We make it possible
Thing out of no thing
Think and create out of thin air
Stretch our arms
And star light cities rise above desert sands
Let there be light; an abyss is made clear
Two stones! a beast is slain
We are the manifestation of a force
That holds planets in orbit
And stars from going dim

— An excerpt from *Amazing Grace*,
  by poet and refugee IBe
About 500 Haitian workers were employed under our shelter program in Haiti.
All together, we constructed 2,000 transitional shelters for earthquake victims.

We don’t bring the solutions. People suffering during the most vulnerable times of their lives know better than anyone what they need. That’s why our programs start with refugees and their unique experiences. They let us know what needs to happen to make meaningful change in their communities, and we work together to make it so. Most commonly, people need health care or they want the opportunity to make a decent living for their families. ARC brings expertise in these areas. But it is refugees themselves who tell us how to put that expertise to work in a way that makes sense for them.

On the following pages, you’ll see how these people are working through the most challenging times they’ve seen. You’ll get a snapshot of each of the different groups of people we’re working with and how they’re struggling for a better future. Our partners are diverse, and so is the work we do. But it’s all for the same goal – to help people take back control of their lives.

Programs built from the inside, out

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The ways we work

Agriculture & Food Security
Camp Management
Capacity Building & Training
Community Development
Community Health Education
Community Reconciliation & Reintegration
Disaster Preparedness
Disease Prevention and Control
Emergency Health Care
Emergency Obstetrics
Gender-based Violence Prevention & Response
HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment
Immunizations
Income Generation

Infectious Disease Prevention
Legal Assistance
Microenterprise Development
Microfinance
Mother and Child Health Care
Primary Health Care
Protection
Psychosocial Support
Rapid Emergency Response
Refugee Return & Reintegration
Reproductive Health Care
Savings & Loan Associations
Shelter Construction & Rehabilitation
Small Business & Vocational Training

Our programs are made possible through our donors, including partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations, including:

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)
US. Dept. of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
War-Affected Darfuris

In Darfur, every day is a struggle for survival. Drought, floods, war, disease, hunger – all are just a part of life for millions of Darfuris. What keeps them going is hope. Despite all the challenges, the people of Darfur refuse to give up. Instead, they use the tools they have – assistance from our donors and their own will to survive – to take back control of their lives.

Each month, thousands attend educational sessions led by members of their community to learn how to prevent disease, grow healthier crops, get more nutrition from their food, and many other lifesaving topics. Each day, they are digging new wells, taking care of existing water sources, learning how to deliver babies safely, vaccinating their children and rebuilding health clinics. Even amidst the forces of destruction, life goes on in Darfur.

Haitian earthquake survivors

The people of Haiti are slowly rebuilding their lives after the earthquake devastated their country in January 2010. For months, Haitians struggled just to clear the rubble, treat their wounds, mourn loved ones and find a safe place to live. Thousands of people had nothing – not even a roof over their heads – when the rainy season came, bringing floods and cholera. Violence, disease, and hunger have made recovery difficult, but by no means impossible.

All over the country, small successes are turning into big gains for the people of Haiti. American Refugee Committee donors helped Haitians construct 2,000 sturdy transitional shelters. Health care clinics treated thousands of people each month. Local health teams went out armed with knowledge and supplies to give to their communities. Thanks to their hard work, the American Refugee Committee’s shelter construction and cholera treatment methods saved thousands of lives and became models for other organizations.
The lives of many Afghan people have been riddled with violence and poverty. Over the past several decades, millions have fled the country in search of a better life. Today more than 1 million Afghans reside in refugee camps in Pakistan. But they have not yet gained the peace they so desire. Political situations regularly erupt into violence. It is dangerous to stay, but even more dangerous to leave. So they stay and struggle. They work with us to make their lives easier through education, health care and vocational training. Teams of community members maintain water and sanitation systems in the camps. Local leaders even trust us enough to address taboo topics such as HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, and reproductive health. Together, we work to maintain the basics of a healthy life.

Last year 20 million people in Pakistan lost their homes, livelihoods or loved ones to flooding. Thousands died. It was some of the worst flooding Pakistan had ever seen. About one-fifth of the country was under water. Because so many crops were destroyed, about 70 percent of the population lost access to proper nutrition. Dehydration and disease were widespread due to lack of clean water. Staff went to work immediately, distributing water purification tablets, hygiene kits, and other supplies. Through our cash-for-work program, they’re rebuilding water systems, latrines, and shelters and bringing back economic stability to their communities.

In Pakistan, we helped renovate this hospital, which had been badly damaged from fighting and flooding.

In Pakistan, the massive 2005 earthquake in northern Pakistan destroyed entire communities. Immediately after the quake, we began working with them to rebuild. Now, survivors’ efforts focus mainly on maintaining and improving health care, water and sanitation systems. Last year, we worked together to renovate a reproductive health clinic that serves tens of thousands of women and children. Community health workers and traditional birth attendants work hard every day to help people prevent disease and help women deliver safely. And vocational and life skills training gives young people the education they need to thrive in the future.
For decades, the people of South Sudan have struggled to survive nearly constant war. In January 2011, they voted to become a new nation and separate from the northern part of Sudan. With this decision has come renewed violence and instability. But the people of South Sudan continue to work for peace and prosperity. The American Refugee Committee is supplying workers in 40 health facilities with vaccines, medical supplies and training. Local health workers educate their communities on how to stop the spread of disease, including HIV/AIDS. HIV testing, counseling and prevention activities are on the rise. People living with the disease are given the support they need to stay healthy. Together, we’re working with local organizations to stop violence against women and bring help to survivors. Water and sanitation teams are ensuring clean drinking water and stopping the spread of disease. The people of South Sudan are more driven than ever to improve their quality of life and keep hope on the horizon.

Liberians recovering from war

Liberia continues working to recover from the scars of a 14-year civil war. War ended in 2003. The government and regular citizens have made significant strides but are still working to deal with the legacy of violence – particularly rape and violence against women – that war left behind. Legal teams, safe house workers, and psychologists work together to help women heal from the trauma they’ve experienced. Ending violence against women is a key priority for Liberians.

Liberia’s infrastructure and economy were also devastated in the war, and people have been working hard to get their country back on track. Micro-lending programs and vocational programs enable women and teens to become self-sufficient and provide for their families.

In 2010, Liberians also banded together with the American Refugee Committee to offer assistance to refugees from Ivory Coast, whose pain and struggles they could understand all too well. They opened their doors, providing food and shelter to Ivorian refugees fleeing violence at home.

Returnees and communities in South Sudan

For decades, the people of South Sudan have struggled to survive nearly constant war. In January 2011, they voted to become a new nation and separate from the northern part of Sudan. With this decision has come renewed violence and instability. But the people of South Sudan continue to work for peace and prosperity. The American Refugee Committee is supplying workers in 40 health facilities with vaccines, medical supplies and training. Local health workers educate their communities on how to stop the spread of disease, including HIV/AIDS. HIV testing, counseling and prevention activities are on the rise. People living with the disease are given the support they need to stay healthy. Together, we’re working with local organizations to stop violence against women and bring help to survivors. Water and sanitation teams are ensuring clean drinking water and stopping the spread of disease. The people of South Sudan are more driven than ever to improve their quality of life and keep hope on the horizon.

Refugees from Myanmar have been coming across the border into Thailand for decades. Some obtain refugee status and can live in camps. Others are migrant workers facing their own set of challenges without the support of the government. Both groups are working to educate their communities on how to live the healthiest lives they can. Health care is a major priority, as fighting malaria and tuberculosis is a constant battle. At the same time, these refugees are trying to gain the job skills needed to support themselves, either in Thailand or another country. The American Refugee Committee works with Burmese refugees in camps in the north of Thailand and with migrant workers in the south, helping them operate programs to educate each other on how to stay healthy and make a living. Programs for clean water, health care, disease prevention and gender-based violence prevention all work together to create a sustainable future.

Burmese refugees and migrant workers

This little girl happily waves at the camera at a camp in Thailand.
In northern Uganda, life is just beginning to return to normal after two decades of war that displaced 1.8 million people from their homes. An entire generation grew up as refugees in their own country. Now, Ugandans are returning to their villages, but nothing is as they remember. Homes and infrastructure have been destroyed. People need a lot of help to rebuild — economically, physically and emotionally. Northern Ugandans are taking charge of their futures, working together to create a better life. Livelihoods programs are assisting people who want to create greater economic opportunities in their communities. HIV/AIDS has affected many people in the region, so peer educators have organized clubs, video and drama groups to spread the message of prevention and treatment. Mobile clinics and networks for people living with the disease are making treatment and support more accessible. The efforts of northern Ugandans against gender-based violence are also creating a major shift in how communities deal with conflict. Northern Ugandans are working hard to make sure the next generation grows up in a more peaceful place.

For more than 15 years, conflict has raged in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Thousands of refugees have fled to neighboring countries — Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and others — where resources are already scarce. There they must start their lives again with nothing but their own resourcefulness and determination. This year we’ve reached out to Congolese refugees in South Sudan and Uganda, assisting local agencies who have been challenged to meet their needs. More than 53,000 Congolese refugees currently reside in the three camps we operate in Rwanda. There, they can create new lives as they wait for the day it is safe for them to return home. Children grow up getting the nutrition, health care and education they need. Pregnant women are supported throughout their pregnancy and with proper medical care during and after delivery. Many Congolese refugees have been traumatized by violence, so counseling is available to help them heal. Strong community is another important part of the healing process, and community savings and lending groups assist one another both socially and financially. Job training programs give people hope and marketable skills for the future. Together, Congolese refugees are creating the kind of world they want to live in.

Famine took hold of Somalia in July 2011 and Somalia is now living the worst humanitarian crisis of our time. Families have streamed out of their drought-stricken villages and fled to Kenya and Ethiopia or to their own country’s capital of Mogadishu. People are struggling to survive in makeshift camps without proper shelter, clean water or food. The situation is dire. We’re helping.

We have formed partnerships with Somali communities around the world to provide direct, targeted relief to people in desperate need in Somalia. Somali medical professionals from around the world are returning to Somalia to serve. We’re working to provide clean water, sanitary facilities and basic essentials for people living in camps in Mogadishu and in towns along the Kenya border.

Life is beginning to return to normal in the war-affected communities of northern Uganda.
Revenue and Support

Contributions and grants:
- Contributions: $2,970,637
- United Nations Grants: $10,345,035
- U.S. Government Grants: $22,190,373
- Private and other support contributions: $7,629,582
- In-kind goods and services: $195,733
- Micro-credit interest and fees: $386,291
- Interest and investment income: $41,903
- Other income: $335,441

Total revenue and support: $44,084,995

Expenses

Program services:
- International programs: $37,810,184

Supporting services:
- General and administrative: $3,325,305
- Fundraising: $680,696
- Total Supporting Services: $4,006,001

Total Expenses: $41,816,185

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

December 31, 2010

Change in Net Assets before other items: $2,268,810

Other Items:
- Write-down of Liberty Finance Investment: $(413,505)
- Reclassification of Liberty Finance Debt: $239,892

Change in Net Assets: $2,095,197

Net Assets at End of Year: $22,061,876

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2010

Assets

Cash:
- Headquarters Cash: $2,275,261
- Overseas Cash: $2,700,322
- Total Cash: $4,975,583

Investments: $596,604
Grants receivable: $18,714,769
Other receivables: $215,442
Pledges receivable: $13,402
Micro-credit loans receivable: $510,158
Prepaid expenses: $771,949
Equipment and vehicles, net of accumulated depreciation of $431,459
Total Assets: $25,944,689

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities
- Capital Lease: $158,296
- Accounts Payable: $1,247,219
- Grants Payable: $484,404
- Accrued salaries and benefits: $1,688,231
- Micro-credit loans payable: $304,663
Total Liabilities: $3,882,813

Net Assets
- Unrestricted: $2,068,306
- Temporarily restricted: $19,150,315
- Permanently restricted: $843,255
Total Net Assets: $22,061,876

Total Liabilities and Net Assets: $25,944,689

These statements were audited by Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman, Certified Public Accountants.

2010 Financial Statement

Financial responsibility is always a top priority for the American Refugee Committee. We work as efficiently as possible in addressing the needs of refugees.

Every donation helps tremendously. Unrestricted donations are particularly effective. When a donor gives an unrestricted donation, ARC is able to leverage that generous gift to receive additional funding from large donors like the U.S. government and the United Nations. Essentially, we’re able to turn a $1 unrestricted donation into $20 worth of lifesaving support for refugees and others in need. Unrestricted support is absolutely critical.

To help the women we serve feel comfortable, we often hire and train female health workers and midwives.
Please be in touch with us.

We welcome the opportunity to meet and talk with you. Tell us how you want to be involved in making the world a better place. We’re open to your ideas. We can work together to create the opportunities you’re looking for to get involved and make a difference in the world.

You are needed.

This is the time to join us and engage in a whole new way. You can make something exciting happen, something that will change another person’s life as well as your own.

Tell us how you want to engage. Tell us what would be most meaningful to you. Bring your energy and ideas, and we’ll support you as you make your ideas reality.

You tell us.

Call: (800) 875-7060
to speak with an Engagement Officer

Email: whatcanido@ARChq.org

We thank recent former board member Holly Myers for her service.
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