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30 YEARS

People from every walk of life— each bringing their own strengths and acting in their own way—who, collectively, create a movement. A movement called the American Refugee Committee.

 *currently active programs*

To Our Partners:

Thirty years ago, millions of men, women, and children throughout Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia fled their homes, leaving everything they owned behind, as war ravaged the region. The scenes were unimaginable, and the news horrific.

A Chicago businessman saw the stories of the refugee crisis unfolding halfway around the world and decided he must respond. He didn't know where his actions would lead — he simply chose to act and make a difference. And thus the American Refugee Committee was born.

Over the years, the story of the American Refugee Committee has been shaped by refugees, supporters, volunteers, and staff who have all chosen to act. Each plays an important role in our collective story. And, one by one, their decisions and their actions have come together to impact the lives of tens of millions of people around the world who have lost everything.


Through the years, we've faced some seemingly insurmountable challenges in many of the world's most desperate places. We've partnered with refugees who have survived the unimaginable. But we've also seen people in these most desperate of circumstances move forward to rebuild their lives. We have learned that the real challenge is not in the size of the problem...instead, it is in deciding to act and then following through with a sustained commitment to effect change.

At the American Refugee Committee, we journey with refugees. We meet them wherever they are on their journeys, and we listen to their stories. We pool our strengths together with theirs, and we partner with them to help them survive and take back control of their lives.

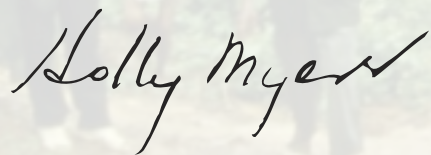
Now, after 30 years of acting to meet humanitarian challenges worldwide, we enter into the next chapter of the story of the American Refugee Committee. We want to expand the way we work and begin a dialogue with you to steer our future. We invite you to join us on a bold new path. We know that if we actively embrace and encourage the commitment and involvement of everyone seeking to act in the face of catastrophe on behalf of their fellow human beings, the potential for good is limitless.

We thank you for being a part of our shared journey.

Sincerely yours,



Daniel Wordsworth
President / CEO



Holly Myers
Chair of the Board





The American Refugee Committee is
—and always has been—about people.

When Chicago businessman and American Refugee Committee founder Neal Ball agreed to sponsor a refugee from Laos in 1978, he expected to send a monthly check. To his surprise, he received a phone call telling him the refugee he had sponsored would soon be arriving at the airport. A few weeks later, the refugee came. Phunguene Sananikone, from Laos.

I had learned that part of his family was in Laos. His two brothers had swum across the Mekong River and were somewhere in Thailand. Another brother had made it over to Thailand with his wife and child and was in a refugee camp.

I [went to Thailand and] found his family. And I found out that the two younger boys were going to be sent back to Laos. Anyone who had done what they did would have been stuck in a work camp. So in that case I was able to get a congressional inquiry, in which a member of Congress inquires into the status of individual people. That was enough to get a hold on their being sent back.

In the case of an older brother and his family, I found them under a little plastic tent in a refugee camp in northern Thailand. I had gone to about six refugee camps before that. He was eventually able to come to the States. The family is all doing well now. It took about five years before they were all reunited here.

When I went to the camp [in Thailand], that was when I started to see their medical needs. I became aware of the need for doctors and nurses to go over to Thailand.

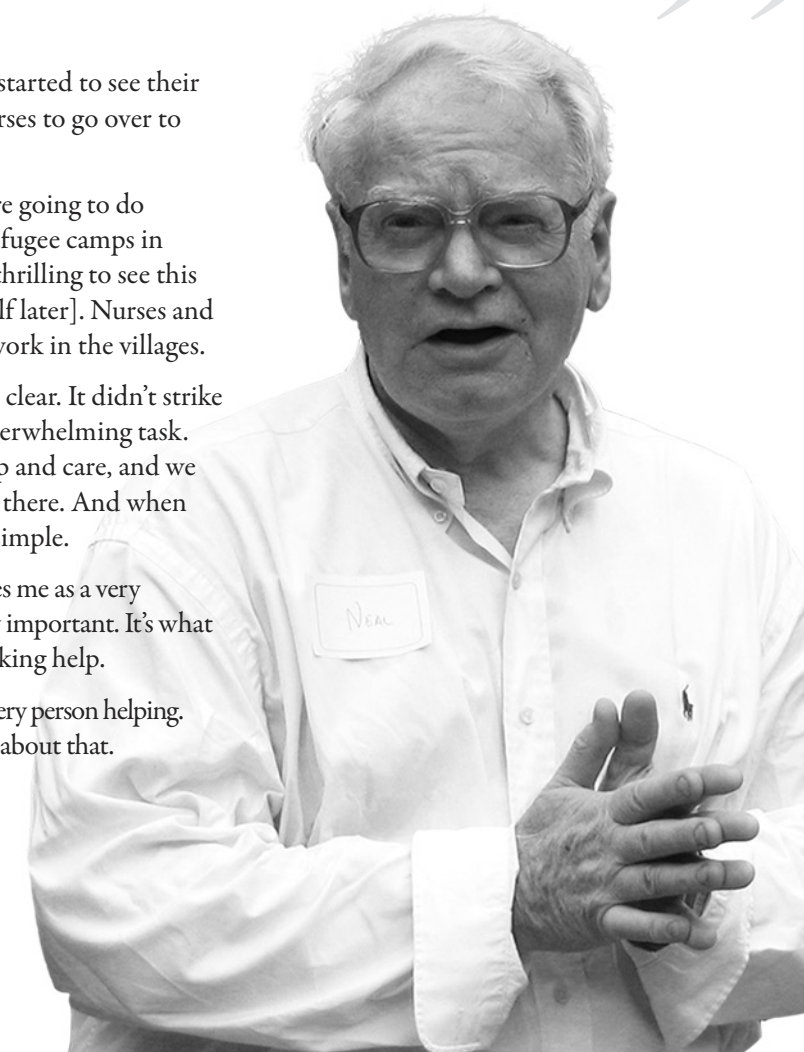
We made an early commitment, not knowing how we were going to do it, to send 75 doctors and nurses over the course of a year to refugee camps in Thailand. It went way over that number, and it was especially thrilling to see this all in operation when I went back to Thailand [a year and a half later]. Nurses and doctors were training the refugees to be paramedics and also work in the villages.

The need was so great, and the ability to respond to it was clear. It didn't strike me as that difficult of a thing to do. It didn't strike me as an overwhelming task. It just was a series of things that had to be done to provide help and care, and we simply went about doing it. There are a lot of Phunguenes out there. And when you can put a face on suffering, you need to respond. It's that simple.

[When someone gets] medical care or clean water, that strikes me as a very important event. Sometimes the size [of the operation] isn't really important. It's what happens to each individual refugee or victim of war who is seeking help.

It's always been about the effectiveness and the importance of every person helping. Every volunteer, every donor, every staff member. It's always been about that.

“It's always been about the effectiveness and the importance of every person helping. Every volunteer, every donor, every staff member. It's always been about that.”



Neal Ball

Nothing is better than helping a refugee who has no hope for their life and helping him to find another future.”



Banrith Yong Yuth

In 1975, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime seized control of Cambodia and attempted to create a utopian society based on Communist ideals. Educated or affluent people were deemed enemies of the state. Cities and villages were evacuated as people were moved to the country and forced to perform grueling labor on farms. In four years, the regime murdered at least 200,000 Cambodians, and millions more died from disease and starvation. Banrith Yong Yuth survived the "killing fields" and fled to Thailand in 1979, where he joined the American Refugee Committee.

I was born in a village close to the Vietnamese border. We had a large family, but we were very close to each other. We said we would always be together, no matter what. Our lifestyle was a little bit upper-class, but we didn't act that way. I like to be friends with anybody. I always looked up to my father because he shared his life with other people.

When the war came, I was in high school. The Communists took over our country and sent us away from our home. They took everything from our family. My family was mostly with the government, so they got killed. I can say at least 70% of my family we lost.

They sent me to a work camp by myself. It's like a prison without walls. It was very hard, the way they forced us to work, because they didn't give us enough food. They tried to kill us softly instead of killing us right away. I almost died many times. They tried to kill me, but I escaped every time.

Banrith escaped from three of the work farms, assuming he would die whether he stayed or left but determined not to let his captors kill him. Although he witnessed many atrocities, he kept his faith in humanity, seeing the good even in those who oppressed him and helping others escape. When the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia, he and millions of others fled to Thailand.

Banrith made it to Khao I Dang refugee camp, where the first health volunteers of the American Refugee Committee were working. Since he knew some English, he volunteered to work as a translator and eventually was trained as a paramedic, caring for the patients at night, after the international staff had left the camp.

After working with them about two or three days, I felt relief. I felt very happy, like I found another family besides the family that I lost. And I could see their open hearts to help my people and myself, and we had a lot of fun working together. I can say that group was a very special group.

Nothing made me happier than to see how they helped people in the camp, especially as a Cambodian. I loved to help them and to help my own people. I was brought up that way, and I wish everybody could do that.

I know the American Refugee Committee is one of those strong organizations that is spread out around the world right now, and I'm very happy to be a part of that. I hope people hear my voice as a refugee, and I hope they will help the way I helped them, too. Because nothing is better than helping a refugee who has no hope for their life and helping him to find another future.

We are founded on the premise that anyone can make a difference.



We believe that most people want to do something to make the world a better place.



Dr. Pat Walker was a third-year medical student at Mayo Medical School when the Cambodian refugee crisis began. Despite her relative inexperience, she signed on with the American Refugee Committee's first volunteer health team at Khao I Dang refugee camp in Thailand, thinking she could at least help with logistics. It turned into a lifelong career in refugee and immigrant health care.

My older sister, Susan, called me one day and said, "Hey, did you hear that there are 750,000 Cambodians on the Thai/Cambodian border? And there's this group, they're called the American Refugee Committee, and a whole bunch of people are meeting in the next couple of weeks to get this organization started. You have to go!"

I went to the meeting, and I was just absolutely and totally inspired by what I was hearing. I thought at the time, "Well, I certainly don't know very much. I'm a third year medical student and I don't feel very prepared when it comes to tropical medicine. But, I speak Thai. Maybe I can help."

Our first team went over to Ban Nong Samet and at that time there were hundreds of thousands of people on the border. We were the first hospital ready to accept patients, and we had 87 admissions within the first five hours — sort of an intern's nightmare. But it was a profound, life-changing experience for me.

One of the things I think about a lot is, if you're going to go work with refugees, you need to first of all be a good listener. Because, in fact, refugee communities know what they need. And if you can be a good listener, you can help them achieve what their goals are.

I was struck by the resilience of the refugees we met. We met the prima ballerina of the National Cambodian Dance Studio. We met the leading sculptor of the nation who said, "What can I sculpt to thank America and the world for helping us?"

I think people have an image of refugees as the poorest, the ones who suffer the most, and so many of those images are true — you can't begin to describe the suffering that people go through. But it's also in general an amazing, resilient group. Those who manage to escape from whatever the crisis is, those in Darfur or Cambodia or Bosnia, who manage to get to camps for assistance. I think the American Refugee Committee model of recognizing that resiliency and strength in refugees, and helping people help themselves is one that has really served the organization well in the past 30 years.

“If you're going to go work with refugees, you need to first of all be a good listener. Because, in fact, refugee communities know what they need.”



Dr. Pat Walker



Bonnie Peters

For 30 years, Bonnie Peters has given generously to help refugees survive situations completely outside their control. She first became involved in helping refugees in 1979 and has been dedicated to the cause ever since. From her perspective as a special education teacher, Bonnie appreciates the American Refugee Committee's commitment to training people and making sure that communities are then able to sustain themselves.

I think people who are refugees are in that position through none of their own doing. They're a victim of circumstance. So contributing to help them is just something I feel the rest of us need to do.

Eventually I had a standard for who I was going to give to based on how the organization trained other people to carry out the services of the organization. And in the case of the American Refugee Committee...it's not just that the money goes to save a person, this day, in this camp. But the money goes to train other people who carry on and, in turn, train other people. It's all about teaching someone how to have a better life.

I'm always interested in the underdog. With the person who can't pull themselves up by their bootstraps or who, with \$12, can. So this whole concept of loaning people \$50 or less and not only having them be able to turn their lives around but to actually start to turn their whole communities around...those are amazing stories. In America, we throw \$50 away on dinner, so that's an easy fix, if you ask me. It puts things in perspective for me.

I taught in special education. I worked with kids who had difficulty learning how to read. And one of the things I would do every day was write a saying on the board that they had to copy down, and then we would talk about that. One of my favorites is "Happiness is not in getting what you want, it's in wanting what you've got." And I like that.

I think, "You know, I've got enough." And compared to people who live in refugee camps, who don't have a bed to sleep on, and barely have a roof over their head, and cook outdoors, and don't have enough to eat — I have everything. So in my viewpoint, it's, "How are we going to take care of our brothers and how are we going to care for other people in the world who aren't as fortunate?"

I just feel like it's in giving that you receive. I really think that's true. I really have a belief that I'll always be taken care of because, as I give, somehow or another, I'll be provided for. I'll always have enough. And I think that keeps me doing this. Because I really believe that there will always be a way provided for me as long as I do my part.

And if it changed someone else's life, what greater gift for me is there than that?

With so many people who want to do something to help,
nobody should be suffering.



“It's not just that the money goes to save a person, this day, in this camp. But the money goes to train other people who carry on and, in turn, train other people.”

Even the smallest action
will make a difference.



The American Refugee Committee opened the first microlending institution in Liberia after the country's 14-year civil war ended in 2002. Liberty Finance remains the largest microfinance institution in the country. With business training and loans ranging from \$30 to \$400, thousands of men and women have been able to start businesses, rebuild their lives and strengthen their local economy.



Finda Bandor

My name is Finda Bandor. I was born in Lofa County, Liberia. When war came to my country, my husband and I took our children and went to live in a refugee camp in Guinea called Gueckedou. There was no way to earn money, so we just had the food they gave us in the camp. It wasn't enough and my children were hungry a lot. This caused me a lot of pain.

Then one day soldiers attacked the camp. Many people died. My husband was killed. I tied my two smallest children to my body and held the other four by their hands and we ran. Finally after a few days we made it to Kountaya Camp where we were safe. But I was all alone with no one to help me with the children. It was very hard.

I started a small cookery shop and sold rice with cassava greens. I earned a little money this way. Then I got a small loan from the American Refugee Committee to expand my business and they also taught me how to run it better. My business grew and soon I could pay for more food for my children as well as clothes and health care.

I paid back the loan and after two years when the war ended, I went home to Liberia. I sold my cookery items to pay for moving expenses so I was looking for a way to get money to restart my business.

Then one day I met one of my old neighbors from Kountaya Camp in the market. He was working for Liberty Finance. I showed him my loan certificate and he helped me get a loan.

I restarted my business, and now I send my children to school. I have hope that they will have a peaceful future and not have to struggle so much. I have confidence now because I can support myself and my family. Life is much easier now, and I am so grateful to the American Refugee Committee who has given me a new future.

“My business grew and soon I could pay for more food for my children as well as clothes and health care.”

The Darfur Awareness Now Group (DANG) is a student group from Roseville Area High School, near Minneapolis. Its members have organized two walk/runs and numerous other events to raise money and awareness for the people of Darfur. Alli Meyer and Emily Carlson, now starting their senior year, have been involved in the group since they were freshmen. Collectively, DANG has raised more than \$32,000 for the American Refugee Committee's programs in Darfur.

Alli: We came into it the fall of our 9th grade year. I'd never even heard of Darfur. I'd never heard that people were being killed — especially the way they were being killed. And nobody knew about it. For me I thought, "Well, I have all these resources, and we can be their voice, in a sense."

Emily: Barely anyone in our school even knew what was going on and we were like, "Why does no one know about this? Let's do something about this. And we can."

Alli: People don't get it because you're not there. Darfur is so far away, and it's hard to relate to what's going on. I say that, even though it's hard to relate because they speak a different language from us and they live in different environments, they're still human beings. You have to remember that would be like your brother being killed or your sister being raped, your mother or father being killed.

I know this is something I'll be doing for the rest of my life. If it's not with Darfur, it's with another place. It's really giving me a purpose because I think everyone's here for a reason. And I think this is kind of my reason.

Emily: If we didn't want to, we wouldn't have to do anything about this. But the fact that we can make a difference and we do, is exciting. We have this opportunity to help, so it's exciting to take it.

Alli: I think lots of times in high school you get kind of lost in the dramas and what's going on in your friend groups. And it's nice to have something to make you take a step back and be like, "Wow, this is so much more important than rumors." It's so much more important.



The Darfur Awareness Now Group

“The fact that we can make a difference and we do is exciting. We have this opportunity to help, so it's exciting to take it.”

We pool our strengths with refugees,
and we partner with them.





Susan Hikma

The American Refugee Committee's Through Our Eyes project puts video cameras in the hands of refugees, enabling them to engage their communities on putting an end to violence. Through Our Eyes teams in Uganda, Rwanda, southern Sudan, Liberia, and Thailand are trained to produce dramas and documentaries on controversial topics like rape, domestic violence, and HIV. They decide the topic and the format, recruit actors, and produce the videos. Then, they show the videos at playback sessions, to which the whole community is invited. After the screening, there is a discussion in which people share their feelings about the issue and their ideas on how to deal with it. Participants have found that simply getting people talking about the issue is the first step to getting them to change their behavior.

Susan Hikma is a participant in the Through Our Eyes project in southern Sudan. She fled fighting in her country in 1997, at the age of 15, and lived as a refugee in Uganda for eight years. She joined the American Refugee Committee in October 2008.

I have seen that I can do something to change my people and to change me. Because this violence is everywhere. This is what I know.

I'm really very happy because I had eight days of training on how to communicate and pass a message of change. I know that with all the training I got, I'm going to give the message to my people and change. I have seen that I can do something to change my people and to change me. Because this violence is everywhere. This is what I know.

I know this project will bring change because we have been moving from community to community, taking this playback. The people in the community — they're taught raping, violence against women, violence against children — this is the way of handling people. But with all these plays, I know and I believe it will really change people. This is now the right time to give them the images of what is happening.

The special thing for me is the way of passing a message. How to [communicate with] somebody who's illiterate, who cannot really read. Just seeing the image alone will reach a different category of people, and that is one thing which I really love.

I hope they change these three things: 1. Domestic violence, because I have seen the effects of domestic violence, on individuals. If we really work very hard, this domestic violence will reduce, although we cannot stop it. 2. I don't want to hear [about] rape [at all]. Rape is risking our life — being a woman, being a man, being a child. 3. And then I'm just thinking our laws of southern Sudan should be implemented. Although we are passing this message in the form of play, the government should help us in how to reduce all this violence in our community.

Since this video is made by us, and I hope this department of the organization will expand, we already have the knowledge. We will continue implementing [the project]. Let them go. The knowledge is with us. We will bring more change — more than what they expected from us.

Our whole purpose is to journey with refugees.

We meet them wherever they are on their journeys, we listen to their stories, and we help.



American Refugee Committee programs are built from the ground up.

We work with people at the most vulnerable points in their lives. They let us know what they need most, and we work together to develop ways to help them get it. The most common requests are for health care and the opportunity to make a decent living. On the following pages, you'll see how the American Refugee Committee is helping people through extremely challenging times. You'll also get a snapshot of each of our country programs: the people we serve and how we're working with them toward a better future. Our programs are as diverse as the people we serve, but they all work together for the same goal – to help people take back control of their lives.

The Ways We Work

Agriculture & Food Security
Camp Management
Capacity Building and Training
Community Development
Community Health Education
Community Reconciliation and Reintegration
Disaster Preparedness
Disease Prevention and Control
Emergency Health Care

Emergency Obstetrics
Gender-based Violence Prevention and 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 and Reintegration
Reproductive Health Care
Savings and Loans Associations
Shelter Construction and Rehabilitation
Small Business and Vocational Training
Sports and Recreation Programs
Through Our Eyes Participatory Video Communication
Water and Sanitation Services

Sudan-Darfur

Millions of Darfuris are living without access to clean water. Their wells have been destroyed or contaminated. Those who rely on farming for their livelihoods can't make a living for their families. They live in camps with no access to farmland. Or they're forced to flee fighting too frequently to raise any crops. Rather than go to school, children are staying with their parents for safety and to help their families survive. The conditions created by the fighting are putting the lives of millions of people at risk.

The American Refugee Committee is taking a variety of actions to directly help people survive this humanitarian crisis. Our corps of midwives assist pregnant mothers to safely deliver their babies, and our health clinics provide treatment and life-saving drugs to thousands of people each month. We're working with Darfuri communities to dig wells that will provide safe drinking water to thousands. And, we're partnering with families to plant crops that will feed and support them. We each contribute something different – we bring the tools and seeds and they bring the farming know-how – to grow the food that will sustain them for months.

Even in these profoundly challenging conditions, we're partnering with parents to secure a better future for Darfur. When children come to school, the American Refugee Committee provides the kids with a nutritious meal each day. Parents have one less mouth to feed, and their children will be educated and better prepared to help rebuild the region when the fighting has ended.

Liberia

In 1988, Liberia was among the richest countries in Africa – a source of great pride for many Liberians. But the 14-year civil war changed all that. When hundreds of thousands of Liberian refugees began returning home in 2004, they found their communities, businesses, and infrastructure devastated. Their country was one of the poorest.

Today, Liberians are working with vigor and optimism to restore their communities and businesses. A Liberian who wants to start a small business can come to the American Refugee Committee for immediate and practical help. Together, we'll build the know-how they need to prosper in their business, and we'll provide a seed loan to get them started. Our clients fully repay 95% of these loans – a far greater rate than any bank in the developed world.

During the war, domestic violence and rape became a major problem. Now, Liberian women have organized to put an end to violence against them. Women come to us for different reasons – counseling and medical care – help in seeking justice against their attackers – or to raise awareness that violence against women is not acceptable. Through participatory video, they tell their own stories in their own way and begin the community healing process. They want to make a change in their communities, and we're there to support them in every way we can.

who: **500,000** displaced and war-affected Darfuri Sudanese

where: In refugee camps and in towns and villages in the Nyala-Gereida and Nyala-Tulus corridors of Darfur



who: **273,000** war-affected Liberians

where: Bong, Lofa, Margibi and Montserrado counties



Pakistan

Afghan Refugees

Today, there are millions of Afghan refugees living in refugee camps in Pakistan's Balochistan Province. Some fled the oppression of the Taliban, others the Soviet Invasion in the 1980s. For years they have known no other way of life than in the camps. Entire generations have grown up without the right to move about freely or the possibility to make a living for their families.

The American Refugee Committee is on the ground helping Afghan refugees to confront the most challenging issues they face. Each day, 98,000 people turn to us as their primary source of health care in the camps and surrounding communities. Every person receives the basic care they need, but we're also there to give special attention to pregnant mothers and to train refugees in caring for their own communities. We help refugees cope with the frustrations of living in a camp by organizing youth clubs and activities, working to prevent and respond to domestic violence in the camps, and building awareness of the threat of HIV/AIDS.

Earthquake Relief

In October of 2005, a massive earthquake shattered communities throughout mountainous northern Pakistan. The impact has been long-lasting, with entire families and villages wiped out and vital infrastructure decimated.

Just hours after the quake, the American Refugee Committee began getting survivors in Bagh District the emergency relief they needed – clean water, nutritious food, shelters for those left homeless and emergency medical attention. Today, our efforts are focused on working with communities to rebuild healthcare clinics and water systems in the region so that survivors can care for themselves long after we're gone.

2009 Pakistan Displacement Crisis

In the spring of 2009, an unfathomable 3 million people fled for their lives from fighting between Taliban forces and the Pakistani government in the mountainous region of northwestern Pakistan.

Many fled to camps without clean water or enough to eat. But the vast majority have been taken in by local communities, packed in tight quarters – sometimes 50-60 people in very small homes. The strain this massive influx of people put on local infrastructure was unsustainable. Weak water and sanitation systems were on the brink of collapse, and there was a serious threat of outbreaks of disease.

The American Refugee Committee quickly began trucking clean water into refugee camps and digging wells and latrines to ensure safe and sanitary living conditions. Our aid workers have also stepped in at local clinics to provide 24/7 medical care and to try to reach as many survivors as possible.

We're also currently working to help Pakistani families who've begun returning. So far, 100,000 families have gone back to the Swat Valley. But the fighting destroyed infrastructure and other systems, leaving people without basics like clean water and sanitation. We'll soon begin work digging wells and repairing infrastructure so that basic necessities will be waiting for families when they return home.

who: **250,000** affected by the 2005 earthquake, **156,000** people affected by flooding, **101,000** Afghan refugees and others

where: District Bagh in Azad Jammu Kashmir, and Balochistan Province



Rwanda

War has raged in eastern Congo for decades – the most deadly since World War II. People living there have experienced some of the worst the world can offer – killings, beatings, and innocent people forced to join armed groups under the threat of death. Women and children are especially targeted for abuse. Every person knows someone who has been raped. Hundreds of thousands of people have escaped the terror in the Congo – 50,000 of them to refugee camps in Rwanda.

The American Refugee Committee runs the three major refugee camps in Rwanda. They are safe places to live, to care for a family, and to get an education until the danger is over. There, Congolese refugees can recover from the physical and mental abuses they suffered at home.

Refugees get the specific help they need. If a person was assaulted or contracted HIV as a result of rape, they can get help to heal and recover. If a child is sick or malnourished, they'll get the shelter, clean water, nutritious food, and basic medical care they need to survive. If a refugee mother needs help supporting her family, she can learn a new skill that will help her earn money to put clothes on her children's backs. The safety of our camps offers people the space to heal and begin to create a new future for themselves.

who: 50,120 Congolese refugees
where: Refugee Camps at Gihembe, Kiziba and Nyabiheke



Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war took an enormous toll on the country. For the past two years, the well-being of Sierra Leoneans has ranked at the very bottom in the world. One in four children die before they reach age 5. One of every 50 births results in a mother's death. And only 44% of children continue their education to high school.

In these conditions, breaking the cycle of poverty is extremely difficult. But it's not impossible. The American Refugee Committee is working with Sierra Leoneans to stem the suffering in their country and rebuild strong communities.

It all starts with the people who come to us with the goal of starting a business that will support themselves and their families – a small farm, a shop in the marketplace, furniture-making. They have little money of their own. And in most cases, we're the only place they can turn for help to overcome this extremely frustrating situation.

We make sure they have the business and practical skills they need to succeed in a new venture. And we make sure they have access to the funds – usually a loan as small as \$50 or \$100 – that will provide the initial boost for their efforts. Together we're rebuilding Sierra Leone, one small business at a time.

who: 16,000 Sierra Leoneans
where: Bo, Central, Freetown, Kailahun, Kambia, Kenema, Kono, Lumley, Portloko, and Wellington



Southern Sudan

From 1983 to 2005, civil war ripped apart the fabric of community in southern Sudan. Many people fled their homes for safer parts of the country or for refugee camps throughout eastern Africa. Millions of others stayed, suffering the violence, hunger and disease the war created.

Today is a new day. Many in southern Sudan still struggle for their survival – but the end of the war means there is hope for the future. Already, 250,000 Sudanese refugees have returned home to rebuild their communities in southern Sudan. And more are on their way back. They are both ecstatic and uneasy about their return – about how things have changed – and whether they will be welcomed back.

who: 600,000 returning Sudanese refugees, internally displaced people, and host populations
where: Kajo Keji, Lainya, Magwi, Morobo and Yei counties in southern Sudan



The American Refugee Committee is there to ease the transition home. We make sure families have access to medical care and clean water they need on their homecoming, and we work with local groups to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Some villages and homes have been abandoned for years, so we partner with communities to get things back into working order. We're also ensuring refugees can easily reintegrate into society. We provide a forum and vehicle for all parties to discuss their concerns about the return process and reconcile lingering differences. As communities melt back together and begin rebuilding, we are there to teach new skills and provide microloans to get them started.

Thailand

135,000 refugees currently reside in refugee camps in the jungles of western Thailand. Most are from Karen tribes, having fled their mountain villages because of violent persecution by the military regime in Myanmar. The camps in Thailand offer them safe haven – a place to recover from the abuses they suffered at home and to live safe from violence.

While they're in the camps, the American Refugee Committee is helping refugees protect their health and prepare for the future. We're making sure 33,000 camp residents are healthy – but we're not doing it alone. Refugees are trained by American Refugee Committee aid workers to provide high quality health care for their community. Whether they can eventually return home to Myanmar or resettle in Thailand or another country, they will leave the camps with the tools to rebuild their lives. They'll be an asset to whatever community they call home. For now, they are responsible for promoting health and defending their communities from the threats of HIV, malaria, TB and diarrheal diseases.

In Southern Thailand, we're also working with 236,000 economic migrants from Myanmar. These people have fled poverty and hunger to try to find work in Thailand. But they're still in harm's way. They don't have access to the health services available to everyone else. The American Refugee Committee is working with this group to aggressively screen for infectious diseases, promptly treat those who've become sick, and empower the community with the knowledge they need to protect themselves against disease.

Uganda

Each day is more painful than the last when you live only a couple of hours from your home but can never return there. The Acholi people of Northern Uganda – refugees in their own country – have endured this pain since conflict began there in 1986. Forced from their homes and into camps, they've had to rely on others for food, health care and other help.

Today, they are finally going home. After 20 years, they're relieved to be leaving the camps and taking back control of their lives and communities. But there are still a lot of questions about what life will be like now. The American Refugee Committee is there to help find answers to those questions and smooth the transition home.

We're partnering with communities to tackle immediate needs and help them rebuild as soon as possible. Together, we're reconstructing markets, roads, wells, and homes to help people get back on their feet. We're helping neighbors resolve disputes, survivors of violence get the counseling they need, and communities raise awareness about the dangers of HIV/AIDS and domestic violence. We're working alongside Ugandans to lay the foundations necessary to make a new start for their communities.



who: 349,000 Burmese refugees and migrants
where: Seven refugee camps and seven provinces along the Thai-Myanmar border



who: 250,000 war-affected Ugandans
where: Camps and communities in Gulu and Amuru districts





In 2008, 4,700 American Refugee Committee funding partners helped nearly 2.5 million people get essential services to regain their health and take back control of their lives.

Every single gift creates additional opportunity. We cannot list all our dedicated donors, volunteers and partners in this report, but we are incredibly thankful to each and every one of them.

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In Memorium: John Callaway

John Callaway (1936 - 2009), nationally acclaimed journalist and commentator, received more than 60 awards for distinguished reporting. His was among the country's first television coverage of the plight of Vietnamese refugee "boat people" and the formation of the American Refugee Committee in response. His subsequent work on refugee crises included a televised "town meeting" on helping refugees who resettled in the Midwest. Mr. Callaway served as a member of the American Refugee Committee's national honorary committee for 20 years.

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Statement of Activities & Changes in Net Assets
December 31, 2008

Revenue and Support	(in dollars)
Contributions and grants:	
United Nations grants	6,595,159
U.S. government grants	15,121,743
Private support contributions	6,058,371
Foreign government grants	441,181
Contributions	159,670
Micro-credit interest and fees	947,023
Interest and investment income	(12,309)
Other income	73,076
Total revenue and support	<u>29,383,914</u>

Expenses	(in dollars)
Program services:	
International programs	24,455,675
Supporting services:	
General and administrative	2,611,543
Fundraising	645,039
Total Supporting Services	3,256,582
Total Expenses	<u>27,712,257</u>

Changes in Net Assets **1,671,657**

Net Assets at beginning of year, as restated **17,215,457**

Net Assets at End of Year **18,887,114**

Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2008

Assets	(in dollars)
Assets	
Cash:	
Headquarters Cash	991,251
Overseas Cash	2,567,179
Total Cash	3,558,430
Investments	451,082
Grants receivable	15,029,913
Other receivables	1,010,424
Pledges receivable	238,958
Micro-credit loans receivable	2,703,136
Accrued interest receivable	2,439
Prepaid expenses	376,928
Equipment and vehicles, net of accumulated depreciation Of \$225,707	<u>162,027</u>
Total Assets	<u>23,530,898</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets (in dollars)

Liabilities	
Line of Credit	300,000
Accounts payable	2,058,390
Grants payable	243,775
Micro-credit loans payable	1,492,026
Accrued salaries and benefits	549,593
Total Liabilities	<u>4,643,784</u>

Net Assets	
Unrestricted	1,868,579
Temporarily restricted	16,182,780
Permanently restricted	<u>835,755</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>18,887,114</u>

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **23,530,898**

2008 Financial Statements

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

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

2009 Board of Directors

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board members for their service:**

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Karen Randolph

Susan Roberts

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Barry Wheeler
Country Director, Rwanda

We welcome the opportunity to meet and talk with you.

Go to www.ARCrelief.org/whatcanIdo. Tell us how you want to be involved in making the world a better place. If you share your ideas, we can work together to create the opportunities you're looking for to get involved.

Engage in a new way.

This is the time to join us and engage in a whole new way. We're reinventing the way we do business. 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.

Think about it (or maybe you already have). The potential is truly awesome. The American Refugee Committee is and always has been only as strong as the people who contribute – donors, volunteers, staff, and partners.

Now imagine that we reorganize to truly harness the talent and drive of all of these actors in a new way. What would happen?

You tell us.

Call:

(800) 875-7060

to speak with an Engagement Officer

Email:

whatcanido@ARChq.org

Visit us:

American Refugee Committee
430 Oak Grove Street, Suite 204
Minneapolis, MN 55403, USA



Bagh	Gituza	Khartoum	Quetta
Bangkok	Gulu	Kibuye	Ranong
Byumba	Islamabad	Kigali	Sangklaburi
Chicago	Juba	Kono	Umphang
Chumporn	Kakata	Malakal	Voinjama
Freetown	Kailahun	Minneapolis	Washington
Ganta	Kajo Keji	Monrovia	Yei
Gbarnga	Kampala	Nimule	
Gereida	Kenema	Nyala	

www.ARCRelief.org