

ANNUAL REPORT

2005

CONTENTS

Mission.....	4
Letter from the chairman & CEO.....	4
Map of RI.....	6
Emergency Response	
Pakistan.....	8
Hurricane Katrina.....	10
Livelihoods & Food Supply	
Darfur, Sudan.....	12
Niger.....	14
Azerbaijan.....	16
Women's Development	
Afghanistan.....	18
Infrastructure & Shelter	
Iraq.....	20
Education & Global Connectivity	
Tajikistan (GCEP).....	22
Sri Lanka (GCYP).....	24
Civil Society, Peace Building & Protection	
Palestine.....	26
Financials.....	27
Board & Donors.....	28

RI Mission Statement

RI-SOL's Mission

Serve the needs of the most vulnerable, particularly women and children, victims of natural disasters, civil conflicts, and the poor worldwide with a specific focus on neglected groups and individuals;

Promote self-reliance, peaceful coexistence, and reintegration of conflict- or disaster-affected groups;

Provide holistic, multi-sectoral and sustainable programs that benefit the most needy by bridging emergency relief and long-term development at a grassroots level;

Empower communities through capacity building and by maximizing local resources in program design and implementation;

Protect lives from physical injury or death and/or psychological trauma where present; and

Uphold the highest professional norms in program delivery, including accountability to donors and beneficiaries alike

Dear Friends,

2005 marked Relief International's 15th year on the front lines of the struggle to save lives and rebuild livelihoods. Over the years, I have witnessed RI's transformation from a small (though well-staffed) organization with individual programs in a handful of countries, to one that operates on a global level, with a presence in 16 countries and an expert staff that brings comprehensive, multi-sectoral programming to areas and populations affected by natural disasters and civil conflict. Fifteen years on, RI has proved to be one of the leading non-profits for direct humanitarian relief and development.

The world faced some great challenges in 2005 – the devastating earthquake in Pakistan, Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast, and the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, among them. In these occasions of trial and challenge, RI was there, working to help people regain their lives, their livelihoods, and their hope. Our successful, replicable strategies have been life-saving for tens of thousands of vulnerable people around the world.

Emergency Relief – In any disaster or emergency, the top priority is to save lives and alleviate suffering. RI focuses on addressing first-response needs and is sometimes the first US-based agency to provide high-impact assistance. In Pakistan, RI was on the ground with a medical team to help the wounded and distribute emergency supplies. In New Orleans, RI provided disaster assistance to families displaced by Katrina. In Sudan, RI has been providing ongoing medical and nutritional aid to those displaced by the civil conflict.

Livelihood Development is at the cornerstone of what we do. On

Letter from the CEO

Day One of any crisis, immediate relief must be coupled with long-term development strategies that serve to restore livelihoods while preserving human dignity. In countries such as Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Niger, RI's micro-loan and livestock programs help people, particularly women, support their families and contribute to the country's economic revival.

Infrastructure and Community Building is essential for empowering beneficiaries and providing a framework for long-term recovery. This can be achieved through projects such as repairing municipal buildings in Iraq, constructing education facilities for women in Afghanistan, and the Gandhi Project, which promotes the concept of community and peaceful resistance in the West Bank and Gaza.

Youth Connectivity and Education is the means by which RI helps to foster global understanding. Proper education, together with bridging the technological divide, is the key to improving lives. RI's ICT programs in Palestine, Jordan and Tajikistan encourage youths to connect with people in other countries, as well as expand their opportunities in the digital age. Student exchange programs in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have enabled students to participate in the global community and promoted cross-cultural understanding.

For humanitarian practitioners, 15 years is enough time to assess performance and draw lessons. Our experiences in Pakistan, Sudan, New Orleans, Afghanistan and Niger show

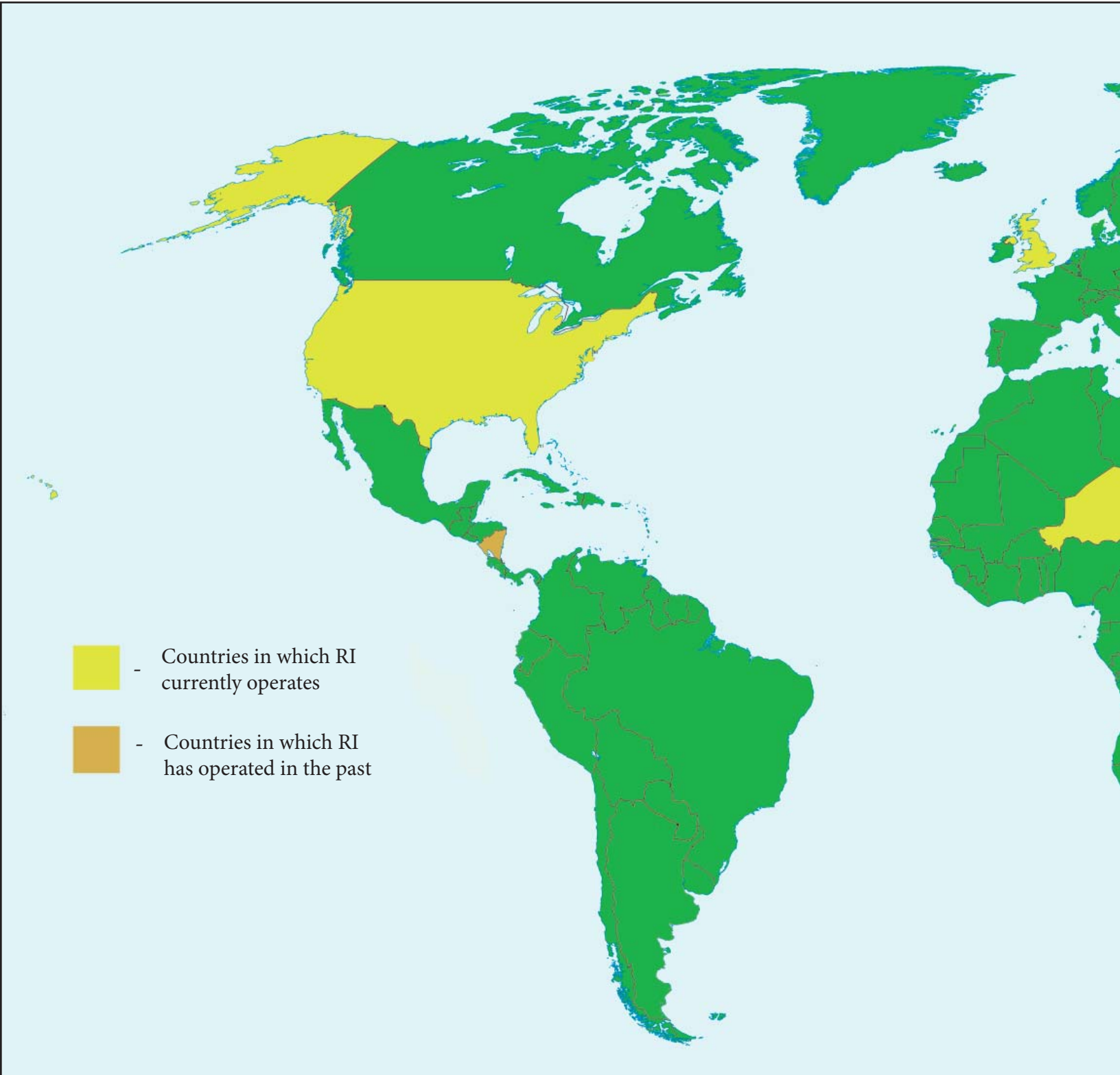


that livelihoods, community, and education initiatives can prevent the expansion of a humanitarian crisis and guarantee a sustainable recovery for vulnerable populations. I would like to extend Relief International and its staff, board members, donors and supporters my congratulations for 15 years of hard and heroic work.

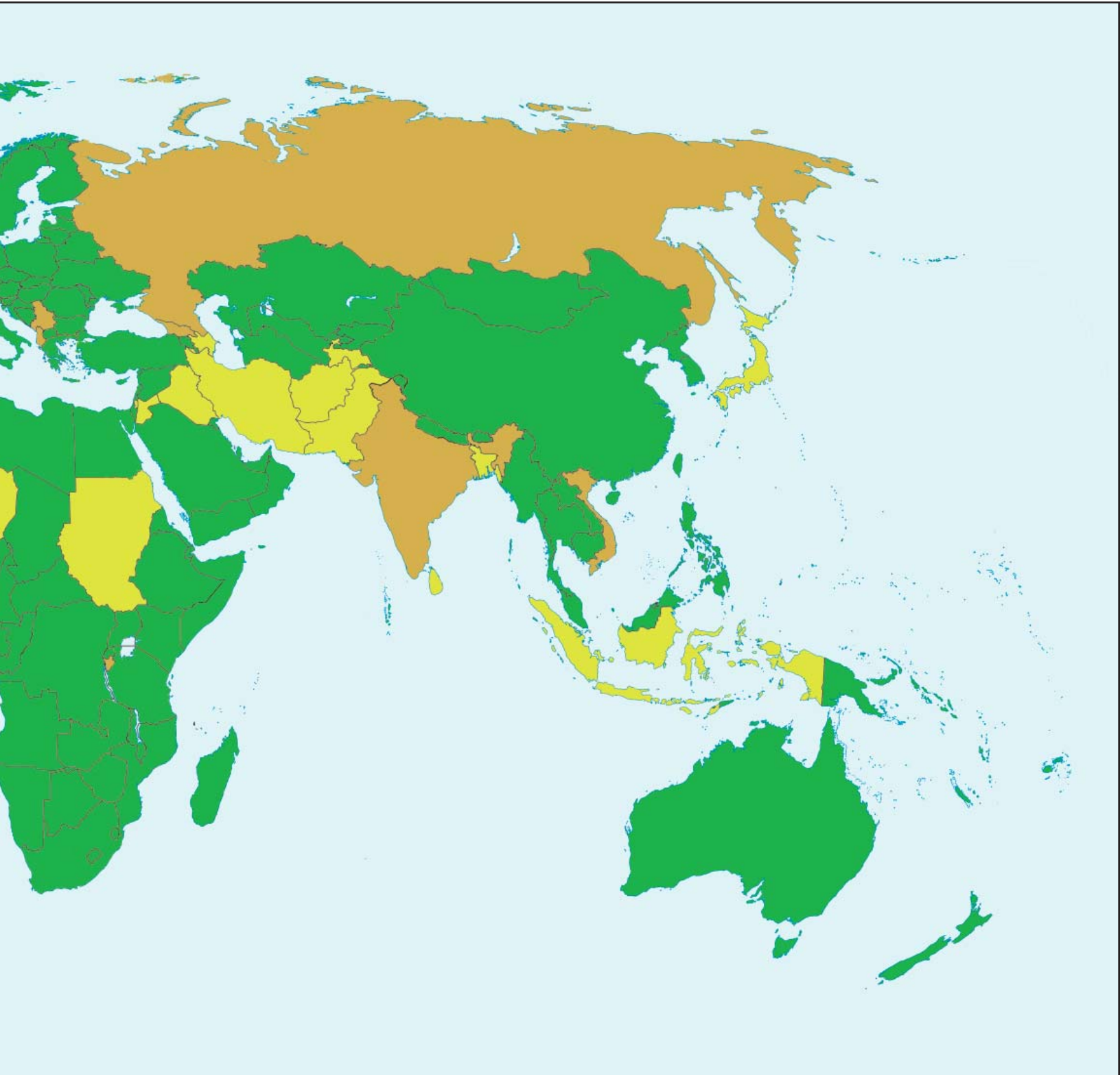
With Kind Regards,

Farshad Rastegar, Ph.D
CEO

RI-SOL PAST



AND PRESENT





EARTHQUAKE IN PAKISTAN



FEATURED PROGRAM

On October 8th, 2005, a devastating magnitude-7.6 earthquake struck the India-Pakistan border. The worst natural disaster to hit the region in decades, it claimed more than 87,000 lives and left over three million people without shelter at the onset of a harsh winter. Immediately after the quake, RI dispatched an emergency response team to Pakistan to provide both short-term humanitarian relief, as well as long-term recovery assistance for communities affected by the earthquake.

Emergency Food and Medical Relief

Within hours, RI's emergency response team was deployed to Pakistan and immediately began distributing emergency relief items, including food, water, blankets, tents and hygiene kits. Through a partnership and a generous donation from Kaiser Permanente, RI also dispatched emergency medical teams to earthquake-stricken communities and remote villages. Teams set up makeshift medical tents and mobile medical units in hard-hit areas near the epicenter of the earthquake, treating everything from broken bones and gangrene to delivering babies and treating illnesses. RI has dispatched seven medical teams and established two field clinics since the earthquake, providing ongoing medical services to more than 30,000 survivors to date.

Preparing for Winter

Winters in the Himalayan mountains are marked

Spotlight

Building Transitional & Permanent Homes in Pakistan

More than 98 percent of families lost their homes in the devastated villages of Bhogarmong and Hilkot in the Mansehra District. In Hilkot village, RI -SOL began constructing more than 170 transitional homes for families, designed to provide adequate shelter to survive the first winters after the quake. In Bhogarmong, RI-SOL launched a pilot project to construct 25 permanent shelters using an innovative panel technology that can withstand earthquakes of up to 8.0 on the Richter scale. These shelters have proven a practical, affordable and time-efficient alternative to conventional construction methods – each home takes one week to construct.



Residents of Hilkot Village build a shelter

by snowfall, freezing rain and dangerously cold temperatures, putting millions of homeless earthquake survivors at risk. RI helped prepare the local population for the oncoming winter, distributing over 3,000 winter clothing packs and more than 4,000 blankets to young children living in villages in the mountainous region in the district of Mansehra. Working alongside the UN's World Food Program, RI also established a regular rotation through these villages, distributing essential food items including wheat, salt, lentils, cooking oil and other necessities, preventing villagers from having to walk long distances in harsh temperatures to receive aid. Through this distribution program, RI contributed to the nutritional well-being of nearly 180,000 earthquake survivors during the winter season.

Long-Term Reconstruction

RI has made an ongoing commitment to help ensure the continuing development of villages damaged by the earthquake, and has instituted a number of programs designed to restore the self-reliance, independence and vitality of these communities. Within weeks of the quake, RI instituted an Adopt-A-Village program to raise funds to reconstruct damaged infrastructure in small villages, including housing, schools, medical clinics, libraries and sanitation facilities. RI has also initiated animal restocking and micro-credit loan programs for earthquake survivors, providing access to economic resources necessary for survivors to regain financial self-reliance. These programs will continue through 2006.



Sir Ben Kingsley traveled to Pakistan with RI to visit survivors after the earthquake



HURRICANE KATRINA



Nearly **2,000** Kid-Kits have been distributed to displaced schoolchildren in New Orleans

FEATURED PROGRAM

When Hurricane Katrina tore through the Gulf Coast in August 2005, RI brought its 15 years of international disaster response experience to assist victims throughout southeastern Louisiana. Just hours after Hurricane Katrina's initial impact, RI rallied resources and initiated deployment of Mobile Distribution Units (MDUs), moving food, water, clothing and other life sustaining supplies to meet the immediate needs of small and isolated communities in the New Orleans area. RI assisted more than 1,500 people in the days after the hurricane, helping them cope with the costliest and one of the deadliest natural disasters in US history.

In the weeks after the hurricane, RI transitioned into the recovery and restoration phase, helping Louisiana residents rebuild their livelihoods and communities through long-term educational and capacity-building programs. To encourage families with children to return to their communities, RI initiated an educational assistance project, helping to restore facilities at three public elementary schools in New Orleans by providing classroom materials, learning software, extracurricular equipment and computers. Additionally, RI rallied schools and organizations across the U.S. to assemble and donate nearly 2,000 backpacks filled with new school supplies, games and hygiene items to children affected by the storm. "Kid-Kits" were given to children in families unable to replace basic items lost in the hurricane and distributed when children registered for their first day back at school or arrived with no supplies.

To help rebuild technological infrastructure obliterated by Katrina, RI is constructing innovative Community Information Resource Centers (CIRCs) in New Orleans. These will provide underprivileged communities with free access to the Internet, along with the training to develop computer and other technological skills essential for the rehabilitation of the city.

BY THE NUMBERS ...

10,000

Approximate number of hurricane survivors who received RI aid

20,000

Number of teddy bears distributed to New Orleans kids as part of RI's Hugs program

187,000

Approximate number of school-age children displaced by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana



CRISIS IN DARFUR



FEATURED PROGRAM

The humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of western Sudan is one of the most severe in the world today. In collaboration with other NGOs and the government of Sudan, RI is implementing programs to increase the economic well-being and security of the most vulnerable residents of North Darfur.

Nutrition & Food Distribution

In the critical regions of Kafod and Tawilla, RI conducted two anthropometric and nutritional surveys to help make critical determinations for nutrition interventions and underlying needs. Based on the results, RI team members distributed 695,736 MT of food to 34,874 beneficiaries in the Kafod area. As part of RI's commitment to building capacity of the infrastructure, RI also established nutrition posts in communities potentially at risk in Darfur, including Kunjara, Bobasijili, Tawilla, Rwanda camp and the Argo camp area. These posts are to be run by community residents on an ongoing basis, supported by trained Community Nutrition Workers to provide education, nutrition, and health services to under-five children and pregnant/nursing women.

Food Security & Animal Health

In Darfur, animals are a central part of family welfare.

Out of a total of 6.5 million people living in Darfur, roughly half have been directly affected by violence, conflict, displacement and famine.

Donkeys carry people, goods and water; goats provide milk and meat; and chickens provide eggs for food and income. RI's veterinary teams provide critical primary health care in six Animal Treatment Centers in the town of Kabkabiya in North Darfur. These clinics employ 18 Community Animal Health Workers and four assistants who support trainings, timely vaccinations to prevent disease outbreak, and basic preventive treatments to donkeys, goats, cattle, chickens, horses and camels. Per month, RI teams treat approximately 8,000 animals in these accessible centers.

Ensuring animal health for family food security is supported via the RI fodder program. In 2005 RI distributed fodder for approximately 5,000 donkeys via four centrally-located fodder centers constructed by communities in North Darfur. More than 2,000 residents registered as beneficiaries of this program, each receiving 80 kg of fodder to help keep their animals alive during critical periods.

Income Generation and Livelihoods

In March 2005, RI established a small-enterprise support program in Darfur. Business trainings held in the towns of Saraf Umra and Kabkabiya in North Darfur served more than 900 beneficiaries, with microcredit loans disbursed to 20 groups and 27



Chickens being cared for at an Animal Treatment Center in Kabkabiya

people—including the first-ever loan to a women's group via RI's Women's Development program.

Feedback from community members tell the story of how even a simple business class can change one's life. The program has provided some people with the means to pay for their children's schooling, others to start groceries, metalwork, and other niche businesses. For one displaced resident-turned-business woman, she gained the purchase power to move out of a camp and have her own piece of land on which to build a home—not a temporary shelter.



NIGER



FEATURED PROGRAM

The Azawagh region of Niger is a rural, arid and largely pastoral area which relies almost exclusively on the availability of natural resources, particularly water, to sustain its inhabitants' livelihoods. The 2005 food shortage exposed herders to massive livestock losses (up to 75 percent of livestock in the Azawagh region) caused by hunger and disease, and left many without means of supporting themselves or their families. RI is working with its local NGO partner Masnat to implement an integrated livelihood and food security program to support more than 4,000 vulnerable residents.

Livestock Restocking

RI is restocking 400 herding households (particularly female-headed households) with a total of 3,900 sheep, goats, cows, donkeys and camels to help them rebuild their herds after the catastrophic losses they suffered in late 2005. The restocking strategy will be complemented by the provision of veterinary services and training, as well as the improvement of existing techniques for production, preservation and storage of produce.

Increasing Access to Water and Cereal

Establishing regular access to vital resources is essential for avoiding crises in the future. To increase communities' access to water, RI rehabilitated four ancestral deep wells and creating two shallow wells in the Azawagh region. RI is also building eight permanent cereal storage facilities to be stocked with locally purchased and managed millet and sorghum. This will help communities cope with future food shortages by ensuring the availability of emergency supplies.

Improving Socio-Economic Conditions

RI is working with Masnat and local residents to devise long-term solutions for improving socio-economic conditions in Azawagh. To avoid food shortages, RI is providing seeds, tools and training to farmers in eight locations to increase their yields of potatoes, carrots, pumpkins and beans. RI has also launched a microcredit program in Azawagh, helping women

secure a better livelihood by training them in the use of savings and credit, which encourages them to strengthen their financial status.

Spotlight

Reducing Poppy Cultivation in Afghanistan

To reduce Afghan farming communities' dependency on opium poppy cultivation, RI has implemented agricultural trials to determine the suitability of alternative high-value crops in eastern Afghanistan. High-value vegetables - peppers, mung beans (a legume), garlic - and techniques such as drip irrigation are tested on demonstration plots and in participating farmers' fields.

The program also has an educational component in which farmers receive training in modern farming techniques and members of the agriculture faculty of Nangarhar University receive training in project design, implementation and data collection. A total of 78 farmers and 12 faculty members were trained in 2005, and twenty-five farms were involved in trials for this program. All of these farms have subsequently stopped poppy growing.



Afghan farmers plant high value vegetables in a newly constructed greenhouse through RI's alternative livelihoods program



AZERBAIJAN

MADAD Credit

FEATURED PROGRAM

Azerbaijan's long-standing conflict with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region has created a large refugee population of approximately one million. Many of these families live in substandard living conditions, which often has a severe impact on their health, education and economic opportunities. RI's MADAD microfinance program, licensed by the National Bank of Azerbaijan and partially funded by the World Bank, stimulates economic development in conflict-affected areas by providing access to loans and training to Azerbaijanis who otherwise lack the capital to engage in economic activity.

RI's microcredit program stimulates economic development and provides livelihoods for the poor through the provision of agricultural credits, livestock revolving funds and microcredit enterprise expansion in a relief and transitional development setting. The microcredit program distributes loans to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and other conflict-affected populations through a local NGO partner, MADAD, to initiate small enterprises in market gardening, bee keeping, animal husbandry, agricultural training and marketing methods. Cooperatives of five to eight members, called



A community council meeting in Azerbaijan. Community members receive training in all aspects of small business operations as part of RI's MADAD credit program

Spotlight***Sri Lanka: Alternative Livelihoods for Tsunami Victims***

RI's Rural Savings Creation Project (RSCP) provides microfinance services for tsunami-affected families on the east coast of Sri Lanka. RSCP particularly targets women, forming 61 Community-Based Organizations in 2005 that allowed 1,615 Sri Lankan women access to alternative livelihoods training and loans. Each CBO elects officers who receive training in group leadership, records-keeping and basic microfinance operations. Women's groups have saved \$14,522 to date and achieved a remarkable repayment rate of 100 percent.



RI trained six Sri-Lankan women in all aspects of bakery operations as part of a pilot microfinance project in December 2005

solidarity groups, each present a basic business plan to apply for loans and training under the program and provide a collective loan guarantee. After being reviewed by MADAD, groups receive loans for an initial 8-to-12 month period. The maximum loan size for the first period is no more than \$3,000 (US), but upon satisfactory repayment of the first loan, groups are eligible for a second loan of up to \$6,000 (US) to continue growing their businesses.

MADAD credit emphasizes economic and business training as an essential part of the program, minimizing the delinquency rate on loans and the risk of business failure. Solidarity members are trained on all aspects of business operations, including group-building and management, business and market planning, financial management, agriculture and IT business technology. This training is provided free of charge to solidarity groups and is offered on an ongoing basis for the duration of the loan.

Since 2002, when the program started, approximately 300 loans have been distributed to more than 45 groups, over 80 percent of which were comprised of IDPs. RI plans to continue the program in Azerbaijan on an ongoing basis, and has since exported similar MADAD programs to Afghanistan and Iran.

Since 2002, almost 99 % of MADAD loans were repaid in full, and the total loan loss-rate of the program remains at zero.



WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN



FEATURED PROGRAM

Women in Afghanistan have suffered disproportionately during the country's 20 years of conflict. The impact of underdevelopment and war were compounded by repressive policies instituted by the Taliban, which denied women access to education, employment and health services. As a result, over 80 percent of women in Afghanistan were illiterate as of 2005, one of the highest illiteracy rates in the world. Additionally, about 20 percent of all adult Afghan women are widows, forced to fend for themselves and their families in a country with few economic opportunities for women. RI's programs in Afghanistan aim to provide greater opportunities for women and girls, empowering them to become self-sufficient, capable participants in Afghan society.

Educational Training for Women in Afghanistan

The end of Taliban rule allowed Afghan women displaced by the war to return to their former communities, though many returned without the necessary skills or training to support themselves or their families. RI's Integrated Assistance to Young Women Returnees and Internally

Spotlight

Protecting Sudanese Women Through Fuel-Efficient Stoves

Typically, women in Darfur cook over an open fire, which requires an enormous amount of firewood—a scarce natural resource—the smoke from which produces an increase in respiratory ailments, particularly in children. The civil conflict in Darfur has made the often long journey to collect firewood a dangerous trek, putting women and young girls at risk for rape or violent attack.

Starting in September 2005, the Women's Development team and the Protection team at RI Sudan have held workshops that teach women how to build fuel-efficient stoves that burn more cleanly and require less wood, reducing the impact of smoke inhalation and the need for dangerous travel. In its first year, the stoves project trained an average of 50 women each week.



A Sudanese woman in Darfur operates a fuel-efficient stove indoors

Displaced Persons (IDPs) program is designed to help vulnerable Afghan women gain vital life skills including literacy, vocational skills, basic health education, peaceful conflict resolution and a better understanding of their rights under the new Afghan constitution and elections. The program also includes catch-up education for young women who were unable to complete school. Basic education classes consist of 50 minutes of Dari or Pashto, 20 minutes of mathematics, 20 minutes of peace/civic/health education, and 30 minutes of vocational training. Vocational training focuses on tailoring, embroidery, vegetable gardening and food preservation. During 2005, RI provided basic education to 6,202 women, catch-up education to 2,355 women, and vocational training to 1,801 women in Nangarhar and Kabul provinces.

Opportunities Through Microfinance

RI's microenterprise program aims to provide Afghan women with access to business training and resources. In 2005, this program delivered vocational education, business training and business start-up services to 4,000 women and disabled people in the Nangarhar, Laghman and southern Kunar provinces. Training activities and business support take place in the context of self-help groups formed under this program. As part of the small enterprise program, women have acquired over 500 sheep with the help of microfinance.

Civic Participation and NGO Capacity

The National Solidarity Program (NSP), instituted with the cooperation of the government of Afghanistan, seeks to increase community participation and planning while at the same time building rural communities' capacities for democratic participation and decision-making. RI is careful to include women and other traditionally excluded groups in the decision-making process, ensuring they have a voice in the newly-formed Community Development Councils in their communities.



REBUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN IRAQ

FEATURED PROGRAM

The fall of Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq allowed a number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who had previously fled the southern regions of Basrah and Missan to return home. Sadly, they returned to find their previously prosperous communities in ruins. RI's efforts toward Iraqi reconstruction have primarily been focused on rebuilding the damaged infrastructure of these regions, working with locally-based groups to recreate healthy, sustainable communities.

School Construction & Rehabilitation

In 2005, RI constructed or rehabilitated 21 schools in the Missan and Basrah governorates, providing educational opportunities to more than 11,000 students. While the schools serve primarily school-age children, many work in shifts to accommodate older students who previously did not have educational opportunities because of their age or did not advance beyond primary school. Furniture and appliances, the majority of which were manufactured locally, were provided by RI. RI also trained school maintenance personnel in preventive and routine maintenance of school buildings, electrical systems and plumbing systems. The results have been encouraging - the construction of just five of these schools resulted in a 58 percent increase in school attendance as of February 2005.

The Rehabilitation of

Al-Edreci Primary School was one of the first schools built by RI in the Missan governate. Named after an ancient Muslim scientist, the school was completed in February 2005 and has been operational since. The old school, pictured below, was torn down and rebuilt completely from scratch, including new

Before...



The Bam Earthquake in Iran: Two Years Later

RI was one of the first NGOs to respond to the devastating December 26, 2003 earthquake in Bam, Iran. RI continued its rehabilitation and community development activities in Bam in 2005, long after most other international aid organizations had withdrawn from the area. In total, RI has constructed 840 permanent houses, two medical clinics, two schools, and two community centers for residents of the severely-damaged villages of Poshtrood and Espchikan. RI has also established a microcredit program to provide earthquake victims with small loans for the purchase of livestock, sewing equipment, and the establishment and renovation of small businesses



An Iranian man stands in front of his new home, completed in March 2005

Al-Edreci Primary School

foundations, plumbing, windows, bathrooms and essential furnishings such as desks and chairs. The school also features a large field for outdoor activities and recreation. Like all RI-constructed schools, Al-Edreci provides children with access to clean water, an essential part of their health and well-being.

...After



Water & Sanitation

Prior to the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq's water and sanitation system was relatively efficient with 95 percent of the urban and 75 percent of the rural populations having access to safe, potable water. Since then, the water and sanitation infrastructure has been significantly damaged, posing a serious health threat to Iraqis.

With the assistance of UNICEF, RI rehabilitated the water and sanitation systems of an additional 20 schools in the Missan governorate, serving a total of 9,668 students and 548 staff. These schools were outfitted with water coolers, an essential appliance during the hot spring and summer seasons. In collaboration with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, RI also installed compact water treatment units in seven Missan communities that lacked a reliable supply of potable water, providing clean water to more than 1,000 returning families. The installed units were manufactured in Iraq, thus contributing to the restoration of the local manufacturing base.

Returnee Monitoring

With UNHCR and Ockenden International, RI surveyed more than 140 villages and 3,000 families - covering almost the entire governorate of Missan - to gather information on topics relevant to returnees including shelter, water, sanitation, employment and public services. Results will be used in the development of future reconstruction efforts.



TAJIKISTAN

Global Connections & Exchange Program



FEATURED PROGRAM

The Tajikistan Global Connections and Exchange Program (GCEP) has established 24 Internet Learning Centers (ILCs) in secondary schools across the country. Each of the 24 ILCs is equipped with new computers, a laser printer, a digital camera and unlimited access to the Internet via leased lines or radio modems. To keep centers open during power outages, centers have been provided with generators as needed.

Collaborative Projects Between Schools

In 2005, a total of 11 US schools connected online with Tajikistan, sharing projects and discussions with 680 Tajik students. Each school team is also committed to a year-long cross-border collaboration on interactive projects that address globally-relevant topics including human and minority rights, conflict resolution, volunteerism, civic participation and leadership. The collaboration is facilitated via websites, email, chat and forums. GCEP actively encourages girls' participation in these projects, striving for a minimum of 50 percent girls in each student team.

RI-SOL in the Community

The ILCs function as community resources, inviting community groups, local NGOs and other schools to use technology for learning. Programs targeting disadvantaged groups such as orphans, refugees and disabled people are held in the ILCs, along with access and training for parents and other community

Relief International - Schools Online

Schools Online is the educational division of Relief International. Its mission is to help underserved students access and use Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for learning and cross-cultural dialogue.



SCHOOLS ONLINE

Spotlight

Connecting Global Communities

Relief International - Schools Online (RI-SOL) connectivity programs provide ICT access and training to disadvantaged communities around the world. RI-SOL expanded its connectivity programs substantially in 2005.

Palestine: Centers of Excellence

In 2005, RI-SOL established the RI-SOL-HP Center of Excellence in Jenin to increase computer literacy in classrooms through specific programs targeting students, teachers, women and community members. The Center is equipped with state-of-the-art ICT technology and is designed to prepare Palestinian youth to enter the knowledge-based economy. A center in Hebron is planned for 2006.

Digital Centers in Jordan

In addition to continuing its activities in the Al Wahdat digital center established in October 2004, RI-SOL opened another digital center in the refugee camp of Baqa'a in September 2005. The center offers intensive computer training courses and improving access to ICT for underprivileged youth, teachers, the unemployed and other community members. Additionally, RI-SOL established a regional training center in Amman, which has been used to facilitate regional training and teacher development.

ICT Training in Afghanistan

RI-SOL's community-based ICT program in Afghanistan provides training for women and youth in Kabul, Takhar and Nangahar. Participants receive basic training in Microsoft programs and the Internet, while learning to access occupational information such as health, educational and agricultural resources. To date, 178 female community members and 299 teachers have achieved basic ICT training.



SRI LANKA

Global Citizenship & Youth Philanthropy



FEATURED PROGRAM

RI's Global Citizenship and Youth Philanthropy (GCYP) initiatives aim to prepare international youth for living and participating in an interconnected, interdependent world, enabling young people to acquire the knowledge, skills and values that allow them to make a global impact through local actions. In 2005, GCYP activities focused on mainstreaming the curriculum, developing sustainable local groups and youth action projects, and outreach to promote greater awareness and action on global development issues. The GCYP program encompasses GCEP initiatives in Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and the Palestinian territories, the Sri Lanka Youth Empowerment and Exploration program, and Teacher Professional Development projects.

Sri Lanka Youth Exchange

In 2005, ten GCEP high school students from Los Angeles engaged in a three-week exchange in Sri Lanka to empower both American and Sri Lankan youth to explore cross-cultural sources of conflict and leadership skills. By fostering a mutual understanding and appreciation among these youths from two countries, the program empowered US-based teens to work with their foreign peers in alleviating problems that emerged in the aftermath of the tsunami. The three-week service-oriented exchange

focused on leadership, international volunteerism and community service by actively aiding in the country's tsunami reconstruction efforts. During the exchange, students were able to explore the capital, Colombo, the tsunami-affected regions along the southern and eastern coasts, and the central highlands of Kandy.

In southern Sri Lanka, the American students came face-to-face with their Sri Lankan GCEP counterparts – several youth leaders from an indigenous NGO, the Center for Peace Building and Reconciliation. Together, 10 Americans and 30 Sri Lankan youth worked to conduct a needs assessments of the community and collaborate on joint projects. The US students also experienced home-stays with the Sinhalese youth, which enabled them to learn about Sri Lankan family life first hand. The GCYP Tsunami Relief Youth Exchange was made possible through private donations pledged by RI Board Member Kitty Dukakis and the Annenberg Foundation.



An American exchange student meets with children at a Sri Lankan elementary school

Spotlight

Bangladeshi & Palestinian Teacher Exchange to the United States



Anwar from Bangladesh, left, visits with American students

In September 2005, six Bangladeshi and Palestinian teachers embarked on a three-week exchange to the U.S. as part of RI's Teacher Professional Development program. The program, which aims to promote cross-cultural understanding and dialogue among educators, allowed the teachers to visit schools in Los Angeles, shadowing classrooms, giving presentations, meeting with local officials and gaining an understanding of life in the United States while simultaneously sharing their own culture with American students and teachers. The teachers also received professional training in how to effectively integrate ICT into the classroom, topping off their journey in Washington D.C., where they met with officials from the State Department.



PALESTINE

The Gandhi Project



FEATURED PROGRAM

Relief International was pleased to implement the Gandhi Project in the Palestinian Territories in 2005. Supported by generous grants from the Skoll Foundation and the Global Catalyst Foundation, the Gandhi Project promotes principles of non-violence, economic self-reliance, solidarity and unity through community screenings of the film *Gandhi* throughout Palestine. The 1982 movie, which won nine Academy Awards including Best Picture, has been dubbed into Arabic for this project. Following screenings, audiences participate in discussions of the applications of Gandhi's philosophy to the current political situation within the Palestinian Territories.

Since its premiere in April 2005 at the cultural palace in Ramallah, the film has been shown in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron and is currently being viewed by audiences in schools, refugee camps, universities, community associations and NGOs, all of whom have been extremely receptive to the initiative and eager

to participate in discussions. The project has launched forums of discussion with grassroots communities and organizations about Gandhi's philosophy of peaceful resistance and social change.

In addition, the Gandhi Project supports developmental projects by providing financial support and capacity-building assistance to local NGOs, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and the media for programs promoting peace-building and Gandhi's philosophy. The Gandhi Project also has developed coordination structures for NGOs in the Palestinian Territories, providing technical assistance and financial support.

Between April and November 2005, more than 3,100 Palestinians attended screenings of the film Gandhi.

Spotlight

Relief Iraq: Developing New Grassroots Communities

In Iraq, the legacy of Saddam Hussein's regime is an almost complete absence of non-political civil society with the capacity to implement projects that meet the needs of Iraqis. In an effort to build NGO capacity in Iraq, Relief Iraq (RIq) was founded in 2005 as a local counterpart to Relief International. Over the next five years, Relief Iraq will transition from a model in which RI is primarily responsible for the design and implementation of programs, fundraising and accountability to a wholly independent organization that has its own active board, trained staff and the capacity to develop and secure resources for its own programs. Relief Iraq is currently recruiting and developing new projects in the areas of livelihoods restoration, returnee monitoring and protection, and the development of new grassroots institutions.



Relief Iraq staff receive training in NGO operations in 2005

Statement of 2005 Financial Position

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Grants and contributions	\$ 13,106,766
Government Contracts	4,155,552
Contributed food and relief commodities	3,932,788
Investment income (loss)	(7,490)
Other revenue	981
Net assets released from donor restrictions	<u>-</u>

Total Support and Revenue 21,188,597

EXPENSES

Program Services:	
Community Development, Shelter and Refugee Resettlement	13,591,943
Education: Schools, Libraries and ICT in ED	1,344,678
Women's Development	329,795
Emergency Response	823,795
Health, Household Food and Economic Security	<u>578,218</u>

Total program services 16,668,429

General and Administrative 2,142,005

Total expenses 18,810,434

Changes in net assets before other items 2,378,163

OTHER ITEMS

Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	62,727
Funds returned to donor	<u>(11,430)</u>

Changes in net assets 2,429,460

Net assets at beginning of year 6,706,543

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR \$ 9,136,003

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,487,536
Investments	221,576
Loans receivable	413,116
Pledges receivable	125,000
Grants receivable	8,497,047
Other receivables	296
Prepaid expenses	<u>6,663</u>

Total current assets 10,751,234

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Furniture and fixtures	2,084
Office Equipment	20,132
Computer equipment	8,773
Vehicles	<u>215,242</u>

246,231
Less: Accumulated depreciation (126,002)

Net property and equipment 120,229

OTHER ASSETS

Deposits 6,791

Total other assets 6,791

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 10,878,582

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Loans payable	558,056
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	<u>1,184,195</u>

Total current liabilities 1,742,251

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	457,927
Temporarily restricted	<u>8,678,076</u>

Total net assets 9,136,003

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$ 10,878,254

COMMODITY DONATION IN 2005 \$ 3,932,788

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