

# 2007 ANNUAL REPORT



**RELIEF**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
*Saving Lives, Sustaining Livelihoods*





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# Our Mission

**Serve** the needs of the most vulnerable, particularly women and children, victims of natural disasters, 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, multisectoral and sustainable programs that benefit the most needy by bridging emergency relief and long-term development at a grass roots 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.

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

# Relief International



# Letter From The Board of Directors



# Letter From The President & CEO

Dear Friends,

2007 marked Relief International's 17th year on the front line in the struggle to save lives and rebuild livelihoods. Over the years, I have had the privilege of watching RI expand globally to physically operate effectively in assisting some of the most vulnerable populations affected by civil conflicts, poverty and lethal natural disasters.

With the assistance of the RI Staff, I was able to see first hand the progress RI has made in the field during my visit to Darfur, Sudan, this year. What has been described as the "world's worst humanitarian crisis" has resulted in an estimated 2.5 million people having been displaced in the unrest as well as at least 200,000 deaths. RI establishes programs in Darfur to help meet the needs of women and children, who make up 80 percent of the displaced.

During my visit, I was able to see the RI Zam Zam clinic which was constructed to support women and children by providing motherhood care, feeding and monitoring for malnourished children, immunization against childhood diseases, and basic preventive and curative care. With the support and expert training from RI Staff, the Zam Zam Clinic serves 800 patients per week and is run by local Sudanese doctors, midwives, nurses, and pharmacists. Meeting with local officials and listening to the stories of these people, it was evident the profound impact RI's work had made in improving the lives of these individuals.

The success of the Zam Zam clinic along with RI's other programs would not have been possible without the continued support and contribution of our donors. I join my fellow Board Members in heartfelt gratitude for your support as we look forward to the coming year's continued progress in building a better world for those who need it most.

Most sincerely,



Kamran Elahian  
Chairman of the Board of Directors



Dear Friends,

At Relief International, we envision a world where all people have the food, shelter, education and health care to meet their basic needs. We work towards a world where economic and social justice exists and each individual is respected. We envision a world where people live in dignity and security, regardless of race or religion.

At RI we strive to fulfill our mission to provide emergency relief, rehabilitation, development assistance, and program services to vulnerable communities worldwide. We bring passion, hope and perseverance to our work. We are committed to assisting those who suffer from poverty, war, hunger and disaster. We aspire to empower men and women with the tools and skills to become self-reliant and peacefully co-exist. We foster individual's potential by providing long-term development at the grassroots level.

2007 was a difficult year for many communities around the world. In June, 2007 a cyclone struck Pakistan. RI was one of the first international non-governmental organizations to provide relief to the affected population. Food commodities and agricultural seeds were provided, and farmers and livestock keepers were supported. RI continued its third year of response to the complex emergency in Darfur. Programs provided emergency health and nutrition reaching 400,000 community residents. In Niger, RI established community level health care groups which benefited several hundred thousand individuals. The groups provided improved newborn care and nutritional intervention among other services.

At RI we serve the needs of the most vulnerable. With your support, we are one step closer to saving lives and rebuilding livelihoods. Your generosity helps people all over the world receive the attention and support they rightfully deserve.

Sincerely,

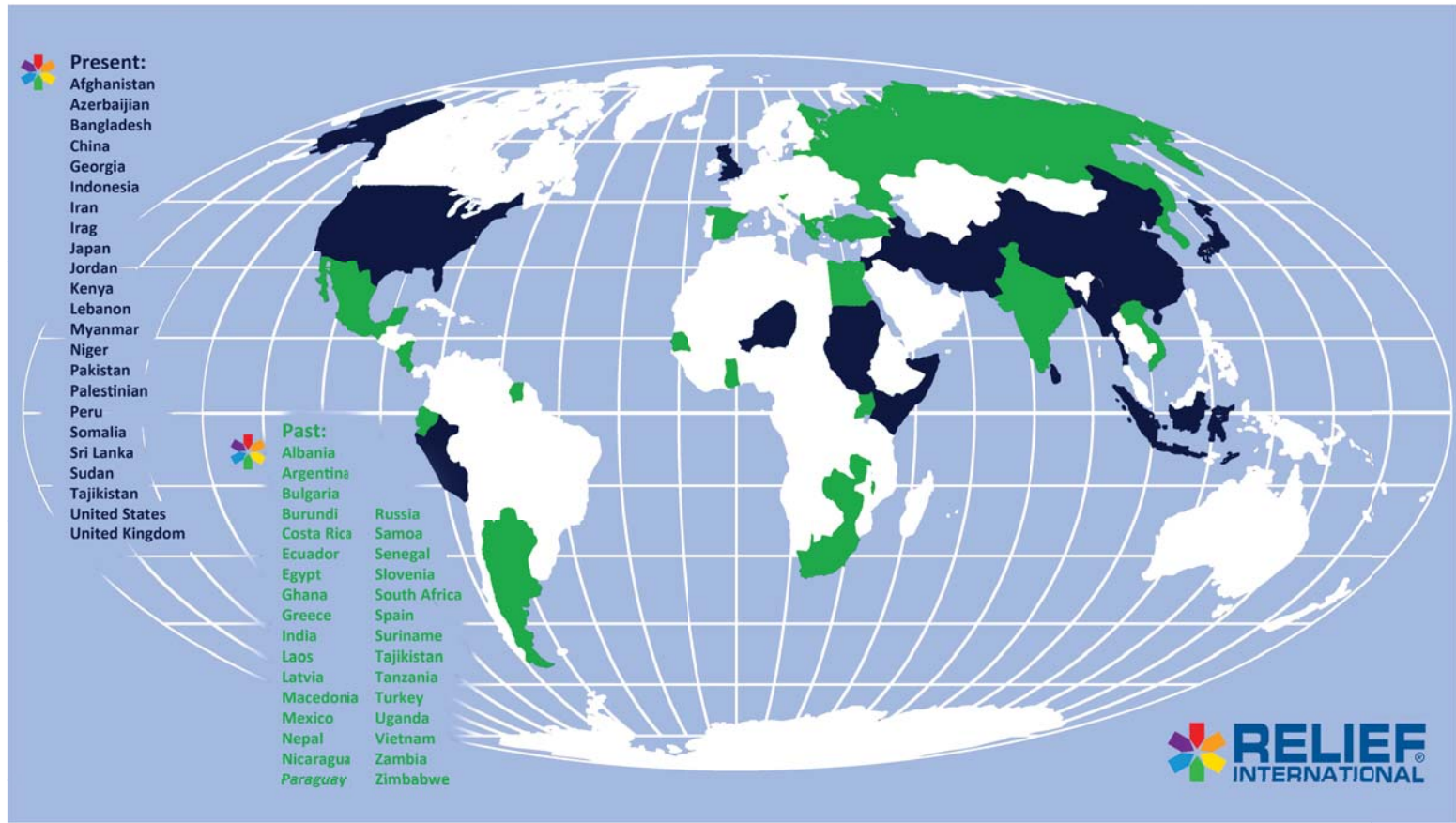


Farshad Rastegar, PhD  
President & CEO



# Relief International

# Past & Present



Since 1990, RI has been meeting the immediate needs of victims of natural disasters and civil conflicts worldwide with provisions of food rations, clean water, nonfood items, and emergency medical services. RI's RED—Rapid Emergency Deployment—Teams arrive within hours to affected regions with the primary focus of providing relief to the most vulnerable members of society: women, children, and the elderly. From the earliest stage of intervention, RI's Emergency Response activities are designed to translate from urgent relief to long-term development for maximum community impact.

# Somalia

Galkayo District, located in the poorest area of Puntland, Somalia, is a place where both local and transitory residents live in a permanent state of emergency characterized by extreme food insecurity, poor health and nutrition, and high vulnerability to abuse, trafficking, and sexual violence. While some of the residents of this area have been displaced from their hometowns for over 15 years due to the plague of violence that has raged in Somalia since 1991, few have achieved sustainable livelihoods, and most remain hungry, sick, exposed and permanently living in the poorest conditions. They have nothing to live on and nothing to return to, and the district's infrastructure — stunted by years of destruction and insecurity — is unable to provide even the most basic services, such



as clean water, trash collection, or primary health care. In order to address the unconscionable neglect in which the residents of this district live, Relief International has begun to draw up project plans to address the emergency Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) needs of the community. While only in the planning stages for 2007, the WASH program ultimately aims to make significant changes to both physical infrastructure as well as local capacity to manage and sustain sanitary systems. Among the ultimate project goals, RI plans to map water needs and build new infrastructure to deliver water to all parts of the community, RI also plans to train local workers in proper waste management, and increase access for residents to primary health services and mobile clinics.



# Pakistan



To assist flood affected farmers in Balochistan, Relief International initiated a Food for Work program in October of 2007 aimed at facilitating a return to self-sufficiency through agriculture. The program distributed food commodities such as salt, wheat flour and oil to over 3,800 families in Jhal Magsi, Balochistan in exchange for their work in rebuilding irrigation channels and shelters. The reconstruction projects engaged in by locals provided a sense of independence and self-respect during the recovery process while at the same time met the equally important goal of recreating the key infrastructure necessary for the residents' future livelihoods. Throughout the program Relief International maintained a cadre of local staff on the ground to monitor reconstruction activities and ensure proper distribution of relief aid.

## SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

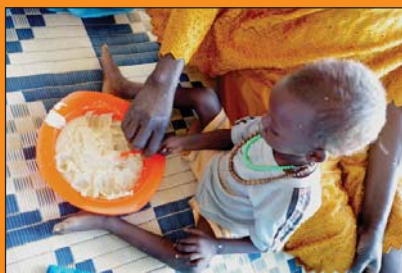
- \* **3,800** families in four Union Councils of Jhal Magsi, Balochistan were provided with 927.254 metric tons of food commodities.
- \* **26,600** individual family members benefited from the food commodities handed out at three separate distribution centers.



To meet the critical health and nutritional needs of disaster and conflict-affected populations, RI operates permanent and mobile health clinics and delivers the highest quality services. These services meet individuals' needs in primary health, child health, safe motherhood care, sexual and reproductive health, sexual and gender-based violence treatment, and HIV/AIDS Education. RI's nutrition interventions - including food distributions, school feeding programs, agricultural programs, and therapeutic feeding for malnourished children - combat the effects of poverty and conflict on the health and well-being of distressed communities.

# Darfur

The upsurge in violence following the signing of the contested Darfur Peace Agreement in early 2006 ushered in a new, more violent phase of the complex emergency in Darfur, Sudan. Between January and March 2007, about 110,000 people were displaced, many of whom were experiencing displacement for the second or third time. The majority of these internally displaced peoples (IDPs) registered in camps in the Kabkabiya and El Fasher - RI's regions of operation. Relief International, as part of ongoing multisectoral programming, provided midwife training in order to decrease infant mortality, and supported the provision of a broad spectrum of basic health services, including immunizations, sexual and reproductive health, and nutritional support at the highest standard of care.



## TALES OF TRIUMPH

RI continues to provide life saving health services to vulnerable populations in Darfur through operational support for seven health facilities. In the rural village of Kunjara, RI has maintained the village's only primary health facility with technical, material, and financial support. Extensive rehabilitation and training for facility health personnel have bolstered capacity at this health unit, enabling it to now function as an independent, community-based facility. The Kunjara facility serves as an example of RI's development strategy in Darfur that promotes sustainability and local ownership of vital community services.



# Pakistan

In 2007, Relief International worked diligently in Pakistan to lower mortality rates among mothers and infants, which became a pressing issue after the 2005 earthquake put serious stress on the local capacity to provide health services, and on much of the population to maintain a sufficient food intake. This goal was achieved primarily by reducing the incidence of malnutrition among children five years of age and younger, and among pregnant or lactating mothers through the provision of UNIMIX (fortified blended food ration). The project, which was focused in the earthquake affected area of Mansehra district, also provided increased access to quality primary health care facilities for the targeted mothers and children.



## TALES OF TRIUMPH

Severe malnutrition is a life threatening condition requiring urgent treatment. It is defined by the World Health Organization as having a very low weight for height, visible severe wasting, or nutritional edema. When Shanza, the seven year old child of displaced labourers, came in to her local Supplementary Feeding Center (SFC) established by Relief International, visiting nurses soon discovered that rather than suffering from disease, as her mother had mistakenly believed, she weighed under 70% of the target weight for her height and was a victim of serious malnutrition. Shanza was growing weaker by the day, and was unable to keep up with her peers or participate in active games. Shanza's mother agreed to place her daughter on the standard 35kg of UNIMIX regimen for a span of four months. Soon Shanza had returned to 100% of her ideal weight. Shanza is active again, and her mother has learned to identify malnutrition in her other children, promising to return to the SFC should any further issues arise.

## SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

- \* 5,296 children were screened for nutritional deficiencies by RI's health program in Pakistan.
- \* 14% of children less than five years of age were found to have acute moderate malnutrition and were admitted to the Supplementary Feeding Program at their respective health facility.
- \* 1,250 pregnant women and 1,212 lactating mothers were screened for nutritional deficiencies.
- \* 1,065 pregnant women and 1,061 lactating mothers benefited from the Supplementary Feeding Program.
- \* 33.33 metric tons of UNIMIX feeding supplement was distributed to women and children in 2007 to combat malnutrition.



RI's programs range from post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction to equipping schools with much needed information and communications technology. With its unique approach on youth philanthropy and global citizenship, RI offers opportunities that increase individual and community connectivity-both locally and internationally. RI's programs include literacy, cross-cultural exchange and dialogue, service-learning, as well as professional development training for teachers. This multi-faceted approach gives RI the tools to tailor its programs for cultural appropriateness and to meet the specific needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations.

# Afghanistan

In an effort to combat the lack of respect for human rights that was rampant during the twenty years of Taliban rule in Afghanistan, Relief International provided education on this subject to students at Teacher Training Colleges. By training these future educators in human rights issues, Relief International was able to multiply its efforts across the Afghan society through teachers who passed on the knowledge and concepts taught by RI to their own pupils.



"I am sure that in Afghanistan human rights are not regarded. As we watch TV we see that mostly the rights of women and children are not regarded when we hear about the self-immolation of women and hard work of children on the streets...Before this training I was not aware about human rights and thought that maybe they were only relevant to other countries. I did not think that human rights were for all human beings worldwide. I was very happy participating in this program. I would like to see that this program be continued in schools because schools are connected to societies, parents and other family members and if there is no higher education and human rights awareness we cannot build a better society."

-Soliha, literacy teacher and student of the Kabul Teacher Training College.



# West Bank

Decades of conflict and the continuous struggle for a national homeland has led to widespread economic crisis and social anomie in the Palestinian Territories. High unemployment rates mean little hope for today's Palestinian youth, leaving them amenable to despair, radical ideologies and violence. In response, RI has launched several initiatives to address educational, vocational, economic and social needs of Palestinian youth and women at the village and community levels. RI's program in the West Bank is based on creating a network of "Community-Based Learning and Action Centers" (CBLACs) that implements community development programs. The programs, catered to women and youth, increase computer literacy, vocational skills, and civic participation. These Centers bring community members together and create a sense of ownership whereby individuals feel reintegrated into the local social network. Through these Centers, RI provides community members with access to internet centers, libraries, educational resources, teacher training, and entrepreneurship training.

"I participated in the Eid Al-Adha Event. It was a very interesting day. I am so glad to participate in such an even in which we remembered poor people who cannot afford celebrating Eid. It is great that we can bring a smile to children's faces. Thanks to Relief International for this opportunity."

Khaled Ruzzi, Jenin

## TALES OF TRIUMPH

Through the RI community learning centers, youth are integrated into their communities and empowered to make a change. Throughout 2007, many youth developed programs that would give back to impoverished communities around them. On the 14th of October, youth from the Jenin and Hebron community centers organized a celebration for the Eid holiday for the poorest and most disadvantaged community members. The Hebron youth organized a "fun day" for children from Bedouin areas and gave them toys donated by a local toy shop and RI staff.



# Bangladesh

As part of an effort to bridge cultural gaps and promote leadership among youth, Relief International planned and implemented activities for the Linking Individuals, Knowledge, and Culture (LINC) program throughout 2007. Supported by the U.S. State Department, this program sent eight American students to Bangladesh to stay with host families and engage in environmental protection discussions, a trip which was then followed by a reciprocal visit by eight of Bangladeshi counterparts. To prepare students to take action in their own communities, the program activities were structured to teach how to navigate three distinct levels of the change-making process: assessing a problem, becoming a leader in taking action against the problem, and action-planning to create viable routes towards achieving a desired change.



## SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

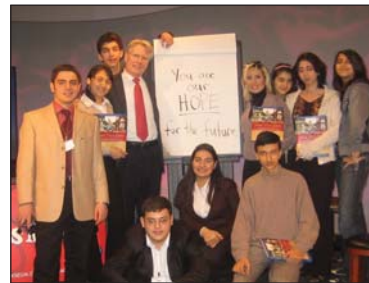
- \* **\$3,000** was raised by U.S. students to support Bangladeshi environmental NGOs working to improve the environment and reduce poverty.
- \* **3** Environmental clubs and one English language club were created by Bangladeshi students.
- \* **1** rural school for impoverished students in Bangladesh was built by cooperating Bangladeshi and U.S. students.
- \* **1** rural community's sanitation system was improved through a program created by collaborating U.S. and Bangladeshi students.

## TALES OF TRIUMPH

Three students from Oceana High School in San Francisco, Shelsea Evans, Mohamed Sirker, and McKay C. Mcvey started a fundraising effort to promote awareness for the organization, Waste Concern, after participating in the YLPFE exchange to Bangladesh. This small organization in Dhaka has been spearheading a unique composting strategy to reduce poverty, disease, pollution, and crop failure in Bangladesh. The students sold See's Candy to major businesses in the area and donated the proceeds to Waste Concern, and also publicized their effort through an article in the local Pacifica Tribune.

# Azerbaijan

In August of 2007, the Youth Leadership Program on Free Expression (YLPFE) drew to a close after nearly a year of successful educational exchanges between the United States and Azerbaijan. Over the course of the program, a total of thirteen youth and four youth educators travelled to the U.S. through YLPFE, participating in seminars that discussed the importance of concepts such as freedom of expression and freedom of the press in developing democracies. The program focused on the American First Amendment as a model for protection of these rights, and encouraged the visiting youth to return home and share their experience through seminars, training sessions, and presentations.



**"Democracy is when the society and government join to protect people's rights and when people may address them for help and protection."**

Tayyar Rzayev (student participant of YLPFE II)

**"Democracy is when people realize their ideas without violating others' opinions and respecting their rights."**

Sadagat Farzaliyeva (educator participant of YLPFE II)

**"When people express their ideas and the government listens to them, people obtain freedoms and decide their limits on their own."**

Aynur Maharramova (student participant of YLPFE II)

To have sufficient food, proper shelter, and the ability to take care of one's family is fundamental for survival and basic human dignity. RI enables people to provide for themselves through training and increasing access to resources to lead healthy, productive lives. In communities ravaged by disasters or civil conflict, RI works quickly to restore livelihoods and establish food security, particularly for the most vulnerable. Even in wartime or the aftermath of disaster, livelihoods projects can bridge the gap between despair and well-being using proven tools such as micro credit, business courses, and community education. In many societies, women are the sole providers, but they are also highly susceptible to poverty and marginalization. RI designs many livelihoods projects to specifically strengthen the self-sufficiency and status of women.

# Pakistan

The powerful earthquake that struck northern Pakistan in 2005 took a devastating 80,000 lives. Along with the staggering loss of life, the earthquake also completely destroyed the economic infrastructure; thousands of farms and orchards were ruined and over 100,000 livestock killed. In the wake of the aftermath, Relief International responded directly and immediately and for the past two years has provided over 14,000 grants to help farmers re-establish and improve their livelihoods without ongoing external assistance. The grants provide agricultural inputs (such as seeds), replace farm animals, provide training on improved farming practices, and rebuild damaged infrastructure (such as irrigation systems). Farmers have reported increased crop yields and greater self-sufficiency due to this successful program.



Traditional Crop Yield Improved Crop Yield

## SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

- Animal Shelter Construction: **1,300**
- Community Trainings (Livestock and Agriculture): **5,690**
- Agricultural Grant Disbursements (Maize, potato, chili, peas, cucumber, rice, okra, cabbage): **8,330**
- Livestock Grant Disbursements:
  - Buffalo: **510**
  - Oxen: **275**
  - Poultry: **8,000**
  - Bull: **50**
  - Cows: **915**
  - Sheep: **795**
  - Goats: **2,760**



# Sri Lanka

The Ampara district of Sri Lanka was hit hard by the 2004 tsunami, crippling the livelihoods of many survivors. For some, the Rural Savings and Creation Project (RSCP) has been a key resource in restoring the survivors' financial and emotional stability. With the goal of involving women in rebuilding and development, and allowing for local investment in livelihood activities, Relief International's RSCP project has provided small loans and business trainings, and has required women to further engage in volunteer programs within their community. Over the past four years the RSCP program has evolved from a wide cluster of independent community based organizations to a fully legalized, federated association. By the end of 2008, RSCP will be a legalized, financially viable set of institutions with the resources and capacity to function independently of RI in the Pottuvil and Thirukkivil Districts.



## SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

- \* A **\$25,000** micro-credit loan fund initially established was increased to **\$50,000** by RI, and is expected to increase to **\$200,000** next year.
- \* **2,756** loans were given during 2007.
- \* **100%** of the beneficiaries were women affected by the Tsunami.
- \* **82** community based microfinance organizations were formed through the RSCP by the end of 2007.
- \* **2,383** members of these organizations have benefitted from loans averaging from **\$20 to \$600**.
- \* **1,000** beneficiaries have completed skills trainings.
- \* There was a **166%** increase in voluntary savings in 2007 and a **222%** increase in the total income of the project.



# Darfur

The Village Empowerment for Sustainable Peace (VESP) program in North Darfur has sought to increase the economic self-sufficiency and resilience of conflict-affected villages that results in more sustainable food security and livelihoods, particularly for women and vulnerable populations. RI has been working since 2004 in an effort to counteract the destruction of houses, farms, livestock and communal infrastructure, which constitutes a systematic attack on local livelihoods. VESP activities in North Darfur focusing on access to basic veterinary care, seed and tools, micro-credit, and capacity building trainings have improved overall quality of life for targeted households.



## SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

- \* **9,500** domestic animals per month received treatment at RI-supported veterinary clinics.
- \* **13,500** households were supported through seed and tool distributions and pertinent trainings to improve farming practices in beneficiary communities.
- \* **4,600** domestic animals have benefited from routine vaccinations against diseases and outbreaks.



# Afghanistan

Relief International continued in 2007 to reach out to marginalized populations by creating a micro-enterprise program designed specifically for Afghan women. The pilot empowered women by fostering their skills in traditional cheese making and connecting them to outside markets. Relief International provided training for women at two RI equipped cheese production centers in hygienic cheese production, bookkeeping, group fund management, and other important business skills. The success of this pilot program has paved the way for plans to open an additional five centers in 2008.

During the same year, RI reached 4,800 families in Nimroz province through a Cash for Work program that rewarded returnees for repairing infrastructure such as canals and protection walls, and provided over 200 individuals with micro credit loans in accordance with Islamic lending principles.



## TALES OF TRIUMPH

On October 10th, 2007, three months after the start of the program, the women of Gundu Sawati and Shagee village cheese production centers were connected to cheese wholesalers and made their first sale. They received \$180 for their 93kg weekly production of local 'paneer', a semi fresh cheese that is popular in Afghanistan.



From schools and clinics, to roads and canals, and to family homes, a disaster can destroy the basic building blocks of a village. RI partners with local communities to rebuild and recover, using catastrophe as an opportunity. RI's programs build back better, enabling families to get back on their feet, back to work, back to school, and back to normalcy.

# Afghanistan



During 2007, RI worked in Afghanistan to assist the re-integration of recent returnees to Nimroz province by providing shelter, well rehabilitation, and hygiene education both to the returnees and local host populations. Under the program, 250 shelters with washrooms and latrines were built and 50 wells were rehabilitated. Local maintenance committees were set up and trained to ensure long term viability. RI provided hygiene education trainings to over 5,500 men, women, and children, while involving local Community Development Councils (CDCs) at all stages of planning and implementation to ensure sustainability.



# South Sudan

The people of Sudan have suffered through generations of civil conflict since the country gained independence in 1956. Twenty one years of civil war, famine, and disease has killed more than 2 million people, forced 600,000 to become refugees in neighboring countries, and displaced more than 4 million southerners from their home villages. With the end of the civil war in 2005, over 1.6 million previously displaced South Sudanese returned to their home villages, only to find a flattened landscape and a near total lack of basic services and infrastructure.

Because of the lack of basic infrastructure, in South Sudan only 2% of people consume treated water and 74% use contaminated, open water sources for drinking, washing and household needs. Furthermore, a lack of household latrines and garbage collection has led to raw human waste entering drinking water sources and worsening living conditions. Lack of potable water combined with poor sanitation increases transmission of communicable diseases such as diarrhea and cholera. In response, RI teams have supported the redevelopment of village infrastructure and services through the distribution of temporary shelters, construction and maintenance of water points and latrines and the provision of health care.



## SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

- \* 300 temporary shelter kits were distributed to 2,400 beneficiaries.
- \* 120 pit latrines were constructed to serve 2,400 individuals.
- \* 3,000 individuals were provided with access to clean drinking water.
- \* 24,000 individuals were trained by RI in Sanitation and Hygiene.
- \* 400 patients were treated each week at the rehabilitated health facility.

# Indonesia

In Yogyakarta and Central Java, where small businesses comprise a crucial part of the economy and homes often double as places of work, the destruction of houses during the 6.2 magnitude earthquake in 2006 seriously impacted local livelihoods. In response, Relief International has partnered with three local microfinance partners to provide small loans through the Shelter Emergency Loan Fund (SELF). This program has a dual impact on both livelihoods recovery and shelter reconstruction due to its ability to strengthen the financial and managerial capacities of local lending partners to respond to disaster reconstruction needs in the future. Though in the face of the massive destruction of approximately 135,000 homes Relief International's SELF program seems relatively small in scale, its success will allow it to act as a model for future efforts with a broader scope.



## SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS (Per Person)

Average Loan: US \$415  
 Loan Range: US \$114 - \$2,198  
 Total Amount loaned to date: US \$168,374  
 Repayment Rate: 100%  
 Type of Business: Small daily goods shops represent 82.84% of beneficiaries  
 Total # of Beneficiaries: 378 Loan Recipients  
 Male vs. Female: 28.31% Male, 71.69 % Female

# Lebanon

Relief International (RI) has been providing access to safe drinking water and improving sanitation and hygiene for vulnerable communities in Lebanon since the outbreak of the 2006 war. In 2007, RI began improve water systems and sanitary infrastructure for 22 public schools in rural areas. Through this first phase of the Water Intervention in Sanitation & Hygiene (WISH) program, RI developed intricate interventions that improved access to safe drinking water, enabled proper waste water disposal, and taught vulnerable Lebanese families and their children the benefits of clean water and proper hygiene.



# Pakistan

Relief International has acted across sectors to provide a full-spectrum response to the October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 earthquake in northern Pakistan. In the area of infrastructure, RI headed the School Construction and Infrastructure Rebuilding (SCIR) project, bringing education opportunities back to many devastated earthquake victims. Approximately 8,000 educational institutions were destroyed in the earthquake, and 8,500 and 18,000 teachers and students respectively perished in the disaster. Through SCIR and other programs that sought to rebuild livelihoods, meet emergency response needs, and bring hope for the future, Relief International has contributed substantially to building a local capacity to maintain an upward trend in the standard of living after the end of foreign humanitarian and development assistance.



## SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

- \* 2 schools were constructed in the Mansehra District using a construction technology developed to rapidly construct high quality, earthquake safe buildings.
- \* 150 workers were trained in the use of this construction technology and as a result, the Pakistan government and local communities are using it to build new homes.
- \* RI conducted training for local workers in basic construction techniques and quality control. Trained Site Engineers, involved local communities and government authorities in the construction process, and conducted training for laborers on making the panels used
- \* 650 students enrolled in two newly constructed schools, with a large percentage of girls among the new pupils.
- \* 150 workers were employed through the schools' construction projects.

Relief International believes that a healthy and active civil society is vital for successful community development. RI's programs seek to bolster avenues for nonviolent conflict resolution, freer medias, and increased human rights for women, children, and other vulnerable members of society.

# Iraq

Relief International is managing an innovative program that will support Iraqis in developing peaceful approaches to preventing and solving existing conflict in their communities. The USAID-funded Iraq Community-Based Conflict Mitigation Program, (ICCM) was designed for flexible implementation over a two year period, given the unpredictable nature of Iraq's tumultuous environment.

The ICCM program aims to support Iraqis in developing constructive approaches to mitigating conflict in their communities and strengthening their capacity to contribute to peace building. This initiative looks to encourage dialogue between identity groups that have become increasingly divided over the past years, and create new spaces for Iraqis to work together in the pursuit of peace.

Working with a community-based approach, the ICCM program aims to strengthen current peace building systems and institutions that are already in place as well as introducing processes that seek to engage community members not currently involved in conflict mitigation. The program is being implemented in all 18 governorates of Iraq, striving for a high level of public participation by youth, women, and other traditionally marginalized religious and ethnic groups.



### SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

- \* **62** conflict assessment facilitators were trained and have completed 33 community conflict assessments in all 18 governorates of Iraq.
- \* **1-day** conflict mitigation trainings were designed and delivered to a number of local government bodies.
- \* An **82-member** Iraqi Peace Network with representation from all 18 governorates was created and facilitated.
- \* **A number** of community and youth conflict mitigation programs were funded, including athletic events, monument restoration and women center activities.

# Afghanistan

The National Solidarity Program (NSP) is a key initiative by the Afghan government to rebuild after years of war and economic mismanagement. The goal of the NSP has been to alleviate poverty, promote rural reconstruction, and strengthen local governance. Acting in concert with the government, Relief International has worked since 2006 to achieve these goals through the election of Community Development Councils (CDCs), and by strengthening communities' capacity to identify, plan, manage and monitor their own reconstruction and development. Specifically, RI has guided communities through the election process and provided technical assistance for the development and implementation of infrastructure and human capacity building projects. Grants through RI and the Afghan



government have been used in large part by local communities for water, transportation, and electrification projects. Relief International's implementation of the NSP in 325 communities across Kunar and Nimroz provinces has ensured that women are active beneficiaries as much as their male counterparts. RI has facilitated gender equal opportunities by investing through localized directive in female human capital, including tailoring and other skills training.

### SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

RI has facilitated the election of **121** community councils and the preparation of **121** participatory community development plans during **2007**.

It has further accomplished the following:

- \* **484** community members were trained in council representative responsibilities.
- \* **3,000** community members were trained in accounting, procurement, project management and technical skills.
- \* **110** project proposals were prepared in collaboration with local communities.
- \* **93** community projects were overseen and completed.



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2007

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Total	CURRENT ASSETS	Total
Grants and contributions (Notes 8 and 9)	\$ 14,202,290	Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,230,619
Government contracts (Notes 8 and 9)	7,105,547	Investments (Note 2)	8,561
Loan interest income	501,689	Loans receivable, net of allowance of \$122,699 in 2007 and \$138,035 in 2006 (Note 3)	2,470,549
Contributed food and relief commodities	1,278,975	Loan to Relief International-UK (Note 12)	199,697
Investment income (loss) (Note 2)	-13,685	Pledges receivable	-
Other revenue	23,092	Grants receivable	8,621,036
Net assets released from donor restrictions (Note 6)	-	Other receivables	68,259
Total support and revenue	23,097,908	Prepaid expenses and other assets	53,012
		Inventory	108,102
		Total current assets	13,759,835
EXPENSES		PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	
Program Services:		Furniture and fixtures	2,084
Community Development, Shelter and Refugee Resettlement	17,703,727	Office equipment	26,249
Education: Schools, Libraries and ICT in ED	1,898,612	Computer equipment	66,193
Emergency Response	749,346	Vehicles	215,242
Health, Household Food and Economic Security	743,637	Less: Accumulated depreciation	309,768
Total program services	20,895,322		(267,502)
Supporting Services:		Net property and equipment	42,266
General and Administrative	2,732,316	OTHER ASSETS	
Fundraising	130,437	Deposits	11,219
Total supporting services	2,862,753	TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 13,813,320
Total expenses	23,758,075	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Changes in net assets before other items	-660,167	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,723,178
OTHER ITEMS		LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments (Note 2)	29,554	Loans payable (Note 4)	16,667
Reclassification of loan liability (Note 10)	-	Total liabilities	1,739,845
Funds returned to donor	-	NET ASSETS	
Changes in net assets	(630,613)	Unrestricted	94,679
Net assets at beginning of year (Note 10)	12,704,088	Temporarily restricted (Note 5)	11,978,796
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 12,073,475	Total net assets	12,073,475
		TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$13,813,320

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In memory of Dr. Herb Sigmund



Medical Doctor, Dedicated Humanitarian  
and great friend of Relief International

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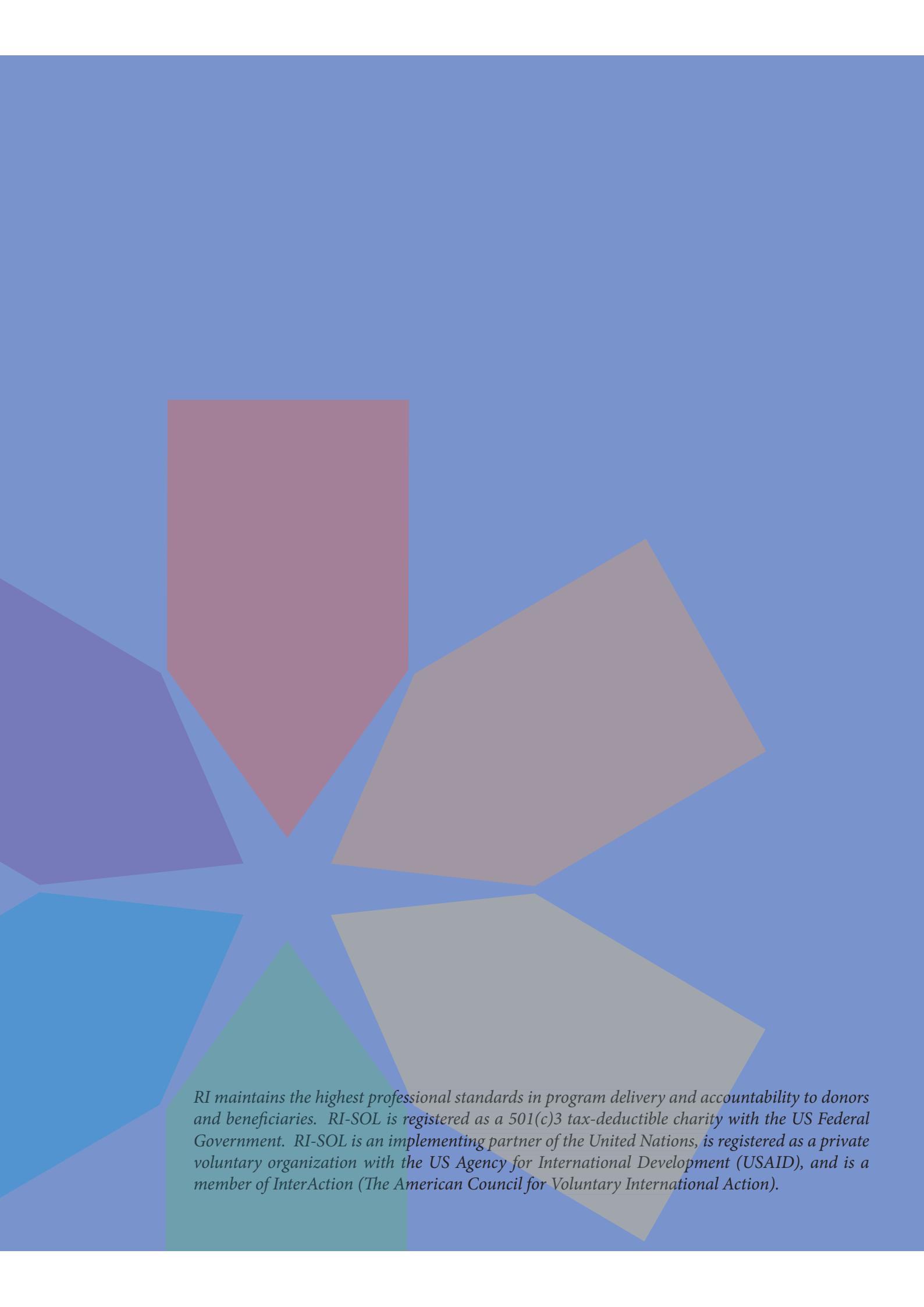
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