



RELIEF[®]
INTERNATIONAL

Relief International, (RI) is a humanitarian non-profit agency that provides emergency relief, rehabilitation, development assistance, and program services to vulnerable communities worldwide. RI is solely dedicated to reducing human suffering and is non-political and non-sectarian in its mission. At Relief International we:

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from our CEO

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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





OUR MISSION

Serve the needs of the most vulnerable - particularly women and children, victims of natural disasters & civil conflicts, and the poor - with a specific focus on neglected groups and cases.

Provide holistic, multi-sectoral, sustainable, and pro-poor programs that bridge emergency relief and long-term development at the grassroots level.

Empower communities by building capacity and by maximizing local resources in both program design and implementation.

Promote self-reliance, peaceful coexistence, and reintegration of marginalized communities.

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

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

Emergency Response

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.

MYANMAR Cyclone Nargis



Cyclone Nargis, one of the world's worst recorded natural disasters, struck Myanmar in May 2008. The impact of the cyclone was devastating – causing death, displacement, immense physical and psychological harm to communities, destroying infrastructure, and impacting annual crop production and livelihoods. Most notably, the damage to basic systems undermined capacities for the provision of basic health and maternal child health services, disease prevention, and access to nutrition, clean water, and sanitation facilities, leaving many women and children in urgent need of health services.



In the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, Relief International deployed mobile health teams to the rural and remote townships of Kungyangon and Dedaye to meet the immediate and critical health needs of thousands of survivors who gathered in overcrowded and poorly resourced settlements.

In one year:

- **4 Emergency Mobile Health teams**, including 17 doctors, 6 nurses, and 6 community health workers provided health care and health education to 20,941 earthquake survivors.
- **17, 311 patients received health information** regarding diet, personal hygiene, reproductive health, and diseases.
- **7 rural Health centers** destroyed by the Cyclone were rehabilitated with operating tables, medical storage, medicines, and reproductive health supplies to provide health services to an estimated 29,642 individuals
- **14,000 individuals** received an emergency kit containing mosquito nets, blankets, utensils, and soap.

Health and Nutrition

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.

NIGER Healthy Start for Mothers and Children



Relief International has achieved great success educating Niger's health care providers and mothers about key health care practices to reduce morbidity and mortality rates of mothers and children less than five years of age.

The second poorest country in the world, Niger's mortality rate for children under five years is ranked the world's second highest, and health coverage is estimated to be at 34.15%. In M'Birni Konni District, the community suffers some of the nation's highest levels of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity due to a combination of poor hygiene and child care practices, and limited access to health services. To address these critical health needs, Relief International is building the capacity Niger's health care providers and mothers in four key areas: maternal and child health, nutrition and breastfeeding, malaria, and control of diarrheal diseases.



Program Activities include:

- Women's health groups to improve key healthcare awareness about nutrition, breastfeeding, birth planning, child care, control of diarrheal diseases, and prevention/treatment of malaria.
- Education classes for health workers and community volunteers to improve the capacity to deliver safer healthcare to pregnant women and young children
- Capacity training of local ministries and local partner agencies to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate child survival interventions at the community and district levels.



Education & Global Connectivity

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.

SRI LANKA

Overcoming Daunting Obstacles



Relief International is providing post-traumatic psychosocial services to 35,000 students and 1,750 teachers in the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious district, Vavuniya. The past two decades the communities residing in Vavuniya have been heavily affected by the civil war, terrorism, poverty, and a devastating tsunami. With astoundingly high violence and suicide rates among youth, teachers continuously voiced concern about classroom management problems, such as impaired memory and retention and poor student attendance.

To help youth and adults alike overcome the daunting obstacles they face, Relief International's psychosocial services program is fostering solidarity, rebuilding community relations and networks, and cultivating survivor-to-survivor support. Working together with the local government, community organizations, and villagers, the program continued to develop over the year, despite prevailing security tensions.

BANGLADESH

Human Rights Awareness

Bangladesh, one of the most densely populated countries in the world, is also ranked among the poorest. An exploding population, high unemployment rate, and widespread illiteracy combined with gender inequities have caused a desperate need for development assistance. To provide Bangladesh with a means to thrive in spite of such overwhelming obstacles, Relief International is working with marginalized members of society to promote human rights awareness through the media. The project encourages marginalized groups, such as the rural, poor, and women to make the most effective use of available media assets to create change.



Livelihoods & Food Security

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.

INDONESIA Ceramic Hands for the Future



The Yogyakarta earthquake that shook Indonesia in 2006 took nearly 6,000 lives, injured over 40,000 others, and caused mass destruction to physical capital and livelihoods. The sub-village of Kasongan in Bantul District, famous internationally for its ceramics industry, was one of the hardest hit regions in terms of damage to homes and work places. Economically, the ceramics industry is vitally important to this area of Central Java, making up the largest sector of the local economy next to agriculture. The immediate damage of the earthquake exacerbated a progressive decline in ceramic sales from this village that had resulted from an absence of artisan skills training, low quality production, and lack of innovation in the products available.



To address the long-term needs of the thousands of survivors, as well as pre-existing development issues, Relief International facilitated the creation of a cooperative of artisans. Together, Relief International and co-op members built up new village infrastructure, including 800 meters of village pathways, 22 artisan workspaces, and 7 sanitation/porous wells, all of which have helped to attract greater numbers of tourists to Kasongan. Additionally, Relief International trained artisans in business, marketing, product diversification, ceramics finishing techniques, and quality control. New systems have given members access to local and international markets, rebuilt workspaces, a showroom which doubles as a community center, and more effective materials and tools such as a high-heat kiln which ensures quality production.



DARFUR

Improving
Livelihood



Success by the Numbers

- **10 animal health centers** provided curative care to 4,000 animals per week.
- **25 Community Animal Workers** and 12 Veterinary Assistants were trained with improved Veterinary techniques
- **75 men and women** were trained on improved techniques for increased crop production in 25 rural villages.

In Darfur violence, fear and uncertainty have plagued daily life since conflict erupted in 2002.

The frequent displacement of families and destruction to farms and livestock has left many Sudanese impoverished as their main means of food security, livelihoods and transportation is destroyed. Relief International recognizes that improving livestock health and sustainable farming is vital to achieving food security for populations across Darfur and in 2008 RI worked together with people in Darfur to accomplish just that. RI established animal health centers across Darfur to increase access to vital veterinary care and trained Sudanese Veterinarians to ensure animal health care management could be handed over to local communities in peace time. To ensure that conflict affected families have enough food to eat, RI trained local community members on sustainable farming techniques to improve crop yield and quality.

