



Relief International (RI) maintains the highest professional standards in program delivery and accountability to donors and beneficiaries. RI is registered as a 501(c)3 tax-deductible charity with the US Federal Government. RI is an implementing partner of the United Nations, is registered as a private voluntary organization with the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and is a member of InterAction (The American Council for Voluntary International Action).

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



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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.

2009 marked a milestone in the growth of our organization. RI joined forces with EnterpriseWorks/VITA, a recognized leader in combating global poverty through sustainable, enterprise-based solutions. RI and EWV share a common mission in our dedication to poverty alleviation worldwide. The merger of our two organizations allows for a broad-spectrum approach by combining RI's expertise in disaster mitigation and poverty reduction with EWV's experience and expertise in development.

2009 was a difficult year for many communities around the world and 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.

Health & Nutrition

To meet the critical health and nutritional needs of disaster and conflict-affected populations, Relief International 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.

Niger is the second poorest country in the world and the mortality rate for children under five years of age is ranked the world's second highest. Health coverage is estimated to be at 34.15%. In the 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, poor child care practices and limited access to health services. To address these critical health needs, RI is building the capacity of Niger's health care providers and mothers in four key areas: maternal and child health, nutrition and breastfeeding, malaria, and control of diarrheal diseases.



Success by the Numbers:

- 60 remote villages served
- 9,000 women have improved access to antenatal care
- 160 community workers have received training
- 256 women's care groups have been established

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 their 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

Relief International'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



Today, Sri Lanka is at a crossroads in its political, economic and social development. While some communities have finally started to recover from the devastation of the Tsunami, other communities in the north of Sri Lanka are now faced with a myriad of new challenges in the post-war era. Mass displacement during the final phases of civil conflict in 2008-2009 has left over 300,000 people without homes, livelihoods or basic services.

To provide life-saving services, reduce poverty and empower war-affected populations, RI is working with resettled communities in the war affected Northern Division of the Vavuniya District. Using women-led self-help groups in target communities as the primary conduit for program implementation, RI is establishing quick-impact projects that target the most immediate needs. These projects include community cash-for-work projects that focus on access to clean water for all, jump-starting livelihoods activities for agricultural and non-agricultural income generation and extension of child-friendly services to resettlement villages.

BANGLADESH

Human Rights Awareness

Bangladesh, one of the most densely populated countries in the world, has been fraught with serious environmental degradation, high unemployment rate and gender inequities leading to the need for development assistance. Compounding these issues, Bangladesh's geographical situation makes it vulnerable to frequent natural disasters, such as severe floods and cyclones. Relief International thus utilizes its expertise and resources to build the capacity of communities through use of innovative educational and Information and Communication Technology programs, livelihoods training and assets. RI also believes in lasting partnership with local organizations in order to further enhance their ability to benefit marginalized communities in the country.



Through its Global Connections and Exchange Program (GCEP), RI is promoting the integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into education in Bangladeshi schools, including teacher capacity development in terms of both technical skills and teaching methodology which contributes to achieving the country's vision for a Digital Bangladesh by 2021. The program creates a common platform for Bangladeshi students and teachers to come together and communicate with their peers within the country and across the globe, thereby enriching their 21st century skills and knowledge.

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.

DARFUR

Improving Livelihoods



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 primary means of food security, livelihoods and transportation are destroyed. Relief International recognizes that improving livestock health and sustainable farming is vital to achieving food security for populations across Darfur. In 2009, 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.



Success by the Numbers

- **12 animal health centers** provided curative care to **4,800 animals** per week.
- **36 Community Animal Workers and 12 Veterinary Assistants** were trained with improved Veterinary techniques.
- **150 men and women** were trained on improved techniques for increased crop production in **30 rural villages**.
- **2 small enterprise clinics** for training and community education courses, providing microcredit loans with **50 percent female** representation.



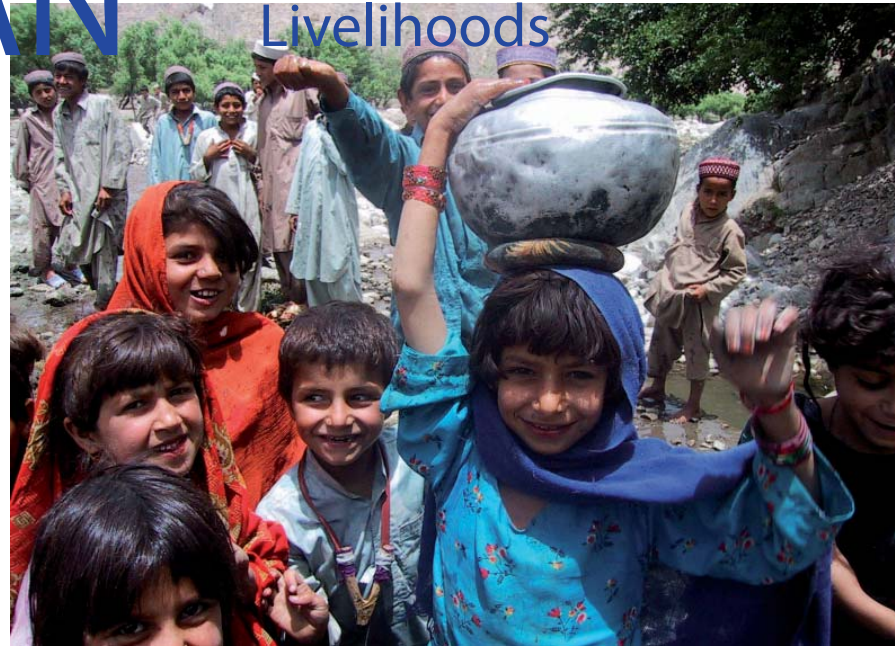
Shelter & Infrastructure

From schools and clinics, to roads and canals, to family homes -- a disaster can destroy the basic building blocks of a village. Relief International partners with local communities to rebuild and recover, transforming catastrophe into 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



Improving Livelihoods



During 2009, RI continued work in Afghanistan to assist with 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, RI provided 150 families (1,200 individuals) with access to basic housing, including shelters, latrines and washrooms; provided 14,000 individuals with clean drinking water; and provided hygiene education for 4,000 men, women and children, while involving local Community Development Councils (CDCs) at all stages of planning and implementation to ensure sustainability.

RI also launched an income generation program to establish sustainable livelihoods for 360 returnees in Kunar and Nangahar through community-based resource building and self sustaining cottage industries. This program enables disadvantaged returnees from Pakistan and female-headed households to gain an income through cheese and honey based cottage industries. RI works to advance acceptance and support of Women's Cottage Industry Cooperatives among existing Community Development Councils. RI fosters sustainable value chains that support returnee household livelihoods and community development initiatives and builds mutually supportive partnerships with local associations and organizations. RI constructs durable, community-based resources for training and manufacturing that promote improved returnee livelihoods and establishes educational and material opportunities for returnees to build their capacity for cottage industry businesses.



SOUTH SUDAN

Improving Livelihoods



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 have 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 is focused on helping rebuild these communities by establishing essential infrastructure and services to Maban County, Upper Nile State including health, wash and education programs.

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

- *Provided life-saving health services to 5,800 individuals per month, including 920 children under the age of five
- *Constructed over 300 household latrines
- *Constructed 21 water points for clean and potable water
- *Trained 42 individuals as technical water and sanitation workers
- *Conducted 4 behavior change education campaigns to promote the enrollment of school-aged children, specifically girls
- *Conducted 4 behavior change education campaigns to promote the importance of community waste disposal and improved hygiene practices

Civil Society, Protection & Capacity Building

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

LEBANON Boosting the Economy Together



During 2009, Relief International continued year two of its exciting three-year program, Empowering Municipalities through Local Economic Development (EMLED), or "Al Baladiyat" -- a program designed to most effectively serve the needs of Lebanon's municipalities and improve economic livelihoods of underprivileged communities. The program's main focus is to build a solid foundation for sustainable economic development by engaging municipalities with youth, women, Diaspora, and the public and private sectors,



The EMLED program uniquely provides:

- **Youth forums** to provide career orientations and trainings in ICT, farming, tourism and vocation sectors.
- **Leadership workshops** to encourage women's civic participation and trainings in ICT and agriculture production.
- **Microfinance loans** and business development services to launch and grow small-scale local economical development projects in all sectors.
- **A knowledge-sharing Internet portal** to build effective communication among municipalities, communities, and private businesses.



In 2009, through an innovative partnership between Cisco Systems, Inc. and Relief International, the Cisco Rural Enterprise Development for Information Technology (CREDIT) Program was launched. The CREDIT program is a three year program stimulating the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector on a long-term basis. The goal of the program is to support ICT entrepreneurs in Lebanon's rural areas through increased access to capital and business skills, creating jobs and improving livelihoods.

Through the program, RI is providing technical and strategic support to the selected MFI partners – Al Majmoua and Ameen – and oversees the creation of a specialized ICT loan product. In 2009, the program provided loans to 263 ICT entrepreneurs with \$540,000 disbursed to clients.