

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
Australia for UNHCR



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“Protection for refugees means a world that spreads out its arms, a country that provides a safe haven from a war zone, a group that gives food and water or a tent to keep out the elements. It is one person caring for another... protection is human nature.”

Jane Turner, Australia for UNHCR Special Representative

When you are forced to flee your country as a result of conflict, violence or disaster, you lose the protection of your own government. The United Nations Refugee Agency – UNHCR – then becomes your protector.

Refugee protection is the heart and soul of UNHCR – the organisation’s core purpose and goal. The word ‘protection’ encompasses many aspects of humanitarian help: from coordinating and providing essential shelter and relief, to safeguarding the basic human rights of displaced populations, advocating on their behalf and ensuring their access to medical care, livelihood and education.

In 2008, UNHCR assisted millions of displaced people trying to survive in camps, towns and cities away from home. The agency provided protection at every stage of their ordeal: at border crossings, in makeshift camps, in established refugee settlements, and as they returned home or resettled in another country.

UNHCR not only played a lead role in coordinating international relief operations for refugees, but also worked in cooperation with other UN agencies, NGOs and governments to come to the aid of a growing number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

who have fled their homes but remain within their national borders.

In 2008, Australia for UNHCR raised more than \$6.63 million for UNHCR’s emergency and humanitarian programs. We worked actively within the Australian community to raise funds and awareness of the plight and needs of the world’s 31.7 million refugees and displaced people. This, our 2008 Annual Report, shows what we have achieved together with the generous help and support of the Australian people.

Cover: To celebrate World Refugee Day 2008, people all over the world were asked to ‘put their hands up for refugees’ as a sign of their support for the UN refugee agency and the millions of people it protects. The protecting hands, the key feature of UNHCR’s logo, is a powerful symbol of shelter, care and safety, and therefore a fitting theme for Australia for UNHCR’s 2008 Annual Report.

Photos: UNHCR



UNHCR/H. Caux



We are pleased to present our 2008 Annual Report.

In 2008, Australia for UNHCR surpassed its income targets, raising \$6.63 million – a 67% increase on the previous year's fundraising. The increased income has enabled us to both strengthen our support for UNHCR's humanitarian programs and fund our administration, education and public awareness activities here in Australia.

On a global level, Australia for UNHCR remained UNHCR's fifth largest private sector donor, boosting the agency's resources for emergency and long-term refugee programs in 19 different countries.

Refugees – a global view

Our support comes at a crucial time for the UN refugee agency and those it seeks to protect. As the High Commissioner for Refugees Mr António Guterres said on UN Radio this year:

"Today's world is becoming more and more a dangerous world, and refugees are the most vulnerable victims of those dangers. At a time when the world is facing a growing food crisis, a multitude of armed conflicts

and an increasing number of natural disasters sparked by climate change, larger swathes of the global population will be in need of international assistance."

People are on the move in growing numbers everywhere. In 2008 UNHCR had 31.7 million refugees and internally displaced people under its protection. While the majority are escaping persecution and conflict, others are being forced from their homes by extreme poverty and climate change. This is indeed a world in which humanitarian needs are growing.

It would be tragic if these growing needs were met with diminished financial commitments as a result of the global financial crisis. We can only agree with Mr Guterres that humanitarian aid for the most vulnerable people represents an investment in the creation of a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Building support for UNHCR

At this time of diminishing financial support for aid internationally, Australia for UNHCR

is committed to increasing its support for UNHCR.

Our rapid growth in 2008 has, we believe, established a solid basis for this increased assistance. As part of an integrated fundraising strategy, we expanded our in-house face-to-face program to acquire monthly donors. We maintained a busy schedule of direct mail and online appeals and received increased revenue from corporates, trusts and foundations.

Events such as our annual World Refugee Day Breakfast and Mothers' Day Lunch continued to generate awareness and net income for the organisation.

In June, the PricewaterhouseCooper's 'Power of 10' campaign set a new benchmark in corporate sector giving to both Australia for UNHCR and UNHCR globally. An amazing \$6 million was raised by PwC and its employees over ten days of intensive fundraising. Meanwhile, we continued to forge and nurture our relationships with corporate organisations, universities, schools and community groups.



UNHCR/H. Caux



More than 70% of the funds we raised in 2008 came from individuals – from both new and existing supporters making monthly gifts and one-off donations to Australia for UNHCR.

Our achievements

Australia for UNHCR was recognised in an annual sector benchmarking survey of more than 20 charities as having achieved the highest two-year growth and the best upgrade and attrition rates of all the charities surveyed.

With 14,000 Australians contributing regularly to our Emergency Response Team program, we helped to fund emergency preparedness and relief operations for people displaced by nineteen political crises and natural disasters, including major emergencies in Myanmar, Kenya, Georgia and the DRC.

In April, our Deputy Director Debra O'Neill saw the impact of those contributions first-hand when she visited an emergency camp for refugees fleeing post-election violence in Kenya. Coordinating the relief effort on the Ugandan side of the border, members of UNHCR's Emergency Response Team expressed appreciation for the support they had received from individual donors in countries like Australia.

Debra also visited the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in western Uganda which has been the focus of several A4U appeals. Based on her assessment of needs in the camp, our highly successful Christmas Star Appeal raised funds to improve Nakivale's water, health and education facilities.

Here in Australia, we maintained an active schedule of public awareness and education activities with the support of our Board, staff and Special Representatives, and also with our colleagues at UNHCR.

Under the Chair of Director Michael Dwyer, the Program Sub-Committee continued to attract support from the finance and investment sector through its program of Twilight Seminars.

The Women's Advisory Committee, established under the Chair of Director Alice Spigelman, held a number of successful events during the year including a Literary Lunch and Mothers' Day Lunch in support of UNHCR projects benefiting refugee women and children.

Meanwhile, we distributed more than 10,000 copies of our biannual newsletter 'With You' to our donors and supporters and increased our use of email communications including donor E-Alerts. We also held several supporter briefings around the country to raise awareness of UNHCR's work and provide donors with direct feedback from the field.

Our thanks

It was with sadness that we farewelled our long-serving and founding Patron, Tim Fischer AC, who resigned his role with Australia for UNHCR to take up his new position as Australian Ambassador to the Holy See.

Tim's energy, commitment and good humour attracted wide support for the refugee cause. His annual auction at our Christmas function will be sorely missed.

We will, however, be delighted to welcome Her Excellency the Governor-General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, as our new patron in 2009.

Thanks also to our colleagues within UNHCR who at all levels supported our activities and in particular the staff of PSFR in Geneva and the UNHCR Regional Office based in Canberra under the leadership of Regional Representative Richard Towle.

Again, we owe a debt of gratitude to our Special Representatives – Jane Turner, Ian Chappell, Mark Schwarzer, Jack Gray, Adut Dau Atem and Sophie Weldon. During 2008, these six people took many opportunities to use their public profile and life experience to encourage Australians' support, empathy and understanding of the plight of the world's refugees.

Australia for UNHCR's achievements in 2008 also belong to our staff and loyal volunteers who are motivated by their commitment to

easing the suffering and improving the lives of the world's displaced people. All staff undertook leadership training during the year and participated in the development of the organisation's Purpose, Mission, Vision and Value Statements.

Finally, we take this opportunity to thank all those individuals, organisations and companies who gave generously to UNHCR during the year and to those who gave their time, resources and advice to support our work.

In particular, we thank our fellow Board members for their ongoing support and dedication to the cause of refugee relief and protection.

Naomi Steer

Naomi Steer
National Director

John W.H. Denton

John W.H. Denton
Chairman



UNHCR



During the year 245 members of UNHCR's Emergency Response Team (ERTeam) were deployed to 41 countries. They responded to a wide range of emergencies resulting in mass population displacement: outbreaks of violence in Georgia and Kenya; population movements around Iraq and Somalia; and renewed fighting in Darfur and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In May, two natural disasters – a cyclone in Myanmar and an earthquake in China – highlighted UNHCR's growing role as a leader in the provision of emergency shelter.

Australia for UNHCR maintained its strong support for UNHCR's emergency relief operations during the year. Through our regular giving program, our Emergency Response Team supporters assisted the training and preparedness of the ERTeam and the rapid delivery of emergency relief items and services to the field. In response to several specific crises in 2008, additional emergency funds were raised through e-alerts and targeted donor appeals.

Kenya/Uganda

In January, post-election violence in Kenya caused mass population displacement. As part of a cluster approach, UNHCR provided relief items, logistical support and assistance for some of the 350,000 people displaced in Kenya itself. Another Emergency Response Team was posted to eastern Uganda to

establish camps and services for 13,000 Kenyan refugees.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$518,564

Cameroon

Conflict in the Chadian capital N'Djamena in February sent thousands of refugees fleeing into Cameroon. UNHCR sent in the Emergency Response Team to help run a transit centre on Chad's southern border and establish a new refugee camp in the Cameroon town of Maltam.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$20,625

Georgia

Fierce fighting in the breakaway territories of South Ossetia and Abkhazia displaced more

than 125,000 people in August, most of them internally. At the height of the crisis, UNHCR had 80 staff on the ground and was the lead agency for protection, shelter, non-food items and telecommunications. UNHCR coordinated the relief effort in the only IDP camp (in Gori) and helped to 'winterise' dozens of public buildings serving as 'collective centres' for displaced families.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$188,086

Democratic Republic of the Congo/Uganda

More than 250,000 people fled their homes as fighting escalated in the eastern states of North and South Kivu. UNHCR provided protection services and shelter relief for thousands of IDPs living in crowded camps around Goma. Emergency teams were also

MYANMAR – EMERGENCY SHELTER RELIEF

In early May, Cyclone Nargis decimated coastal towns and villages in southern Myanmar leaving thousands dead and more than a million people homeless. Appointed the lead agency for shelter in the UN's Joint Disaster Response, UNHCR quickly launched a major relief operation to provide tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, mosquito nets, blankets and survival kits to 250,000 people in Yangon and the Irrawaddy Delta.

UNHCR was uniquely placed to help in this instance, having 70 staff already working in

the country. Using emergency funds, our country staff were able to purchase tonnes of plastic sheeting and tinned foods for immediate distribution to stricken families in Yangon. A UNHCR truck convoy delivered the first international relief to arrive by road – 22 tonnes of shelter items from our warehouses in Thailand. In the following weeks, 500 tonnes of emergency relief was flown in from UNHCR's central stockpile in Dubai.

In addition to our country office in Yangon, UNHCR established two Field Units in the

devastated Irrawaddy Delta to monitor the shelter needs of the homeless and oversee the fair distribution of relief. The provision of mosquito nets was a high priority, given the prevalence of dengue fever in the region.

Total relief items provided by UNHCR: 88,000 plastic sheets and tarpaulins, 117,000 blankets, 113,000 mosquito nets, 50,000 kitchen sets, 100,000 jerry cans, 400,000 bars of soap.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$571,816



A displaced woman and her five children are registered by UNHCR at Kibati camp, DRC. UNHCR/P. Taggart

deployed to the Ugandan border to provide shelter, hot meals, water, sanitation and medical assistance for new arrivals. UNHCR facilitated the safe transfer of thousands of Congolese to refugee settlements in Uganda.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$324,110 (DRC) \$85,079 (Uganda)

China

UNHCR sent 15,000 tents to China's Sichuan Province in the wake of the region's devastating earthquake in May. The all-weather tents were provided at the specific request of the Chinese Government who paid for their immediate transport to the quake zone. Dispatched from three UNHCR warehouses in China, the tents provided emergency shelter for an estimated 75,000 people.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$6558

Iraq

UNHCR continued its efforts to meet the basic shelter, health, sanitation and education needs of an estimated 250,000 Iraqi IDPs and their host communities. Persecuted groups of non-Iraqi refugees remained highly vulnerable, with many still living in impoverished conditions in isolated desert camps. UNHCR is providing support and protection for these groups while negotiating their resettlement in third countries.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$7584

PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES

The UNHCR Emergency Preparedness and Response Section now has the capacity to mobilise emergency teams within 72 hours to respond to the immediate needs of 500,000 people in a humanitarian crisis.

Emergency Preparedness

A new early warning system was piloted in 2008 to track developments which might precipitate mass population displacement.

Central stockpiles in Dubai and Copenhagen contain:

- Basic non-food items (plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets, jerry cans and buckets) for 500,000 people.
- Lightweight emergency tents for 250,000 people.
- Operational support items such as trucks, generators and prefabricated warehouses.

Emergency Personnel

UNHCR staff volunteer to undergo intensive WEM Training (Workshops on Emergency Management Training). They are then put onto the Emergency Roster for six to nine months, where they must remain prepared to travel at a few hours notice to join an Emergency Response Team anywhere in the world. Depending on the situation, an ERTeam may also include site planning specialists and water engineers.

Emergency deployments are generally two or three months in duration. At any one time, 100 UNHCR staff are on the Emergency Roster with 200 more on standby for full scale emergency operations.



UNHCR



People who spend months or years in refugee settlements remain vulnerable to poverty, exploitation, violence and disease. While seeking permanent solutions for them, UNHCR works to improve the refugees' quality of life, self-reliance and opportunities, providing community infrastructure, schools, income generating projects and health care services in protracted refugee settings.

In 2008 Australia for UNHCR continued to support nutrition, health, education and self-reliance programs for long-term refugees in Africa and Asia. In June, we helped to forge a groundbreaking partnership between UNHCR and the private sector to build and maintain primary schools in refugee camps in Chad.

Nutrition – Kenya

Australia for UNHCR helped to fund emergency feeding and nutrition programs in refugee camps in Kenya's Dadaab region. Australian donors helped to provide supplementary nutrition for pregnant women, micronutrient powders to treat and prevent common conditions like anaemia, and ready-to-use therapeutic foods like Plumpynut, an enriched peanut paste that produces marked weight gain in children and requires no cooking or mixing with water.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$21,574

Reproductive Health – Chad

Australia for UNHCR continued to fund the distribution of Clean Delivery Kits in refugee camps in Chad. Containing a plastic sheet, a clean blade, soap, swaddling cloth, string and pictorial information, these kits play a key role in reducing labour-related deaths and infections. We also helped to provide extra nutrition for pregnant women, training and delivery kits for midwives, hospital transfers and breast-feeding support.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$40,699

Education – Iraq

There are concerns that a generation of displaced Iraqi children is growing up uneducated. Working with Ministries of Education, both in Iraq itself and in surrounding countries, UNHCR is assisting IDP and refugee children to return to school by supporting the rehabilitation of damaged

REFUGEE EDUCATION – CHAD

Australia for UNHCR was the first point of contact for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) when looking for a charity partner for an innovative campaign to mark the multinational firm's 10th anniversary. Devised by PwC and UNHCR, "The Power of 10" raised more than US\$4 million to support the education of refugee children from Darfur.

Over ten working days in June, PwC firms, executives and individual staff in 102 countries were challenged to raise US\$1 million to support the building, renovation and operation of schools for refugee children from Darfur living in camps in eastern Chad.

A special website was developed and six video emails were sent to PwC partners and staff around the world explaining the project and encouraging both individual and corporate donations. Over the ten

days, our expectations were well and truly exceeded as gifts to the value of US\$4 million were received from more than 6,000 PwC employees and offices in 102 countries.

The funds will be used to construct, maintain and improve school facilities in three refugee camps in Chad, providing education for 20,000 children aged between six and 14. Each school will have a safe playground area and a cooperative garden. A multi-use centre will be constructed in each camp for secondary study, youth training and adult education. The Power of 10 also aims to improve the quality of teaching in the camps by boosting teacher training, supervision and classroom resources.

Total funds raised by the Power of 10: US\$4,024,841

Funds contributed by PricewaterhouseCoopers and its employees in Australia: \$490,647



UNHCR/H. Caux



schools, expanding the capacity of others to enrol displaced children and providing families with information, uniforms, school bags and stationery.

Funds provided to this program by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$3239

Self Reliance – Thailand

160,000 refugees have spent the past 19 years in nine camps run by the Thai Government on the Thai/Myanmar border. Unable to leave the camps to work or further their education, they remain dependent on aid. UNHCR supports agricultural projects in the camps to increase food security and self-reliance, and develop their skills in preparation for their pending resettlement.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$79,129

Protracted Situations Support – Algeria

In five isolated desert camps in the Tindouf region of Algeria, 90,000 long-term refugees from Western Sahara depend on UNHCR and other UN agencies for all their food and non-food needs. In response to our campaign for “forgotten refugees”, Australia for UNHCR supporters helped to provide supplementary and therapeutic foods, cooking fuel, health care, water and sanitation in the Tindouf camps.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$66,337

NAKIVALE REFUGEE SETTLEMENT – UGANDA

Nakivale Refugee Settlement is one of the oldest and largest refugee facilities in Uganda. Located in one of Africa’s most volatile regions, near the borders of Rwanda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the settlement houses more than 30,000 refugees from eight different African countries.

Between 2006 and 2008, Nakivale has received large influxes of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Each influx emergency has increased the pressure on the settlement’s meagre resources and aging infrastructure. In recent years, Australia for UNHCR has developed a special relationship with Nakivale, a link that is acknowledged on a sign at the entrance to the camp. Through our annual Christmas Star Appeals, our supporters have helped

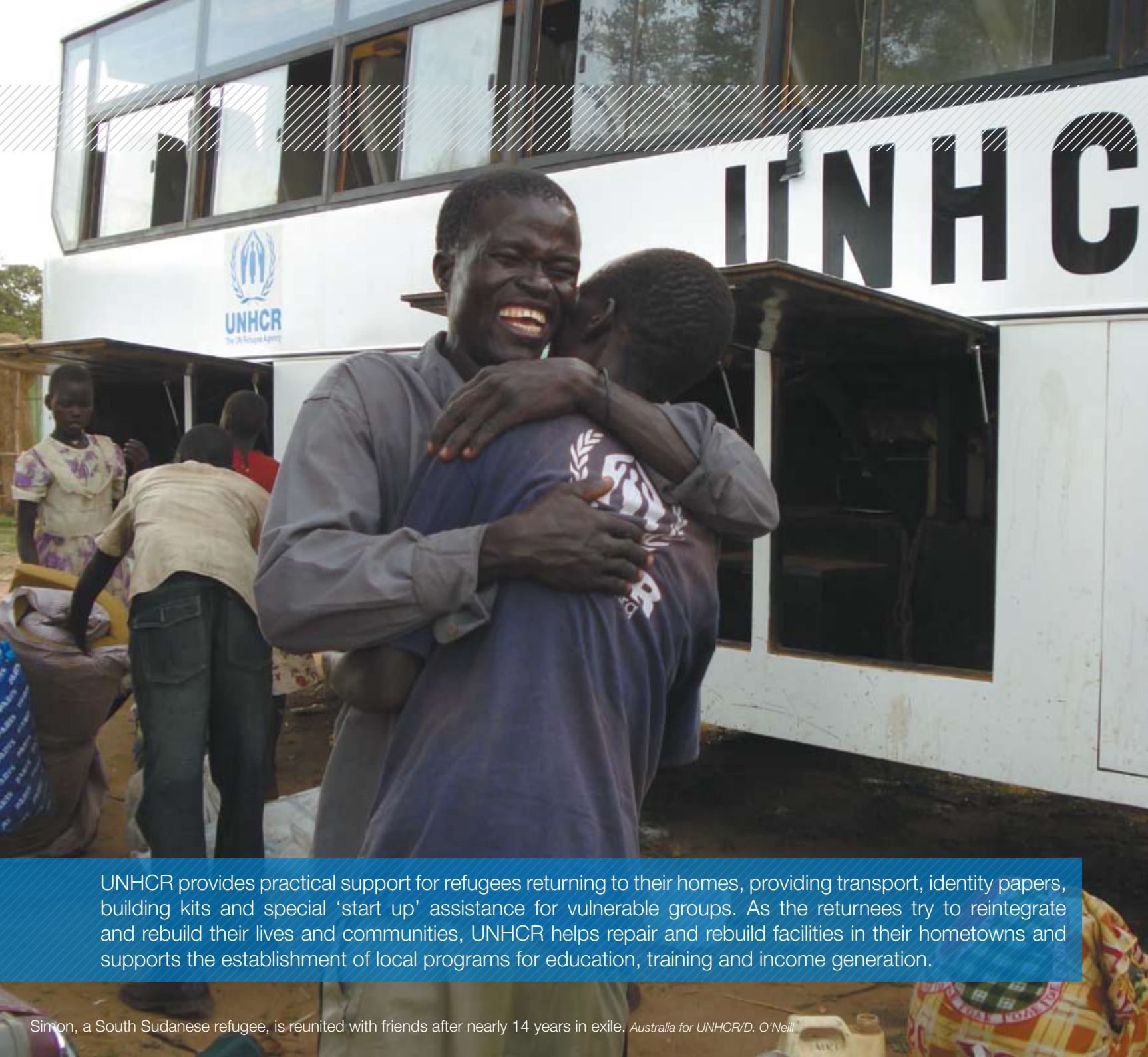
to provide large quantities of emergency relief and support for the camp’s crowded schools and health centres.

In April, our Deputy Director Debra O’Neill, travelled to Nakivale to assess its priority needs and see how funds raised by our 2007 Christmas Star Appeal had been used to provide emergency shelter, blankets, tools and school supplies.

In December, our 2008 Christmas Star Appeal raised additional funds for water infrastructure, medical supplies, a second ambulance and a new secondary school in Nakivale Refugee Settlement.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$103,204





UNHCR provides practical support for refugees returning to their homes, providing transport, identity papers, building kits and special 'start up' assistance for vulnerable groups. As the returnees try to reintegrate and rebuild their lives and communities, UNHCR helps repair and rebuild facilities in their hometowns and supports the establishment of local programs for education, training and income generation.

Simon, a South Sudanese refugee, is reunited with friends after nearly 14 years in exile. *Australia for UNHCR/D. O'Neill*

Support for Returnee Communities Promotes:

- The successful reintegration and acceptance of returning populations.
- A sense of security and stability vital for the recovery and well-being of war-affected persons, especially children.
- The reduction of pressure on the environment through the provision of alternative construction materials.
- The vigour of the local economy through job creation and the local procurement of materials.

Shelter – Afghanistan

Australia for UNHCR has supported the Afghanistan Shelter Program since 2002, helping to provide housing for more than a million people in rural and metropolitan Afghanistan, alleviating pressure on returnee housing. In 2008, proceeds from our annual Literary Lunch went to support a Safe House Program in Mazar-e-Sharif for vulnerable returnee women.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$49,518

Other returns and resettlements

Papua New Guinea: for activities benefiting resettled West Papuan refugees.

Timor Leste: for follow-up programs in the wake of the 2006 emergency.

Lebanon: for the care and maintenance of IDPS following the 2006 conflict.

Total funds provided to these programs by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$10,178

REPATRIATION – SOUTH SUDAN

By the end of 2008, UNHCR had assisted more than 130,000 South Sudanese to return to their homeland from refugee camps in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda. In the third year of this massive repatriation program, UNHCR conducted returns along 16 air and land corridors, with most families travelling overland in convoys of trucks and buses. UNHCR arranges their travel papers, ensures the state of roads and bridges and operates 'way stations' along the route to provide hot meals and overnight accommodation for up to 1000 people at a time.

In April, Australia for UNHCR's Deputy Director Debra O'Neill travelled with a returning convoy carrying more than 430 people from refugee camps near Adjumani in Uganda to villages in South Sudan's

East Equatoria State. She followed the progress of one family as they packed their belongings and livestock, underwent various health and registration checks and travelled on buses over rough roads to their village of origin. Along the way, each family received hot meals and returnee relief packages: a three month food ration, basic shelter materials, hygiene items, household goods and farm tools. Debra was there to record the family's joyous return to Moli village after nearly 14 years in exile.

At each stage of the return journey, UNHCR field staff stressed the need for resources, both for the repatriation process itself and for the ongoing services required in South Sudan to support the rebuilding of communities in a war-ravaged country.

Funds provided by Australia for UNHCR in 2008: \$62,153



Deputy Director Debra O'Neill meets with a refugee leader in the field in April.

UNHCR PROJECTS FUNDED BY AUSTRALIAN DONORS



SUPPORTERS OF AUSTRALIA FOR UNHCR ASSISTED REFUGEES AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS IN 19 COUNTRIES IN 2008.

COUNTRY	FUNDS
Afghanistan	\$49,520
Algeria	\$66,337
Cameroon	\$20,625
Chad	\$940,269
China	\$6558
Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$1,117,849
Georgia	\$188,086
Iraq	\$10,823
Kenya	\$461,597
Myanmar	\$571,816
Papua New Guinea	\$9000
Sudan	\$62,153
Thailand	\$79,129
Uganda	\$208,190
Zimbabwe	\$817,075

Other countries supported: Somalia, Timor-Leste, India and Lebanon.



World Refugee Day

On June 20, 360 supporters attended Australia for UNHCR's flagship event – our World Refugee Day Breakfast in Sydney. This year's event was hosted by journalist and broadcaster Tracey Holmes and sponsored by Colonial First State Global Asset Management.

“Protection” was the theme of the day, with UNHCR's famous “protecting hands” symbol the central motif. The breakfast raised almost \$116,000 for UNHCR's global emergency programs, including the Myanmar Cyclone Emergency Appeal.

The Hon. Maxine McKew MP, the keynote speaker at our first WRD Breakfast in 2002, returned as a special guest this year. Two former refugees from Myanmar, Daniel Zu and Daniel Thien, talked of their experiences in Tham Hin camp in Thailand and their aspirations for the future. Both have recently been resettled in Australia by UNHCR.

The breakfast was supported by our Special Representatives Ian Chappell, Mark Schwarzer, Jack Gray and Special Youth Representative Sophie Weldon.

Mother's Day Lunch

Organised by Australia for UNHCR's Women's Committee, our Mother's Day Lunch in Sydney raised awareness and \$42,000 for UNHCR's reproductive health programs.

UNHCR Special Representative Jane Turner and MC Julie McCrossin urged the 150 guests to provide life-saving Clean Delivery Kits for refugee women in Chad. Dr Ann

Burton, UNHCR's HIV/AIDS Co-ordinator in Bangkok, thanked those who donated funds at the 2007 Mother's Day Lunch, describing the positive impact of reproductive health programs on the lives of Rohingya mothers and babies in northern Myanmar.

Literary Lunch

Najaf Mazari and Robert Hillman, authors of the book *The Rug Maker of Mazar-E-Sharif* were special guests at our Literary Lunch in October. Hosted by Penny Gerstle and Australia for UNHCR's Women's Committee, the lunch raised \$39,000 to support a women's safe house for returning refugees in Mazar-E-Sharif, Afghanistan.

Supporter Briefings

Well-attended briefings in Sydney and Melbourne updated supporters on UNHCR's work in Uganda, South Sudan and Thailand. Many who attended had donated funds to these projects and the briefings offered a valuable opportunity for feedback and discussion. Deputy National Director Debra O'Neill spoke of her mission to Uganda and

shared the experience of families returning to South Sudan after up to 15 years in exile.

Christmas Star Appeal Launch

Our 2008 Christmas Star Appeal was launched at NSW Parliament House in December. Special Representatives Jane Turner, Tim Fischer AC and Sophie Weldon spoke at this year's event which was sponsored by BNP Paribas Securities Services.

United Nations Day

To mark UN Day in October, Australia for UNHCR representatives Maureen Collins and Penny Gerstle attended a wreath laying ceremony in Sydney's Martin Place to honour those who have served in UN peacekeeping missions.

Film Previews

In January, Paramount Pictures hosted a private advanced screening of *The Kite Runner*, a film from the book by UN Special Representative Khaled Housseni.



LISTENING TO OUR SUPPORTERS

In February, Australia for UNHCR launched its inaugural Annual Supporter Survey to help us better understand the needs and interests of our donors. We received more than 700 responses and have made several significant changes as a result. Here are some of the key findings:

- Supporters were most concerned about refugee situations in Africa and the Middle East. Many also expressed concern about refugees in Australia.
- UNHCR's health care programs were the highest priority for our supporters, followed by education and food and nutrition programs.
- Our supporters expressed the desire for our communications to be more environmentally friendly. We've listened – our newsletters are now printed on recycled paper, and we have made email the primary means of communication for those who prefer it.
- Supporters were also interested to hear directly from staff who had visited the field. In response, we introduced our popular Supporter Briefings which will continue in 2009.



In 2008 Australia for UNHCR continued its rapid growth, raising more than \$6.63 million in fundraising income. More than 70% of this income was derived from monthly giving, primarily via the face-to-face fundraising program while direct mail, online and special events continued to attract significant individual, corporate and government support.

2008 CHRISTMAS STAR APPEAL

For the third consecutive year, funds from our annual Christmas Star Appeal were directed to Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda. See page 15.

Following a visit to Nakivale by our Deputy Director, Debra O'Neill, the 2008 Christmas Star Appeal focused on raising funds for infrastructure and services in three specific areas – water, health care and secondary education.

The appeal consisted of a direct mail campaigns, a funding proposal for top

donors and an interactive website. Australians were invited to:

- help extend Nakivale's water system;
- increase supplies of malaria drugs and other medicines;
- assist with the purchase of a second ambulance for the settlement; or
- help build a secondary school in Nakivale in 2009.

Donors had the opportunity to send Christmas gifts on behalf of friends and

family and personal messages of support to refugees in Nakivale. These personal messages have become a feature of our Christmas Star Appeal. Previously they have been sent to UNHCR field staff for display in the settlement's schools and community centres but, in April, Debra was able to deliver last year's messages in person.

Including donations received in 2009, the 2008 Christmas Star Appeal raised a record \$249,475.

"The Power of 10" was a highlight of our fundraising year. See page 13 for details.

Donor Appeals

During the year, direct mail and online campaigns raised almost \$1 million for specific refugee relief programs.

March: "Three Emergencies Appeal" raised \$83,765 to provide emergency relief for three simultaneous crises in Kenya, Chad and Cameroon.

May: Our Myanmar Emergency Appeal raised \$537,808 to provide relief items and logistical support for UNHCR's massive emergency operation. The campaign included

a fax acquisition campaign, online campaigns and media which together generated \$171,213 for the emergency.

September: The South Sudan Repatriation Appeal raised \$48,870 to provide shelter, transport, clean drinking water and other support for families returning home to South Sudan after the 23 year civil war.

November: The Christmas Star Appeal raised \$249,475 to improve facilities and services in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda. Funds were raised to provide clean drinking water, health care and a secondary school in the settlement which was receiving large numbers of refugees from the DRC.

Regular Giving

Australia for UNHCR now has more than 14,000 regular monthly donors who contribute to UNHCR's international humanitarian programs. Our in-house face-to-face program continued to raise awareness of the vital work of the UN Refugee Agency and signed up more than 7800 new Emergency Response Team Partners in 2008.

This stable and growing base of monthly donors has enabled UNHCR to respond more effectively to refugee emergencies and implement long-term relief programs.



Of the total proceeds from fundraising appeals in 2008, at least 75% were distributed directly to UNHCR's refugee programs.

Since Australia for UNHCR introduced its first Special Representatives in 2002, the program has grown to include Jane Turner, Mark Schwarzer, Dr Jack Gray, Ian Chappell and two Youth Representatives, Sophie Weldon and former refugee Adut Dau Atem.

All representatives have used their profile through the media and as spokespeople in 2008, to promote UNHCR's work in the public domain and highlight the need for funds.

Jane Turner gained good publicity for UNHCR's response to the Myanmar Cyclone Emergency in May. Despite many challenges, the UN Refugee Agency was the first to transport supplies across the border from Thailand. Jane was able to tell that story on Channel 7's Weekend Sunrise raising many thousands of dollars in the process.

From his base in the United Kingdom, Australian Soccerroo and goalkeeper for Fulham, **Mark Schwarzer** and his wife Paloma used their profile to raise awareness of UNHCR's work in the British media, speaking of their own donation of 1000 soccer kits to refugee kids in camps in Thailand.

Meanwhile **Dr Jack Gray** continued to build support in the investment and financial

sector through his advocacy of UNHCR. He drew a large and appreciative crowd to a Twilight Seminar in March sponsored by CSF Global Asset Management.

Celebrated test cricketer **Ian Chappell** continued to bat on in support of UNHCR in 2008. He is a regular presence at Australia for UNHCR events, encouraging support from the broader Australian community. In one generous act, he allowed himself to be 'auctioned off' at our World Refugee Day Breakfast, attracting generous bids for a boardroom "Lunch with Ian".

Our two Special Youth Representatives **Adut Dau Atem** and **Sophie Weldon** continued presenting at schools and youth forums. Adut was the special guest at the UNHCR Regional Office's World Refugee Day event in Canberra attended by the Minister for Immigration, Senator the Hon. Chris Evans. Sophie had the opportunity to visit UNHCR's headquarters in Geneva to discuss her plans for developing a youth-led initiative called Youth for UNHCR.

FAREWELL TO TIM FISCHER

Tim Fischer AC has regrettably relinquished his longstanding role as Australia for UNHCR Patron to take up his new position as Ambassador to the Holy See.

Tim has been our Patron since Australia for UNHCR was established in 2000. Over these eight years, he has been a committed advocate for UNHCR and a passionate supporter of our fundraising and public awareness activities. We are very grateful for his support and wish him all the best in his new role. Tim was warmly farewelled at Australia for UNHCR's Christmas function at State Parliament House in Sydney.

Her Excellency the **Governor-General Quentin Bryce AC** will replace Mr Fischer as our new Patron in 2009.



Australia for UNHCR is governed by a Board of six Directors, all of whom are non-executive and give their time and expertise voluntarily. The Board meets at least six times a year.

DIRECTOR	QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE & OCCUPATION	DIRECTOR SINCE
Mr John W H Denton, Chairman	BA (Hon), LLB Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Corrs Chambers Westgarth Lawyers	July 2000
Mr John Boulton AM	BA, LLB (Hons), LLM Barrister, Head of National Teams, Football Federation of Australia	November 2000
Mr Michael Dwyer	Dip. Superannuation Management, Advanced Dip. Financial Services (Superannuation), Dip. Public Administration, FASFA Chief Executive Officer, First State Super Trustee Corporation	July 2000
Mr Cameron O'Reilly	BEC (Hons), MPPM Executive Director, Energy Retailers Association of Australia (resigned 16 December 2008)	July 2000
Mr Paul Reid	BA (Acctg), Dip. Superannuation Management, CA Partner, KPMG	December 2004
Mrs Alice Spigelman	BA, MA Clin.Psych., Dip.Clin.Psych. Uni. Sydney, Clinical Psychologist, former Marketing Director, Benevolent Society, author	February 2006

COMPANY SECRETARY	QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE & OCCUPATION	DIRECTOR SINCE
Ms Naomi Steer	BA (Hon), LLB National Director, Australia for UNHCR	July 2000

In addition to the Board the following Subcommittees were chaired by Board members:

Finance Committee

Chaired by Director Paul Reid, with members Michael Dwyer and John Boulton the Finance Committee oversees and reviews financial management and reporting.

Staff Remuneration Committee

Chaired by John Denton with members Michael Dwyer and John Boulton, the Committee is set up to review staff salary and conditions.

Program Committee

The Program Committee is chaired by Director Michael Dwyer. Its purpose is to promote support for Australia for UNHCR and to educate and inform people in

both the wider community and in the superannuation/finance industry about the work of UNHCR and the situation of refugees worldwide. Members are Warren Adcock, Michael Baldwin, Jack Gray, Matt Perrignon, and Daphne van der Oord.

Women's Steering Committee

The Women's Steering Committee is chaired by Director Alice Spigelman. Its purpose is to promote support for UNHCR projects specifically benefiting women. Committee members are Lorraine Berends, Penny Gerstle, Pamela Gilbert, Ruth Hayes, Daryl Karp, Catharine Retter, and Gill Savage.

Staff and volunteers

Australia for UNHCR is headed up by National Director Naomi Steer with the support of Deputy National Director Debra O'Neill. Our staff are the key contacts for private sector support and keep donors informed of UNHCR's work via our website, e-alerts, phone calls, direct mail, publications, seminars and briefings.

Our face to face team – Frontliners – also work out of the Sydney offices, engaging directly with the public via special event fundraising and donor recruitment campaigns.

Australia for UNHCR could not accomplish what it does without the support of our dedicated team of volunteers. In 2008, we had seventeen volunteers working one day a week, welcoming new donors,

assisting with filing and mailouts and helping with events.

Thank you to Biniam, Charles, Danica, David, Duncan, Elizabeth, Imogen, Jennifer, Julie, Kathleen, Lesley, Mayasa, Michael, Miranda, Skye, Tereen and Valerie.

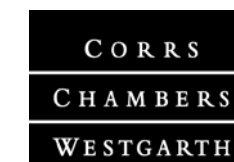


UNHCR/H. Caux

In addition to our individual supporters Australia for UNHCR has received significant support from the corporate sector. Thank you to the following corporations and their staff for their major support in 2008.



Colonial First State Global Asset Management



L A W Y E R S

Corrs Chambers Westgarth



PricewaterhouseCoopers

Thank you to the following companies for their generous contribution to our work this year:

- ASX
- BNP Paribas Securities Services
- Commonwealth Bank
- Freehills Lawyers
- Gleebooks
- KPMG
- Leading Initiatives Worldwide
- Man Investments
- Morris & Partners
- Paramount Pictures
- Insight Publications

Thank you to all those who provided raffle and auction prizes for our events:

- Bilson's Restaurant
- Cadry's
- David Jones
- Elizabeth Arden
- Football Federation Australia
- Fosters
- Lucio's Italian Restaurant
- Nokia
- The Westin
- World Expeditions

Foundations

- ASX-Reuters Foundation
- Melbourne Community Foundation
- Pace Foundation
- Sky Foundation

Special thanks to the following organisation that allowed us to hold our donor briefing nights at their premises:

- Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Melbourne
- PSA, Sydney

Thank you to the following individuals:

- Ann Burton
- Gary & Penny Gerstle
- Robert Hillman
- Tracey Holmes
- Khaled Hosseini
- Najaf Mazari
- The Hon. Maxine McKew MP
- Julie McCrossin
- Steve McCurry
- Jane Williamson

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

REVENUE	NOTE	2008 \$	2007 \$
Donations and gifts – monetary		6,551,995	3,944,267
Legacies and bequests		–	–
Grants			
Other overseas – related party		2,463,098	1,845,863
AusAID		–	–
Other Australian		–	–
Investment income		55,172	40,526
Other income		108,188	46,387
Total revenue		9,178,453	5,877,043

EXPENSES

Overseas projects			
Funds to overseas projects paid		4,542,503	2,772,688
Funds to overseas projects accrued		489,238	169,494
Community education		165,870	144,063
Domestic projects		–	–
Fundraising costs			
Funded by overseas grant		2,463,098	1,845,863
Public		225,548	164,341
Administration		989,045	760,594
Total expenses		8,875,302	5,857,043

Surplus of revenue over expenses	2	303,151	20,000
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

TOTAL FUNDS	2008 \$	2007 \$
Surplus of revenue over expenses	303,151	20,000
Funds available for future use at the beginning of the financial year	140,000	120,000
Funds available for future use at the end of the financial year	443,151	140,000

MOVEMENT	Reserves \$	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2007	120,000	–	120,000
Net surplus for the year	–	20,000	20,000
Transfer to reserves	20,000	(20,000)	–
Balance at 31 December 2007	140,000	–	140,000
Net surplus for the year	–	303,151	303,151
Transfer to reserves	260,000	(260,000)	–
Balance at 31 December 2008	400,000	43,151	443,151

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

CURRENT ASSETS	NOTE	2008 \$	2007 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1,155,784	408,137
Receivables	4	63,576	83,019
Other	5	25,377	23,447
Total current assets		1,244,737	514,603

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Plant and equipment	6	41,003	25,309
Total non-current assets		41,003	25,309

Total assets	1,285,740	539,912
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CURRENT LIABILITIES

Payables	7	767,310	346,036
Provisions	8	28,432	21,216
Total current liabilities		795,742	367,252

NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

Provisions	8	46,847	32,660
Total non-current liabilities		46,847	32,660

Total liabilities	842,589	399,912
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Net assets	443,151	140,000
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MEMBERS' FUNDS

Funds available for future use	443,151	140,000
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Total members' funds	443,151	140,000
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CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	NOTE	2008 \$	2007 \$
Cash receipts in the course of operations		9,168,757	5,758,482
Cash payments in the course of operations		(8,545,505)	(5,944,416)
Interest received		55,172	40,526
Other income		108,189	46,387

Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	13	786,613	(99,021)
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CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Payment for plant and equipment	6	(38,966)	(32,327)
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Net cash used in investing activities		(38,966)	(32,327)
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Net (decrease) / increase in cash held		747,647	(131,348)
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Cash at the beginning of the financial year		408,137	539,485
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Cash at the end of the financial year	3	1,155,784	408,137
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The concise financial report is an extract from the financial report. The financial statements and specific disclosures included in the concise financial report have been derived from the financial report.

The concise financial report cannot be expected to provide as full an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of the entity as the financial report. Further information can be obtained from the financial report and the financial report is available, free of charge on request to the company by contacting (02) 9262 5377.

ABRIDGED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The concise financial report is an extract of the full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2008. The concise financial report has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standard 1039: Concise Financial Reports, and the Corporations Act 2001.

The financial statements, specific disclosures and other information included in the concise financial report are derived from and are consistent with the full financial report of Australia for UNHCR. The concise financial report cannot be expected to provide as detailed an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of Australia for UNHCR as the full financial report.

The financial report of Australia for UNHCR has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs) (including Australian Interpretations) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). A statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards cannot be made due to the organisation applying the not-for-profit sector specific requirements contained in the Australian Accounting Standards. The presentation currency used in this concise financial report is Australian dollars.

NOTE 2: SURPLUS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

REVENUE	2008 \$	2007 \$
Donations and gifts – monetary	6,551,995	3,944,267
Grants		
Other overseas – related party	2,463,098	1,845,863
Investment income	55,172	40,526
Other income	108,188	46,387
Total revenue	9,178,453	5,877,043

Surplus of revenue over expenses has been arrived at after charging the following items:

Depreciation of plant and equipment	23,272	16,433
Operating leases – rental expense	61,223	70,543
Employee benefits expense	2,428,460	1,645,866
Provision for employee entitlements	21,404	12,950

ABRIDGED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

NOTE 3: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any other item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the directors, to affect significantly the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in subsequent financial years.

NOTE 4: TABLE OF CASH MOVEMENTS FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES

Project/purpose	Cash available 1 Jan 2008	Cash raised during 2008	Cash disbursed during 2008	Cash available 31 Dec 2008
Emergency assistance in DRC	–	1,134,251	1,117,849	16,402
Zimbabwe AB programme	–	807,921	807,921	–
All other purposes	408,137	7,255,725	6,524,480	1,139,382
Total	408,137	9,197,897	8,450,250	1,155,784

The above projects for which funds raised during the year were more than 10% of the total income of \$9,178,453.

NOTE 5: ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

During the year ended 31 December 2008 the Company received a grant of \$2,463,098 (2007: \$1,845,863) from UNHCR and is dependent on this entity for financial support in respect of developing its fundraising activities and donor acquisition, and special projects as assigned by UNHCR.

NOTE 6: SEGMENT REPORTING

The company only conducts charitable fundraising activities in Australia.




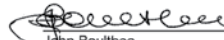
DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors of Australia for UNHCR declare that the concise financial report of Australia for UNHCR for the financial year ended 31 December 2008 as set out on the income statement, balance sheet statement of members' funds, cash flow statement and notes to the concise report:

- a. Complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise financial Reports; and
- b. Is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2008 and has been derived from and is consistent with the full financial report of Australia for UNHCR.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board.


Paul Reid
Director


John Boulton
Director

Dated at Sydney this 25th day of March 2008

Australia for UNHCR (ABN 35 092 843 322)
Concise financial report for the year ended 31 December 2008

MOORE STEPHENS

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
TO THE DIRECTORS OF AUSTRALIA FOR UNHCR**

In accordance with the requirements of section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, as lead auditor for the audit of Australia for UNHCR for the year ended 31 December 2008, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.


MOORE STEPHENS SYDNEY
Chartered Accountants


S. M. WHIDDETT
Partner

Dated at Sydney, this 25th day of March 2009

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MOORE STEPHENS

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIA FOR UNHCR
ABN 35 092 843 322**

Report on the concise financial report

The accompanying concise financial report of Australia for UNHCR ("the Company") comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2008, the income statement, statement of changes in members' funds and cash flow statement for the year then ended and related notes, derived from the audited financial report of Australia for UNHCR for the year ended 31 December 2008. The concise financial report does not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards.

Directors' responsibility for the concise financial report

The directors are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the concise financial report in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), statutory and other requirements. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation of the concise financial report; selecting and applying the appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the concise financial report based on our audit procedures. We have conducted an independent audit, in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, of the financial report of Australia for UNHCR for the year ended 31 December 2008. Our audit report on the financial report for the year was signed on 25 March 2009 and was not subject to any modification. The Australian Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report for the year is free from material misstatement.

Our procedures in respect of the concise financial report included testing that the information in the concise financial report is derived from, and is consistent with, the financial report for the year, and examination on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts, discussion and analysis, and other disclosures which were not directly derived from the financial report for the year. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the concise financial report complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports and whether the discussion and analysis complies with the requirements laid down in AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports.

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MOORE STEPHENS

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, provided to the directors of Australia for UNHCR on 25 March 2009 would be in the same terms if provided to the directors as at the date of this auditor's report.

Auditor's opinion

In our opinion, the concise financial report including the discussion and analysis of Australia for UNHCR for the year ended 31 December 2008 complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports.


MOORE STEPHENS SYDNEY
Chartered Accountants


S. M. WHIDDETT
Partner

Dated at Sydney, this 25th day of March 2009



Corporate Statement

Australia for UNHCR is an Australian company limited by guarantee. It was registered under the Corporation Act on 4 July 2000. UNHCR is the single member of the company.

A registered charity, Australia for UNHCR has tax-deductible Gift Recipient Status through its listing as a specific international affairs recipient under Section 30.80 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. It is endorsed by the ATO as an Income Tax Exempt Charity.

Australia for UNHCR is affiliated to the Fundraising Institute of Australia (FIA), which sets standards for the charitable and fundraising sector. It is a signatory to the Code of Conduct of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), which ensures that NGOs conduct their activities with integrity, transparency and accountability. This code sets out an agreed set of values and principles for NGOs to follow in the work they support overseas and in their fundraising and educational activities.

Australia for UNHCR is one of a number of fundraising organisations around the world set up by UNHCR to support its private sector fundraising program. We operate through a formal funding and licensing agreement with UNHCR which authorises Australia for UNHCR to raise funds on its behalf in Australia to support UNHCR's international humanitarian projects. Australia for UNHCR works closely with the Public Sector Fund Raising Section (PSFR) in UNHCR Geneva and the UNHCR Regional Office in Canberra.

Australia for UNHCR Purpose, Mission, Values

Purpose

To provide life changing humanitarian support to refugees and other displaced and stateless people who come under the care and protection of the UN Refugee Agency.

Mission

We will achieve this by engaging Australians in the work of Australia for UNHCR at every level of the community (government, corporate, foundations and individuals) and by maximising our fundraising in the private sector and other areas of financial and program support where appropriate. In doing so we will ensure we are leaders of innovation and best practice in fundraising and management.

Values - You're a STAR* for UNHCR

***S-Sharing and Caring**

We are committed to having a sharing, caring and open organisation in which our employees, volunteers and supporters feel welcome and supported at every level. While recognising the importance of individual contributions we are committed to working as a team and ensuring skills and learnings are shared and successes celebrated across the team.

***T-Trustworthiness**

We will demonstrate Trustworthiness to all our donors and stakeholders and colleagues always acting with integrity and honesty. We will be reliable both in our relations and undertakings with key partners and supporters and also with our colleagues.

***A- Achievement**

We will be motivated by Achievement and will contribute to our organisational culture that embraces challenges and supports bold initiatives.

***R-Respect**

We will Respect our stakeholders, partners and colleagues by valuing their experience, input and views. We will demonstrate this by listening and learning from others, celebrating diversity and seeking to resolve conflict through open and respectful dialogue.



www.unrefugees.org.au



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