WHERE WE WORKED IN 2007

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Cover Photo: An Iraqi refugee in Syria makes tea in her home during a common power outage. Credit: REUTERS/Khaled Al Hariri
Throughout 2007, Refugees International continued to focus on some of the world’s largest, most intractable displacement crises—Burma, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, and Sudan—and our interventions brought results.

Last year, the US government increased its aid to displaced Iraqis nearly five-fold to $197 million. In addition, the US announced a goal to resettle 12,000 Iraqi refugees, up from 1,608 the previous year. Congress also passed a law enabling thousands more Iraqis to enter the US on special immigrant visas. RI, in coordination with other agencies, worked hard to secure these changes. But the US response remains small compared to the size of the problem; some five million Iraqis comprising 20% of the population have been displaced. Jordan, which hosts more than 500,000 Iraqi refugees, says the new population is costing it about $1 billion a year. The US, Iraqi and international response to Iraqi displacement remains inadequate, but we have helped put the problem on the map and started forcing solutions.

For years RI has been campaigning to get a larger, more capable peacekeeping force into the Darfur region of Sudan. The UN approved such a force in July, and since then RI has been working to have the US contribution live up to President Bush’s call for a peacekeeping force that can provide better protection to civilians in Darfur. At the same time RI continued to highlight the needs in south Sudan, where a 2005 peace agreement is under increasing strain.

RI also continues to make progress on the issue of statelessness. Several years ago few people even recognized that 15 million people live without citizenship, meaning that they can’t vote, get travel documents or, in many cases, work or send their children to school. Now that the US and the UN acknowledge the problem, some countries are acting to give citizenship to formerly stateless residents.

Despite these actions and achievements, there is much more to do. With your help, we are increasing the intensity and effectiveness of our work. Thank you for your continuing support. It helps us make a difference.

Farooq Kathwari
Chair

Kenneth H. Bacon
President
34.5 million people worldwide have been forced from their homes because of conflict, and over 15 million stateless people live with no national identity. Refugees International gathers information directly from the field and provides governments, international agencies, and non-governmental organizations with effective solutions to improve the lives of displaced people. Where there are needs—for food, water, shelter, protection from harm, access to health care—we witness what is lacking, we present solutions, and we demand action.

“Refugees International is playing a major role in raising awareness, in advocacy and in forcing us to do what we need to do, what we are supposed to do.”

IRAQ & THE MIDDLE EAST:
Refugees International’s most successful advocacy program led the UN Refugee Agency to double its budget in the region from $63 million to $123 million and the US government to increase funding for Iraqi refugees from $47 million to $197 million.

COLOMBIA:
RI urged Congress to increase socio-economic assistance over military support in its foreign assistance package to Colombia. As a result, assistance for social and economic programs rose from 18% to 35%—an increase of $196 million. Congress also passed a resolution calling 2007 the Year of the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons in Colombia.

DARFUR, SUDAN:
After RI met with Congressional and Bush Administration officials to urge increased funding for the joint UN-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur, Congress authorized a major funding increase of $550 million for the force.

BURMA:
The US State Department increased funding from $4 million to $7 million for Thai-based agencies to provide food, medicine and other aid to displaced people inside Burma after RI called attention to the humanitarian crisis in the country.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO:
Tens of thousands of vulnerable internally displaced Congolese received increased assistance after RI urged non-governmental organizations to ramp up their relief efforts in North Kivu.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:
After RI called attention to 200,000 people displaced by conflict in the northwest Central African Republic, the number of aid agencies operating in this neglected region rose from 5 to 19.

SUDAN:
RI’s report, Laws Without Justice, spotlighted needed legal reforms to reduce sexual violence in Sudan. As a result, Congress unanimously passed a resolution calling on President Bush and the international community to respond to and prevent violence against women in the region.

BANGLADESH:
On September 5, the Bangladeshi interim government announced its decision to grant citizenship to stateless Biharis born after 1971. Since 2006, RI has been calling for citizenship for more than 250,000 Biharis who live in 66 camps throughout the country and are locked out of job and education opportunities.
This young Iraqi girl is one of almost five million Iraqis who fled their homes due to violence in their country. They are in urgent need of assistance—many have run out of resources, and have little access to food, health care or education. The UN, US and Iraqi governments all provided millions of dollars of increased assistance to displaced Iraqis after Refugees International continued to spotlight this neglected crisis. Credit: REUTERS/Mohanned Faisal
According to the UN, almost five million people have been displaced by violence in Iraq. Based on our findings from three separate missions to the Middle East, Refugees International’s persistent advocacy successfully convinced UN agencies and the US and Iraqi governments to increase their response to the urgent needs of displaced Iraqis.

Following the release of our March report, *Iraq: The World’s Fastest Growing Displacement Crisis*, RI continued to expose the plight of Iraqi refugees to policymakers worldwide. Last year, RI successfully urged the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to double its budget from $63 million to $123 million. Our work helped to increase the UNICEF and UNHCR budget for the education of Iraqi refugee children and the World Health Organization’s joint appeal for health care assistance to $129 million and $85 million, respectively.

RI moved the US government to increase its Iraqi refugee assistance funding from $43 million to $197 million, and increase its target for Iraqi refugee admissions to 12,000, far above the 1,608 resettled the previous year. Our calls for the US State Department to augment its response were answered in November, when Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice appointed Ambassador James Foley to manage the US response to the Iraqi displacement crisis.

By testifying to Congressional committees and briefing key staff members from the House and Senate Foreign Relations and Appropriations Committees, RI has increased Congressional action on this issue. RI worked closely with the offices of Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) to draft legislation that increased resettlement of and assistance to displaced Iraqis. Congress followed our funding recommendations, and at the end of 2007, provided $200 million in humanitarian assistance for Iraqi refugees for the next fiscal year.
Refugees International traveled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) twice in 2007 to ensure that Congolese who were newly displaced or returning home after years of conflict were receiving the assistance they needed. RI successfully advocated for the UN to provide leadership and support for displaced people as they returned to their villages and rebuilt their lives. And we pushed aid agencies to provide assistance to tens of thousands of vulnerable internally displaced people in eastern Congo.

RI also focused on improving the ability of UN peacekeepers to protect civilians from ongoing fighting. Despite international pressure to reduce the number of peacekeepers in the Congo, we successfully convinced the UN Security Council to maintain troop strength and improve the force’s mandate to protect civilians. In one especially violent town, security has increased after we pressed UN peacekeepers to conduct night patrols.

Sudan is one of the world’s greatest challenges. Refugees International, in coalition with other groups, urged Congress to increase funding for a new UN-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur to $550 million. We published a groundbreaking report, *Laws Without Justice*, in both English and Arabic, describing how Sudanese laws expose rape victims to further abuse, shield perpetrators from prosecution, limit the ability for survivors to receive medical services, and essentially deny women any access to justice.

Peace in southern Sudan is essential to helping resolve the Darfur conflict. As millions of displaced south Sudanese return to their homes, RI focused attention on the need to help people reintegrate into their villages and rebuild their lives. As a result, the US government detailed its strategy for transitioning US funding from emergency assistance to long-term development.
These women from the province of North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo walk to their local market on Tuesdays and Sundays, where their biggest fear is encountering soldiers from the national army who assault and rob them. To protect civilians, Refugees International focused on improving the ability of UN peacekeepers to increase security in volatile areas.
At the end of 2007 in Burma, the world witnessed the dramatic government crackdown on demonstrations by Burmese monks and citizens. Members of RI’s Board of Directors conducted a mission to the Thai-Burma border soon after the violence, and called on the Royal Thai Government to allow Burmese refugees to seek asylum.

After years of conflict and repression, three million Burmese have fled to neighboring countries, and 500,000 more are estimated to be displaced internally. Continuing our call for increased humanitarian aid to displaced people inside Burma, RI’s work led the US government to increase cross-border humanitarian assistance into Burma from $4 million to $7 million.

RI’s advocacy was also successful in convincing US agencies to stop denying resettlement to Burmese refugees because of overly-broad interpretations of laws intended to bar terrorist sympathizers from entering the US.

Refugees International continued its advocacy on behalf of the almost four million Colombian internally displaced persons. We released a report, Striving for Better Days, in both English and Spanish, detailing concrete steps for the Government of Colombia to take to address the humanitarian needs of IDPs.

RI achieved a significant victory by urging the US Congress to shift more of its foreign aid toward humanitarian support. Previously, over 80 percent of the foreign aid was dedicated to military and police activities. After our advocacy, 35 percent of the assistance package, or $196 million, went to humanitarian and development needs in Colombia. As part of the shift, the US increased funding for programs that assist Colombian IDPs to $36 million. Our joint efforts with partner organizations also led to more than $15 million of additional funding for support to Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities and increased aid to help the victims of armed conflict throughout the country.
Refugees International met with Burmese monks in Thailand after they fled their country because of the violent crackdown by the repressive Burmese regime. We continued our call for the international community to address the humanitarian needs of Burma’s 55 million people, and were successful in getting the US government to increase cross-border assistance into Burma.

Credit: John Baynard
UN peacekeepers, like this group patrolling in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, are key to maintaining peace so that displaced families may eventually return home. RI’s efforts led the US Congress to substantially increase funding for UN peacekeepers in Darfur, and we have begun to bridge the gap between military and humanitarian perspectives on protecting vulnerable people in conflict.
The effective deployment of peacekeeping operations and the reform of national military forces help maintain peace so that displaced people can return home. To promote these issues, Refugees International conducted missions to Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and monitored the pending deployment of the UN peacekeeping force in Darfur and Chad.

After RI worked with other groups to provide Congress with information on the funding needs for a new UN peacekeeping force to protect the people of Darfur, Congress significantly increased appropriations for UN peacekeepers in the region to $550 million. We also called for increased support to strengthen and professionalize the armed forces in Liberia and the Congo.

RI provided key humanitarian input into military policies by serving as a lead voice in the Civil-Military Working Group. This group fosters dialogue between non-governmental organizations and the Department of Defense on issues such as the importance of maintaining the independence of humanitarian agencies operating in conflict situations. In August 2007, RI testified before Congress on the impact of the proposed US Africa Command (AFRICOM) on America’s strategic relationship with Africa. RI’s coordination is bridging the gap between the military and humanitarian perspectives, and is advancing our recommendation for more honest dialogue and clarity of AFRICOM’s mandate.

RI was also a founding member of the Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect, established last year to serve as a resource for governments, international institutions, and non-governmental organizations leading the fight against mass atrocities. RI continued to lead the Partnership for Effective Peacekeeping (PEP), the only forum in Washington, DC dedicated exclusively to promoting peace operations policy. Members of the PEP continued to work together to urge the Bush Administration and Congress to support and fund UN peacekeeping operations around the world.
Women

Refugees International continued to emphasize the vital role women play in the prevention of conflict and in sustaining peace.

With the launch of Laws Without Justice, RI raised awareness on the legal reforms necessary to reducing sexual violence in Darfur. As a result, Representative Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT) worked with RI to create a resolution calling on President Bush and the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and prevent violence against women and girls in Sudan and the region. The resolution passed unanimously in October. RI also co-authored the International Violence against Women Act, introduced by Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE) and Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), which would make ending violence against women a priority in US foreign assistance programs.

In Liberia and Sudan, Refugees International met with local women activists and leaders to identify their needs. We pushed for US funding to maintain an Emergency School Feeding Program in Liberia that provides take-home rations for girls who attend school to encourage parents to send their daughters to school.

Internal Displacement

Refugees International continued its focus on protecting and assisting internally displaced people who cannot cross an international border to seek refuge in another country.

RI worked closely with the office of Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) to draft and gain support for a resolution recognizing 2007 as the Year of the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons in Colombia. This resolution supported the efforts of local groups like CODHES, Colombia’s largest civil society organization dedicated to displacement. The US Agency for International Development has used the resolution to promote its work in Colombia when Congressional delegations visit the country, and the resolution has helped the UN Refugee Agency encourage European and other donor countries to be more active on displacement issues.

The conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR) went largely unnoticed until RI called attention to 200,000 internally displaced people in the northwest of the country. As a result, the number of aid agencies operating in the country rose from 5 to 19. Our work helped highlight the issue of army attacks on villages, a major cause of displacement, which has since been reduced significantly.
Refugees International spoke to these women in south Sudan who are living with little access to clean water, food, shelter, health services and education. We work to ensure that displaced women receive protection from violence, the opportunity to become self-sufficient and feed their families, and recognition for their vital role in rebuilding society.
These men stand with as many personal belongings as they could fit in their truck after fleeing the economic and political strife in Zimbabwe. Zimbabweans sought refuge and sustenance for their families in South Africa, Zambia, and Botswana, but were often forcefully deported back to the unstable environment they had fled. Refugees International pushed for an end to deportations and worked with the UN to ensure greater protection of Zimbabweans.
The UN estimates that 15 million stateless people worldwide live without a nationality and with no legal access to the rights of typical citizens. Refugees International continues to place this issue high on the agendas of policy makers and on September 5, the interim government of Bangladesh announced a decision to grant citizenship to stateless Biharis born after 1971.

RI assessed the living conditions of stateless people in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Kuwait. In Kuwait, some 100,000 bidun are designated as illegal residents. After we highlighted their plight in our report, About Being Without: Stories of Stateless in Kuwait, local media spotlighted the problem and reported that the government of Kuwait may grant nationality to 5,000 bidun. RI continues to call for the bidun to be granted the right to work, attend school, and receive health services.

RI participated in a UN General Assembly event on statelessness, which led to the first-ever article by The Economist on the issue, and continued to serve as an expert on the issue to prominent international organizations. We also organized meetings of NGOs, scholars, and UN agencies to encourage joint action, and successfully urged the UN Refugee Agency to include information on stateless children in the official UN guidelines on children at risk.

On every assessment mission that we conduct, Refugees International remains focused on the protection of civilian rights. In Zimbabwe, last year’s food shortages, near economic collapse, and political repression forced large numbers of citizens to flee to neighboring countries. RI evaluated the efforts to provide assistance and protection to those who fled, pushed governments who were hosting Zimbabweans to immediately cease deportations, and urged the UN to ensure Zimbabweans reasonable protection.

In September, RI partnered with the Open Society Institute to assess the situation for 108,000 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal and pushed UNHCR to provide assistance and consider special protection measures for refugees forced to leave the camps due to violence and intimidation. The mission resulted in special funding to vulnerable refugees forced from the camps.

For the Bunong people of Cambodia, RI successfully pushed for support of a long-sought indigenous student center, a public health training program, and the promotion of traditional handicrafts to help the Bunong maintain their ethnic identity while adapting to changing environments. RI has played a major role in resurrecting traditional Bunong weaving, and our efforts culminated in the Smithsonian Institution featuring Bunong weavers and textiles in its national Folklife Festival in Washington, DC.
New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof meets with Refugees International advocates Rick Neal and Sayre Nyce in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they briefed him on the findings of their mission. Mr. Kristof wrote about our work in a subsequent column.

Refugees International expanded its communications department in 2007 to increase website activity, engage the media on our issues, produce high-quality publications, and streamline our outreach systems. We earned more media coverage of our issues in 2007 than any year in the past seven years. RI’s opinions and recommendations were highlighted by high-profile national and international media outlets including NBC Nightly News, the Newshour with Jim Lehrer, BBC, CNN, Anderson Cooper 360, the Charlie Rose Show, NPR’s Morning Edition, The Economist, The New Yorker, USA Today, New York Times, The Washington Post, and some 650 other broadcast, print and online news outlets.

RI issued 73 bulletins, analysis pieces and fact sheets, published five reports, and produced three online videos. We increased our online presence by encouraging activism through our website and blog, and by launching organization pages on YouTube, Facebook and Network for Good. Visits to our website grew significantly from 6.4 million pages viewed in 2006 to nearly 9 million pages in 2007.

Left—NBC Nightly News features RI’s report, Iraq: The World’s Fastest Growing Displacement Crisis, in its in-depth coverage of the millions of Iraqis displaced inside their country. Right—RI president Ken Bacon discusses the needs of displaced Iraqis with Tom Foreman on CNN’s This Week at War.
In May, Refugees International’s 28th Anniversary Dinner honored Lord and Lady Malloch-Brown with the 2007 McCall-Pierpaoli Humanitarian Award. The gala was an unprecedented success for RI and a fitting tribute to Mark, the former Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, and Trish, a long-time RI Board member and humanitarian advocate. Their combined vision, energy and effective leadership have served to advance humanitarian causes worldwide. Law and Order star Sam Waterston was the Master of Ceremonies, and luminaries from the worlds of philanthropy, business, politics and society attended. Sydney McNiff Ferguson, Eileen Shields-West and Julia Taft served as the benefit committee co-chairs.

Our outreach events continued to attract an expanding group of individuals interested in advancing humanitarian causes. The Washington Circle Spring Luncheon focused on the peace process in northern Uganda and featured Joyce Neu, a world-renowned conflict resolution specialist, and Betty Bigombe, a former Ugandan government minister. The New York Circle event in November featured Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, current US Ambassador to the UN and former Ambassador to Iraq and Afghanistan, and Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, speaking about the growing Iraqi displacement crisis.
## ASSETS

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<td>Lease Improvements</td>
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<td>Less accumulated depreciation</td>
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<td>1,224,919</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>3,362,102</td>
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## LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Accrued payroll and payroll taxes</td>
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<td>Deferred rent</td>
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<td>100,000</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>1,224,919</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>3,362,102</td>
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## REVENUE BY SOURCE % OF REV.

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>% of Rev.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations &amp; Corporations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>44.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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## Financials

### Revenue & Other Support

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<td>Interest income</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
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<td>(20,236)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restriction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expiration of time restrictions</td>
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<td>Restrictions satisfied by payments</td>
<td>613,574</td>
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<td>(613,574)</td>
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**Total Revenue & Other Support**: 3,716,241  (197,071)  3,519,170

### Expenses

#### Program Services
- Advocacy: 2,430,220
- Public education: 592,077

#### Supporting Services
- General and administrative: 173,756
- Fundraising: 256,314

**Total Expenses**: 3,452,367

### Change in Net Assets
- 263,874  (197,071)  —  66,803

### Net Assets at Beginning of Year
- 1,130,304  1,421,990  100,000  2,652,294

**Net Assets at End of Year**: 1,394,178  1,224,919  100,000  2,719,097

### Expense by Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>% of Exp.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>70.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
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<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>5.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>7.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When you give to Refugees International, you are supporting groundbreaking, lifesaving work for some of the most vulnerable people worldwide.

Your investment can help leverage millions of dollars in assistance that will directly improve the lives of displaced people.

**THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE:**

**Online:** Go to www.refugeesinternational.org/donate

**Mail:** Send a check to our office in Washington, DC

**Stock or Wire Transfer:** Contact us for more information

**Combined Federal Campaign:** CFC #1448, or contribute through other federated campaigns

**Legacy Gift:** Consider leaving a bequest to Refugees International in your will

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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Director of Development  
Refugees International  
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Washington, DC 20009  
elaine@refugeesinternational.org  
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202-828-0819 (fax)  
www.refugeesinternational.org

Refugees International is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
2007 STAFF
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2007

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Lionel Rosenblatt, President Emeritus
Joel Charny, Vice President for Policy

Natasha Bragg, Development Assistant
Michelle Brown, Senior Advocate and UN Representative
Dawn Calabia, Senior Advisor
Solomon David, Comptroller
Patrick Duplat, Advocate
Anna Elias, Finance Associate
Megan Fowler, Director of Communications
Sara Fusco, Assistant Director for Online Communications
Sean Mariano Garcia, Advocate
Rosa Maria Guerrero, Office Manager
Jacob D. Kurtzer, Congressional Advocate
Andrea Lari, Senior Advocate
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