In 32 countries around the world, Refugees International’s staff members spent 2008 listening to the stories of husbands, mothers, sons and daughters who were forced to flee their homes. Our staff heard of the violence these people had witnessed, the family members who were dead or missing, and the struggles they faced in obtaining food, shelter, medicine and other basic necessities to survive. RI takes these stories to the corridors of power and says what few others dare to say—the exact steps that must be taken immediately to help the world’s most vulnerable people.

By directly pressuring policymakers, exposing crises in the media, producing top quality reports and leading coalitions of like-minded groups, RI improved the lives of displaced and stateless people. Thanks to our work, millions more dollars were given to provide food, housing, education and job opportunities for displaced people in places like Burma, Colombia, Syria, and south Sudan. And after years of advocacy by RI and other groups on behalf of Bangladesh’s stateless Urdu-speaking minority, a High Court decision recognized some 200,000 of them as citizens.

RI travels to some of the most dangerous countries in the world. In eastern Congo, RI staff members were on the ground when violence broke out. One week after they were quickly evacuated to safety in Rwanda, we launched a field report calling for more support to the UN peacekeepers in the DR Congo. Our subsequent media interviews and briefings with top officials helped lead the UN Security Council to bolster the UN peacekeepers there with 3,000 more troops.

Refugees International also outlined a new strategy for our work. We will continue our efforts to expose neglected crises and provoke governments to respond. But we are also committed to broadening the scope of our mission over the next several years. Our experience has shown us that there are perpetuating factors that come up time and again that must be addressed in order to reduce the numbers of displaced people. These themes—and our successes with each—are described in this year’s annual report.

In 2009, Refugees International is celebrating its 30th anniversary. For 30 years, we have been a powerful voice for lifesaving action. Committed individuals like you continue to make our work possible. Thank you for your support.

Farooq Kathwari
Kenneth H. Bacon
“Refugees International is indispensable in helping Congress understand what must be done to end refugee crises around the world.”

—Senator Edward M. Kennedy

15.9 million refugees
26 million internally displaced people
12 million stateless people

As the leading advocacy organization on refugee issues, Refugees International works around the world to end refugee crises—pressuring governments, building coalitions and introducing refugees and their stories to the media and key policymakers. Due to efforts by RI and our partners, refugees receive food, medicine and education; displaced people return home; peacekeepers protect the displaced from harm; and stateless people obtain legal status.

IRAQI DISPLACEMENT:
After pressure from Refugees International and other organizations, the U.S. State Department more than doubled its assistance for Iraqi refugees from $171 million to $398 million and the UN Refugee Agency increased its budget for the region from $120 million to $260 million.

BURMA:
RI’s advocacy is changing the U.S. government’s stance against funding humanitarian aid programs inside Burma. The U.S. provided $75 million in assistance after Cyclone Nargis devastated Burma’s delta—a tremendous increase over the previous $3 million budget for aid inside the country.

DR CONGO:
After meetings in the Congo, Geneva and New York, RI successfully convinced aid agencies to begin shifting their strategy from routine humanitarian assistance to a community-based approach. As RI recommended, the UN Refugee Agency requested proposals for community-level projects.

AFGHANISTAN:
Three months after Refugees International called for improved coordination of humanitarian assistance programs in Afghanistan, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs announced it would establish a presence in the country.

SOUTH SUDAN:
The U.S. Agency for International Development heeded RI’s call to help displaced south Sudanese return home and rebuild their lives by providing $100 million for three years to strengthen local governments and create economic opportunities for returnees.

COLOMBIA:
After RI’s ongoing calls for increased attention to the humanitarian crisis in Colombia, the U.S. State Department’s refugee bureau received an increase in emergency relief funding for Colombia from $700,000 to $5.6 million.

SOMALIA:
RI conducted its first mission to Somalia and shined a spotlight on the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. RI’s ensuing advocacy led the UN Refugee Agency to increase its budget and staffing to protect Somali refugees in Yemen and Djibouti.

PEACEKEEPING:
After violence broke out in eastern Congo, RI’s field report, media interviews and briefings with top officials helped lead the UN Security Council to bolster UN peacekeepers with 3,000 more troops, prioritize civilian protection, and increase the UN’s civilian support to military commanders in the field.

STATELESSNESS:
After RI worked in coalition for years on behalf of stateless Bihari, Bangladesh’s Urdu-speaking minority, a High Court decision recognized some 200,000 of them as citizens. Thanks to RI’s efforts in Washington, the first U.S. legislation on statelessness was introduced in the House of Representatives.
Refugees International continued to successfully lead the call for greater assistance and protection for millions of displaced Iraqis. The launch of our report *Uprooted and Unstable: Meeting Urgent Humanitarian Needs in Iraq* spotlighted the lack of basic services for internally displaced Iraqis and urged support for local agencies that could more efficiently deliver aid inside Iraq. In response, the UN increased funding for local Iraqi organizations.

RI developed a comprehensive four-part plan to resolve this crisis, endorsed by 24 non-governmental organizations and Ambassador Frank Wisner, a member of RI’s Board of Directors. This plan is the basis for advocacy by U.S. non-governmental organizations with the new Administration and Congress.

Overall, our highly respected reports, coalition-building, and direct briefings to top U.S. policymakers, senior UN officials, and members of the UN Security Council led to the following successes:

- The U.S. increased its assistance from $171 million in 2007 to $398 million.
- The UN Refugee Agency increased its budget for the Middle East region from $120 million in 2007 to $260 million.
- The U.S. funded 37% of the UN Refugee Agency’s appeal—its largest contribution to a UN appeal to date—and significant portions of the UN education and health appeals.
- The U.S. increased the resettlement of Iraqi refugees from 1,608 in 2007 to 13,822.
- The UN Security Council publicly resolved that Iraqi refugees should only return home voluntarily.
- The U.S. State Department halted the resettlement to Sudan of 3,000 Palestinians trapped at the Iraq-Syria border.

As a tribute to RI’s successful work on Iraqi refugees, the Arab American Institute honored us with the Kahlil Gibran Spirit of Humanity Award for International Commitment.
Refugees International is leading advocacy efforts to change the U.S. Government’s stance on assistance inside Burma. On May 2, 2008, Cyclone Nargis swept through Burma’s delta region, devastating a country that was already on the brink of a humanitarian crisis. RI traveled inside Burma to see aid operations first-hand, organized congressional briefings, and delivered a letter to Bush Administration officials endorsed by sixteen organizations urging more aid inside the country.

Senior State Department officials credit RI’s work as an important reason the U.S. contributed $75 million to cyclone relief efforts—a tremendous increase over the previous $3 million budget for aid inside the country.

Refugees International has been instrumental in increasing social and economic assistance for four million internally displaced Colombians. RI testified before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, contributed to congressional strategy sessions, and advised senior officials at the U.S. embassy in Colombia. We were also invited to participate in a conference as an expert resource by the top UN official on internal displacement during his visit to the country. As a result of RI’s efforts, the U.S. State Department’s refugee bureau’s emergency relief funding for Colombia was increased from $700,000 to $5.6 million.

RI is also advocating for the Colombian government to respond more aggressively to internal displacement. In a significant development, the Colombian parliament passed legislation that outlined local government responsibilities and specified financial commitments and services to be delivered.

The debate is no longer whether to continue U.S. assistance programs in Burma, but on what scale they should operate.
Throughout the year, Refugees International pushed for UN peacekeepers and aid agencies to better assist and protect displaced people. RI met with officials in the Congo, Geneva and New York in the spring, and successfully convinced international aid agencies to begin shifting their strategy from routine humanitarian assistance to a more community-based approach. As RI recommended, the UN Refugee Agency requested proposals for community-level projects. Since 70 percent of displaced Congolese are living with local families, targeting these families significantly increased aid effectiveness. Funding for education programs was also increased to one million dollars thanks to RI’s efforts.

In October, an RI team was in the eastern Congo when violence broke out. RI was the first organization to call for more support to the UN peacekeeping mission there, and our media interviews and field report contributed significantly to the policy discussions. As a result, the UN Security Council authorized an additional 3,000 troops and police and re-emphasized civilian protection as the top priority.

Refugees International pushed for more support for the recovery of southern Sudan, without which there can be no peace in Darfur. Thanks to RI’s efforts, U.S. AID provided $100 million for a three-year “BRIDGE” program to bolster local governments and help create economic opportunities for people returning home in the south and transitional areas. RI also called on the U.S. Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to continue responding to ongoing emergency needs. As a result, OFDA reversed course and maintained its humanitarian funding levels for south Sudan.

Although RI has been denied visas to Darfur since 2007, we actively advocated in Washington, Khartoum and Geneva for resources and support for the UN peacekeeping mission in Darfur and assistance to Darfur refugees in Chad. RI also continues to advocate for the reform of rape laws in Sudan.

U.S. agencies increased support for the recovery of southern Sudan.

Left: A family recently displaced in South Sudan waits to return home after their town was razed. Above: A woman sits in a camp for internally displaced people in South Kivu in eastern Congo after fleeing attacks by a rebel group.
In 2008, Refugees International assessed peacekeeping operations in Sudan, the DR Congo, Chad and Somalia to identify ways to improve peacekeepers’ abilities to protect displaced people. After violence broke out in eastern Congo, RI was the first organization to recommend concrete measures to bolster the UN peacekeeping force there. Our field report, media interviews and briefings with top officials helped lead the UN Security Council to authorize 3,000 more troops, clarify the complex mandate, prioritize civilian protection, and increase civilian support to military commanders in the field.

RI is one of the few organizations that has thoroughly evaluated peacekeeping in eastern Chad where both UN and European Union (EU) forces have been deployed. In line with our recommendations, the UN Security Council strengthened the UN mission with a military element so it could fill the vacuum resulting from the EU force’s eventual withdrawal in March 2009.

To support a more balanced U.S. foreign policy, RI released *U.S. Civil-Military Imbalance for Global Engagement: Lessons from the Operational Level in Africa*, an in-depth report which describes the over-use of the military to accomplish U.S. foreign policy goals. After the release of the report, RI’s Peacebuilding Program Officer testified before a House Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs on the new U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), which launched on October 1. This testimony is considered a seminal contribution to debates over AFRICOM’s role.

RI also continued to co-lead the Partnership for Effective Peacekeeping (PEP), a highly respected forum on peacekeeping issues whose members inform the U.S. Administration and Congress on ways to strengthen peacekeeping operations around the world. As a result of the PEP’s work, Congress provided an additional $150 million for UN peacekeepers, including in Darfur.

Peacekeeping forces frequently require additional resources to maintain peace and protect displaced people from violence.
DISPLACED PEOPLE

NEGLIGENCE

Millions of displaced people, particularly women and children, suffer needlessly because governments and humanitarian agencies do not devote sufficient resources to protect and help them. For example, Refugees International conducted its first mission to Somalia in March and exposed the world’s worst humanitarian crisis on CNN and other media outlets. RI testified to the UN Security Council calling for stronger human rights mechanisms. This resulted in the creation of a human rights section at the UN Political Office for Somalia and a Security Council sanctions resolution with targeted measures against Somali individuals who violate human rights.

Refugees from Somalia also needed increased protection in Djibouti and Yemen. After RI’s advocacy, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Yemen increased its protection staff in Kharaz camp where refugees were frequently abused, and opened a new registration center in the capital. In Djibouti, RI’s efforts led UNHCR to establish a daily staff presence in the Ali Addeh camp to monitor and safeguard refugees’ rights, build a permanent structure in the camp, and increase outreach to refugees in Djibouti city.

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Refugees International frequently finds gaps in assistance and protection of internally displaced people—those who are unable to cross an international border and receive protection as refugees—as no single agency is dedicated to alleviating their plight. RI called for more support to internally displaced people in all five of our focus countries, as well as Pakistan, Chad, the Central African Republic (CAR), and Uganda. RI advocacy contributed to the 2008 Coordinated Aid Program for CAR being one of the best funded internationally—receiving 91% of its 2008 request. The U.S. also provided $24 million in aid to CAR, an increase from $18 million in 2007 and a dismal $400,000 in 2005.

In Northern Uganda, many internally displaced people are now accessing their farm land and rebuilding their homes. However, the situation remains fragile, and RI was concerned that people were being pressured to return home involuntarily. RI persuaded five members of Congress to write a letter calling on the U.S. Secretary of State to impress on the Government of Uganda that people should be allowed to choose when to go home.

Exposing neglected crises and pressing governments to respond is a hallmark of Refugees International’s work.
When war ends and displaced people return home, agencies must provide adequate support to keep fragile communities from disintegrating.

Above: Children displaced by violence in northwest Pakistan live in a camp originally built for refugees fleeing Afghanistan in the 1980s.

Right: A formerly stateless Bihari family from Bangladesh proudly displays their new voter registration slips.

A Bangladesh High Court ended nearly four decades of political exclusion for Urdu-speaking minorities.

Refugees International traveled to DR Congo, Burundi, south Sudan, Afghanistan and Pakistan to assess the needs of refugees and displaced people returning home. In Afghanistan, RI urged governments to reallocate resources to fund programs for the five million Afghans who have returned home since 2002, and we provided information to UN Security Council members before their mission to the region. In line with RI’s recommendations, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs announced it would establish a presence in the country in July.

In addition, after RI called for donor governments to provide $11.9 million to fund the UN Refugee Agency’s program to repatriate and reintegrate Sudanese refugees from neighboring countries, the program was fully funded. In central DR Congo, RI urged UN officials to more quickly monitor the needs of refugees returning home to Katanga, and called on the U.S. State Department to increase funding for road rehabilitation so that assistance could more easily reach these communities.

Twelve million stateless people worldwide live without an effective nationality. In 2008, Refugees International issued Futures Denied: Statelessness among Infants, Children, and Youth and conducted missions to Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia and Kuwait. Thanks to RI’s work in Washington, DC, the U.S. State Department’s human rights report included statelessness for the first time and the first U.S. legislation on statelessness was introduced in the House of Representatives.

After years of advocacy by RI and others on behalf of the Bihari, Bangladesh’s Urdu-speaking minority, a High Court decision recognized some 200,000 of them as citizens. RI traveled to Bangladesh and found that dedicated efforts were needed to integrate this marginalized group into society. After RI met with key officials, the Bangladeshi Election Commission agreed to a special registration process for Bihari who had not yet been registered for upcoming elections.

In Mauritania, RI’s 2007 work produced results this year as people who had been forced out of the country were allowed to return. RI continues to call for the issuance of citizenship papers for these people.
Communications activities and outreach events attract policymakers and new supporters to our work.

**COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA**

To influence policymakers, expose neglected crises and increase support for Refugees International’s work, RI continued to reach out to the media and produce high quality publications, field reports, videos, and website content. RI’s opinions and recommendations were included in nearly 600 other broadcast, print and online news sources including BBC, CNN, CBS’ The Early Show, NPR’s Morning Edition and All Things Considered, NBC News Online, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, USA Today, and Parade magazine.

RI issued thirty field reports on displacement or statelessness in twenty countries, as well as three in-depth reports on internal displacement in Iraq, stateless children, and the civil-military imbalance in U.S. foreign policy. We produced four online videos describing displacement in Colombia, Somalia and Afghanistan, and celebrating Refugees International’s hard-hitting advocacy around the world. We also embarked on a major redesign of our web site to more effectively communicate with our key constituencies, and continued to build readership for our blog. As a testament to the strength of our blog content, Reuters Alertnet named two of RI’s articles to their top ten best blog posts in 2008.

Top to Bottom:
- Refugees International’s in-depth reports analyze key issues related to displacement and statelessness.
- RI produces a groundbreaking video on Iraqi refugees in Syria.
- RI’s redesigned website offers compelling, easy-to-find content.
- Senior Advocate Kristèle Younès discusses the needs of Afghan refugees on CNN’s The Situation Room.
- Advocate Patrick Duplat describes the humanitarian crisis in Somalia on CNN.

**EVENTS**

In May, more than 400 luminaries from the worlds of philanthropy, business, politics and society attended Refugees International’s 29th Anniversary Dinner to honor Mia Farrow and her son, Ronan Farrow, for their work on behalf of Darfur’s refugees. Refugees International’s President Ken Bacon presented Mia and Ronan with the McCall-Pierpaoli Humanitarian Award. Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) were also honored with RI’s first Congressional Leadership Award for their efforts in support of displaced Iraqis. Law and Order star Sam Waterston was the Master of Ceremonies and Michael and Mariella Trager were co-chairs of the Dinner.

Additional outreach events attracted an expanding group of supporters to our cause. Members of RI’s New York Circle attended a performance of George Packer’s play, Betrayed, followed by a discussion with actor and RI Board Member Matt Dillon and Ken Bacon. The play portrays the stories of three young Iraqi translators as they risk their lives for Americans in Iraq. The Washington and Jackson Hole Circles both featured the Venerable Ashin Kovida, a Buddhist monk who was forced to flee Burma after helping to lead the internal protests in 2007.

Honorees and attendees at Refugees International’s 29th Anniversary Dinner. Top to Bottom: Senator Gordon Smith, RI Chair Farooq Kathwari, Senator Edward Kennedy | RI President Ken Bacon | Ronan and Mia Farrow, Recipients of the McCall-Pierpaoli Humanitarian Award | Gala Co-Chair Mariella Trager and RI Vice-Chair Eileen Shields-West | RI Board Member Matt Dillon, Chair Emeritus James Kimsey, and Board Member Sam Waterston.
## Financial Statements

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>430,883</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>2,981,146</td>
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<td>Grants receivable</td>
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<td>325,000</td>
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<td>Advances</td>
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<td>15,912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
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<td>64,226</td>
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<td>Total Current Assets</td>
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<td>Property and Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leasehold Improvements</td>
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<td>12,144</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
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<td>124,833</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>136,977</td>
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<td>Less accumulated depreciation &amp; amortization</td>
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<td>(53,962)</td>
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<td>Property &amp; Equipment, net</td>
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<td>83,015</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td>Deposit</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>755,883</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>3,493,807</td>
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### Liabilities & Net Assets

#### Liabilities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>59,741</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued payroll and payroll taxes</td>
<td>63,964</td>
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<td>Deferred rent</td>
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<td>Total Liabilities – All Current</td>
<td>161,850</td>
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#### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>2,476,074</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>755,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>3,331,957</td>
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### Total Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>3,493,807</td>
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### Revenue & Other Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1,076,002</td>
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<td>3,571,679</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
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<td>13,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>72,683</td>
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<td>72,683</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restriction</td>
<td>346,591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expiration of time restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restrictions satisfied by payments</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; OTHER SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td>4,127,148</td>
<td>(469,036)</td>
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<td>3,658,112</td>
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### Expenses

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>3,011,131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Services</td>
<td>773,890</td>
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<tr>
<td>General and administrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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### Change in Net Assets Before Other Items

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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets Before Other Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other items</td>
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<td>Unrealized gain/(loss) on securities</td>
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<td>Net Gain on sale of office building</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
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<td>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</td>
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### Net Assets at End of Year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets at End of Year</strong></td>
<td>2,476,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>755,883</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,331,957</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Revenue by Source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>% of Rev.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations &amp; Corporations</td>
<td>52.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</table>

### Expense by Activity

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<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>% of Exp.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>70.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>18.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>6.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>4.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I N V E S T  I N  R E F U G E E S  I N T E R N A T I O N A L

When you give to Refugees International, you are supporting independent, effective, lifesaving work for the most vulnerable people worldwide.

Refugees International does not accept any government or UN funding and relies upon the support of individual donors like you.

W A Y S  T O  G I V E
ONLINE:
Visit 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

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