

Annual Report & Financial Statements 2011



Refugee Consortium of Kenya
"Keeping Hope Alive"

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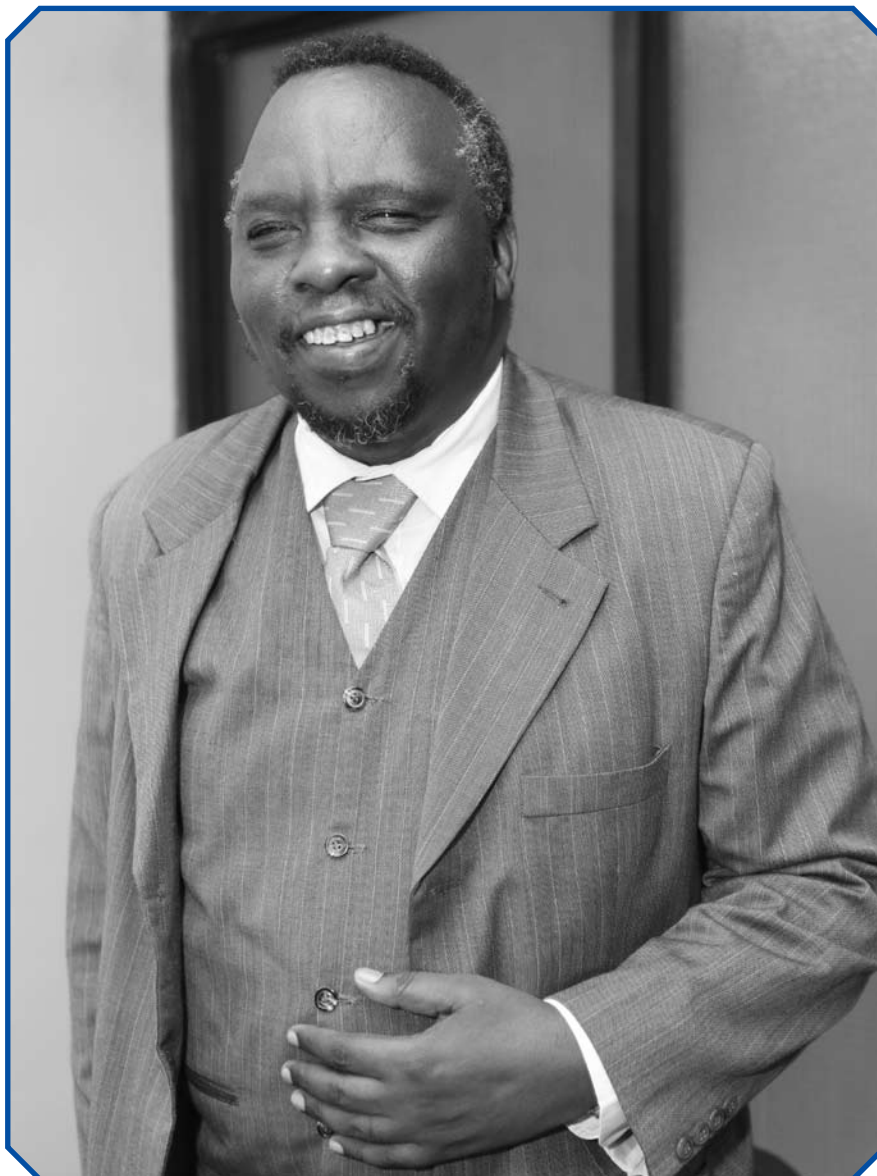


Board Statement

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In light of the changing trends of global displacements, RCK took the opportunity in 2011 to develop a Strategic Plan for the period 2012-2016.

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The year 2011 was an important one in the history of RCK. It reflected a number of achievements both in the general management of RCK as well as in its work.

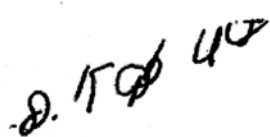
In this year, RCK achieved great milestones in its financial management. Through concerted fundraising efforts and strategic organisational management, RCK was by the end of 2011, able to boast about a robust financial portfolio which is a major credit to its activities and to the longevity of the organisation as a whole. This achievement could not have come at a better time given the recent economic crisis which has had an indirect effect on organisations receiving funding from the countries affected.

On the strength of this financial success, RCK has expanded its offices in both the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps, through extra personnel and an expansion of the physical facilities, effectively extending the reach of RCK's activities so as to meet the needs of our beneficiaries.

In light of the changing trends of global displacements, RCK took the opportunity in 2011 to develop a Strategic Plan for the period 2012- 2016. The Strategic Plan is inspired by the desire to anchor support for displaced persons on a more sustainable ground by utilising individual and community potential. The Strategic Plan identifies individual displaced persons and through strengthened support structures within the community seeks to make them more aware of the need for self reliance as a way of improving their circumstances while in asylum or any other temporary residence. The Strategic Plan sets out RCK's ambitions and aspirations for the organisation for the next five years. It broadens the scope of RCK's work beyond traditional displaced groups of refugees and IDPs to include other forced migrants and categories of vulnerable groups such as stateless persons and victims of human trafficking and smuggling.

The year 2011 presented the beginning of the implementation of the new Constitution for Kenya. It brought about a new realization of the opportunities and challenges brought about by the new constitutional order. There were discussions on the review, repeal and replacement of the Refugees Act, 2006 as well as other legal instruments that impact on the protection of displaced persons. RCK was indeed actively involved in these discourses and managed to among other things organize forums for the articulation of proposals for inclusion in the Refugees Bill 2011; initiate the process of the development of an IDP Bill and create a linkage between the process of developing the IDP policy and the IDP Bill so as to ensure congruent reforms. Most of these legal reforms are still ongoing and RCK hopes to play a vital in shaping their trajectory as a way of reinforcing protection for displaced persons.

RCK wishes to thank all its partners, locally and internationally for their invaluable support in enabling us to provide a service to meet the needs of the people, for whom we exist.



Dr. Samuel Kabue
Board Chair



Background

In 2011 RCK was involved in policy development processes: it expanded its activities relating to the protection of IDPs, conducted peacebuilding activities, engaged in programmes with various stakeholders, sat on various committees and lobbied for the adoption of the draft IDP Policy and the development of a draft IDP Bill with a view to influencing these policies to protect and promote the rights of displaced persons.

This year also saw the number of asylum seekers and refugees rise to 463,511 (UNHCR Dadaab, 14/12/2011). This rise was attributed to the massive influx that occurred mid-year due to drought and the consequent famine situation in the Horn of Africa. At its peak the number rose to 5,000 new arrivals per day. This led to a humanitarian crisis in the camps with the Dadaab camps becoming even more congested, leading to an outbreak of diseases and a serious lapse in the protection of asylum seekers and refugees in the camps. In response to this situation, donors increased their support to the camps by initiating and expanding agency activities in the camps. At the same time, the Kenya Government approved the opening of two additional camps: Ifo II and Kambioos, both of which continue to reduce the congestion in the camps.

The security situation deteriorated due to threats and attacks by the militant group Al-Shabaab. The Kenya Government's incursion into Somalia dubbed Operation Linda Nchi in October increased the camps' more urgent activities, leading to the suspension of the registration of asylum seekers and those activities that were not considered to be life-saving. Refugee protection became a top priority due to increased arrests and detention incidences. This called for increased partnerships with stakeholders such as the police.

There were reports of incidences of the forceful return of Somali asylum seekers to the Kenya-Somalia border. They were reported to be intercepted en route to Garissa or to the Dadaab refugee camps. If not forcefully returned, they were arrested and charged for unlawful presence in Kenya, despite their right to seek asylum under the Refugees Act 2006. RCK felt that there was a need for increased vigilance of the protection of refugees and other forced migrants and to this effect, RCK continued to monitor the situation through its protection monitors, border monitors and by conducting monitoring missions throughout the year.

Management of RCK

RCK has a Governance Board composed of professionals from various human rights fields. The Board is responsible for the overall governance of the organization. There is an Executive Director who oversees the day-to-day activities and running of the organization. The Executive Director is accountable to the Board. The organization's activities are carried out through four programmes: Legal Aid, Advocacy, Information/Research, and Finance and Administration. Each Programme is headed by a Programme Officer, assisted by an Assistant Programme Officer. The programmes are also assisted by programme associates, volunteers and interns depending on their needs.

Board Members

Mbogholi Msagha	-	Patron
Sam Kabue	-	Chairman
Abi Gitari	-	Member
Enid Burke	-	Member
Jane Kiragu	-	Member
Wambui Kimathi	-	Member
Ursula Pandikow	-	Member
Anthony Hombe	-	Member
Lucy Kiama	-	Executive Director

RCK Mission Statement

The mission of RCK is to protect and promote the rights and dignity of refugees and other forced migrants through enabling programmes on legal aid, advocacy and awareness creation.

The core values of RCK encompass integrity and fairness, compassion, commitment and professionalism, respect for human rights, respect for community knowledge, cultural diversity, gender equality and equity, team spirit and participation, accountability and transparency.

RCK Strategic Objectives

Within the 5-year strategic plan period running from 2012 to 2016, RCK works towards its mission and vision through four strategic objectives:

Strategic Objective 1	Enhancing access to justice and psychosocial support to refugees and other forced migrants.
Strategic Objective 2	Advocate for rights-based policies, laws and practices for the protection of refugees and other forced migrants.
Strategic Objective 3	Inform and empower targeted groups on protection of refugees and other forced migrants.
Strategic Objective 4	To strengthen the institutional capacity of RCK to deliver on its mission

Unique Role of RCK

RCK is distinct in the role it plays in refugee welfare and protection of their rights. It is one of the organizations in Kenya that focuses on refugee issues using a human rights-based approach in addressing refugee issues. Through the Consortium's emphasis on networking with other local, regional and international organizations dealing with refugees, it has been able to cover a plethora of issues. These include legal protection of refugees, policy development, civic education, research and information dissemination, refugee empowerment and capacity building to promote the welfare of refugees. RCK focuses on advocacy regarding refugee issues and collaboration within and outside the sector while still realizing the importance of the services delivered by others to alleviate the plight of refugees. To promote hope and reduce psychosocial distress among refugees, a tracing and reconnection project which uses modern technology has since been launched. RCK is and will remain a learning organization on the trends and emerging issues affecting refugees.

The Executive Director's Statement



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Despite the many challenges, our Legal Aid Programme through the pro-bono legal services successfully represented in courts of law in Nairobi 244 cases and 457 individuals were released.”

The year 2011 saw RCK carry out its work in a polarized environment, which threatened to complicate the assistance and protection of refugees and asylum seekers. During the year, there was a great influx of refugees into Dadaab resulting from the famine in Somalia.

Operation Linda Nchi, was a decision by Kenya to carry out a military incursion into Somalia to fight the Al-Shabaab, which resulted in major security concerns in and around the Dadaab camps and increased cases of harassment of refugees and asylum seekers by the security agencies. This military operation also affected the debate on the review of the Refugees Bill as it was happening at a time when stakeholders were reviewing the Bill under the facilitation of the Commission on the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC).



All these challenges, however, did not deter us from carrying out our planned activities in Dadaab and advocating for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers. For instance, despite the limited movements in the Dadaab camps (due to the increase in insecurity and kidnapping of aid workers) we were able to adopt other ways of reaching out to the refugee community, such as through radio programmes. We were able to secure three radio programme slots in Star FM where information on GBV was disseminated as well as the Kenyan trial process and rights, duties and offences under the Refugees Act. This adjusting of our activities is a reflection that we remained alive to the emerging issues and the environment in which we operate.

I am proud to announce that despite the many challenges facing us in 2011, our Legal Aid Programme superceded most of its planned outputs. The Programme expanded its scheme of pro-bono lawyers who remained active throughout the year in providing pro-bono legal services to refugees and asylum seekers. For instance, 244 cases were successfully represented in courts of law in Nairobi and 457 individuals were released. Legal aid handled more child protection cases and watched brief in more GBV cases than during any other previous years. The Programme initiated external legal aid clinics in various urban locations where refugees live. The effect of all these interventions was to increase access to our legal aid and psycho-social counselling services for refugees.

RCK continued its advocacy efforts at the local and international levels through its active participation in the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) board meetings and other international meetings, which have gone a long way in increasing the visibility of RCK and its advocacy work regarding the plight of displaced populations. At the regional level RCK was able to participate and present papers on refugee and IDP management at a regional workshop on Migration and Human Security in the IGAD region held in Nairobi, Kenya. The outcome of this presentation was the incorporation of RCK recommendations in the final workshop report that will be used to inform regional policy formulation on forced migration. Locally, the Advocacy Programme engaged the Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MoSSP) along with members of the Protection Working Group on Internal Displacement (PWGID) on the finalisation of the development of the IDP Policy, which resulted in its submission to Cabinet in March. The Programme also articulated the need for legislation on internal displacement and subsequently initiated the process of developing a draft IDP Bill that was later handed over to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Resettlement of IDPs (PSC). We remain committed to lobbying for the enactment of this legislation that will provide a legislative framework for the protection of IDPs. It is our hope that in 2012, the draft IDP Bill will be tabled before Parliament alongside the final report of the PSC.

For advocacy with displaced communities, the Advocacy Programme trained 130 Peace Committee members in Wareng District in Eldoret on peace building and on the content of the draft IDP Policy to enable them to facilitate durable solutions for IDPs. Other activities in Eldoret included peace barazas (forums), training in peacebuilding and conflict management, carrying out recreational and cohesion activities such as football tournaments and knitting groups. These peacebuilding strategies promoted community ownership in the peacebuilding process; also, engaging the peace committees allowed us to make use of and to strengthen existing national structures tasked with

building and maintaining peace. In the coming year we hope to expand our advocacy activities both with displaced communities and using other relevant advocacy mechanisms.

The Information and Research Programme made great leaps in its awareness creation activities. Most notably, the Refugees United project increased the number of registrations by refugees and the number of success stories of various individuals being reunited with their families. The target this year was to promote awareness regarding the database in order to increase the number of registrations and ultimate use of the Refugees United database. The Programme also developed the website to improve interactivity and information sharing, making use of social networks and the “contact-us” form to enable two-way communication between refugees and RCK officers.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all our development partners for their support. It is through their generous contribution and partnership that we were able to accomplish all that we had planned. As RCK, we remain committed to championing the rights of the refugees and other forced migrants.

We look forward to a fruitful year in 2012 and one in which we will remain true to our motto, “Keeping Hope Alive”.



Lucy Kiama
Executive Director

Development Partners in 2011

The achievements of RCK in 2011 would not have been possible without the valuable support of our national and international development partners and agencies.

These included:

- The Government of Kenya
- United Nations High Commission for Refugees
- Danish Refugee Council
- PSO through Dutch Council for Refugees
- Refugees United
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Global Fund for Women
- United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
- Refugee Studies Centre of Oxford University
- International Rescue Committee through the Royal Netherlands Embassy
- United Nations Children's Fund



Highlights of RCK Activities in 2011

The Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) continued championing the rights of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees.

The year saw an increase in the number of beneficiaries receiving legal aid from RCK in the Nairobi, Dadaab and Kakuma offices. This includes legal aid through the pro bono lawyer's scheme, representations during the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process and through the protection and detention monitoring system where RCK in-house lawyers respond to the reports of human rights violations at police and detention centres, providing refugees and asylum seekers with timely interventions in court. Police station visits during the year include the estates of Parklands, Kilimani, Satellite, Kileleshwa, Kajiado, Kasarani, Kitengela, Kabiria, Thika, Ruiru, Ongata Rongai and Pangani.

RCK was also able to conduct 42 community awareness forums with an emphasis on the Refugees Act, as well as the newly enacted Prohibition of Female-Genital Mutilation Act and by preventing gender-based violence.

In partnership with the Legal Resources Foundation (LRF), RCK trained paralegals on refugee protection. The paralegals were drawn from the main towns and prisons staff in Kenya.

RCK provided refugees and asylum seekers with psychosocial counselling in Nairobi and Dadaab. Most of the clients counselled were raped and/or were survivors of domestic violence. Other cases examined included: assisting vulnerable groups such as persons living with disabilities, the elderly and single mothers through counselling, making referrals to other service providers for assistance such as medical, social aid (including livelihoods, vocational training, education and shelter) and psychiatric help.

A highlight of the Advocacy Programme was the review of five Bills related to citizenship and immigration. The Programme also participated in forums convened by the Commission on the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) to ensure that these Bills adequately catered for refugee protection. RCK continued to review the draft IDP Policy, working closely with the Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MoSSP) to ensure that the draft IDP Policy was submitted to Cabinet in March 2011.

RCK worked with the relevant ministries, such as with the Ministry of State for Special Programmes, to continue to profile the needs and vulnerabilities of IDPs, and the Ministry of Immigration and Registration of Persons to call attention to the need to find durable solutions for long-staying refugees.

RCK also engaged with communities to facilitate access to durable solutions. RCK implemented peacebuilding activities in Eldoret which included training peace committee members on



peacebuilding and conflict mediation skills and organising cohesion activities such as football tournaments and peace barazas.

The organisation's partnerships with government actors, civil society and representatives from the refugee and IDP communities have proved instrumental in enhancing the protection of displaced persons. RCK continues to empower these actors to react to and to manage refugee and IDP issues by training them on refugee protection.

The Information and Research Programme continued to conduct research and share information on the situation of refugees and other forced migrants. The Programme also initiated the re-designing of the RCK website to make it more interactive and user-friendly. It continued producing the newsletter, 'Refugee Insights' which highlighted issues that were witnessed and captured in the course of addressing the plight of urban refugees. The Programme began developing a Communication Policy which articulated a plan to guide and institutionalise its internal and external communication methods.

The Programme organised activities for International Women's Day and World Refugee Day. It also carried out a project monitoring mission to Garissa and Dadaab jointly with a member of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) to observe the situation in Dadaab at the height of the humanitarian crisis.

The Finance and Administration Programme provided opportunities for the staff to train in relevant areas in 2011, both locally and internationally. Regular team building and debriefing activities continued to be organised to nurture team spirit and team synergy in the performance of RCK work.

The Programme allocated time for planning and assessment to enable the organisation to reassess its positions and ambitions in order to develop a blueprint for the next five years. Specifically, it organised the planning of the 2012 – 2016 Strategic Plan.

Overview of Programmes in 2011

RCK continued to carry out its mission to promote the welfare and dignity of refugees in Kenya. The Legal Aid Programme worked toward providing legal and psychosocial assistance; the Advocacy Programme influenced policy, enhanced the capacity of relevant stakeholders to provide protection for refugees and internally displaced persons; and the Information and Research Programme continued to raise awareness on displacement issues.

Legal Aid Programme

The goal of the Programme is to ensure that asylum seekers, refugees and IDPs access legal rights and live in dignity. This is aimed at enhancing displaced persons' access to legal justice and psychosocial support. As a result, the programme operated with two main broad strategic objectives:

1. To enhance access to justice for asylum seekers and refugees through the provision of legal aid, monitoring and capacity building.
2. To improve access to counselling and psychosocial services to vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees

To realise these broad objectives, the Programme rolled out the activities listed below, which were successfully implemented. All the outputs outlined in the 2011 Operational Plan were achieved, most of them exceeding expectations. This was despite the fact that the year witnessed a big increase in the number of asylum seekers and refugees seeking RCK services in the three offices: Nairobi, Daadab and Kakuma. The influx of new arrivals in Kenya was mainly from Somalia, between June and October.

The increased number of pro bono lawyers and the new areas of concern, such as western Kenya, saw an increase in the number of asylum seekers represented in courts of law and at the police stations. Also of great significance during the year was the expansion of the protection monitors, paralegals and the community-based counsellors schemes that saw RCK reach out to many vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers who would ordinarily not have been able to access RCK offices both in Nairobi and the camps.

Another notable achievement was the strengthened networks and partnerships with other partners, both in the Refugee sector and other sectors. This saw RCK take the lead and actively participate in various protection meetings and sub-groups including the interagency meetings, SGBV, child protection and psychosocial sub-groups. The partnerships have enhanced the referral networks and thus the access for services for vulnerable refugees.

Activities

Legal Aid to asylum seekers and refugees

During the year RCK attended to 4,204 clients in the legal aid clinic in the three offices as against 3,800 asylum seekers and refugees targeted in the year. In the Nairobi office 3,486 asylum seekers and refugees were provided with legal advice, counselling and psychosocial support. In the Dadaab office, a total of 1,055 refugees were seen at the legal aid clinics in the three camps: Dagahaley, Ifo and Hagadera. The Kakuma office attended to a total of 718 refugees and asylum seekers at its day-to-day legal aid clinic. Some of the cases presented to the legal aid clinic included: Gender-based violence (GBV), domestic violence attributed to vulnerability, police harassment, the lack of documentation, social assistance, registration, shelter, family reunification, insecurity claims including threats, court cases needing legal representation, child custody, labour issues, appeals for refugee status, lack of access to social services, the need for durable solutions and prolonged appointments for refugee status determination (RSD) at eligibility.

A total of 48 refugees and asylum seekers facing protection challenges were profiled and advocated for critical assistance. There were 429 vulnerable cases in Dadaab profiled and referred for durable solutions to various partners in Nairobi, while 70 cases were fast-tracked with UNHCR resettlement.

RCK was also able to conduct 42 community awareness forums with emphasis on the Refugee and FGM Act and GBV. The Nairobi office conducted 15 forums, three in Dadaab and 24 in Kakuma.. Some 1,000 refugees and asylum seekers were reached. To sensitize refugees on relevant laws on access to services and concerning the refugee tracing project by our partner, Refugee United, the Nairobi office held outreach legal aid clinics. This enabled a number of interventions to be carried out or addressed on the ground. The forums were held in the urban estates of Zambezi, Kasarani, Eastleigh, Kawangware, Ongata Rongai, Kayole, Umoja, Jamhuri and Kitengela.

Legal representation in courts of law

RCK through its pro bono lawyer's scheme and in-house lawyers provided refugees and asylum seekers timely intervention in court. Some 244 cases were successfully represented in courts of law in Nairobi and as a result a total of 457 individuals were released, while five minors facing immigration related charges were also represented. The court representations were in the areas of Nairobi, Nyeri, Isiolo, Maralal, Tigania, Voi, Meru, Kakamega, Mumias, Nakuru, Kisumu, Embu, Thika and Garissa.

RCK watched brief in 14 GBV cases, with four cases pending hearing before the Nairobi chief magistrate courts. RCK will continue watching brief in these cases to ensure that the rights of refugees and asylum seekers are protected during the course of these processes. The Dadaab office monitored eight mobile court sessions and watched brief for refugees and asylum seekers.

RCK instituted 33 child protection cases (18 cases in Nairobi and 15 cases in Kakuma) on behalf of refugee women and one refugee man who had sought legal representation to have custody of his children; 12 of the cases were successfully concluded and custody orders issued in favour of the clients. Of the ongoing cases filed under a certificate of urgency, the court granted the applicant refugee women temporary custody of the children pending the hearing of the cases inter partes.

Legal representation at police stations

RCK conducted 66 police station visits, 31 of them were conducted by RCK officers while 35 by protection monitors in Nairobi. The police station visits included Parklands, Kilimani, Satellite, Kileleshwa, Kajiado, Kasarani, Kitengela, Kabiria, Thika, Ruiru, Ongata Rongai and Pangani. Six prison visits were conducted at the industrial area remand prison. At the industrial area remand prison our visit revealed the presence of 37 asylum seekers, most of them Ethiopians, Somalis and Iranians. RCK intervened and all of the asylum seekers have since been released.

During the visits no asylum seekers and refugees were being detained in most of the stations. However, a total of 13 interventions were made during the visits, these included securing the release of asylum seekers and refugees by confirming their details for the police with the co-operation of UNHCR. In Dadaab 59 cases of rape, defilement and domestic violence were profiled and intervened at the police station. The visits were also relevant in helping RCK create awareness on refugee protection among police officers and provide an avenue for the police officers to share the challenges they face with refugees that can be used for advocacy purposes.



caption.

Protection monitors scheme

The protection monitors continued to monitor refugee rights violations within their areas and provided reports to RCK for immediate intervention. The protection monitors act as the link between the refugee community and RCK. The Nairobi office engaged 12 monitors while Dadaab engaged 28. There were 12 protection monitors' meetings and two debriefings held in Nairobi and Dadaab. These meetings offer a platform to share challenges and to report on various human rights violations for intervention.

The monitors continued to conduct bi-monthly visits to the police stations within their areas which included Ruiru, Thika, Limuru, Githurai, Kikuyu, Zambezi, Kawangware, Kangemi, Shauri Moyo, Kasarani, Kayole, Pangani and Dadaab refugee camps. During most of the visits there were no asylum seekers or refugees in custody. However, the monitors have assisted in the release or reporting of cases where refugees are detained in police cells. A total of 151 interventions were made by the monitors, both in Nairobi and Dadaab.

Legal representation during the Refugee Status Determination Process (RSD)

RCK continued to represent refugees during the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process. This was either by sitting-in during the interviews to ensure that clients were subjected to a fair hearing and assessment of their claim or by assisting asylum seekers in drafting appeals. Some 127 cases were provided with RSD assistance and 61 cases were fast-tracked to the UNHCR for application for refugee status. However, there is still a need for UNHCR to address cases of delay and prolonged appointments to ensure that cases of asylum are assessed within a reasonable time and documentation provided. Identification documents are important to enable refugees to access services. To this end RCK held two meetings with the UNHCR eligibility office; this has seen improvements in time lines of the waiting process as UNHCR sought to increase staff capacity.

Capacity building and awareness creation

In partnership with the Legal Resources Foundation (LRF), RCK trained 62 paralegals on refugee protection. The paralegals were drawn from the main towns and prisons staff in Kenya. RCK contracted 16 of the paralegals who conducted regular visits of prisons and monitored their prison duty stations. A total of 104 reports were submitted by the paralegals leading to timely interventions, including legal representations. RCK received reports from the following areas: Kakamega, Meru, Nyeri, Thika, Machakos, Eldoret, Kamiti, Langata, Kisumu, Voi, Nakuru and Industrial area remand prison.

In Kakuma, RCK conducted five boys/men training courses on GBV, reaching 240 boys and men. This was a very successful exercise to the extent that the male fraternity of the refugee population has requested that the number of training courses be increased in 2012. They claimed that for a long

time men have been ignored in the fight against GBV, yet they play a great role in its prevention. Some of the issues that came up during the training sessions included: child labour in the Kakuma refugee camp where many children from the host community are taking up jobs offered to them by the refugees. There are numerous disputes on custody and maintenance of children among refugee children in Kakuma. RCK has been offering advice on the Best Interest Determination panel (BID) under LWF and also the children's officer of Turkana West district.

Dadaab office conducted several training courses, all geared towards building the capacity of refugees, teachers and law enforcement officers. A total of 28 primary and secondary school teachers who were trained were drawn from Dagahaley, Ifo and Hagadera. They were trained in the international as well as national protection of refugees and asylum seekers, GBV, PSEA, child protection and sexual offences. In order to respond to challenges raised by law enforcement officers, RCK conducted two training sessions for law enforcement officers in Dadaab in partnership with UNHCR, where a total of 59 law enforcement officers were trained, three court users training courses were conducted for court users (probation officers, children's officers, judiciary, regular police, administration police, immigration department officers and prison officers) in Wajir, Garissa and Malindi respectively, where a collective total of 75 officers participated.

In partnership with LWF, RCK conducted training in refugee law and refugee protection to community peace and security teams (CPST) from Ifo II East and West with 47 CPSTs benefitting from that training. During the training for the CPSTs, they were encouraged to create a rapport with protection monitors for referral purposes.

In the spirit of disseminating information to create awareness, and in response to challenges raised at the legal aid clinic, especially on the trial process, requirements of bail and bond, GBV- related cases and general lack of awareness on the provisions of the Refugees Act 2006, RCK aired three radio programmes in Star FM:

- Rights, duties and offences under the Refugees Act 2006
- Gender-based violence
- The trial process

The radio programmes reached a wide audience, as demonstrated by the feedback from the beneficiaries.

Psychosocial

Counselling

RCK provided 1,006 refugees and asylum seekers with psychosocial counselling in Nairobi and Dadaab. Most of the clients counselled were raped and/or were survivors of domestic violence. Other cases attended to were vulnerable groups such as persons living with disabilities, the elderly

Caption:



and single mothers. Some 140 clients were counselled and referred to other service providers for other assistance such as medical, social aid (including livelihoods, vocational training, education and shelter) and psychiatric help. It was noted that most of the clients among the new arrivals had high expectations of the living conditions in the camps and hence became depressed upon arrival at the camp. They were unable to integrate well and regretted seeking asylum in Kenya as opposed to other countries which they claimed offered better living standards for refugees.

With the assistance of refugee Community-Based Counsellors (CBCs) trained by RCK, 36 group therapy sessions for men, women and children – 33 in Nairobi and three in Dadaab – were conducted in various areas including Umoja, Kasarani, Rongai and Jamhuri. The men were brought together in one group and their sessions were held at the RCK office in Nairobi. This was the first time a group therapy was held for Congolese men. It was the outcome of a community forum held in Kasarani where the men expressed that they underwent serious torture in the Democratic republic of Congo and most are currently experiencing psychological problems. They expressed a desire for counselling and RCK was able to begin counselling sessions with a few of them. In Dadaab, Three group therapy sessions were conducted for 28 victims of torture, the majority of whom were Ethiopians who claimed to have fled after experiencing horrendous events at the hands of their tormentors (mostly state agents).

A total of 68 children were provided with counselling. A group session was also held for 28 Congolese children living in Kasarani. This was organised by a community-based counsellor. The children expressed their understanding of war in words and how this had affected their families. They drew pictures of safe places; most of the children drew the sun which was a strong component of what

they perceived to be a safe world. The children further talked of their education and their dreams to have a better life. They also drew many pictures of playing football and they explained that they had associated the game with peace.

To verify the information received during counselling and legal aid clinics for profiling and referral purposes, RCK conducted 58 home visits in Nairobi. It was noted that most of the clients were lacking shelter and other basic necessities and therefore home visits were carried out to verify some of the claims reported at the legal aid clinic.

In the course of the year, 23 therapy sessions for married couples were conducted. As clients came in for individual sessions, some expressed an interest in couple therapy to help them cope with some of the challenges. Six debriefing sessions were held for monitors and translators to enable them to cope better with vicarious trauma; one training was offered to the community-based counsellors in Nairobi.

A Success story

Group Therapy Session for Men

The group therapy sessions for men were set up as a result of issues and concerns raised by women in their group therapy sessions and in the legal aid clinic. Some of the concerns raised were on domestic violence where most women with low self esteem kept referring to their spouses for small decisions. There was a notable increase in the number of women who reported that their husbands could not work and were bedridden. For others it was the father who was always shouting and quarrelling even with his own friends. Women faced non-acceptance of their children, born out of rape, from their spouses and relatives.

The psychosocial unit at RCK decided to invite the men for counselling. An invitation was sent where one was required to see the counsellor on a one-on-one session so that a group would be put together depending on the similarity of the issues.

The response was very poor. We had a total of 15 men from different nationalities who all refused to participate in group sessions citing insecurity and lack of trust especially regarding their personal issues. The psychosocial programme then took on a different approach where the men who accompanied their women were also drawn into sessions after translating for their wives; others were invited after their spouses and children mentioned them as people they feared most, either because they are grouchy, insensitive or unloving.

The first session was well attended. The men formed small groups as they waited for the sessions to start – this was keenly observed by the counsellors. Two or three kept to themselves and did not



greet the others. When the meeting commenced, the counsellor was very keen on a specific sitting order so that the ones who looked like they knew each other were requested to sit next to a new person. A few stood up and gave sitting space for others, but the rest chose not to do so.

As the session progressed and participants were briefed on the purpose of forming the group which was purely for therapeutic reasons, the questions started, how do I know my neighbour will not tell the community about me? How will we know that someone is genuine? How much can we disclose to you (counsellor) since you are a woman. The last question was passed on in Kiswahili and repeated by four other men, highlighting their concern. The floor was opened for participants to debate on the pros and cons of having a female counsellor and on the amount of information one should disclose. The group decided that they could only disclose what they were comfortable with, and if need be, a male officer would be called in to respond to issues concerning men.

Subsequent sessions proceeded slowly since information was shared very economically and it was evident that the group had trust issues. The counsellors discovered that although the participants came from the same geographical area they were from different tribes and clans who had fought each other for many years. Based on this information, we thought that the group would not get to the planned termination stage; we even considered an early termination. But when we explored this with individual members, they felt that it was time to start the healing process since they live together in the community, travel in the same vehicles, shop in the same places and access other services at the same points. We had a whole two-hour session on forgiveness, healing and moving on.

The main topics touched on gender-based violence and the group had a lot to discuss: most of the men had their spouses picked for them when they were very young, the reason being that since the country had experienced war for many years and the older generation had suffered losses they felt that having their boys and girls marry early would ensure continuity. Most of them got married off at the age of 13. For some, marriage did not turn out as expected – some couples were unable to get children while others got more than they were able to care for. This became a constant problem in the family and stress levels increased.

We call this group successful because it took a great deal of time before the men learned to trust and open up to share their deepest feelings and thoughts. It even became a challenge to terminate the sessions as the men had seen the benefits of counselling and how these sessions directly benefited them and their family. We hope we will be able to reach more men in the future so they too can benefit from the free group therapy sessions that RCK offers, in the same way that the women have.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- Operation Linda Nchi has led to an increase in security patrols along the border, thus minimising the number of asylum seekers coming to Dadaab. This in turn led to cases of abuse concerning the rights of refugees and asylum seekers. The operation also resulted in the suspension of non-life saving activities and a temporary closure of the Daadab RCK office, which in turn hindered the performance of planned activities such as community awareness forums, legal aid and border monitoring visits to Liboi and Amumma. RCK needs to come up with a continuity plan to enable its staff to deliver the critical services to refugees without putting the life of staff members at risk. There is also the need to increase engagement with community support structures.
- Law enforcement officers at several check points on the Garissa-Nairobi route do not recognise valid movement passes issued by the Department of Refugees Affairs (DRA) resulting in unlawful arrests and arbitrary detention. There is a need to conduct more awareness training on GBV, PSEA, the Refugees Act and the sexual offences Act for government officers.
- There was an increase in the number refugees seeking social assistance, even though assistance offered to urban refugees is much less than the assistance channelled to the camps.
- Protracted litigation during court representation especially in GBV cases, caused by the prosecution resulted in survivors giving up the pursuit of justice in court. Litigation is also delayed as law courts are located in Garissa and come to Dadaab only five days a month.
- Increased cases of trafficking and smuggling of persons continue to compromise the protection of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Working with protection monitors and community-based counsellors who conduct community outreach activities is crucial in reaching many vulnerable refugees who are not able to reach RCK offices.
- Cases of arbitrary arrest and detention on allegations of unlawful presence have reduced due to our advocacy efforts and protection and border monitoring activities. However, RCK will continue to spread the need to uphold and respect the rights of refugees to law enforcement officers.
- Many cases still find their way to the traditional justice system or maslaha. Some refugees were reluctant to report cases and go to court while others withdrew their cases and resolved them under maslaha. This system has no respect for women's rights and does not have punitive, deterrent or rehabilitative penalties.

Advocacy Programme

The Advocacy Programme works to promote the welfare and dignity of refugees in Kenya and the region by advocating for rights-based policies, laws and practices for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees. This is achieved through policy development at the national, regional and international levels, by promoting partnerships and developing the capacities of key Government actors of relevance to refugees and IDPs and by monitoring areas where displaced persons may be held, or be in transit or reside there.

The year 2011 saw key changes in the social and political spheres that have affected the protection environment for refugees and IDPs. The Programme has remained alive to these changes by pro-actively engaging with the relevant actors mandated either to develop or to apply the legal frameworks related to refugee and IDP protection.

Influencing Policy

The constitutional dispensation process saw the review of five Bills related to citizenship and immigration. RCK participated in two forums convened by the Commission on the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) to ensure that these Bills adequately catered for refugee protection. These Bills include the Refugees Bill 2011 and the newly enacted Citizenship and Immigration Act 2011. RCK also reviewed the development of other legal frameworks that would impact on the protection of refugees and other forced migrants. These include the Human Rights Policy and the draft Disaster Management Policy.

More specifically, RCK continued to review the draft IDP Policy, working closely with the Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MoSSP) to ensure that the draft was submitted to Cabinet in March 2011. RCK produced IEC materials to facilitate this, simplifying the draft IDP Policy into reader-friendly material composed of 500 information booklets, 1,000 brochures, 2,000 fliers and 100 posters.

A Parliamentary Select Committee on the Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (PSC) was established in March to examine the Government's interventions with regard to IDPs and to make recommendations on the same. One of these recommendations was to develop a legal framework for the protection of IDPs. The PSC initiated the drafting of an IDP Bill to this effect and RCK, together with the Protection Working Group on Internal Displacement (PWGID), collaborated with the PSC to ensure that the draft Bill substantively domesticated international instruments on internal displacement. The draft Bill has since been submitted to the PSC for tabling in Parliament together with their final report.



caption.

RCK continued to monitor the needs on the ground to advocate for their inclusion in the interventions by MoSSP. To this end, RCK worked with MoSSP to design a second profiling and verification exercise to redress the inequalities resulting from the first profiling exercise. The list developed by the first profiling exercise is reported to have included persons who had not been internally displaced to the exclusion of many deserving IDPs. As a result of this flawed list, tensions developed between communities and interventions such as resettlement and reconstruction of shelters, that required much peacebuilding before any action could take place.

Networking

RCK has benefitted from the partnerships it maintains such as the PWGID and the Urban Refugee Protection Network (URPN) to lobby for change at both the policy level and in practice, in particular, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs gave valuable feedback during the development of the draft IDP Bill. Partners such as the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association (KMJA) continue to be key players that support RCK advocacy efforts, especially when it comes to teaming up for training.

Beyond networking at the national level, RCK engaged with key networks at the regional and international levels to influence relevant policies and participate in advocacy mechanisms for the promotion of the rights of refugees and other forced migrants. These include presenting papers on refugee status determination and on the IDP Policy development process at the International Association for the Study on Forced Migration (IASFM), developing a humanitarian policy and encouraging states to domesticate the African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance

of Internally Displaced Persons (commonly known as the Kampala Convention) at forums organised by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union. RCK hosted the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) in bringing ICVA and non-ICVA members from the Global South to participate in the development of their 2012-2014 Strategic Plan. RCK also attended a regional meeting convened by the International Detention Coalition (IDC) where it was designated as the focal point within the region on all detention matters.

RCK participated in the 2011 UNHCR pre-EXCOM (pre Executive Committee) and discussed the need to expedite the refugee status determination process, with Kenya as a case study. This, RCK argued, would improve the protection of refugees as it facilitates access to services and reduces harassment and extortion. The need to enhance the protection of women and children was also highlighted with a view to addressing their specific needs and vulnerabilities as witnessed particularly in the camps in Kenya. The need to increase funding for national NGOs by UNHCR was discussed as a means of capacitating NGOs to provide better protection.

Capacity Enhancement

RCK partnerships with government actors, civil society and representatives from the refugee and IDP communities have proved instrumental in enhancing the protection of displaced persons. RCK continues to empower these actors to enable them to react to and to manage refugee and IDP issues by training them on refugee protection. The curriculum, whose focus is to relay the rights, duties and obligations of refugees and government officers as under the Refugees Act 2006, also includes



sessions on child protection, gender-based violence and prevention against sexual exploitation and abuse. The curriculum was expanded this year to include IDP protection and protection for trafficked persons. The training sessions provide a platform for actors to share their challenges and concerns and to seek solutions together. This year, RCK trained a total of 172 government and civil society officers from several areas including Malindi, Eldoret, Meru and Nairobi. The participants comprised of representatives from the police, provincial administration, immigration, the judicial sector, prisons and children's departments.

RCK undertook a peacebuilding project in Eldoret to complement a shelter reconstruction project carried out by our partner, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). This took the form of holding peace forums or barazas reaching a total of 304 participants and training 130 peace committee members on peacebuilding skills and on familiarising themselves with the contents of the Draft IDP Policy. The peace committees are national community structures designed to mediate conflict between and among communities.

In answering the feedback form after a training session, as to which session was the most helpful, a district peace committee member stated that he appreciated the human rights session the most because it meant learning that the international community has an obligation to help when human rights are abused by the government. "This makes me feel like a citizen of the world," he said, "that the rights of the vulnerable are recognised".

The intention of the peace committee training courses was to enable the peace committee members to facilitate durable solutions for IDPs. The Programme looks forward to continuing to engage with the peace committee members in order to monitor how imparting them with an understanding of rights and peacebuilding skills will help to bring peace and reconciliation to Eldoret.

Monitoring

RCK monitored how compliance to the legal frameworks was maintained on refugee and IDP protection. This was done mainly through missions to the refugee, IDP border as well as transit and hosting areas. The year saw a number of areas visited that revealed key protection issues relevant to the migration routes and socio-environmental conditions. In June, RCK covered the coastal area from Kiunga to Lunga Lunga. The Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) was at the time conducting a registration exercise and RCK was able to observe this process as well, so as to determine the status of integration for long-term refugees. In the same month, RCK visited the recently established DRA in Shauri Moyo, Nairobi which had also assumed the responsibility of refugee and asylum seeker registration from UNHCR. The visit confirmed the need to support the Government with capacity enhancement to enable it to provide adequate protection for refugees and asylum seekers.

In August, RCK undertook a mission to Kakuma to assess the situation of Turkana IDPs. Shortly afterwards, RCK joined PWGID partners to assess protection issues related to drought-induced displacement in the Rift Valley, following the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa due to drought and famine. Both missions revealed the vulnerability of certain groups as a result of marginalisation.



These groups include Turkana IDPs and the local population in Kakuma who were hosting refugees. Turkana IDPs have received a lot less assistance and attention than other IDPs of the 2007-2008 post-election violence (PEV). The local population in Kakuma (or host community) experiences a great disparity between their own situation and that of refugees, so that it was commonplace to find refugees hiring host community members and their children to work as domestic help and casual labourers. As a result of the two missions, the situation of Kakuma IDPs was followed up, interventions were made by partners to ensure that refugees do not hire children from the host community and the mandate of the PWGID was broadened from assisting only PEV IDPs to assisting IDPs caused by natural disasters and other conflicts.

In November, RCK engaged in a monitoring mission to the Eastern and Central province corridor that revealed the plight of mixed migrants and the challenges faced by government officers in ensuring refugee protection. The mission also took account of the position of immigration offices in anticipation of the new structure to govern all citizenship and immigration affairs – the Citizens and Foreign Nationals Management Service.

This is an excerpt from a report from our paralegal based in Embu:

Marian Ghai Mohammed, aged 23 years, with Nafiso Abdikarir Salati, aged 16 years, and Rahma Ahmed Ibrahim, aged 18 years, fled to Kenya to escape the conflict in Somalia. They made their way to Ifo refugee camp in Dadaab. Unable to find adequate food, shelter and medication they left to find relatives in Nairobi. They were, however, arrested in Mwea, about 100kms from Nairobi for unlawful presence in accordance with section 13(2) Cap 172 laws of Kenya and held in custody for five days before being arraigned in court. They were sentenced to serve three months in prison each and to be repatriated upon completion of the sentence.

Upon learning about the detention of these asylum seekers, an RCK pro bono lawyer intervened to ensure their release. Refugees and asylum seekers continue to be arrested, charged and convicted of unlawful presence together with other migrants and this was shared with the RCK team that undertook the mission from Isiolo to Embu.

In December, RCK returned to the Coastal region to follow up on the issues emerging from the mission in June. The mission findings included the need to seek more information on the statelessness of persons such as the Makonde and the Pemba.

The monitoring missions reinforced the importance of continuing training sessions and setting up networks country-wide to include the enlisting of pro bono lawyers and paralegals who provide a wider presence for RCK and improve accessibility to RCK for refugees and asylum seekers as well as for actors working on refugee protection.

New Areas for Advocacy

Beyond the thematic issues that the Advocacy Programme has been working on, 2011 also saw the expansion of advocacy issues to include promoting child protection. RCK has participated in the development of two working groups to address issues affecting the children of both refugees and IDPs; the URPN Child Protection Theme Group and the PWGID Child Protection Working Group.

The Programme has also begun more research activities, beginning with a study on access to formal and informal justice for urban refugees in order to involve elders from refugee communities in the training on refugee protection. RCK also initiated a study to assess the protection issues in Dadaab in a bid to inform advocacy measures for protracted refugees as well as new arrivals.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

The prevailing socio-political environment has both advanced and impeded advocacy interventions. The countdown to the General Elections, the constitutional dispensation process and even the proceedings at the International Criminal Court collectively makes it urgent to address the IDP situation in a way that does not recreate the 2007-2008 post-election violence and subsequent displacement. RCK and other actors have benefitted from this attention directed towards IDPs and hope that it can be sustained in order to put in place a national legal framework for the protection and assistance of IDPs.

On the other hand, the military incursion into Somalia has dramatically affected the protection environment for refugees and asylum seekers. At the policy level, this is reflected by a Refugees Bill that retracts the gains made by the 2006 Refugees Act. Refugee status in the Bill for instance, may be revoked if a refugee were to be convicted of an offence and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of three years or longer. Asylum status should not be linked with criminal activity that can be dealt with by the criminal justice system. In practice, the harassment of refugees and asylum seekers has been on the rise. RCK will continue to collaborate with all actors working on refugee protection to ensure that the rights of refugees and IDPs are protected even as developments in the socio-political climate indicate otherwise.

Information and Research Programme

The goal of this Programme is to raise awareness and increase public understanding and that of policy makers on issues that relate to refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs.

The strategic objective of the Programme is to publicise knowledge on asylum seekers, refugee and IDP issues and strengthen support for RCK work, conduct research and share information on the situation in the refugees' country of origin, on issues of displacement and on peace and security matters to inform decision-makers on asylum matters, to make informed advocacy interventions and to create a heightened awareness of refugee issues among the general public. In addition, in 2011 the Programme has been implementing a tracing project where RCK is partnering with Refugees United, a family tracing service that helps refugees to search for and reconnect with missing family or friends, using a safe and secure search tool. In 2011, the Programme also undertook the following activities:

Publications and public relations activities

The RCK website was redesigned to make it more interactive and user-friendly. The website now has more contemporary information and a blog to highlight key advocacy issues such as RCK position papers and commentaries. The media monitor allows for the daily streaming of news related to forced migration. The website also provides links to partner agencies such as Refugees United (RU) to enable those who would wish to use the tracing tool to access it from the website with links to our social media networks Facebook and Twitter to see contributions from all staff on issues related to displacement.

The RCK newsletter, Refugee Insights, is a publication that highlights issues that were witnessed and captured in the course of addressing the plight of refugees. Issue no. 18, themed "Urban Refugees" was published in 2011, highlighting the issues that urban refugees face, such as access to health and livelihoods and other contemporary issues. Issue no. 19 was prepared in 2011 and published in early 2012. Its theme, "Beyond the Numbers" drew attention to the changing protection environment for refugees and other forced migrants including stories on: the humanitarian crisis in Dadaab following the drought and famine situation; developments in the legal framework for the protection of both refugees and IDPs; and an analysis of sustaining peace, with regard to the peacebuilding interventions that RCK has conducted in both Molo and Eldoret, following the post-election violence in 2007/2008.

In line with enhancing the corporate image of RCK, the Programme is developing a Communication Policy which will lay down the organisation's plan to guide and institutionalise its internal and external communication methods. Its core objectives are to establish a stronger and more widely

recognised RCK brand and to support RCK national and international fundraising activities. The policy is set to be operationalised in 2012. The policy is guided by the principles of transparency, efficient use of information technology, clarity, cultural awareness and promoting dialogue or feedback.

The RCK Bulletin, which is a news communication that seeks to update partners and other stakeholders on current issues in the protection of refugees and other forced migrants, was transformed into an e-bulletin in 2011 for ease of electronic circulation and wider dissemination. Using the Subscribe-to-RCK function on the website, RCK has, to date, a total of 368 subscribers to whom the e-bulletin and other RCK materials such as the newsletter, Refugee Insights are disseminated.

Increasing awareness and promoting a consistent corporate image of RCK

International Women's Day

In line with the United Nations theme for International Women's Day 2011, "Equal access to education, training and science and technology - pathway to decent work for women", a community forum was organized in Kasarani, on the outskirts of Nairobi. The refugee women who attended the forum discussed the importance of educating their children and giving equal treatment to both boys and girls in education. More than 200 women attended the celebration.

World Refugee Day

Another event highlighting the work of RCK was held on 17th June at Kayole Social Hall as a build-up activity towards World Refugee Day (WRD). An estimated 300 participants attended the function. The event gave an opportunity for refugees to express themselves in song, dance and poetry. Three RCK officers appeared in the media as part of WRD celebrations to highlight pertinent issues affecting refugees in Kenya; among the issues discussed were: congestion in camps and non-refoulement. The Executive Director also appeared in an exclusive interview with the Kenyan daily, The Standard on Sunday Eve Woman magazine's edition of 28th August, 2011 to sensitise the public on refugee matters and respond to queries to address misinformation. In the spirit of giving hope to people in displacement and help them pick up and move on, the Programme facilitated the publication of a feature on a refugee woman who has rebuilt her life in Kenya and is now employing Kenyans and refugees in her restaurant. The feature appeared in the September, 2011 issue of True Love magazine.

During the year, RCK was engaged in peacebuilding activities that involved training peace committee members in Eldoret, and forming peacebuilding football tournaments. RCK also supervised the setting up of workshops for the Parliamentary Select Committee on Resettlement of IDPs attended by partners from the Protection Working Groups on Internal Displacement (PWGID) to develop the draft IDP Policy and draft IDP Bill. These activities were captured by media stations.

Keeping a pulse on refugee rights through monitoring and reporting

The Programme carried out a project monitoring mission to Garissa and Dadaab jointly with a member of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) to observe the situation in Dadaab at the height of the humanitarian crisis. Key observations included the inability of agencies to meet the social needs of forced migrants, the continued situation of insecurity, and tensions between refugees and the local population, among others.

Continuous media monitoring was conducted, mainly highlighting issues on refugees and IDPs in the mainstream media in daily newspapers, radio, television and relevant websites that cover issues relating to migration, refugees and displacement in East Africa and Africa. Issues for advocacy were highlighted and shared with partners.

Refugees Tracing Project

The project's mission is to help refugees reconnect directly with missing loved ones through a safe, secure internet search tool that allows for full anonymity and is free of charge. The first phase of the project was started in June 2010 and at its conclusion in May 2011, a total of 32,146 refugees had registered in the Refugee United (RU) platform. Registrations were done using an offline tool during the first phase. The second phase of the project commenced in September and by the end of the



caption.

year a total of 8,391 had registered, 6,050 had logged in once and more than 1,500 had logged in multiple times. The second phase of registrations were done using WAP enabled phones and computers. Due to security challenges in Nairobi, Dadaab and Kakuma, we were not able to interact with the community as much as we would have wanted.

Developing strategic partnerships with research and academic institutions

Through the Programme, RCK partnered with the Refugees Study Centre (RSC), Oxford University, in an innovative project to illuminate and share the concerns of IDPs from their own perspectives and insights by preparing a publication called “IDP Voices: The Silent Voices of the Internally Displaced in Kenya”. The project sought to capture the true voices of IDPs, recognising the invaluable input they offer in placing policy discussions on displacement in their proper context and drawing attention to the need for new approaches. A video documentary with the same title was also produced.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

The Programme witnessed a gap in engaging in research and fact-finding missions which are key in informing RCK interventions. The Refugees United project faces the challenge of keeping community members interested and in regular use of the tool. The Programme hopes to address this by making the forums more relevant for refugees and by monitoring the project to ensure its success.

The media plays an important role in highlighting issues, creating awareness and in shaping public opinion. This is an avenue that RCK will seek to exploit further by creating strategic partnerships with media houses and editors to interest them in refugee and forced migration issues beyond key dates such as World Refugee Day, in order to promote sustained media engagement throughout the year.

Finance and Administration Programme

The goal of this Programme is to ensure that RCK has an efficient and effective finance, administration and human resource management system. It offers support to other Programmes, and ensures that the organisation's resources are aligned with the mission of the organisation.

The Programme also provides opportunities for the RCK staff to train in relevant areas of refugee protection so that they can respond to the emerging concerns of forced migrants and thereby realize the organization's vision. This is in line with staff capacity enhancement aimed at increasing effectiveness and productivity among our staff members. It also ensures that its human resource is well trained, retained and its welfare taken care of.

Improving the capacity of staff members

To enable the staff contribute to the overall efficiency and effectiveness of running the organisation and implementing its programme activities, the programme provides opportunities for staff to participate in relevant activities, meetings and training sessions by RCK partnering with institutions and other stakeholders. Several events were organised to motivate and encourage the staff:-

- Staff members attended a leadership skills training targeting women, organised by Akina Mama wa Africa.
- A staff member attended training on detention practices organised by the International Detention Coalition and IASFM conference on forced migration.
- A staff member presented a paper on reviewing the draft policy on displaced persons in Kenya.
- RCK staff members were also involved in the review of the Humanitarian Assistance Policy and the draft policy on Humanitarian Assistance.

Staff team building and debriefing activities

The RCK management appreciates the need to create a conducive working environment for the staff to increase productivity. Regular team building and debriefing activities were organized to ensure that there are shared goals to which all team members are committed and synergy is enhanced. Towards this objective, the following activities were undertaken during the year:-

- A planning retreat with both RCK staff and board members, mainly to set goals on the basis of objectives and of available resources, resulting in an Annual Operation Plan. The annual planning retreat was also an opportunity for the staff and board members to interact with one another.
- Debriefing and team building sessions were organised as in previous years by allowing the staff to talk about their day-to-day experiences in the field of refugee and IDP protection to help reduce any possibility of psychological harm.

- Regular individual debriefing and counselling sessions were also in place to keep check of staff coming from the field and dealing with victims who have undergone traumatic experiences.

Planning and monitoring

RCK allocates time for planning and monitoring to enable the organisation to define goals for the future and decide on tasks and resources to be used in order to attain those goals. Planning was carried out after a careful survey of the environment ensuring that the planning adheres to the 2007 – 2011 Strategic Plan in place. Monitoring was done throughout the year through quarterly reporting, re-planning and a mid-term review undertaken half-way through the year. In this regard the development of a Strategic Plan 2012 – 2016 was initiated.

RCK Funding Initiative

The RCK activities for the year were funded by Danish Refugee Council (DRC) for various projects including the IDP Peace building project and the Great Lakes and Research projects. Other funders included the International Rescue Committee (IRC), PSO through Dutch Council for Refugees (DCR), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Refugee Studies Centre of Oxford University, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Refugees United (RU), The Sigrid Rausing Trust, Global Fund for Women (GFW) and United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT).

Strategic Plan

This was the final year of the 2007 – 2011 RCK Strategic Plan. The plan was intended to drive RCK activities in the five-year period towards the goal of fulfilling its vision and mission. These initiatives are:-

1. Enhance asylum seekers and refugees' access to legal justice through the provision of legal aid at all levels.
2. Advocate for rights-based policies, laws and practices for the protection of refugees, IDPs and returnees.
3. Provide psychosocial, entrepreneurial and activation support for refugees living outside the camps to prepare them to enter the economic sector.
4. Research and share information on issues such as country of origin, displacement, peace and security to inform decision makers on asylum matters, advocacy interventions and the general public.
5. Strengthen internal capacity to deliver its mission effectively.



The Year Ahead

RCK looks forward to implementing its 2012 activities according to the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan. With the expansion of the team in Dadaab, RCK will be able to reach out to more refugees and asylum seekers within the camps. The legal aid team in Nairobi will also continue its approach of using outreach legal aid clinics to expand its reach as well.

With regard to IDP protection, RCK hopes to be able to continue its peacebuilding activities with the communities in Eldoret and to continue to link interventions on the ground with work at the policy level. RCK is currently using the lessons learnt from Eldoret in informing the National Reconciliation Agenda together with the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission.

As the constitutional dispensation proceeds, RCK will remain vigilant over the legislative developments to ensure that the rights of refugees and other forced migrants are adequately captured.

RCK hopes to effect these ambitions through partnerships with all concerned stakeholders, including the Government, other agencies and the communities themselves.

RCK staff in 2010

Nairobi Head-Office

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| • Lucy Kiama | • Anne Gitai | • Fresiah Githumbi |
| • Simon Konzolo | • Edmund Lang'at | • Caroline Githara |
| • Mildred Walumbe | • Trine Barnoe | • Diana Wambui |
| • Antony Wesonga | • Andrew Songa | • Peter Karera |
| • Leila Muriithia-Simiyu | • Riva Jalipa | • Sandra Andere |
| • Charles Njanga | • Rufus Karanja | • Millicent Oloo |
| • Peter Nyambu | • Dennis Likule | |

Dadaab Sub-Office

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| • Catherine Njoroge | • Jane Abudho | • Dinah Mukambi |
| • Koome Imaana | • Issa Mohamed | • Eunice Njeri |
| • Chris Okudo | • Salat Sugow Sheikh | • Aurelia Munene |
| • Elizabeth Wangare | • Abdi Malik Keisane | • David Ngunga |

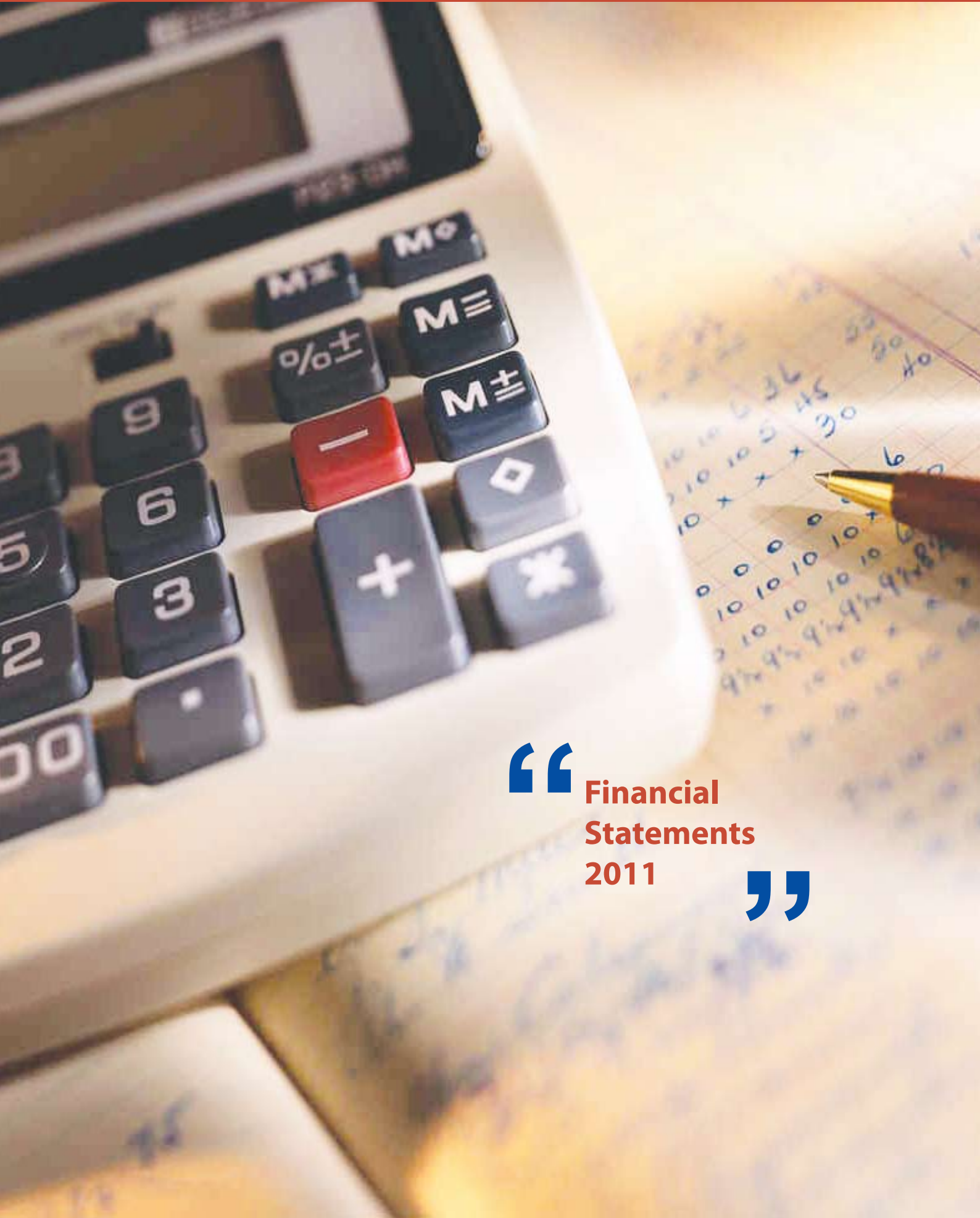
Kakuma Sub-Office

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| • Martin Pepela | • Havana Edna |
| • Peter Karera | • Simon Ngisaje Nakali |

Interns and Volunteers

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| • Ruby Okindi | • Lorraine Masinde | • Sophie Muchina |
| • Christine Mwaura | • Joyce Mutoka | • Nathaniel Kanyi |
| • Stella Wamae | • Lilian Maugo | • Nancy Muhia |
| • Wendy Crompton | • Evans Muriungi | • Susan Edwards |
| • Sarah Cechvala | • Gloria Saruni | |
| • Mary Maneno | • Abdihakim Adan | |





“ **Financial
Statements
2011** ”

PKF Kenya
Certified Public Accountants



REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS OF REFUGEE CONSORTIUM OF KENYA (RCK)

Report on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) set out on pages 6 to 16 which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2011, statement of comprehensive income and changes in general fund and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Trustees' responsibility for the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs) and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entities preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Refugee Consortium of Kenya as at 31 December 2011 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities.

Certified Public Accountants
PIN NO: P051130467R
NAIROBI

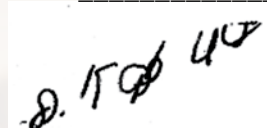
_____ 2012

Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK)
Annual report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2011

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Notes	2011 Shs	2010 Shs
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Equipment and vehicles	9	7,011,956	5,439,391
Current assets			
Receivables	11	688,211	307,750
Cash and bank balances	12	35,644,678	9,512,696
		36,332,889	9,820,446
Total assets		43,344,845	15,259,837
FUNDS			
General fund		474,473	(2,882,473)
Non-current liabilities			
Asset grants - deferred income	14	7,011,956	5,439,391
Current liabilities			
Unexpended grants	2	29,801,273	11,351,611
Payables	13	6,057,143	1,351,308
		35,858,416	12,702,919
Total funds and liabilities		43,344,84	15,259,837

The financial statements on pages 6 to 16 were authorized for issue by the Management/ Board of Trustees on _____ 2012 and were signed on its behalf by:



Chairman



Executive Director

The summary of significant accounting policies on pages 9 to 10 and the notes on pages 11 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements. Report of the independent auditor - page 5

Refugee Consortium of Kenya
Annual report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2011

**INCOME STATEMENT - COMBINED GRANTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010 AND
CUMULATIVE FROM MARCH 1999 TO 31 DECEMBER 2011**

	Dec-11	3/1/1999 to Dec-10	Cumulative Total
	Shs	Shs	Shs
INCOME			
Ford Foundation (FF)	-	37,784,448	37,784,448
Primate World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)	-	21,268,797	21,268,797
Trocaire	-	22,183,811	22,183,811
International Institute for Education (IIE)	-	2,216,291	2,216,291
United States International University (USIU)	-	541,773	541,773
Action Aid Kenya	-	5,232,480	5,232,480
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	7,665,000	4,073,588	11,738,588
CIDA-GESP	-	4,207,974	4,207,974
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	27,719,945	75,771,422	103,491,367
CARE KENYA	-	365,000	365,000
UNIFEM	-	3,256,549	3,256,549
Refugee Study Centre (Oxford University)	980,678	1,545,173	2,525,851
BPRM (US Embassy)	-	1,472,000	1,472,000
Dutch Council for Refugees (PSO/Cordaid)	3,793,460	6,878,625	10,672,085
Refugee United	19,124,404	3,704,960	22,829,364
Global Fund for Women	2,530,016	916,800	3,446,816
UNHCR	25,064,077	5,162,891	30,226,968
UNICEF	11,346,851	-	11,346,851
General Psychosocial support grant- UNVFVT	1,690,281	-	1,690,281
Sigrid Rausing Trust	13,226,648	9,029,279	22,255,927
TOTAL GRANT INCOME (Note 1)	113,141,360	205,611,861	318,753,221
Other income & information programme (Note 3)	1,936,946	10,345,832	12,282,778
TOTAL INCOME	115,078,305	215,957,693	331,035,998

**INCOME STATEMENT - COMBINED GRANTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010
AND CUMULATIVE FROM MARCH 1999 TO 31 DECEMBER 2011**

continued from pg 39

EXPENDITURE			
Regional and International Refugee Advocacy Administration (FF)	-	45,241,205	45,241,205
Paralegal Training and Alternative Dispute Resolution Skills (PWRDF)	-	10,606,456	10,606,456
Management and Law enforcement in Refugee Protection Trocaire	-	22,183,811	22,183,811
Staff Training (IIE)	-	2,231,058	2,231,058
Victims of Torture Project - (USIU)	-	542,044	542,044
HIV/Aids Awareness and Education (Action Aid Kenya)	-	3,699,566	3,699,566
Information programme/other expenses (Note 7)		13,717,233	13,717,233
Access to Justice (PWRDF & IRC)	7,524,480	12,630,893	20,155,373
Gender Equity Support Project (CIDA)	-	4,207,974	4,207,974
Advocating for the Enactment & Popularisation of the Refugee Bill 2007 (DRC & CARE Kenya)	27,514,403	9,633,698	37,148,101
Promoting refugees and host population rights and welfare/prevention and response to the protection concerns of IDPs in camps in Molo district	-	64,658,327	64,658,327
UNIFEM	-	3,570,385	3,570,385
Art for action on violence against women	-	782,820	782,820
Refugee Study Centre Oxford	980,678	1,545,173	2,525,851
Legal aid and psychosocial counselling (BPRM)	-	1,472,000	1,472,000
Urban Refugee Research (IRC)		489,949	489,949
Legal aid Kakuma (DCR-PSO/Coardaid)	101,862	6,776,764	6,878,626
Refugee United	18,354,000	3,506,881	21,860,881
Global Fund for Women	921,362	391,205	1,312,567
UNHCR	24,960,221	4,885,465	29,845,686
UNICEF	3,812,835	-	3,812,835
General Psychosocial support grant- UNVFT	1,690,282	-	1,690,282
Sigrid Rausing Trust	8,831,576	625,026	9,456,602
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (Note 4 & 5)	94,691,699	213,397,933	308,089,632
SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD	20,386,607	2,559,760	22,946,367
FOREIGN EXCHANGE GAIN	-	237,082	237,082
SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD	20,386,607	2,796,842	23,183,449



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