Celebrating milestones

The last few months have been eventful for the organization. Most Programs namely: DRC, Cameroon, RoC, Uganda, Liberia took part in this year's World Refugee Day celebrations on the 20th June. You can head to our website gallery section for these pictures. Most of the celebrations were characterized by marches to show solidarity with refugees' world over. In Uganda a Solidarity Summit was held on the 22 and 23rd of June to raise funds to support the South Sudanese refugee influx into the country. I am glad to report that AIRD was involved in this Summit. We were represented by the Director of Operations Ms. Musarait Kashmiri.

10th Anniversary Celebrations

10th Anniversary celebrations are ongoing in various Programs; Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic Congo, Republic of Congo and Tanzania. The staff were fully involved and engaged in festivities as seen on our gallery. A lot of creativity was showcased in cake designs, branded t-shirts and clothes plus activities to give back to local communities. We shall keep you updated on the celebrations from the rest of the Programs on social media and website.

CEO’s message

The CEO Mr. Mathias Temesgen Daniel in his Anniversary message appreciated the staff’s contribution to AIRD’s development. He also added that AIRD had grown and its impact is remarkable in all countries of operation. Mr Mathias also said AIRD had potential to do more especially in the development aspect.

World Refugee Day celebrations in Uganda

This year’s World Refugee Way celebrations (20th June) in Uganda were like no other. The day saw humanitarian organizations both local and international come together in solidarity to show support to the government of Uganda for hosting refugees. The togetherness was demonstrated by a walk from a Kampala city suburb of Mengo to Nsambya sports ground where celebrations took place. The 5 km walk was flagged off by the UNHCR representative in Uganda Mr. Bornwell Katande. He led the walk alongside the EU ambassador to Uganda Mr. Kristian Schmitd and officials from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) of Uganda. AIRD HQ together with Uganda Program staff participated in the walk. The Program was represented by the Country Program Director Mr. Abraham Konneh. The walk was dubbed a solidarity walk not only to show support to Uganda’s model in hosting refugees but also as build up towards the Solidarity Summit that was held from 22-23rd June at Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala. The Summit aimed at raising awareness about the need for support to Uganda in terms of resources to meet the demands of overwhelming and growing number of refugees in the country.

The Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Hilary Onek, while addressing the gathering called upon African leaders to resolve the refugee problem. He suggested that leaders in countries where refugees are being generated ought to restore peace. “Without refugees, we shall only have healthy relations of trading amongst each other,” he said. He added that leaders causing wars should stop their selfishness and consider the lives of their citizens. The celebrations were highlighted by various dance performances from refugees and an exhibition where refugees showcased various handmade merchandise and produce.
AIRD Burkina Faso is giving life to refugees in Mentao and Goudebo camps. Based on the adage that water is life, the Program through the WASH projects has been providing clean water to persons of concern. The Project which commenced in January last year has benefited over 30,000 refugees residing in the two camps.

The Program does water treatment, pumping, construction of boreholes and taps. The Program also facilitates trainings of locals carried out by water technicians. They ensure that locals are aware of how to keep the water sources clean and maintenance of bore holes and taps.

Since this year started, the Program has supplied 32,772 litres of water to refugees in Mentao camp and 24,883.2 litres in Goudebo camp. A total of 50 refugees from both Mentao and Goudebo were extensively trained by AIRD in water pump management, plumbing, water treatment, water hygiene and pump station management. The training was conducted to ensure continuity of access to clean water in both camps even in the absence of AIRD.

AIRD sets up structures for refugee registration in Burkina Faso

AIRD set up temporary shelters for Biometric Identification Management System (BIMS) Burkina Faso. The shelters were set up in Ouaga, Dori, Djibo and in the Sahel region (Seno, Oudalan, Soum, Gorom-Gorom). This was under the directive of UNHCR to establish the number of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso.

The registration of Malian refugees kicked off on 9th June in areas of Dori and Djibo and ended mid-August in Bobo Dioulasso. The shelters were constructed to address challenges of refugees’ registration such as rain and sunshine. Burkina Faso has been receiving Malian refugees since 2012.

RoC Program brings health services closer to refugees

AIRD Republic of Congo Program has constructed a new health center in Liranga to extend health services closer to refugees and the host community. AIRD constructed the health Centre on a plot of land secured by UNHCR with approval from local authorities in Liranga.

Prior to the construction of the hospital, sick people had to be moved to Likouala where they could access better health facilities. Likouala is approximately 256 km from Liranga.

This was in response to the health services gap faced by Rwandan refugees, Congolese refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo and locals in the area. Prior to the construction of the hospital, sick people had to be moved to Likouala where they could access better health facilities. Likouala is approximately 256 km from Liranga.

Additionally, the Program also constructed 4 community centres in the area. Community centers provide a platform for refugees and locals to meet and socialize. It’s also a place where women, men, boys and girls of varied backgrounds can meet for social events, recreation, education, information exchange, and other purposes to bridge social gaps.
Meet Felicia, the Liberia Program truck driver

Out of her work attire (coveralls), Felicia Maime is like any ordinary woman at first glance but she is not. The 44 year old mother of 4 is the only woman truck driver. Contrary to the belief that women opt for light weight jobs, Felicia is proof that given the opportunity, women can equally manage over looked jobs such as truck driving. AIRD is an equal opportunity employer, a reason that Felicia was hired in February 2017. This was because of her passion, experience and dedication to the job.

She delights in the contribution she makes to the Liberia Program in assisting the persons of concern in the country.

Felicia’s typical day involves water trucking in Monrovia and field office support when called upon. She is also involved in transportaion of NFIs and other material as required by the Program.

AIRD donates furniture to PTP II Primary School in Liberia

AIRD donated 90 three seater desks, 6 teacher working desks and chairs to furnish 6 class rooms of PTP II Primary School in PTP refugee camp. AIRD Head Office funded the project as a contribution to the people of concern living in the area. This is in line with the Organization’s vision to promote sustainable development in developing countries. After earmarking the funds in 2016, the Program was tasked with identifying a needs gap which was found in the education sector.

PTP II Primary School was identified due to its lack of adequate class room furniture both for the pupils and teachers. The furniture was handed over to the school in March this year.

The handover event was graced by Liberian Government officials (The Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Justice), UNHCR representatives, SEARCH also the UNHCR education partner and AIRD staff.

The furniture will benefit 270 refugees, host community pupils and 6 teachers. According to UNCHR statistics of 2017, PTP camp hosts 7,533 refugees from Cote D’Ivoire.

The Liberian Government officials and UNHCR representation applauded AIRD for giving back to the community. The gesture was considered a big step towards building capacity for the ongoing integration phase of the Liberia Refugee program.
Le programme RoC rapproche les services de santé des réfugiés

Vue de face du centre de santé de Liranga après achèvement

Le programme AIRD République du Congo a construit un nouveau centre de santé à Liranga pour étendre les services de santé aux réfugiés et à la communauté d’accueil. AIRD a construit le centre de santé sur un terrain sécurisé par le HCR avec l’approbation des autorités locales à Liranga. Cela a été en réponse à l’écart des services de santé auxquels sont confrontés les réfugiés rwandais, les réfugiés congolais de la République démocratique du Congo et les habitants de la région. Avant la construction de l’hôpital, les personnes malades devaient être transférées à Likouala où elles pouvaient avoir accès à de meilleurs établissements de santé. Likouala est à environ 256 km de Liranga. En outre, le programme a également construit 4 centres communautaires dans la région. Les centres communautaires constituent une plate-forme pour les réfugiés et les habitants de se rencontrer et de se socialiser.

C’est aussi un endroit où des femmes, des hommes, des garçons et des filles de milieux variés peuvent se rencontrer pour les événements sociaux, les loisirs, l’éducation, l’échange d’informations et d’autres objectifs pour combler les lacunes sociales.

AIRD est en train de booster l’amélioration des conditions de vie des réfugiés au Burkina Faso

Au Burkina Faso, AIRD est en train de donner la vie aux réfugiés dans le Mentao et le Goudebo.

Se basant sur l’adage qui dit “ l’eau c’est la vie”, le programme a travers les projets d’assainissement, apporte de l’eau potable aux réfugiés. Le projet qui a commencé en janvier de l’an dernier, dessert 30 000 réfugiés résident dans les deux camps.

Le programme comprend entre autres le pompage et le traitement d’eau, la construction de forages et de points de collectes d’eau dotés de robinets. Le programme par ses techniciens en assainissement facilitent aussi la formation des populations autochtones. Faisant ainsi, les techniciens veulent s’assurer que les populations hôtes sont en mesure de maintenir les points d’eau propres, capables d’entretenir les

AIRD a mis en place des structures d’enregistrement des réfugiés au Burkina Faso

AIRD a construit des structures temporaires pour le système d’identification biométrique au Burkina Faso. Les structures ont été construites à Ouga, Dori, Djibo et dans la région sahélienne (Seno, Oudalan,Soum, Gorom-Gorom). Cela faisait suite à la demande du HCR de resserrer tous les réfugiés maliens vivant au Burkina Faso.

L’enregistrement des réfugiés maliens a pris fin dans les régions de Dori et de Djibo le 9 Août dernier et pour la région de Bobo Djiolasso ce dernier a pris fin à mi Août 2017. Les structures ont été construites pour resoudre les problèmes rencontrés lors de l’enregistrement des réfugiés tels que, les pluies et le chaud soleil. Le Burkina Faso a commencé par acceuillir les réfugiés maliens depuis l’année 2012.

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Upcoming events

International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October 2017
Global Hand Washing Day: 15 October 2017
United Nations Day: 24th October 2017
These are the women and men who make up the Communication Team. It is because of their drive, hard work and commitment that the 3rd Newsletter of 2017 is out. If you have interesting stories and pictures taken while in the field, please share on this email address: brenda.a@airdinternational.org

Remember to follow us on Twitter: @AIRD_World and like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/AIRD.10

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Celebrating 10 years

10 YEARS OF GROWING TOGETHER