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On behalf of the Board of Directors of African Initiatives for Relief and Development I present our first Annual Report, which will be covering our activities of 2014. I have proudly been the Chairman of the B.O.D. and supporter of AIRD since 2006. Over the years I’ve had the pleasure to see AIRD demonstrate a strong alliance both to the communities we reach and the partners we work with. It is with pride we can show the growth of AIRD from when it started in 2006 with 1 Country Program, to today where we are working in a total of 7 sub-Saharan countries in Africa. It is with the dedication and passion of our staff that we have been able to grow so progressively.

AIRD, being an advocate for communities to be self sustaining, has sought for change in how assistance is facilitated. Our objective is for the communities we work with to be involved with projects in order to strengthen and create empowerment. It takes time to see a project flourish, which is why we invest our efforts into the infrastructure within the host community and capacities where opportunities are continuous. Over the years AIRD has been actively supporting ventures that reach people of concern. With this incentive AIRD is committed to making an annual contribution in all countries of operation. The relationships we hold with our partners and a familiarity of the regions we work in provide us with insight as to what necessity is lacking in the area. From there we invest our contributing project to meet the needs of the people. The contribution projects that AIRD has overseen may just be one of many that we do throughout the year, but their impact to the community is just as valuable.

With the combined experience and expertise of our staff and partners we have overcome many challenges and seen notable success. We are also aware that none of this could be possible without the help from the community themselves, our partners and the governments collaboration. For this we thank you all and look to the new year with vigilant consideration.
Since 2007 African Initiatives for Relief Development (AIRD) has been operating throughout East, Central and West Africa. Along the way we have formed a skilled team of 1,443 staff members, whose vast expertise and knowledge are shared across various countries. Our organization’s commitment to providing operational and logistical support to people of concern comes from our instilled vision of promoting sustainable development for communities, by communities. We have acted on this vision by not only working with local and international partners, but the national population as well. With 98% of our staff being African from 18 different nations we harness the involvement from the communities we immerse ourselves in as both a personal and supportive growth. We are currently operating in Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Republic of Congo, Tanzania, and Uganda.

2014 marks our 7th year of providing relief and development assistance to people of concern in Sub Sahara Africa. The depth of AIRDs experience and knowledge is not only measured by our years since establishment, but rather inclusive to the rich background of our esteemed staff. Across our operational locations stand 48 trusted individuals who specialize in education, construction, finance, engineering, communications and emergency response. Over the years AIRD has experienced various levels of constraints and accomplishments. Both have provided our organization with the tactful skills needed to manage incidences such as mobilizing thousands of people displaced by armed conflict, orchestrate alternative methods of operating during an epidemic, transporting necessities to those in need, and accumulating decades of collective knowledge that has been shared and reinforced.

AIRD proudly acknowledges the level of diversity that our operations inhibit. Within these operations are dedicated staffs consisting of international experts and local community members, who work out of 28 offices with various terrains and stability. It is important to AIRD that our experts are on the ground where our operations are taking place. With this level of hands on approach and trusted experts we are able to better connect the people of concern with their host communities by facilitating projects that benefit both parties.

Success in our line of work is achieved by providing sustainable foundations. We believe refugees and their host communities deserve more than just assistance, but rather tools for self improvement. We provide services administrating oversight of various construction works, logistics, and infrastructure. Our objective is to put in place continual access to health centers, schools, proper hygiene, and opportunity for growth. We know that this can only be achieved not only through proper channels of communication with UN agencies and government, but also our personal experience.

Through our experience in development we have understood the hardships of delivering resources to locations, maintaining the fleets capable of getting it there, and the possible environmental or human inflicted setbacks. From this we have become experts in fleet and transportation management allowing us to operate out of our own workshops, garages, and fuel stations. This year we oversaw 8,229 vehicle and generator repairs, monitored an estimated 2,658,807 liters of fuel, and transported over 111,074 tons of non-food items (NFIs) and food.

Providing basic provisions to people of concern is only one factor when initiating positive prospects for their future. AIRD has sought to encourage access to education among the youth living in refugee and IDP communities. We have implemented the construction of schools and dormitories in developing areas to meet the needs of furthering the education of the 31% of youth within our countries of operation. We believe education and vocational training is an attribute that goes farther than temporary assistance. It provides the opportunity for those most vulnerable to extend themselves outside of their current situation. In order to properly focus on education the individual also requires attention to their general well being. This is where our concern of refugee and IDP access to health care and security naturally arises.

Sanitation is both an area of expertise and importance for AIRD. Proper sanitation methods go as far as prevention of outbreaks to better standards of living. Over this year we have constructed latrines, boreholes, and water pumps to improve the living conditions for those in and around the host communities where settlements are present.

There are times when situations in settlements or the country itself offer refugees and IDPs an option to decide where they feel more secure. In 2014 have been able to repatriate 105,755 refugees in 1,482 activities. This couldn’t have been accomplished without the help of our fellow partners and our team who were able to endure, at times, challenging obstacles. Part of these challenges is not only to be ready to act in such occasions, but to be prepared. Our Country Programs were well equipped to meet our most critical challenges this year thanks to trainings held on team building, emergency response, advance driving courses and vehicle maintenance. Our hope is that these are steps contribute to achieving better standards of living for everyone.

We see our services as a way in which concerned individuals, caring actors and global leaders can work together in stabilizing a once self sustaining community. Working within humanitarian relief requires more than just man power, but a strong communication amongst agencies and partners alike. Without the proper assessments and monitoring, helping those who have been eradicated or forced from their communities can become a mission without their voices being heard. This is why AIRD and our partners aim to find solutions and not temporary objectives.
The African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) was founded in 2006 and is a non-political, non-religious and non-profit making International NGO. AIRD is currently working in 7 African countries located in East, Central and West Africa. AIRD’s objective is to offer operational support, including but not limited to: supply chain, logistics, construction, infrastructure, and rehabilitation in partnership with relief and development organizations that focus on disaster-affected and development oriented areas.

AIRD is currently implementing the managements of Mechanical Workshops and Spare Parts, Drug Management, Warehousing, Fuel and Transport Operations, Repatriation & Reintegration, Transit Center Management as well as Civil works and Constructions including Health Centers, Schools, Offices and Staff Residences, Roads and Water Boreholes.

As part of the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan, AIRD strives to diversify its partner and resources mobilization base along with sector diversification into the Environment, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Livelihoods.

AIRD works at the highest level of professionalism guided by its 7 Standard Operating Procedures in Finance, Induction, Human Resources, Logistics, Emergency Response, Security and Procurement policies. The implementations of these SOPs across our entire organization are in alignment with our Core Values of good internal governance, transparency, accountability, professionalism and sustainability.

As part of internal good governance, all the AIRD accounts have been audited until December 31st, 2014 and are unqualified.
Our Mission
To offer relief and development support services in partnership with national and international NGOs, donors, government institutions, and UN systems.

Our Vision
Sustainable development in developing countries

Our Commitment and Core Values
AIRD is committed to: good internal governance, transparency, accountability, professionalism, sustainability, partnership and innovation. Its unique proposition to stakeholders includes: excellence in service delivery, financial accountability and promote self reliance.

Our Guiding Principles
Promoting Gender Equity by proactively taking into account and examining the relationship between men and women, boys and girls to ensure that neither gender is being marginalized or disadvantaged.
Ensuring the Social Inclusion and Meaningful Participation of marginalized groups; making sure that they are involved in the development process, particularly in affairs that affect them.
Delivering Integrated and Holistic Age-Sensitive Services and Products; which include services that improve the welfare of the beneficiaries and enables them to contribute to the development of their communities in particular and nations in general.
Reducing Vulnerability with a special emphasis on supporting alleviation of poverty and effective disaster management programs.
Facilitating Community integration by promoting community interactions and taking into account the diversities in unity of communities with a view to strengthening them.

Overview

| Year Founded | 2006 |
| Headquarters | Kampala, Uganda |
| Number of International Staff | 48 |
| Number of National Staff | 1,395 |
| Number of Ongoing Projects | 16 |
| Number of Countries of Operation | 7 |

Burkina Faso, Liberia, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Uganda

Operational Years

AIRD - Empowering Communities, Growing Together
Since the beginning of armed conflict in northern Mali in January 2012, thousands of people were forced to cross the borders to seek refuge in neighboring countries, including Burkina Faso. It was at this time AIRD began operating in Burkina Faso as an implementing partner to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Program (WFP).

AIRD’s contribution to improving the living conditions of the Malian refugee in Burkina Faso is focused on providing logistical support to our partners and implementing partners in order to reach beneficiaries in real-time support and in good conditions. This is has been achieved with the following objectives:

- Transportation of non-food items (NFIs) from central warehouse to field office warehouses and distribution centers in the camps
- Transportation of food between WFP warehouses and distribution centers in the camps
- Management of NFI warehouses
- Fuel management including storage and issuing of fuel to assets of UNHCR and all implementing partners
- Management of mechanical workshops, repair and maintenance of vehicles and generators
- Voluntary repatriation Malian refugees

Rehabilitation of Sokodgong-Saag Nioniogo Ramp

Poor infrastructure and security on main roads remain a logistical challenge in Burkina Faso. The rehabilitation of even a minor stretch of road can make a significant difference for aid to reach where it is needed most. This was the case for the Malian refugee camp, Saag-Nioniogo, located in the central region Kadiogo Province in the central region. Using sustainable methods of reformatting existing pavement and running lateral and divergent ditches AIRD oversaw the renovations of 4.8km stretch of the Sokodgong-Saag Nioniogo Ramp to connect with the main of Pabre. The rehabilitation of the road will benefit not only the refugee population and partners involved in assistance, but the host communities in the area as well.

Trainings

With funding from donors and AIRD’s contribution, three training sessions for drivers and mechanics were organized in the three areas of intervention namely, Dori, Ouagadougou and Djibo. A total of 102 people participated in the training that drivers from UNHCR and partner organizations, as well as AIRD workshop mechanics.

Affected Population

In 2014 it was estimated that 31,604 Malian refugees have sought refuge in Burkina Faso. They are composed of several ethnic groups; Tuareg, Arabs, Fulani, and Sonrais. The settlements to accommodate the refugees are among three consolidated camps located in northern and central regions of the country.

Despite the still volatile security situation, some refugees express the desire to return to their country. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the government of Burkina Faso Refugees have commenced their process of returning facilitated programs. AIRD’s task was the delivery of transit benefits, amounting to 52,137 USD, for refugees who have expressed the desire to return to their country. With the Facilitated Voluntary Repatriation Program, initiated in November 2014 for Malian refugees, AIRD was successful assisting 955 people or 304 families, making up 88% of the planned figure who wished to return back to Mali.

Operations

Efforts to stabilize the current situation have included UN and government intervention, but have yet to be conducive. AIRD continues to work with our partners to ensure the safety and development of the Malian refugees in Burkina Faso.

Since 2013 we have been operating out of three offices located in central Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou, and the northern regions of Dori and Djibo. Operating in these locations has enabled us to gauge how each office can properly reach the refugee camps and our distribution centers. From these locations we managed three warehouses that saw 11,004 tons of NFIs and food delivered this year. To see this component through AIRD ensured the maintenance and repairs of 2,621 vehicles and motorcycles, and monitored 365,883 liters of fuel at these locations for UNHCR and its partners.
Chad Program

To ensure the efficient dissemination of AIRD activities in the Chad three main sub offices we established in Iriba, Goz-Beida and Farchana, as well as one field office in Abeche, which are being used as a hub to the other controlled bases of AIRD and partners. AIRD facilitates activities of warehouse, workshop, transportation, fleet, and fuel management at our four operation offices.

Repatriation

AIRD has been active in these locations since 2010 when the situation arising from the Darfur region of Sudan left 345,000 Sudanese as refugees in the Chad, an area that has a common border with Sudan (Darfur region). The majority of refugees are nomads from the Zaghawa, Massalit and Tama ethnic groups. Their culture is rich in cattle breeding and semi nomadic living. The Sudanese refugees took shelter in 13 camps throughout Chad, which AIRD supported by logistical and management implantation. Included in the demographic of concern were Central Africans and 180,000 internally displaced Chadians, whose main concern were the level of security upon returning to their homes. At the end of 2014 AIRD was able to assist the return of 260,000 refugees successfully.

Transportation Realization

Of the seven warehouses AIRD have transported over 52,973 tons of NFIs with a fleet of 504 vehicles. In order to maintain the performance of the fleet for both AIRD and our partners we operated 15 fuel stations managing 2,865,295 liters of diesel and petrol and 5 garages.

Since Chad experiences many environmental challenges the importance of these garages was crucial and needed to be available at all times to intervene on services and repairs when requested by our partners.

Livelihood

In March 2012 a deficit of classrooms was identified as a major diagnostic element of the education sector in Chad. In a nation average there are 63 students per classroom and 160 if the school contains only one main room. The other structures are usually spontaneous constructions carried out by the communities by using temporary materials. Consequently, it provided limited and temporary access to education facilities. This has proven to be a contributing factor to low completion rates in Chad.

AIRD promotes the right to education through the improvement of school infrastructure and community participation. Together with the participation of partners and government officials AIRD facilitated the construction of 24 classrooms in the surrounding area of the Sila region of Chad. An estimated 1,500 students from four villages are expected to benefit from these classrooms. Additionally, AIRD recruited 80 local workers to strengthen capacity in management and to manufacture bricks for the construction.

AIRD used a participatory approach and community based revitalization of local forces to provide practical solutions to local school access. This has helped promote the creation of a favorable collective consciousness to education and established interpersonal communication. To further increase access and improve learning conditions for students AIRD aimed to promote for better quality of education by:

- Holding information meetings with local administrative and technical authorities
- Training construction committee members on maintaining school structures
- Train workers of the host population and refugees in brick manufacturing technology and operating brick machines
- Build classrooms in accordance with the standards and guidelines of UNICEF and the Ministry of Education
- Prepare technical monitoring reports and the final report

To ensure the efficient dissemination of AIRD activities in the Chad three main sub offices we established in Iriba, Goz-Beida and Farchana, as well as one field office in Abeche, which are being used as a hub to the other controlled bases of AIRD and partners. AIRD facilitates activities of warehouse, workshop, transportation, fleet, and fuel management at our four operation offices.
Democratic Republic of Congo Program

In 2012 AIRD began operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo. During this time the repatriation of Angolans back to their native country was suspended in June 2012 following a government decision. AIRD, partnered with UNHCR, was able to repatriate 13,242 refugees to Angola. The efforts made for this event included the planning of operating a large expansion of passenger trains from Kimpese, DRC to the border of Angola. In order to facilitate the reintegration of repatriates and their children AIRD underwent the construction and rehabilitation of schools in different areas of return (Dongo, Libenge, Buburu and Mbandaka). This was done in order to increase the reception capacity of institutions to guarantee children the right to an education.

Trainings

AIRD has held three trainings in log frame and indicators, QuickBooks, and sexual and other forms of gender-based violence (SGBV). Participation in these trainings included 125 staff members from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Agence de Dévelopement Économique et Social (ADES), ADSSE, AIDES, Search for Common Ground (SFCG), and Commission for Refugees (CNR).

Our staff included takes parts in the training workshops to ensure that our staff is well informed and up to date with proper operational methods.

Construction and Rehabilitation

AIRD sought the rehabilitation and construction of health stations to facilitate access to health care for the returnee families. During their first 6 months of return and in part due to the tripartite agreement between the government of DRC and UNHCR they were able to have access to health care facilities. Of these facilities AIRD built 362 pit latrines, 129 emergency showers, 1 nutrition center and 8 health centers.
When we speak of preparation there is no greater example than our Liberia Program. In the start of 2014 AIRD had just began establishing its Liberia coordination offices. It was then that the Ebola outbreak began.

Emergency Response

The outbreak of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, precisely Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea had resulted in a major socio-economic setback. It affected all activities AIRD was facilitating, particularly with of the repatriation of Ivorian refugees and resource mobilization, were at high risk.

What was to follow can only be supported by the committed efforts of our staff and that our original offices of Monrovia, Saclepea, Zwedru, and Harper are all operating to this present time. We appreciate all that our AIRD Liberia Program staff was able to complete the projected projects with our partners under such circumstances.

When such an event arises an organization must not only think about our own, but those we were there to help. During this time AIRD was managing the fleet and maintenance of 18 implementing partners’ motor engines (light vehicles, trucks, generators, motorbikes and others), needed for relief efforts. Even with limitations of mobility and fear of health concerns we were committed and foresaw the intended output of 38,428 refugees vulnerable to the environment.

Driver Trainings

The objective of the trainings were to give the drivers the know how to managing their vehicles (Toyota, Mercedes...) and monitor the maintenance. This is not a mechanical course but rather a recall of some fundamental principles that will facilitate the follow up of vehicles made available to partners under the assistance of Ivorian Refugee Operation in Liberia.

The trainings reviewed in detail:

- Road safety
- Passenger safety
- Stowage of loading
- Vehicle maintenance, daily and weekly
- In case of mechanical problems and accidents
- Proper usage of 4 wheel drive
- Cleanliness of the vehicles
Tanzania Program

Tanzania is surrounded by countries prone to conflict but has been largely peaceful since its independence in 1963. The country also has a long and proud history of generosity in granting asylum to refugees to many of its neighbors. As a further manifestation of its generosity, Tanzania took the unprecedented decision in 2010 to naturalize more than 162,000 Burundian refugees who had lived in three settlements (Mishamo, Ulyankulu and Katumba) to the North West of the country, for more than forty years.

Access to fair and efficient asylum procedures remains a major challenge, as the National Eligibility Committee (NEC) convened only three times in 2013, although this is a significant improvement given that the NEC had not convened since 2009 (with the exception of one specific case in 2011).

Protection and Mixed Solutions
This project intended to ensure the continued delivery of basic needs and maximum protection of 63,837 refugees in the Nyarugusu refugee camp and Kigoma NMC in the Northwest Tanzania, as well as the activities of the newly naturalized 200,000 locally integrated Tanzanians.

These operations were provided without interruption through adequate logistical and other supports directly by AIRD and indirectly through other partners. We were successful in transporting 61,233.53 tons of supplies including NFIs, food, and firewood to these settlements by the end of 2014. AIRD and UNHCR Tanzania, along with their partners, continue to provide basic protection and assistance for 69,283 refugees in Nyarugusu camp (of whom 64,971 are Congolese, 4,089 Burundian and 223 of other nationalities).

Water Sourcing
A water point management was expedited in Ulyankulu, which continued throughout 2014. The water point supplied a total of 1,419.20 m³ of water to the health centers, the UNHCR offices, police, MHA, departure centre, Milambo and VETA. The water was pumped from a borehole and distributed for the different offices.
Republic of Congo Program

In 2014 there were an estimated 95,554 refugees in the Republic of Congo. Most were from the rural regions from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, including other minor nationalities. Their origins are those of merchants, workers, fishermen, farmers, carpenters, masons, and students.

Our logistical and procurement activities have resulted in ensuring the proper functioning of the field offices for our partners, which ensured the successful repatriation of 10,069 DRC refugees. Additionally, we have assisted in constructions and health care access to refugees in areas ridden with many complex challenges.

Angola Reintegration

At the end of 2014 AIRD facilitated the transportation of 13,242 refugees to Angola. The efforts made for this event included the planning of operating a large expansion of passenger trains from the DRC to Angola. In order to facilitate the reintegration of repatriates and their children

AIRD underwent the construction and rehabilitation of schools in different areas of return (Dongo, Libenge, Buburu and Mbandaka). This was done in order to increase the reception capacity of institutions to guarantee children the right to an education.

Health Access

Using resource information on the arrival of refugees from the Central African Republic, it was identified that a situation of moderate acute malnutrition among the refugees was prevalent. To cope with this situation AIRD facilitated the renovation and expansion of a nutritional recovery center in the Betou settlement.

AIRD also sought the rehabilitation and construction of health stations to facilitate access to health care for the returnee families. During their first 6 months of return and in part due to the tripartite agreement between the government of DRC and UNHCR they were able to have access to health care facilities. Of these facilities AIRD built maternity wards and 7 health centers. Our projects in construction expanded to building 2,073 shelters and transit centers.
Uganda Program

In the beginning of 2007 a tripartite agreement was signed between United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and African Initiatives for Relief and Development to implement various projects with logistical support for UNHCR projects. AIRD has since been an implementing partner to UNHCR in projects comprised of four components, as part of a stream-lining exercise to improve the management of the project. These four components carry out logistical activities in fleet management, procurement of medicines and medical supplies, warehouse management, and construction. The sectors exist to provide timely and efficient logistic support to all refugee programs and Implementing Partners (IPs) to UNHCR in the country.

Storage and Health Services

Provision of warehouses and medical supplies is inclusive to storing, transportation and delivery of non food items (NFIs). This year the program has managed 12 warehouses with capacity of 13,400 cubic meters. AIRD monitors all NFIs and medical supplies for the entire Uganda refugee program.

To ensure that these items are well kept and are beneficial to the population of concern we build, renovate and inspect our warehouse facilities. The same standard goes for the construction of our water projects, which are essential to ensuring the refugees have proper access to health services. AIRD Uganda program has also been active this year in water programs and specializes in water tracking and borehole drilling. Furthermore, we oversee the provision of health services in ten districts has been an ongoing activity in Uganda for AIRD since our conception in 2007, reaching 400,721 refugees.

Delivery

Due to our capacity and presence in remote locations we have been called at times to carry support over to our neighbors Sudan and Congo. This has attributed to over 15,000 metric tons of supplies delivered in 2014 by the Uganda program. Reaching all of our delivery points was achieved through the program's use and maintenance of 12 trucks, 2 vans, 1 fork lift and 6 light vehicles, 3 motorcycles and 1 generator that supported the daily operations.

Refugee Referrals

AIRD Uganda program’s refugee demographic stands as one of our most ethnically diverse amongst our operations. The populations of concern derive from Congolese, Rwandese, Somali, Burundi, Kenyan, Sudanese Ethiopian and Eritrean. This has created rich culmination of nationalities coexists within the boundaries of Uganda. Through this transformation our program has been undertaking resettlement referrals from UNHCR, asylum seekers from OPM, and medical referrals from InterAid Uganda Ltd. (IAU) from the entire refugee program in Uganda. This year our activity of transportation, accommodation, and meals for 7,772 referrals in various settlements and within Kampala was achieved.
Drug Management

AIRD Uganda Program is our only country of operation that we currently allocate medicine and medical supplies to ten districts in Uganda: Kyenjojo, Isingiro, Kibale, KISORO, Hoima, Kiryandongo, Adjumani, Arua, Koboko and Kampala. The intended impact of these operations is for refugees and IDPS to have access proper medical supplies, reduce infant/neonatal/crude morality rate, and reduce the incidences of malaria. The overall population served by this sub-project primarily include South Sudanese and Kenyan refugees who are currently residing in Adjumani, Arua, koboko, Hoima, and Masindi.

In the last seven years AIRD distributed medical supplies to 52 health centers that has reached roughly 1,856,000 refugees and IDPs.