



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2021



Empowering Communities
Growing Together



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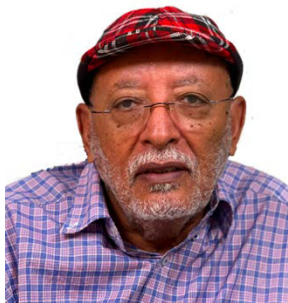
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Message from the Board Chair



As we look back on 2021, one thing for certain is that few times can compare to the unpredictability faced over the last two years. 2020 and 2021 showed us what it truly means to deliver in the face of adversity. And adversity is not something those who work in the humanitarian sector are unfamiliar with to start with.

In years marked by loss, we are proud to say AIRD stayed on course. We have always been confident of the abilities of our teams to rise up to challenges, and we are grateful that they will soldier on.

In one of the biggest and most unexpected blows, we mourned the loss of a very dear friend and CEO, Mathias Temesgen in 2021. His legacy will never fade. His vision carried the organisation to new heights. His energy and steadfastness were unwavering and we will miss him dearly. We are grateful that in that trying time we were able to welcome on board a new CEO to take up the helm. On behalf of the board and the entire AIRD family, we welcome Fikru Abebe Abebe as the new CEO.

From the inception of our organisation, displaced people have been at the forefront of all the decisions we make. We are highly committed to our mission to have a meaningful impact on the lives of refugees, displaced people, and the communities that host them. This will not change. We vow to also remain the kind of organisation that keeps in mind the present needs of the people we serve while understanding that the long-term concerns of these communities must be planned and catered for. In the face of challenges such as the economic turmoil exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic and the rising effects of the climate change crisis, we have committed ourselves to the plans made in our 5 year (2021 – 2025) strategy. The plans we have put in place will ensure that even as we respond to immediate issues, we will not neglect our long-term priorities.

To all our donors, partners, supporters, and others who have shared in their generosity, and on behalf of our dedicated Board, I offer my sincere gratitude.

Thank you for inspiring us and for enabling us to work tirelessly for the benefit of refugees and displaced in all the areas we serve.

Eng. Banteyehun Haile
Chairperson of the Board

CEO's Message



There have never been more refugees or displaced people in the world as there are today. Tens of millions of people globally have been forced from their homes and require substantial support as they struggle to make sense of the dismal situations, they find themselves in. Many of these individuals are forced to seek safety and refuge in new Countries.

At the end of 2021 there were an estimated 89.3 million forcibly displaced people globally due to conflicts, persecution and human rights violations (up from 79.5 million at the end of 2020). This number includes 27.1 million refugees and 53.2 million internally displaced persons who must be supported to reach safety, and to rebuild their lives. It is a monumental task that requires the partnership, cooperation and coordination of numerous bodies acting together to provide for the enormous needs of those displaced.

Keeping our vision at the forefront means that we put ourselves in the shoes of people who may have lost their homes or access to their land, income and basic services, but not their hopes for a future. A future in which they are able to have more control over their lives and provide a good education, home and healthcare for themselves and their families- whether they are able to return home or not.

In 2021, we were entrusted by our donors and partners to transport tens of thousands of people to safety and to put in place infrastructure such as schools, shelters, roads and hospitals. We also delivered for our partners in the areas of Fleet Management, Workshop Management, Warehouse Management, Fuel Management and Water Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH).

Our desire is to do even more for Persons of Concern (PoCs) by expanding our activities and capacity in the areas of livelihoods, WASH and environmental interventions and working in new Countries where our services are required. Our 2021 – 2025 strategy was focused on growing to serve better. In line with this, we were pleased to set up an office in Burundi and assist in the efforts to support thousands of Burundian returnees.

In a new partnership with USAID in North Eastern DRC, we built 1,500 emergency shelters and 1,500 sanitation facilities to improve the living standards of displaced persons there. To meet our funding diversification goals, we are establishing a vehicle repair and maintenance garage in Uganda. As an authorised Service Centre for Toyota Uganda, income from this venture will be channeled into our socio development work. The nature of the sector we work in means we already know what it takes to deliver services to individuals going through some of the toughest situations unimaginable.

We reaffirm our commitment to working hand in hand to deliver better for our partners, donors and the displaced people for whom we exist.

To all our donors, partners, supporters and others who have shared in their generosity, and on behalf of our dedicated Board, we offer our sincere gratitude.

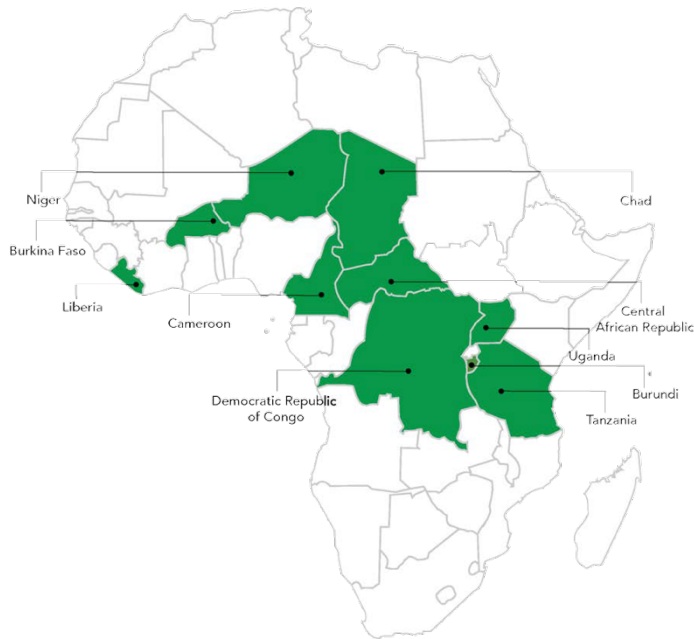
Thank you for inspiring us and for enabling us to work tirelessly for the benefit of refugees and displaced in all the areas we serve.

We welcome you to read about the work we were able to accomplish throughout 2021.

Thank you for your support to AIRD.

Fikru Abebe Abebe

WHERE WE WORK



Over time AIRD's vision has grown, and we now believe we can use our skills and compassion to help those displaced by man-made and natural disasters anywhere.

In 16 years, AIRD has grown to meet the needs of displaced people and the communities that host them in ten African countries.

In 2021, AIRD worked in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Niger, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Our growth and progression were not only in the countries where we serve but also in the services, we were able to provide to those that need them the most. We believe that we can truly make a difference in the lives of those who are displaced and support them from the moment they are forced to leave their homes until they are able to return, prepared to thrive.

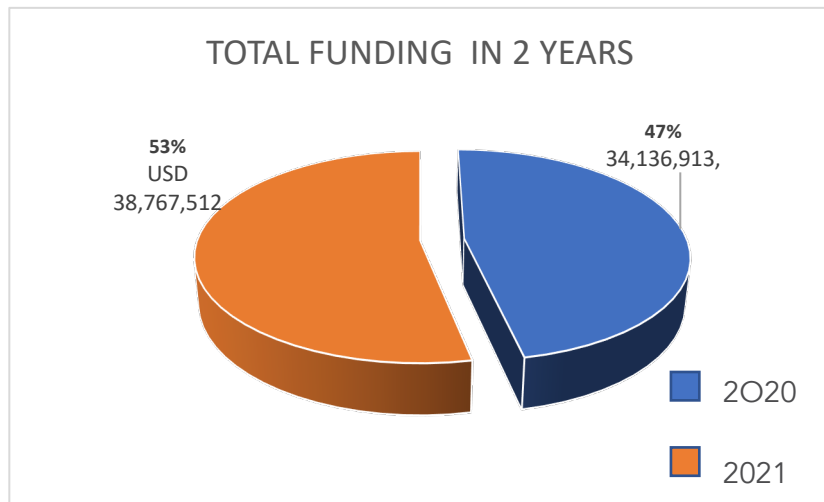
There have never been more refugees or displaced people in the world than there are today. Tens of millions of people have been forced from their homes and require substantial support as they struggle to make sense of the dismal situations, they find themselves in. Many of these individuals are forced to seek safety and refuge in new areas or Countries.

UNHCR reports that by mid-2021 there were an estimated 84 million forcibly displaced people globally due to conflicts, persecution, and human rights violations. This number included 26.6 million refugees and 48 million Internally Displaced People who must be supported to reach safety and rebuild their lives. It is a monumental task that requires the partnership, cooperation, and coordination of many bodies acting together to provide for the many needs of those displaced.

FINANCIALS

In spite of a challenging period brought on by the COVID 19 pandemic, we were able to see a growth in total funding from USD 34,136,913 in 2020 to USD 38,767,512 in 2021.

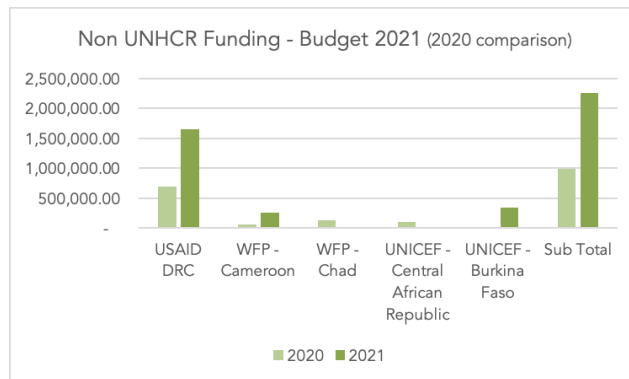
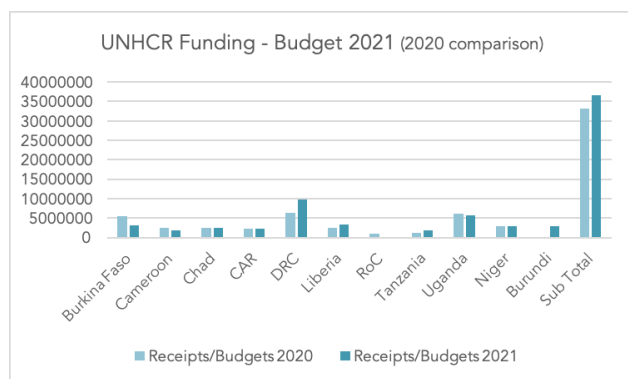
We are honoured to have worked with new and existing partners to accomplish more, and better, in 2021.



COUNTRY RECEIPTS/BUDGETS AND DISBURSEMENTS 2021

UNHCR FUNDING				
Program	Receipts/Budgets		Disbursements	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Burkina Faso	5,496,351.00	3,133,145.00	5,351,271.00	3,085,633.00
Cameroon	2,562,552.00	1,972,798.00	2,562,245.00	1,970,217.00
Chad	2,590,782.00	2,550,824.00	2,590,768.00	2,550,552.00
CAR	2,280,254.00	2,210,351.00	2,198,428.00	2,210,276.00
DRC	6,389,492.00	9,838,840.00	6,388,656.00	9,780,088.00
Liberia	2,541,147.00	3,297,091.00	2,540,549.00	3,296,822.00
RoC	1,010,349.00	-	1,010,349.00	-
Tanzania	1,292,701.00	1,857,464.00	1,285,392.00	1,856,508.00
Uganda	6,108,243.00	5,816,657.00	6,108,243.00	5,816,430.00
Niger	2,866,673.00	2,857,451.00	2,866,653.00	2,857,444.00
Burundi		2,981,208.00		2,981,208.00
Sub Total	33,138,544.00	36,515,829.00	32,902,554.00	36,405,178.00

NON UNHCR FUNDING				
	2020	2021	2020	2021
USAID DRC	699,408.00	1,649,995.00	699,408.00	
WFP - Cameroon	60,193.30	260,402.37	60,193.30	260,402.37
WFP - Chad	134,042.65		134,042.65	
UNICEF - Central African Republic	104,724.59		104,724.59	
UNICEF - Burkina Faso		341,285.65		341,285.65
Sub Total	998,368.55	2,251,683.02	998,368.54	601,688.02
Grand Total	34,136,912.55	38,767,512.02	33,900,922.54	37,006,866.02



COMMITTING TO PLAYING OUR PART

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Refugees, displaced persons, and the communities that host them are some of the most vulnerable globally. It is our responsibility to ensure that the initiatives we implement for their benefit are not only beneficial in the short term but will serve to protect them and their children for generations to come.

We work with local communities, NGOs and other agencies, donors, and host governments, supporting the outworking of national development plans and addressing the specific Sustainable Development Goals below:



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021 - COMMITTING TO DOING MORE

In our 2021-2025 strategy, we committed to growing in serving better. Our main focus is on the displaced people, the donors and the partners.

The four key objectives of our strategy were:

Operations - continuing to provide the best humanitarian logistics, construction and infrastructure work in Africa and beyond, adapting and adjusting programmes to suit the working environment.

Expansion - broadening support to other Countries with the same logistical, construction and infrastructure services, prioritising those that are proximate to existing Countries of operation.

Development - AIRD will focus on the long-term support of host communities and displaced people from the initial point of contact by implementing projects in WASH, Livelihoods, and Environmental Sustainability.

Business Development - establishing AIRD's workshop and vehicle maintenance as a business to grow the funding base for socio-economic development initiatives.

Here are just some of the ways in which we kept our commitment towards meeting the key objectives of our 5-year strategic plan to serve displaced persons better in 2021.



1,500

Refugee housing units and 1,500 sanitation facilities constructed with USAID in the DRC



79,520

Refugees transported - 100,294 during voluntary repatriation



A new program

Opened in Burundi to support tens of thousands of returnees from neighbouring Countries



3,606

Fleet of vehicles and assets managed. A total of 6,648,536 kilometres travelled by these vehicles



Partnered with Toyota Uganda to set up an Authorised Service Centre to grow funding for our socio development activities



1,203

Households' resilience built at a project in Chad by improving sustainable food and nutrition security

10



Countries where we partnered with UNHCR delivering in various sectors of the humanitarian space



Development and capacity building for staff during roll out of projects such as a new ERP system and through PSEA training.



14

Solar photovoltaic systems in Burkina Faso maintained for the benefit of 11,314 Malian refugees training.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021 - COMMITTING TO DOING MORE

AIRD opens in Burundi in 2021 to help returnees on the journey back home



There can be no greater joy to a refugee than knowing that they can return to their home country and find peace and stability. As AIRD, making these dreams come true is our core mandate.

For the hundreds of thousands of Burundian refugees who have sought asylum across East Africa since the tumultuous period following the 2015 presidential elections, the news of peace in Burundi has stirred in them hope and thousands have chosen to return.

In 2021, AIRD officially began activities in Burundi to support the return and assimilation of refugees from neighboring countries. With growing numbers expressing interest in returning home, it has taken the joint coordinated efforts of several organisations to manage the large and often complex needs of people looking to not just resettle but to also thrive. Years of living as refugees can be devastating to the people and their communities as it calls for a new start to living.

Returning mainly from the countries of Rwanda, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, from May to December 2021, AIRD received and transported 35,537 returnees from DR Congo, Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya to the Makamba province of Burundi. Of these, 11,146 returnees were transported by AIRD from Tanzania alone. An estimated 147,990 refugees had been settled in Tanzania as of January 2021.

As UNHCR's logistics, construction and reintegration partner in Burundi, AIRD was also entrusted with the distribution of shelter kits for households in 3 provinces including; Makamba, Muyinga and Ruyigi.

This first phase of distribution of shelter kits in 2021 enabled returnees and some members of the host communities to resettle comfortably through setting up of semi-permanent shelters. Shelter kits provided included iron sheets, poles and nails as well as guided instruction on how to erect them.



Picture 1: Chantal's dilapidated home in Burundi before rehabilitation

"When we arrived in Tanzania, we were hosted in Nyarugusu Camp. Life was quite good because we often had enough to eat. But apart from food, we had little freedom. From time to time, stepping outside the camp would expose us to being victims to crimes like rape. We had good health care in Nyarugusu. When we fell ill, we were treated and if the treatment required transfer to

another health facility outside where we lived, UNHCR took care of us through the support from AIRD. But we never really felt free". Narrates Chantal, 37 years, a mother to six.

"Today I am comfortable because I live in a beautiful house like the other members of the community. I don't know how to express my joy and happiness. I thank UNHCR and AIRD very much for assisting us."

Once, there was a delegation that had come from Burundi to raise awareness, telling us that security was good in the country and invited us to return home. I had also inquired from my friends who had since returned, and they had confirmed the information that there was peace in my country. That's why I came back.

After my return, I wondered how I could build myself a shelter. I had chosen to settle here to avoid threats and attacks from my in-laws whom I do not get along with. Life with my husband in Tanzania was difficult. He was abusive. When I returned to Burundi, I rented a small house and started cultivating in the neighbors' fields to make money and take care of my children.

At the beginning of my arrival, life was good as we had the return package given by UNHCR at the exit of the Transit Center in Burundi. I was also well received by my neighbours who helped me settle into the community. My children

continued their studies without much difficulty. I joined a local association called TWIYUNGUNGANYE (which means 'let's get together'). It supports us to grow the vegetables we sell to meet our daily needs. It was this association that granted me a loan that allowed me to raise the walls of my shelter. And AIRD gave me iron sheets and other materials to roof my house.

I received a shelter kit consisting of 23 sheets, 20 poles, 2 kg of sheet metal nails and 2 kg of ordinary nails. I was overwhelmed with happiness when I received my shelter kit. I always wondered when I would have my house made of durable materials- being a single woman with family responsibilities. I no longer really had any hope of having a house. Before, I was in a mud and wattle house which leaked each time it rained. Me and my children were exposed to bad weather and illnesses. It was always a bad experience.

Today I am comfortable because I live in a beautiful house like the other members of the community. I don't know how to express my joy and happiness. I thank UNHCR and AIRD very much for assisting us. May God bless these organisations that are doing good work in Burundi and elsewhere.

Currently I am well because I live at home. Even though my husband abandoned me, I manage to support my 6 children. My wish is that in the future I can have my own field to cultivate and increase my income."



Picture 2: Chantal in front of her rehabilitated home

OUR WORK – TRANSPORTING REFUGEES AND NON-FOOD ITEMS



In all our countries of operation, AIRD ensures that refugees are transported from one area to another. As this happens, the safety of the refugees is top priority as it is until then that their needs are assessed and provided for. Provision of Non-Food Items and shelter renews their hope and restores their faith. As they settle, our teams help with necessary movements to find comfort and also seeking medical care where there is need.

For those wishing to return to their countries, AIRD works closely with other implementing partners to facilitate their movement, transporting them and their property to a much needed temporary safety.

96,261

Displaced people assisted and transported safely in 10 countries

8,759,671

Total kilometers covered in transporting people and Non-Food Items

483,241

Tonnes of Non-Food Items stored and safely delivered to implementing partners in 9 countries

Salvator is a young Burundian who fled his country in 2015 and returned in May 2021. Now that he is back home, he has high hope and big dreams.

“I came from Tanzania where I had taken refuge since 2015. It was on May 21, 2021, that I returned to Burundi. Life in a foreign country is difficult. We survived thanks to aid from the UNHCR. Living in the camps is not easy as we were not allowed to move out and look for work

I came back to Burundi on my own, leaving my parents and siblings behind in Tanzania to see if I can turn my life around. We were informed that there is complete peace and that life for those who remained in Burundi is now good” narrates Salvatar.

“I came from Tanzania where I had taken refuge since 2015. It was on May 21, 2021 that I returned to Burundi. Life in a foreign country is difficult. However, we survived thanks to aid from the UNHCR.

He continues to state that the trip was very efficient as AIRD took care of their journey from the camp to the transit center. While there, the Country offices of AIRD welcomed them and ensured they settled in their various hometowns.

“My property was transported just as well, without any loss. Today, I am free from being confined to one place. I move about freely without any fear of being apprehended and imprisoned. I got married last year in October, which means life is progressing and soon the family will grow. Today, I till other people’s gardens for a living, but I will eventually have my own field to cultivate. Also, to prepare my future and that of my family, I would like to learn a tailoring skill through vocational training.”



Picture 3: Salvador in his compound back home in Burundi

CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND REHABILITATION



4,553

Emergency shelters
constructed to provide safe
accommodation in Burkina
Faso, Niger and DRC

81

Classrooms built for learners
in Burkina Faso and the DRC

16

Bridges rehabilitated and
easing movements in the
DRC and Liberia

It is difficult to begin to rebuild lives without the right infrastructure in place. In nearly all our areas of operations, we are entrusted with building the structures that enable displaced people and their host communities to access basic needs such as shelters to live in, administration offices and education facilities.

The different construction and rehabilitation works have continued to support PoCs with clean and safe water, eased their movements, improved accommodation facilities, and other basic social services leading to improved living conditions. Importantly, provision of sanitation and hygiene facilities helped to promote cleanliness within the refugee settlements resulting in reduced cases of disease outbreak. Shelters contributed to reduction in common safety and protection related risks in settlements camps that often affect women and girls. The construction and rehabilitation of school buildings contributes to school enrollment and retention of children living in camps and surrounding areas.

As part of a new partnership, AIRD was honoured to work in a new partnership with USAID in the Democratic Republic of Congo to construct 1,500 housing units for displaced people in the Ituri region.

Jean René, 41, is a refugee from Cameroon living in Niger. He is also President of the Central Committee for Refugees at their Reception Center.

"I came to this center in 2020 and have been living here ever since. I live alone, my family stayed back home. I led a peaceful life in my country with a good job. I am a biochemist and laboratory technician by training but also an activist. I felt that my life was threatened before deciding to leave my country and seek asylum elsewhere following emotional trauma because of the physical violence I had suffered. But when you're away from home, separated from your family and what you know, it's not easy to adapt.



Picture 4: Jean René (in glasses) stands with other refugees at the door to his newly constructed shelter.

I say thank you to Niger for the wonderful hospitality which I enjoy together with other refugees here. My new house is a real architectural gem that AIRD has set up here with UNHCR. We will use these buildings wisely so that others who may follow soon can benefit from them too. I received my house with a real sigh of relief. Before, accommodation was challenging, conditions were not favorable at all. The temporary houses couldn't stand the cold or the heat. Everything was to the extreme. We were exposed to risks of all kind. But with the new solid houses, we will live better. As we are in a transit centre, there is hope that we will leave here sooner or later for a better future. I have trained in welding and tailoring to diversify my professional skills. My future is full of hope." Says Jean.

WORKSHOP MANAGEMENT



A non-functioning bus, truck or light vehicle that serves implementing partners and displaced persons can seriously hamper operations and slow down the delivery of services. The road conditions in the various humanitarian settings that AIRD and other implementing partners operate in are very difficult. The assets supporting their work must therefore be maintained and serviced to meet the needs of these tough conditions. In addition to vehicles, assets such as generators are used in areas where electricity is not reliable. The wear and tear experienced in the use of these assets means that a dependable and experienced team must always be on hand to keep these resources running with minimal downtime.



Picture 5: Patience in the AIRD workshop in Koboko

For vehicles and machinery that require repair and maintenance, AIRD workshops are equipped to keep these running at optimal levels to ensure seamless running of activities in the areas of operation where AIRD and Partners are stationed.

Patience Kayeny is a workshop store keeper at AIRD Koboko, North Western Uganda. She explains why their work is so important.

“The reason we take pride in doing this is because we cannot afford to have a vehicle like an ambulance parked when it is needed by a Person of Concern. An expectant mother in labour who is about to give birth depends on it being functional.

Having an ambulance parked is a matter of life or death for someone in a camp.

Generators in the camps help provide power for activities like pumping water. A faulty generator would mean no water in the camp and Persons of Concern will face challenges. At the workshop, we take pride because we know working assets save lives. They have a direct impact on the person of concern receiving the service.” narrates Patience

8,721

Light vehicles repaired or serviced

2,949

Generators repaired and serviced

24,217

Job cards completed in the year



WAREHOUSE MANAGEMENT



The importance of having humanitarian relief items on hand, in excellent condition and in the volumes required cannot be understated when addressing the needs of Persons of Concern who often arrive with very little in the way of personal property. Proper storage of Non-Food Items in our warehouses ensures that they are available for dispatch when required. Our warehouses are managed according to very high standards in order to guarantee that the final beneficiaries receive the quality items they need. Conditions in all our warehouses are closely managed to maintain the integrity of all items under our care.

Many of our warehouses and rub halls are located in fairly close proximity to settlement camps to enhance efficiency. There is restricted access to the warehouses and rub halls to prevent losses of NFIs and other items, and all receiving and issuing procedures are adhered to, including monthly stock verification exercises conducted with the joint participation of UNHCR supply staff.

108,004 m³

Total warehouse storage capacity across all country programs

84

Of warehouses operational in 10 country programs

Internally displaced populations within the Central African Republic find themselves in dire situations where the most basic of items are difficult to come by. When these groups find themselves in protected areas, the need for items to rebuild their lives becomes urgent and critical. Provision of various household items enables them to have a decent life and gives them the dignity they deserve. In July 2021, in partnership with UNHCR and other agencies, AIRD in CAR aided displaced people in the Ouaka prefecture in the southern region of the country, through the delivery of a variety of Non Food Items (NFIs). In addition to thousands of IDPs, there are also an estimated 211 Sudanese refugees in the area who require support. Mats, kitchen sets, soap, blankets and tarpaulins were some of the items delivered from AIRD warehouses to support the displaced people.

“We lost everything we had back home during the war. We suffered enormous material and human losses since the war began.

Basically, at the beginning we had nothing at all and we thank the donors for these items because without them we wouldn't be able to settle. With assistance to earn income, in a few years we will not have to ask for help but we will flourish and depend on ourselves. We can also be a source of help to others who may need support from us.”

Mussa, speaker and representative of Sudanese refugees' community, Pladama,



FUEL MANAGEMENT



AIRD provides support for the uninterrupted movement of the thousands of vehicles under our management for donors, other Implementing Partners and our staff through the strict supervision of fuel issuance and usage. AIRD handles the storage and distribution of fuel (petrol and diesel) for staff and other Partners who trust us to handle all aspects related to this work. AIRD staff across all operations deliver daily on tasks related to storage, distribution, tracking and reporting of fuel usage.

With the vast majority of refugee and IDP camps being located in very remote areas, significant quantities of fuel are required to service the vehicles reaching these areas, as well as the generators that help to power equipment, reception centres, hospitals, schools and food storage. AIRD teams ensured that in 2021, these operations were able to issue, monitor and report on the most effective and efficient usage of fuel to keep vital activities running.



Picture 6: Fuel facility at the Mubondo log base in Tanzania with a capacity of 65,000 litres

9,711, 425

Litres of diesel issued out
to staff and partners

63

Fuel stations in 9 country
operations

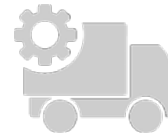
165, 407

Litres of petrol issued out

AIRD Tanzania facilitates UNHCR and its partners with the management and issuance of fuel to run operations in the country.

With the recent mass repatriation exercise for tens of thousands of Burundian refugees wishing to return to their home country, the careful management of this resource is critical as it facilitates the journeys home for refugees and their property. These journeys also include the many humanitarian workers collaborating to make the transition as smooth as possible

FLEET MANAGEMENT



Fleet management is a critical element of international humanitarian work given the absolute necessity for the continuous movement of goods and people across borders, many times over difficult terrains. The different classes of vehicles that facilitate the movements for displaced people, and the people who work diligently to improve their circumstances, must be managed and maintained to ensure the seamless continuity of these services.

Under the right of use agreement, AIRD is entrusted with managing UNHCR's fleet and transportation works. AIRD oversees the running of thousands of assets such as trucks, buses, light vehicles and motorbikes to ensure the transportation of refugees, staff, donors and other implementing partners in all our areas of operation.



Moses, a logistics coordinator at the AIRD Uganda program, explains how fleet management works in the country program.

Fleet management systems are employed to track, monitor and report on the availability and location of every vehicle and asset under the operations' management. Depending on the need, a suitable vehicle will be dispatched along with a well-trained driver.

Within the Uganda program, fleet management is handled on behalf of UNHCR whose fleet comprises 644 vehicles that include ambulances, buses for refugee transportation, water bowzers for emergency water trucking and cargo trucks for transporting non-food items. 52 cargo trucks that are under the right of use facilitate transportation of medicines to settlement hospitals that offer health services to refugees, as well as sanitary kits to women. The same trucks transport core relief items that are distributed to refugees to enable them settle in their new homes. Light vehicles also aid other program and administrative duties.

Through managing of all fleet activities, the donors who have entrusted us with this function are able to realise enhanced compliance, improved efficiency, and reduced operating costs through centralising their fleet management under us, their logistics partner.

3,039

Generators maintained and powering services in various camps across programs

7,834

Generators, light vehicles supporting movement of humanitarian workers in 10 programs

52

Buses always on the move transporting displaced people and their property

WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



AIRD programs continued to promote access to clean and safe water for refugees' and selected members of host communities. Through water trucking programs in three country programs, water is supplied to refugee communities, health centers, schools, and reception/transit centers.

Through the construction of sanitation facilities such as bathrooms and latrines, residents of displaced communities are able to maintain their hygiene with dignity.

As countries went through devastating waves of the coronavirus pandemic in 2021, ensuring that refugee and displaced people had access to adequate water and soap was a priority for the different agencies working in unison to curb the spread in camps. AIRD was proud to work closely with various agencies under the guidance and direction of UNHCR to deliver the necessary hygiene supplies.

66,495,457

Litres of water trucked to various facilities in Uganda, Chad, Niger and Tanzania

1,557,319

Persons of concern estimated to be directly benefitting from water trucking

235

Latrines constructed in different programs

In Uganda, the AIRD team used the days in the run up to World Water Day 2021 in March to tackle issues around sanitation and hygiene in Kyaka II refugee Settlement in western Uganda. The team realised that, as important as it is to raise awareness and educate the communities on the issues surrounding hygiene and cleanliness, getting down and dirty with the residents to show how to do things practically is where lasting lessons lie.



Alongside zonal tank/water stand attendants, the surrounding communities (both children and adults) joined efforts to carry out water source and home stead clean-up, and mass waste removal by locally available households

tools like brooms and equipment provided for by UNHCR/AIRD. Before the commencement of the activities, the community members were trained about the need for proper hygiene and sanitation in their homes and communities as this will prevent infection from diseases related to poor sanitation.

In Burkina Faso, sanitation and hygiene practices were improved through distribution of soap to 2,136 households in the Goudebou camps - equivalent to 10,815 beneficiaries, and 9149 Persons of Concern were reached through awareness campaigns.



LIVELIHOODS



Refugees bring valuable skills and experiences into their new communities, but often face barriers in putting these skills to use. Restrictive laws may prohibit them from working, and language or cultural barriers can prevent them from earning an income. Some refugees also struggle with mental and physical health issues stemming from war and persecution. These challenges can hinder their ability to thrive in their new countries. Amidst all the challenges, AIRD is committed to helping refugees overcome these barriers by providing a lasting impact on people's lives through giving them the tools and training required to succeed.

With support from donors and other collaborating agencies, the teams engage displaced persons in activities that allow them to provide for their families, while learning skills that can be used in the local community and back in their home countries on their return

500

Households in Ouadi, Ouba, Chad provided with environmentally improved stoves for household cooking

With funding support from the World Food Program (WFP), AIRD in Chad supported vulnerable host and refugee communities in the establishment of infrastructure to strengthen their resilience. This involved undertaking natural resource management activities such as; construction of spreading weirs (barriers/walls) and building of improved wells. Further assistance through Cash Transfers and Non-Food Items (work materials)

"Your intervention in the Koursigue canton was more than beneficial, it helped many people who were in vulnerable situation to recover and also above all contribute to the strengthening of peaceful coexistence between the natives and refugees of my district."

Local Chief in Koursigue

14

Solar photovoltaic systems installed for 2,258 households in Burkina Faso reduced reliance on generators and subsequent greenhouse gas emissions

to communities ensured activities were implemented by the communities through the provision of unskilled labour.

The overall objective of this project was to contribute to building resilience in the face of climate variability and other shocks linked to the sub-regional socio-political environment, for sustainable Food and Nutritional Security in the Canton Koursigué and Troa sud.

The project targeted two communities (indigenous and refugees), including 1,203 households comprising and even split between indigenous and refugee households through a selection committee made up of refugee leaders and leaders of the indigenous villages concerned. The project implementation, completed in June 2021, has already strengthened social cohesion and peaceful cohabitation between the two communities (refugees and indigenous people). The impact on the community has already been felt as expressed in words of appreciation from the local Chief in Koursigué;



THE LONG WINDING ROAD TO SAFETY

Resilience through repeated adversity

“When you are transiting you are so stressed, you don’t know where you are going...”

Giving hope to refugees time and again in the way of compassionate transportation to safety from border points, to reception centers and to settlements is not an easy task. But it is certainly much harder for the refugees themselves who, on the promise of peace at home, choose to make the journey back to their countries. Many are able to settle back in their homes and rebuild their lives. Others, however, are not so lucky and find themselves having to escape multiple times. Bernard is a refugee from South Sudan whose story of fleeing his homeland several times reminds us why the work we do is so important. He also reminds us of the criticality of building and scaling long term development initiatives. The kind of initiatives that

ensure that people like Bernard are able to thrive and rebuild their lives regardless of where they find themselves.

“Although happy to arrive at the Ugandan border it was nonetheless a painful experience. “I came emptyhanded like someone who was returning from herding goats”

AIRD supports with the transportation of South Sudanese refugees when they arrive at the various Ugandan borders, many having walked on foot for days to arrive. To be received with warmth and compassion on arrival makes a world of difference for anyone in this position. Born in the Kajo-Keji region of South Sudan, Bernard and his family arrived in Uganda for the first time when he was only 8 years old. The war between supporters of Bashir and Garang had made conditions impossible for them and thousands of others to thrive at home. He has two other brothers and together with his parents they were able to make a life for themselves in the peaceful conditions prevailing in Uganda. Bernard was able to complete his education all the way to the tertiary level. He holds a Diploma in Secondary School Education, a certificate from a prestigious university in Kampala, Uganda.

On completion of his tertiary education in 2009 Bernard, now married, opted to return to his home country and see what he could make of himself there while contributing to his country. Even though he did not travel with his wife, he was able to settle comfortably back at home. He quickly got employment by teaching and even rose to the level of head teacher at a secondary school given the enormous demand for good teachers in the country. Teaching was not new to Bernard. He had often taught English during his school holidays. His life in South Sudan was progressing well as he continued to get roles in reputable organisations. He married again while in South Sudan and has a four-year daughter in addition to an eight-year-old from his first wife.

The head teacher position soon led to Bernard joining several education projects and he moved to the capital, Juba. From there, working as a community mobiliser meant that he was often out in the field delivering on his responsibilities. It was during one of these field missions that the incredible misfortune befell him and those he was travelling with. Their vehicle was ambushed by armed men, and they were forced to flee for their lives, leaving behind all their possessions in the chaos. Among the possessions abandoned including Bernard’s briefcase containing all his education transcripts. It is the loss of these documents that hurts him the most as it will be an uphill struggle to replace them. The troubles and conflict had been ongoing but seemed to especially come to a head in August 2021. His wife at that time had already moved from Yei state to be with his parents in Morobi to escape the insecurity.

The journey back to Uganda once again as a refugee was incredibly difficult. He describes the journey as terrifying and full of fear as we moved through the bush for four days”. He adds that “...when you are transiting you are so stressed, you don’t know where you are going...”. The reception he received as he approached the border was welcoming as he was directed by some of his tribemates as to where he could go to access help. Although happy to arrive at the Ugandan border it was nonetheless a painful experience. “I came emptyhanded like someone who was returning from herding goats”, he narrates.

On arrival at the border is when he felt relief for the first time in days and the movement from the border to the transit center, where we spoke with him, was no longer filled with stress.

Bernard does not cut the stereotypical image of a refugee. He carries himself with the pride of a well-educated man simply caught in unfortunate circumstances. In his brief two week stay at the transit center, he had become a leader of the refugee community there, often called in by the centers administration to support in providing guidance and rallying his fellow residents. The refugees there also look up to him to resolve issues that would arise amongst them and to relay any grievances they had with the administration.

Bernard still has big dreams for his future. He intends to follow up on his lost academic documents as soon as possible and to enroll for an environmental sciences course at a university in Kampala. He has also written a book entitled “Parts of Speech” – an English language textbook that he intends to publish. For his children, he hopes that they will soon all be together and that they will go to good schools. He hopes to be absorbed into the labour force as soon as possible but for now he is happy to take on casual labour jobs to support his dreams while believing he will one-day return to his passion in teaching.

For such bright and ambitious individuals like Bernard, the future can be bright in spite of the dark circumstances he currently finds himself in. His determination and positive attitude will surely take him and his family far.



Picture 7: Bernard stands in front of his fellow refugees who look to him as a leader at the transit centre.

OUR PARTNERS

We could not do the important work we do without the funding support from our wonderful donors.

We are immensely grateful.



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1. Fikru Abebe Abebe - Chief Executive Officer
2. Michael Mawuko Kumabia - Finance and Administration Director
3. Mark Arcedeckne-Butler - Director of Communications & Development
4. Florine Clomegah - Director of Operations
5. Claire Finas - Director of Operations (*incoming 2022*)

Our Mission

To enable the compassionate movement of those displaced by natural or man-made disasters to safety, and providing them and their host communities with opportunities to build their lives and thrive for the long term.

Our Vision

Building resilient communities of displaced and host communities through sustainable development

WHO WE ARE

AIRD was founded in 2006 in Kampala, Uganda by a small group of individuals who envisioned an African initiated organisation that could deliver world class humanitarian support for those displaced by conflict and other disasters.

Our key focus areas have been transportation of refugees & nonfood items (logistics) and extensive construction & infrastructure developments including shelters, bridges, hospitals, schools, roads etc. Other activities include fuel management, fleet management, warehouse management, workshop management and WASH.

Our programmes also work hand in hand with partners on a smaller scale to provide development support in the way of livelihoods.

In all 10 countries of operation, AIRD has established itself as a prequalified and certified Implementation Partner (IP) for UNHCR. We have also worked as an IP for organisations such as the World Food Program (WFP), UNICEF and USAID in specific country programs.

AIRD is a recognised steward of resources that have established strategic alliances and created linkages with respective country Governments and between partner organizations. This is through leveraging grants, donations and funding to undertake the important work that we do for Persons of Concern.

Each year AIRD's capacity to serve refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and host communities has increased with an average annual budget of \$35 million to date.

Although originally founded with the broad goal of 'enhancing human dignity, equity and peace in developing countries', over time, AIRD's Vision & Mission statements were revised to reflect our dedicated focus on providing a range of critical services for displaced persons and their host communities.

Empowerment comes not only from providing critical relief items, but also through sustainable opportunities that lead to more resilient communities. This encourages the growth of enterprising spirits, and a sense that a bright future is still possible.

AIRD cares because collective community growth is only possible if everyone is given an equal opportunity to participate.

The powerful and ongoing connections we have with our partners are proof that African initiated organisations can and will inspire change to come from within our continent.

*AIRD is proud to serve.
As long as there are displaced people,
AIRD will lend a helping hand.*

Tribute to AIRD co-founder and CEO (2006 - 2021)

Mathias Daniel Temesgen



The earth has trembled again. And the violence of the earthquake has pulled down a GREAT OAK TREE. Mr. Mathias Temesgen Daniel has passed on. This day shall forever be remembered as the Dark Saturday when the lights dimmed on the life of our Leader, our Mentor, the Founder and CEO of African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD),– the ‘Mzee’ (Father) of AIRD.

Mathias Temesgen Daniel was the bedrock of AIRD, an organization he cherished so well and referred to as his child. He was a man of great foresight. Mathias worked to establish systems so effective that even in his absence, the fight in support of Persons Of Concern (POCs) continues unchanged. These Internal Control Systems and Standard Operating Policies have been appreciated by our partners through all our partnerships.

Mathias’ daily capacity building of staff those working closely with him was exemplary. He instilled the spirit of excellence in us.

Mathias’ emphasis has also been on the development aspect AIRD’s name since we have, in partnership with UNHCR, contributed immensely on the Relief aspect of our Name AIRD. He always insisted that it was high time we focused on the Development aspect too. He was however grateful to see great initiatives and drive into development ventures before he passed on.

Although Mathias’ child (AIRD) has lost a parent, AIRD should be acknowledged as an empowered child, ready to soar into the skies because the eaglet has been fully prepared by the parent. We therefore call for all hands on deck as we continue to perform with excellence in honour of our Great Founder and Leader, Mathias Temesgen Daniel.

Mathias was zealous and hardworking. Not even poor health could weaken his spirit of hard work. For 7 solid years as he battled with cancer and went through treatment until declared free from It, Mathias was continuously following up with Senior Management for updates and continued to be part of the decision making. Even in his final days in a hospital in Addis Ababa, Mathias maintained communication with the Senior Management Team (SMT) on work matters daily even as we insisted, he rests and focuses on his treatment.

May the Heavenly Father grant unto Mathias an Eternal Rest and let Perpetual Light shine upon him; May his gentle soul Rest In Perfect Peace; Amen.

By Michael Mawuko Kumabia - AIRD Finance and Administration Director



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Empowering Communities, Growing Together