



**Annual Report
2009/2010**

Photo: Endre Vestvik

“Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless;
maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.”

Psalm 82:3

Contents

Editorial	3
CRN's track work 2008 – 2010	4
CRN 2009/2010	6 – 7
Assistance to victims of sexual violence	6
Hospital and Health care	6
Weapon Destruction	7
Child soldiers	7
Orphanages	7
Children behind bars	7
Who is behind CRN	8
Partners in Norway	9
Financial Statement 2009/2010	10

CHRISTIAN RELIEF NETWORK

Christian Relief Network (CRN) is a non-profit foundation dedicated to improving the lives of men, women and children living in conditions of poverty, oppression and insecurity. CRN works together with individuals, churches, organisations and authorities to bring relief, peace and development to the most vulnerable. Our projects are implemented through local partners with integrity, experience, knowledge and commitment to rebuilding their country. The dedication of our partners and the local networks enable CRN to work in areas that are hard to access, and to reach out to people who are cut off from outside help because of war and unrest.

Why does CRN make a difference?

"CRN has given us back our life. CRN has given us hope. Thank you CRN". Over one hundred women who meet us in Kishanga are singing a welcome song for us. One of the rape victims is making a speech, and we are moved by her story. Although we know there is a festive and show element in the songs and speeches we see the thankfulness in the eyes of the hundred women who reach out to shake our hands. CRN and its partners are making a significant difference in the lives of thousands of women and children in the war torn country of DC Congo.

CRN is a relief and development foundation like many others. CRN works with committed local partners like many others. What sets us apart, why should the Norwegian government support us with 4-5 million USD a year?

My answer is

- We identify church networks that have a genuine commitment to serving the poor and victims of war
- We "join good forces" by networking talented social entrepreneurs who have qualities of integrity, leadership, trust, vision and energy to working for visible results
- We are small enough staff to be quick and agile in critical situation, large enough to have administrative systems and routines in place for accounting, planning, reporting and evaluation to satisfy professional donors.
- We have a 17 year history of presence in the Great Lakes area of Africa, enough to know the complex play of politics and power to work in areas and sectors of higher risks than many similar NGOs.

2009/10 have been years of growth in CRN. Not only have our activities increased by 29 %. Our "roots" have been



strengthened by sharpening our vision and values, partnership agreements, code of conduct, anti-corruption work, and administrative routines. Our main challenges are now to invite more donors to join us and fight against rape, violence and build lasting peace in Congo.

We have increased our efforts to preventing the rape "epidemic" by destroying weapons in civilian hands, and changing men's views on women and violence. The latter is based on a "fatherhood" approach – read more about this activity in the following pages.'

The largest activity money-wise is building/extending two hospitals in Goma (300 bed Kyeshero and 40 bed Heal Africa) with the training and health structure strengthening involved. The project started mid 2010 and will continue to 2012. This effort will give women, children and men a new level of health service, reducing child and maternal mortality significantly long term.

In Uganda our partner Give me a Chance has made a large effort to integrate former LRA soldiers and their families into the community by providing relevant vocational training for boys and girls. The work and services for boys and girls in juvenile penitentiaries continues. Our office in Norway has been moved from Oslo to Kristiansand. We have initiated contacts with local women groups and Lion Clubs.

We in CRN are proud of our work. We know we make a difference for thousands, our estimates 5000 people directly (25 000 indirectly) every year. We invite you to join our good forces and reach even more people; the real victims of war, poverty and insecurity in Congo and in Uganda, and new conflict countries.

Oddvar Espegren
Director

CRN's track record 2008 – 2010

TITLE	BUDGET / (SPEND)	FROM	TO	RESULTS	LAND / DONOR
DR CONGO					
Sexual Violence V	4.557.740/(4.472.700)	Nov .08	Aug. 09	> 3500 treated > 300 operated	DR Congo – Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
Sexual Violence VI	6.273.000 / (4.007.000)	Oct. 09	Dec. 10	> 22 rape cases to court Continued 2011	
Internal refugees IDP	1.237.000/(1.237.000)	Nov. 08	Aug. 09	Health Services for the Nzulu Camp 26.000 Internal refugees. 6700 return kits handed out (Return kits included blankets, axes, cooking pots, seeds, hygienic packs).	DR Congo – Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Internal refugees IDP	5.000.000 / (4.700.000)	July. 09	Apr. 10		
Weapon Destruction I	7.622.000/(7.380.000)	Nov. 08	Nov. 09	> Weapons destroyed: approx. 6500	DR Congo – Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Weapon Destruction II	6.181.000 / (5.859.000)	Nov. 09	July, 10		
Weapon Destruction III	7.000.000	July. 10			
Child soldiers V	3.760.000	Nov. 08	Nov. 09	> 1500 children rehabilitated	DR Congo – Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Child Soldiers VI	4.500.000/(3.178.000)	Dec. 09	Dec. 10	Continued 2011	
UGANDA					
Child Crime Prevention	1.300.000/(1.300.000)	Jan. 09	Dec. 10	> 200 children receiving training, education and juridical assistance	Uganda – Private Funding
Ex Combat Rehabilitation	3.000.000 / (2.650.000)	May. 09	May. 10	> 700 LRA soldiers received vocational training	Uganda – Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ex Combat Rehabilitation	2.990.000	May. 10	Dec. 10		
Fatherhood	3.294.000 / (2.368.000)	May. 10	Dec. 10	> 5 training courses completed, 9 facilitators have been trained Continued 2011	DR Congo – Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
Kyeshero	12.837.500/ (8.771.650)	Jun. 10	Dec. 10	Kyeshero Hospital and Heal Africa under construction Continued 2011	DR Congo – Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
Mama Jeannes Orphanage	432.000/(432.000)	Jan. 08	Dec. 10	> 150-180 children	DR Congo – Private Funding



Photo: Tore Gullaksen, CRN

Mama Jeanne was greeted with song and dance in Kishanga.

CRN 2009/2010



Photo:Tore Gullaksen

ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Parallel to the war in DR Congo a war against women and children is raging, and all the fighting groups use rape as a means of war. Thousands of women and girls are affected.

Since 2004 CRN has organized a program in the North Kivu province to assist these victims of sexual violence. The victims are identified in remote villages and included in women fellowships at reception and rehabilitation centres in the villages, where they receive psychosocial guidance and counselling. Seriously injured victims of rape are transported to health clinics and hospitals for medical or surgical treatment. Rehabilitated women and girls are returned to their villages. The program includes information campaigns and guidance in the local communities.

In 2009, 1497 women were helped and in 2010 the number reached 1633. During this period 210 fistula surgeries were conducted.

CRN also started a project called Fatherhood in 2010 to prevent and counteract this horrifying wave of sexual violence in DR Congo. The Fatherhood project aims at changing the attitudes of men in general, and comprises seminars and campaigns for religious and civil leaders and other men. Feedback from participants from the police, the army, the church and the civil society are good and promising. 258 men participated in 2010.



Photo:Tore Gullaksen

HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE

For many years CRN has contributed significantly to the rebuilding of the health sector of eastern Congo. Dozens of health clinics in inaccessible and remote areas have been rebuilt and equipped. A fistula department at the Panzi hospital in Bukavu has been built, and a large number of containers filled with health equipment from the Norwegian emergency stockpile have been distributed throughout DR Congo. Nevertheless our efforts in 2009 and 2010 represent something new to CRN.

In 2009 a long awaited dream came true. When Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Goma August 11, 2009 she pronounced a common intention with Norway to build a women's hospital in the city. CRN received a grant from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to expand the small Kyeshero Hospital/Health Centre into a 300-bed hospital. The foundation stone was laid in 2010, and by the end of the year most of the buildings had roofs.

The extension of the Heal Africa Hospital with a new department and a soft project component, comprising juridical assistance to rape victims and prosecution of abusers, are also included in the project.

The building of Kyeshero Hospital and the extension of Heal Africa started July 2010 and will be completed in 2012 with a capacity of 300 and 200 beds respectively.



Photo: Endre Vestvik

WEAPON DESTRUCTION

The Weapon Destruction Program was established in 2008. So far over 8000 weapons have been destroyed, including 6000 in 2009 and 2010. The weapons are traded with corrugated roof sheets, a bicycle or a sewing machine. Many former weapon owners are engaged in the reconstruction of roads and infrastructure in the inaccessible areas of North Kivu. The project has contributed to the ongoing peace and reconciliation process in the province, and it has also received a considerable focus in both the media and amongst politicians and decision makers.

CHILD SOLDIERS

Thousands of children are heavily affected by the raging conflict in Congo. The recruitment of child soldiers by the warring groups continues despite the international provisions also signed by DR Congo, condemning such actions. These children are deprived of their childhood, and live under disgraceful conditions, characterised by killings, hunger, fear, sexual abuse and terror:

CRN started a program to help child soldiers in 2003, and thousands of children are rehabilitated, reintegrated in their local villages and reunited with their families. In 2009 and 2010, 1043 child soldiers were helped, including 81 girls. The total number of children who were reintegrated in their communities are 582. At our 3 centres the children receive teaching, counselling and vocational training before reintegration.



Photo: Endre Vestvik

ORPHANAGES

An orphanage run by Mama Jeanne in Goma comprises approximately 150 children. The orphanage is located on the same large property as a raped women's rehabilitation centre, and it is continuously developed and improved.

CHILDREN BEHIND BARS

Children are trapped into youth prisons and institutions for years without trials and are often "forgotten" by both parents and government if their family and the social network collapse. The Aids epidemic, divorce and severe poverty cause many children to leave their homes and manage on their own.

In Uganda more than 3500 children in jail have been helped since 1997. Also many convicted women with infants are in jail, and CRN has assisted them and made living behind bars more tolerable.

In 2009 and 2010 a total of 1235 children were helped, and over 150 of them resettled.

Board, staff and partners

Board and staff, 2011

Board members:



Svein Andersen, Chairman



Lars Rise, Vice Chairman



Inger Bremvik, Board member



Haakon Bryhni, Board member



Jan-Erik Børrestad, Board member

Staff:



Oddvar Espegren,
Director



Kåre Skuland
Administration Manager
(Left CRN summer of 2011)



Gro Bøckmann Randby
Information Manager/ Project
Consultant
(Left CRN summer of 2011)

New employees from 2011



Tore Gullaksen,
Administration & Fundraising
Manager



Marit Toppe Berg,
Communication Manager

Partners in Congo



Dan Andersson,
Director; Hope in Action



Banyene Bulere,
President of the CEPAC church



Lyn Lusi,
Co-Founder of HEAL Africa

Partner in Uganda



Kenneth Kamese,
Director; Give Me a Chance

Partners and sponsors

ET RIKERE LIV

In autumn 2007, CRN started collaborating with Et rikere liv, a foundation established by the owners and employees of Formuesforvaltning, a privately-owned wealth management firm in Norway. The aim of the foundation is to provide financial, strategic and operative support for projects of benefit to society.



Kom Forlag, the publishing house, published in 2009 a book entitled "Kvinner bærer halve himmelen" (Women carry half the sky) in collaboration with Et Rikere Liv and with financial support from Formueforvaltning. The book describes how women assume

responsibility and help other women to resume their lives after brutal rapes. The book is part of a cooperation among several actors working with women and violence in DRC.

WOMEN'S NETWORK IN GRIMSTAD

"Kvinner i alle aldre" (Girls of All Ages) has supported the work to help women in DRC who have been raped. Inger Lise Rypdal, the well-known Norwegian singer and entertainer, visited DRC and met these women. Her commitment became known in Norway and the women's network in Grimstad joined her in this work. CRN and Girls of All Ages organized an open evening November 2010 in Grimstad with the focus on Congo. Over 70 000 kroner is the impressive amount collected by "the girls" in Grimstad.

NORAD - NORWEGIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

NORAD has been a good partner in working to alleviate poverty in the DR Congo. June 2010 CRN received notification from NORAD for funding of 54 million to build a new hospital for women and children in Goma. Kyshero Hospital is now under construction and will be opened for patients in 2012. NORAD has also been an important supporter of the Fatherhood program which started in 2010. CRN is very grateful for the support that makes it possible to provide invaluable assistance in a population that has survived a prolonged war and violence.

NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NMFA has been an important partner in the rehabilitation of ex-soldiers and destruction of weapons. CRN is grateful for the support to create a safer community in North Kivu and Uganda.

SPONSORS

CRN would like to give thanks to our sponsors making it possible for us to do this great and important work in DR Congo og Uganda!

- Hermon Forlag
- Genesis Forlag
- Børrestad AS
- Lions Club
- Seedbed



Photo: Endre Vestvik

Financial statement 2009/2010


Profit and loss statement (figures in NOK)

	2009	2010
Revenue		
Donations	1 338 045	1 157 900
Reserves for earmarked donations	(146 333)	
Use of earmarked donations	133 979	65 196
Project revenue	23 436 475	29 308 945
Book sales	216 035	26 426
Other income	124 605	119 919
Total revenue	25 249 140	30 532 053
Direct project expenditures	23 664 944	27 686 309
Operating expenditures		
Salaries and social cost	833 440	1 149 515
Book Expenditure	36 370	53 720
Administration cost	523 860	797 015
Communication	286 766	186 610
Depreciation	50 539	22 488
Total operating expenditures	1 730 974	2 209 349
Operating result	(146 779)	636 395
Financial items		
Financial income	387 379	23 520
Financial cost	7 516	20 666
Net financial items	379 862	2 854
Net profit (loss)	233 083	639 248
Appropriation of profit (loss):		
Transferred to other equity	233 083	639 248

Balance sheet (as per 31 st Desember)

	2009	2010
Long-term assets		
Vehicles	10 000	0
Computer equipment	6 196	0
Furniture and Fixtures	31 460	25 168
Long-term receivables		
Total long-term assets	47 656	25 168
Short-term assets		
Book store	4 280	100 560
Accounts receivable	245 244	15 114
Other short-term receivables	106 008	4 436 138
Bank deposits and cash	17 147 850	13 290 665
Total short-term assets	17 503 382	17 842 477
Total Assets	17 551 038	17 867 645
Equity and Liabilities		
Equity		
Foundation capital	200 000	200 000
Other equity	565 405	1 204 653
Total equity	765 405	1 404 653
Short-term liabilities		
Accounts payable	57 196	330 084
Government taxes payable	88 851	140 816
Other short-term liabilities	16 574 390	15 845 760
Unused earmarked funds	65 196	146 333
Total short-term liabilities	16 785 633	16 462 992
Total equity and liabilities	17 551 038	17 867 645

Oslo, May 19, 2011



Svein E. Andersen
President




Lars Riise
Vice President



Jan-Erik Børrestad



Haakon Bryhni



Inger Bremvik



Oddvar Espegren
Director

Audited by
PricewaterhouseCoopers AS
June 8th, 2011



Hope In Action teaches women to use sewing machine and how to sew clothes.



Photo: Endre Vestvik

joining good forces



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