

IRIN

Global Funding Document 2007

Humanitarian Information
Advocacy
Grassroots Input
Outreach Radio
Film Documentaries
Capacity Building
Early Warning
Information Analysis
HIV/AIDS

...bridging the information gap



...listening to their voices



FROM TOP:

Uganda Fifty-year-old Silvia Alak tells her story at Cet Kana, a decongestion camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Gulu District, northern Uganda, August 2006. Silvia and her seven children survived the ravages of the Lord's Resistance Army. Her husband did not.

Nepal Bacchu Rokaya and her five children at a camp for internally displaced people in the village of Rajhena near Nepalgunj town, Nepal, February 2005. Since the Maoist rebellion against the state began nine years ago, children's education has been one of the worst-hit sectors in the country. Already suffering from a low level of enrolment, Nepal's education system has been further weakened by the conflict.

© IRIN



Occupied Palestinian Territory West Bank, Israel. A Palestinian vegetable grower displays some of his produce he can no longer sell as the barrier separates him from his former market.

© Edward Parsons/IRIN



ON THE COVER:

DRC School-children peep through the holes of their school-building in Lokanja Lina Nkoy village, Orientale province, Democratic Republic of Congo, May 2006. Students are crowded into four classrooms where the sun shines through gaping holes in the roof. The children are enthusiastic about learning, even if they must do so without basic supplies.

© Hugo Rami/IRIN

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IRIN's Global Vision:

Expanding the frontiers of humanitarian reporting to help local and international communities respond to crises and manmade or natural disasters



Overview and Summary

The Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) is an independent humanitarian news service covering sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East.

IRIN's principle role is to supply nonpartisan, relevant information to a diverse group of humanitarian actors, decision-makers in governments, vulnerable populations, and local and international media to promote better understanding of longstanding crises and new emergencies.

Unlike other UN public-information units, IRIN provides a daily flow of non operational but relevant information to the wider humanitarian community on a broad range of issues, countries and events. Unlike most media, IRIN provides sustained and complete coverage of crises by focusing on the plight of civilians.

In today's climate of dwindling resources, few media organisations can afford to provide comprehensive coverage beyond the first days of a crisis or disaster, and most do not focus on humanitarian response. Therefore, many stories hit the headlines or TV screens and disappear quickly, leaving readers and viewers with little or no understanding of the crisis. In recent years, this has been further compounded by the closure or reduction in the number of Western media organisations in Africa, further reducing the attention paid to an already poorly covered continent.

An example of this is the fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which claimed a staggering 3.5 million lives – the highest death toll in any war since 1945. Yet it has remained largely invisible. The same is also true of the 20 year conflict, massive displacement and years of intense suffering of the Acholi people in northern Uganda.

Even more telling is the media coverage of two of the world's recent major humanitarian crises: Darfur and the Pakistan earthquake. Both received far less attention in the Western media than Hurricane Katrina in the US. According to a 2005 study¹ only 312 articles were published

in the Western press about Darfur in that year, while there were only 102 articles on the Pakistan earthquake. In comparison, Hurricane Katrina – which of the three crises had the fewest number of deaths and one of the lowest population-displacement rates – was featured in 1,032 articles and received far more attention in the global media than any other humanitarian disaster.

As covered by the study mentioned above, IRIN produced over 200 articles and features on Darfur and more than 400 on the Pakistan earthquake. This attention has been sustained through 2006.

IRIN's Mission:

IRIN's editorial independence underpins its credibility and effectiveness as an authoritative information service, enabling it to represent a broad cross-section of the humanitarian community without prejudice.

Specifically, IRIN seeks to:

1. Strengthen access to timely, accurate and balanced information
2. Enhance the capacity of the global and humanitarian community to understand, prepare for, respond to and avert emergencies
3. Assist local communities to participate in making decisions about their own lives
4. Support OCHA in its efforts to advocate for the rights of people in need
5. Promote dialogue, conflict resolution and contribute to early warning

¹ CARMA report on the Western media coverage of Humanitarian Disasters, January 2006

IRIN Services

IRIN News & Analysis

IRIN journalists produce daily, weekly and special reports on events and issues of concern to the humanitarian community. Articles are accessible via the web and e-mail, and are featured regularly in local and international media. In addition, 6 to 8 in-depth reports are produced each year that provide insight into thematic issues such as gender-based violence, natural disasters, smallarms, and the fight against Malaria among others.

PlusNews, HIV/AIDS Service

PlusNews specialises in news coverage about HIV/AIDS and is distributed in English, French and Portuguese (www.plusnews.org/pt). Edited by a specialist team of journalists in Johannesburg and Dakar, PlusNews provides HIV/AIDS news and analysis, features, country briefs, and treatment maps to its readership, while linking to important HIV/AIDS websites and organisations working on the issue.

“What has struck me most forcefully about the news and features which IRIN provides is the originality of its outlook and the strength of its journalism. IRIN seems to have travelled far beyond what I understand to have been its UN-oriented founding function, and developed into a distinctive news agency whose comprehensive daily list appeals to a much wider range of readers. It covers stories and angles on stories which are barely, if at all, referred to in the mainstream agencies. There has been a general tendency since 9/11 to focus so much on security and militancy that other issues become overshadowed. Human rights, water, gender issues, poverty, refugees, education and health are some of them. The attention the agency pays to these issues in developing and emerging countries brings balance and a recognition that the world revolves around more than security. The fact that IRIN eschews politics serves it and its readers well because its stories hone in on the human dimension. I’ve also enjoyed the quality of the journalism – impeccable at times, with an eye for colour...”

Paul Anderson, BBC

IRIN Radio

Currently active in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia, Somalia and Sudan, IRIN Radio has helped produce several hundred news programmes that have reached tens of millions of people. The service works with radio stations in countries affected by conflict to help improve their programming. IRIN supports these local partner stations through the co-production of radio programmes, including soap operas and news-magazine shows, as well as the training of radio journalists.

IRIN Film

IRIN’s award-winning Film Unit promotes the plight of vulnerable people trapped in forgotten humanitarian emergencies. Short documentaries and news cut packages have been distributed to a growing list of broadcasters, advocacy groups and humanitarian actors. IRIN Films have produced 17 short documentaries to date that have recently focused on the impact of years of conflict in the DRC, poverty and mining in Tanzania, and the scourge of cluster bombs in Lebanon

IRIN Photo

Free print-quality photos are provided by IRIN to humanitarian actors and international media who do not always have access to pertinent and timely images to illustrate their reports and articles. A professional photographer and his team manages the public gallery and control the image quality on the website.



www.irinnews.org homepage

Strategic Framework

As in previous years, IRIN's overall strategic framework is guided by OCHA's Global Strategy and by IRIN's Global Vision for specific objectives and activities.

OCHA's strategy for 2007-2009 is to build the foundation of a more coherent and accountable system. Underpinning this is Humanitarian Response Reform, which seeks to create more predictable humanitarian finances to enable prompt response to crises; to establish the cluster approach to strengthen response capacity and to strengthen the

Humanitarian Coordinator system to better support field coordination.

IRIN supports this strategy through the provision of humanitarian news, analysis and advocacy materials that help the humanitarian community better understand, anticipate and respond to evolving crises and emergencies. At the same time, IRIN strives to ensure that affected communities have access to neutral and reliable information to counter misinformation and propaganda, as well as make their own voices heard.



Occupied Palestinian Territories Beit Lahiya sits by a lantern during one of the daily power cuts in Gaza, March 2006. Gazans receive on average between six and eight hours of electricity per day after the Israeli military bombed the city's only power station on 28 June 2006.

© Tom Spender/IRIN

Priorities for 2007

In 2007, IRIN will focus on:

- Training its network of stringers to improve the quality of their reporting and analyses, as well as their capacity to detect problems and signs of crises, thereby enhancing early warning.
- Diversifying its sources of information – i.e., humanitarian partners, thinktanks, civil society – to further enrich and balance its reporting.
- Placing greater emphasis on contextual information and analysis of humanitarian issues, including the linkage between humanitarian assistance and development, the causes and solutions to problems, so as to contribute to mitigation activities.
- Paying special attention to forgotten crises and countries where the humanitarian situation is underreported or not understood.
- Providing a bridge between the Islamic world and the West by promoting better understanding of issues and priorities.
- Developing capacity to support OCHA in its rapid-response mechanism by dispatching IRIN staff to emerging crises alongside OCHA humanitarian teams.
- Encouraging the reproduction of its reports, films and radio broadcasts in local and international media to broaden access to such information.
- Fostering and strengthening at regional and country levels its network within the international and humanitarian community, especially UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, governments and affected groups.
- Working with humanitarian partners to identify key issues or countries so as to further develop advocacy materials that target decision makers, humanitarian and development actors, donor countries, local and international media and the general public through direct briefings, seminars, documentaries, videos, in-depth reports and radio broadcasts.
- Managing a photo gallery of high-quality images that illustrate and highlight humanitarian issues.

In 2007, IRIN will:

- Strengthen its ability to deliver information to various regions by putting more experienced people in strategic locations.
- Consolidate regional responsibilities.
- Encourage more reproduction of its reports, films and radio broadcasts in local and international media to broaden access to such information.
- Manage a photo gallery of high-quality images that illustrate and highlight humanitarian issues.
- Increase number of visits to its website by 10 percent and increase the number of its email subscribers by 10 percent.
- Produce high quality reports and features on over 62 countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.
- Establish marketing campaigns and feedback systems to gauge readership interest in IRIN reports.
- Continue to highlight key humanitarian trends and issues with emphasis on neglected crisis.
- Strengthen use of multi-media materials.

Programmes and Activities in 2006

2006 was an especially busy year, with a considerable increase in both the quality and quantity of IRIN's global humanitarian reporting. IRIN produced more than 4,000 articles, special reports and features; seven documentary films; seven In-Depths (formerly known as Web Specials); and five special web pages. IRIN also expanded its Middle East/Arabic service, relaunched its Afghan radio project and published a major book on the international problem of gender-based violence against women.

During 2006, IRIN focused on some of the worst humanitarian crises and disasters in the world. It responded and provided contextual information on the multiple conflicts engulfing many parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia. IRIN's text, radio, video and PlusNews services all contributed to public knowledge and promoted understanding and response.

IRIN's Information Analysis Unit produced In-Depth packages of analysis and research on a wide range of issues, including malaria, small

arms, minorities at risk, youth and violence, the Pakistan earthquake and the global water crisis. The unit assisted with specialised analysis on the widespread drought in early 2006, as well as on events in Somalia after the rise of the Islamic Courts and the ousting of faction leaders that have wrecked havoc in Mogadishu since 1991.

The book *Broken Bodies-Broken Dreams, Violence Against Women Exposed* was published in late 2005. It is a testimony of the different types of gender-based violence suffered by women and girls worldwide, combining striking black-and-white photography, case studies and firsthand accounts, and illustrative text.

Some 5,000 copies of the book were distributed to donors, advocacy groups and UN agencies worldwide. A number of exhibitions featuring some of the photographs used in the book were organised by OCHA, IRIN, advocacy groups and governments.

Supporting these advocacy efforts, **IRIN Film** continued to promote the plight of vulnerable people trapped in forgotten humanitarian emergencies.

Set against the backdrop of a global broadcast media that is focused on a limited number of stories and countries, IRIN Film has produced 17 short documentaries and more than two dozen film news packages since its launch in 2004. More than 30,000 copies of its productions have been distributed to a growing global database of donors, NGOs, UN agencies, government officials and advocacy groups. A wide range of pressing humanitarian issues have been addressed, including Congo's tragic civil conflict, the Pakistan earthquake, the scourge of HIV/AIDS amongst the Lake Victoria fishing industry and child labour.



Honour crimes A Pakistani woman, burned by her husband. Sixty percent of "Rabisa's" body was severely burned in punishment for challenging the authority of her husband. Taken from the book and photo exhibition: *Broken Bodies, Broken Dreams*.

© Evelyn Hockstein/IRIN

Key 2006 Achievements:

- Visits to the IRIN website increased from 800,000 to 1.2 million per month with some 29 million hits a month.
- IRIN produced more than 4,000 articles, special reports and features; seven documentary films; seven In-Depths.
- IRIN expanded its Middle East/Arabic service.
- IRIN strengthened its capacity to provide high-quality photographs to its humanitarian partners and the media through the creation of IRIN Photo.
- IRIN distributed over 5000 copies of *Broken Bodies - Broken Dreams* - a major book on the international problem of gender-based violence against women.



Gaza A boy stands by while Palestinian fire-fighters extinguish a fire from a burning house in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, July 2006. Palestinian witnesses said an Israeli tank shell hit the house.

© Apollo Images/IRIN

“For the past year and a half we have used whole or parts of your TV documentaries for stories that we have run on CBC’s main nightly newscast, The National. The material is consistently well shot, and the stories well told. As a one-person bureau, doing my best to cover as much of Africa as I can, having IRIN Film as a back-up resource to tell and supplement the telling of stories here is an invaluable help.”

David McGuffin, Africa Correspondent for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation News

IRIN Film also produced and distributed several video news reports on the severe drought in northern **Kenya** and **southern Somalia**, Somalia’s boat refugees, and the plight of **Lebanese** refugees in **Syria** following the outbreak of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

Using small teams and digital video technology, IRIN documentaries are produced at a fraction of the cost of mainstream media productions. These concise advocacy tools are distributed free of charge to more than 500 broadcasters, humanitarian agencies and advocacy groups. CNN, BBC, Fox News, Sky News and CBS are among the many broadcasters that have aired IRIN footage. Several films have also won awards for their quality and relevance.

On the text side, IRIN reported extensively on deadly conflicts and internecine violence in Africa, focusing on **Sudan**, **DRC**, **Burundi**, **Somalia**, **northern Uganda**, **Chad** and **Cote d’Ivoire**. It also produced special multimedia web pages on the Africa food crises, the avian flu potential pandemic and the upheavals in **DRC**, **Somalia** and **Lebanon**.

In **southern Africa**, IRIN’s reported on the challenges confronting the region: the susceptibility of women and girls to HIV infection; the vulnerability of populations to the triple threat of poverty, HIV/AIDS and food security; an ever-expanding orphan population; and growing donor fatigue.

IRIN’s **Middle East** service became fully operational in 2006. Within a relatively short period, it established a reputation for its accurate and balanced news reporting and clearly illustrated that it could contribute to a better understanding of the Middle East.

In July 2006, Israel’s military offensive and occupation of southern **Lebanon** and Hezbollah’s rocket attacks on **Israel** resulted in a major humanitarian crisis. IRIN’s Beirut-based stringers went into immediate action to report on the humanitarian impact and implications of the 34-day war. IRIN also deployed a member of its staff to cover the crisis from Damascus for the duration of the conflict.

After the hostilities ended, international coverage of the crisis waned considerably, but IRIN continued to report on the humanitarian dimensions of the conflict and its impact on civilians. IRIN also extended its coverage to Israel and the **Occupied Palestinian Territories** in the second half of 2006.

In **Iraq**, IRIN chronicled the devastating impact of the war and civil strife, covering the worsening sectarian violence, the danger facing Palestinian refugees and the flight of professionals such as teachers, doctors and lawyers. IRIN’s stories illustrated how internecine violence had torn apart the social fabric of Iraqi society.

IRIN also covered humanitarian issues in **Yemen**, one of the poorest countries in the Middle East, which continues to suffer from increasing poverty, chronic water shortages, inadequate health and education facilities as well as gender imbalances.

In Asia, IRIN focused primarily on **Afghanistan**, **Pakistan** and **Nepal**. Its coverage of **Afghanistan** increased significantly in the second half of the year as the situation there steadily worsened. In Pakistan, IRIN continued to report on those made homeless by the devastating earthquake. In **Nepal**, IRIN built on its early success by offering more comprehensive reports on vulnerable people who continue to suffer despite



DRC A woman carrying her child runs for safety from the burning compound of former rebel leader and current president Jean-Pierre Bemba's bodyguards in Kinshasa, DRC, July 2006. Thousands of demonstrators, who want Congo's first multiparty elections in 40 years to be delayed because of political tensions and accusations of flaws, threw rocks and gasoline bombs, blocking a highway into the city centre

© Eddy Isango/IRIN

the ceasefire in the decade-long insurgency. To complement its text services, IRIN strengthened its capacity to provide high-quality photographs to its humanitarian partners and the media through the creation of **IRIN Photo**.

IRIN Radio produced radio programmes, news reports and features for partner radio stations and provided training and support to radio journalists in **Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Lesotho, Somalia, South Africa** and **Sudan**, and the five corridor countries of **Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin** and **Nigeria**.

A second series of the popular **Burundi** drama "Tuyage Twongere" (Let's Talk) was aired in 2006 by five radio stations in Burundi and Radio Kwizera in Ngara, western **Tanzania**. The drama about Burundian refugees living in camps in Tanzania gives them a voice that can be heard in Burundi and, in turn, informs the refugees about life back home. Alongside the series, IRIN Radio also produced regular feature programmes on humanitarian issues in local languages and co-produced a series of debates on issues arising from the series, which were aired on one of the local partner radio stations, RPA.

IRIN Radio also launched a new drama, "Lama Huraan" (Indispensable), to build on its already well-established and highly regarded service for **Somalia**. The programme touches on a wide range of topics, including female genital mutilation, human rights and education, though its focus is on promoting peace, reconciliation and good governance.

TUYAGE TWONGERE



Kivugira mu makambi y-impunzi mu burengeru bwa Tanzania. Candikwa na Marie-Louise Sibazuri. Abakinyi ni abarundi baba mu makambi y'iNgara. Kivuga ubuzima bwa misi yose, kigaserura n'ivyiyumviro vy'impunzi ku mugambi w-amahoro.

The **Sudan** radio project centred on the production of programmes in Juba Arabic and English and occasionally in local languages, such as Nuer and Bari. The programmes were broadcast regularly by all the stations in southern Sudan. Copies of programmes on CD were sent to seven resource centres set up by Mercy Corps. Efforts were also underway in 2006 to produce radio programmes for Uganda and Sudan to support the peace process in Uganda.

In 2005, IRIN Radio in West Africa formed a partnership with the **Abidjan-Lagos** Corridor Organization (ALCO) with the aim of making programmes on HIV/AIDS and related issues in **Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin** and **Nigeria**. IRIN has since established partnerships with 15 stations in the region.

A series of projects in **Cote d'Ivoire** included a reporters' guide in French, which is available in audio and text versions. The guide emphasises ethical reporting, the treatment of conflict and the problem of 'hate media' in Cote d'Ivoire. With partner stations, IRIN produced a series of programmes on HIV/AIDS. These programmes, available on CD, are distributed to radio stations, NGOs, community groups and others. Programming and training in **Liberia** also continued during the year.



Afghanistan Women radio is more effective than any other means of educational tools in Afghanistan in a country that many women cannot read or write and cannot get out of their homes to access educational sources far from their homes.

© IRIN

In **Angola**, IRIN Radio continued its highly successful drama series "Camatondo"² and its regular humanitarian programmes (Angola Adentro) translations broadcast through the country's national radio station. Adentro aimed to support positive social change, good governance and sustainable development by voicing the concerns, interests and expectations of the millions of Angolan citizens living in rural areas.

Since the project began in **Afghanistan** five years ago, IRIN has trained over 60 Afghan journalists working at 12 radio stations across Afghanistan, who today are playing an important role in the development of radio in their respective communities. In late 2006, IRIN introduced new products to contribute to the development of the skills of Afghan radio journalists, improve the flow of humanitarian news and information, and increase both the quality and quantity of the programmes, as well as provide a platform and voice to local communities. This included a radio stringer network throughout Afghanistan.

IRIN's **PlusNews** service continued to be the largest source of original reporting on HIV/AIDS in Africa, providing a comprehensive, professionally produced, one-stop shop for relevant news and analysis on the pandemic. Produced in English, French and Portuguese, the overall goal of the service is to promote dialogue on HIV/AIDS and to enhance knowledge, awareness and understanding among decision-makers and those directly affected by the epidemic.

In 2006, PlusNews broke new ground by joining a consortium of UN agencies seeking to expand prevention, treatment and care services to the estimated 200 million people who are not reached by current HIV/AIDS programmes. PlusNews coverage under the DFID-funded initiative sought to raise awareness of the needs of conflict- and disaster-affected communities. A range of media tools were also produced for journalists and media gatekeepers.

² Camatondo is the invented name of a fictitious village on the central highlands. The radio drama portrays life anywhere in rural villages/ areas of Angola.

2007 Context and Implications



DRC People queue to cast their votes at the polling station at St Anne Cathedral in Kinshasa, DRC, 30 July 2006. Voters were taking part in the first multiparty general election since 1960.

© Tiggy Ridley/IRIN

The **Horn of Africa** continues to be blighted by conflict and chronic food deficits. IRIN will expand and improve its reporting on the deepening crisis in **Sudan**, closely monitor the humanitarian catastrophe in **Darfur** and the fragile peace in southern Sudan. IRIN will maintain its focus on **Somalia** and its neighbours following the emergence of an Islamic movement that has been expanding its control. It will also closely monitor the

problems related to acute drought in **Somalia**, **northern Kenya** and **southern Ethiopia**.

In **Uganda**, there was optimism that the peace overtures between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), could end one of Africa's deadliest and longest running wars and pave the way for the return of one of the world's largest displaced populations. However, the situation has remained exceedingly fragile, and IRIN will continue to closely monitor it.

Similarly, IRIN will pay special attention to Ethiopia and Eritrea, where escalating tensions over a long-running border dispute could lead to conflict.

In the Great Lakes Region, the Democratic Republic of Congo has emerged from a long period of appalling brutality and seized the opportunity to set itself on the path to stability and enduring peace. The needs of thousands of refugees and displaced people who are expected to return home, however, make the task of reconciliation and recovery even more daunting. IRIN will follow the DRC's transition from virtual anarchy to democratic order and report on the hurdles facing its people.

Burundi has also taken tentative steps towards peace and national reconciliation. While the government's recent agreement with the last remaining rebel group, the FNL, may bring an end to Burundi's protracted civil strife, many issues are unresolved. There is concern that growing tension within the country may result in renewed conflict.



Sudan A portrait of General Wilson Deng of the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Juba, Sudan, October 2006. General Deng is second-in-command in the mediation of peace talks between the Ugandan government and Lord's Resistance Army.

© Manoocher Deghati/IRIN

IRIN will continue to pay special attention to the upheaval in the **Central Africa Republic**, where rebel activity and banditry in remote provinces have forced some 70,000 people to flee their homes. More than 40,000 have sought refuge in neighbouring Chad.

The countries of the West Africa region are at varying levels of instability. **Cote d'Ivoire** and **Chad** are confronted by an intractable political instability and insurgency. **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone** face the task of post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation in a climate of declining donor support and diminishing interest in long-term recovery. International support is crucial to the successful repatriation and resettlement of one million refugees and displaced people dispersed throughout the four countries.

The rebel offensive against the central government in Chad continues to pose a security threat in a region that already has more than its fair share of troubles. Chad hosts more than 250,000 refugees who have fled conflict in Darfur and violence in the northwest of the Central Africa Republic. A deterioration of the situation in Chad could trigger an influx of Sudanese and more Chadian refugees into Darfur.

In **Cote d'Ivoire**, efforts to resolve the acute differences between the government and the rebel forces through political dialogue have stalled repeatedly. Renewed tension could lead to new conflict and large-scale displacement.

IRIN will continue to monitor the situation in **Guinea** and **Guinea-Bissau**, where economic decay, political disputes and rampant corruption may lead to further breakdown of order.

Despite some economic and social reforms and relative political stability, the Sahel region - **Niger**, **Burkina Faso**, **Mauritania** and **Mali** - features high on the agenda of humanitarian organisations, with poverty and hunger affecting large segments of the population.

IRIN will analyse the root causes of problems in the region and will also address themes such as malnutrition and food insecurity, refugees, internally displaced people, returnees, migrants, health, education and the protection of civilians.

In **southern Africa**, more than three million people are short of food because of poverty linked to HIV/AIDS. A lack of investment in farming, dependence on rain-fed agriculture, gender



Niger A malnourished child at a Médecins Sans Frontières feeding centre, August 2005, Maradi, Niger. The centre is filled with hundreds of children, many of whom were in a bad condition than they arrived. The children here are fortunate as they are recovering from severe malnutrition.

© Edward Parsons/IRIN

inequality and poor access to affordable social services have contributed to food insecurity. It is likely that the region will remain in the acute phase of a long-term emergency in 2007.

IRIN will renew its focus on the humanitarian emergency in **Zimbabwe**, which is in its sixth year of recession. There is little sign of significant improvement in food security or standards of living in the short term. One regional impact has been large-scale illegal migration, felt in particular by South Africa and Botswana, with a corresponding rise in xenophobia, as well as the threat of trafficking and exploitation.

Angola is vulnerable and still recovering after 27 years of civil war. A large, food-insecure population of returning refugees and displaced people is settling in heavily mined areas with poor public services.

In Asia, **Afghanistan** appears to be slipping back into full-scale conflict. Most areas outside Kabul are insecure, and access to vulnerable populations is restricted. Opium production has risen to an all-time high, and according to a senior UN official, the country is in danger of becoming a “narco-state where drugs determine power, rot society and fund terrorism.”³ In response to the worsening situation, IRIN has established a network of local correspondents across the country and will provide a comprehensive text and audio

reporting service on events affecting the local population in Afghanistan.

Pakistan remains at the bottom of most social-indicator scales, and IRIN has continued to highlight the enormous needs in the health, education, human rights, food security and gender sectors. IRIN will strengthen its editorial presence and increase coverage of Pakistan in the aftermath of the earthquake, which claimed more than 80,000 lives and rendered more than 3.5 million homeless.

In **Uzbekistan/Ferghana** Valley, IRIN will continue to monitor an area rife with sustained socioeconomic tension, human rights violations and economic deterioration.

Although Nepal has taken the first steps towards peace, the threat of renewed conflict looms. IRIN will continue to report on Nepal as it moves towards political stability.

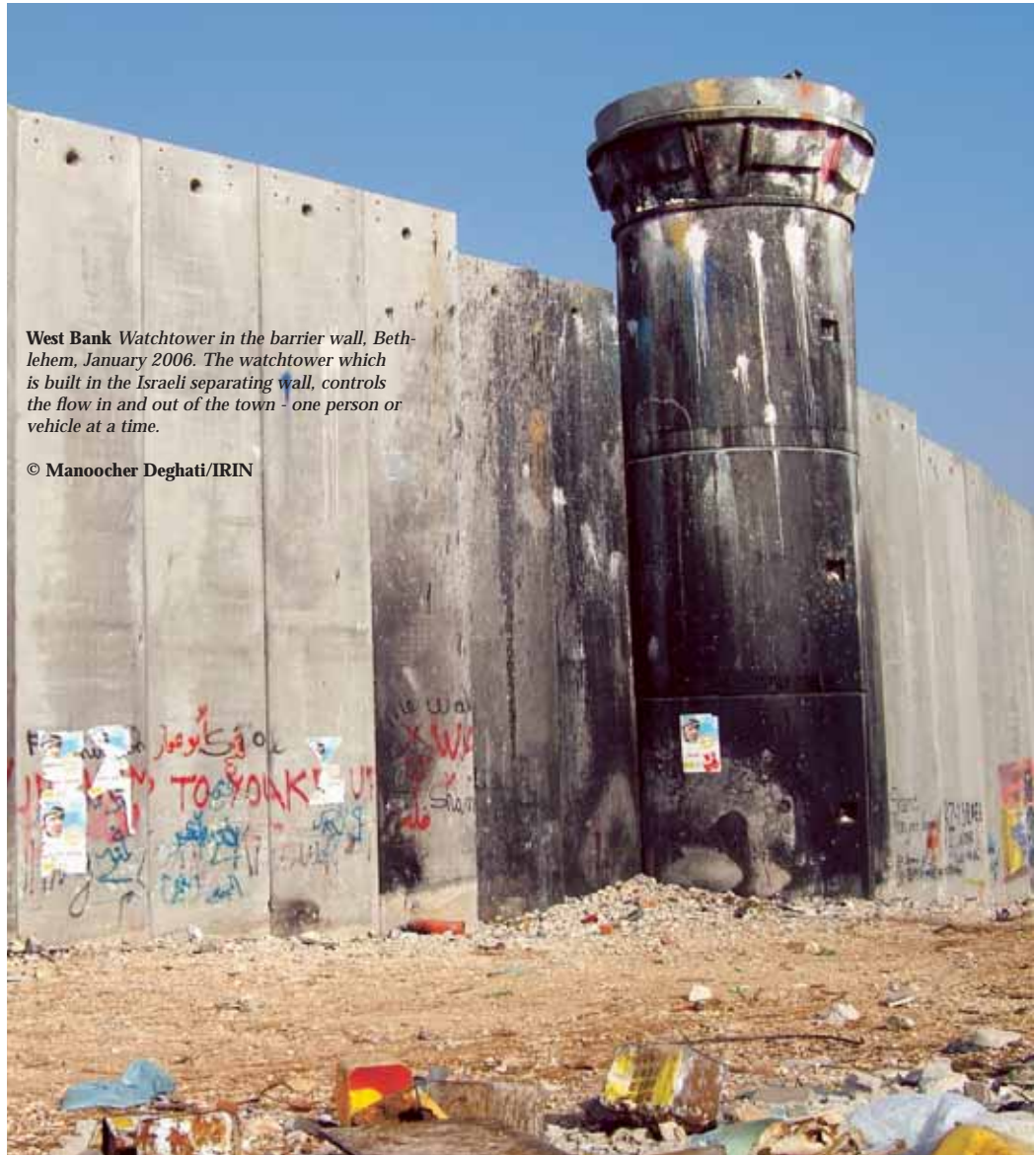
2007 looks set to be a year of even greater instability and uncertainty in the **Middle East**. Lack of basic rights, human rights abuses, escalating economic problems, growing Islamic militancy, public anger and resentment against repressive regimes and external interventions are likely to raise the political temperature in the troubled region. In addition to reporting on events and issues of concern to the humanitarian community, IRIN will continue to build a bridge of understanding between the Middle East and the West.

Pakistan An injured child clings to his father outside a field hospital in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, October 2005. The international humanitarian operation and the Pakistan military deployed helicopters to fly relief supplies to the needy, racing against time as the Himalayan winter approached.

© Edward Parsons/IRIN



³ Antonio Da Costa – Executive Director –UNDOC.



West Bank Watchtower in the barrier wall, Bethlehem, January 2006. The watchtower which is built in the Israeli separating wall, controls the flow in and out of the town - one person or vehicle at a time.

© Manoocher Deghati/IRIN

Iraq's growing insurgency and sectarian violence threatens to propel the country into full-blown civil war and fracture it along ethnic and religious lines. This has sparked a growing problem of displacement and severely affected vulnerable groups, especially women and children.

IRIN will continue to report extensively on **Lebanon** in the aftermath of the Israeli-Lebanon war in July-August 2006. The conflict damaged infrastructure considerably, triggered massive displacement and left behind thousands of unexploded devices and bombs that pose a danger to civilians.

The intensifying conflict and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the **Occupied**

Palestinian Territories and the humanitarian problems facing Israel will also be a major focus of IRIN's Middle East reporting.

IRIN will further strengthen the capacity of its Dubai office – the main hub for its Middle East and Asia reporting - to cover existing and potential crises in the region. It will establish a network of stringers that can be deployed at short notice.

Programmes and Activities for 2007

IRIN's strategic objective is to be an indispensable provider of humanitarian analysis to decision-makers in the local and global relief community. In 2007, IRIN will improve its production and delivery of news and analysis by establishing an integrated multimedia news-gathering, production and editing capability; strengthening analysis in all of IRIN's output; and increasing the use of film/video, radio and photography. As in previous years, a prime focus will be on underreported issues and forgotten emergencies.

As part of improved delivery of all IRIN products to an expanded and diversified audience, IRIN will capitalise on the latest e-technology to enable effective multimedia and low-bandwidth delivery; promote the services and products; and develop a comprehensive outreach plan to improve its capacity to monitor the impact of its products.

Further to this, IRIN will increase local content and accessibility by developing links to local organisations, as well as producing and distributing linguistically diverse IRIN text and audio products and services.

IRIN will also restructure and consolidate its operations to develop a more flexible and dynamic news-gathering and distribution system. This includes reinforcing editorial support and direction in Nairobi as well as scaling down offices where appropriate and using human resources more effectively.

To help ensure sustainability, IRIN will try to establish a stable funding platform by securing core funds via OCHA institutional partnership

agreements with key donors; consolidating core funds from existing IRIN or OCHA donors, with a view to increasing contributions where possible; and attracting core funding from other humanitarian donors, including past IRIN donors, Arab states, and international financial institutions.

A redesigned website to be launched in early 2007 will greatly enhance IRIN's ability to deliver high-quality content online. It will also help streamline IRIN's news-gathering and multimedia production and provide a much improved news and information service to its global audience.

The **Information Analysis Unit** will continue in 2007 to produce In-Depth reports and comprehensive advocacy tools. Well-researched reports with field-based stories will be provided in comprehensive In-Depth packages that also offer detailed links and references to a wide range of material dealing with a specific subject.

Although the overall number of In-Depths will be reduced from 2006, the Unit will develop its capacity to produce real-time event analysis, working with IRIN's regional desks to produce concise analysis that goes beyond the usual scope of IRIN's news stories. This will enable IRIN to respond to new events as they happen and inform the wider humanitarian community of the impact these may have on countries or regions.

There will be further promotion of *Broken Bodies, Broken Dreams* to continue to highlight the issues of violence against women through film, text and photography.

Uganda Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Emergency Relief Coordinator, in Opit camp for internally displaced people, Gulu district, northern Uganda, 9 September 2006. Egeland visited northern Uganda to assess the situation while peace talks between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Ugandan government were undertaking in Juba, southern Sudan.

© Tugela Ridley/IRIN





Sudan A boy looks at the camera at the Lologo transit camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), 30 km southeast of Juba, south Sudan, September 2006. A north-south peace agreement signed in January 2005 ended 21 years of war in Sudan, paving the way for the return of hundreds of thousands of IDPs and refugees displaced by the war.

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The *Shame of War* (provisional title), a book on rape and sexual violence in war and efforts to end it, is set for completion by the Unit in late 2006. Based on *Broken Bodies, Broken Dreams*, in addition to documenting case studies in war situations, the publication will examine the international legal frameworks that are being developed to address it. According to experts in the sector, a book of this kind will be both unique and relevant. The publication will be distributed and promoted in 2007. Further publications and other text-based advocacy materials will also be considered in the coming year.

“I have just received a copy of *Broken Bodies*. Well done to you and the team on pulling together and producing such a startling, striking and much needed work. There are few documents that cross my desk that I push toward my management here, but this is one.”

Martin Dawes. Regional Communication Adviser.
UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia

In 2007, **IRIN Film** will continue to give voice to vulnerable people trapped in forgotten humanitarian emergencies. Short documentaries are planned on a range of issues as a way to help the wider humanitarian community manage their responses.

IRIN also plans to increase its production of short-film packages, focussing on two- to three-minute clips that can be used by TV outlets or on websites to highlight a situation and event and to target the general public.

IRIN will continue to use small production teams and digital technology to produce cost-effective films. Again, IRIN Films will be distributed free of charge to broadcasters, humanitarian agencies and advocacy groups. There will also be greater emphasis placed on marketing films, as well as IRIN's advocacy materials and text and photography services.

For 2007, **IRIN Radio** plans to move ahead with its drama series in Burundi, Somalia and Angola. In Burundi, the drama will focus more on the experiences of those settling back home, aiming to support the peace process and reconciliation at a grassroots level. **IRIN** will also work on handing over aspects of the soap opera to the refugee drama group, which is seeking to register itself in Burundi as a professional association.

IRIN will step up the Somali soap opera production and seek to broadcast it across a wider area, either by using local stations and/or shortwave. Providing radio content for southern Sudan will continue and be expanded, as funding allows. With donor support, IRIN will also launch a series of programmes and a drama series in northern Uganda, targeting the local population and LRA combatants who are still in southern Sudan or elsewhere in the bush. The prime aim of this project will be to support the peace process.

IRIN will continue to provide a regular and self-sustainable rights-based and gender-based radio-information and educational service in Angola, focusing on vulnerable groups in rural areas (particularly returnees). IRIN will also give them a platform to make their own voices heard in the decision-making process.

An evaluation of *Camatondo*, broadcast in Portuguese and in national languages in Angola, has already documented a positive impact on the behaviour and thinking of listeners. IRIN will build on this and include in the drama such topics as agriculture, mine prevention, health

2006 In-Depth Reports

- *Between Two Stones – Nepal's decade of conflict*
- *Killer Number One – The fight against malaria*
- *Minorities Under Siege – Pygmies today in Africa*
- *Guns Out of Control – The continuing threat of small arms*
- *When Disaster Strikes – The response to the South Asian earthquake*
- *Justice for a Lawless World? – Rights and reconciliation in a new era of international law*
- *Running Dry – The humanitarian impact of the global water crisis*



and hygiene (with an emphasis on transmissible diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS), rural development and participation. The project also seeks to contribute to the professional development of rural journalists as a means to ensure sustainability of its projects

In West Africa, IRIN intends to consolidate and expand its radio programmes and activities. A series on youth and children is planned, in cooperation with Unicef, Save the Children, International Rescue Committee and others in Côte d'Ivoire. Some of the topics include child labour and economic exploitation; child prostitution; child soldiers and the impact of conflict; youth unemployment; HIV/AIDS and young people; and young people and political mobilisation. IRIN will also undertake co-productions and training with radio stations in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

To varying degrees, all countries in southern Africa are vulnerable to the triple threat of poverty, HIV/AIDS and food insecurity. Research by development organisations suggests that the lack of effective communication is

a significant hindrance to overcoming these problems. As a result, the democratic process is held back because people do not receive all the information they need to take informed decisions; the response to major humanitarian and environmental crises is slower and the spread of misinformation continues unabated, especially on HIV/AIDS.

Throughout southern Africa, radio is an important source of information for those who are illiterate or lack access to newspapers, television or the internet. In 2007, IRIN will launch a new project to help increase the flow of information throughout the region. This will be done by providing radio stations with new audio materials to improve the quality and range of their broadcasts and by providing training and a platform for radio stations to share programmes with each other.

In Afghanistan, initiatives that began late in 2006 will be enhanced and strengthened. The stringer network across the country will be expanded, and participants will be given rigorous on-the-job training, enabling them to improve their

“I hear with a lot of pleasure your radio programme Camatondo every morning and I think you were very successful in building a soap opera of this kind, which succeeds in catching so much of the various demographic, cultural and anthropological aspects of Angola...”

Joao Soares, Coordinator of the UNDP project “Strengthening the Education System to fight HIV/AIDS in Angola”



Sudan Children play at the Lologo transit camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), 30 km southeast of the southern Sudanese capital of Juba, September 2006.

© Manoocher Deghati/IRIN

skills and share their knowledge within their radio stations.

Funding for an innovative Community Radio on Wheels initiative will be sought. The project aims to provide communities that have little access to radio with an opportunity to use radio to learn about issues affecting them and articulate their ideas about what should be happening.

The international community is at a crossroads in the fight against **HIV/AIDS**. The UN General Assembly's Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS in June 2006 recognised that the means exist "to reverse the global pandemic" and urged countries to scale up towards universal access

to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010. However, significant gaps remain, with responses so far failing to reach the most vulnerable populations: girl children, migrants, refugees, sex workers, intravenous drug users, prisoners, men who have sex with men and newborn infants. Human rights protection remains weak; support for orphans is often ineffectual; and access to paediatric ARV formulations is inadequate.

While southern Africa remains the epicentre of the pandemic, HIV prevalence is increasing in China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam. India alone accounts for 70 percent of cases in Asia. Infections continue to accelerate



Kenya. IRIN's Nairobi newsroom

in Russia and Ukraine, while the Caribbean remains the second-most affected region in the world. Building on five years of experience in Africa, IRIN's **PlusNews service** will extend its coverage to better serve a global audience, enhancing its service in Asia and extending it further south.

PlusNews will continue to promote dialogue on HIV and AIDS in order to enhance knowledge, awareness and advocacy among decision-makers, the media and those directly affected by the epidemic through the provision of timely,

relevant and accessible news and information. By doing so, IRIN hopes to improve the flow of accurate and accessible coverage of HIV and AIDS at international, national and community levels; strengthen media advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives; encourage the sharing of ideas, research and best practice; as well as highlight programmatic responses to HIV and AIDS.

The project also seeks to promote the voices of those living with the pandemic, while access to increased information will help to demystify and de-stigmatise HIV and AIDS.



Mozambique HIV mother and her baby wait at Santo Egidio clinic in Machava.

© IRIN

Impact/Influence

IRIN is the leading online provider of humanitarian news and information in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. It is the only information agency of its kind with headquarters in a developing country, and all IRIN's writers are based in and report directly from the field. It produces credible reports that are widely used by policy-makers in the UN, the humanitarian and donor community and NGOs. IRIN is also a major supplier of original text, photos, radio and video content to local and international media organisations. It delivers much of its content electronically via its online platform – www.IRINnews.org – and directly by email.

Traffic to IRIN's website has grown dramatically from year to year. Visits to the website jumped from 800,000 in 2005 to 1.2 million per month in 2006, an increase of 50 percent. The site received some 29 million hits a month in 2006.

Some 6,380 websites are linked to IRINnews.org. A web search in 2005 indicated well over one million page references to IRIN as quotes, links or re-posting of IRIN articles. IRIN maintains a large database and delivers specially packaged reports each day to 33,000 email addresses, some of which are shared by as many as 500 people. IRIN's content is also re-posted on other popular internet-based news services, such as AllAfrica.com (the internet's largest provider of African news content), Reuters AlertNet, AEIGiS (the largest content provider on HIV/AIDS copy) and ReliefWeb.

IRIN's coverage of events and issues has a major impact on decision makers, practitioners and media. NGOs working in Iraq, for example, said that IRIN reports have alerted them to urgent humanitarian problems and triggered

appropriate responses. News organisations such as the BBC, CNN, Al-Arabiya and MBC have either used IRIN content or followed-up IRIN stories to produce their TV reports. In addition, more than 200 internet news providers have reprinted IRIN stories and reports on their websites. The major Arab and Western newspapers have also used IRIN articles, proving the continued need for humanitarian reporting from the region. In the last three years, IRIN's coverage of the

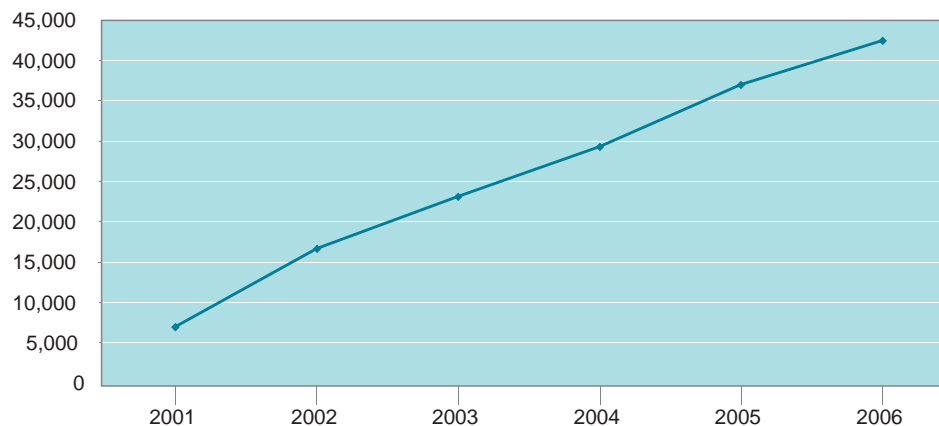
Email subscribers by service (October 2006)

Service	Subscribers
Africa	23,185
Asia	6,546
Middle East	2,929
Africa French	4,511
Plusnews	4,675
Plusnews French	552
Total Subscribers	42,398

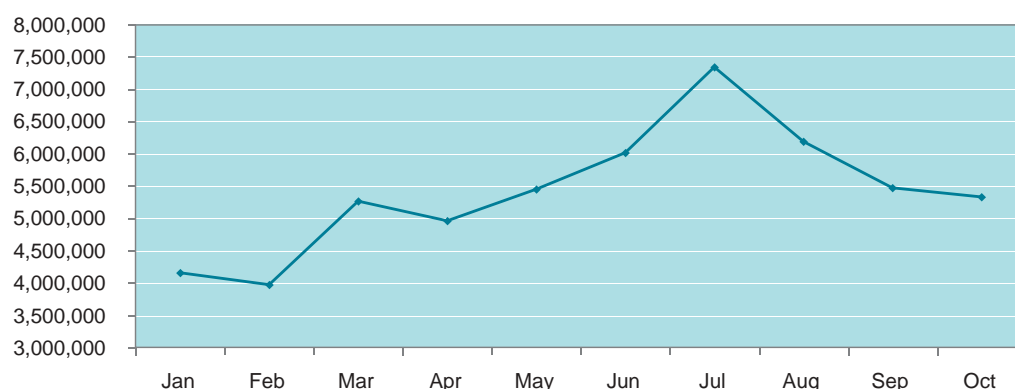
conflict in northern Uganda – until recently one of the world's most underreported crisis – included a film, a book, regular news reports and features and helped to raise global awareness and double funding levels. In Chad, a UNHCR official reported that DFID had contacted the organisation after reading an IRIN report to ask if it needed greater financial assistance. The International Herald Tribune sent a reporter from Paris to Senegal report on illegal mass migration after an IRIN story on the subject.

IRIN's Horn of Africa reports are widely used by newspapers across the region. Its articles have

Email subscribers 2001 - 2006



IRINnews.org - Page views per month (2006)



appeared in the East African weekly, the Sudan Mirror, the Khartoum Monitor, Uganda's New Vision and Ethiopian and Somali media, as well as numerous diaspora websites.

IRIN also continues to trigger interest in little-known humanitarian situations. IRIN's publication of a series on people who are smuggled from Somalia across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen was picked up by the mainstream media, including the BBC and The Economist.

In Zimbabwe, where journalists are restricted by formal regulations as well as by fear for their own physical safety, IRIN's human-centred reporting has been recognised by civil society for its accuracy. Its coverage has become a staple of the private media.

Feedback from users also confirms that IRIN film documentaries are becoming a key part of advocacy efforts. Humanitarian agencies, human rights groups, donors, educational institutions and policy-makers now use these films as an integral part of their sensitisation, training, fundraising and educational programmes.

Demand for these films and the number of partners using them is growing exponentially. Most importantly, IRIN's film documentaries now reach a growing number of schoolchildren, offering them a unique insight into the wider world in which we live.

Radio is by far the most accessible and popular medium in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. It is often the only information outlet to the world for millions of people. IRIN has been effectively using radio to connect communities to each other and to the outside world since

2000. IRIN radio operates out some of the world's worst trouble spots – Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Somalia and Sudan – and produces diverse programmes that spark discussions on human rights, gender equality, social justice, governance and democracy, developing capacity and training local journalists including a growing number female broadcasters.

A survey conducted in 2005 indicated that the IRIN Kirundi radio drama has a huge following in Burundi and in the refugee camps in Tanzania. More than 40 percent of Burundians surveyed said they listened regularly to the IRIN Radio drama. A significant proportion of the respondents said they found the drama informative and educational, especially on issues such as repatriation, HIV/AIDS, health and gender/family issues. Many respondents in Burundi said the drama had shown them the "positive face" of refugees in Tanzania, and that they realised they shared similar problems. It is clear that the drama had given the refugees a voice and a means to promote understanding and reconciliation and address key issues. Some respondents also indicated positive behavioural changes, including the dangers of extramarital affairs and polygamy.

IRIN Radio features in Burundi, Somalia and Sudan have helped maintain a consistent level of discussion and public debate over important issues that would otherwise not necessarily make it into the radio schedules. IRIN programmes are highly regarded by stations and listeners alike and have served as a benchmark of quality for radio journalists.

Plus News's audience is extremely diverse, from the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS to the Western Cape Networking AIDS Community of



Sudan IRIN staff reporter Jane Some, interviewing Capt. Paddy Ankunda, spokesman of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) at the Government – Lord's Resistance Army talks in Juba, capital of South Sudan, October 2006.

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South Africa. The University of South Africa uses PlusNews material in a workbook for students; the Ethiopian AIDS Resource Centre features PlusNews articles in its virtual library; and the Pan African Treatment Access Movement uses PlusNews to inform their advocacy initiatives on the continent.

PlusNews English has more than 4,000 direct email subscribers. Significantly, many of the subscriber addresses are institutional email accounts, through which PlusNews is internally redistributed, further increasing readership numbers. Countless other people view the service or read selected stories, by virtue of its

redistribution through every key HIV/AIDS mailing list and web site, such as AF-AIDS and PWHA-NET.

The PlusNews website (www.plusnews.org), which is updated daily, records around 120,000 visitors and 500,000 page views per month. Currently over 800 web pages link to Plusnews, according to Google search.

The PlusNews radio services are used across Africa, from South African townships to a remote station in Gulu in northern Uganda, to conflict-scarred Cote d'Ivoire - to name only a few.



" ... thank you for the wonderful help following up on the humanitarian issues in our country and [for] writing stories that helped in getting aid to our organization [which] has been struggling to support displaced people in Iraq ... Three donors have already contacted us to offer food, blankets and medical supplies to our organizations since January of this year."

Fatah Ahmed, Vice-president and spokesperson for the Iraq Aid Association

IRIN 2007 Budget

IRIN Core Operations Budget for 2007

Budget Item	US \$
Global support staff and services	1,538,828
Core Film and Photo services	605,100
Great Lakes and East/Horn of Africa editorial services	1,562,040
West Africa editorial services	965,260
Southern Africa editorial services	663,438
Middle East/Asia editorial services	1,576,908
Sub-total	6,911,574
Programme Support Costs (13%)	898,505
Total requirement	7,810,079

IRIN Film - Project Requirements for 2007

Budget Item	US \$
Additional full-time film-maker	140,000
Outreach and marketing consultancy	21,000
Documentary production costs	120,000
Freelance commissions	25,000
Staff and consultancy travel	12,000
Distribution and delivery costs	30,000
Equipment and supplies	15,000
Sub-total	363,000
Programme support costs (13%)	47,190
Total requirement	410,190

<i>IRIN Radio - Core* Project Requirements for 2007</i>	
Budget Item	US \$
HQs support team (Nairobi)	336,300
Central, East and the Horn of Africa Regions	589,170
West Africa Region (Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone)	443,129
Southern Africa Region (Angola)	562,000
Asia Region (Afghanistan)	452,487
Sub-total	2,046,786
Programme Support Costs (13%)	266,082
Total requirement	2,312,868

* Additional opportunities for donor support will be presented in a separate appeal document for IRIN Radio

<i>IRIN Plusnews - Project Requirements for 2007*</i>	
Budget Item	US \$
Staff costs (editors, writers, radio producers)	727,000
Freelance contributions (stringers & translators)	180,200
Staff travel costs	69,500
Promotion and marketing	12,500
Communications	30,200
Office supplies, equipment and support	47,045
Sub-total	1,066,445
Programme Support Costs (13%)	138,638
Total budget for 2007	1,205,083
Less: Confirmed Grants	-386,544
Total Requirement	818,539

* In addition, the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor project requires US \$447,000

For more information on IRIN activities and funding requirements, please contact the IRIN Director, Ms Pat Banks at the following address:

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