

ANNUAL REPORT

2007-2008



Australian National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW)
Level 15 Matthews Building, University of NSW, Kensington NSW 2052

**PO Box 6594
UNSW Sydney
NSW 1466**

**PH: (02) 9385 1961
FAX: (02) 9662 8991**

**EMAIL: ancorw@ancorw.org
WEB SITE: www.ancorw.org**

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all ANCORW members & supporters for their contributions to this report. In particular, we express our thanks for permission to use the various photographs.



UNHCR, Geneva – ExCom 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANCORW'S MISSION STATEMENT	4
ANCORW BOARD MEMBERS	5
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT	7
KEY REPORTS	
- AWAU	9
- Olivia Wellesley-Cole	14
- Aileen Crowe	15
- Potter Foundation	16
- ExCom and Related Meetings	18
- Refugee Women at Risk	23
TREASURER'S REPORT	32
FULL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	33

ANCORW'S MISSION STATEMENT

ANCORW is a lobbying, advocacy and research group which works with and for refugee women and their families in order to bring about change in the refugee system and to enhance their ability to rebuild their lives.

ANCORW regards refugee issues as human rights issues. Empowerment and the full achievement of all human rights for refugee women and their children are equally as important as protection.

At the national level, ANCORW, lobbies for changes in domestic law, social policy and for improved service provision.

At an International level, ANCORW lobbies at the United Nations for changes in International law, United Nations Declarations.

ANCORW is committed to undertaking research into issues which adversely affect the lives of refugee women and their dependant children and to use this research to lobby for change.

ANCORW is committed to empower refugee women to have control over their own lives and to advocate on their own behalf through the provision of advocacy training and by providing opportunities for refugee women to participate in national and international forums.



Australian Team Geneva 2007

ANCORW BOARD MEMBERS

NAME / POSITION	QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
Salwa Alhag Co-Chair	African Refugee Women worker & Refugee Women Housing Officer, Auburn Migrant Resource Centre. 10 years working as the lawyer in Sudan involved in different activities regarding human rights. 2 years working with Sudanese women group in Cairo. Graduate of AWAU.
Eileen Pittaway Co-Chair	Director, The Centre for Refugee Research; Lecturer University of New South Wales; Co-chair, Asian Women's Human Rights Council.
Rebecca Eckert Secretary	Research Associate, Centre for Refugee Research. Works with refugee women at risk with a particular focus on settlement of refugees in rural and regional areas. Project manager on related refugee settlement projects.
Effie Mitchell Treasurer	Research Assistant, Centre for Refugee Research. 17 years in a major Australian Financial institution with a focus in international banking and credit risk management policy, training and systems. Extensive project management experience.
Tenneh Kpaka	Advocate for Sierra Leonean refugees both at a national and an international level. Delegate for Australia Workers Union. Arrived in Australia in 2001 as a refugee through the Off Shore Humanitarian Program and has worked with a number of refugee community organisations.
Carole Shaw	Senior Manager, Overseas Programs, International Women's Development Agency. Regional representation on Security Council Resolution 1325, Women Peace and Security. Researcher and trainer with women in post-conflict situations, B+10 coordinator and educational support for refugee students in schools.
Juliana Nkrumah	Assistant Manager Refugee and Network Support Team Multicultural Services Branch of Centrelink. Extensive Community Development experience with refugee and migrant women in government and non government sector over 20 years in Australia. Leader in African community groups.

Nava Malula	Project Worker, African Women's Advocacy Unit. Arrived in Australia in 2003 and has since worked extensively in the community and with a number of organisations supporting refugee communities.
Aileen Crowe	Refugee advocate for Asylum Seekers in detention and in the community. Member of the House of Welcome Projects Committee. Researcher in the area of Refugee Policy and Exclusion.
Astrid Perry	Area Manager Multicultural Health. Over twenty years of experience in community services industry including working with migrants, women and neighbourhood centres in government and non-government organisations.
Olivia Wellesley-Cole	Olivia Wellesley-Cole: rejoined the board of ANCORW in 2007. Has Masters' degrees in Management and International Law & has worked in refugee resettlement in Sydney & as a protection officer with UNHCR in Timor Leste. Now works in Northern Territory.
Linda Bartolomei	Senior Researcher, The Centre for Refugee Research and ANCORW; Trainer & Lecturer, Masters International Social Development.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

It has been another very successful year, the Board of ANCORW and the many people who work with us can be very pleased with what we have achieved. As co-chairs, we are proud to have had the opportunity to be part of the work of this dynamic group. You will find reports of all of our major projects below.

It is important to remember that ANCORW is not a service provider. We are an advocacy body, with a volunteer board and absolutely no core funding. Running costs come from members fees and from fundraising activities undertaken by the board.

The very successful African Women's Advocacy Unit, which is auspiced by ANCORW runs as an independent entity. We are very pleased that within such a short time of establishing itself, AWAU will be incorporating and becoming an organisation in its own right in the next financial year. Well done to the AWAU Management team and all the women who have gone through the training programs.

The close relationship between the UNSW Centre for Refugee Research continues. ANCORW is currently a financial partner in a major research project responding to the resettlement needs of women at risk in Australia. We are contributing the sum of \$16,000 per year to the project for a period of three years. These funds are raised by Board members through the provision of community training. This training has enabled us to keep in touch with the broad range of settlement service providers, and to ensure that our work is firmly grounded in the communities with whom we work.

The "Celebration of Refugee Lives – Stories of Strength and Resilience" project funded by the Ian Potter Foundation has been an exciting process, involving a number of people who came to Australia as refugees in a celebration of successful settlement.

ANCORW is still very involved in the Australian Refugee Rights Alliance, the network which contributes to the Australian NGO input into the annual NGO Consultations with UNHCR and the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. Both of these meetings are usually held in September and in 2007, six members of the board were participants. Tenneh Kpaka was the refugee representative from ANCORW and Nava Malula represented AWAU. In 2008, the NGO Consultation took place in June and four ANCORW Board members attended this. Nava Malula again came representing ANCORW, while Liliane Lucky Lukoki represented AWAU. Full reports of these meetings are available on the ANCORW and CRR Websites www.ancorw.org and www.crr.unsw.edu.au.

The presence of a strong ANCORW representation ensures that issues of refugee women are raised in every session and kept high on the agenda. The voices of women who have lived the refugee experience is a powerful reminder about the situation and experiences of refugee communities. Their knowledge of what is needed on the ground is invaluable. The High Commissioner himself has applauded the inclusion of the refugee voice at these important meetings.

We would like to thank all of the board members and supporters of ANCORW for the enormous amount of work which went into these achievements. Small and dedicated groups of women can change the world.

Salwa Alhag and Eileen Pittaway



ANCORW members meet the Head of UNHCR NGO Liaison Unit 2007

KEY REPORTS

African Women's Advocacy Unit



African Women's Advocacy Unit

The African Women's Advocacy Unit is a project auspiced by ANCORW, in which refugee women from African countries are trained in the human rights framework into effective citizen participation in Australia, their country of resettlement.

The project has been funded since 2005 by DIAC. The outcomes of the project have been spectacular with graduates taking on leadership roles in both their communities and other organisations including Board membership of ANCORW.

AWAU focuses on women in resettlement. Refugee women in resettlement have a view of life that is different from the mainstream, many wish to leave the 'refugee experience' behind and focus on the future and becoming effective citizens. They also hold an international focus on keeping in touch with developments in countries of origin and respective refugee camps in order to support bringing resolutions to the issues of the refugees who are still in asylum and the conflict and post conflict activities.

The aim of the AWAU is to develop a group of women from the African continent who will take on leadership of the issues pertaining to African communities in NSW.

AWAU provides an opportunity for ANCORW to demonstrate and fulfil the part of its mission which is around "*empowering refugee women to have control over their own lives and to advocate on their own behalf*".

The project is the brainchild of Juliana Nkrumah, who together with Carole Shaw and Astrid Perry form the Management Group of AWAU. Beatrice Sesay (Graduate of AWAU) will join the management team in the new financial year.

The Project office has to date, been co-located with the Pacific Islands Women's Advisory and Support Service (PIWASS) in Bankstown. In the 2007/2008 financial year, AWAU will be moving to Baulkham Hills Holroyd Parramatta MRC (BHHPMRC). This move will allow better access for the

African women to the office and staff. We acknowledge and are grateful for the support PIWASS has given AWAU since 2006 and hope to continue working in a spirit of mutuality across common issues.

Monica Anderssen has continued to be AWAU Project Officer and this year has been supported by Nava Malula as the AWAU Project Officer allocated to an AWAU Graduate. A position supported and mentored by Monica, Juliana and the AWAU management team.

The AWAU management team draw on a range of skills, knowledge and experience. Over the last financial year, Carole Shaw and Juliana Nkrumah have worked on developing and training AWAU members. Astrid has brought considerable mediation, human resources, administration and financial skills to the team and has worked mainly on the administration of AWAU. She continues to monitor finances and works closely with the ANCORW accountant to track budget expenditure. This combination of skills, strengths and flexibility to work with AWAU women has provided the environment for AWAU to extend and develop during the 2006/2007 financial year

This year AWAU was part of the group of projects evaluated by Irene Ross and Associates for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. We have not as yet received feedback from this evaluation.

A pivotal role of AWAU is the training of refugee women in gender, human rights, decision making, community participation, community representation, participatory leadership and mandate, advocacy, research analysis and presentation of community issues.

A total of 70 women have participated in the 4 groups of training conducted so far. The noted outcome of this is that AWAU graduates have gained the confidence to make presentations, represent their communities' needs with various government agencies, attend strategic meetings with peak groups, and engage with interagency groups. In some of these issues, members of AWAU partner with different agencies including ANCORW to develop a coordinated position for action.

During the last year AWAU members have expressed the desire to set up AWAU as an independent NGO, working with the broader women's networks to support issues and positions. Due to this, over the last few months, AWAU and ANCORW have been discussing the future direction of AWAU.

During the 2008/2009 financial year, AWAU will constitute on its own as an autonomous organisation. This will allow African women to continue to strengthen their skills in leadership and operate at the level of true partnership with long existing agencies like ANCORW, the Refugee Council of Australia and other agencies. ANCORW has agreed to support and work with AWAU through this transition.

AWAU Activities 2007 – 2008

Presented below is a breakdown of the activities undertaken by AWAU during the period of July 2007 – June 2008.

AWAU meetings:

7 meetings were held with AWAU graduate members during the year. AWAU used these meetings to, for example, prepare for the community forums, decide what future directions were to be undertaken, and to provide a forum for continued evaluation of the organisation. On occasion, additional meetings were held to prepare for forums, these were held in February and May 08.

Community forums:

Four community forums were held in financial year 07/08. In addition, one roundtable meeting was held. The forums were organised and promoted by AWAU members.

Specifically,

- Community forum held with DIAC and DOCS 16/8/07;
- Community forum held with local politicians 15/9/07;
- Roundtable meeting held with DOCS 30/5/08;
- Community forum held with Department of Education and Training 31/5/08;
- Community meeting held with the NSW Police Force on 7/6/08.

Advocacy Training:

Another training programme was held by AWAU in early 2008. The training was held from 26/1/08 – 10/2/08 over 6 sessions. The training was attended by 10 women from 5 communities, namely Burundi, Congo, Eritrea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The training was attended by women from Auburn Local Government Area (Auburn, Berala), Bankstown Local Government Area (Chester Hill), Blacktown Local Government Area (Mt Druitt), Fairfield Local Government Area (Bossley Park, Carramar) and Wollongong Local Government Area (Wollongong).

A graduation ceremony for the graduates was held 6th June 2008 at the Canley Vale Diggers. The ceremony was a very successful morning, with eight of the ten graduates attending the ceremony, and many family and friends there to support their achievements.

The ceremony was attended by Mr Laurie Ferguson, M.P and Ms Karen Van Raak from DIAC. The event was compeered by an AWAU graduate from the 2005/2006 programme, Ms Fatima Elzibar. A welcome was extended on behalf of AWAU by a graduate of the 2005/2006 AWAU programme, Ms Beatrice Sesay, and reflections upon the training were presented by graduand Ms Yvette Niyonzima. Acknowledgement and appreciation was proffered to

the funding body, DIAC and to Juliana Nkrumah and Carole Shaw for their tireless efforts in conducting the training by Ms Beatrice Sesay. Acknowledgment and encouragement for the efforts of AWAU members was offered by Dr Astrid Perry.

Management Committee Operations Training:

Additional training for AWAU members was held 24/5/08 and 25/5/08. Training covered topics including definition and structure, role and function, responsibilities and accessing management committees, skills auditing and media and media policy. 14 women attended day 1, 10 women attended day 2.

Mentoring:

A summary of specific mentoring acts:

- Mentoring of AWAU graduate project worker to attend CEDAW roundtable in April 2008.
- Mentoring of an AWAU graduate and AWAU graduate project worker. Both attended UNHCR EXCOM in June 2008.
- 1 day a week position held by AWAU graduate. Mentored by AWAU project worker.
- Mentoring AWAU graduates for representation at roundtable meetings and community forums.
- Mentoring of AWAU graduate from January 2008 group in office work

Regional Expansion:

- Discussion with organisations in Newcastle and Wollongong
- Many communities interested in model
- Afghan community interested
- Burmese women in Bowral interested

Interest expressed in model – verbal commitment to expansion of programme into regional areas once ongoing funding of the AWAU project was confirmed.

“We are Afghan women, we need this information but we have not got a group like this” words of an Afghan woman who attended a forum organised by AWAU.

AWAU plans to auspice and mentor other refugee groups to operate with the model, as the quote above reflects the sentiments expressed by other refugee women’s groups.

As a member of the Management team, I personally would like to thank:

- All the women who have participated and graduated from the AWAU project since 2005
- All the women who have believed in AWAU and kept engaged with its activities
- Monica and Nava in the office for a marvellous job. Monica for being extremely well organised and keeping us on time with the reports to

DIAC, the funding body; Nava, for being the best advocate AWAU could have. *MERCI BEAUCOUP!*

- Astrid, what can I say, thank you is just not enough. You have stepped into the fray and just got the structure right and running really well so that the rest of us can be free to do what we do best. Thank you so much, I cannot speak a word of Swiss so thank you is the only language we share together.
- Carole, you never stop listening to the critical chatter, thanks for listening even when I do not make sense and helping me sort it all out so I can be strong for all the women who choose to come under the AWAU banner!
- Irene Ross has participated in sessions with the women to plan their thinking around becoming an independent organisation, thank you.
- AWAU management continues to thank the ANCORW Board for auspicing the project and providing a partnership that has supported some of the women in achieving their goals.

Juliana Nkrumah

On behalf of AWAU Management

News from the Top End – Olivia Wellesley-Cole

Shortly after being re-elected to ANCORW board in 2007, I accepted a job with Top End Women's Legal Service (TEWLS) in Darwin, Northern Territory. TEWLS is a small, non profit organisation providing a free legal advice, information and referral service to women, with special concern for women who face additional discrimination for reasons such as, race, culture, language, poverty, age, disability and sexuality. My clients are women from Aboriginal communities subject to the Northern Territory Intervention, women in prison and women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

The work with women from CALD backgrounds is undertaken by two of us in the office. Between us we provide legal advice session, education sessions and referrals to newly arrived migrants, more established migrants and women from a refugee-like background. Our partner agencies in this work are the Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory, the Adult Migrant English Program run at Charles Darwin University, and Melaleuca Refugee Centre.

The work with Aboriginal women required a different set of partners. We work with five other legal organisations that are based in Darwin, and each one of us has our particular areas of expertise as well as geographic location. My job requires me to work with Aboriginal women in eight local town camps / communities on legal information & education. The furthest of these is 110km from the city, so requires a day trip to provide services. While I have visited a group of Aboriginal communities that are more remote from Darwin (a 5-hour trip away) this is was a once-off scoping visit, and these more remote locations are addressed by the other 5 organisations mentioned above.

The topics that are of concern to our clients include problems with credit and debt (cars, credit cards, mobile phone offers), domestic violence, child support and other Centrelink / welfare issues – including the infamous Income Management, which is applied only in Aboriginal communities / camps.

Now for a few words about the prison work. This has its own particular challenges not least of which is the short length of time that women stay in prison compared to men (generally for a few months) compounded by the rate of re-offending; in the few months that I have been visiting the prison I have seen some five of the 30 women leave and come back a few weeks later. There are also challenges with language, as many women have English as a second language, wether they be from CALD backgrounds, or Aboriginal; interpreters are not readily available. The project that gets me into the prison is an arts / craft project run by a domestic violence service and a sexual assault service, and providing legal information is seen as a complementary activity.

So in a typical fortnight I visit the prison, go to 2-3 Aboriginal communities, and attend the AMEP program talking to women from CALD backgrounds.

On the advocacy side, I have contributed to a number of submissions to Federal & Territory government since I have been here. There has recently been an government-instituted review into the Northern Territory Intervention (into Aboriginal

communities) so I have spent the past few weeks analysing our results and submitting a report on our findings. I also contributed to a paper on the proposed mandatory reporting of Domestic Violence (by health workers), something under consideration by the territory government.

The work has a variety of activities associated with it. My experience with ANCORW certainly set me up well to take up these challenges!

The Challenges of Working with People Seeking Asylum Living in the Community - Aileen Crowe

Working with people seeking asylum in Australia has many challenges. People from some parts of India and the Philippines suffer persecution as a result of conflicts between different religions. People from Ukraine who work hard suffer extortion attacks as a result of the widespread poverty and people from Colombia suffer persecution as a result of drug cartels and their criminal activity. Chinese people born in Indonesia have problems too. All of these countries are densely populated, and yet all have close knit communities who recognise the stranger easily, making it difficult for those who suffer persecution to enjoy a reasonable quality of life outside of their own specific birthplace. For example, Dominic (not his real name), a highly skilled man who never married, came to Australia because of his political activity associated with his father. He failed at the Refugee Review Tribunal and returned to his home state. Prior to coming to Australia he had attempted to set up business in two different states in India and his business was trashed by locals on both occasions. After his return, it was no time before he left India again and went to Kuwait where he managed to stay a few years on a temporary permit. Last Christmas he rang to say that he is now living in Morocco.

Over the years the Minister's Delegates and the Refugee Review Tribunal Members have taken the option of refusing entry into Australia often on the basis of the possibility of relocation. The present government has shown compassion towards some families in these situations giving the children a chance of a safe and secure future but this is always dependent upon the personal decision of the Minister. In the future I would hope that the immigration process will be more inclusive of people who suffer in these particular areas and who fear having to return because they know in their hearts that, like Dominic they will never be able to successfully relocate in their own country.



Celebration of Refugee Lives: Stories of Strength and Resilience.

In July 2007, ANCORW received generous funding from the Ian Potter Foundation for the 'Celebration of Refugee Lives: Stories of Strength and Resilience' Community Education Toolkit. Produced in partnership with the Centre for Refugee Research, the toolkit includes a film and book documenting the inspirational stories of successful refugees living in Australia. These stories challenge and shatter many of the myths circulating about refugee communities. The film and book are accompanied by a short training program. By sharing in the lives and achievements of refugees, we hope to raise awareness about the journey of resettlement and the extraordinary strength and resilience it takes to both survive and succeed in a new country. These community education materials are being developed in response to requests for resources which both address myths about refugees and which celebrate their successes.

The project commenced in January 2008 with Rebecca Eckert, ANCORW Secretary and Geraldine Doney, Research Assistant for the Centre for Refugee Research as project staff. Initially, meetings were held with community organisations and service providers who gave input into the development of the project and made suggestion for potential participants. STARTTS, Refugee Council of Australia, Auburn Migrant Resource Centre and Mercy Refugee Service have provided invaluable assistance to the project. The project is now close to being finalised and has captured the amazing resilience of resettling refugees and documented their many triumphs. It is clear that while the experiences of refugees are diverse, each brings with them inspiring strengths, knowledge and wisdom, and a desire to contribute to a new life here in Australia. In sharing their experiences, participants have emphasised that settlement is not easy, there are many challenges. But that success is possible with the help of supportive services and an understanding and welcoming community.



During the course of the project, some of the strong and resilient refugees who now call Australia home have shared their thoughts on what it means to finally be settled:

“ Having a country to belong to. You feel like you have somewhere to call home. Somewhere to look after you”

“I am learning and encouraging others”

“Becoming citizens was a dream..we found our hope”

“I have equal rights like everyone else in Australia”

“I belong!!!!”

“Where my children feel safe, where I will be safe, where my children will have a future”

All participants have embraced the opportunity to share their own experiences, in their own words. But the making of the film and book have been at times a confronting experience. For some refugees it is the first time they have told their stories. One participant said: “It has been long enough, now it is time to speak”. Others have spoken many times about their experiences of coming to Australia but this has been a unique opportunity to speak about their life in light of their successes since resettling.

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to take part in your project. It was an incredible opportunity to share my ideas and through that make a difference. I felt honoured and appreciated for what I said; I felt like my ideas matter, my views matter; I was left feeling completely empowered. Imagine if every person in Australia felt that way! What a country it would be! I look forward to seeing the final version of the documentary. I am sure it will be wonderful and a huge contribution to whoever sees it.” (Goranka Slavujevic)



The toolkit will be launched in September 2008 by refugee participants.

EXCOM & RELATED MEETINGS – Geneva 2007-8

A summary of the meetings see ANCORW and CRR websites for further information and full reports.

Key Themes from the 2007 UNHCR NGO Consultations and Executive Committee Meetings

Debra Tami and Amy Luschwitz

Durable Solutions – resettlement, local integration, voluntary repatriation, naturalisation and self-reliance.

Along with protection, working for durable solutions is at the heart of UNHCR's activities. Delegations reaffirmed that voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity is the preferred solution, but that returns must be sustainable, hence the need to address the gap between relief and development. Some examples of initiatives for local integration were described and a number of delegations called for more extensive resettlement opportunities. Attention was drawn to the need to resolve protracted refugee situations, noting that the Office needs to have in place exit strategies, and that the international community should make all efforts possible to provide additional resources to assist in addressing these areas in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing.

Many delegations described challenges and activities being undertaken in their own countries or how they were assisting others in promoting durable solutions, including through new programmes, improved asylum procedures, national legislation, and tripartite agreements. Visits by the High Commissioner, the ExCom Chairman, and other UN staff to various operations were welcomed. It is clear that most delegations are very pleased with the level of cooperation enjoyed with UNHCR.

Children at Risk –

On more specific issues, there was strong support for the Conclusion on Children at Risk. At the same time, some delegations welcomed the idea of having discussions and an evaluation on the process leading to ExCom conclusions. In terms of others at risk, there were many calls on UNHCR to continue to address gender-based violence as well as to promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming. Several delegations expressed concern over gaps in ensuring adequate nutrition for refugees and urged the international community at large to attend to this vital need. And there were several reminders that the staff of UNHCR or its implementing partners must not be put at risk either – their safety and access to victims must be assured or they will not be able to carry out their responsibilities.

Asylum/Migration Nexus

In that regard, there were numerous comments on the importance of addressing protection in mixed migratory flows but also expressions of caution that UNHCR should not be considered a "migration agency." On the other hand, there seems to be general agreement that UNHCR should indeed be an agency that discusses migration, and that it should continue its participation in the Global Migration Group and its engagement with other partners on these issues. Many delegations also welcomed UNHCR's response to the Green Paper on the Future Common European Asylum System and its participation in the second phase of discussions.

IDPs

At the same time, while recognizing that Governments have the primary responsibility for internally displaced persons, many delegations welcomed UNHCR's evolving role in assisting IDPs. There was strong support for the Office's involvement in the Cluster approach, especially its lead role in the protection, emergency shelter, and camp coordination and camp management clusters, in partnership with others in the UN system. It was noted that UNHCR is not the "IDP agency" and that it is important for the Office to have exit strategies for IDP situations, several delegations commenting that UNHCR's work with IDPs should not come at the expense of its protection of refugees. But others are looking forward to further evaluations of the Cluster approach and its possible rollout in other situations.

UNHCR Reform (Partnership and Accountability)

UNHCR was encouraged to strengthen its partnerships in other areas, especially with civil society, NGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement. In terms of overall UN reforms, there were several calls for UNHCR to continue its engagement with "Delivering as One", the Global Humanitarian Platform and the Peacebuilding Commission.

Strong support has been expressed for the reform process which the High Commissioner has initiated, including outpostting, decentralization and regionalization, defining the methodology for a Comprehensive Field Review, improving management of resources, and proposing a new budget structure comprising four separate pillars. While there were varying points of emphasis, there was general agreement that these reforms should enable UNHCR to respond in a more effective and flexible manner. The new budget approach proposes to differentiate between refugee and stateless programmes and reintegration and IDP projects, which should provide for greater accountability, predictability and transparency. Nevertheless, some delegations still have some reservations and have requested further consultations on this new budget architecture. Support was expressed for biennial budgeting and for a temporary increase in the appropriation level of the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve, and many delegations pointed out the need for additional resources for UNHCR's programmes.

Other Observations

Such responsibilities have been reaffirmed over and over again in this debate. Delegations have reiterated their support for UNHCR's approach, guided by its mandate, to cope with new and continuing challenges. But UNHCR cannot operate alone. The High Commissioner suggested in his opening remarks that the international community must also begin to cope with these challenges. He noted that this requires political leadership and that Member States alone have the legitimacy to shape the strategies and instruments required to serve people in need. It is therefore up to the international community, in cooperation with UNHCR and its partners, to get on with this task.

Key Themes from the 2008 UNHCR NGO Consultations

Position papers

The selected position papers taken to Geneva in 2008 were the result of numerous planning and strategy meetings. It was important to take papers that could be used to inform and advocate for specific issues, particularly as they related to the formal scheduled Plenary Sessions and Side Meetings.

Copies of the papers can be found as addenda to this ARRA report and also on-line at: http://www.crr.unsw.edu.au/unhcr_advocacy.html

The papers taken to Geneva in 2008 by the ARRA team included:

1. Mainstreaming
2. Statelessness
3. Strategic Resettlement
4. 10 Point Plan
5. Education as Protection
6. Livelihoods
7. Children of Rape
8. Bride Wealth
9. Women at Risk in Congo
10. Residual refugee population – Ghana
11. Banyamulenge: Risks and Protection
12. Implementation of the Conclusion on Women and Girls at Risk

Bi Lateral Meetings

In addition to the scheduled meetings of the Consultations in Geneva, the opportunity is also available for ARRA members to meet with UNHCR officers to discuss and progress individual issues. A number UNHCR officers kindly made themselves available to fit into the tight schedules of the ARRA members for a number of productive bi-lateral meetings. ARRA are most appreciative to UNHCR for these opportunities to strengthen our collaboration and associations.

Documenting for the Rapporteur

The draft Guide to participating in UNHCR's Annual Consultations with NGOs 'Working with UNHCR' describes the role of the Rapporteur:

Each year, one NGO representative is selected, in advance of the Annual Consultations, to be the Rapporteur (the meeting reporter). The primary role of the Rapporteur is to report back to the Annual Consultations on the last day during the closing Plenary Session. S/He highlights major developments, recommendations and issues that need to be addressed. The Rapporteur also provides a verbal and written report to ExCom to be presented to the government representatives on behalf of the NGOs. The Rapporteur also prepares a written detailed report on the Annual Consultations. UNHCR finalizes, publishes and distributes the Report.

The position of Rapporteur for the years 2007 and 2008 have been successfully carried out by James Thomson (National Council of Churches in Australia), a member of the ARRA team.

In addition to this role, the interns from the Centre for Refugee Research also formally fulfilled the role of documenters to the sessions and side meetings. Their input was fed directly to the Rapporteur to support his reporting requirements.

ICVA kindly arranged for the documenters to have access to the speakers and moderators for each session. This ensured an efficient and effective process.

The documenters for 2008 were:

Melissa Barden
Philippa Curran
Jodie Kidd
Jacqueline Lord
Shaonee Rahman
Erinch Sahan
Clare Thompson

CROSS CUTTING THEMES in 2008

The following issues arose consistently across a number of the formal Plenary Sessions and Side Meetings at the 2008 Annual Consultations with NGOs. The points under each are extracted from the formal minutes.

1. Conventions and Conclusions and their Implementation

The following are a splattering of the comments regarding the formulation, use and effectiveness of UNHCR Conclusions:

- Complaint of watering down eg. The Convention Against Torture (CAT).
- Comments of ‘another policy’ that gets put on the shelf.
- Need to be able to implement. eg. ‘Global Trends’ document. The most important question regards the strategic and action element that must follow.
- Lack of implementation mechanisms. eg. “The 1951 Convention is the greatest of human rights convention that has no enforcement mechanism. Therefore it is a shame that the reaction of a mere NGO pointing finger has to be so negative.”
- ‘States should be asked for what they do to follow up on Conclusions that they have adopted through a formal reporting mechanism.’
- ‘How are we going to implement all of these documents? – the Conclusion is worth no more than the paper it is printed on if it is on the shelf. An international working group of women and girls at risk has been formed to work on strategies for implementation.

Conclusion: Excellent instruments and guidelines are in place however challenges in implementing and measurement of effectiveness.

2. Interference / Politics

There were complaints that many states have not signed to Refugee and Human Rights obligations, and the accompanying question of how can this be reconciled with advocacy efforts to improve standards?

Further complaints that States had not signed the Convention but nonetheless stop progress and continue to comment and water down documentation.

‘The idea that you have non states parties to the Convention in the room is problematic in setting the rules. UNHCR has fallen victim to states being interested in their own concerns rather than refugee protection.’

3. Continuing Situations: Protracted / IDP / Urban v. Camp

Great concern raised in relation to the number and extended term relating to so many protracted refugee situations and IDPs with seemingly little progress. Often quoted to be negative movement.

Also, the issues of urban refugees versus camp refugees, sadly implying that one must suffer for the other group to gain any relief.

4. Refugee involvement at all levels of policy making and implementation

A growing articulation of that people of refugee background need to be at the forefront in assisting NGOs and UNHCR in determining what is needed at every level of policy making and implementation. ‘... affected population must always be in mind. They are the best gauges of independence, neutrality and impartiality and their ideas should be incorporated at the highest levels of planning.’

Additionally, that a ‘rights based approach’ for women and children at risk needs to be advanced. A lot more work needs to be done in the field of gender empowerment.

5. Difficulties in addressing attitude problems

The issue of attitude was raised in relation to all stakeholders from policy developers, to member states, NGOs and field staff.

6. Lack of relevant training

Often thought to lead to the preceding issue of inappropriate and uninformed attitudes.

7. Accountability

Operational follow up mechanisms and international agency mandates must be implemented and enforceable. In terms of UNHCR’s mandate a lot of work is done at global level with treaty bodies, but there are questions as to whether this works to deliver outcomes to people on the ground.



Refugee Women at Risk: Protection and Integration in Australia

Background

ANCORW is a partner in the Australian Research Council (ARC) funded, 'Refugee Women at Risk: Protection and Integration in Australia' research project. This three year project was funded in October 2007 and is being undertaken in partnership with the Centre for Refugee Research (CRR) at the University of New South Wales. Research is currently being undertaken to explore the resettlement experiences of refugee women at risk (WaR) in Australia. This project aims to identify risks for refugee women and their families during settlement and to work with refugee women and service providers to identify solutions to their protection concerns. The project builds on the outcomes of a previous research project "*An examination of Refugee 'Women at Risk' in Australian Refugee Policy*, funded by an ARC Linkage Projects grant from 2002 to 2005, and the outcomes of an International Conference on Resettlement, hosted by CRR in November 2005.

Initial Progress Report

Preliminary research with resettled refugee women at risk and settlement service providers has commenced in metropolitan and regional areas in New South Wales and some parts of Queensland. A series of in-depth consultations are planned for the second half of 2008. Initial interest in the project has been immense. The research team has received expressions of interest from service providers and community groups in numerous states around Australia. Current funding covers research in Sydney and two regional sites in New South Wales. Options for expanding the research to other states are currently being explored. All have identified there are key settlement challenges for women at risk and their families which need to be urgently addressed.

Initial research is confirming that some refugee women and girls continue to experience heightened risks to their safety and wellbeing despite being resettled. Women have highlighted particular protection concerns in relation to their status as single women or widows, ongoing threats of violence and rape, lack of access to livelihoods including education and employment and the difficulties in acquiring secure, appropriate and affordable housing. There are reports of women being forced into prostitution in Australia, high levels of domestic violence and problems experienced by women who have borne babies of rape. In some cases, high levels of risk experienced prior to arrival are being compounded by new risks encountered during resettlement. Experiences of isolation, social exclusion and stigmatization are also being reported. Ongoing research will continue to work with resettled refugee women and settlement support services to identify potential risk factors and develop solutions to their protection concerns.

In June 2008, a paper ‘Resettled But Still At Risk’ documenting these preliminary findings and highlighting protection issues for refugee women in Australia was prepared for and distributed at the Annual Consultations with NGOs at UNHCR in Geneva. A copy of this paper follows this report.

Background

In recent years Australia’s Offshore Resettlement and Special Humanitarian program has focused increasingly on resettling refugees, including refugee women at risk, from protracted refugee situations. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, (UNHCR) “Women at Risk” program is designed to identify and respond to these women and girls by fast tracking their resettlement to developed countries. Australia has created a special visa category, Women at Risk 204 visa, as the part of the annual intake under the Refugee and Special Humanitarian program. In addition, many other refugee women and girls who arrive under other visa categories have also resettled from situations of extreme risk.

A range of on-arrival support services are provided to resettled refugees, including women at risk, under the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS). Under this program the Department of Immigration and Citizenship provides funding to a number of service providers in each State to provide on arrival health, trauma counselling and orientation services. Additional services are provided through a range of other government and non-government providers, including charitable institutions, community based organisations, schools and church groups. While many of these services are excellent, they are often insufficiently resourced, rely heavily on volunteers and are unevenly spread across geographic areas. Most are concentrated in urban areas despite the increased resettlement of refugees, including women at risk, to regional and rural areas.



Source: Kakuma Refugee Camp 2003, CRR

Most women at risk have experienced extreme violence, torture and trauma, and many of the women have been raped or bear children from rape, forced marriage and forced prostitution. The additional settlement needs of these women and their children once they arrive in Australia are rarely acknowledged in settlement service provision, in particular, the implications of sexual violence and subsequent pregnancies. Many children and young people have only known life in a camp. Many women and girls have experienced multiple incidents of sexual and gender based violence including rape, in their home countries, during flight and in the camps. Many of these women and their families face ongoing risks in Australia, and these generate additional settlement needs which are not currently met being met by all services. If these needs are not met in the first crucial years of life in Australia, this will seriously impact on their ability to successfully integrate into Australian society.

A significant outcome of the previous research project on refugee women at risk was the adoption of a “Conclusion” or “soft” international law on Women at Risk, by the Executive Committee of UNHCR in September 2006 outlining new commitments from member states (governments who are members of the United Nations) to the prevention and appropriate

response to refugee women and girls who are experiencing sexual and gender based violence. It acknowledged the need for additional attention to be paid to the needs of women at risk once resettled to countries in the developed world. The Conclusion was proposed by Eileen Pittaway and Linda Bartolomei and their work was acknowledged by the Assistant High Commissioner, UNHCR and the Australian Government in the United Nations Chamber when it was adopted. This research will draw on the Conclusion as a framework of reference.

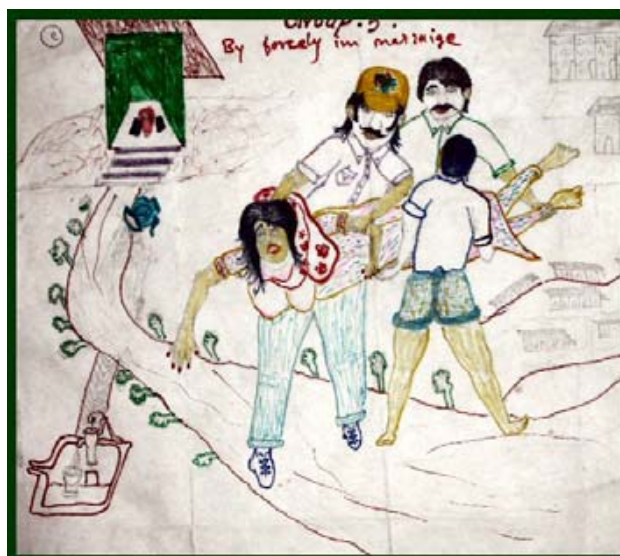
The aims of this research are to:

- (a) Contribute to the knowledge base of the ways in which refugee women's experiences of risk prior to coming to Australia (and other countries of resettlement), including experiences of rape and sexual violence impact upon their ability to settle and integrate
- (b) Inform planning for improved policy and service provision for refugee women at risk and their families upon resettlement
- (c) Compare the experiences of refugee women at risk resettled to urban, rural and regional areas of New South Wales
- (d) Identify the role of community development and rights based participatory approaches in the resettlement process and in fostering autonomy for refugee women
- (e) Contribute to a multidisciplinary theoretical framework which will inform the process of refugee resettlement
- (f) Examine the ethical issues involved in conducting research with vulnerable women and children, who by their visa category can be assumed to have suffered severe trauma and possibly torture prior to arrival in Australia

Research Methods

The study will use community development techniques and a human rights framework to research the resettlement experiences of WaR using a methodology which includes women as active participants in the process, not just merely as research subjects. This research design draws upon the ethical and reciprocal participatory research methods developed in an earlier project. It will focus on drawing on existing capacities and capabilities of refugee women, including strategies to foster social participation and to engage the community. It will explore the role which participatory strategies designed to foster autonomy and empowerment might play in assisting refugee women to integrate and settle well in Australia. It will explore the impact of place of resettlement on successful integration, and the implications of this for service provision and social cohesion in rural and regional situations, as well as in urban settings.

The previous project focused primarily on research with refugee women and girls at risk in camps and urban areas overseas, with only a small number of women being tracked through to resettlement in Australia. This project will build on research into women at risk conducted in Kenya, Thailand and Ethiopia, to explore continuing risks and ethical issues experienced by some refugee women and girls in countries of resettlement. This will include the development and piloting of a risk assessment and response mechanism for use in this context.



**Source: Example of Storyboarding Research Technique.
Bangladesh Pilot Project Report, March 2007.**

Expected Outcomes

The outcomes of this project will enhance Australia's capacity to successfully resettle vulnerable refugee women and children at risk and to integrate them into Australian society. It will provide a framework for improved service provision, which will lead to more timely and cost effective integration of vulnerable refugees into the Australian mainstream and assist in their achieving economic and social self sufficiency. It will contribute to models which promote social harmony. As in the previous collaboration, ANCORW will use the outcomes of this project to inform its own service provision and advocacy, and to support the work of its wide Australia based network. ANCORW is committed to working with refugee women and their families and its main motivation for involvement in project is to identify more effective ways of working.

Increasingly refugees are being resettled to rural and regional Australia, and services in these areas are often ill prepared to respond to the needs of vulnerable groups. While there are examples of extremely successful resettlement to some rural areas, there are many reports of women at risk failing to settle and migrating to urban areas in search of appropriate services for themselves and their children. This is diluting the significant possible benefits of settlement for the refugees and for the local community and in some cases is causing disharmony as refugees are perceived as ungrateful and not worth an investment of time to assist in their settlement.

Historically, resettlement was seen as a minor part of the durable solutions considered when responding to refugee situations. However in light of international concern over the plight of those trapped in protracted refugee situations, resettlement has achieved a much higher prominence, with Government being encouraged by UNHCR to either start, or enlarge their resettlement programs. Internationally, Australia is seen as the lead country in resettlement service provision and this will enhance this international reputation. The work will also have international importance as UNHCR and other resettlement countries struggle to come to terms with the challenges of resettling high risk populations. A key outcome of the project will be comprehensive documenting of the research methodology and assessing its appropriateness for use in Australia and other developed countries. It will be of particular value to those countries which also host refugee resettlement programs.

The Research Team

Dr Eileen Pittaway, Director, Centre for Refugee Research *and* Co-Chairperson, ANCORW

Professor Richard Hugman, School of Social Sciences and International Studies, UNSW

Ms Linda Bartolomei, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Refugee Research *and* Board Member, ANCORW

Ms Rebecca Eckert, Research Associate, Centre for Refugee Research *and* Secretary, ANCORW

Ms Effie Mitchell, Research Assistant, Centre for Refugee Research *and* Treasurer, ANCORW.



Refugee women training in New Delhi with CRR staff and interns

Resettled but still at risk- Women at Risk and Resettlement

FIRST PROJECT REPORT

The Centre for Refugee Research and the Australian National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW) are currently undertaking a three year research project to examine the experiences of resettled refugee women and girls at risk. This research aims to work with refugee women resettled to Australia and settlement service providers to identify risk factors and to develop solutions and appropriate responses to protection concerns. The preliminary findings from this research have formed the basis for this paper. This research builds on earlier work which identified risk factors and protection concerns for refugee women and girls during displacement and in countries of asylum.

INTRODUCTION

“What happens there follows us here” (Somali Refugee Woman)

Women at risk are identified by UNHCR as “those women and girls who have protection problems particular to their gender, whether they are single heads of families, unaccompanied girls, or together with their male (or female) family members”.ⁱ Most women and girls at risk have experienced extreme violence, torture and trauma. Many have been raped or bear children from rape, forced marriage and forced prostitution. As a means to achieve their protection, UNHCR endeavours to fast track the resettlement of women and girls at extreme risk to third countries. Although some resettlement countries have a refugee resettlement intake specifically for women at risk, research has shown that women resettled under other programs have often survived similar pre arrival experiences; and that both groups encounter risks upon resettlement.ⁱⁱ

While resettlement offers protection and refuge for some, this is not guaranteed for all. Many resettled refugee women and girls continue to remain at risk despite being resettled: risk factors are carried with women and girls to resettlement countries. Protection concerns that may be assumed to have been solved by resettlement, frequently resurface and are compounded by new risks encountered during settlement. Drawing on current researchⁱⁱⁱ, this paper highlights key risks experienced by resettling refugee women and girls and makes recommendations for appropriate responses to ensure their ongoing protection.

RISK FACTORS STILL PRESENT DURING RESETTLEMENT FOR ‘WOMEN AT RISK’

Continued risk and violence: “What about single women? They are so much at risk. They struggle everyday to resist rape.” (Refugee Woman from Sudan)

Survivors of sexual violence, single women and widows face particular risks during resettlement. Although domestic violence is widely recognised as a risk for women, there are other protection concerns which impact upon their settlement.^{iv} These risks must be acknowledged and responded to. Increasing numbers of women report experiencing threats to their safety including sexual and physical violence and harassment in countries of resettlement. The risk is heightened for women who have been resettled alone or as single heads of families. Reports are also emerging of women who have been known to have engaged in survival sex in camps prior to arrival, continuing to be harassed and threatened once they have been resettled. The risks are further compounded for women who are isolated,

who do not speak the language of the resettlement country and who are often struggling to access appropriate employment to support themselves and their families.

Discrimination “All we want is to be accepted as human beings....just because we are refugees doesn’t mean we have a big sickness” (Refugee Woman from Liberia)

Reports of women experiencing discrimination on the basis of their gender, ethnicity, religion and their refugee status are commonplace. Women at risk often continue to experience exclusion in the host resettlement community. They are frequently subjected to taunts, harassment, threats of sexual violence and at times physical abuse. For some, the intensity of this discrimination amounts to another form of persecution. Muslim women and girls have told of hiding their religion and of being forced to remove their headscarves out of fear of harassment and exclusion. Others have had their scarves torn off in public streets. Women also report being denied access to housing, employment, education and essential services as a result of this discrimination. A lack of mainstream community understanding of the refugee experience further exacerbates these tensions.

Housing: “We were told, ‘we do not rent houses to people with black skin’” (Refugee woman from Sierra Leone recounting her difficulties in finding housing)

Access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing is key to ensuring the ongoing protection of women at risk during resettlement. Women at risk consistently identify the importance of having a home, a safe place to rebuild their lives, as essential in facilitating their secure and successful settlement. Yet, racism, the stigma of being a refugee and a lack of affordable, secure and suitable housing in some resettlement countries, prevents many women from finding this refuge. Where housing is provided it is often temporary, unsafe and unsuitable for the needs of at risk women and girls. Increasing numbers of women are becoming homeless or being forced into relationships to have shelter for themselves and their children. For others, the high cost of housing has left them with little choice but to engage in exploitative and unsafe employment. Without access to safe and appropriate housing, resettled women continue to be exposed to protection risks.

Access to Livelihoods - “Unemployed women are at risk.” (Refugee Woman from Afghanistan)

Access to livelihoods in the form of education and employment are critical to ensuring the ongoing protection of women and girls post settlement. Women arrive with disparate levels of education, language and employment histories, yet all bring with them skills, knowledge and a desire to contribute to their new society. For some, there are considerable barriers to their efforts to build skills and engage in meaningful employment and education. Those women who do not speak the local language and who have no formal education or employment background face particular challenges. At times they are denied the opportunity to participate in education appropriate to their skill level. Women who are ready to engage in employment are often unable to because of an absence of in country experience, difficulties in qualification recognition and a lack of specialized employment support. This can see women forced into lower level positions which have little to do with their skills. Others report engaging in high risk employment just to survive. The loss of status, self esteem and increased risk experienced by women denied their right to livelihoods greatly impacts on their capacity to resettle well. Refugee women come with many skills and a willingness to be active providers. Without appropriate support and training this potential often cannot be fulfilled.

THE KEY INGREDIENT - SETTLEMENT SUPPORT

“I just want them to care” (Refugee Woman from Ethiopia’s reflections on settlement service support)

The **UNHCR Conclusion on Women and Girls at Risk**^v and the **Refugee Resettlement: An International Handbook to Guide Reception and Integration**^{vi} acknowledge that women and girls who have experienced extreme risk prior to their arrival in resettlement countries may encounter particular challenges and will often need long term specialist support to aid them in their settlement. Targeted intensive settlement service provision in countries of resettlement is key to ensuring the successful integration and protection of women and girls from a refugee background. Settlement services require knowledge of the torture and trauma experienced by women and girls and the specific risks which they have encountered before arrival in countries of resettlement. Services must be trained and supported to identify and respond sensitively and appropriately to new risks which may impact upon the settlement outcomes of this often vulnerable group. Settlement support must also extend beyond the individual. While often not formally recognised as settlement service providers, refugee community organisations play a pivotal role in the settlement process, providing essential support and assistance to many new arrivals. Yet, at times their capacity to adequately support refugee women and girls who are extremely traumatized, and to cope with their own trauma, can be diminished by the challenges of resettlement. The support and strengthening of communities is an integral component of successful settlement services. Failure to provide specialist settlement support and a lack of identification and effective response to the risks encountered by refugee women and girls may amount to not simply a gap in services but a failure in protection.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

Resettlement is a key protection tool providing many refugee women and girls with the opportunity to begin a new life with the prospect of relative safety. In spite of this, many women and girls remain at risk. Resettled refugee women have highlighted particular protection concerns in relation to their status as single women or widows, ongoing threats of violence and rape, persistent discrimination, lack of access to livelihoods including education and employment and the difficulties in acquiring secure, appropriate and affordable housing. In some cases, high levels of risk experienced prior to arrival are being compounded by new risks encountered during resettlement. Experiences of isolation, social exclusion and stigmatization are also being reported. Failure to acknowledge these risks and a lack of effective response to protection concerns significantly impact on the ability of refugee women and girls to settle well in their country of resettlement. To settle safely and successfully many women and girls need intensive specialised settlement support. In spite of these risks and challenges, refugee women and girls work hard to build a new life for themselves and their families once resettled. They are survivors and bring to countries of resettlement not only hope for a safe and peaceful existence but knowledge, strength, skills and resilience. However, in recognition of ongoing risks, protection of women and girls should remain a priority for the country of resettlement, the international community, and UNHCR, including after resettlement.

Recommendations

1. Acknowledgment by UNHCR and resettlement countries that refugee women and girls remain vulnerable to heightened risk and may experience genuine protection concerns when resettled to a third country
2. Request UNHCR to consider extending their monitoring of the protection of women and girls from refugee backgrounds to include resettlement countries
3. UNHCR ‘Handbook for the Protection of Women and Girls’ to be extended to include a focus on working with and supporting refugee women and girls at risk

during resettlement (Amendments to be developed in conjunction with UNHCR, resettlement countries and resettled refugees.)

4. Intensive longer term specialized settlement support specific to the circumstances of women and girls at risk and their families to be provided in countries of resettlement
5. Settlement service providers in countries of resettlement to be appropriately informed and trained in risk identification and response mechanisms.
6. In recognition of the key role of community support, training and resources to be extended to include refugee based community organisations who may then be formally engaged to complement existing settlement service provision.

ARRA: Australian Refugee Rights Alliance is a consortium of Australian Non Government Organisations who attend the UNHCR Annual Consultations for NGOs and Executive Committee annually to continue their advocacy for change at the international level.



Refugee women training in New Delhi with CRR staff and interns

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Report

The financial accounts for ANCORW Co-Operative Ltd for the previous 12 month period are included in this section.

The financial accounts encompass individual audited Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Statements for the financial year of 2007 - 2008 for each of the following five accounts:

ANCORW Co-Operative Ltd		The organisation's general account.
ANCORW Co-Operative Ltd	- Fundraising Account	All the organisation's fundraising efforts pass through this account.
ANCORW Co-operative Ltd	- CSSS Resettlement Project	This is the working account for the AWAU project.
ANCORW Co-operative Ltd	- UNHCR Project	All funding from UNHCR passes through this account.
ANCORW Co-operative Ltd	- Ian Potter Grant	Grant received from the Ian Potter Foundation to produce the 'Celebration of Refugee Lives: Stories of Strength and Resilience' community education toolkit.

The consolidated net asset position as at the end of the 2007-2008 reporting period was \$29 031.74 compared to net assets of \$41 612.18 for the previous reporting period.

Consolidated income for the period to end June 2007 was a deficit of \$11 350.44 compared to consolidated income for the previous period of \$26 288.23. The deficit was due to an amount of \$15 700 expended on Training this financial year that was funded through the previous year.

ANCORW Co-Operative Ltd has funds available to meet it's commitments.

Effie Mitchell
Treasurer.

ⁱ UNHCR 2004, *UNHCR Resettlement Handbook*, UNHCR Geneva, p. 16.

ⁱⁱ Pittaway, E, Bartolomei, L and Eckert, R 2006 *Refugee Women at Risk Field Notes*, Centre for Refugee Research Sydney.

ⁱⁱⁱ Centre for Refugee Research 2008, *Refugee Women at Risk: Protection and Integration in Australia Field Notes*, Centre for Refugee Research Sydney.

^{iv} UNHCR 2008, *Handbook for the Protection of Women and Girls*, UNHCR Geneva

^v UNHCR 2006, *Conclusion on Women and Girls At Risk* Executive Conclusions No. 105 (LVII), UNHCR Geneva.

^{vi} UNHCR 2002, *Refugee Resettlement: An International Handbook to Guide Reception and Integration*, UNHCR Geneva.

ANCORW CO-OPERATIVE LTD

C/- Centre for Refugee Research,

School of Social work

University of NSW

SYDNEY NSW 2052

Balance Sheet**As of June 2008**

ASSETS

Office Furniture	\$2,637.00
Office Equipment	\$20,851.30
Cash At Bank	\$2,263.81
Debtors	\$4,449.83
Total ASSETS	\$30,201.94

LIABILITIES

GST LIABILITIES	
GST COLLECTED ON SALES	\$786.58
GST PAID ON PURCHASES	-\$1,178.37
Total GST LIABILITIES	-\$391.79
Provision for Depreciation	\$23,488.30
Loan Account	\$1,255.00
Total LIABILITIES	\$24,351.51
Net Assets	\$5,850.43

EQUITY

Retained Earnings	\$6,392.50
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	-\$542.07
Total EQUITY	\$5,850.43

ANCORW CO-OPERATIVE LTD

*C/- Centre for Refugee Research,
School of Social work
University of NSW
SYDNEY NSW 2052*

Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2007 through June 2008

	This Year	Last Year
INCOME		
Administration Fees	\$2,888.63	\$12,186.20
Interest Earned	\$0.68	\$0.00
Membership Fees	\$450.00	\$727.27
Office Income	\$4,039.19	\$0.00
Other Income	\$165.00	\$1,120.00
SALES- THAI SHOP	\$1,730.95	\$90.91
Donations (Membership)	\$0.00	\$500.00
Total INCOME	\$9,274.45	\$14,624.38
COST OF SALES		
Purchases- Stock Thai Shop	\$1,230.00	\$0.00
Total COST OF SALES	\$1,230.00	\$0.00
Gross Profit	\$8,044.45	\$14,624.38
EXPENSES		
Bank Interest	\$0.00	\$0.12
EMPLOYMENT EXPENSES		
Contract Workers	\$497.50	\$392.50
Donations	\$488.00	\$0.00
SERVICES		
Stationery & Office Supplies	\$100.00	\$0.00
Bank Charges	\$2.50	\$30.00
Postage	\$96.52	\$59.55
Training Costs	\$34.00	\$0.00
WORKERS COMPENSATION	\$355.13	\$1,469.13
Travel	\$0.00	\$600.00
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$91.00
Insurance	\$3,138.68	\$1,231.04
AUDIT FEES	\$1,000.00	\$480.00
Catering/Function Expenses	\$60.30	\$0.00
Other Costs	\$2,813.89	\$2,215.45
Total EXPENSES	\$8,586.52	\$6,568.79
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	-\$542.07	\$8,055.59

ANCORW UNHCR Project

Centre for Refugee Research

UNSW

University of NSW NSW 2052

Balance Sheet

As of June 2008

Assets		
UNHCR Cheque Account	<u>\$28.90</u>	
Total Assets		\$28.90
Liabilities		
GST Liabilities		
GST Paid	<u>-\$0.18</u>	
Total GST Liabilities		<u>-\$0.18</u>
Total Liabilities		-\$0.18
Net Assets		<u>\$29.08</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$15,729.08	
Current Earnings	<u>-\$15,700.00</u>	
Total Equity		<u>\$29.08</u>

ANCORW UNHCR Project

Centre for Refugee Research

UNSW

University of NSW NSW 2052

Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

July 2007 through June 2008

	This Year	Last Year
Income		
CRR Training Contract	\$0.00	\$52,041.32
Bank Interest	\$0.44	\$2.06
Total Income	\$0.44	\$52,043.38
Expenses		
ADMINISTRATION CHARGES	\$0.00	\$3,109.00
Bank Fee	\$2.50	\$0.00
Training Courses	\$15,700.00	\$34,000.00
Total Expenses	\$15,702.50	\$37,109.00
Net Profit/(Loss)	<u>-\$15,702.06</u>	<u>\$14,934.38</u>

ANCORW- CSSS Resettlement Project

PO Box 6594
UNSW SYDNEY
NSW 1466

Balance Sheet

As of June 2008

Assets		
CSSS -Cheque Account	\$11,862.19	
Petty Cash	\$153.98	
Equipment	\$7,044.87	
Depreciation of Equipment	-\$1,328.00	
LOW VALUE POOL ASSETS	\$1,755.64	
Total Assets		\$19,488.68
Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	\$2,577.20	
Loan Ancorw Co-op	\$141.00	
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	\$3,906.00	
GST Paid	-\$2,367.52	
Total GST Liabilities	\$1,538.48	
PAYG TAX LIABILITY	\$1,443.03	
SUPERANNUATION LIABILITY	\$0.00	
Total Liabilities		\$5,699.71
Net Assets		\$13,788.97
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$16,964.31	
Current Earnings	-\$3,175.34	
Total Equity		\$13,788.97

ANCORW- CSSS Resettlement Project

PO Box 6594
UNSW SYDNEY
NSW 1466

Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2007 through June 2008

	This Year	Last Year
Income		
CSSS- Resettlement	\$71,400.00	\$70,000.00
Other Income	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$73,400.00	\$70,000.00
Expenses		
Accounts & Audit Costs	\$2,112.50	\$1,392.50
Administration Costs	\$900.00	\$5,727.27
Advertising /Marketing Costs	\$0.00	\$1,992.50
BANK FEES	\$9.90	\$21.05
Catering Expenses	\$2,092.03	\$2,869.40
CONTRACT WAGES	\$2,190.00	\$781.50
DEPRECIATION	\$1,752.00	\$1,147.00
Insurance	\$0.00	\$677.07
OTHER COSTS	\$285.00	\$0.00
Postage	\$277.92	\$502.89
Printing Costs	\$190.95	\$492.17
PROGRAM COSTS	\$7,042.83	\$148.65
REFUND OF SGP GRANT	\$6,843.73	\$0.00
Rent	\$7,959.03	\$3,083.25
Stationery & Office Supplies	\$895.14	\$2,670.56
Training Costs	\$7,386.71	\$25,343.07
TELEPHONE COSTS	\$1,158.48	\$458.02
Travel Costs	\$7,226.38	\$688.24
Wages & Salaries	\$26,018.90	\$11,578.81
SUPERANNUATION	\$2,233.84	\$1,060.31
Workers Compensation	\$0.00	\$1,469.13
Total Expenses	\$76,575.34	\$62,103.39
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$3,175.34	\$7,896.61

ANCORW FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT

Balance Sheet

As of June 2008

Assets		
CASH AT BANK	\$1,341.89	
LOAN- ANCORW CO-OP	\$1,255.00	
Total Assets		\$2,596.89
Liabilities		
GST Liabilities		
GST Paid	-\$131.33	
Total GST Liabilities	-\$131.33	
Total Liabilities		-\$131.33
Net Assets		\$2,728.22
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$2,526.29	
Current Earnings	\$201.93	
Total Equity		\$2,728.22

ANCORW FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT

Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2007 through June 2008

	This Year	Last Year
Income		
BANK INTEREST	\$23.53	\$5.00
DONATIONS		
DONATIONS- GENERAL FUND	\$5,078.00	\$1,690.00
Women at Risk	\$5,440.00	\$0.00
DONATION BURMA APPEAL	\$1,093.20	\$0.00
GENEVA 2008	\$1,600.00	\$0.00
Other Income	\$4,000.00	\$300.00
Total DONATIONS	\$17,211.20	\$1,990.00
Total Income	\$17,234.73	\$1,995.00
Cost Of Sales		
Gross Profit	\$17,234.73	\$1,995.00
Expenses		
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES		
Bank Fee	\$2.50	\$0.00
Expenses- General Fund	\$4,200.00	\$2,928.35
U.N. TRAVEL	\$1,100.00	\$0.00
Pakistan Earthquake Appeal	\$0.00	\$3,665.00
BURMA CYCLONE APPEAL	\$1,093.20	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$10,395.70	\$6,593.35
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$6,839.03	-\$4,598.35

ANCORW-IAN POTTER FOUNDATION

PO BOX 6594
UNIVERSITY OF NSW 1466

Balance Sheet

As of June 2008

Assets

Liabilities

Trade Creditors

\$2,063.63

GST Liabilities

GST Paid

-\$2,063.63

Total GST Liabilities

-\$2,063.63

Total Liabilities

\$0.00

Net Assets

\$0.00

Equity

ANCORW-IAN POTTER FOUNDATION

PO BOX 6594
UNIVERSITY OF NSW 1466

Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2007 through June 2008

	This Year	Last Year
Income		
GRANT IAN POTTER FOUNDATION	\$32,500.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$32,500.00	\$0.00
Expenses		
ADMINISTRATION COSTS	\$2,063.63	\$0.00
CONTRACT WAGES	\$7,000.00	\$0.00
TRAINING COSTS	\$1,800.00	\$0.00
TRAVEL COSTS	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
VIDEO PRODUCTION COSTS	\$13,636.37	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$32,500.00	\$0.00
Net Profit/(Loss)	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>



ABN 37 125 986 101
Level 1, 15A Regent Street
KOGARAH NSW 2217

(T) 02 9588 2055 (F) 02 9588 2066

Mailing address:
PO Box 366
KOGARAH NSW 1485

Robert Atanasov
(M) 0403 472 544
(E) robert@atanasov.com.au
www.atanasov.com.au

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
Australian National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW)
Co-Operative Ltd**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

Scope:

I have audited the financial statements of ANCORW Co-Operative Ltd for the financial year ended 30 June 2008 consisting of the Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet.

The Organisation's officers are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to members and other users.

The financial statements have been prepared for distribution to the members and for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW).

My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of any material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material aspects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian accounting concepts and standards and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the financial position and results of operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this audit report has been formed on the above basis.

Table of Cash Movements for Designated Purposes

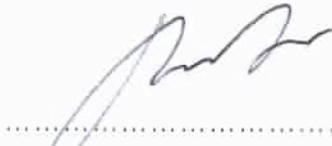
For the year ended 30 June 2008

	Cash available at Beginning of year	Cash raised during year	Cash disbursed during year	Cash available at end of year
Women at risk	\$18	\$5440	\$0	\$5458
Burma Cyclone Appeal	\$0	\$1093	\$1093	\$0
Geneva UN Conference	\$0	\$1600	\$1100	\$500
Total for other Purposes	\$1226	\$5078	\$4200	\$2104
TOTAL	\$1224	\$13211	\$6393	\$8062

Audit Opinion:

In my opinion, the financial statements of the above organisation are properly drawn up:

1. Giving a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation as at 30 June 2008 and of their results for the financial year ended on that date;
2. In accordance with Statement of Accounting Concepts and applicable standards and regulations;
3. Confirming that funds raised from donations and fundraising appeals conducted during the period under review or funds carried over from previous years have been correctly applied;
4. The organisation is a reporting entity;
5. The organisation has sufficient reserves to fund its current level of operations.



.....
ROBERT ATANASOV

Registered Company Auditor, PNA, B Com(Acc), FTIA

Dated: 5th September 2008