Rainfall in eastern Chad is in steady decline, affecting the life of refugees and the future of next African generation.

Without us, refugees can experience dangerous gaps in vital aid. • With us, they can get the all-round, practical assistance and protection they so desperately need.

無數難民在危難中生命受到威脅，感覺絕望。聯合國難民署奮力確保難民得到必需的保護和提供實質的援助。
YEMEN: THE CRISIS CONTINUES

UNHCR races to provide shelter, water and relief as thousands flee the escalating conflict in the north.

While the rattle of artillery fire continues in Yemen’s northern Sa’ada province, UNHCR is rallying its supporters around the world to bring relief to the 200,000 civilians uprooted by the violence.

Last August, sporadic clashes between Al Houth forces and government troops escalated into full-scale war. As bombs rained down on Sa’ada City and surrounding villages, thousands of terrified residents clamoured to escape. Most fled south to shelter with relatives and friends while others made their way to the makeshift Al Mazrak camp for internally displaced people (IDPs).

UNHCR launched an urgent appeal for funds and sent an Emergency Response Team to assist the growing flood of homeless families. By November, the already desperately crowded Al Mazrak camp was receiving up to 900 new arrivals a day. Dozens of children were falling sick with diarrhoea and respiratory infections as four or five families squeezed into shelters intended for only one.

Fleeing from a war-zone, these very vulnerable people need protection services too. Women, children and the elderly comprise the vast majority of those displaced and the bombing of Sa’ada has left many injured and deeply traumatized.

A little girl named Elham is among those being referred by UNHCR for urgent psycho-social support. “She cannot hear you,” her father tells concerned aid workers. “She lost her hearing during the bombing in Sa’ada. She lost her memory and her ability to talk. She is my only daughter... she is the most dear to me. I hope she will play and laugh like a child again.”

UNHCR is allocating resources to expand the overcrowded desert camps and provide displaced Yemeni families with tents, plastic sheeting and basic relief items like blankets and hygiene kits.

联 合國難民署發出一項緊急捐款的呼籲，另外又派遣一支緊急應變小組，援助不斷涌入的無家可歸的家庭。至11月，每天有達900名絕望無助的難民擠進Al Mazrak難民營。

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“Be a Refugee”

“The rebels are coming, run!” Without a second thought, you fled from home. Frightened, thirsty and hungry, and have no idea where your family members are…

You are cordially invited to participate in the “Be a Refugee” exercise to step into the shoes of a refugee.

Date / Fee: June 20 (Sunday) 10am – 1pm / HK$50
Best for age 18 or above
For details, please visit www.UNHCR.org.hk

3rd Refugee Film Festival

The 2009 Refugee Film Festival was a success. This year with the continuous support from Broadway Cinematheque, Yau Ma Tei Kowloon, the Refugee Film Festival will be launched in a bigger scale from June 20 to 25, 2010.

Burma VJ (84 mins) 20/6 Sun 9:45 pm & 24/6 Thu 9:35 pm 緬甸錄像 (84分鐘)

The film offers a unique insight into high-risk journalism and dissent in a police state, while at the same time providing a thorough documentation of the historical and dramatic days of September 2007, when the Buddhist monks poured onto the streets in protest.

2007年緬甸發生了僧侶上街事件，由於新聞封鎖，外界對國內發生的事情一無所知。只有靠一群記者和英勇聲音的難民錄音數位化片段和法民示威的片段，邁出國際新聞界與國際媒體，對成為歷史的紀錄片。

Cambodia Dreams (65 mins) 20/6 Sun 7:40 pm & 21/6 Mon 7:40 pm 柬埔寨之夢 (65分鐘)

New Zealand filmmaker Stanley Harper spent 18 years to make "Cambodia Dreams", an inspiring and heart-rending story about an ordinary Cambodian family torn apart since the fall of the Khmer Rouge. Even though the basic needs of the refugees were met in the camp, nevertheless an 81 year old grandmother, Yan Chien, displayed extraordinary strength and determination.

導演Stanley Harper於電影放映後與觀眾會面

God Grew Tired of Us (89 mins) 22/6 Tue 7:50 pm & 23/6 Wed 9:35 pm 上帝厭棄我們 (89分鐘)

Orphaned by a tumultuous civil war and traveling barefoot across the sub-Saharan desert, John, Daniel and Panther were among the 25,000 “Lost Boys” (ages 3 to 13) who fled villages, and traveled together for five years into the UN’s refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya. The three of them along with 3,800 other young survivors, were selected to re-settle in the United States, where they build active and fulfilling new lives.

Heart of Jenin (90 mins) 23/6 Wed 7:50 pm & 25/6 Fri 9:45 pm 杰尼恩的心 (90分鐘)

The father of a Palestinian boy who was shot to death by Israeli soldiers, donated his son's organs which saved the lives of six Israeli children. This powerful story illustrates one more step towards the reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Visitor (104 mins) 23/6 Tue 9:35 pm & 25/6 Fri 7:45 pm 訪客 (104分鐘)

A lonely college professor encounters a young musician by chance and develops into a strong friendship. However when the professor discovers that the young musician had been deported back to his country after failing in his asylum application, he learns about the lives and experiences of asylum seekers in the city.

War Child (94 mins) 21/6 Mon 9:45 pm & 24/6 Thu 7:50 pm 在戰爭中成長的兒童 (94分鐘)

“War Child” tells the story of Emmanuel, with remarkable film footage of his childhood captured by National Geographic. At the age of seven, Emmanuel was caught up in Sudan’s civil war and became a child soldier. The media took notice of his charismatic personality and made him a spokesperson for child soldiers. When he grew up and resettled to America, his life changed and became a rap singer sharing a message of peace.

On-line ticketing from June 1 http://bc.cinema.com.hk 網上訂票由6月1日開始

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In the wake of the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change, let’s look at some of the environmental challenges facing UNHCR and the refugees we care for. How does the UN Refugee Agency address the problem of dwindling natural resources and alleviate the often devastating impact of large refugee populations on the surrounding environment?

In Africa, where the majority of our refugee operations are based, UNHCR is already seeing the implications of a changing climate.

Countries like Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are experiencing more frequent and extreme droughts, heatwaves and floods. UNHCR is having to invest in water saving and fuel efficient technologies, tree planting programs and community education to address issues like deforestation and the increasing competition for water, food and fuel.

In eastern Chad, for example, we have introduced a number of important “green” initiatives to alleviate the impact of drought and the pressure of 320,000 refugees on an increasingly fragile environment.

Resources saving program - Fuel efficient stoves

As happens in many parts of the world, refugees in eastern Chad have stripped the surrounding forest and scrub to fuel their cooking fires. As a result, firewood is now extremely scarce.

In a bid to halt the deforestation and ensure the refugees a safe and sustainable fuel supply, UNHCR has been supporting the introduction of solar and fuel efficient stoves.

Using only the sun’s rays, the Parabolic Solar Cooker - “Save80” can boil up to eight litres of water in an hour. This fast cooking reflective dish comes in a ready to assemble kit and is one of the solar cookers being used in the Chadian camps. Another is the cheaper but slower “CooKit” which can be made by the refugee women themselves using folded cardboard and foil.

The “Save80” stove, meanwhile, uses 80% less wood than traditional cooking fires. Unlike the solar stoves, these lidded metal drums can be used at night and in bad weather. In eastern Chad, more than a quarter of refugee families are now using a “Save80”.

In order to address climate change challenges, UNHCR is committed to supporting sustainable and effective measures to alleviate the impact of large refugee populations on the surrounding environment.
This has not only helped to cut wood consumption but has also reduced the need for women to leave the safety of the camps each day to search for firewood. School attendance among girls has increased as a result and health problems associated with wood smoke have declined.

“It takes lots of demonstrations and discussion to introduce these new technologies. For people who have been uprooted and lost everything, the one thing they are left with, that reminds them of their life at home, is cooking and the family fire.” Erin Patrick from the Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Deforestation program - Tree planting

In 2009, UNHCR oversaw the planting of 430,000 trees in the vicinity of its refugee camps in eastern Chad.

The project began back in March with large groups of refugees working in tree nurseries to fill tanks of thousands of tiny plastic sachets with sand, earth and seedlings.

The planting out began in August, during the annual rains, over an area of 200 hectares close to the camps and local villages. Native species were planted to improve soil retention and provide habitat and shade, while fruit species like lemon, papaya and mangoes were distributed free to both the refugees and the local people to nurture near their homes.

The tree planting has been welcomed by the Chadian authorities who have expressed concern about the degradation of land around the refugee camps and the steady encroachment of the Sahara Desert in the north.

Like the fuel efficient stove projects, this program also includes community education to develop skills and raise awareness of the importance of the natural environment.

UNHCR is supporting similar plant nursery and tree planting programs in southern Chad and in the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya.

These vital programs need your support

You can purchase one of the following items to help the refugees and protect the environment.

• HK$310 provides one “Save80” stove, reducing a refugee family’s firewood consumption by 80%.

• HK$620 can build a temporary nursery and shade house in a refugee camp with capacity for up to 10,000 seedlings.

• HK$1,860 buys simple solar cookers “CooKit” for twenty refugee families.

• HK$5,425 provides all the equipment and supplies needed to run a small refugee plant nursery for one year.

You can also donate below to support some of the following projects.

• 港幣$310提供一個能減少難民家庭柴火使用量達八成的「Save80」節能灶。

• 港幣$620可建造一個培植1萬棵幼苗的臨時苗圃及溫室。

• 港幣$1,860提供20個難民家庭需要的「CooKit」節能灶。

• 港幣$5,425為一間苗圃提供一年所需的物資及工具。
Haiti Earthquake

According to the Haitian government, the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that devastated Haiti on January 12 claimed the lives of at least 150,000 people and left more than 300,000 homeless. Around half-a-million people have left Port-au-Prince, including 160,000 who found shelter along the border.

UNHCR immediately offered to support the humanitarian effort to address the massive and urgent needs of the Haitian people. In the first week, six hospital tents and two aircraft carrying tents and plastic sheeting for more than 90,000 people were dispatched from our logistics hub in Dubai. UNHCR also distributed aid to Haitian quake victims staying in temporary shelters in the Dominican Republic. Thousands of tents and tarpaulins were also provided to the International Organization for Migration for distribution in Haiti.

Meanwhile, 13 members of UNHCR’s Emergency Response Team have been deployed to Haiti and Santo Domingo to provide logistical support and protection services for those considered most vulnerable.

Natural disasters like earthquakes fall outside UNHCR’s traditional refugee mandate. However, we do provide emergency assistance in countries where we already have an operational presence on the ground and our assistance is required. While we had no operations in Haiti prior to the quake, we are acting in a backup capacity and stand ready to provide additional expertise and resources as required by the United Nations wider emergency teams on the ground.

Thanks to all our supporters in Hong Kong who gave generously and special thanks to The Hong Kong Buddhist Association in motivating their supporters to donate to assist the Haiti victims. You can find more details on The Hong Kong Buddhist Association website: http://www.hkbuddhist.org/index.html

In a cheque presentation ceremony, Mr. Lum Kwok Choi, Head of Fundraising, UNHCR (from the left) received a donation of HK$2.1 million from The Hong Kong Buddhist Association. In a cheque presentation ceremony, Mr. Lum Kwok Choi, Head of Fundraising, UNHCR (from the left) received a donation of HK$2.1 million from The Hong Kong Buddhist Association.

海地地震

據海地政府表示，1月12日發生的七級地震，奪去至少15萬人的生命，導致逾30萬人無家可歸。大約有50萬人離開太子港，當中包括在邊境尋找庇護的16萬災民。

聯合國難民署為這場天災作出即時救援，以解決海地人民龐大且急切的需求。首個星期，我們從杜拜物流中心運送了6個醫院帳篷，及調派了2架航機運送供9萬人用的帳篷及膠席。此外，亦為僑身於多明尼加共和國臨時難民營的海地災民，提供援助物資、帳篷和防水帆布，由伙伴機構國際移民組織分發。

同時，聯合國難民署緊急應變小組的13名隊員，被派遣至海地及聖多明哥，為最脆弱無助的災民提供特別支援及保護。

雖然海地地震等天災並非聯合國難民署的工作重點，但在一些已設有辦事處的國家，我們仍會即時作出救援。海地發生地震以前，我們並沒有任何工作在當地，但配合聯合國的緊急救援工作，聯合國難民署即時送出醫院帳篷等物資，以幫助災民，更派調專家小組，以提供保護流離失所者的專門技術及支援。

感謝所有捐款者慷慨幫助地震災民，更衷心感謝香港佛教聯合會發起赈災籌款。如欲了解更多香港佛教聯合會海地赈災籌款，請瀏覽：http://www.hkbuddhist.org/index.html。
Rohingya Reproductive Health Programme 羅興亞生育護理及家庭計劃項目

There are approximately 728,000 stateless Myanmar Rohingyas living in Northern Rakhine State (NRS) in Western Myanmar. The majority of the Muslim population are landless, seasonal labourers who have no marketable skills and earn an average daily income of less than HK$9. Close to 80% of this population are illiterate. Only 7-22% of women receive antenatal consultations. The lack of reproductive health services causes local mid-wives and birth attendants to use traditional methods when delivering babies. This together with unsafe abortions and difficult to access emergency obstetric care contributes to a high maternal and infant mortality rate.

One of the Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) said “our TBAs had no materials for the deliveries”. She continued “we used to apply our own traditional methods, like pushing the abdomen, pulling the umbilical cords without waiting, putting some indigenous herb into the umbilical cord.

UNHCR, therefore, decided to run primary health and reproductive health care programs in NRS together with local NGO partners.

During 2009, 14,063 beneficiaries received Antenatal Care and Post Natal Care services and about 38,053 women received breastfeeding and birth spacing consultations.

With the support of your donations, UNHCR Hong Kong has so far contributed HK$423,605 dollars to provide delivery kits and job-related training to mid-wives and birth attendants; and to provide medical treatment, contraceptive injections, sanitary cloths and soap for local women.

Liala Begom, one of the beneficiaries said “Now the whole community in my village recognizes the advantages of safe delivery kits and appreciated”.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and support which has helped to change the lives of many mothers and babies!
WHY WE DO IT 我們為何選擇這工作
Alessandra Morelli / Loutfi Beldjelti

Between them, Alessandra Morelli (AM) and Loutfi Beldjelti (LB) have 33 years of field experience with UNHCR. They were recently with the Emergency Response Team in northern Yemen where fighting between government troops and Houthi forces has displaced more than 200,000 people. UNHCR was among the first agencies to respond to the crisis.

What was your role in this emergency?
LB: I was in charge of protection, ensuring the internally displaced people (IDPs) access to shelter, safety, documentation - all the rights highlighted in the Human Rights Charter.
AM: I was deployed for two weeks to take stock of the current response, analyse the gaps and ensure that we prepare ourselves for all scenarios, including the worst case scenario.

What is the situation now for the internally displaced Yemenis?
AM: In Yemen only 11% of our beneficiaries live in camps. The rest are living with host families. We must ensure that these already poor families can continue supporting the internally displaced. If this family structure falls apart, we have to build camps but this is really the last resort for us.

Do you expect the situation to worsen in the coming months?
AM: Definitely. This latest conflict, which began in August 2009 is the fiercest and longest so far. We need to help host families and we need adequate funding for our operations in the camps where we are working. People need food, blankets, counselling, activities for the kids and support for the livestock.

Is there one image that stands out in your mind from your time in Yemen?
LB: I saw many children traumatized by the war and deprived of their right to go to school. This has pushed me to work even harder and to advocate for them.

Is there any special message you would like to deliver to our readers?
AM: We can all participate in these operations, wherever we are. Whoever supports us to continue our work in Yemen is an operational partner with us in saving lives.

“For those we help, our presence is a message of comfort and hope.”

Alessandra Morelli (AM) and Loutfi Beldjelti (LB) 二人已具備33年聯合國難民署從線工作經驗。近日，他們陪同也門北部緊急應變小組一起行動。政府軍及Al Houti武裝分子在也門北部開火，導致20萬人流離失所。聯合國難民署是最早提供救援的機構之一。

你在次的緊急任務中擔當甚麼角色？
LB: 我專責保護事宜，保證國內流離失所者得到庇護、人身安全、身份登記，這些人權公約列明的重點權利。
AM: 我在兩周內評估現時的回應行動：分析需求；並確保為所有情況，包括最惡劣境況，作好充分準備。

現時國內流離失所的也門人的情況是怎樣呢？
AM: 在也門，只有11%的受惠人士住在難民營內，其餘都是居住在收容家庭內。我們要確保這些經已十分窮困的家庭，能繼續留守國內流離失所者。倘若這些家庭崩潰，我們務必再建造一些營舍，但這是最後的辦法。

你預計未來數個月，情況會惡化嗎？
AM: 肯定的！這場在2009年8月爆發的衝突，是目前最激烈、維持最長的。收容家庭需要幫助；我們又需要充裕的捐款維持現時難民營運作。老百姓需要食物、毛毯、輔導及給兒童活動及餵養牲口。

在也門期間，有沒有令你印象深刻的事情呢？
LB: 我目睹許多小孩的身心受戰火所創；又被剝奪上學的權利，這激發我更努力為他們作倡議工作。

有沒有特別訊息想向我們的讀者說呢？
AM: 無論在哪兒，所有人都可以參與這些救援行動。任何支持我們繼續在也門工作的人，都是我們拯救生命行動的同伴。

「我們的存在，對於受惠者來說，代表著關懷及希望。」

Twelve Emergency Response Team members have been sent to Northern Yemen to provide protection and assistance for a growing population of internally displaced people.

緊急應變小組的12名成員被派往也門北部，救援及保護人數不斷上升的國內流離失所者。