Building for Success

Vocational Training at Forachana Refugee Camp, Chad

Lauren Burmaster, Stacy Edgar, Carlos Guzman, Kristen Howa, Katherine Khor, Geri Mason, Lais Payano, Russell Prag, Patrick Pratt, Anca Radoi Bodnarescu, Heather Robertson, Amanda Wyant, Ahmad Yakzan

7/11/2008

Policy Memorandum

MEMORANDUM FOR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

FROM: Group 9, Miracles of Development: Good Governance and Capacity Building

SUBJECT: Building for Success

I. Action-Forcing Event:

Conflicts in states adjacent to Chad have made the state a safe haven for refugees and displaced persons from these war ravaged states. Training these refugees and displaced person to sustain their livelihood in the short and long term is crucial. Group 9 proposes a training program for the refugees to teach them how to build homes after returning to their homeland.

II. Background/Analysis:

There are currently 276,927 refugees in Chad hailing from Sudan (due to the strife in Darfur), and the Central African Republic (Due to the country's civil war). [http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/STATISTICS/4641836e0.pdf]. This is in addition to 180,000 internally displaced persons, due to the conflict on the border region between Sudan and Chad. [http://www.unhcr.org/home/PUBL/474ac8cae.pdf]. The United Nations has not been able to provide basic, health nutrition and job skills training due to the lack of resources. [http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/chad_28144.html]. There is a wide spread of disease and poverty in the refugee camps and the NGO needs desperate help to assure the population's sustainability [http://www.unhcr.org/home/PUBL/4666d2550.pdf]. Ensuring the population's livelihood however should extend beyond survival inside the camps. Thus, the group proposes that in order to secure the refugees' capacity inside and beyond their temporary stays, a vocational training program to teach them the necessary building skills is vital.

III. Recommendation:

To help people survive during and afterwards the Office of the High Commissioner should institute a pilot vocational training program at the Forachana Camp due to its proximity to major sources of refugee populations [http://www.unhcr.org/publ/PUBL/48738f054.pdf]. The pilot vocational training program would implement the hands-on learning of simple skills such as how to build sustainable communities with adequate facilities and sanitation. In addition, an educational program focusing on disease prevention and treatment should be implemented. During the learning process, refugees will help to update existing structures and take those skills and rebuild their communities once the camp is disbanded.

IV. Group's Role:

The group would work as a catalyst to ensure the success of the project and assuring that it would meet its purpose of providing real-life sustainable skills to the refugees, ensuring that the project would cultivate the skills already present in the camps to develop devastated areas and making sure the skills would positively impact communities when displaced persons return to their communities. The project is nonexistent in any refugee camp and could be implemented through partnerships with the United Nations and several preexisting NGOs which operate in the region. On the individual level the group can seek out vocational professionals that are willing to go to Chad and to assist refugees in their vocational training.