



ANNUAL REVIEW 2008

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# DIRECTOR'S REPORT



“SURF is a gift from God,” the Vice-Mayor of Kamonyi District told me during a recent visit to Rwanda.

This sentiment I heard echoed time and again from partners on my first formal visit in my new role as Director of SURF. Though I knew that to be the case, from earlier tours around our programmes with SURF donors, it is only now do I have a sense of all that our organisation has achieved for survivors. For that, I have one person in particular to thank – our founder, and my predecessor as director, Mary Kayitesi Blewitt – who was recognised for her efforts in supporting survivors, at the start of the year with the award of an OBE in the Queen’s New Year Honours List.

It is impossible to know how the situation of survivors in Rwanda today would differ without the support of SURF, and Mary, over the past fifteen years. In the immediate aftermath of the genocide in 1994 when she began work with the Ministry of Rehabilitation coordinating the registration of NGOs in Rwanda, to helping establish AVEGA (Association of Widows of the Genocide) in 1995 and then SURF in 1997, Mary has assumed the responsibility for promoting, fundraising and ultimately delivering support for the survivors of the Rwandan genocide. If she had not, then without doubt the 400,000 survivors of the genocide in Rwanda would be worse off today.

It is thus an honour to be given the opportunity to extend that work. However, I recognise too the challenge it will be to sustain the impact that SURF, through Mary, has delivered. That she has agreed to continue in a formal capacity as SURF’s Founder, will certainly make the mission to rebuild the lives of survivors more achievable. However, the work is hard and the need is great.

SURF to this day is the principal funder for the two primary survivor’s organisations in Rwanda, AVEGA and IBUKA (the umbrella body of survivor’s organisations). That this is the case is a cause for pride, but also concern.

The importance to sustain, and if possible extend, our funding is critical if survivors are to continue to receive the support they so desperately require. However, our role to build the capacity of local survivor’s organisations, our partners, necessitates more work. Success for SURF will be when our partners are ultimately independent, and empowering and rebuilding the lives of the survivors that they represent. We are still some way from achieving that end.

However, what we have delivered for survivors, fifteen years on from the genocide, is not to be undervalued. Though no doubt you know already the statistics, they are worth repeating again. SURF has helped to give over 300,000 victims of the genocide a decent burial in over 50 memorial sites across Rwanda. We have built nearly 1,000 houses, giving shelter to around 5,000 survivors, in addition to rehabilitating 5,000 more homes. We have provided educational support for nearly 10,000 young survivors, 100 of which have, or are soon to, graduate from university. 2,500 HIV+ survivors currently receive antiretroviral treatment through the 5 clinics we have built. Tens of thousands of survivors benefit from the income generating activities that we have funded, as well as the psychosocial counselling we help facilitate.

This level of support has only been possible through your support. Particular donors must be given credit. Comic Relief has funded many of the houses and memorial sites we have constructed, and the Department for International Development continues to fund the clinics which provide healthcare. The Charities Advisory Trust through its Good Gifts catalogue has made possible many of the income generating activities, from beekeeping to livestock rearing. The Sigrid Rausing Trust funds the vital gender-based violence programme and Foundation Rwanda is now taking the lead in providing educational support. Network 4 Africa, The Tinsley Trust, Think Money, Jubilee Action, INSPIRE!africa and the Bliss Foundation are continuing to help us develop a new community and health centre for an underserved community of 3,000 survivors in Ntarama.



We also have some exceptional supporters too, that go over and above the call of duty. This includes Nick Twomey who began a world record bid to become the youngest person to run marathons across all seven continents and raise money for SURF in the process. In just nine months, Nick is running 12 marathons from Hawai'i to Antarctica, and even along the Great Wall of China. Nick's connection to SURF extends back to his time as a volunteer whilst a student at London's Oratory School, with whom we continue to have a connection – with over 20 students coming to the office each week to volunteer their time to help with everything from mail-outs to photocopying.

Every supporter – from volunteers to donors – makes a difference. SURF was created through an initial donation of £57 from a tea party. We are now working with schools through a new project developed by our trustee Sam Hunt, Reaching Rwanda, collecting sometimes even the smallest contributions. Each penny counts, more so today in this economic climate. That we can fund the health insurance of a household of survivors for £6 a year, demonstrates the impact that cumulatively donations can make.

In this annual report, we endeavour to give you a better sense of the programmes that we deliver, as well as an honest assessment of the challenges we, as an organisation, and survivors, face. In Rwanda, many do not believe that our office in London consists of just two persons – besides a director, we have just an administrator. This is testament to our founder's belief that it is not size that matters, but impact. That principal is applied throughout our work to this day across our organisation.

I would like to acknowledge just some of the key individuals here. Liam Dempsey, our website developer, Drew Sutton, our videographer, Andy Lawrence, our education coordinator, Flavia Kirungi, our administrator, Benon Banya, our accountant, all deliver beyond the call of duty. Our Board give their time willingly – and often thanklessly – to provide critical governance. We have a number of tireless supporters,

of particularly note Rebecca Tinsley and Joy Childs. And our office in Rwanda, led by the indefatigable Gabo Wilson, and ably supported by Joram Sebatware, Sam Munderere, and Godfrey Karanja, are vital as our staff in the field.

SURF is fortunate to receive such great support, and in this report we have highlighted some of the reasons why people are involved. For Mary the motive was the loss that she endured from her family being killed in the genocide. For me, it is a sense of duty “to care for the orphan and the widow” as my religion teaches and more fundamentally to do what I can, because I can.

Everyone has their own reason as to why they are involved with SURF; some simply because they were asked, others because they have been touched by the plight of survivors through media or in person. Whatever is your reason, we are truly thankful

For five years I served Mary and SURF as a consultant. However it has only been over the past few months since assuming the position of Director have I truly grasped the volume of work involved to keep SURF on track to deliver the support we deem a bare minimum for survivors. The respect I have for Mary for having kept at it for fifteen years grows each day, as I continue to learn to navigate the challenging path.

It is on visits to Rwanda though that the reward is reaped, as one experiences first-hand SURF's successes. Often we are not visible in the projects that our partners deliver; however, travelling across the country and meeting the survivors to hear how their lives have been transformed through education and entrepreneurship, housing and healthcare, it is clear to me that SURF is not just a gift from G-d, it is in fact a gift from you.

For that, the survivors, and I, are truly indebted.

David Russell

Director, SURF

# CO-CHAIR'S REPORT



2008 has been a year of transition for SURF.

After eleven years at the helm of SURF, our founding Director Mary Kayitesi Blewitt passed the baton on to David Russell. It was a difficult recruitment process, as due to the nature of the work, SURF requires a very particular person as director – someone who has, and can convey empathy with survivors and has an understanding of the sensitivities of working with this group of people, as well as experience of management and international development.

It was then no surprise that we found that person close to home. David has been working with SURF since 2004, and, through assisting Mary, has developed a highly tuned understanding of the challenges of working with survivors. As well, he brings to the job an exciting perspective fostered through his study of social entrepreneurship in New York. This will be critical if SURF is going to succeed in helping its partners to become self-sustaining.

Despite our revenue falling in 2008, SURF succeeded in diversifying its funding base developing new partnerships with, amongst others, Foundation Rwanda. This will continue to be a focus of our work over the year ahead, as we particularly have a need to develop our base of individual donors to generate more unrestricted funding. To this end, we hope that SURF's selection for the BBC Charity of the Week Appeal in June will help. So keep your radio dials tuned to Radio 4.

In April, to coincide with the commemoration of the genocide, I undertook a visit to Rwanda to meet with our partners. SURF's Research Centre in Kamonyi has had a particularly

challenging birth. Our original intention was to transfer ownership of the Centre to an independent survivors' organisation established for that specific purpose – called Humura, after the original name of the Centre. However, despite promises that plans for the Centre's development and governance were in place, they failed to materialise. As such, SURF took the only course of action open to it, to retain ownership of the Centre.

Despite these problems, plans for the Centre are on course as outlined in the Memory section of this report. Along with the new projects that have been developed this year, such as the solar lamp income-generating activity, exciting times lie ahead for SURF over the next phase of its development.

To that end, I hope you will join me in wishing Mary well in the new phase of her career, and to express our gratitude for all that she has achieved with SURF. I am grateful that she has agreed to David's request to remain involved as an ambassador in her formal capacity as SURF's Founder. And hope that you will also join with me and the Board of Trustees of SURF to formally welcome David and wish him well in his new position as our Director. As I witnessed during my visit to Rwanda, the work that SURF undertakes is more vital than ever – as the needs of older survivors increase, and a new set of challenges emerges for their dependents.

As ever, SURF, our partners, and the survivors we represent, thank you for your continuing support.

Sarah Westcott

Co-Chair, SURF

# ANNUAL REPORT



A guiding principle of SURF is to build the capacity of its partners to enable them to support themselves more effectively. This year, through funding from Comic Relief, SURF has undertaken an institutional support project to build the capacity of IBUKA through the appointment of 2 new staff members – an assistant executive secretary and an advocacy and information office – and a more ambitious project to re-establish AVEGA Western Region (AWR) in Cyangugu.

SURF's support of IBUKA extends back to its formation in 1995 as a co-ordinating organisation for local survivors' organisations. They currently have a membership of 13 local organisations including all of SURF's lead partners – AVEGA, Solace Ministries and AOCM.

IBUKA has successfully extended its funding base to secure support for a trauma counselling project from the EU and a justice project from UNESCO. This is a positive sign, but still over half of its funding comes from SURF. Its primary focus is on advocacy, engaging both the Government of Rwanda (GoR), as well as the international community, to offer more comprehensive support to survivors.

IBUKA's current priority is justice, and the continuing repercussions of gacaca – the community-based trials through which perpetrators of the genocide are currently tried. Through a monitoring project, IBUKA has documented 24 survivors that have been killed as a direct result of giving evidence at gacaca this year. Through lobbying they secured funding from FARG, matched by the Belgian Government, to retain 48 paralegals to provide legal support for survivors at gacaca. As gacaca is wound down in 2009, this funding is due to come to an end – but the threat to survivors remains. SURF's work in this area of justice, as highlighted further on in this report, is thus ever more vital.

SURF facilitated a memorandum of understanding between IBUKA and the Shoah Foundation to develop capacity for a testimony collection project. However, as yet, funding has not been secured to launch the project, which ultimately will complement SURF's research centre in Kamonyi.

AVEGA Western Region (AWR) has 3,780 members who are widows of the genocide, and serves over 15,000

beneficiaries (which includes the dependents of the widows – many of whom are orphans of the genocide). From 2002 SURF supported the establishment of the organisation. However in 2006, funding for the five-year project funded through Comic Relief came to an end. It was expected that AWR by that time would have secured additional donors to support its work, as well as developed income-generating activities to cover its core funding. However, this was not possible.

AWR is based in the South-West of Rwanda, in Cyangugu, an area that was particularly badly affected in the genocide due to its distance from Kigali as well as its proximity to the Congolese border. As such, the rural region is largely underdeveloped and the survivors have been underserved. SURF, through a new project with Comic Relief has been able to provide an additional 18 months of funding for AWR, beginning in August 2008. This has enabled it to re-establish the office and is aimed at trying to ensure that this time AWR can become self-sustaining.

There are signs of progress, as AWR has secured funding from FARG for income-generating activities, as well as the Rwanda Group Trust for housing. However, there is a great deal more work still to be undertaken if they are to succeed in maintaining their work after SURF's support ends in December 2009. With 14 staff members, their monthly operating costs are around £5,000 a month, which covers counsellors, social workers, paralegals, development workers and the administrative staff. Through funding from DFID they have constructed a health clinic but it is not yet equipped or fully operational.

The challenge over the year ahead is to continue to provide technical support to partners such as AWR and IBUKA to enable them to become more self-sustaining. SURF has helped Solace Ministries and AVEGA Eastern Region (AER) achieve this to some degree, through support for a guest house in Kigali and a conference centre in Rwamagana respectively, which generates over 30% of the core costs of each organisation. It is possible, but it requires a sustained effort.



Advocacy underpins the work of SURF. It provides the foundation upon which our fundraising campaigns are developed, as well as generates critical awareness of the situation of survivors in Rwanda today. International advocacy is undertaken directly by SURF, in partnership with IBUKA, as well as indirectly through funding our partners to develop advocacy campaigns in Rwanda.

In 2008, SURF focused efforts on raising our profile through advocacy in the US – considered even more important by the end of the year as the exchange rate adversely affected our funding in British pounds. With the Rwandan Franc pegged to the US dollar, our funding in pounds lost one-third of its value by the year's end. With our partnership with Foundation Rwanda, we have developed a capacity to raise awareness of the issue of women survivors raped during the genocide, and the children born to them. This has generated funds for our education work in particular.

In April, SURF staged a Reading of the Testimonies of Rwandan Survivors in Washington Square Park in New York. The event called on the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), to give equal priority to access to antiretroviral treatment for survivors, as it grants prisoners of the genocide. The event succeeded in raising awareness of this issue, and work is ongoing to ensure that funders such as PEPFAR are aware of the specific sensitivities of delivering antiretroviral treatment to survivors.

As the five-year Care and Treatment Programme (CTP) funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), which provides anti-retroviral treatment for 2,500 women survivors raped and infected with HIV and AIDS during the genocide, is due to come to an end in 2010 there is a critical need for advocacy over the year ahead to ensure that DFID extends this funding. Without it, the clinics which the programme funds - at AER, AVEGA Central and Solace Ministries - will be without staff, medicine and capacity to treat the survivors they currently serve. There is already greater demand for treatment than the programme can serve, and thus without the funding the situation for survivors will be chronic.

This year SURF again facilitated what has become the annual two-week visit of the Conservative Party to Rwanda, known as Project Umubano. A 100-person group – of MPs, prospective MPs and supporters - came to the country to experience first-hand international development issues, led by one of the patrons, the Shadow Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell MP. A group headed by Tobias Ellwood MP helped to build a new community centre at SURF's Kinyinya Orphans Village which was officially opened by President Paul Kagame.

Such work, educating more people about the situation of survivors is vital for SURF. Media plays an important role in this regard, and we secured coverage of SURF and our projects in an array of publications including the Financial Times and the International Herald Tribune. We also supported through the advocacy and ambassadorship of our patrons, Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks, The Reverend Father George Bowen, Oona King, Paul Bradley, Astra Blair, Fergal Keane, Lindsey Hilsum, Lord Brian Cotter and Andrew Mitchell who continue to speak up for SURF and speak out for survivors where and when possible.

2009 marks fifteen years on from the genocide, and securing funding for survivors is more critical than ever. SURF is planning to stage a Reading of the Testimonies in the summer, inviting people from across the UK to read a testimony of a survivor in a public commemoration. As well, we are launching a schools' campaign to promote the teaching of the genocide and also a new initiative to engage students in fundraising for survivors – with help from two dedicated supporters, Andy Lawrence of Hampton School and Sam Hunt of Sandhurst Comprehensive.

We recognise that there is a particular need for us to strengthen our funding from individuals – in order to secure more unrestricted funding for SURF's own core costs – to which the schools' campaign is one tactic. We are also developing an innovative online donation campaign, and exploring ways to utilise more effectively new media tools, such as online video and social networking, to advocate further for survivors, on our behalf as well as that of our partners.





Justice for survivors is the priority most often flagged up by our partners. Post-genocide justice in Rwanda takes many forms, but SURF is working specifically to deliver restorative justice.

A campaign for restorative justice aims to restore the lives of survivors as far as possible to how they were before the genocide. It is a call for survivors to be given shelter in those cases where houses were destroyed during the genocide. It is a call for survivors to receive antiretroviral treatment for HIV and AIDS contracted due to rape during the genocide. It is a call for survivors to be supported through education and with income generating activities to compensate for their loss of schooling and livelihoods as a result of the genocide. In particular, it is a call for the legal rights of survivors to be protected, particularly as they are threatened by the release of the perpetrators of the genocide.

SURF, in partnership with IBUKA, is developing a campaign for compensation from the international community to deliver restorative justice for survivors. Remarkably, despite a UN resolution in 2005 that called for the international community to provide greater support to survivors, little additional funding has resulted. The GoR has made a commitment to construct 20,000 houses for the most vulnerable households of survivors still without shelter – but it does not have the funds to deliver this commitment.

SURF continues to provide support for shelter, and last year a successful independent evaluation was undertaken by Comic Relief to mark the completion of the construction of

362 houses across Rwanda allocated to members of our partners AVEGA, Solace Ministries, AOCM and ARSG Mpore and providing shelter for 1,810 beneficiaries. An additional 8 homes were constructed in Ntarama, adjoining the new Community Centre and Clinic. Funding from the Isle of Man was secured to fund additional houses, a project which will begin over the course of the year ahead.

IBUKA, and our partners, now meet with the GoR on a quarterly basis to report on the number of incidents resulting from *gacaca*. Through funding from the Sigrid Rausing Trust, which has been extended into 2009, SURF has focused on the threat to women survivors in particular through a gender-based violence (GBV) programme.

This programme has been delivered in the Eastern Region of Rwanda through AER and has resulted in significant improvements in the lives of women survivors. Since the project's inception in 2006, the reporting of GBV has increased in the region by 110%. This has been due to sensitisation work with the Rwanda National Police, resulting in a gender desk and a telephone hotline being established which has enabled survivors to report incidents in a manner that is sensitive to their needs. A legal aid fund has empowered them to pursue GBV cases.

Through a media campaign, more people are aware of the issue of GBV and women are aware of their legal rights and action that can be taken to protect them. This has improved the lives not only of the 7,800 widows represented by AER, but also the lives of women and girls across that region. The challenge ahead is to generate additional funding to sustain the programme in the Eastern Region and to then scale it up nationwide.

A landmark report on survivors and post-genocide justice in Rwanda was published in November 2008 by African Rights and Redress. It will provide the foundation upon which SURF's advocacy on justice will be built. The report concludes that for most survivors "in addition to their daily struggles to merely exist, and to live, they continue to struggle, mostly in vain, for some measure of justice that is meaningful to them. Certainly, justice for the crimes of the genocide can never be fully realisable... There are no adequate or appropriate remedies for crimes of this nature. Nonetheless, the multiple justice solutions that have been applied in the context of Rwanda have left many victims feeling vulnerable rather than acknowledged and supported, alienated rather than reconciled, angry and fearful instead of positive with hopes for the future."

It is in this context that SURF is working. Trauma is a particularly acute problem that all of our partners are working to address. However, inherited trauma is increasingly manifested amongst children of survivors. As yet there are no systematic interventions to deal with this new phenomenon, an issue that SURF and its partners need to undertake further research into before developing appropriate responses. To this end, SURF's Founder, Mary Kayitesi Blewitt, is also working.



Over the past year, the number of young survivors making their way to SURF's new centre in Kamonyi has continued to grow. They come with one issue on their mind: education.

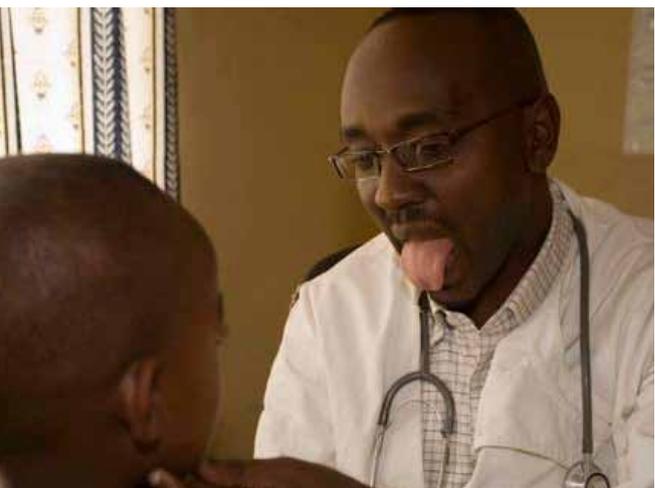
How will they fund their education? SURF helps when it can, but education is today an expensive business in Rwanda. Though primary school is universally free, there is still the expense of the uniform, books and stationery to cover, as well as transport too. Fees for secondary school amount to £100 a year, a small fortune for many survivors. The fortunate ones receive assistance from FARG, the Government Assistance Fund for Survivors. However the scholarship is based on merit. It covers only one in every five of the survivors.

The most vulnerable young survivors do not perform well enough at primary school to qualify for assistance. Many have insurmountable obstacles to overcome – caring for dependents, making ends meet, managing their trauma. They attend school on an empty stomach and without a secure home to which to return. It is not then a surprise that many drop out.

But education is a route out of destitution. It provides survivors with the confidence and the skills to ultimately become independent. Graduating from secondary school has a significant impact on the life chances of survivors. At the end of the year, we agreed an initial grant from Foundation Rwanda to support 150 children born of rape through secondary school. We are hopeful that we will be in a position to extend this number in 2009.

Through individual donors as well as SURF's own funding, we are supporting over 100 young survivors through university education. Through Solace Ministries, we helped secure funding to support 40 young survivors. At a cost of nearly £800 a year, this proves to be a great financial commitment. However, there is a concurrent challenge of extending support to survivors as they graduate from university to enable them to secure jobs – which, as the global economic climate begins to impact upon Rwanda, is becoming ever more difficult. To this end, we are planning to convene a conference of all students on the SURF university education project, in order to develop an alumni network that can enable us to better understand the issues that the graduates face to ensure that we can provide continuing support as necessary.





The aforementioned importance of the CTP, coupled with a number of other projects, has extended SURF's reach to deliver greater healthcare support for survivors.

Of particular note in 2008 was the construction of a new health clinic in Ntarama, another underserved area with a high density of survivors in Rwanda. The clinic, which adjoins a community centre, was made possible through the support of a collective of donors led by the Tinsley Trust and Network 4 Africa, and including INSPIRE!africa, Jubilee Action, Bliss Family Trust and Think Money.

The clinic will be managed by AER, and is based on the model of their successful Rwamagana clinic. There are over 3,000 survivors in the immediate vicinity of the clinic that will be given access to medical treatment for common afflictions, such as malaria, as well as antiretroviral treatment too. The clinic will play a vital education role, with a focus on maternal health and family planning for the many young women survivors in the area. A significant element of the work will be counselling and home-based care.

There continues to be a particular need to treat survivors in dedicated clinics as a result of their unwillingness to access services through GoR public health clinics due to the trauma of using facilities where their status as survivors is known, and where they might meet, and even be treated by, perpetrators. The extent of this problem is known anecdotally, but rigorous research is required to quantify scientifically the numbers affected. If funding is secured, data collection and a comprehensive needs assessment will be undertaken with IBUKA over the year ahead.

The problems encountered by widows of genocide living with HIV and AIDS are enormous. Provision of antiretroviral treatment is not sufficient and most of them are too poor to even afford a suitable meal. Thus a nutrition supplement programme is offered too. As the patients' lives improve they have been encouraged to set up income generating projects to meet their basic needs. Furthermore, the partners mobilise and train community development workers (CDWs) to reach housebound HIV+ patients in their district.

This proven holistic approach is what we plan to establish in Ntarama, and if funding allows, in Cyangugu with AWR too. The programme is ultimately sustainable. Once the survivors are sensitised to receiving treatment in a dedicated clinic, it is possible to then open its services to the wider community which provides revenue for the ongoing operation of the clinic as well as delivering a benefit to non-survivors in bringing health services to their area.

In an independent evaluation of CTP, it is reported that: "Treatment support for this marginalised group is both feasible and key to their (and their families) survival and subsequent reintegration into Rwandan society... the fact that that there are high levels of counselling, CD4 testing and treatment compliance suggests that the ART service has been effectively marketed, clinically managed and monitored." The challenge ahead for SURF is to advocate for this approach to be scaled up.



About 50,000 households of survivors have no source of income. In addition to other challenges resulting from the genocide; they do not have food to be able to feed their families. That is why the Good Gifts project of the Charities Advisory Trust is such a vital aspect of SURF's work.

Income generating activities (IGAs) such as small livestock farming is essential to raise the economic power of the survivors, many who still live in abject poverty. It also provides a vital source of nutrition and food security. Delivered through AVEGA, Solace Ministries, AOCM and ARG Impuhwe the survivors are grouped into cooperatives to work together to generate income, improve nutrition and strengthen the confidence and esteem of survivors.

Income-generating activities through Good Gifts this year have focused on goats, chickens, bees and cows, reaching over 15,000 beneficiaries. This has been supplemented through funding for partners from CTP and FARG which has enabled a number of arable projects, including the growing of coffee and Pili-Pili (chilli peppers) for example. In Cyangugu, one such co-operative through funding from AWR is growing cassava on a 1.5 acre plot. The crop generates almost £800 for the 24 widows and their dependents that work together on the project, and also helps to breakdown stigma with HIV+ survivors being integrated and working at the heart of the co-operative.

This year we developed for the first time a solar lamp project. We are partnering with an NGO in India (THRIVE) to set up Rwanda's first network of solar entrepreneurs that will deliver solar lamps to all 600 houses that SURF has constructed, as well as to develop income generating enterprises through the renting out of the lights. SURF Rwanda's Administrator travelled to India to undertake an intensive training and over the year ahead will oversee the roll-out of the project.

Time and again we hear from partners that the greatest gift that they can give is funding and support to enable their members to be independent. However, for many survivors this is becoming more difficult as with age they have less energy to work. There is a greater onus on their dependents to undertake the work to reciprocate the support that was once provided to them.

However, in some cases it is just not possible for survivors to generate any income and as such SURF enables its partners to maintain a hardship fund which helps survivors unable to help themselves – as well as providing emergency



cover for exceptional needs in the case of sickness, death and damage to property – which was necessary for AWR, to address the needs of its members affected by the earthquake in Cyangugu which struck in February 2008.

To extend the funding for income-generating activities, over the year ahead SURF will explore the possibility of setting up an online donation mechanism based on the successful model of kiva.org. This will enable additional revenue to be generated to seed new activities through our partners, and to supplement the funding secured through institutional donors.



With the support of Comic Relief, SURF continued its work in giving a decent burial to the victims of the genocide with the construction of two new memorial sites, in Mugina and Nyamirama - in which 32,000 and 12,000 bodies will be buried. There is still a need for further memorial sites, to ensure that the remains of victims of the genocide which continue to be identified through gacaca can be laid to rest with dignity.

By doing so, it provides a great help to survivors. Survivors still waiting to bury loved ones often feel haunted. That becomes an obstacle to rehabilitation and rebuilding life, and a sense of closure often only comes with burial. As such, SURF will continue to work with IBUKA over the year ahead in an attempt to generate the funding to complete the work.

Memory is at the heart of the Survivors' Research Centre in Kamonyi, which adjoins another memorial site in which 50,000 victims of the genocide are buried. In December 2008, SURF Rwanda relocated its offices to Kamonyi which is the first phase of its operation. Over the next two years, SURF will work in partnership with the National University of Rwanda to establish a historical archive of the genocide. The Survivors' Centre will house the archive, and serve as a vital hub for research on the genocide and the situation of survivors today.

There are many documents relating to the genocide that lie abandoned in sites around Rwanda. The Centre will collect and archive them, making the information accessible to scholars around the world. It will also chronicle the life of survivors before the genocide, an often neglected aspect of the history of Rwanda. It will integrate its work with the Kigali Memorial Centre in Gisozi which focuses on the genocide itself, and IBUKA's testimony archive in Nyanza.

However, the Centre will not only focus on survivors' past. It will have a unique focus on survivors' future too. The plan for SURF's work over the year ahead will be to focus more

funding in the Kamonyi district, where there continues to be a great need amongst survivors. Through supporting shelter, livelihood financing and farming in the area it will serve as a showcase for SURF's work and the potential of survivors given the support they need. The Centre will host conferences and forums related to survivors, on issues such as healthcare, trauma and justice. It is also planned to create a media hub, to highlight the situation of survivors internationally, through online media, as well as nationally across Rwanda, through radio broadcasting.

Initiatives are under way for an educational programme at the Centre too, which will enable survivors to understand how the brain is affected by torture, to identify symptoms and empower survivors to manage intrusive memories more effectively. This is a new initiative, led by SURF Founder Mary Kayitesi Blewitt, with a hope that psychosocial analysts and psychiatric experts can come to Rwanda to share knowledge with our partners and determine interventions that work in the Rwandan cultural context. To enable this, SURF is exploring a strategic partnership with the UK-based Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture to leverage their expertise in the mental health field for the Centre. The organisation already plays a vital role in providing support to survivors in the UK.

There is also a significant neglect of the systematic collection of data related to the situation of survivors, and their needs. Much of SURF's work is based on anecdotal evidence. The Centre provides the opportunity to address this great need too, leveraging the research to ultimately deliver an improvement in the lives of survivors. Where necessary, SURF will begin to deliver programmes to demonstrate best practice, whilst continuing to support partners through technical support and capacity-building to enable them to more effectively serve the survivors they support. This is an exciting development in SURF's evolution, which we are certain will serve to deliver our mission, a world where the rights of survivors are respected.



SURF has welcomed several new trustees to its Board in 2008, including Sam Hunt, Jeff Hunt and Mark Pallis. Each brings valuable expertise and experience to our work. Sam is a teacher, and has received several awards for her innovative teaching of the Holocaust, and is playing a pivotal role in developing SURF's education strategy. Jeff is an IT consultant and is working to strengthen SURF's technological platforms, in particular our donor relationship management. Mark is the former co-ordinator of the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes Region and brings to the Board invaluable public affairs insight.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing trustees as well: Alphonsine Kabagabo, Anne Lloyd Williams, Frank Tumwesigye and Jacqueline Nyiratunga. All four committed great time and effort as trustees, providing vital contribution to SURF.

SURF is continuing to seek opportunities to strengthen its Board, and ensure that survivors continue to be represented at the highest level of the organisation. In order to more effectively deliver its work to survivors in the UK, a strategic partnership is developing between SURF and Hope Survivors Foundation (HSF), a registered charitable organisation in the UK which serves to support and represent UK survivors. HSF is represented on the SURF Board by Jean Louis Mazimpaka.

In light of governance failings in the US around the Bernard Madoff fraud, as well as the ongoing vulnerability of the banking system, particularly diligence is being undertaken on our financial management systems, led by Treasurer, David Lumley.



Survivors Fund (SURF) is a charity dedicated to aiding and assisting the survivors of the Rwandan genocide. It is the principal international funder of survivors' organisations in Rwanda, and has an advocacy and fundraising office in the UK and a monitoring and evaluation office in Rwanda.

SURF aims to ensure that survivors of the genocide in Rwanda and the UK are supported, memories and victims of the genocide are never forgotten, and that the lessons of the genocide are learned. SURF was founded by Mary Kayitesi Blewitt, other Rwandans based in UK, and concerned British individuals. Although support to survivors dates back to 1995, SURF was formally established and registered with the Charity Commission in 1997.

SURF builds a meaningful and lasting positive effect to the lives of, in particular, those widows and orphans who survived the 1994 genocide. The continued attention, effort and success in supporting such survivors, has been possible because of the commitment of individuals and partner organisations in Rwanda and UK who have supported our

work. 90% of our funding is from institutional donors such as Comic Relief; Department for International Development; Sigrid Rausing Trust, Charities Advisory Trust and Network 4 Africa. The other 10% of our funding is from individuals.

SURF is guided by a holistic and integrated approach to support the needs of survivors, as determined by survivors themselves. Any one type of assistance on its own, be it medical, economic or social, would be an incomplete answer. The ultimate goal of SURF is to secure a world in which the rights and dignity of survivors are respected, and where survivors are empowered to rebuild a sense of self and trust in humanity.

Programmes are delivered through partner organisations in Rwanda and the UK, for which SURF is the principal funder including AVEGA, IBUKA and Solace Ministries in Rwanda and Hope Survivors Foundation in the UK.

In 2009, David Russell, was appointed as Director, succeeding Mary Kayitesi Blewitt who continues her involvement in a formal capacity as SURF's Founder.



SURF's key partners in 2008 were: IBUKA (National Umbrella of Survivors' Organisations), AVEGA (Association of Widows of the Genocide) and Solace Ministries (Christian Survivors Support Organisation).

IBUKA is a high profile lobby group with a particular interest in addressing justice for survivors and coordinating / leading joint survivors' projects on a national level. A direct translation of IBUKA is "remember", which is the objective of the umbrella association. It is composed of 13 member organisations, which work to perpetuate the memory of genocide and provide support to genocide survivors. Speaking out is a sign of confidence of the survivors and being heard increases that confidence, which is what IBUKA strives to achieve and has a web site at [www.ibuka.net](http://www.ibuka.net).

AVEGA was founded in 1995 by 50 widowed survivors, who realised after the genocide that there was no one left to care for them or their children. The charity provides a means of support and recovery, and promotes self-fulfilment and self-reliance through many programmes, ranging from social networking to job training and from home construction to peer counselling. AVEGA now has five centres across Rwanda, and has a web site at [www.avega.org.rw](http://www.avega.org.rw).

Solace Ministries is an officially registered Christian based charity, which supports traumatised widows and orphans of genocide, especially people living with HIV/AIDS. It helps to restore hope and overcome feelings of despair, loneliness, hatred, anger and resentment among its members. Its programmes include counselling; childcare and development programmes; community development programmes; health and relief; capacity building and research.

More importantly, it provides a vital secure environment for survivors to meet and pray together. Solace Ministries has a web site at [www.solaceministriesuk.com](http://www.solaceministriesuk.com).

# TREASURER'S REPORT



SURF continues to provide support to survivors of the Rwandan genocide. Although fifteen years have elapsed since that terrible event, the needs of survivors still demand great attention as their circumstances change and as they and their families grow older. There are some constants, such as the need for housing and healthcare, in particular HIV/AIDS. There are some needs which have become more urgent after the initial shock of the genocide, such as trauma counselling, justice and education. All of these have been met by projects funded by our generous donors who range from national organisations to concerned individuals.

We are all aware of the financial turmoil affecting much of the world at the moment. We are aware that the financial resources of our supporters are under more pressure now than they have been in recent years for all sorts of reasons. However, I would urge our donors – institutional funders as well as individual givers – not to forget the survivors whom you have helped so greatly in the past. Regrettably, there is still much to be done and many critical areas where our support is required.

We thank you very much indeed for your help to date, but we also hope that you will recognise that your donations are as vital now than ever to continue to enable SURF to undertake its work and to realise its vision of a world where the rights and dignity of survivors are respected.

Our sincere thanks once again.

David Lumley

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

## SURVIVORS FUND

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)  
for the year ended 31 December 2008

		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>Last Year Total Funds</b>
	<b>Notes</b>	2008 £	2008 £	2008 £	2007 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated income					
Voluntary income		72,674	£630,598	703,272	1,035,693
Investment income	6	4,881	–	4,881	5,616
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>77,555</b>	<b>630,598</b>	<b>708,153</b>	<b>1,041,309</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Costs of charitable activities					
		95,019	524,351	619,370	1,129,475
Governance costs		476	3,530	4,006	5,125
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>95,495</b>	<b>527,881</b>	<b>623,376</b>	<b>1,134,600</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>(17,940)</b>	<b>102,717</b>	<b>84,777</b>	<b>(93,291)</b>
Total funds brought forward		81,939	46,096	128,035	221,326
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>63,999</b>	<b>148,813</b>	<b>212,812</b>	<b>128,035</b>

The net movement in funds referred to above is the net incoming resources as defined in the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commission for England & Wales and is reconciled to the total funds as shown in the Balance Sheet on page 15 as required by the said statement.

**All activities derive from continuing operations.**

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Survivors Fund (SURF) is a registered UK charity  
CHARITY NUMBER | 1065705

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