

# Handicap International 2009 Annual Report

A 27-Year Commitment to Make this  
a Safer, More Inclusive World

**HANDICAP  
INTERNATIONAL**

*Co-winner of Nobel Peace Prize*

Since its founding in 1982, Handicap International has worked to improve the lives of people in post-conflict or low-income countries around the world by enabling them to overcome disabling situations and reclaim their independence. Handicap International's seven national associations based in Europe, Canada and the United States, support 301 projects in 60 countries. Handicap International partners with local stakeholders where we work to respond fast and effectively to natural and civil disasters, prevent and treat disabling conditions, fight to eliminate landmines and cluster munitions and pursue the universal recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities through national planning and advocacy. The organization uses local resources to work with community partners with whom we share knowledge and build systems to prevent disability, treat those in need and advocate for inclusive development. Handicap International is a co-founder of the Cluster Munition Coalition and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which was awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.



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Dear Friend,

This 2009 annual report marks Handicap International's 27th year of working to address the causes and consequences of disabling violence, accidents and natural disasters. This year saw the creation of the Handicap International Federation, headquartered in Lyon, France, which now operates all of our field projects. Seven national associations in France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States support the federal network. Our office in the United States, the youngest member of the Federation, has grown from a staff of one to a community of 10 since we opened our doors in mid-2006.

This annual report shares details of some of the work we accomplished in 2009, including clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance, providing physical rehabilitation to persons with disabilities, responding to natural disasters and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

In July, our office assumed coordination of the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines & Cluster Bombs (USCBL). Staff attended the second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty in Cartagena, Colombia, where we worked with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines to lobby the U.S. delegation in attendance to join the treaty. We took great encouragement from the U.S. government's announcement in the fall that it would undertake an internal landmine policy review, with the hope of announcing that the U.S. might finally join the treaty.

We also formally launched the *Making it Work* initiative, which supports the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and promotes inclusive development and policy change. You can learn more about *Making it Work* by visiting: <http://www.makingitwork-crpd.org>.

Please keep supporting Handicap International as we continue to work with courageous people struggling to live up to their full potential. Your support will help us remain a powerful voice in the ongoing campaign to ban landmines and cluster bombs from the earth. Furthermore, our ability to respond fast and efficiently to natural disasters depends on you. Stay with us – your support matters!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosalind Grigsby".

Rosalind Grigsby, *President*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Batson".

Wendy Batson, *Executive Director*

# Ways Your Support Helps

Thanks to our donors, Handicap International continued to work in 2009 to empower people with disabilities and help make this a safer, more inclusive world. Here are five key program areas where we make a difference:

## Reclaiming Safe Homelands

Antipersonnel landmines and cluster bombs exist only to maim or kill people – and the vast majority of their victims are civilians (many of them children). In 2009 we worked in 16 countries to clear unexploded munitions left over from past wars. In Kenya, for example, we worked with local groups to educate the public about landmine dangers. In war-torn Mozambique, where we have been clearing unexploded mines since 1997, we continued to maintain a 100 percent safety record and conduct victim assistance programs. We helped the government in Senegal carry out its program by recruiting, training and supervising civilian demining teams.

## Helping Them Stand On Their Own

In Cambodia, we continued to support the major regional center for physiotherapy in Kompong Cham. We saw a steady growth in the number of people seeking orthopedic services, physical therapy and social and economic integration assistance. The center now also treats clubfoot in infants and provides rehabilitation services for Cambodians with cerebral palsy. Worldwide, we collaborated with governments and organizations to provide rehabilitation services in places such as Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and the Palestinian Territories. Meanwhile, in Thailand our teams assisted in six Burmese refugee camps along the border, providing a full range of comprehensive rehabilitation services, including walking aids, physical therapy and referrals for other needed services.

## Ready When Disaster Strikes

Handicap International responded to major disasters again in 2009, working to limit serious and permanent injuries, assisting survivors and helping those with disabilities re-enter society. We rushed assistance to Western Sumatra, Indonesia, after a major earthquake – providing physical rehabilitation care to trauma victims. We also responded to the Philippines after tropical storm Ketsana caused massive devastation. Handicap International teams helped assess the storm's impact on vulnerable populations, such as persons with disabilities, the elderly and those with serious medical

conditions and chronic diseases. In Pakistan, where we already were assisting victims of the massive 2005 earthquake, we launched large-scale emergency operations after 3 million people fled their homes during major fighting in the Swat Valley.

## Opening Doors for Everyone

In 2009, we worked in a number of locations to ensure that people living in disabling situations were not excluded from their communities. Efforts included working to recognize and include women who are deaf in Cambodian society, providing services and promoting inclusion of persons with disabilities in the refugee camps of Dadaab, Kenya, and operating a mobile clinic in Liberia to serve persons with disabilities. As part of our goal to help persons with disabilities reach their full potential as members of society, we worked in Mozambique to include citizens affected by HIV/AIDS in their communities, and we also promoted social inclusion of vulnerable youth through sports. We worked in Nicaragua and Sierra Leone to improve access to education for children with disabilities. Programs to promote rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities were also carried out in Sierra Leone and Thailand.

## Making Our Voice Heard

Handicap International has always been an advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, and we continue to be a leader in the effort to ban landmines and cluster bombs from the planet. We were co-founders of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and we shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 after passage of the international Mine Ban Treaty. Our advocacy continued in 2009, and we saw Central America move closer to becoming the world's first landmine-free region. We were also advocates in 2009 in Kenya, where we held an awareness campaign that focused on inequalities between men and women in HIV/AIDS prevention.

**For more detailed information on Handicap International's programs, visit [www.handicap-international.us](http://www.handicap-international.us)**

# Handicap International's Worldwide Presence

## Rehabilitation

Development of prosthesis-fitting and rehabilitation services, support for medical, social and educational programs; training of rehabilitation staff (including initial and ongoing training and training of managers).

## Mine Action

Operations to reduce the risk and impact of antipersonnel mines, cluster bombs and other explosive devices; development and management of technical mine clearance operations, cleaning up battlefields and identifying, measuring and marking suspect sites; organizing and training local teams for mine clearance and other prevention and clearance operations; following up and organizing campaigns to raise awareness among people in danger from landmines; conducting surveys of the social and economic impact of landmines on communities; establishing databases and maps of contaminated areas; providing assistance to the victims of landmines and other explosive devices.

## Public Health

Development of community health services, primary and secondary prevention, patient education, prevention of road accidents and disabling pathologies, primary health care, treatment and prevention of AIDS, nutrition, psychological support for populations suffering from psychological distress (in particular, refugees, displaced people and victims of conflicts), and mental health.

## Inclusion

Vocational inclusion focusing on micro-credit/income-generating activities, business employment, vocational training; social inclusion focusing on family and community life; inclusive education providing formal/non-formal schooling for children and adolescents; specialized education if necessary; integration of people with disabilities into development projects; greater civic involvement for people with disabilities; accessibility of the physical environment; access to sports, leisure and culture.

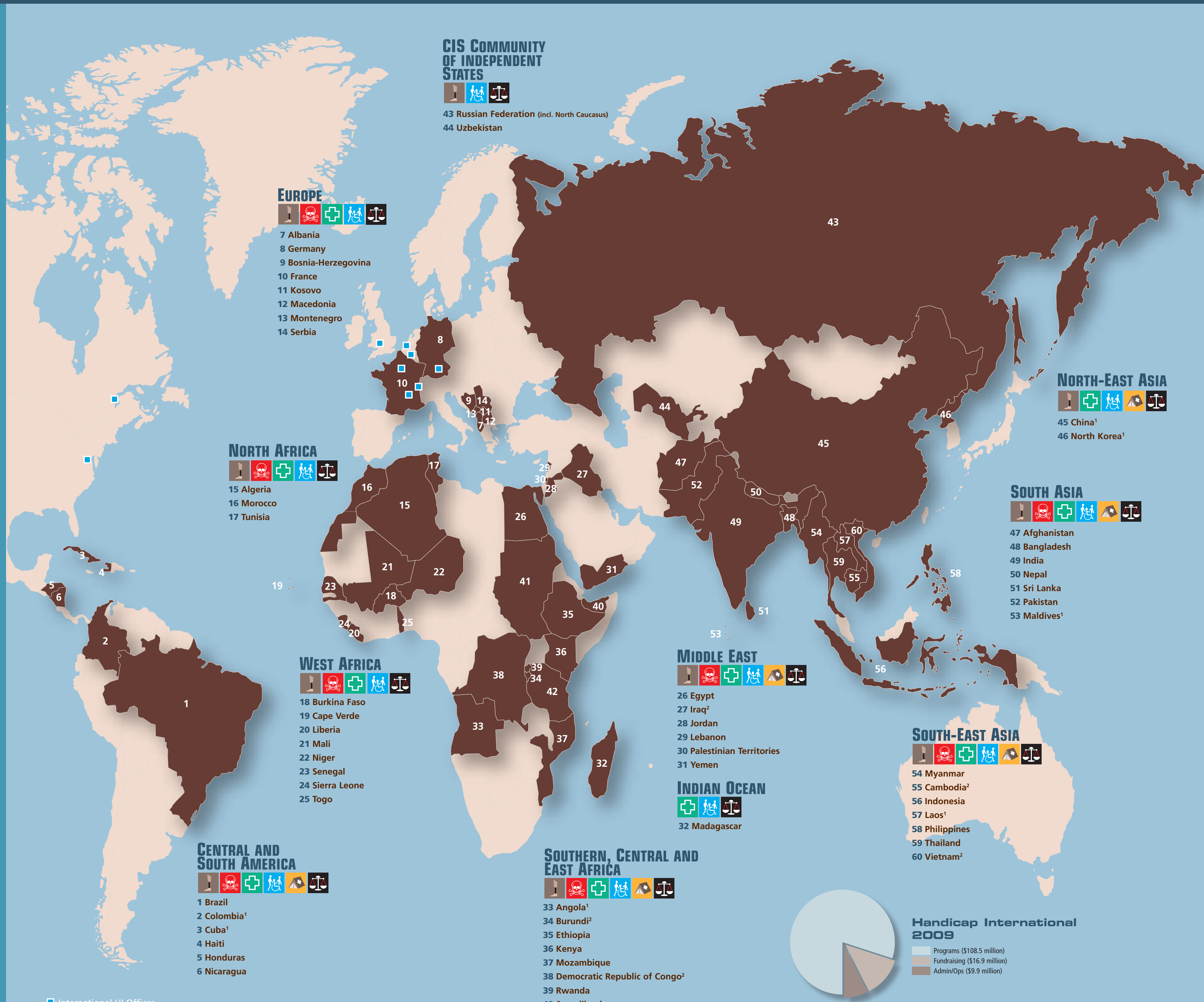
## Emergency Relief

Management and distribution of humanitarian aid covering basic needs; help for refugees and displaced persons, erection of temporary shelters and support for voluntary repatriation; accessibility of water and sanitation; help and support for people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups; victim assistance; preventive health care and community care and rehabilitation in the camps; restoration and building of accessible community housing and infrastructures; disaster-related risk reduction.

## Disability Rights and Policies

Development of civil society (by supporting local associations promoting these rights), support for defining policies (at local, national and international level); encouraging dialogue between public authorities and civil society; information, raising awareness and education to promote social recognition and enforcement of rights; defining global operational strategies to enable access to rights; using a community approach to disabilities as part of development.

1 – Programs implemented by the Belgian office of Handicap International.  
2 – Programs jointly implemented by Handicap International's French and Belgian offices.



## Handicap International 2009

Programs (\$108.5 million)  
Fundraising (\$16.9 million)  
Admin/Ops (\$9.9 million)

## How We Invest Your Contributions

To view the complete 2009 audit and 990s of Handicap International's U.S. office, please go to [www.handicap-international.us](http://www.handicap-international.us).

# Please Support Our Efforts

We ask for your help in our global efforts to make this a safer, more inclusive world. Your tax-deductible gift will strengthen our ability to offer expertise and encouragement to remarkable people as they fight to overcome adversity and take their rightful place in their community. Please stand with us as a voice for humanity – and an organization that takes direct action in 60 countries around the globe. **Thank you for caring!**



(LEFT) © CORENTIN THÉVENET FOR HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL, (RIGHT) © STUART FREEDMAN FOR HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL



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