



about northern uganda

Two decades of brutal conflict between government forces and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda have taken an unimaginable toll on children and families. The longstanding civil war has been termed as the world's most neglected humanitarian crisis. Tens of thousands have been maimed or killed, and at the height of the conflict, nearly 2 million Ugandans were displaced living in cramped, squalid camps. The war is also known for the brutal abduction and use of child soldiers. The LRA has filled its ranks by abducting over 30,000 children.

As peace talks continue, Mercy Corps is helping Acholi families as they prepare for their much-delayed journey home. Through innovative agricultural programs that encourage collaboration and self-sufficiency, Mercy Corps is helping families regain a cherished way of life.

see the need
hear the voices
be the change
mercy corps

Mercy Corps is a proud recipient of the 2008 Fast Company/Monitor Group Social Capitalist Award.

Mercy Corps works amid disasters, conflicts, chronic poverty and instability to unleash the potential of people who can win against nearly impossible odds. Since 1979, Mercy Corps has provided more than \$1.5 billion in assistance to people in 106 nations. Supported by headquarters in North America and Europe, the agency's global programs employ 3,500 staff worldwide and reach more than 16.4 million people in more than 35 countries. Over the past five years, more than 89 percent of the agency's resources have been allocated directly to programs that help people in need.



For more information, visit these web sites:

mercycorps.org

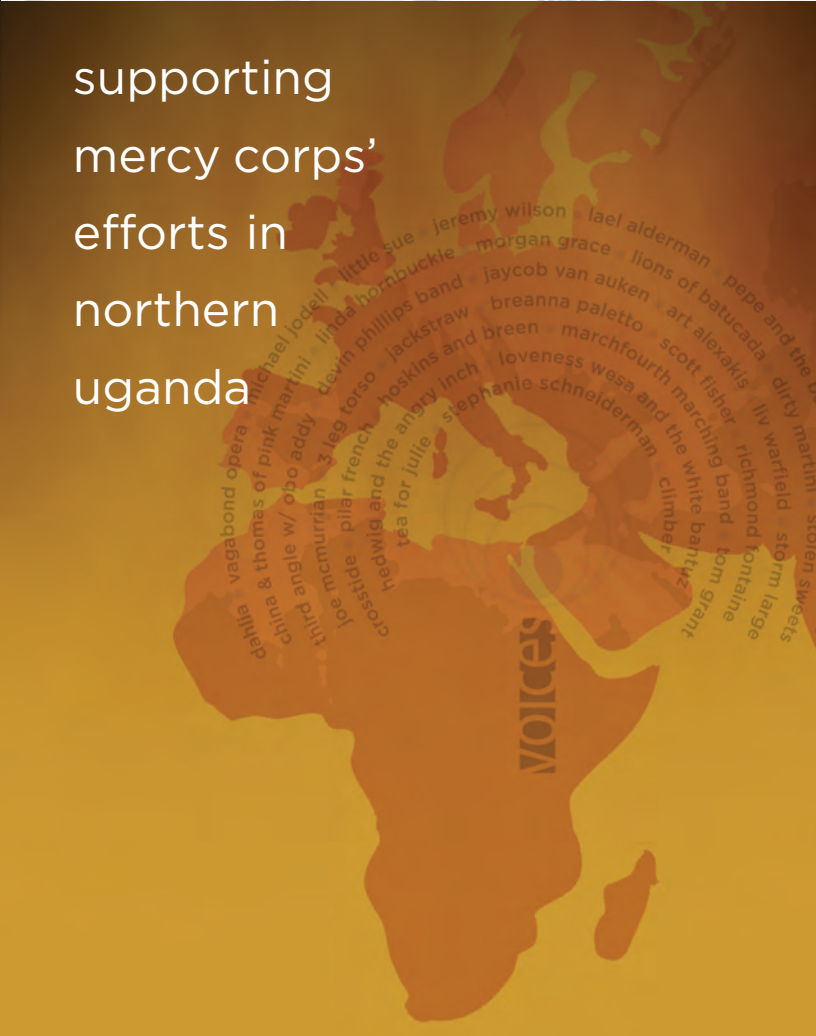
voicesforsilentdisasters.com



portland's first humanitarian concert series



supporting mercy corps' efforts in northern uganda



VOICES FOR SILENT DISASTERS 800



2008: one person can make a difference

This year, Voices for Silent Disasters is creating partnerships with inspired people, like you, who want to make a difference. With support from the Voices team, you are invited to host an intimate house concert to raise money and awareness for northern Uganda. Together through these house concerts our goal to raise \$100K by December of 2008!

“house concert kit” includes:

- a prominent local musician
- concert production (sound, lighting, etc.)
- an event spokesperson
- an educational video
- access to food, wine and catering at a discount
- printed materials (invitations and thank-you letters)

become part of it...

Bring your passion, your creativity, and your collaborative spirit to this annual concert series that celebrates Portland's uniqueness and grass roots community. Together we can learn about and connect with people half a world away and be part of a collective force that keeps silent disasters from being unknown and silent successes from being unheard.

We support Mercy Corps' efforts in Africa as they partner with communities in northern Uganda and bring aid to a crisis of epic proportion.

last year... hundreds of local voices came together to raise money and awareness for Mercy Corps' efforts in the war-torn region of northern Uganda. In the fall 2007, ten concerts featured nearly 40 of Portland's top musical acts, and raised over **\$60,000!**

Inspired by local musician, Stephanie Schneiderman, Voices for Silent Disasters grew into an entire community effort. A team of volunteers helped plan and execute the concert series, musicians gave their talents, McMenamins donated their venues, and many other local companies contributed in-kind donations. 100 percent of the concert proceeds went to Mercy Corps, in support of its programs in Northern Uganda.

The concerts included performances by well-regarded Portland musicians including Art Alexakis of Everclear, Pink Martini's China Forbes and Thomas Lauderdale, Dahlia, MarchFourth Marching Band, The Stolen Sweets, Dirty Martini, The Devin Phillips Band, Crosstide, Jackstraw, Climber, Liv Warfield, Pepe and the Bottle Blondes, Vagabond Opera, Tom Grant, Richmond Fontaine, 3 Leg Torso, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Hoskins and Breen and many more.

"We were thrilled about the amazing line up of talent and local support," said Schneiderman, who traveled to northern Uganda on an educational trip. "In Uganda, I saw first hand the partnership between Mercy Corps and these communities to create self-sustaining programs and how much optimism is present, even after the devastation of a 20-year civil war. My goal for the concert series is to come together as a community to educate ourselves, and to raise money for northern Uganda in a way that parallels the high level of commitment and community there."

Photo by Thatcher Cook for Mercy Corps



\$60,000 raised for mercy corps' community-led programs:

- basic water and sanitation
- agricultural production and other economic activities
- basic community infrastructure rehabilitation to allow access to markets
- youth programs including education and sports



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