



People Power

The Advocacy Project strengthens community-based advocacy



The Umoja Uaso Collective in Kenya was one of 51 community-based groups supported by AP in 2009. (Photo: K Cummings)

THE ADVOCACY PROJECT 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

www.advocacynet.org

Mission and Vision

A Voice for the Voiceless

The Advocacy Project helps marginalized communities to tell their story, claim their rights and produce social change. We do this by partnering with advocates who emerge directly from a community and by helping them to produce and disseminate information for use in campaigns. We also offer them an international network of support.

We do not initiate partnerships, but try to respond to requests – particularly when they come from small groups that lack allies and are seeking to find their voice without delay. We believe strongly that those who are directly affected by social injustice are best equipped to take action. Information is their first and maybe their greatest need.

The Advocacy Project works in the field through experienced young professionals (Fellows for Peace) who give generously of their time and talent. We view graduate students as a valuable resource and are committed to encouraging international service on behalf of human rights.

Snapshots of 2009

- 1. Communities:** AP worked with 43 marginalized communities.
- 2. Partners:** AP supported 51 community-based organizations and through them reached over 1,200 CBOs.
- 3. Telling the story:** AP produced 26 news bulletins, 982 blogs, 105 video profiles, and 3,391 photos, for use by partners.
- 4. Putting out information:** AP trained 39 “techies” in partner organizations and worked on 15 websites. 409,901 individuals visited AP online.
- 5. Outreach:** AP organized events in the US at 11 universities; 1 theatre; 2 museums; 2 schools; 1 library; and with 17 diaspora associations.
- 6. Funds:** AP helped to raise over \$324,000 for 12 partners.
- 7. Campaigns:** AP helped 11 partners take action for social justice.
- 8. Social change:** Several partners succeeded in changing policy, among them the Travellers in the UK, people with disabilities in Uganda.
- 9. Fellows:** AP recruited 46 graduate students to work with partners.
- 10. AP People:** AP worked with a staff of 7 in Washington and Kampala; hosted 18 interns in the Washington DC office; was supported by a Board of nine.

From the Executive Director

What's in a story?

The Advocacy Project (AP) believes that information can help marginalized communities escape from poverty and discrimination. How does this happen, and how does AP help? This report offers many examples, but let us look at two of the communities that AP worked with in 2009 – Bosnian women who lost relatives in the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica, and waste-pickers who collect garbage in Delhi.

Both of these communities struggle to be heard. AP did not seek them out, but we are happy to partner with their advocates: the [Chintan Environmental Action and Research Group](#) and Safai Sena (an association of recyclers) in Delhi; and the Bosnian women's group [Bosfam](#). Our links to Bosfam go back ten years.

Working through student volunteers (Peace Fellows), AP helped these two organizations to tell their story through blogs, photos and research. Ted Mathys, from Tufts University, produced a wonderful paper for Chintan which showed how recycling in Delhi has reduced CO2 emissions. Several Fellows have helped the women of Bosfam tell the story of Srebrenica through memorial quilts.

Our next goal was to help Chintan and Bosfam put their story out through their websites, our website and the media. We focused on the new media, which amplify the message of partners, but were delighted when the Washington Post featured the Srebrenica Memorial Quilt. Chintan placed stories in the Indian media, Economist, Huffington Post, and New York Times.

Next came outreach. We invited Bosfam to the US and showed the quilts before the Bosniak diaspora in Chicago, New York, St Louis and Washington. Chintan, meanwhile, used AP photos in a documentary by waste-pickers – a cooperative venture with the NGO *Witness* – which was launched at a festival in New York.

Another AP goal was fundraising: last year, we raised over \$5,000 for the Bosfam weavers, bringing the total raised since 2003 to \$81,000. We plan a joint proposal with Chintan and Safai Sena in early 2010.

Both groups took action against injustice. Chintan and Safai Sena sent a delegation of recyclers to Copenhagen, where they launched Ted's research paper. They now plan a new campaign to demand protection for the waste-pickers. The Bosfam weavers used their quilts at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, and helped to drive home the need for justice in front of the world's press. Where will it lead? Hopefully, to legalized informal recycling in Delhi and a recovery plan for the Srebrenica survivors. When that happens, these entire societies will benefit.

These are two of several "core" partnerships in 2009 that showed a direct connection between AP's inputs, growing confidence on the part of advocates, action, and change. This is the goal we have set for our work, and 2009 showed how it can be achieved. A big thanks to our generous supporters, and to our dedicated Peace Fellows like Ned Meerdink (Box) who exemplify all that is good about international service.

Iain Guest, Executive Director, The Advocacy Project

Making a Difference



AP was able to invest in the DRC in 2009, thanks to Peace Fellow Ned Meerdink (above). A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Ned worked with four Congolese NGOs over 18 months while living in very tough conditions. Back in the US, Ned's parents helped Congolese immigrants in Cleveland, while his siblings raised funds for his DRC groups from Michigan State University. Service is alive and well in this remarkable family.

1. The Challenge of Marginalization

Marginalized communities suffer from conflict, discrimination and poverty. Most of all, they lack a voice.

The challenge of marginalization, or social exclusion, has come into sharp focus in this era of globalization. In 2009, The Advocacy Project received 185 requests from communities, and most were a plea for help.

During the year, AP sent volunteers to work with 43 communities. Several have emerged as a priority: Waste-pickers in Delhi, India; Torture survivors in Sri Lanka; Lower-caste (Dalit) in Nepal; Women in Nepal who suffer from the condition of *uterine prolapse*; Survivors of rape in the province of South Kivu, Eastern Congo (DRC); Underprivileged young people in the slums of Nairobi; Pygmy slaves (*badja*) in Eastern Congo (DRC); People with a disability in northern Uganda; Widows from the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica, Bosnia; Relatives of the disappeared in Peru; Women at risk from domestic armed violence; Travellers at the Dale Farm in south-east England who face eviction from their land.

Marginalized communities suffer from deep discrimination and poverty – often because they belong to a minority or lower-caste. In Nepal, Dalits are forced into bonded labor, and driven for their homes for marrying outside their caste. Such practices explain why the poverty level of Dalits is 14% higher than the national average. Conflict is another cause of marginalization, particularly as it targets the vulnerable: 40 women a day were raped in the eastern DRC. Indeed, women are often doubly affected by marginalization - first as members of the community and second as victims of violence within the community (Box).

Isolation is another feature of marginalization. In some cases, as with indigenous communities in Guatemala and Peru, the isolation is physical and psychological. In others, it is social and political: people with a disability in northern Uganda rarely participate in local decision-making. The local media can be part of the problem. After AP took up the cause of the Dale Farm Travellers in Essex, we were denounced by the *Basildon Echo*, an influential local paper which has enflamed opinion against Travellers.

AP appreciates requests from communities like the Travellers, which have few friends. One new community supported by AP in 2009, the Azerbaijanis of Iran, has suffered widespread persecution. But their plight has been eclipsed by the emergence of the Iranian pro-democracy movement which is ironically no friend of minority rights in Iran. The Azerbaijanis are desperate to be heard. This made them an ideal beneficiary for AP support.

All of these communities have been denied their rights. They have also been denied a voice. The Advocacy Project exists to help.

Marginalization Harms the Womb



Gulab Devi Ram (above) is one of 600,000 Nepali women who suffer from *uterine prolapse*. Many isolated villages are denied access to health services. But in western Nepal, women are also viewed as unclean after they give birth, banished from the home, made to live in huts (*chapaudi*), denied nutritious food, and forced back to work within days. These pressures cause the uterus to fall. Women with prolapse are treated as social outcasts, further compounding the damage.

2. Partnering with Community-based Advocates

Advocates who emerge from marginalized communities have strong leaders and motivation. This helps them to sustain campaigns and makes them indispensable allies in building peace.

AP supports marginalized communities by partnering with their advocates, preferably associations that emerge directly from the community and have few other allies. During 2009, AP developed partnerships with 51 groups in 2009, directly or through other organizations.

These partners gave AP access to more than 1,200 groups, with tens of thousands of members. One long-standing partner, the Democracy and Workers Rights Center in Ramallah, has helped to create a federation for unemployed Palestinian workers in Hebron, which has 15,000 members. Another AP partner, the [Gulu Disabled Persons Union \(GDPU\)](#) in northern Uganda, is made up of five smaller networks which represent the blind, women, landmine survivors and the hearing-impaired. GDPU also runs committees in over 30 sub-districts. The UK-based [International Action Network on Small Arms \(IANSA\)](#) has over 800 members world-wide. AP can send information out to them, and also receive information back. Such two-way networking defines AP's partnerships.

Africa was a special focus for AP in 2009. We sent Peace Fellows to 15 organizations in Africa, six of which are in South Kivu (DRC) alone. We considered that the scale of the violence in Eastern DRC, and the inadequate international response, called for a special effort by AP.

AP's work in 2009 also reflected the importance of gender. Twenty-nine of the 51 partner organizations are directed by women, and several operate innovative programs for women's rights. The [Arche d'Alliance](#) in South Kivu, provides guaranteed slots for women on village-based "Committees of Reconciliation" and organizes "Peace Nuts" ("*noyaux de paix*") which bring villagers together to discuss challenges. Half of the members are women.

Most 2009 partnerships were short-term and may not extend into 2010. Working through Peace Fellows, AP helped these CBOs to acquire a set of information products and tools, and begin building an international network – tasks that can be completed within three months.

But 2009 also underscored the value of a sustained relationship and several partners asked AP to join them in developing social justice campaigns.

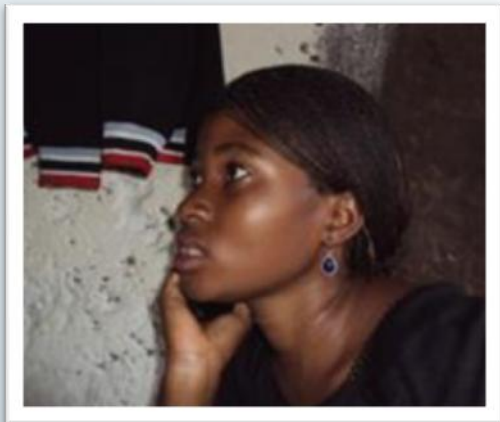
These partnerships will form the core of AP's work in 2010-2011. Our hope is that they will produce strong and sustained programs, and also develop trust. It is important that partners develop confidence in AP, and understand that we will not abandon them when the going gets tough. The Alternative Information Center in Israel expressed

"You Stood by our Side"

In 2009, the Jerusalem-based Alternative Information Center acknowledged AP's unwavering support for its brave efforts to work with Israelis and Palestinians:

"We don't possess sufficient words to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for your demonstrated solidarity and commitment. Over the years the Advocacy Project has consistently encouraged the AIC and stood by our side. Far too many "northern" groups give up partnerships quickly. AP has stuck with us and this is a big deal."

The Power of Motivation



Marceline Kongolo (above) founded SOS-Femmes en Danger, a group that works for victims of sexual violence in South Kivu, after her brother and father were killed in front of her eyes. Her group has given succor to hundreds of rape survivors, in spite of the danger. Militia ransacked one of the group's three centers in late 2009, forcing the women to flee into Burundi.

appreciation for this in 2009 (Box page 5).

AP's community-based partners have extraordinary strengths. Most are led by individuals who have been directly affected by marginalization like Marceline Kongolo, in the DRC (Box left). This has given them motivation, and sustained them through many crises. It also gives them credibility with their stakeholders and specific goals. They are committed to action.

But community associations also suffer from challenges, external and self-imposed. The local media may be hostile or indifferent. The government is often no friend. The infrastructure is feeble. Connectivity is poor. Foreign donors rarely visit. Such groups have no way to attract foreign volunteers – and no local philanthropists to call on. Most serious, they suffer from institutional weaknesses which impede their ability to take advantage of networking technologies and reach out to potential allies.

Building on 2009, AP will continue with a two-track approach to partnerships. We are committed to supporting small isolated groups that seek a short-term injection of information skills. At the same time, we will consolidate core partnerships in which both partners develop common campaign goals and contribute on the basis of their expertise. As part of our contribution AP will offer long-term Peace Fellows, who can ensure that AP's support is sustained.

2009 Partners

[The Chintan Environmental Action and Research Group](#) (India); [Home for Human Rights](#) (Sri Lanka); [Jagaran Media Center](#) (Nepal); [Women's Reproductive Rights Program](#) (Nepal); [Arche d'Alliance](#) (DRC); [SOS-Femmes en Danger](#) (DRC); [Undugu Society of Kenya](#); [World Peoples Indigenous Organization](#) (Uganda); [Gulu Disabled Persons Union](#) (Uganda); [Bosfam](#) (Bosnia); the [Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team](#) (Peru); the [Women's Program of the International Action Network on Small Arms](#) (UK).

The Association of Women Journalists, DRC; Bureau pour le Volontariat au service de l'Enfance et de la Sante (BVES), DRC; Tunza Mazingira, DRC; Mutuelle Jeunesse Action, DRC; Association for the Integral Development of the Victims of Violence in the Verapaces, Maya Achi (ADIVIMA), Guatemala; Afghan Women's Network (AWN); Dale Farm Housing Association, UK; Alternative Information Center (AIC), Israel; Oruj Learning Center, Afghanistan; Kosova Women's Network (KWN); Association for the Defense of Azerbaijani Political Prisoners in Iran, Canada (ADAPP); The DZENO Association, Czech Republic; Democracy and Workers Rights Center (DWRC), Palestine; eHomemakers, Malaysia; Women in Black, Serbia; Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC), Palestine; Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organization (BERDO), Bangladesh; Nepal

Social Development and People Empowerment Center (NESPEC); Backwards Society Education (BASE), Nepal; Landmine Survivors in Colombia; Landmine Survivors El Salvador (Red de Sobrevivientes); LSN Vietnam; Skills and Agriculture Development Services (SADS), Liberia.

Through strategic partners

Nkumu Fed Fed, Cameroon; UCOMAS, Cameroon; Ripe for Harvest, Kenya; Kakenya's Dream, Kenya; Umoja Uaso Village Community Center, Kenya; Survivor Corps Burundi and CEDAC; Survivor Corps Rwanda; Breaking the Wall of Silence, Namibia; South Asia Partnership, Nepal; Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE), Uganda; Center for Social Studies, Portugal; Association for Public Policy, Argentina; Victimology Society of Serbia; Project Ploughshares, Canada; Coalition for Gun Control, Canada. Women's Peace Collective in Cali, Colombia; National Coalition of Gun Control Advocates, Colombia.

3. Telling the Story

AP works with partners to put a human face on marginalization, and produce information that can be used in campaigns.

The struggle against marginalization is first and foremost a struggle to be heard. Since its establishment in 1998, AP has helped partners to produce information about their work. In 2009, this was done through news bulletins; blogs; research papers; video; and photos.

News Bulletins

Community advocates work on critical issues, in strategic regions, but rarely make the news. AP helps to fill the gap through an online news service (*AdvocacyNet*) that currently reaches 5,400 subscribers. AP produced 26 news bulletins in 2009. Many were pegged to major events, including the Copenhagen summit on climate change, the revolution in Iran, the war in Eastern Congo, and the Middle East conflict. AP told the story from the perspective of civil society.

AP bulletins are intended to provide partners with material for their advocacy. After AP reported on the decision by the Gulu Council in northern Uganda to make services accessible to people with disability, the Gulu Disabled Persons Union (GDPU) used the bulletin to reach out to the disability caucus of MPs in parliament. They pledged support for the GDPU's disability campaign in the North. One August bulletin reported on an armed attack against the Umoja Uaso women's collective for battered women in Kenya. AP followed up by contacting the Kenyan Human Rights Commission, which launched an investigation. Several bulletins were also used to support fundraising, which generated over \$325,000 for partners in 2009. Thanks to Danielle Zielinski, AP's writer, who produced the bulletins.

Blogs

Peace Fellows produced 982 blogs in 2009. In the process, they helped to publicize hidden crises, profile their hosts, and provide material for campaigns. *Uterine prolapse* is much better understood as a result of the blogs of Nicole Farkouh, who served as a Fellow in Nepal. Blogs also help partners to reach their constituency. Elizabeth Mandelman, one of seven Fellows who worked around the world for the IANSA domestic armed violence campaign, used her blogs to defend Canada's progressive gun law. She attracted angry comments from "Gun Nutz," but her blogs were widely circulated by the Canadian and Australian campaigns for gun control (Box page 9).

The Power of Information



Information is empowering. One AP partner, the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF), describes it as "taking control of the narrative." By helping relatives of the disappeared to describe what happened in Peru's Dirty War (1980-2000), EPAF establishes the historical truth, opens the way for more exhumations, and lays the basis for the prosecution of those responsible.

Blogs vs Guns



Elizabeth Mandelman's blogs on domestic armed violence helped to publicize the threat to women from guns, and attracted 452 comments, mostly from the gun lobby. John Evers wrote: "Liz.....If you were ever attacked at knife point, which would you rather have: A gun? A knife? A cell phone? If you say anything other than a Gun you are either nuts or a liar." Gun Nutz wrote letters to Elizabeth's Dean, accused her of terrorism before the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and asked members to "friend" her Facebook page. Elizabeth would not be intimidated. The Canadian Coalition for Gun Control sent Elizabeth's blogs to members and IANSA described her work as "amazing." Above: an IANSA partner in Canada commemorates women killed by guns at an event in Toronto.

Video

In 2009, AP helped partners use video to put a human face on the challenge of marginalization. This drew on the popularity of YouTube and the skills of Peace Fellows, who produced 105 video profiles for their hosts. One Fellow, Walter James, produced two 30-minute documentaries from Eastern Congo which included (at their express request) several powerful interviews with women who had been raped. This will provide content for SOS-FED, which only began to promote its work internationally in 2009.

Another group to use AP videos, the Union of Business Women at the Sandaga Market (UCOMAS), helps women merchants sell their goods at the largest market for fresh produce in Central Africa. The women face constant harassment, and UCOMAS wrote to say that the photos, video and brochures produced by AP had "really helped to increase the visibility of UCOMAS and enabled UCOMAS have a global presence."

AP Fellows on both side of the frontier between Bosnia and Serbia produced video profiles on the anniversary of the July 11 1995 Srebrenica massacre which captured the different reaction in the two countries – triumphalist in Serbia, somber in Bosnia. The 20-minute film was shown at events in Washington, including a presentation at the AP office

When Video Saves Trees



Clement Kitambala, an inspiring environmentalist in the Eastern Congo, used his Flip camera from AP and the training from AP Peace Fellow Ned Meerdink to promote his new technique for making fuel out of agricultural waste. Clement filmed the process and made two language versions – Swahili and French – which he used to train 20 local women in how to make fuel briquettes. Both videos are on YouTube.

for diplomats from the Bosnian Embassy . Two Fellows in Serbia produced video profiles of 38 activists for, Women in Black.

The long-term goal is to help partners produce their own video. AP purchased 30 Flip cameras for partners and trained their Fellows to providing training in video editing. Several, like Clement Kitambala in the DRC, have put their cameras to good use (Box left).

Photos

Peace Fellows produced 3,391 photos in 2009. These are being organized into online libraries and will provide an important visual resource for their hosts. Peace Fellow Kate Cummings helped the Umoja Uaso collective for battered women to produce a catalogue for their jewelry (Box below).

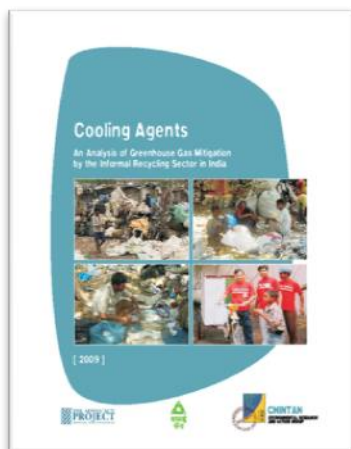
Peace Fellow Gretchen Murphy created a photo library on Flickr for the Vietnamese Landmine Survivors Network (LSNV), and posted photos on a “brand spankin’ new Tumblr blog” that she built for the group.

Fellows, Photos and Fashion



Peace Fellow Kate Cummings used her photographic skills to produce a catalogue for her host, the Umoja Uaso women’s collective. The group’s director, Rebecca Lolosoli (above left), used the catalogue in the United States, where she exhibited jewelry and clothes at the Santa Fe arts fair and the Kenyan Embassy in Washington. Vital Voices also used the catalogue in promoting the collective to a supporter, Diane Von Furstenberg, who donated money and also used the jewelry on her models (above right). This was featured in the *New York Times*. As well as publicity, Rebecca’s trip yielded \$13,000 in donations.

Cooling Agents



During his fellowship in Delhi, Peace Fellow Ted Mathys produced research suggesting that informal recycling by waste-pickers in Delhi had reduced CO2 emissions by over 962,000 tons in 2008. The report, *Cooling Agents*, drew on methodology used in the US and was launched by a Chintan delegation of recyclers at the Copenhagen Summit. Chintan will use the report in a 2010 campaign to press the Indian authorities to invest in community recycling.

Research

AP helped several partners to launch several research projects in support of actions. Fellows collected data on deforestation in Liberia, child trafficking in northwest Cameroon, and the impact of landmines on IDPs in Colombia. In addition, 13 AP Peace Fellows produced short papers on the challenges facing their hosts (“Advocacy Profiles”).

Research that is initiated by partners is most likely be used in campaigns. Peace Fellow Ted Mathys produced a report on climate change and recycling at the request of the Chintan Environmental Action and Research Group in Delhi (Box left). Farzin Farzad produced a 5-page report on the abusive treatment of Azerbaijanis in Iranian jails that was sent to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, for use in the UN’s Universal Periodic Review of Iran’s human rights record. Farzin’s host, the ADAPP, is now using the UN report in its advocacy.

Bryan Upton, in Northern Uganda, researched disability by-laws that were used by the GDPU to draft new by-laws for use in Uganda. Peace Fellows in Colombia, Portugal, Canada and Uganda collected data for use by IANSA’s campaign against domestic armed violence. One Fellow even visited morgues to collect data.

Gun Violence in Namibia



Julien, above, has been repeatedly threatened by her husband with a gun in front of their children. Peace Fellow Johanna Wilkie interviewed Julien while working in Namibia for the women’s group, Breaking the Wall of Silence, a member of the international campaign to end domestic armed violence.

Exposing Caste - Witchcraft in Nepal



On March 20, 2009, Kalli Kumari Bishwokarma, a Dalit women, (above left) was accused of witchcraft, forced to eat human excrement, and beaten up. The story was broken by AP's partner, the Jagaran Media Center. It sparked a national uproar and police investigation in Nepal, and was picked up by the London based *Daily Telegraph* newspaper.

Information by partners

Several partners took steps towards producing their own information in the form of press releases, newsletters, or website content. This is a goal for all core partnerships, although it is usually only achieved over time. AP has helped the Jagaran Media Center in Nepal to develop a network of Dalit journalists. In 2009, they produced shocking reports on caste discrimination against Dalits: the use of witchcraft against Dalit women; intimidation against mixed marriages; the practice of *balighary* (which pays Dalit in kind but not cash); and bonded labor (*haliya*) (Box). In one district, Doti, the JMC found just 20 mixed married couples. Late in 2009, the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) included information about *balighary* in its advocacy at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Several other AP partners are producing their own press releases, including the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF) and Association for the Defense of Azerbaijani Political Prisoners in Iran (ADAPP). The ADAPP has set up a listserv that now has 257 members, including staffers at Amnesty International. No other organization reaches into the jails of Iran and publicizes the plight of Azerbaijani prisoners.

In 2010, AP will encourage partners and their stakeholders to produce their own content in the form of blogs, web content, and radio programs. This is certainly the way of the future. But there will likely always be a role for quality control. In one possible approach, the JMC in Nepal is proposing that its Dalit reporters produce individual blogs from the districts, which it will then use in compiling a regular e-bulletin from Kathmandu. This formula should allow JMC and AP to give a voice to the individual partners, while retaining JMC's added value to its own professional network. Such a model could well find favor with other partners, particularly news services.

4. Putting out Information

AP helps partners to disseminate information through ICT, the media, and AP website

Information and Communications Technologies

The upheaval in Iran showed the growing power and accessibility of ICT, but many of AP's more isolated community-based partners still lack the resources to fully take advantage. Hardware remains expensive. Connectivity is slow. Technical assistance is not available. The obstacles are particularly acute in isolated areas like rural Nepal or the Eastern Congo.

Nonetheless, many individual activists are enthusiastic and skilled users of ICT, through mobile phone or a local Internet café. AP's approach is to build a demand and skills in partner organizations by working with individuals who have an aptitude for ICT. In 2009, Peace Fellows trained 39 "accidental techies" in 27 partner organizations (Box right).

AP's Africa Director, Mendi Njonjo, was also able to spread the word about ICT in Africa through interviews, outreach and in trainings. Mendi worked with 77 African women

Techie to the Dalit



Prakash Mohara (above) fits the profile of an accidental techie. Prakash was "discovered" by Peace Fellow Devin Greenleaf in the summer of 2007 and given basic IT training. Prakash now manages all JMC information, including an e-bulletin, website, training (above) and links to the Nepali diaspora. He will also coordinate a new JMC-AP program.

ICT Empowers Women



ICT can be empowering for women in societies where social mobility is limited, as in this Palestinian refugee camp, visited by AP in Gaza (2006). Several AP Fellows have helped the [Women's Affairs Technical Committee \(WATC\)](#), a leading secular advocate for women's rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, to produce a website which now serves as a portal for community-based women's advocacy in the Territory.

advocates through trainings organized by the NGO Vital Voices, another AP partner. Vital Voices later adapted her training module. Several Fellows helped their hosts to blog, and showed how blogging can not just empower but even help to reduce social tensions in countries like Kenya (Box, page 14). Several Peace Fellows helped their hosts to use social networking. Farzin Farzad, who worked with Iranian-Azerbaijanis, introduced Twitter to ADAPP's representative in Turkey, who in turn passed on the skills to the ADAPP's members in Iran. They contributed to the millions of Tweets which provided the world with a dramatic snapshot of the Iranian turmoil.

Blogs vs Slums



“The Ministry of Education has become corrupt.” [Martin Ndugu \(right\)](#) uses his blog to vent frustration at conditions in the Kibera slum of Nairobi where desperate children resort to glue-sniffing (left). But Martin’s blogs also suggest that blogging may provide an outlet for alienated young people in Kenya and reduce social pressures. With help from AP, the Undugu Society of Kenya has trained 13 young bloggers under the Digital Story-Telling Project. Martin is one of two co-trainers, and Undugu hopes to incorporate blogging into its program with 140 street associations.

Online Umbrella for the Disappeared



Peace Fellow Jessica Varat helped EPAF to produce a “flash mob” on August 28 2009 – International Day of the Disappeared – which invited visitors to open an umbrella for the disappeared and then post their photo online. 219 people responded.

Online Presence: Human rights advocates need an online presence. AP Fellows helped 10 organizations to produce Google sites, and worked on another 15 websites (in Uganda, Peru, Namibia, Kenya, DRC, Bosnia, Liberia, Burundi, Cameroon, El Salvador, Vietnam, Nepal and Kosovo). Their contributions were tailored to the organization’s needs.

In Peru, Zachary Parker produced a new site for his host, the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology team (EPAF) using Flash technology. EPAF has regularly updated the site since with EPAF (and AP) press releases. A second Fellow, Jessica Varat, helped EPAF to create use a flash mob to mark the International Day on Disappearances (Box left). Widows from Srebrenica can now sell their knitted products online, after Bosfam upgraded its website with help from Peace Fellows.

AP Online

AP disseminates information about partners through the AP website, YouTube channel, and Flickr library (online photos). AP online attracted a total of 409,901 unique visitors in 2009.

According to Google Analytics, 183,232 individuals visited the AP site. Traffic in 2009 was on average 300% higher than other NGOs of a comparable size. AP began posting partner pages on all groups (currently 116) that we have worked with since 1998. These pages are particularly useful for partners that do have their own site. The Dale Farm page carries the only existing online archive on the Dale Farm dispute and includes links to landmark legal rulings.

AP also expanded its use of video, to better serve partners. By end-2009, AP's YouTube page contained 262 videos, including several documentaries, and had attracted 64,797 viewers. AP's Flickr site now contains 3,000 photo libraries on partners and attracted 73,349 viewers in 2009. Thanks to Erin Lapham, AP's webmaster.

Dissemination through the Media

The media can be openly hostile to marginalized communities. But often, the media is simply unaware of the true nature of marginalization or the work being done by community advocates.

AP helped several partners to strengthen media contacts in 2009. On May 1, Newsweek International profiled the work of AP's partner in Afghanistan, the Oruj Learning Center. The Washington Post featured the Srebrenica memorial quilt at the trial of Radovan Karadzic in The Hague. From the "new" media, One World repackaged 17 AP bulletins and sent them out to 100 member NGOs. AP bulletins were also picked up by New American Media, Yahoo News, the People's Voice and blogging sites.

AP also helped partners to reach out to the local media. A February 18 fundraiser for people with disability in Kampala Uganda attracted wide coverage from the Uganda press. Later in the year, the Indian media gave extensive coverage to the launch of 'Cooling Agents,' the research paper on recycling and climate change by the Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group in Delhi. The fact that Hindi-language ran the story was particularly welcome, because it increased Chintan's visibility in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. On July 3, the Kenyan Business Daily ran an extensive profile of Mendi Njonjo, AP's Director in Africa, in which Mendi stressed the value of ICT as a tool of empowerment for small grassroots organizations. Local radio attracts a huge audience in rural areas, and several Peace Fellows helped their hosts to build ties with local radio stations in the eastern DRC, Kenya, Namibia Uganda, Colombia, and Cameroon.

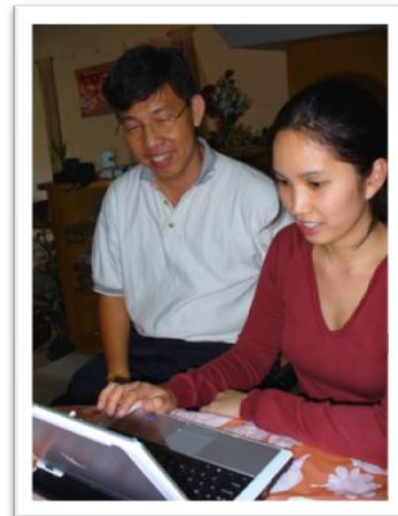
The Voice of Minorities



Yogendra Milan Chantayyal developed an Internet radio program while working alongside AP Peace Fellow Tassos Coulaloglou in 2007. By 2008, his program was being carried by Baglung FM and reaching tens of thousands in central Nepal. In 2009, Yogendra took his show ('Hamro Chahana') international when he left Nepal. It is now distributed to the diaspora through an online station in Canada. Yogendra has also created his own Facebook page and [YouTube channel](#), with links to radio podcasts and AP videos.

Creating ICT demand: one important lesson to emerge from AP’s work with ICT is that outsiders who want to “strengthen ICT capacity” should focus on creating demand for ICT rather than developing the actual tools – which are often not sustained. AP has built several sites for partners only to see them completely redesigned, and translated, once partners understood their value. The Kosova Women’s Network and Afghan Women’s Network are among several partners that adapted web sites from an AP template, and went on to use their sites to advocate for women’s rights in their troubled countries.

Peace Fellows play a key role in creating demand. They can, by their own skills and enthusiasm, help to feed the ICT bug by introducing “accidental techies” like Yogendra Milan Chantayyal in Nepal to new technologies (Box page 15). They can also demonstrate the benefits from ICT by measuring website traffic, and using AP to establish contacts with other ICT innovators, including other AP partners. One partner, the Malaysian eHomemakers, has developed its own software (DAWMA) which allows the head office to convert email into SMS messages and reach a network of women who work from home. These include women with physical disabilities, who make eco-baskets from recycled magazines (below). The software has proved so effective that it has been taken up by 15 other Malaysian NGOs who need to connect with members. They include patients on kidney dialysis and organic farmers.



The eHomemakers of Malaysia have developed software to communicate with their members, including basket weavers from the Salaam Wanita (above left). Stephanie Salazar (right), served as the first AP Fellow at eHomemakers and helped the weavers to produce a website and reach an online market.

5. Building an International Constituency

AP finds new allies for partners, connects them through ICT, and uses the network to generate support for campaigns

There is a huge international constituency for the work done by AP's partners, and AP helps to make the connection. During 2009 we were able to spread the message of partners through a network of friends in North America and Europe, while helping the latter to spread their own message.

Networks: AP partnered with three northern NGOs with their own international network. **The International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA)** works with over 800 groups worldwide and has asked AP to co-sponsor a new international campaign to curb armed domestic violence. The campaign was launched during the week against gun violence (June 2009) and 32 IANSA members organized events. AP and IANSA then sent seven Peace Fellows to work with members in Nepal, Uganda, Portugal, Serbia, Argentina, Colombia and Canada, where they collected data and helped hosts to organize their campaign-specific activities (Box page 18).

Vital Voices, the prominent Washington-based advocate for women's rights, recruited four Peace Fellows to support its own partners in Cameroon and Kenya. The Fellows were able to provide an intensive package of information inputs that produced real benefits by the end of the summer: After reading the blogs of AP Fellows, the online community One World named Kakenya Ntaiya, an inspiring Kenyan educationalist, its person of the year. Over 100,000 visitors seek out the One World web site a month. Kakenya's reaction was simple: "You Rock!" Nkumu Fed Fed, a group that educates Cameroon girls against female genital mutilation, received a grant from the UN Slavery Fund to do anti-trafficking work. Vital Voices reports that the Fellows had helped its partners to become more efficient and responsive.



Marceline Congolo, Ben Affleck and Chou Chou Namegabe at the 2009 Vital Voices gala

Three AP partners won extraordinary exposure when they received awards at the 2009 Vital Voices gala before a star-studded audience at the Kennedy Center. Sadiqa Basiri was honored for her contribution to girl's education in Afghanistan. Marceline Congolo and Chou Chou Namegabe, from the DRC, received the Fern Holland award from actor Ben Affleck and spoke out eloquently about the savagery of sexual violence (Photo). US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton then pledged to make women's rights a centerpiece of US foreign policy. Later in the year, Mrs Clinton visited the DRC and met with local women leaders, including Chou Chou.

AP developed a supportive partnership with the Washington-based **Survivor Corps**, formerly the Landmine Survivors Network, which strengthened AP's own work in Africa and produced benefits for Survivor Corps and five community-based partners. AP's Africa Director, Mendi Njonjo, helped Survivor Corps to build country programs in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. John Francis Onyango, the Survivor Corps country officer in Uganda, then worked

with Mendi to support AP's partner, the Gulu Disabled Persons Union (GDPU). AP also sent Fellows to volunteer with landmine survivors in Vietnam and Colombia. Survivor Corps used their material in its website and newsletter.

Outreach through issues: AP combined with many different organizations for one-off outreach events in 2009. We showed the Srebrenica memorial quilt on several panels to commemorate the **Genocide Prevention Month** (April 2009). We also reached out to the **International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)** on behalf of the Jagaran Media Center in Nepal. IDSN organized a major panel discussion on caste discrimination at the UN Human Rights Council, which secured a commitment by the UN High Commissioner to focus more on caste. The NGO **Witness**, drew on AP video and photos of waste-pickers in Delhi during the production of a 15-minute documentary ('*Counterbalance*'), which premiered at the [8th Annual Mahindra Indo-American Arts Council \(MIAAC\) Film Festival](#) (14 November) in New York City. The film was due to be shown in Delhi in early 2010.

Embassies: AP promoted the work of partners through the Washington diplomatic corps, at a reception for returning Fellows and diplomats. Bosnian diplomats attended an AP event to commemorate the Srebrenica massacre, on July 11, which featured video footage by AP's Fellows in Bosnia and Serbia.

Culture: After returning from Guatemala, where she worked with survivors from the 1982 Rio Negro massacres, Peace Fellow Heidi McKinnon produced an exhibit on Rio Negro for an international photo exhibition (***Waters, Rivers and People***) which was launched in Malaga Spain, and is booked to show in Mexico City, San Francisco and eventually Guatemala itself. The exhibition has a companion book. AP also promoted the work of its Palestinian and Israeli partners and a discussion at **Theater J**, in Washington, the premier outlet for Jewish culture.

Professional groups: In a new initiative, AP signed up 142 "e-mentors" to follow the blogs of Fellows. The **Zonta Women's Club of Washington**, and the **Women in International Security** at Georgetown University, both participated. **Former Peace Fellows** are also becoming their own important outreach constituency. Libby Abbott and Jes Therckelsen, who both served in Nepal in 2008, raised more than \$3,000 by exhibiting their photos. Jes has formed his own project, **Clean Hands**, to support the Dalit reporters that he helped to train in Nepal.

Universities and schools: Universities provide recruits for AP's Fellowship Program and a sounding board for our ideas about human rights social capital. In 2009, AP gave presentations at ten universities in the US. Several universities organized events around the Srebrenica memorial quilt, including Colgate, Maryland, and Columbia. AP

Broadcast Against Violence



Peace Fellow Rebecca Gerome (center) went on the popular television program *Magazin Juridico* in Cali, Colombia to promote the international campaign against armed domestic violence. Also appearing: Martha Lucia Atehortua from Asopropaz and host Dario Valencia.

also organized events for partners from Afghanistan, Guatemala and Israel, through the **Human Rights Forum at Georgetown University**, where AP's Executive Director is an adjunct professor.

One former AP intern, Hibba Adawy organized an AP chapter at Mt Holyoke College. One of the chapter's first events tackled the Middle East crisis and was attended by students from four other colleges. AP also reached out to high schools through the **Global Young Leaders Conference**, which brings hundreds of students to Washington each summer. AP interns gave briefings to an estimated 500 GYLC students.

Diaspora: The diaspora has become an increasingly important target for AP outreach, and in 2009 AP reached out to the Bosnian-Muslim diaspora on behalf of its Bosnian partner, Bosfam. Working in partnership with the **Bosniak-American Alliance for Bosnian and Herzegovina (BAACBH)**, AP secured a grant from the Boell Foundation to bring Beba Hadzic, Bosfam's director, to the US. The team used the Srebrenica quilt, handwoven by Bosfam members who lost relatives in the 1995 massacre. They visited St Louis, Chicago, Upper State New York, New York City, and Washington. They met with nine diaspora associations in St Louis alone.

Working with the BAACBH also opened contacts to Bosnian diplomats, and the US Congress. The team met with the Bosnian ambassador to the UN, the Bosnian Consul General in Chicago, and the deputy head of mission in Washington. The team also showed the quilt at two events on Capitol Hill, which helped to firm up US support for a united Bosnia and the return of refugees.

This concentrated program produced important outputs and outcomes. It raised over \$2,500 for the Bosnian weavers, and encouraged the weavers in Bosnia to scale up the quilt project. By the end of 2009, they had produced six quilts. The visit to America also showed the power of the quilt as a tool of advocacy. Bosfam has since used it in West Europe and Bosnia itself.

Other survivors have begun to use quilting as a tool for recovery and empowerment. Inspired by the Srebrenica model, survivors from the 1982 Rio Negro massacre in Guatemala have produced a quilt (Box). Other partners, including relatives of the disappeared in Peru and victims of sexual violence in DRC, may explore the possibility. Thanks to Alison Sluiter, AP's Outreach coordinator.

The Power of Quilting



The Rio Negro Memorial quilt has provided survivors of the 1982 Rio Negro massacre in Guatemala with therapy, and a tool for advocacy. Carmen Sanchez Chen (above) is one of the twenty weavers. The Guatemalan government agreed to pay reparations to the survivors in 2009.

6. Fundraising

AP raises funds for core partnerships. Fellows are particularly effective fundraisers.

Corporations Donate for Disability in Uganda



Dorah Mwima (Miss Uganda) and Peace Fellow Annelieke Van Der Weil hosted a fundraiser for Ugandans with disabilities on February 18, 2009. The event raised around \$3,000 from 13 Uganda corporations and several well-known artists – a rare example of local philanthropy.

Community-based organizations struggle to raise funds, particularly if they are outside the mainstream. During 2009, AP helped to raise \$324,856.39 for partners. Of this, \$58,421 was transferred directly through AP. AP also helped to raise \$125,885 by helping partners to draft proposals and approach donors. Finally, 46 Peace Fellows raised on average \$3,000 to cover their costs. This represented a significant investment in partners.

AP's model of fundraising relies heavily on information. By publicizing the work of our Afghan partners AP has helped to raise more than \$182,000 since 2003 for the Oruj Learning Center in Afghanistan. Oruj is now entirely independent and self-sustaining. The Oruj director, Sadiqa Basiri, was recognized for her work with girl's education by Vital Voices in 2009.

Sixteen Fellows raised funds for hosts in 2009. In Kampala Peace Fellow Annelieke Van der Weil teamed up with Miss Uganda to organize a

fundraiser for refugees with disabilities (Box). Ned Meerdink, in Eastern Congo, was able to generate funds through his blogs, which inspired students at Michigan State University to raise \$785 for Tunza Mazingira, the innovative project which makes fuel brickettes from agricultural waste. Several Fellows used their photographs to raise more than \$4,000 for their former hosts in Kenya and Nepal. Perhaps the most impressive donation came from MacKenzie Frady who volunteered with the Srebrenica widows in 2005, never forgot their kindness and has donated to their organization, Bosfam, every year since.

AP stepped up fundraising for core partners in 2009. In June, AP's Executive Director travelled to Norway and Denmark to meet with government agencies. He then travelled to Kenya, Uganda and Nepal to meet with the Danish and Norwegian embassies. During the trip he also met with USAID, officials from the embassies of Netherlands and UK, the European Commission, and the Open Society Institute (OSI). AP followed up these visits in the US, by helping the partners draft proposals. By the end of 2009, one proposal had been accepted (Peru), two had been provisionally accepted (Uganda and DRC) and two more were under review (Nepal).

Since 2003, AP has helped to raise \$1.63 million for partners.

7. Taking Action for Social Justice

Community-based advocates seek to improve the lives of their stakeholders. AP helps them to identify goals and design programs.

Community-based advocates face pressing challenges, and this gives them a strong incentive to take action. During 2009, AP helped seven core partners to develop campaigns for social justice, define goals, draft proposals, and identify donors (in Kenya, India, Peru, Sri Lanka, DRC-Congo, Uganda, Bosnia, and Nepal).

AP was able to help several partners bring a fresh perspective to the way they see challenges and present their work. For example, women in South Kivu (DRC) will not be able to prevent rape, but they might reduce their own vulnerability by taking precautions. AP has helped its partner, SOS-Femmes en Danger, develop a proposal to rent communal fields where its members can work together, and in relative security, close to settlements. The proposal would also set up safe houses in villages. It has been submitted to a donor.

Several AP partners took action in 2009 to address the root cause of marginalization:

Reconciliation in Sri Lanka: AP's partner in Sri Lanka, the Home for Human Rights, trained 50 community mobilizers in war-affected villages who will help survivors to develop projects while building support for a culture of reconciliation based on a human rights framework. By the end of 2009, survivors were forming self-help groups.

Empowering Srebrenica survivors: Bosfam, the Bosnian women's group, achieved a breakthrough in its campaign for justice when Radovan Karadzic, on architect of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, went on trial in The Hague. Bosfam and AP raised 10,000 signatures calling for Karadzic's arrest in 2005, and followed up with a demarche to NATO. Last year, they drew on the Srebrenica quilt in their advocacy. Bosfam weavers wove a quilt for the Mothers of Srebrenica which featured prominently at the trial of Karadzic in The Hague (Box). This drew international attention to the relatives, underscored the importance of justice for the Srebrenica survivors, and helped to unify advocates. Bosfam hopes to take its advocacy back to Srebrenica and open a women's center in 2010.

Relatives of the disappeared in Peru: AP's partnership with the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF) helped relatives of the disappeared to achieve a breakthrough, when Gerardo Fernando Mendoza, a leader of the relatives, stood for office and was elected mayor of Putis. Putis was the scene of a notorious massacre and EPAF exhumation in 2008. Gerardo's election means that the Putis survivors, who are Quechua Indians, can claim financial support from the government. EPAF and AP then helped Gerardo to take his message to Washington, where he met

Seeking Justice for Srebrenica



Bosnian women who lost sons in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre used Bosfam's Srebrenica memorial quilt to call for justice at the trial of Radovan Karadzic in The Hague. This photo was shown around the world.

Peru's Disappeared Find a Champion



AP interviewed Gerardo Fernando Mendoza in 2008 at the EPAF exhumation of Putis in southern Peru. In 2009, Gerardo won election as mayor of Putis and took his message to Washington.

with the US State Department and a Senate Committee. One foundation pledged \$100,000 to a new EPAF-AP program of exhumations (Box).

Waste-pickers of Delhi: AP's partner in Delhi, the Chintan Environment Action and Research Group, sent a delegation of recyclers to the Copenhagen summit to launch its ground-breaking report 'Cooling Agents.' Chintan will now use the findings to lobby the authorities to provide space where waste-pickers and recyclers can work, and licenses. By showing that the protection of recyclers can contribute to the fight against climate change, Chintan has helped to broaden the international debate on climate change away from science and towards social justice.

Survivors of the Rio Negro massacre in Guatemala: The construction of the Chixoy dam in Guatemala in the early 1980s resulted in massacres and expulsion for the indigenous community of Rio Negro. But the Rio Negro survivors resisted, and in 2009 the government of Guatemala finally agreed to pay reparations. The Inter-American Development Bank (which funded the Chixoy Dam) contributed \$100,000 for a Rio Negro development plan. Peace Fellow Heidi McKinnon helped her host organization Adivima, which represents the survivors, to estimate the damage from cultural losses and manage the claims process. She also helped women to produce a memorial quilt and later organized outreach events in Washington.

Washington remained a target for Adivima, as the group pursued a complaint against the government of Guatemala in the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and sent a delegation to Washington to meet with the Commission in April 2009. Parallel to this, the Spanish Supreme Court has agreed that perpetrators of the Rio Negro massacre can be prosecuted in Spanish courts until the doctrine of universal jurisdiction.

8. Producing Social Change

By changing laws and influencing policy, community advocates can produce change that affects society as a whole.

The best way to achieve social change is through governments or the legal system. Several AP partners changed policy in 2008-2009 through their advocacy. They included:

The Irish Travellers of Dale Farm have triggered a major change in British law by taking their case to the High Court. A January 2009 ruling by the Court found that the Basildon Council could evict the Travellers, but only if they are not made homeless. This forces the council to find alternative land, and creates a legal precedent for the treatment of all ethnic minorities in the UK. AP has publicized the Dale Farm since 2005, and provided their High Court lawyers with a dossier on the likely impact of eviction.

Uterine prolapse: The Women's Reproductive Rights Program (WRRP) achieved an important break-through in the fight against *uterine prolapse* in 2009, when the Nepali government offered free surgical treatment for women with third degree *prolapse* and developed a strategic action plan. Unfortunately, the follow-through has been less than impressive. Funds were allocated for 12,000 women, but local and regional hospitals received funds for only 2,300 because of inefficiencies in the system. WRRP plans to keep up the pressure.

Disability rights in Uganda: The campaign against disability by AP's partner in Uganda, the Gulu Displaced Persons Union (GDPU) produced a decisive shift in government policy in 2009. This began when 20 parish committees in the north produced a document (The Lalogi Declaration) pledging to make public buildings accessible to people with disability. Late in 2009 the Gulu District Council made a similar commitment. In a country where the writ of government extends to villages, this will have a significant impact. The GDPU also successfully lobbied the UN to provide extra food aid to IDPs with disability and won a seat on a key agency coordination committee in Gulu.

"We are taken seriously"



Activists like Prosy (above) who volunteer with Gulu Disabled Persons Union credit AP and Survivor Corps with helping to raise their profile and giving them the confidence to lobby government, NGOs, and UN agencies.

9. Fellows for Peace

Graduate students help AP to work with community-based partners. In the process, they acquire academic and life skills.

AP seeks to draw on the skills and motivation of graduate students through our Fellowship program, Fellows for Peace. In 2009, AP deployed 46 Peace Fellows from 29 universities to work with partners in 25 countries.

Fellows for Peace has become AP's signature program and serves several purposes. First, it allows partners to receive free technical support from an experienced and committed young professional. Second, it allows AP to work directly with partners around the world, while keeping core costs down. Third, the program enables talented students to serve on the front lines for human rights, learn new skills, collect material for their academic studies, and build their careers.

In 2009, the decision was taken to capture these impacts on Peace Fellows through a formal evaluation. We will use the feedback to improve the program, but also to make two larger arguments: first, that graduate students have skills and attributes, particularly in information, that are badly needed by community-based advocates; and second, that a short-term volunteer can produce a long-term impact and start a process that can lead to social change.

Of the 40 Fellows who served in the summer of 2009, 37 completed detailed questionnaires. The following is drawn from their replies.

Management and Administration

In 2009, AP received 407 applications from 212 universities in 42 countries. This was a sharp increase over previous years and shows the demand for serious internships (Box above). The Fletcher School at Tufts University alone provided six students – the most ever recruited from one school. As the applications have grown in number, so has the quality and specialization of those selected. Of the 46 Fellows, 36 were female.

AP provided mandatory training for Fellows before they left in Washington and London. AP staff produced a 122-page training manual and invited experts to the sessions. 37 Fellows gave the training the highest rating, and many used the manual extensively in the field. Kate Cummings later wrote: "Thank, thank you! The training was great!"

The Demand for Meaningful International Service



A record number applied for Peace Fellowships in 2009. But AP competes with many other programs. What is AP's valued added? Fellows like Barbara Dzedzic, above, a public school teacher in Maryland and student at American University, said the decisive factor was AP's commitment to social justice.

Given the challenging nature of assignments, security has always been a concern, and Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka were all taken off the list in 2009. AP took out a group insurance policy with Clements International, and the Washington law firm of Covington and Burling provided pro-bono legal advice. In spite of the challenging nature of the fellowships, only two Fellows of the 37 reported outright intimidation (in Israel and the DRC).

The importance of blogging to AP's program was explained above, and AP provided training to all Fellows before they left. AP also produced a weekly bulletin of blog summaries, which was sent out through the AP list and drew more visitors. As well as publicizing the work of their hosts, blogging helped Fellows to write more concisely and gave them a written record of their summer's work. For some, the ability to communicate with a global audience also provided an outlet for frustration. This has proved particularly important for Fellows in the Middle East.

Peace Fellows are asked to cover the direct costs of the fellowship, and last year they raised an average of \$3,000. AP helped to put several in touch with funders, including the Cohen Family Foundation, which awarded grants of \$2,000 to three Fellows. The foundation has been particularly supportive of the Digital Story-telling Project in Kenya, and later expressed appreciation to AP for putting up excellent candidates.

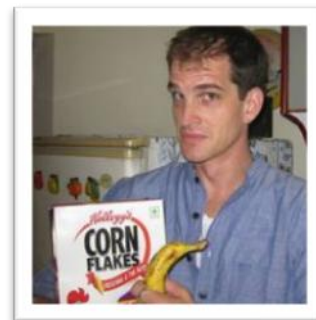
Two fellowships were suspended on the advice of the AP Board, for violating the terms of their agreement. But the overall failure rate was significantly lower than in previous years and the quality of Fellows was very high. This was a testament to the professionalism of AP staff. AP continues to receive thanks and appreciation from partners in the field and from the Fellows themselves. Some of their comments have been posted on the AP web site.

The Value of Peace Fellows

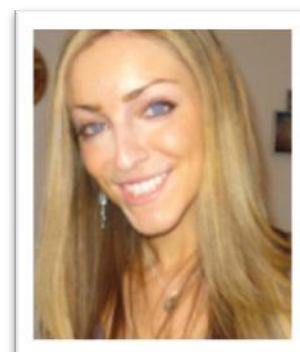
AP is sometimes asked whether short-term volunteers can make an impact on the deep-rooted discrimination that faces AP partners. 2009 showed that they bring important attributes, which are ideally suited to the needs of their community-based hosts. In addition, CBOs often find it hard to attract technical assistance:

Professional skills: The 2009 class of Fellows included several Peace Corps Alumni, journalists, photographers, professional teachers, and specialists (eg climate change, sexual violence).

Innovation: Several Fellows showed great ingenuity in helping their hosts. Courtney Chance, in Uganda, visited morgues in order to collect data on gun deaths among women. Ned Meerdink, in the DRC, went online to find a new method for making fuel brickettes out of agricultural waste for one of his host organizations, *Tunza Mazingira*.



Ted Mathys (Fletcher School/Tufts University) used his blogs to follow the trail of this own garbage and found that it was being recycled by waste-pickers in his neighborhood.



Jessica Tirado (New York University) volunteered at an orphanage in addition to working for the lower-caste Dalits in Nepal.

“I have ten new mothers”



Peace Fellow Alison Sluiter (center) relaxes in Bosfam house, Tuzla. Many weavers have not recovered from their loss at Srebrenica and value the friendship of Fellows.

Friendship: Friendship is valued by people who have faced intimidation and hostility, and AP Fellows bring a commitment to social justice, a willingness to learn, and friendship. Jes Tirado volunteered at an orphanage during the weekend in Nepal. Kate Cummings helped a young Masai woman apply to medical school at Stanford University. Such acts of kindness can be empowering for their hosts. The widows of Srebrenica become particularly close to their Fellows, whose stay in Bosnia overlaps with the date of the 1995 massacre. Peace Fellow Alison Sluiter was treated with such warmth in 2009 that she writes: “I feel like I have ten new mothers” (Box).

Endurance: Working for community-based advocates means discomfort. Some of the toughest conditions have been endured by Fellows at the Dale Farm encampment for Travellers in the UK, which lacks running water or other government services because it is viewed as illegal.

Set Goals: Graduate students want to make good use of their time, and AP seeks applicants who can set clear goals and stay focused. Jessica Varat helped the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF) develop a long-overdue strategic plan.

Researchers: Graduate students are trained researchers, and several put this skill to good use. Ted Mathys drew from his university research in India, and used his research in India to inform his thesis on return. Elizabeth Mandelman, in Canada, produced data for her university adviser, who is also a UN special rapporteur.

ICT: Peace Fellows have grown up with ICT and this familiarity addresses a key need of CBOs. Abhilash Medhi produced five vlogs to illustrate articles in the international convention on disability rights for the Blind Education and Research Development Organization in Bangladesh (Photo).

Contacts and Networking: Peace Fellows take a network of family, friends, and contacts with them to the field. Lindsay Crifasi, in Colombia, emailed the 150 employees at her school. Isha Mehmood’s video on domestic violence in Nepal attracted 1,645 visitors to her Facebook page. Lisa Rogoff’s Tweets from Rwanda were read by the head of her program at Georgetown. The Fletcher School at Tufts University ran a feature on its six AP Fellows.



Abhilash Medhi (London school of Economics) produced “vlogs” to explain several key articles of the international convention on disability rights while volunteering with advocates for the blind in Bangladesh.

Foreign Contacts: Fellows open doors to foreign embassies and allow their hosts to stand out among the crowd of local NGOs. Barbara Dziedzic and Alixa Sharkey, in Kenya, visited several embassies for their host, the Undugu Society. Fellow Luna Liu met with the Kenyan ambassador to China, during one of his return visits to Kenya.

Fundraising: Many Fellows discover a flair for fundraising. Sixteen Fellows raised money for their hosts in 2009, and many used imagination in the process. Carolyn Ramsdell contacted the Puma Company to arrange sponsorship for the National Amputee Soccer team of Colombia. Several Fellows helped their hosts to draft proposals. In Bosnia, Alison Sluiter drafted nine proposals for her host, Bofam, and arranged for Bofam's products to be sold at four Bosnian embassies and the Holocaust Museum in Washington. In the process, she acquired a skill for proposal-writing. As she writes in her evaluation, there is nothing like on the job training.

The Benefits of a Fellowship

The fellowship experience is intended to produce four types of benefit: personal, academic, skills, and a career.

The Academic Return



Stacy Kosko served as a Fellow in 2004 for the Dzeno Association, a Roma news service in Prague. She is now writing her PHD thesis on Roma education.

Personal: Asked to assess their personal satisfaction with their fellowship, 28 Fellows gave the highest ranking. 19 reported that they were much more culturally sensitive. 23 said they were more able to work with others. 26 said they were much more confident about travelling and meeting people from other cultures. 24 thought they would be much more patient. 22 predicted they would more tolerant, and 15 more likely to volunteer. In a typical comment Gretchen Murphy, in Vietnam, found "genuine forgiveness" among landmine survivors in Vietnam that she found "incredibly humbling." Helah Robinson who worked in Cameroon, writes: *"As cliché as it sounds, this summer was truly a life-changing experience. I feel I am more capable, confident and equipped to do real substantial work."*

Academic: Asked to assess the academic value of their fellowship, 14 Fellows described it as "extremely enriching." Only two said it had provided little academic value. Ted Mathys, in India, writes: *"I learned to undertake rigorous research in difficult conditions. More than this, I was challenged to think about poverty and the environment in much more complex ways. I feel as though I've been given a window onto a fundamental challenge of urban life in the era of globalization. The challenge is not simply to "clean up" the trash; the challenge is how to talk about, define, and use society's waste in a way that is equitable, dignified, and non-hazardous."*

New skills: Fellows were asked to describe what skills they had picked up in their fellowship. Their answers included: ICT (15); "travel smarts" (10); blogging (10); language (14) (Arabic, French, Hebrew, Portuguese, Azerbaijani Turkish, Spanish Qechua, Acholi, Serbo-Croat); and networking (6). Twelve Fellows reported they had learned the beginnings of fundraising. Fellows also mentioned the value of having to write concisely; pitching a message; and personal organization. Kate Cummings writes: *"having to speak with little notice in front of a crowd was something I had to learn over and over in Kenya, and that was good for dissolving my anxiety about public speaking."*

Careers: 17 Fellows strongly expected the fellowship to help in their future careers. With 150 alumni having passed through the program, they are probably correct. Past Fellows are serving at the White House, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Peace Corps, the World Bank, USAID, foundations (The National Endowment for Democracy, Open Society Institute), the UN, and leading NGOs.

During 2009 Willow Heske returned to work on the West Bank where she served as a Peace Fellow, and credited her fellowship with helping her to get the job. *“You should be really impressed with yourself, because not only are you giving valuable resources to your partners, you are giving the Fellows all the skills that INGOs are looking for now in terms of advocacy and protection, which is where all humanitarian work is headed now. Kudos, AP! And thanks for giving me the opportunity!”*

Some former Fellows are building academic careers on their experience as a Fellow. Stacy Kosko worked as a Peace Fellow with Roma in the Czech Republic in 2004 and later served as AP’s Fellowship Coordinator. Stacy has drawn on her fellowship for her PHD thesis (Box page 26). Ted Samuel, who served as fellow with the Dalit in Nepal, has also entered a PHD program at American University. He writes: “I couldn’t have done it without you.”

Long-term vs Short-term

Last year showed that graduate students with professional experience can provide valuable technical support to community-based advocates. It is also clear that short-term volunteers can start a process and create a demand for information that can translate into action. By volunteering, they also do themselves a power of good. It is, truly, win-win (Box right).

At the same time, last year also underscored the value of long-term fellowships. AP sent long-term Fellows to partners in Nepal, Kenya, DRC, Uganda, Guatemala, and Bosnia. Not coincidentally, their hosts have been most successful in promoting social change. AP will seek to deploy long-term Peace Fellows to all core partners, on a stipend, and build the cost into each individual program budget. Thanks to Tassos Coulaloglou AP Fellowship Coordinator, and his team.

**“Personally, as a woman, I am proud and encouraged to see these excellent examples of what the next generation of internationally engaged young women is going to be like” –
Kah Walla, Cameroon**



Kah Walla, from the Cameroon market women (UCOMAS), praised Fellows Helah Robinson and Johanna Paillet (above) “It was a pleasure to work with the fine young women that are Ms. Robinson and Ms. Paillet. They left a very favorable impression of the Advocacy Project and Vital Voices in the minds and hearts of the Cameroonians they touched.”

10. People of AP

AP allows partners to draw on a small but committed group of staff, board members, and volunteers.

In Africa



As director of AP's Africa program, Mendi Njonjo used her skills and contacts to reach out to scores of African CBOs, provide ICT training to over 100 women's groups, oversee the deployment of 15 Peace Fellows, help Survivor Corps develop three country programs, and work on core partnerships in her native Kenya and northern Uganda. A profile in the Business Daily (above) lauded Mendi as one of the "new breed of social justice advocates out there, who bring their passion for making life's wrongs right, and combine it with hard-nosed considerations of what can be realistically achieved."

Staff: AP operated with an experienced staff of seven in Washington and Kampala: Iain Guest (Executive Director); Mendi Njonjo (Africa Director - Box); Tassos Coulaloglou (Fellowship program); Marina Krikorian (Administration); Erin Lapham (Website and ICT); Danielle Zielinski (Information); Alison Sluiter (Outreach).

Board: Board members are chosen for their expertise. Many thanks to: Scott Allen (private sector); Teresa Crawford (international IT specialist); Suvash Darnal (Jagaren Media Center, Nepal - AP partner organizations); Ambassador Claudia Fritsche (Diplomatic); Devin Greenleaf (International Service); Iain Guest (Media); Soren Jessen-Petersen (United Nations); Susan Martin (Academic); and Bayo Oyewole (Africa).

Interns: In 2009, AP was fortunate to host 18 interns in the AP office. Summer interns were assigned blogs to read, as well as other tasks (fundraising proposals, meeting with visiting delegations, promotional material etc). Many thanks to: Ameer Bhavsar; Jennifer Carter; Leslie Cronin; Megan Fitzgerald; Andrea Goetzinne; Leslie Gordon; Tim Hayes; Sarah Jackson; Natasha Jessen-Petersen; Kate Mathews; Alissa Perman; Elena Pinzon; Nana Sang-Bender; Laura Snaveley; Ines Smajic; Blayne Tesfaye; Alicia Tito; and Julie Zimmerman.

Several past interns have remained involved with AP. Hibba al Adawy started an AP chapter on her return to Mount Holyoke University. Natasha Jessen-Petersen, who worked on outreach at AP during the summer of 2009 and met with several hundred students through the Young Leaders Global Conference, was inspired to start a student branch of Amnesty International on return to school (Fletcher/Tufts). She wrote: "AP is an absolutely fantastic organization. Thank you for making my internship experience such a rewarding one."



Claudia Fritsche, Ambassador for the Principality of Liechtenstein has been an AP Board member since 2005. She hosts an annual reception for returning Fellows and diplomats and is strongly committed to empowering young professional women.

11. Financials

Income

Cash in Bank (1/1/2009)	\$52,173.61
Individual contributions (below)	\$48,460.47
Foundations (below)	\$70,000.00
NGO donations	\$7,550.07
Miscellaneous	\$789.69
Earned Revenue	\$76,487.24
Loans	\$41,000.00
Contributions to Fellows	\$30,601.00
Donations to partners (through AP)	\$58,421.00

Total income: \$389,229.92

Reserve: \$ 14,363.92

**Pending scheduled audit*

Expenses

Grants and contract expense	\$23,260.11
Salaries and benefits	\$188,388.65
Payroll taxes	\$11,361.12
Contract Services	\$5,805.17
Non-personnel expenses	\$10,624.44
Facility and equipment (including rent)	\$24,336.53
Travel and meeting	\$2,703.79
Other (including insurance)	\$5,349.00
Business expenses (including loan repayment)	\$10,308.80
Remittances to Fellows	\$30,601.00
Remittances to partners	\$58,421.00

Total expenses: \$374,866.00

With thanks to:

Foundations: Cohen Family Foundation, Pettus-Crowe Foundation, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Brimstone Fund, Morton K. & Jane Blaustein Foundation, The Arca Foundation, Humanity United Fund.

Benefactors: Paolo Forni, Ewa Sobczynska, LCG Inc., Scott Allen, R.G Slater, Steven Oates, Stephanie A. Butler, Charles Dougherty, Heather Ratcliff, Herbert Parsons, Rita Stankeviciute, Juliet Hutchings, Madam's Organ Resataurant & Bar, Joseph Sidari, Shawna M. Lee, Lori J Coleman, Teresa Crawford, Devin Greenleaf, Joanne Gallos, William & Sandra Shaw, Herbert & Mary Ellen Bittner, Roy Goldman & Heather Dolstra, Marissa K Squicciarini, John Birdsall, Susan Martin, Raghunathan Tirumalai, Frederick & Joan Bliss, Sandra Colliver.

Professional Support: Scott Levitt and Emily Williams (Covington and Burling, LLP), Clemens International, MTS Travel, Haymaker and Associates.

“I want to thank AP.....

“.....for including eHomemakers in your Peace Fellows program.

“Remember? I wasn’t interested when you first told me about it. I was very skeptical about how much a foreign person can do within 10 weeks when activities take so long to materialize, barriers are thick, and funds are always short or none in existence. But I was wrong. I am so, very so, glad. This is the kind of North South partnership that should happen to solve social environment and poverty or human rights problems. It is efficient and effective.

“The Peace Fellows have rejuvenated my team, especially me, with the American optimism. Most of all, they bring another perspective to look at things. They bring in information about what is available in the US that we can tap into. They are like windows. I can now see more light and shades.

“The Peace Fellows are also very encouraging, something that is so crucial for eH’s survival. Being the lone women social entrepreneur here, I do get constant discouragement, face unethical corporate ethics, and systemic ‘discriminations’ (which I am not allowed to write or talk about openly) due to certain policies. Sometimes I am down and want to give up, but during the time when there is a peace fellow, I am alive as there is someone that I can debate, and mull over pros and cons with. And so, they give me strength to believe in the path I am walking on.

“I do wish that one day we could help AP’s other partners.”

Chong Sheau Ching, Founder of the Malaysian eHomemakers

Thanks to the 2009 Peace Fellows: Rangineh Azimzadeh (Monterrey Institute of International Studies); Kelsey Bristow (Georgetown); Rachel Brown (Tufts); Courtney Chance (American University); Susan Craig Jones (Essex University, UK); Lindsay Crifasi (American University); Kate Cummings (Tufts); Barbra Dziedzic (American University); Farzin Farzad (American University); Aaron Fuchs (Georgetown Business School); Elisa Garcia (Universidad de Deusto, Bilbao, Spain); Rebecca Gerome (Science Po, Paris); Laura Gordon (Institute for Graduate Studies, Geneva); Fanny Grandchamp (Institute of Political Science, Grenoble); Donna Harati (Georgetown); Christina Hoosen (University of St Gall, Switzerland); Walter James (University of Maryland); Jacqui Kotyk (University of British Columbia); Luna Liu (University of Maryland); Bryan Lupton (Columbia University and the National University of Singapore); Elizabeth Mandelman (University of Minnesota); Ted Mathys (Tufts); Heidi McKinnon (University of New Mexico) Abilash Mehdi (London School of Economics); Isha Mehmood (American University); Ned Meerdink (University of Wisconsin); Althea Middleton-Dezner (George Washington University and Tufts); Gretchen Murphy (American University); Daniel Olsher (Georgetown); Tiffany Ommundsen (Columbia University); Meera Patel (Reed College); Johanna Paillet (Monterrey Institute of International Studies); Zachary Parker (American University); Carolyn Ramsdell (School of International Training); Lisa Rogoff (Georgetown Business School); Helah Robinson (Georgetown); Simran Sachdev (New York University); Alixa Sharkey (University of California, San Diego); Corrine Schneider (Princeton); Alison Sluiter (Georgetown); Morgan St Clair (School of International Training); Jessica Tirado (New York University); Jessica Varat (Tufts); Adam Welti (Tufts); Johanna Wilkie (Georgetown); Kan Yan (Tufts and Harvard Law School).



The Malaysian eHomemakers have taken six Peace Fellows. Above: Chong Sheau Ching, Founder and ICT entrepreneur