

FAQs – The Kids' Desk Drive

A SchoolAid & Australia for UNHCR Joint Initiative

Q. Who is SchoolAid?

SchoolAid is a student-led philanthropy network with the mission to empower kids to help kids in need, particularly where the capacity to attend school and learn has been affected. SchoolAid was formed in 1999 by former school principal Sean Gordon in response to the anxiety he felt as a parent and educator about the effect the major tragedies of the world were having on the minds of our children. The aim - to produce hope-filled philanthropic kids, who are resilient in the face of tragedy and understand the difference they can make in their own communities and beyond. See the 'Fact Sheet' under the *Project Tools & Resources* or the *About Us* section of the website for more information.

Q. Who is Australia for UNHCR?

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) was established in 1951 and is the leading humanitarian agency dedicated to providing emergency relief and support to some of the world's most vulnerable people. It has a mandate from the United Nations to protect refugees and to help resolve refugee problems worldwide. Australia for UNHCR is an Australian based charity and part of UNHCR's global fundraising network established to assist in raising much-needed funds engaging Australians from every level of the community in support of refugees worldwide.

Q. What is The Kids' Desk Drive?

The Kids' Desk Drive is a SchoolAid initiative, in association with Australia for UNHCR to enable kids to help 26,545 Congolese kids in need in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), while experiencing and learning about the power of giving. Recently, UNHCR has facilitated the return of more than 62,000 refugees from Tanzania in the Uvira and Fizi regions of South Kivu in the DRC. Almost half of the refugees are children in critical need of primary education. Through The Kids' Desk Drive, SchoolAid and UNHCR aim to empower student-led giving by enabling schools from across Australia to reach out and make a difference to provide 5,000 desks urgently needed for schools being rebuilt in South Kivu.

The Kids Desk Drive appeal opens on 30 June 2009 and will close on 30 September 2009.

Q. How can our school be involved and what can we do?

There are two ways that your school can be involved:

- i) You can raise funds and donate to *The Kids' Desk Drive* – see our ***Project Tools & Resources*** downloads for fundraising tips and activity ideas; and
- ii) You can also create a '*Messages in a Desk*' – providing words of hope, support and friendship for the Congolese students. Your messages will be delivered with the new desks that are supplied from the funds raised through our *The Kids' Desk Drive*'. See our ***Project Tools & Resources*** section for instruction on how to complete your '*Messages in a Desk*'. We would encourage you to include drawings, pictures or paintings from your school/ class/ students.

Q. Who will benefit & how will the funds raised from the Kids Desk Drive be distributed?

Funds raised by Australian schools will go directly to the purchase of the 5,000 desks, called 'table bancs' (combined desk/ chair) for the 24 schools in the South Kivu region of the DRC. Each desk costs the equivalent of AU\$45.50 and the UNHCR will facilitate the purchase and allocation of the desks. Any shortfall in desk funding will be met by the UNHCR and any surplus will be allocated to purchase other vital resources for the 24 schools



FAQs – The Kids' Desk Drive

A SchoolAid & Australia for UNHCR Joint Initiative

Q. What percentage of our donation will reach the schools & refugee children in need?

SchoolAid works actively to keep associated costs of our appeals low and as a result passes 90% of all donations raised by Australian schools directly to the appeal recipient/s. In this instance, the 90% will go directly to UNHCR to enable them to purchase the 5,000 desks needed for the schools in South Kivu in the DRC. We are delighted to advise that, specifically for this appeal, no further administrative costs or fees will be deducted by UNHCR in regard to the funds raised from *The Kids' Desk Drive*.

Q. Do we have to register to contribute to The Kids' Desk Drive?

We encourage all schools to register their participation in the emergency appeal and keep us updated on your appeal activity. This way schools and communities can keep up to date on the schools who are involved and the action they have taken. However, you can still send your donations through via direct deposit or cheque without registering online.