

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FORGE Launches Pioneering, Interactive Website  
to Connect the Giving Public to the Causes On-the-Ground**

*Innovative Website To Change The Way Donors Interact With Global Development Programs*

**Oakland, CA – 6 June 2008** – FORGE, a US-based international NGO, today revealed a new, innovative website that allows people from all over the world to connect with and interactively support innovative initiatives within African refugee camps. By offering a portal through which everyday people can experience the sights, sounds, and stories of hope and development in Africa, this new website offers a unique and special opportunity to engage in and contribute to global progress. This website partners with FORGE’s new People-Powered Development Model, which empowers refugee leaders to identify and implement creative solutions to the daily problems they face.

Now running at [www.FORGENow.org](http://www.FORGENow.org), this website allows users to search or browse for refugee-run community projects that suit their particular passions. Female leaders may be particularly drawn to FORGE’s Women’s Centers, which offer African refugee women the opportunity to learn about human rights, maternal health and reproductive issues while tailoring schoolclothes for their children. People in the education field may be compelled to give to FORGE’s preschool initiatives, or the libraries that provide the only access to books for 50,000 people. And people in the tech field will be fascinated to learn about and support the work of Francis, a refugee working for one of FORGE’s computer centers who fashioned an “email” system within a refugee camp with no phone lines, cell networks, or electricity grid.

What makes the new FORGE website special is that it allows people in the Western world to contribute to and stay involved in something they believe in. Once you select and give to a project, FORGE provides regular feedback on how the project is doing via photos, videos, and blog feeds. Unlike most international causes where your money disappears into a black hole, FORGENow.org allows people to recognize the difference that their small contribution can make. As FORGE Executive Director Kjerstin Erickson explains, “Realizing how much I could do with how little is what got me to start FORGE in the first place. People want to know that what they give is making a difference.”

According to FORGE’s Development Director Annelisa Pedersen , “FORGE has always done great work, but now the public can see it. Being able to connect our donors with a project, the people that run it, and the inspiration behind it makes all the difference in the world for us and for our donors. Its why we do what we do.”

**About FORGE**

FORGE is a US-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to build upon the capacity of African refugees to cultivate empowered communities and lay the foundation for peace and prosperity in their countries. FORGE works in three refugee camps in Zambia, with refugees from DR Congo, Sudan, Rwanda, Angola, and Burundi.

For more information about FORGE or [www.FORGENow.org](http://www.FORGENow.org), please contact us at (510) 735-9398 or email [info@FORGENow.org](mailto:info@FORGENow.org).

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