



Families of the missing persons in Africa live in extreme poor conditions as a result of poverty.

IFFAMPAC Africa fieldwork established that hundreds of families of missing persons are living in abject poverty; they lack social needs and proper housing. Most of the families revealed that they only manage to eat once per day and that they cannot afford three meals in day as a result of their lack of income. Their future is always uncertain, and they hoped that organizations like IFFAMPAC and other stakeholders would strive to empower them through economic activity ventures, such as basic skills training. African families of the missing have no access to clean running water, health services, and education for their children. Therefore, this situation has made the daily life of these families a HORROR. One family described the poverty that they go through as painful and inhuman.

ALARMING POVERTY LEVELS AMONG FAMILIES OF THE MISSING PERSONS IN AFRICA

On July 10, 2009, the IFFAMPAC Africa office through their African representative and volunteers undertook field study of the families of the missing persons from armed conflicts in Africa. The fieldwork assignment has been an ongoing undertaking, and it targets families of the missing who reside in communities commonly known as shanty compounds.

Your donations of funds or services will help us to act as an advocate for family associations. In addition, it will enable IFFAMPAC to implement projects that directly benefit the missing and their families. Donations are US tax deductible. IFFAMPAC is a 501(c)(3) organization.

For more information about IFFAMPAC and our work with the families of missing persons from armed conflict, or if you can help us with additional funding, please contact us at:

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POVERTY ROBS THE PRIDE OF HUMAN DIGNITY



Women prepare flitters for sale as a source of income to survive.

Due to high levels of poverty, women become vulnerable and their children engage in early marriages as a way of supporting their families. Poverty among the families of the missing has destroyed the root of stable families, as most families have given up hope for a better life.

The unplanned population among the families of the missing is growing rapidly, thereby causing social commotion and more poverty.

IFFAMPAC's role in addressing poverty has been centered on encouraging families of the missing persons to join the newly formed family associations, in order for them to attain a unified voice and be able to discover their social rights. This is the key to their future.

Poverty among the families of the missing cannot be resolved through food donations as it is not sustainable. Families need to undergo much training in basic skills and need to be empowered through micro-financing programs, which would give them impetus to stand on their own and support their families.

In one community we found a group of families of missing persons at a bar busy drinking local beers, and when asked why they spend much of their time drinking, they responded by saying that when they drink they forget about problems, and it keeps them going in life.



A woman from the family of a missing person sells charcoal as her main source of income, feeding her family off of the proceeds.

The poverty situation among families of the missing from armed conflicts could be described as catastrophic, because it keeps on robbing families from their fundamental values. One woman said that poverty has robbed them the **PRIDE OF HUMAN DIGNITY**.



A mother and her children pose for a photo during IFFAMPAC fieldwork.

Indeed, the life of families of the missing is on the edge of a knife. They feel demoted and depressed by the situation.

IFFAMPAC is determined to make families of the missing heard, and above all help them to reclaim their social rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We believe at IFFAMPAC that whatever we do to help families of the missing, we help propel Africa's emerging society of hope toward social development. And our desire is **African family transformation from poverty to prosperity.**

WHY SUPPORT, DONATE and FUND IFFAMPAC WORKS IN AFRICA?

In Africa, IFFAMPAC has begun to get an accurate accounting of the surviving families and their missing family members. Our approach gives us unique understanding of the overall problems that families face, and will enable IFFAMPAC to represent them effectively at forums such as the United Nations and international conferences with governments, agencies, and other NGOs. The planned projects for building schools, skills, and recreation centers for these families is a cornerstone for the fulfillment of fundamental human rights for a basic unit of society, the family.

IFFAMPAC welcomes donors to become part of the project implementation team. We do not work in isolation. As a team we can realize success. We welcome volunteers, and we invite other organizations to affiliate with us. We also welcome in-kind donations.

For donations and any other assistance please contact any of the following persons:

1. Ms. Jane Durgom-Powers, president and founder of IFFAMPAC at: jed-p@iffampac.org
2. Mr. Evans Lombe, IFFAMPAC Africa representative, at: africa@iffampac.org
3. Mrs. Sally Alexander, accountant, at: sally@iffampac.org
4. Mr. Jordan Rittmeyer, administrative assistant, at: jordan@iffampac.org
5. Mrs. Kjelse Rittmeyer, marketing administrator, at: kjr@iffampac.org

A BRIEF HISTORY OF IFFAMPAC

Below is a brief list of the history and accomplishments of IFFAMPAC.

1970s: Our President first became involved with the issue of people who have disappeared and their families. She worked directly with families around the world, helping them to set up Family Associations. She began drafting national laws and reforms to assist surviving family members.

February 2003: The ICRC conference on The Missing recognized the need to unite and co-ordinate the work of the numerous associations of affected families in many parts of the world. Our President addressed the conference.

April 2003: IFFAMPAC was incorporated in the USA.

March 2006: IFFAMPAC was appointed to the United Nations Working Group on Persons who are unaccounted for in Connection with Events in Kosovo.

May 2006: The United Nations Economic and Social Council granted IFFAMPAC Special Consultative Status.

December 2007: IFFAMPAC was approved for association with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI).

March 2008: IFFAMPAC opened a Kosovo branch office in Pristine.

April 2008: IFFAMPAC opened an African branch office in Lusaka, Zambia.

September 2008: IFFAMPAC is chosen by the UN to conduct a workshop on families of missing persons from armed conflicts at the UN meeting in Paris, France celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

If you would like more information on the issue of missing persons from armed conflicts or if you can help us continue our work by assisting us to obtain further funding, to make a donation, or to volunteer, please contact us at:

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**FAMILIES OF
THE MISSING**
no one disappears alone