



*using the power of film to educate, entertain and inspire*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**FILMAID INTERNATIONAL TO RE-INITIATE TANZANIA PROGRAMS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

New York, NY; April 10, 2003 -- FilmAid International, a non-profit organization that uses film to educate, entertain and inspire refugees and other vulnerable people around the world, announced today a new partnership with Church World Service, a relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry of 36 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations in the United States to re-initiate programming in the Kibondo district of Tanzania.

FilmAid's highly successful programs in East Africa use the unique power of film to promote health, strengthen communities and enrich the lives of the world's vulnerable and uprooted. FilmAid began programming in Tanzania in the fall of 2002 in the Mtendeli, Nduta and Karago camps near the border with Burundi. A Project of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), working in conjunction with UNHCR, FilmAid created an exciting interactive filmmaking program and screened engaging, educational films for audiences of up to 27,000 refugees in a single evening.

When the Tanzania program had to be briefly suspended in January 2003 at the conclusion of a seed grant from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, refugee leaders in the Mtendeli camp wrote, "We are getting many requests from the community to continue with the FilmAid screenings. Please continue to provide more chances to assist these refugee communities by funding this program, as it reduces depression and provides health education, recreation and capacity building to refugees."

Recognizing the significant potential of this innovative program, Church World Service, which works in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries to meet human needs and foster self-reliance for vulnerable populations, offered to partner in Tanzania to re-establish programs. Church World Service and FilmAid will provide programming on HIV/AIDS, conflict resolution, health and hygiene, and women's rights to the over 130,000 refugees in these three camps.

"Our partnership with Church World Service will enable us to bring education, information and hope to thousands of refugees in Tanzania" says FilmAid Executive Director Deborah DeWinter, "we are particularly pleased to be collaborating with an organization that is committed to raising awareness of the global plight of refugees and is taking action to make a difference in their lives."

For more information on FilmAid International, please visit [www.filmaidinternational.org](http://www.filmaidinternational.org). For more information on Church World Service please visit [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org).

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