

A Pair work What do you know about Angelina Jolie? What is she most well known for? Discuss and share your ideas with the class.

Angelina Jolie: Goodwill ambassador

Actress Angelina Jolie is almost as famous for her international charity projects as she is for being a movie star. In 2001, Jolie was named a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador after she went on a mission to Sierra Leone and Tanzania – African countries devastated by civil war. Seeing firsthand the enormous challenges that refugees face was a life-altering experience for Angelina, who decided to use her fame to aid their cause.

The UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) is an organization that protects millions of refugees around the world in 122 countries. It is the world’s largest international humanitarian organization that provides necessities like food, water, shelter, and medical assistance. Jolie, the young Academy Award-winning actress, has traveled to numerous countries with the UNHCR on trips that she pays for herself – including Pakistan, Ecuador, Colombia, Namibia, and Chad. In addition, she donates a third of her income to charity. She has also written a book of her experiences, *Notes from My Travels*.

“I’ve become aware of the world we live in, what’s really going on,” Angelina says. “I think we should try to be responsible and educate ourselves. I’m simply doing that and traveling, learning firsthand, and seeing firsthand what’s going on.”

Using her status as superstar to generate media coverage, Jolie has sparked worldwide interest in helping refugees by making the public more aware of the terrible conditions in which they live. Jolie calls these refugees “the most vulnerable people in the world.”

During one of her trips to an orphanage in Cambodia, Jolie met the baby boy she would adopt a year later, Maddox. Then two years later, Jolie adopted a baby girl from Ethiopia she named Zahara. She later adopted a boy, Pax, from Vietnam. The actress also gave birth to her daughter Shiloh with Brad Pitt, in Namibia in May 2006. After the birth, Jolie and Pitt donated \$300,000 to two state-run hospitals in that southwest African nation. Of her humanitarian work, Jolie said simply, “You have to just do what you can.”

B Read the article. Are these statements true, false, or not given?

	True	False	Not given
1. Jolie began her work as goodwill ambassador following a trip to Africa.	☐	☐	☐
2. Funding for some of Jolie’s travels around the world comes from the UNHCR.	☐	☐	☐
3. Since 2001, Jolie has contributed a percentage of her income to charity each year.	☐	☐	☐
4. Jolie’s book about her travels and humanitarian work is a best seller.	☐	☐	☐
5. Only one of Jolie’s children was adopted from an African country.	☐	☐	☐
6. The UNHCR is looking for other stars like Jolie to spark interest in their work.	☐	☐	☐

C Group work Discuss these questions. Then share your answers in groups.

- Which of Jolie’s humanitarian activities do you think has the biggest impact? Explain.
- Do you think famous people have a responsibility to help others? Why or why not?