



**Christian
World Service**
ACTION AGAINST POVERTY
actalliance



Dhammika stands with her mother and children near her beautiful garden.

Credit: MONLAR

Spring Story

GROW A GARDEN TO SURVIVE

BY GILLIAN SOUTHEY | CWS COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR.

Like many of the small farmers our partner MONLAR works with, Dhammika is deeply thankful for what she has learned. She has been able to transform her home plot into a rich source of food for her family in rural Sri Lanka. With the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic, Dhammika knows her garden is the source of life for her family. She happily shares seeds she has saved and passes on what she has learnt to families like hers in neighbouring communities.

MONLAR, the Movement of Land and Agricultural Reform, is committed to small farmers and the restoration of the land. Members include farmers, agricultural specialists, academics, students who work together in local communities, in People's Planning Forums and at the national level. They encourage close relationships between Sinhala and Tamil farmers in their efforts to repair a bitter history of conflict.

Some things have changed since the arrival of the new coronavirus in Sri Lanka, but not the determination to improve people's livelihoods through ecological or regenerative agriculture. By the middle of August, Sri Lanka reported fewer than 3,000 people had been infected with Covid-19.

Moderator Chinthaka Rajapakse is urging the newly elected government to focus on developing sustainable agriculture now they can no longer import as much fertiliser or other inputs because of the pandemic. When the *Maha* growing season



Dhammika sorts seeds from her flourishing garden to share with other families in need of food. Credit: MONLAR

begins in September, MONLAR wants many more families to have the good food they need to survive the pandemic and Sri Lanka's struggling economy.

I am Dhammika. I live with my mother, husband and five children in Galle province. Sewing was the first job I had. My husband used to work as a labourer but after a leg injury, he sometimes gets work driving other people's vehicles. Some months he only works two days and cannot contribute much to our household income. I have five children. One boy (the eldest) and four girls. They are 13, 12, 6, 4 and 2 years old. I live in my parent's house. Our neighbours are our relatives and friends so we live with dignity and unity.

My garden used to be a rocky field and the land was useless, but with the help of MONLAR everything has changed. When I met Mrs Devika who organises the Southern Provincial People's Planning Forum, she invited me to its discussion groups and trainings. From her I learnt to grow pesticide-free crops. She inspired



Dhammika's family depends on the food they can grow to get them through this time of Covid-19. Credit MONLAR

me and now my garden is full of vegetables, fruit and flowers. I am proud of my garden and can earn an income as well. Cultivation is intertwined with my life. I make my living as a tailor and earn extra money as a farmer.

After meeting Mrs Devika I introduced MONLAR to my village. I started a society that now has 17 members. I have trained and encouraged the members to grow home gardens using organic methods and am now teaching people in neighbouring villages.

The garden is a big strength for me. Home-grown vegetables are taken from the garden in a healthy way. This saves on the cost of vegetables. I get a monthly income of around \$250 from sewing clothes and gardening.

Everything that happened in my life was bad. Still I'm happy with my life.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, we received some government assistance for families living with poverty and dry rations from MONLAR. At that time, the garden was very successful. So, we had no food shortages. We had nutritious meals. MONLAR provided hoses to supply water to the garden and organised a sale for our excess produce.

With the government's programme promoting home gardens during the Covid-19 lockdown, everyone turned to cultivation. As a result, we had to pay more for animal manure, which we used to collect easily.



MONLAR helps families transform home plots into a rich source of food. Credit MONLAR

Because we live on a mountain, transportation is very difficult. We cannot afford the costs of taxis when they are available and there are no local vehicles to take produce to a market. We need more tools like a wheelbarrow. We share with those who live in neighbouring houses. We conserve the seeds from the garden for the next season.

Being with MONLAR gives us new knowledge. My children help in the garden.

"I would like to thank MONLAR, CWS and all the people of New Zealand for their support in strengthening our lives. Many thanks to the people who help me."

Please support the Spring Appeal, so families like Dhammika's can plant a garden of hope.

\$50

\$50 will provide tools and training for a Sri Lankan family.

\$70

\$70 will provide five buckets with a tap for handwashing in Haiti.

\$130

\$130 will provide food for an Indian family for another month.

Our partners are working very hard to keep families healthy during the pandemic. From Sri Lanka to Nicaragua, they have increased agricultural support to secure livelihoods as well as providing good health advice, hygiene kits and emergency food. Without this help, many would be close to hunger. As Covid-19 continues to spread, families with no income will need support to survive.

SUMMARY ANNUAL REVIEW

1 JULY 2019 - 30 JUNE 2020



Thanks to our valued supporters and our skilled partners, Christian World Service has been able to contribute to significant change in communities living with poverty. Funding grants have assisted people denied an adequate livelihood or facing conflict, climate change and the effects of the pandemic. The year has been marked by uncertainty. Increasing numbers of people are facing hunger and displacement. The arrival of the new coronavirus has highlighted the huge gulf in access to medical care and livelihoods.

CWS has focused on improving fundraising efforts with the support of Black Advertising. A separate mailing for Gifted, the ethical gift programme, which was also inserted into publications proved an effective new avenue of support. Donations to the Samoa Measles Appeal enabled CWS to support the Family Centre's response. Increased support for the seasonal appeals was very welcome. There were more donations to the 2019 Christmas Appeal. The first steps in a new fundraising approach have shown promise with new donors joining our loyal support base.

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic shaped much of CWS's work, at times eclipsing other critical activity around climate justice or the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Our partners have played a key role in protecting some of the poorest communities from the virus and where they can, the hunger that came with it. They have sought out the best advice and distributed

food and hygiene kits to people often ignored by governments.

Regular donations from our supporters over many years put partners in a critical position to respond quickly to the outbreak. For example, in Tamil Nadu, India, Panchayat or local council presidents trained by the Human Rights Foundation implemented equitable food distribution to the poorest day labourers, and the Centre for Community Solidarity built simple foot-operated handwashing machines for families in water-deprived southern Uganda.

Under lockdown I and other staff were unable to meet with as many churches and groups – we are very clear that this support is central to our work. Fortunately, International Programmes Coordinator Trish Murray was able to visit the five Indian partners in Tamil Nadu ahead of the lockdown. All expressed their thanks for the long-term support from CWS and pointed to substantial transformation for the poorest people in their communities.

Thank you for sharing in the global challenge to end poverty and respond to the challenges we all face.

Pauline McKay
Pauline McKay
National Director



Credit: CEPAD and CWS/Trish Murray

SUMMARY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Income

Christmas Appeal	397,392
Regular Appeals	172,279
General Donations	231,980
Designated Donations	
- Development (including Gifted, Operation Refugee)	162,937
Bequests	173,693
Designated Donations - Emergency	88,327
Grants (Church and Trust)	55,904
Government Funds	-
Other income	74,639
Total Income	1,357,151

Expenditure

International Programmes Funding	808,954
Education and Relationships	3,916
Promotion	193,530
Coordination (including all staffing costs and depreciation)	530,562
Total Expenditure	1,536,962
Excess Expenditure over Income	(179,811)

HOW WE SPENT OUR FUNDS 2019-20

This summary is taken from the full statement of accounts that has been prepared for audit. The full audited accounts and annual review will be available after they have been approved by the Annual General Meeting, on October 17.

Note: The deficit includes funding for the new fundraising initiatives approved by the CWS Board.

PARTNERS FUNDED 2019/20

AFRICA

Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe

Cyclone Idai response

South Sudan

Maridi Service Agency – youth programme and displaced people

Zimbabwe

Dabane Trust - Water management

Regional Total \$83,150



Credits: CWS/Trish Murray



ASIA

Bangladesh

ACT Alliance – Rohingya emergency response

National Garment Workers Federation – Covid-19 Awareness programme

Cambodia

Church World Service Cambodia – Disaster Preparedness

India

EKTA Gender Training Programme and Covid-19 response

Human Rights Foundation Empowering Women in Local Government

NEYTHAL Coastal Protection and Covid-19 response

Social Action for New Development training women advocates, farmers and children

Women Development Resource Centre for Dalit and Tribal Women
Women Empowerment and Covid-19 response

Indonesia

ACT Alliance – Earthquake and tsunami response

Philippines

Developers Foundation-Integrated Development and Disaster Recovery and Mangrove rehabilitation

Sri Lanka

Devasarana Development Centre – livelihoods for small farmers and inter-cultural understanding

Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform – Development and Covid-19 response

Women's Centre Programme for workers and Covid-19 response

Regional Total \$477,342



Credit: CEPAD

LATIN AMERICA

Bahamas

ACT Alliance – Cyclone Dorian response

Haiti

Institut Culturel Karl Lévesque (ICKL)- Covid-19 response, Education programme and School Rebuild

Nicaragua

Consejo de Iglesias Evangélicas Pro-Alianza Denominacional (CEPAD) –National Community Development Programme – small farmers, improved livelihoods and mental health, and Covid-19 response

Regional Total \$73,097

MIDDLE EAST

Palestine/Lebanon/Jordan/Israel

Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) - total budget, medical and education programmes for Syrian and Palestinian refugees, Covid-19 response

Regional Total \$78,605

PACIFIC

Regional

Pacific Conference of Churches

Pacific Theological College – Reweaving the Ecological mat

Fiji

Social Empowerment Education Programme

Samoa

Family Centre – Measles response

Tonga

Tonga Community Development Trust Ama Takilao

Regional Total \$51,477

INTERNATIONAL

ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together)

CHS Alliance (Core Humanitarian Standard)

Total \$6,309

ADMINISTRATION, WORKSHOP, APPRAISAL, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Total \$5,699

Total Programme Funding \$775,678

Donate now at www.cws.org.nz.

Phone 0800 74 73 72 or post to CWS, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140.

