2025-2026 Annual Report

The moment you separate body and spirit, you have death.
By separating faith and works you get the same result.
James 2:26

Those indwelt by the Holy Spirit should be at the forefront
of the fight for gender, racial and social justice.
Nicky Gumbel

Kia ora e te whānau

Thanks to the faithful support of the Christian World Service (CWS) family, we have continued into our 81st year as the oldest international aid and development organisation serving people in the name of the Church across Aotearoa/New Zealand. Inspired by our shared Christian values towards humanity, our core objectives remain to build awareness and to act on global suffering, injustice, poverty, and peace. The Board is now at an advanced stage of navigating a fresh direction. While the new strategy has a plethora of objectives, two key elements involve: 1) placing significantly more emphasis on our closest neighbours across Oceania and 2) reducing the number of international partnerships so we may increase funding (and therefore impact) to a fewer number.

OUR WORK

Current Development Work

While a change of direction is exciting in that it leads to new opportunities, there is also a tangible cost. The fresh focus means that some of our long-standing partnerships around the globe have either come to a close or are in their final cycle of funding. With the end of a chapter, there is naturally grief and sadness associated with loss. We wish each of the organisations the very best for their future and God's blessing on them.

The following overviews activity that CWS is currently supporting (listed alphabetically).

- **Anglican Missions Board and Diocese of Polynesia (Polynesia):** Community Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (CIVA) was designed by experts in disaster preparedness and vulnerability mapping. This activity will create a baseline needs assessment for vulnerable communities to use for increasing community-wide awareness and to become better prepared. This project will enable CIVA surveys across six vulnerable settlements in Fiji, with the aim of strengthening regional collaboration and sharing experiences with other Pacific partners. The programme will develop coordination and regional capability building into Melanesia and will include prepositioning of emergency response equipment in Vanua Levu.
- **Developers (Philippines):** This activity is focussed on the remote barangay of Tabon to bolster the economic resilience of island families, improve community health, and ensure the sustainable management of Tabon Island's natural resources. It comprises several components including: 1) Micro-enterprise for enhancement of family livelihoods, 2) Facilitation of Farmer-to-Farmer Consultations/trainings, enlisting the expertise and knowledge of commercial farmers to bridge technical needs of Tabon farmers, with the hopes of expanding into commercial markets, 3) host a nutrition and cooking seminar providing practical knowledge regarding healthy family nutrition and cooking practices, 4) host an Island Kitchen Event showcasing local farmers' produce and culinary skills including the promotion of sustainable local food production, 5) facilitate workshops with local government, local fisher leaders, and representatives from the municipal government to draft the Barangay Tabon Fisheries Code/Ordinance, 6) conduct assessment meetings regarding the implementation of previously approved Mangroves and Waste Management ordinances.
- **Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform (Sri Lanka):** The project focuses on strengthening People's Planning Forums, grassroots advocacy, and sustainable agricultural practices to enhance the livelihoods and rights of smallholder farmers. Through participatory engagement, it will provide training in agroecological farming methods, advocate for policy changes that promote economic empowerment through cooperative development. Additionally, it will facilitate research and documentation on the socio-economic impacts of agroecology to provide evidence-based recommendations for policy reforms. A significant aspect of the project is the integration of climate resilience strategies into agricultural practices, ensuring that communities are equipped to mitigate and adapt to climate-related challenges. By fostering a network of empowered farmers and community leaders, the project will establish a strong advocacy movement that influences national policies and strengthens local governance structures. Women and youth play a crucial role in these initiatives, ensuring

gender-inclusive leadership and equitable resource access.

- **Social Action for New Development Trust (India)** This initiative aims to empower women and girls by addressing sexual violence and gender inequality through a community-led, systems based approach. Operating in the rural districts of Tamil Nadu, the project combines legal support, awareness-building, and stakeholder engagement to create a safer, more inclusive society. The project aims to train 3,000 volunteer community members to act as local change agents. The program ensures access to justice for at least 90 survivors of sexual violence through legal aid and support services. Simultaneously, 2,500 women and girls will be sensitised to gender-based violence, legal rights, and reporting mechanisms, while 60 men and boys will be engaged to shift harmful gender norms. Additionally, the project will train 250 key stakeholders—including police, Panchayat leaders, and educators—on gender-responsive governance.
- **Tonga** In partnership, with the Ministry of foreign Affairs and Trade, the Tonga Community Development Trust embarked on a three year project aimed at disaster and climate resilience. This includes food security through small scale farming, income generation though sales of produce at markets, and mental health awareness and education.
- **Uniting World (Solomon Islands) and REnew Pacific (AUS Government):** This project will transform energy access in remote communities in Choiseul and Malaita Provinces by installing approximately 140 kW of solar systems on schools, health centres and churches used as evacuation centres, or for community events, education and health programs. The systems will power lighting, refrigeration, communications equipment and water pumping, alongside streetlights to improve safety in community spaces. Around 8,630 people will benefit from reliable renewable energy that strengthens essential services and disaster resilience, supports climate-resilient livelihoods and improves safety during emergencies and non-emergency times. Reliable electricity will allow clinics to store medicines safely and provide continuous care, while schools will be able to enhance learning environments and outcomes by operating lighting, fans and digital learning tools. Solar-powered cold storage will enable fisherfolk to preserve catch, and access higher-value markets, while electricity can also support small enterprises such as sewing and tool use.

Current Emergency work

CWS partners with the ACT Alliance (ACT), a global organisation, affiliated with the World Council of Churches. ACT has over 120 member organisations around the globe who either support or deliver emergency response during times of natural or human disaster.

This last year CWS has contributed funds to support our colleagues in:

- **Lebanon:** People affected by the conflict including internally displaced persons have received immediate lifesaving, emergency support. Specifically they have had access to support aimed at restoring livelihoods. Additionally they have learnt social cohesion tools of communication.
- **Myanmar:** For emergency relief following the earthquake that struck central Myanmar in March, 2025. Affected communities have had access to emergency food assistance through cash for food programmes, safe places for refuge, and psychosocial support for children and families. Additionally the funding has allowed for access to safe and hygienic sanitation facilities, clean water supply and shelter assistance.
- **Palestine:** People affected by the hostilities in Gaza received immediate lifesaving, emergency support through cash transfers, livelihoods, food, emergency health services and delivery of medical supplies. Additionally, women, vulnerable individuals and children, have received psychosocial support. Families have had access to improved shelter, while teachers, parents, and pedagogical professionals in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza have had enhanced support to respond to emergency.
- **South Sudan:** For responding to recurrent conflict, food shortages and natural disasters, including the recent severe flooding across the country. Specific activity provided access to life-saving food assistance/cash transfer and livelihood support, access to safe water and improved hygiene, education, shelter, water, psychosocial support and to promote peaceful co-existence.
- **Sri Lanka:** for response associated with the catastrophic flooding and landslides of cyclone Ditwah in Nov, 2025. This project provided immediate response through cash assistance to the most affected families. Rapid assessment indicated that food insecurity and loss of income were the most immediate problems, with many markets disrupted and thousands of families unable to meet daily needs. The intervention focused on displaced households, low-income families, elderly persons, women-headed households, and families with children, as these groups are the most vulnerable and least able to recover without external support.
- **Ukraine** As Ukraine enters its 4th year of full-scale war and the eleventh year of conflict, the humanitarian crisis remains severe. 12.7 million people are left in urgent need of assistance and 3.6 million internally displaced, having lost homes and livelihoods. Nine million people are projected to remain below the poverty line. The ongoing conflict, compounded by displacement, infrastructure damage, and restricted access to essential services, has demanded an adaptive humanitarian response provided through ACT Alliance members.
- **Early interventions**: For immediate response to disaster through contributing to the ACT Alliance rapid relief fund. In line with our commitment to locally led response that offers a distinct advantage in providing a timely, contextualised high quality, immediate disaster intervention, this fund prioritises supporting local ACT implementing partners at the point of need.

OUR MINISTRY RESOURCING

CWS is extremely grateful for churches that share our vision of hope and life for the world's most vulnerable. This last year, we received some generous bequests that have supported our cause, and assisted in future proofing the organisation. We continue our Christmas and seasonal appeals to church congregations and individuals within the CWS family. The 'Gifted' programme supports different themes of concern to CWS. A new initiative is called 'LIFT'. It seeks partnership with those who have access to higher levels of finance and who are committed to poverty eradication and the reduction of human suffering. We are also intentionally investing in our online presence to reach out to individuals who share our values but may not be, or are no longer involved in our communities of faith. A significant overhaul of our website and social media has been initiated. This includes beginning a 'World Watch' podcast. The first episode has dropped on Spotify and interviews a previous CWS Director, the humanitarian activist Rev Brian Turner.

OUR PEOPLE

Sincere thanks is extended to the people who serve CWS. To each of our Board members, our small dedicated team of staff, and to our volunteers who pack appeal envelopes and assist in administration - we say ka pai!

This year we have enjoyed stability in our team whether paid or volunteer; however we were shocked by the unexpected brain aneurysm suffered by our International Partnerships Lead. Rob Wayne left work with a headache one Monday evening at the end of March, was admitted to hospital the next morning and sadly passed peacefully, accompanied by his family two days later without pain. Our global partners who worked with Rob responded quickly expressing their condolences and appreciation for his work. The Social Empowerment Education Programme in Fiji said *"Rob was such a wonderful person. I am picturing his smiling face right now, his questions, his quick response that was well thought through and careful, his patience. What a loss."*. The Community world service Asia responded by *saying "Rob was committed, caring and hard-working team member. Rob understood the pain of communities in distress, and always went out of his way to help and serve"*. The Mission for Sustainable Advancement in South Sudan lamented "*My heart is broken! OMG! I am in total shock on seeing this message. What a dark moment for us. Rob, your memories, the times we had in Kampala in 2016 your smiles to me a few weeks ago through video breaks my heart so deeply".* Rob will be remembered globally for his care of those who were disadvantaged, and in particular, for those who are suffering. We grieve with his family and friends over the loss and pray God's comfort and support be theirs.

As well as our own team, we pause to acknowledge our strategic partners:

- ACT Alliance
- Anglican Church of New Zealand and Polynesia
- Botting Legal
- Christian Churches New Zealand
- David Ellison Trust
- Diocesan School for Girls, Auckland
- Methodist Church of New Zealand
- Methodist Women's Fellowship
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
- Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Snowden Watts Trust
- World Day of Prayer

CONCLUSION

Please pause to pray for those actively working for the causes we represent. We also warmly invite your congregation to financially support our ministry and to advocate for poverty eradication, peace and justice.



Chair: Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi



National Director: Rev Dr Tim Pratt