



CWS

**@world**

ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

**SPRING/SUMMER 2011**

# Meeting the challenge

**Food for all**

- » CWS moving ahead
- » Horn of Africa famine response
- » The gift of water
- » The challenge of poverty: could you live on \$2.25 a day?

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Action by Churches Together



# Meeting our challenges

**E**arthquakes, Government policy changes and funding cuts have all combined to hit us hard. But CWS is very much in business. We're taking action with a new growth strategy aimed at meeting our challenges head on.

Changes in Government policy have seen us go from a \$4 million a year business to a \$1.8 million a year one. We remain committed to our understanding of good development - small scale, incremental and based on our unique Kiwi ability to listen, learn from and empower people in poverty. It is not a belief we feel is shared by the current Government so we are

choosing to go it alone.

You may have heard from me recently asking for your help to fund this return to our basic belief and support base. Your role as donors is crucial to our rebuild.

Already we have restructured, cutting costs and staffing levels to the bone. We have set aside funds to develop new support. We have just completed the first New Zealand version of Live Below the Line, an internationally proven promotion challenging young people to live on the poverty line, just \$2.25 a day (see page 6). We now have a new group of friends amongst the young socially engaged. We are developing new fundraising programmes such as Direct Partners,

which puts groups into closer direct contact with our partners overseas.

We are all too aware that poverty and catastrophe are still with us. Famine is worsening in the Horn of Africa and rising food prices are overwhelming the communities with which we work. This is no time to walk away from them.

I hope that our new vision and action plan are ones you will want to invest in. Our partners need you.

*Pauline McKay*

Pauline McKay  
National Director

## Election 2011: Vote for a Better World

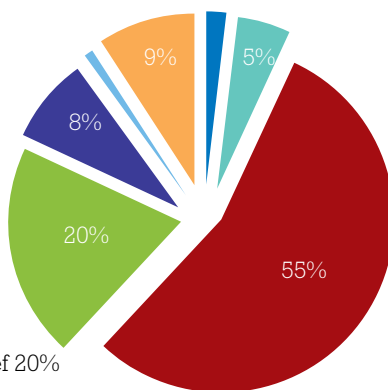
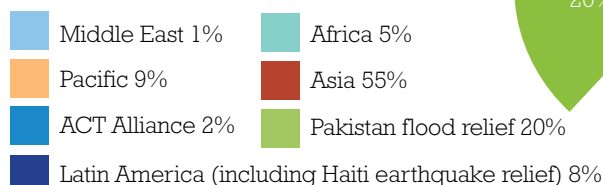
**T**he Council for International Development (CID) made up of New Zealand development agencies is preparing a comprehensive brief for the incoming government. The sector wants to promote its strengths to show how we are building stronger, more sustainable communities around the world.

Together the agencies are a \$350 million sector engaging a quarter of New Zealanders in their work.

CWS will offer material to those interested to discuss aid policy with political candidates. If you would like to receive it please contact CWS or look on the website.

## Where we funded 2010-2011

Total of funding overseas:  
**\$1,159,522.98**



The 2010-2011 Annual Report is available from the national office or online at [www.cws.org.nz/about-us](http://www.cws.org.nz/about-us)



**COVER  
PHOTO**

**A Somali woman and her child walk for days to find refuge from the Horn of Africa Famine. They are being helped by CWS partners in what is now the world's largest refugee camp. This is hunger at its extreme but other communities are also struggling to feed their families. CWS partners are meeting the challenge as CWS itself moves ahead from its own difficult times.**

Credit: ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey

## In memory

**C**WS was saddened by the recent death of Sir Paul Reeves, former Archbishop and Governor General of New Zealand. He was valued as a special patron and advocate for CWS, endorsing the Christmas Appeal and supporting our statements and campaigns. His ability to both represent the establishment and support those seeking change meant that he played a very unique role in the world.



CWS partners provided emergency relief in Pakistan after millions were displaced by massive monsoon floods last year.

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## Horn of Africa Famine:

# Welcoming the hungry

The day begins early for Soraya Musau, camp manager at the ACT Alliance member run Dagahaley refugee camp in north east Kenya. She rises at 5 am to meet new arrivals who have gathered at the gates overnight. Everyday there are more than 1300 people escaping famine in Somalia. They arrive seeking food, water, basic necessities – and hope.

Some carry bundles of belongings. Many have nothing but their children. All are hungry, dehydrated and exhausted after their journey which can take them more than three weeks on foot. The graveyard is expanding. The number of older people surprises camp workers. The elderly tend to stay put in their homes until things get really bad.

For Soraya and her 11 staff, the task is daunting. In the next few hours, all these people have to be guided through the newly-constructed reception centre so that they know what services are available

and their rights. Names will be recorded by government officials. Everyone will be given a coloured and numbered wristband, entitling them to food for 21 days and goods, such as jerry cans for water, cooking pots, sleeping mats and other essentials to ensure their immediate survival.

Children will be inoculated and receive milk, shoes and clothing donated by the local Muslim community to fill gaps in provision by the international agencies.

The most vulnerable people are seen first –unaccompanied children, those with an old person or someone who is handicapped, then large families and finally men on their own – many impatient to be reunited with their families who travelled before them. Tempers do occasionally fray but most lack the energy for any form of confrontation.

Dagahaley is part of the Dadaab camp complex, the world's largest refugee camp. With a capacity of 90,000, the camps now host over 440,000 people.

For Soraya the plight of a family who had travelled for 22 days and arrived at 4am was another tragic story. She woke to find that one of their children, an 18 month old girl had died in the night. She was heartbroken but knew she had to carry on, otherwise she would be of no use.

"A case like that really shakes you. But on that day 1318 people came, so you didn't have the time to respond emotionally," says Soraya. "At the end of the day you do recall and recount what you have seen. It's what makes you get up at 5am."

Photos: ACT Alliance



## Taking ACTION

Over 12 million people face starvation in the Horn of Africa, with Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia severely affected. Famine has been declared in parts of Somalia. The worst drought in 60 years combined with poverty, high food prices and conflict have made it impossible for communities to cope. CWS has launched an appeal for ACT Alliance partners working throughout the region

ACT Alliance is providing food, clean water, shelter and medicine, plus assistance to help others stay in their homes. This includes paying market rates for their remaining cattle and maintaining water bores, which are now a fragile life line. In the long term ACT will rehabilitate pastures, ponds and water points, re-stock goat and sheep herds and grow animal feed. But for now the focus is saving lives.

## A natural disaster?

The failure of the rains has been the final straw, but it is not the underlying cause of the crisis. The traditional coping mechanisms of pastoralists have been irrevocably disrupted. Climate change means the rains fail more often. People cannot stockpile to survive the next crisis or migrate to the traditional places in Somalia which have provided a backup in drought. Other dry season lands have been lost to permanent settlement, irrigation schemes or given to investors who refuse to acknowledge pastoralist rights.



**"The situation of the entire world is changing and we are facing more and more disasters. Most of them are due to the anti people policies and thirst for more power."**

“Vulnerable communities are becoming more and more vulnerable,” warns Jesu Rethinam, director of CWS partner Neythal in South India. “The situation of the entire world is changing and we are facing more and more disasters. Most of them are due to the anti people policies and thirst for more power.” Her plea for India to learn from these experiences is a wake-up call for the entire world. “If we face another disaster [like the South Asian tsunami], there will be nothing left.”

Nowhere is the challenge more evident than for one of life's essentials - food. Food prices have increased 33% in the year to July 2011 according to the World Bank, pushing more than 100 million more people into chronic hunger. The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) warns we are only one bad harvest away from an acute crisis. For some, rising food prices mean increasing the household budget for food. But for millions, it means going without.

CWS is working with partners to ensure everyone enjoys the right to feed themselves. It is a complex issue, but some simple programmes are bringing lifesaving change.



**Unless we improve access to food, more people will be dependent on aid and unable to feed themselves, as is now happening in the Horn of Africa.**

# Putting Food in Reach

## Where has all the food gone?

Almost one billion of the 6.93 billion people in the world face chronic hunger – not counting people who face hunger in “short-term” situations due to war or natural disasters. Yet the world currently produces enough food calories for 12 billion people. Food is not reaching the people who need it. The EAA (of which CWS is a member) has pulled together some damning facts on the situation:

- » People in developed countries consume on average over 60 per cent more than they need.

- » Worldwide, 40 per cent of the food produced is wasted before it can be consumed.
- » 700 children die every hour as a result of hunger.
- » About one-third of world crop production is used to feed animals.
- » We are using valuable crop land for agro fuel production.

The EAA Food for Life campaign, supported by churches around the globe, argues the root causes of hunger lie in the ways we now produce, distribute and consume food.

In rural areas of developing countries family farmers are losing their land and livelihoods. In the growing slums of the cities the situation is worse. People have to buy food, often from extremely low wages. Large corporations are taking over more of the food system, frequently diverting profits and benefits away from local communities and depleting the environment. Food and land are increasingly being seen as tradable commodities grown for profit, not to feed people. Churches are working for a change – the recognition of food as a right for all.



## The right to food

The right to food says that all people are entitled to adequate food that is sufficient, safe, nutritious and culturally acceptable. This right is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

People, no matter where they live, must be able to access the means to feed themselves – through earning an adequate income or being able to produce what they need. CWS partners are committed to making this happen.

## Taking Action



**In the Philippines** it is environmental challenges that threaten food security and the gains CWS partner, Developers, has made for women in the Aklan and Capiz Provinces. They have finished a five year programme that has increased income through small livelihood projects (including piggy banks, vegetable growing, handcrafts, food stalls, and weaving), doubling the monthly income of participating families. They have more to spend on food, education and health. Increasingly though, the gains are threatened by climate change, weather disasters, and environmental degradation. Developers has incorporated these factors into the next phase of the programme, adding conservation, re-greening and sustainable incomes that don't deplete the local area of the resources people need to survive. It is already going well. The women's groups are running compost pit drives, restoring mangroves, planting trees and improving waste management. They have established an income generating programme – selling biodegradable shopping bags and making beautiful home decor (see photo above) from recycled plastics.

**In the Palestinian Territories** the issue is high food prices. Nearly half the households in the West Bank live in poverty and one third do not get enough to eat. Due to the complex political



situation, access to traditional farmlands has been lost and food is imported at high cost. Access to traditional farmlands has been lost. Families spend more than half their income on food. CWS partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, is helping families produce their own food. CWS is funding greenhouses, animals and chickens, tree seedlings and vegetable plants.

Typical of many, the extended Mariq family (see photo above) is now growing spinach, tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. In the first year, they used four fifths of the crop for their own consumption and sold the rest. Nutrition, health and income are increasing. It has changed their lives, they say. The wider community also benefits. Locally produced food is bringing costs down and it is hoped everyone will eventually be able to feed their families.

**In Tamil Nadu, South India**, large scale developments are threatening the ecosystems the majority of the people rely on for their food needs. It is a "land grabbing" type scenario, which the EAA says is an increasingly important factor in hunger. Large tracts of agricultural land and coastal fisheries are being bought or leased by multinational, foreign or national companies. Officially, much of the land in such deals is "idle public land" held by central or local government. In reality, the land often belongs to communities and is essential for the livelihoods of the rural poor.

Long time CWS partner, Neythal, works hard to mobilise the fishing communities of coastal Tamil Nadu against such threats. Tourist resorts, golf courses, de-salination plants, thermal power stations and industrial developments in unregulated

**The Churches Week of Action on Food, 10-17 October is an opportunity for Christians globally to act and speak together on food justice issues.**

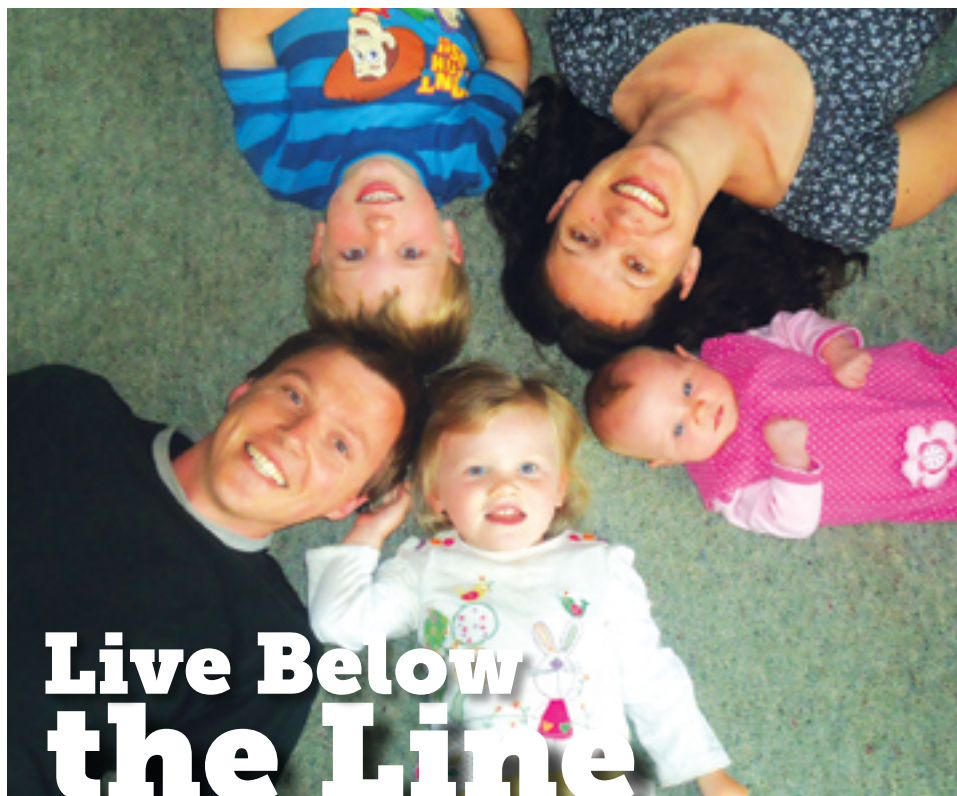


Neythal is very aware it is a fine balance. Conservation can also threaten livelihoods. They are campaigning instead for protection of the coast and the people who live there. Years of educating and organising groups who can support each other financially and in lobbying government is now critical to their ability to protect their food sources for the future.

**Worldwide:** the Churches Week of Action on Food, 10-17 October is an opportunity for Christians globally to act and speak together on food justice issues. It is a time to raise awareness about food production and distribution systems, examine our own food consumption, and call for policy changes that will ensure the right to food for everyone. Contact the CWS office or check out the food section of our website.

## Help families feed themselves

Please give generously to this @world appeal and help our partners rise to the challenge of feeding the hungry. All CWS partners are committed to "agroecological" approaches to food production – small scale programmes in harmony with the local environment. Help them feed themselves with dignity.



# Live Below the Line

(Clockwise from top) Sam (5 years old), Lucy, Caris (1), Coby (3) and Adrian lived below the line to raise funds for young people in South Sudan.

**Y**oung people around the country faced their own challenge in August – trying to live on just \$2.25 a day. That's the World Bank's calculation of extreme poverty and the amount over 1.4 billion people struggle to live on.

The Taylors, a young family in Katikati were inspired to take part after hearing that the youth group at their church, St Paul's Presbyterian, was participating. "We thought 'we could do that' - we like a challenge! We want to teach our kids to value their circumstances and to realise that many people in the world live in hunger," explains mother of three, Lucy.

Live Below the Line was designed to help people better understand the daily reality of poverty, and to encourage them to take action. Participants were sponsored - raising funds for selected agencies - to use only \$2.25 worth of food each day for five days. Through Facebook, blogs and daily conversations, their experiences put the spotlight on extreme poverty.

The individuals and groups choosing CWS for their fundraising target were supporting our partner in South Sudan, the Maridi Service Agency. Run by young people, it works with former child soldiers and

other youth affected by the years of conflict in Sudan. "We liked that it is youth helping youth," said Lucy. "We like that it is a project that is already successful so it is keeping something worthwhile in operation."

The experience was a "fantastic eye opener," reported Lucy. Coffee, milk, cheese and ice blocks were all missed. Choices were limited. Hospitality was a challenge. They finished Live Below the Line feeling grateful for what they have, more aware of the choices they take for granted and "thankful we can opt out of this type of living". They raised nearly \$500.

This was the international campaign's first year in New Zealand and CWS was invited to take part because of our record of action against poverty. "We loved the idea," explains National Director Pauline McKay. "Live below the Line worked brilliantly with young people in the UK and Australia because it makes heavy use of social media like Facebook and Twitter. It speaks their language in their world."

For people who really live below the line \$2.25 a day has to go even further. It covers all expenses – health, housing, transport, food, education and more. And it is not a case of \$2.25 being worth more in developing countries – the calculation takes into account the purchasing power of different currencies.

Our thanks go to everyone who took part and the people who supported them.



Live Below the Line supports the Maridi Service Agency in South Sudan - a group run by young people to help others affected by conflict and poverty. Their programme includes computer classes, the first local radio in the area, helping former child soldiers reintegrate, HIV and AIDS awareness raising, education, and recreation to help different ethnicities to come together in peace.

## Like Us!



**L**ive Below the Line was largely promoted online. People used Facebook to share their experiences and an online fundraising tool to set their target and sign up supporters. Increasing use of social media is one way CWS plans to generate new support. Follow us on Twitter and 'Like Us' on Facebook to keep up with the latest news and events. Follow the links from [cws.org.nz](http://cws.org.nz)



## Kidzone Catering

**I**t was a different food focus that St Mark's Presbyterian, Avonhead Christchurch, used to raise funds for CWS. Their Sunday School group Kidzone and the JD's (Junior Directors - Year 7 plus leaders in training) run a Kidzone Cafe once a term for CWS. Even the preschoolers are involved as they peel the mandarins for the fruit platters. Other children work on cheese and crackers, pizza, toasties and other goodies. People are invited to make a donation to CWS in return for the morning tea. At times the JD's will decide that they want to buy a specific gift from the "Gifted" programme. One week they had aimed to get enough for a couple of goats but were able to buy 13!







# Build your own farm!

As Christmas approaches don't forget the fun and life changing gifts you can give from CWS through Gifted. Choose from a range of items, prices and places. Your purchase becomes a donation to the CWS partner programme helping someone in a developing country build a better life.

We send you a magnet with details of what your donation will achieve. You send the magnet to the recipient. Maybe you sent someone a magnet last year. Then try building up a farm for them. Add chickens to the goat, water to the seeds, or cows and pigs to the bees. See [www.gift.org.nz](http://www.gift.org.nz).

## How Gifted helps

# Water the greatest gift

Water is one of Gifted's top sellers but it goes much further than just providing clean water.

Health improves, as you'd expect, but the families with new rain water harvesting tanks report better school grades, more income and greater household harmony.

Gifted supports a water programme in Isingiro, south west Uganda. It is a dry area, hit hard by the AIDS epidemic. Many children are orphaned, either living with elderly grandparents or heading up their own households. These are the vulnerable families targeted. 530 have signed up to the programme, assisting 1742 children.

The families help build the 6m<sup>3</sup> cement tanks that collect rain water from the roof.

They are also trained in the maintenance needed to keep the tanks in healthy, reliable service. The tanks provide a household of six people with water for a year, saving women and children the long trek to collect water from unsafe sources.

The programme reports a tremendous transformation of the children's lives. With a reliable water supply families have noted other benefits including:

- Improved school performance now children get to school on time and complete their homework in the evenings. Previously that time was spent fetching water.
- Reduced incidences of sickness in the family especially headaches and stomach pains. Walking long distances under the sun for water caused headaches and the often contaminated water caused stomach pains.
- Greater child safety now they do not have to walk long distances to isolated rivers, boreholes or ponds in the evening.
- Higher cash income as the water lets people raise pigs and grow vegetables, some of which are sold at market.
- No longer quarrelling daily with children over wasting or fetching water, so having a more peaceful house.

In the words of one grandmother, the children "now enjoy a normal and decent life."



Thanks to the water tanks, children are getting the chance of a normal life.



Modifying earthquake toilets.



## Christchurch Earthquake update

Thank you for your concern and donations to the Christchurch earthquake appeal. CWS remains in temporary offices with many staff working from home. We have been able to recover some files but most of our archives, resources and equipment remain in a building behind the city cordon. Like everyone in Christchurch we have adapted to the new way of living and working in our shattered city and look forward to future developments.

Donations to the earthquake appeal have been used to assist the New Brighton Recovery Centre. Based out of St Faith's Anglican Church, this centre provided essential services in one of the worst hit areas of Christchurch. It initially brought together government and community agencies to ensure people got help with welfare grants, housing and food needs, water and sanitation and replacement household goods. It also provided a friendly ear for people dealing with trauma.

When chemical toilets were first distributed CWS staff member Katrina Hill noticed how difficult they were for older and less able residents to use. She and her husband modified cheap second hand chairs to hold the toilets (essentially fancy buckets). These gave people the leverage they needed to get up when they finished their business. St Faith's has continued providing support, assisting people through the process of land categorisation that determines the future of their homes. The Anglican Diocese of Christchurch is continuing the programme for another year.

# Make life better.



## Give 'GIFTED' this Christmas

[www.gift.org.nz](http://www.gift.org.nz)



### Yes, I would like to support the work of CWS

Name

Address

City  Postcode

Telephone (  )  Email

Enclosed is my contribution of: ☐ \$30 ☐ \$65 ☐ \$125 ☐ Other \$

Donations of \$5 and over are tax deductible.

Please debit my ☐ Visa ☐ Diners ☐ Amex ☐ Mastercard

Card number

Amount \$  Expiry date  /

Signature  ☐ Please sign me up as a CWS Regular Giver.

Or direct deposit to: 06 0817 0318646 00, ref Spring 11. Email your postal details to [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz) if you would like a tax receipt.

Spring/Summer 2011

Christian World Service has been doing a world of good since 1945. Established by the New Zealand churches to help in war torn Europe, we now assist groups around the world – helping communities survive disaster, overcome poverty and build dignity and self-reliance. We stand up for the powerless and campaign for social and environmental justice. CWS provides help where it is needed – regardless of race, region or religion.

### Christian World Service

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"We believe the provision and enjoyment of the basic necessities of life is the will of God for all humankind."