



CWS

**@world**

ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

**Autumn 2011**

# The emergency is us!

**Help CWS keep doing  
a world of good**

- » Responding to the Christchurch earthquake
- » Building hopes and homes in Haiti
- » Changing lives in Cambodia
- » Bee based business in Uganda

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# This year the emergency is us...

For over 65 years we have been dealing with overseas emergencies but this year the emergency is closer to home. Our main office has endured two major earthquakes in the last 6 months – leaving us without an office. With our building in the fall zone of the Grand Chancellor Hotel, we have been told that it may be up to a year before we can gain full access to the building. The many lessons we have learned from our partners over the years are now being applied at home by the staff helping the local response effort.

Living through the shock and destruction of the earthquakes has made us more determined in our work with overseas partners. At the same time we have been facing a changed funding environment. Thanks in part to your letters to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and after the meeting of the church leaders with the prime minister, the Ministry has substantially changed

the procedures for funding to non-governmental agencies but favours large scale grants. We have yet to see what that means in practice but it is too late for our partners who would normally receive grants in June. We face a major funding gap that will mean difficult decisions have to be made about how and where Christian World Service works.

As you know our historical mandate and mission has been to help fight poverty and its causes. For many years our excellence was recognised with major Government funding, sometimes as high as a four to one matching ratio. These days are gone and the new abrupt changes have resulted in a huge fall in funding for our partners overseas. We have let overseas partners know we cannot reliably fund them long term even as they are reducing programmes. They have been understanding and shown incredible support and solidarity to us at the time of our own earthquake

disaster. Yet they have expressed their deep concern at how their community based work will continue.

CWS has funded many small organisations, groups that do not fit the large scale programmes now being favoured by government. Their work, however, has been proven over time to make real and significant changes to the people in their communities. We don't want to let this go and are working hard to revitalise CWS. We will need your help.

In a very literal way this year the emergency is us. Expect more updates from us this year along with a very specific appeal for support. More than ever we need your support so that our partners can help their communities out of poverty. Please give generously to this @world appeal.

*Pauline McKay*

## Make food fair

Corn dominated the CWS stall at Parachute, but the message was serious – the way the world's food is produced needs to be changed. Young people attending the January music festival were shocked at the unfairness of the global food industry where large scale factory farming and transnational corporations rob peasant farmers of their livelihoods. Hundreds of festival goers signed a message to John Key calling for change and stepped up to have their photo taken. These photos are on the CWS Facebook page, giving young people the chance to 'like' CWS and learn more about the causes of global poverty and injustice. Access to food will remain a key focus of CWS work this year, with prices steadily on the rise.



## In memory

CWS has been saddened by the death of Dr Gustavo Parajon, the founder of our Nicaraguan partner, CEPAD. A medical doctor, he responded quickly to the devastation of the 1972 Managua earthquake. Within four days he had gathered 20 leaders from 8 denominations to form CEPAD, the Council of Protestant Churches for aid of the victims. CEPAD grew to provide support also for the bigger disaster – poverty. Around 80% of families still live in poverty. During the Contra war, Dr Parajon led CEPAD in peace building work, being respected by both sides and able to bring communities together to rebuild. Six memorial services were held in honour of his life, all celebrating his service to the poorest.



**COVER PHOTO**

**THE EMERGENCY IS US:** Flowers are a universal expression of joy, remembrance, sympathy, love, friendship and new beginnings. Their symbolism is fitting at the current time as CWS and its partners face ongoing challenges, enjoy strong commitments to each other and search for a new way forward. Like the Palestinian flower growers harvesting carnations in an effort to restart livelihoods in Gaza, CWS is seeking your help to continue giving communities the chance for new beginnings. The flowers are also a memorial to the people who lost their lives in the Christchurch earthquake and at Pike River. Credit: ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey

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# Christchurch Earthquake

## A friendly face

Holy Trinity Avonside

Local knowledge has been key to the disaster response in Christchurch. CWS youth and schools coordinator Katrina Hill is working in her particularly hard hit New Brighton community. "It really struck me how having been made powerless [literally], we now have got some power back by opening up and gathering at the wells". The simple but profound act of sharing water has been an turning point for many she says.

The local recovery centre based at St Faith's Anglican Church (where Katrina is an ordained deacon), has become a "one-stop shop" enabling residents to access government services. "People have been able to get food parcels, welfare grants, find out about housing options, get a plumber or builder for urgent repairs, and get counselling and victim support," explains Katrina.

She sees her role as being "a friendly face offering trusted, local, on-going support", while providing vital information such as where to shower, wash clothes or empty chemical toilets She accompanies people through what can sometimes be a daunting process of form-filling and applications. Now the focus is rebuilding. "After the government officials return to their offices, the community groups will be able to stay. We want to keep this going. We want to make sure local voices and needs are heard as the city rebuilds."

"That's my role, to make sure that people leave here having not only been heard but feeling that they have been heard, whether they always get the result they want, or not," said Katrina. Building resilient communities is the work CWS funds overseas, so it is only natural to bring the lessons home.

### Acting locally...

One of the truly heartening things to emerge from the dust and tragedy of the February 22 earthquake is the way New Zealand's aid and development agencies are working together in relief efforts. It has turned into such a new benchmark that the scheme is getting local, national and international interest.

The normally mainly international organisations are under the NGO Disaster Relief Forum (NDRF) umbrella assisting the relief efforts of local and central government and community groups. Collectively the groups bring with them resources from their global connections that can potentially help solve emergent problems quickly and without needing to reinvent the wheel.

From disaster relief management and logistics, child protection, psychosocial welfare, water and sanitation, to health and shelter and community-led recovery, the group is providing global expertise to enhance local efforts.

CWS took on a vital role in setting up and coordinating the NDRF response. The NDRF is an autonomous sub-committee of the Council for International Development (CID, and is partly funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.) Two CWS staff members have been seconded to its work.

International programmes team member, Nick Clarke is the pivotal anchor as the official liaison between NDRF and the Civil Defence operation based at the Christchurch Art Gallery. CWS media officer, Greg Jackson is co-managing communications with Auckland based Kelly Zander of World Vision.

### Thank you

Many partners and supporters have sent warm wishes and offered assistance. Our suppliers have acted quickly to get the office functioning. We would like to especially acknowledge:

- Godzone for computer help
- Christchurch North Methodist for office space
- Blackbaud, Australia for rebuilding and hosting our donor database
- National Bank Papanui
- sister organisations Act for Peace in Australia and Church World Service USA for donations.

We are back on our feet and ready to help people overseas get back on theirs.

### Helping Japan

CWS has launched an appeal for local partners responding after Japan's earthquake and tsunami. More information at [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)





**“Life is not over because of this,” says Kenson Vilmé, a school coordinator in the Haitian city of Léogàn. “Life continues. You have to get up and still keep living.”**

Olginne Pierre and her children enjoy their new home, provided by ACT Alliance.

# Haiti: The first year

Léogàn was hard hit by the Haiti earthquake. At least 30,000 people died, nine out of 10 families lost homes and nearly all structures were damaged. CWS partners have been working with the community, helping life continue – especially for the children, who have returned to school in tents. It is far from ideal but, as Kenson says, “If it had not been for the tents, we wouldn’t have had school.” The classes give children a sense of life returning to normal, allowing them to catch up on disrupted lessons, plan for the future and get a respite from the makeshift camps their families live in. Permanent schools will be built but the reconstruction is slow. “The blow has gone but the scar remains,” reflects Kenson.

January 12 marked the first anniversary of Haiti’s devastating earthquake. The magnitude 7 quake killed

230,000 people, destroyed hundreds of thousands of buildings and left 1.3 million homeless – most of them still forced to live in camps described as squalid and unsafe. At the current rate it will take until 2020 just to clear all the rubble. Healing and rebuilding remain a massive challenge. Progress is painfully slow. But given the sheer scale of the disaster and the challenges of poverty and lack of infrastructure it is time to celebrate the small steps that have been taken.

## Saving lives

CWS, as a member of the ACT Alliance, is supporting one of the largest aid blocs in Haiti. With funding of over US\$100 million, it has helped over 600,000 people. Initially it was food, drinking water and medical assistance. “The people are still alive – that is the result of our aid”, says ACT moderator Cornelia Fullkrug-Weitzel.

“That alone is a huge feat considering the number of casualties.”

Since then, ACT has provided a wide range of support including tent classrooms, school kits, medicines, wheelchairs and crutches for the wounded, water supplies for people in 22 urban camps, and thousands of seeds and seedlings to peasant farmers. Yet it is the rebuilding of homes that brings the greatest emotional rewards.

## Homes bring hope

Eighty-eight year old Fortune Pierre cries for joy as she explains the move into a permanent home, built by CWS



partners. "I am not being rained on anymore. My feet are not in the mud anymore, thank you. And I sleep very well." Reginald Francois calls his new home "a miracle." He and his wife moved in just 3 days before she gave birth to their first child. She was so relieved. Their makeshift shelter of tin sheets "wasn't a comfortable place for me to have the baby." The sun on the tin made it too hot to be inside.

The new homes are also helping with food and employment. Small gardens are being planted so families will have a better food supply, and ultimately produce to sell at market. The transportation and construction of the pre-fabricated houses is giving disenfranchised young men, who could turn to violence, a source of income and pride in having a job.

ACT is ready to build even more homes, but the issue of land ownership is a major stumbling block. Many Haitians cannot find or afford plots of land. Even before the earthquake, land reform was one of the country's most pressing issues. Now it's often impossible to determine who owns land, or access it from the government or rich elite. Until more land is made available, it will be impossible to re-house the vast majority who are now homeless.

**See our Haiti section on [www.cws.org](http://www.cws.org) to learn more about land issues in Haiti and to view footage of rebuilding.**

**BELOW:** ACT Alliance responded quickly to a cholera outbreak in November 2010. Local health workers used loudspeakers to spread cholera prevention messages and provided safe water. This community approach was credited with saving lives and preventing the epidemic's spread.



# Cambodia: ending poverty



**"I was very impressed", says CWS's John Gould of his recent visit to partners in Cambodia. "Everyone was coming together; everyone had such energy and enthusiasm. I really believe Cambodia can make poverty history."**

It won't be easy, but Cambodia is making progress. Poverty has declined from 43% of the population to 30% over the last decade, but remains very high in rural areas. There only 61% of families have access to safe drinking water and over four fifths lack adequate sanitation. Malnutrition is still high, but is decreasing.

Cambodia's opportunities lie in maintaining peace and stability, re-skilling its people and sustainable use of abundant natural resources.

The country is only just recovering from three decades of turmoil. Conflict began in 1970, had its darkest days in the 1975-79 Khmer Rouge period, and continued at a lower intensity until the late 90s. Cambodia was devastated physically and socially. Generations lost education and livelihood security.

For over 20 years CWS has been supporting some of the most vulnerable communities through partner, Church World Service Cambodia. Many of the interventions are small but they bring huge changes to everyday life.

Oun Khny's family always struggled. With no draft animals and no capital, he could not harvest enough rice from their small plot of land. Despite cycling 100 kilometres to find work each day, he had to borrow to feed the family. With the help of CWS, he received safe water, basic food and training in dry season rice cultivation. Now he produces two harvests a year using more productive methods. His debts are being paid off and the family has more food. "I feel very happy and amazed. We have never thought that we could get such a big amount of rice in our life" he says. "It will improve my family's future."



**TOP:** One of 62 improved latrines funded by CWS last year. Along with 21 water filters, 20 wells and public health campaigns for 1,196 people, the programme is improving health.

**MIDDLE:** Rattan furniture, like the table being produced by Khun Ra, is a new income opportunity for the village of Talek. Once self-help groups have identified their small business, CWS provides start up finance and training.

**BOTTOM:** Phoung Torn, a mother and grandmother helps to provide vegetables for a family of eight through her new home garden. CWS has helped 370 people get the training and equipment to make fallow land around rice fields productive. Instead of spending cash on vegetables, they now sell the surplus earning enough money to send children to school.

**Donate to this @world appeal and keep helping to improve the lives of families like Oun Khny.**



# Buzzing with Success

Sande at his road side honey shop.

**B**ees, one of the new additions to the popular CWS Gifted range, were a top seller at Christmas. The money raised from this virtual gift helps fund an innovative apiary programme in Uganda. People like Sande George are having huge success as honey producers and their family's wellbeing just keeps improving. As a member of a village group in Western Uganda, Sande received training in Small Enterprise Development from long term CWS partner, the Church of Uganda. Then with some start-up capital and support, he began a Savings and Credit society. The members grew beans on their own plots but each harvest they all contributed two tins to the group. These were stockpiled and sold when the beans would reach higher prices. They used the proceeds to start bee keeping – a livelihood opportunity that required minimal capital, could be done on individual plots and yields twice a year.

Sande started with 19 beehives and later received 5 beehives from the Church of Uganda. He has since bought 6 more hives and currently has 32 in total. He is harvesting from 26 of them, receiving 2-2 ½ jerry cans of honey (approximately 100 kg) per harvest.

He formed two groups of apiary farmers in Ndekye. They regularly pool resources and help each other out. The groups were given bee suits, smokers, gloves, airtight buckets and beehives by the Church of Uganda to help boost their production.

Sande has opened a roadside honey shop. He also buys honey from other farmers and sells it to travellers and tourists along the Ishaka-Kasese road. Before the bees, Sande could not pay school fees for his children and lived in a semi-permanent house. Now his children attend school, their housing has improved and Sande can afford his family's domestic needs. He also contributes each month to the group's Savings and Credit Scheme, which they use as a revolving fund for members to borrow and inject into new small scale businesses like poultry keeping and more bees. He is now giving other people the chance to enjoy the opportunities he has had.



## A goat is not just for Christmas...

**T**he ever popular goat gift is great for any occasion - Mary Thompson, Dunedin marked her retirement with 33 of them. Instead of presents to mark the occasion, she asked friends and colleagues to contribute towards buying goats for Uganda. The afternoon tea raised enough for 30 goats, while others ordered directly from CWS. "I am so thrilled my idea was a success," she says, but opted for just one magnet to remember her gifts with – rather than the full 33!



## Magnets for Pakistan

**T**ouched by the suffering endured in Pakistan last year when the worst flooding in history inundated one fifth of the country and affected 20 million people, the children at St Andrew's Street Church of Christ, Dunedin, decided on a unique fundraiser to help out. They sold handmade magnets, raising \$200.60 for the appeal. "The magnets were decorated with symbols of the needs of the people of Pakistan, such as peas for crops that needed to be replanted and nails and wood for rebuilding houses and stalls," explained 10 year olds Kate Truman and Adithi Alexander. "Corrugated cardboard symbolizing corrugated iron for new roofs was also included on some of the magnets." They sold them over three weeks to church members at morning tea and a supportive fair trade teacher at George St Normal School.



# Show off your fair trade

Fair Trade Fortnight is coming 7-22 May, with a celebration of World Fair Trade Day on 14 May. This year the spotlight is on making the swap – inspiring people to spread the word about the difference that switching to Fairtrade makes to producers in developing countries. They get a fair price, enabling their children to go to school, access health care, and opportunities to better protect their environment.

CWS is challenging churches that haven't made the change to consider using only fairtrade tea and coffee for their morning teas. For the homebuyer the range of fairtrade goods available in New Zealand continues to grow: sugar, bananas, cocoa,

spices, dates, cotton t-shirts and more.

One of the actions this year is to show off your swap. CWS will collect photos from churches celebrating their swap. You can download Show Off Your Swap themed signs from our website or make your own. Or hold a Fair Trade Bake Off using as many fair trade or home grown ingredients as you can. Send the proceeds to help CWS partners. For more information write to [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz) or check out [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz).

In February the Fair Trade Association reported that fairtrade sales had almost doubled between 2009 and 2010 in Australia and New Zealand. A survey indicated that 51% of New Zealanders recognise the fairtrade label.

## Pakistan awash

The flood waters may have receded, but their impact hasn't. Five million people remain homeless and the country will need years of support to recover its infrastructure, jobs, housing and farmland. The heavy monsoon rains began flooding in July last year, submerging 20 per cent of the country and killing 2000 people. CWS partners have provided food, shelter, water and sanitation services, medical assistance, schooling, livelihood support and restoration of farming including seeds, fertilisers and tools. New roads are being built, enabling assistance to reach isolated areas and giving farmers an alternative source of income while they wait for their new crops to grow.

ACT Alliance is running schools in the camps for the homeless. For many children, this has been their first opportunity to get a formal education.



## South Sudan votes for independence

January's historic vote on the future for South Sudan was a moment of joy for millions. Bishop Paul Yugusuk summed up the general feeling when he blew his trumpet at the end of the week-long referendum. He said it was "to mark the end of slavery and oppression in southern Sudan."

After decades of civil conflict, the people of South Sudan voted overwhelmingly for independence. Voter turnout was 98%, with 99% voting for separation from the north. As agreed in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, independence will come on July 9.

The next few months will be crucial as negotiations continue around the detail, including demarcating the new borders and who has access to oil and water reserves – the issues that were at the heart of the fighting. There is concern about what will happen to the 1.5 million South Sudanese living in the north and the ever present possibility of renewed violence.

Over the last twenty years, CWS has supported the churches in South Sudan in their peace building and relief efforts. We hosted two delegations, who spoke to churches, met with politicians and church leaders, and challenged the New Zealand representatives of oil companies to stop funding the war in Sudan by exploiting Sudanese oil.

Thanks to supporters and the New Zealand Government CWS has been able to assist thousands of Sudanese survive through the extremely difficult years of the conflict and more recently helped young people who have missed out on schooling and job opportunities.

The Sudanese churches remain committed. Roman Catholic Bishop (Emeritus) Paride Taban says. "Our people have been so demoralised and without a voice for so long. We must try to be that voice - to be there to help them get their rights. We're not like the politicians who quickly take to big cars and fine offices. We're staying with our people – we've always done that."

# Thank you for this smile!

**Thanks to your support of CWS, this girl's mum has learnt to sew and joined a women's sewing cooperative in Timor Leste. Now she earns money for sewing school uniforms, kapok mattresses and bed covers.**

**Her daughter goes to school, eats better food and the family can buy medicine when needed. Their future is looking better and brighter. Brighter even than her smile.**



**Cuts to government funding are threatening the continuation of these types of programmes — and the smiles they bring.**

**Please give generously.**

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

Name

Address

City

Telephone (  )  Postcode

Email

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

Donations of \$5 and over are tax deductible.

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

Autumn 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.

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