



CWS

**@world**

ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

**Spring/Summer 2010**

# Sowing seeds of hope...

## Also inside:

- » Responding to Pakistan's catastrophic floods
- » Getting Indian children into school
- » CWS annual accounts

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## Spotlight on hunger:

Feeding the family is getting harder and harder but CWS partners are mobilising. Helping people grow their own food is giving communities devastated by poverty, war and natural disasters a new start and the chance to stand on their own feet. See page 4-5

Photo credit: Monlar



## @world: A new start

**W**ith warmer weather on the way, many of us will be turning our attention to the garden – preparing for a Christmas harvest and long summer days. For our partners, the fresh start that planting promises is the means of life itself.

With this @world we are celebrating the fresh start Monlar is giving war weary Tamils in Sri Lanka. Through zero cost farming, families are helped to rebuild their livelihoods after years of conflict. But they are not the only ones facing severe food shortages. In October CWS will be participating in the international Churches' Week of Action on Food (see page 5) to highlight the scandal of global hunger. We also acknowledge the obstacles facing the people of Pakistan, devastated by a disaster on an unprecedented scale and in desperate need of assistance to rebuild their lives and communities.

CWS, too, is experiencing its own change as it navigates the government's new funding system for overseas aid. This is a challenge as we work with longstanding partners to meet the new requirements. Some face considerably reduced funding especially with the intended 75% allocation for the Pacific. Now more than ever we are relying on our member churches and supporters to raise funds for our partners' excellent programmes. Please give people in poverty a fresh start by giving generously to this @world appeal.

*Pauline McKay*



## With 5 Years to go: global goals call for action

Paul Titus, Touchstone.

**“It** is unconscionable in the twenty-first century that people are literally starving to death and do not have sanitation or safe drinking water” said United Nations Development Programme head, Helen Clark, to a packed Christchurch audience on 13 August. CWS helped sponsor Ms Clark's address on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the inaugural Christ Church Cathedral Lecture. Ahead of the high level UN meeting in September to assess progress on the MDGs, she called for a redoubling of efforts. Much progress has been made, but it has been too slow, especially as recent disasters have compounded previous neglect. Her key message was that developing countries are facing huge problems not of their making and need international support. Ms Clark called

for countries like New Zealand to honour their commitment to spending 0.7% Gross Domestic Product in official development assistance. She argued the most important step is to begin a planned transition to that goal, something that New Zealand has yet to do.

The World Council of Churches has also called for greater action, stating that eradicating poverty is both “a moral and ethical imperative”. They contrast the resources needed to achieve the MDGs with the “trillions of dollars” governments in rich countries readily spent “to resuscitate ailing financial institutions” and ever-increasing “global military spending”.

CWS encourages those concerned to write to the government urging it to increase their contribution to meet 0.7%.

## “Schools in” for increasing numbers of Indian children

CWS partner, the Women's Development Resource Centre (WDRC), is doing its bit towards meeting the second MDG regarding primary schooling for all.

In South India, discrimination and poverty have historically put education out of reach of most Dalit families. After years of addressing these obstacles, the WDRC's latest report shows that school enrolments of Dalit children are increasing while the number of dropouts is decreasing. One key step has been the introduction of homework programmes run by Dalit university students to help primary students. Even more importantly, improved incomes are enabling families to send children to school instead of them going out to work. The poverty level has dropped



from 25% to 13% in targeted villages. In the last year, 5679 women participated in credit unions and a labourers bank. The WDRC also helped women access entitlements to funeral expense benefits, pensions, and other social payments and secured better pay for groups like grave diggers. Best of all they say “Untouchable practices and caste atrocities have been minimized. Tribal and Dalit peoples are coming out of social caste bondedness.”



# Pakistan on life support

**S**awan Khan (above) has lost everything he thought was secure in life – his crops, his job and his home. “My house has collapsed,” he said, “and everything I ever owned has been taken by the flood.”

The sheer scale of the disaster, which has affected at least 20 million people, is almost incomprehensible. The reality for millions of families is the same as Sawan’s. He says his family has never suffered like this. The food and shelter provided by CWS’s partner is life saving. However he and his former neighbours in Sultan Kot Village worry about what is to come.

Khatoon Bibi explains that her family’s financial position is weak. Her husband worked as a daily wage labourer. Now there is no work, they have no shelter and she worries her children will get ill from malaria or water borne diseases. The provision of food has relieved some anxieties but without ongoing assistance she does not believe her family can rebuild its house. Like many Pakistanis she fears for her children’s future.

The first flash floods hit Pakistan’s Northern provinces on 29 July. Since then heavy monsoon rains, water surges and the country’s geography have combined to produce the worst

floods on record. By mid-August water had reached four provinces covering more than 160,000 sq km of land - a fifth of the country. Homes, bridges, communication lines, crops, livestock and livelihoods have all been swept away. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon describes the crisis as a slow-motion tsunami. “This is a global disaster. It is one of the greatest tests of global solidarity in our times.”

The disaster will continue for months and years. Particularly affected are the crop lands in the Punjab, the breadbasket of Pakistan. Crop destruction threatens food security for the entire country. Stagnant water poses serious risk of disease outbreaks. It is difficult to reach many of the isolated villages.

Children are suffering from diarrhoea, skin diseases and urinary tract infections. The damp, humid conditions increase respiratory infections, particularly among malnourished children. Parents report that children cannot sleep at night because they fear the sounds of water.

CWS’s Pakistan Appeal is initially funding food, tents, bedding, health care, hygiene kits, and sanitation services. Trauma counselling, reconstruction of homes and rebuilding of livelihoods will follow. Please give generously.

## The crisis in numbers:

- » 20 million people affected – one tenth of the population
- » 6 million people homeless
- » One fifth of Pakistan’s land affected including 17 million acres of crops
- » 3.5 million children now at risk of diseases carried from contaminated water and insects

These figures will change as the crisis worsens

**Below: Showing remarkable resilience Sardarai, age 56, sets up business on the veranda of a ruined house. His shop was washed way but he continues to sell his salvaged goods.**



## Providing quality aid

**T**he media is already highlighting fears of corruption and unfilled pledges of aid in Pakistan. CWS works through a trusted network of non-government organisations, avoiding the pitfalls of dealing with sometimes corrupt governments and officials. Our appeal funds are sent through ACT Alliance, who audit and account for all spending at the end of each appeal. Our Pakistan partner, who we have been working with for five years, has been in the country for over 50 years. This means the staff, local networks and infrastructure to begin aid efforts are ready as soon as they are needed. Funds do not have to be spent on organising mechanisms for relief distribution; it can be spent on needs. CWS is a member of HAP (Humanitarian Accountability Partnership), which oversees standards ensuring funds get to where they are needed and beneficiaries have a say in what happens. To find out more about this accountability please see [www.hapinternational.org](http://www.hapinternational.org)



**With the local bridges washed away, Salar can no longer work as a transporter. Food relief is the only way to feed his family.**



**Patients are treated at a mobile health clinic sent to the areas initially worst hit.**



# Hunger back on world menu

**Despite a world full of food, over one billion people live in chronic hunger – more than one in every six people on the planet. The number of undernourished people is rising at a time when world food production, especially cereals, is near record levels. It is no longer a case of people starving because there is no food; people are hungry because they cannot afford the increasingly high cost of food.**

The first Millennium Development Goal commits the world to halving chronic hunger by 2015. This will not happen. Although the percentage of undernourished people has dropped by 20% to 16%, actual numbers continue to grow.

Undernourishment is a critical development issue, making it difficult to study, work, collect water, tend the garden and complete other physical

activities. Undernourished children do not grow as quickly as healthy children and may develop slower mentally. Constant hunger weakens the immune system and people are more vulnerable to disease and infection. The people most at risk are poor people and victims of natural disasters and conflict. The explosion of hunger shows how vulnerable communities are to food prices, financial and energy crises and natural disasters. Outside shocks, over which developing countries have no control, are casting millions of people into dire hunger, says the UN's World Food Programme.

In Sri Lanka, despite being a "middle income country", 20% of households are food insecure – meaning they do not have regular access to the nutritious food they need to survive and therefore live with the fear of starvation. Children are most vulnerable, with malnutrition for under 5s at 22% and stunting at 19%. It is even worse in the former conflict areas in the north where 40% of children under 5 are underweight. CWS partner, Monlar, argues the decline in nutrition stems from changes in the 1970s, when subsidies were removed from local food production, making the rural poor vulnerable to global price fluctuations. In the last three years alone the price of essentials such as rice, bread, milk, dhal and other pulses has increased by over 200%.

Many CWS partners focus on food production, ensuring that people can at least feed their own families by growing vegetables on small plots using low cost organic farming methods. Livestock programmes, like goats in Uganda, pigs in the Philippines and cows in India, also have an important role. Livestock is essential to the livelihoods of around one billion poor people, providing income, food, fuel, pulling power, building material and fertilizer.

Groups like Monlar and the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), of which CWS is a member, are campaigning for a change in the way food is grown, sold, distributed and shared. They want small-scale farmers to have choices on what crops are grown and for families to know they will be able to access the food they need to survive.

In the aftermath of humanitarian emergencies, re-establishing food production is a critical priority for CWS and its partners. Giving locals the means to control and access their own food is more than just rebuilding – it provides a whole new start.

## Seeding recovery in Sri Lanka

Tamil families in Jeyapuram, Vanni (in northern Sri Lanka), have to restart

### Did you know?

- 1.2 billion people go hungry every day.
- malnutrition is present in half of all child deaths
- 100,000 people die every day from hunger related causes

their lives now the 30 year civil war has officially ended, leaving their lands destroyed. CWS partner Monlar, from the south, is promising to lend a hand so people can stand on their own feet. Part reconciliation, part campaign against commercial agriculture, the main priority of Monlar's 'zero cost' agriculture programme is to provide the food and income families need to survive and rebuild.

Vanni was a stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who were engaged in a war with the Sri Lankan government. Most of the residents, however, were civilians. Many were Tamils who had been forced from their homes in the south by Sinhala nationalist forces in July 1983 and resettled in the north, an action linked to the outbreak of armed hostilities.

"We the people in between had to bear the consequences all the time. When they started fighting we ran away into the jungle and hid. Each house in the village had a bunker that gave safety from aerial bombing and shelling. Our children feared to live in the village and they went off to Jaffna for studies and even today they do not like to come back", explains Shanthie.

The worst was to come in 2008, when over 350,000 civilians were trapped in the north as the Sri Lankan military embarked on its final push against the LTTE. Farmers fled with all their belongings. "We took our cows, goats, bulls and carts with us. Nearing the end, we had to leave them all behind and run for our lives with only a small bag of clothes," tells Vishvanathan.

When the government claimed victory in May 2009, 300,000 people were displaced. They were placed in camps and eventually a slow process of resettlement followed. After a year in the camps the farmers of Jeyapurm returned home having lost everything only to find their houses in ruins. Now they have to start from the beginning.

"Food rations have stopped. It is very hard to find food. Food items are very expensive in the shops, how can we afford to buy them? We barely survived



**A new start for Jeyapurm**

the war; we do not want to die by starvation," implores Ramachandran.

The high cost of seeds, fertilizer and other agricultural equipment is a barrier to the return to farming. "It's unbearable, how market people try to make profit of our dire situation. I don't know...., we just have to find other means to start and do farming without money in our hands," continues Ramachandran.

Monlar is responding by training the farmers in low cost ecological farming practices, part of its long term campaign against exploitative market mechanisms and environmentally damaging agricultural practices that leach soil of its fertility.

Their programme of 'Zero-budget Natural Farming' requires no capital. It draws on freely available natural resources. Farmers are taught organic techniques and how to make the inputs they need, such as "Jeewamurtha" (a fertilizer made out of 'desheeya' cow dung and urine). They also receive indigenous seeds to get them started. Instead of being forced into debt to purchase chemicals, fertilizers and sophisticated machinery or having to leave the land to seek work in the cities, the village communities are being helped back to self sufficiency.

Sri Lankan farmers are deeply appreciative of the new opportunities to feed their families, earn a small income from selling surplus vegetables and to work with a group from the south. Not only are they rebuilding their lives, they are rebuilding ties between Tamil and Sinhala. Help us keep this work going. Give generously to this @world appeal.

# Sowing hope in Haiti

In Haiti too, food production is a key part of post crisis recovery. CWS earthquake relief has included seed distribution around Petit Gôave, 68km southwest of Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince. Farming families received maize and bean seeds to plant in June after the heavy rains. The crops are ready to harvest now. For most it will be enough to cover family food needs but any surplus can be sold to make a small income.

Yvès Raymond, a young farmer from the mountains, was among the first to get seeds. "I left home by midnight and arrived here at 5am," he said. A long walk home under the blazing sunshine lay ahead but he was grateful to have been given the means to look after his family.

For the 1500 people receiving seeds, the overwhelming emotion was relief. "My parents do not have jobs at the moment, so we have had to find other ways to survive," Lidor Roseline, a 16-year-old girl explained. The family with four children is living in a temporary shelter as the family home was damaged in the earthquake. The maize and bean crops will help them eat in the months ahead.

In rural areas, farmers lack cash to buy seeds and food prices have risen steeply since the earthquake. Haiti's food security situation was already fragile. Global economic policies forced the country to open its domestic market to subsidised crops from the US, undercutting local production and leaving Haitians highly dependent on imports. This has worsened since the earthquake. Keeping food production going is extremely important for farmers and the country's recovery.

## Did you know?

Women produce more than half of all the food that is grown: up to 80% in Africa, 60% in Asia, between 30 and 40% in Latin America and Western countries. Yet women account for 70% of the world's hungry and are estimated to have access to or control of only 5% of land.

## The churches take action

**"Our faith calls us to feed the hungry and care for Creation" says the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) in launching the 2010 Week of Action 10 – 17 October. CWS encourages church and other interested groups to take part in this international campaign, especially around World Food Day (16 October) and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October). EAA resources are available on the CWS website: [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)**



“Let’s all go on a summer holiday...” was the theme of Auckland’s Pitt Street Methodist midwinter fundraiser. Holiday inspired arts and crafts, created by adults and children in the congregation, were auctioned at a midwinter dinner. The proceeds far exceeded their \$150 target, raising \$976.90 - enough to send six Palestinian children to summer camp.

Summer camp is one of the alternative gifts featured in CWS’s Gifted programme, where donations are made to the featured part of a partners’ work. The programme is run by the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) in Gaza as an escape for children.

“Most of the children spend their time playing in alleys, the roads, and ruins. There are very few public gardens. They have nowhere to go,” explained Constantine Dabbagh, head of DSPR Gaza during a recent trip to CWS.

The summer camps give children an invaluable break from the trauma, fear and monotony of Gazan life. “It gives them a chance for real play and recreation like swimming and sports. This gives them a real psychological benefit.”

Young people at St Albans Co-operating Parish, Chartwell, Hamilton were inspired to use their abundance of water to help those with none. Through a carwash and donations they raised enough money for seven rainwater harvesting tanks in Uganda. “It was a pleasure to raise funds for this cause and we had a lot of fun,” says their leader Keaton Myburgh.

Many groups find Gifted gives them a real sense of what their money helps achieve. New gifts are being added, including pigs and beehives in Uganda, sporting equipment in Sudan and barefoot lawyers in India. See our new website for the full range: [www.gift.org.nz](http://www.gift.org.nz)



## Gaza art

A DSPR art programme is helping children and adults cope with trauma. This painting by Abdel Hakim Magdy (13) portrays a desert oasis. “One of the simple and beautiful natural scenes,” he says. “I would like to be at an oasis away from the reality of life in Gaza”. CWS is bringing the 42 piece exhibition to Christchurch. It will be on display 1 - 21 October at Christ Church Cathedral, then moves to Auckland.



## Young people rally for Haiti

Christ’s College pupils in Christchurch raised nearly \$9000 for Haiti. Head prefect, Tim Murgatroyd, presented the cheque to International Programmes Coordinator, Nick Clarke, at a special assembly. Christ’s College Chaplain Bosco Peters (also pictured) said that the fantastic total was the latest evidence of a surge in active social concern from pupils. They have a strong humanitarian committee that chooses their causes and they are always talking about needs in the world. “I guess it is in part the result of the global village where people no longer feel apart from each other”, he said.

Thanks also to St Michael’s School, Christchurch for raising \$500 from a toy sale and St Stephens Presbyterian Bryndwr, Christchurch for a coin trail raising \$200 for Haiti.

## Bargain time for a better future

The Otaki Waikanae Presbyterian Church’s monthly bargain sales have become a community highlight, with proceeds going to local and international causes such as CWS Christmas and emergency appeals. They sell second hand books, jigsaws, toys, CDs and DVDs, small electrical goods, kitchen goods, soft furnishings, and small items of furniture. Church members provide baking (always a sell-out), jams, pickles, plants, and seasonal fruit and vegetables, explains Parish Link Marion Brash. “It is very well-supported by the local community and we have a regular clientele, some of whom are lined up waiting for the doors to open at 9am.” The initiative depends on volunteers who set up the trestles and goods, as well as donated baking and garden produce from church members. But it is well worth it. Between \$500 and \$600 is raised each month, with up to \$1000 for a special appeal.



John Borland and Gaya Pilaar assist at the stall.

# Annual Report 2009-2010



## A summary of the year's events

Natural disasters dominated work for CWS with appeals for flooding in the Philippines, an earthquake in Indonesia and the tsunami in Samoa and Tonga all being launched in one week last September. January's Haiti earthquake shocked the world with its devastation, while the resilience of the people to hold on to hope inspired us all. CWS's partner had its office destroyed but straight away joined rescue efforts and advocated for a Haitian voice in recovery programmes.

In the build-up to the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen last December, CWS used postcards to sign up support for a fair deal for developing countries. We also promoted the Pacific Conference of Churches' petition which highlighted Pacific concerns for resettlement. Church leaders in the Islands continue their struggle for international action.

Educational resources touched on the issue of climate change, political freedom, progress on the Millennium Development Goals and recovering from conflict in Timor Leste. CWS has also begun a major upgrade of its public relations work and resources.

In September CWS launched its Gifted programme. It was a major success over Christmas. In March the ACT Alliance was launched. CWS is a founding member of ACT (Action by Churches Together), a global alliance of 100 churches and church-related organisations working on humanitarian assistance and development. ACT works in 130 countries and mobilises US\$1.5 billion annually in its work for a just world.

In May CWS organised events for Fair Trade Fortnight, which is becoming a much loved tradition in member churches. Many held 'fair cuppa' morning teas. The Fair Trade Association reports that 66% of Kiwis are now aware that fair trade guarantees a better deal for developing world producers. CWS is proud to have been part of the long campaign promoting this issue.

Another advocacy success was the Convention on Cluster Munitions. CWS was part of the global campaign to ban cluster munitions. The Convention passed into New Zealand law in December and entered into force on 1 August.

CWS funded community development programmes of our partners in the Middle East, Uganda, Sudan, Zimbabwe, the Pacific, Nicaragua, Haiti, Brazil, South Asia, Philippines and Cambodia. Their achievements ranged from food production, safe water, improved health services, better family income, to more women in local government, environmental protection and services for displaced people. Thank you to everyone whose funding makes this possible.

### Income

	\$
2009 Christmas Appeal	530 256
<i>Grants from the Government's Overseas Development Assistance</i>	
-Subsidies under the KOHA-PICD Scheme	2 294 400
-Humanitarian Action Fund (Emergency) grants	574 193
<i>Special Appeals for</i>	
- Pacific Tsunami	202 043
- Haiti	205 079
Methodist 2% grant	12 664
William Walters Trust	4 850
Christchurch Anglican Diocese	8 097
Association of Presbyterian Women/ Methodist Women's Fellowship (for Solomon Islands – Luru Land Conference)	24 493
World Day of Prayer Aotearoa/New Zealand	13 000
Quaker Peace and Service Aotearoa/New Zealand	8 025
David Ellison Trust	8 700
Regular Contributors	138 667
Direct Mail Appeals	174 495
Other donations from individuals, groups and parishes	337 762
Interest	108 297

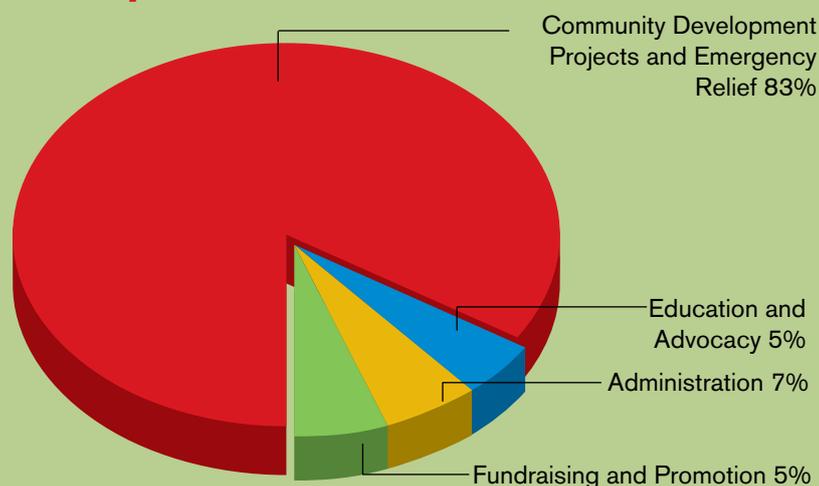
**Total Income for the Year** **4 645 021**

### Expenditure

Funding for Community Development Projects and Emergency Relief	3 756 068
Education and Advocacy	227 878
Administration	327 395
Fundraising and Promotion	242 553

**Total Expenditure for the Year** **4 553 894**

## CWS expenditure 2009-2010



Please contact CWS if you would like a copy of the audited financial report.

# 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.  Please send me a Gifted Catalogue

Spring/Summer 2010

CWS, the development, justice and aid agency of New Zealand churches, acts to end poverty and injustice throughout the world. We fund groups working for better lives and livelihoods in their local communities, support humanitarian relief in times of disaster, campaign against the causes of global poverty and educate within Aotearoa New Zealand. CWS responds to people's needs regardless of race or religion.

### Christian World Service

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CWS is a registered charity: #CC22288



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