



CWS

@world

ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

Winter 2010

Back to Basics

More food from the old traditions – CWS helps revitalise farming in Zimbabwe and Tonga

Also inside:

- » The healing power of football
- » CWS helping Samoa rebuild
- » Fair trade coffee art

Christian World Service is a member of

actalliance



Back to Basics

A good news story from Zimbabwe where the revitalisation of traditional farming practices is bringing greater yields and food security. CWS supports these types of agricultural programmes in many countries. They meet basic needs for food and improved health, protect the environment and make families more self reliant. See page 4.



**@world:
Challenges
ahead**

The government's announcement of the axing of its overseas development funding schemes at the end of the financial year will have a significant impact on the work of CWS.

The government is still working out the detail of the new arrangements but in late April sent out an unofficial briefing paper outlining two new funds. The Sustainable Development Fund puts much greater emphasis on the Pacific and sustainable economic development programmes and the Humanitarian Response Fund will focus more on immediate assistance and "effective locally-led recovery".

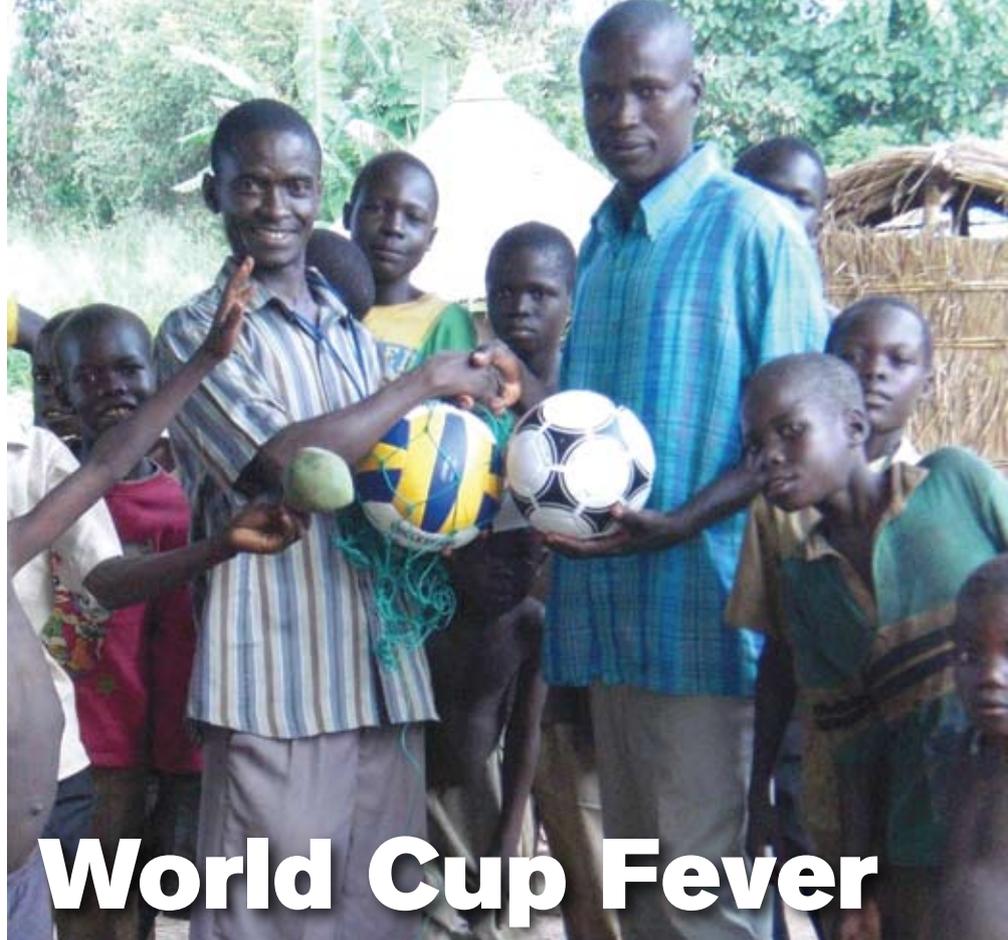
In responding to the briefing paper we raised our concerns about the process by which agencies can access these new schemes and the geographic targets. The targets for the development fund do not match our historic focus and suggest that NZ foreign policy is narrowing in its aims.

Issues like human rights, good governance and security are broader than the economic emphasis proposed. The ratios that are to be achieved by 2013 have been allocated so that 50% of funding goes to the Pacific, 30% to South East Asia and 20% to the rest of the world.

At this stage we do not know how the programmes of existing partners will fit with the new schemes. We are writing to them explaining the situation and raising the possibility that we may not be able to continue funding at the same level.

Please give generously to this appeal to help our partners continue the good work that they are doing.

Pauline McKay



While the eyes of the sporting world are on South Africa for the 2010 world cup, featuring New Zealand's own All Whites, Christian World Service knows the power of football can go far beyond the patriotic fervour around international fixtures. The so called 'beautiful game' has the potential to heal shattered lives and communities. That's why CWS has given soccer balls to a partner in South Sudan as part of much wider support for a programme helping young people cope with trauma and build life skills.

Decades of civil war have displaced, injured and killed millions of people in South Sudan. Economic, health, social and educational services were all affected. The ongoing violence and movement of people set up yet more tension and abuse within families, communities and between ethnic groups. As the warring Sudanese finally entered into a peace agreement, the notorious Lord's Resistance Army began raiding areas around Maridi in South Sudan. Many children have been abducted to become child soldiers or commanders' 'wives'. The lucky ones escape. With this background the trauma, violence and lack of skills among children is no surprise. Which is where the Maridi Service Agency

(MSA) steps in and football plays a significant role.

The MSA have established eight Child Friendly Recreational Centres in displaced persons camps and villages. Psychosocial counselling and life skills training are made available and it is football that draws them in. Once young people come together to participate in or watch the games, they get lessons on hygiene, health, HIV and AIDS, and citizenship.

The spirit of organised sport builds community ties, self esteem and gives disaffected and troubled young people something to look forward to and a productive outlet for their energy. This is as powerful an outcome as any world cup trophy.



Football Maridi style



Rev. Uaea (centre left) leads the building of a new village hall



Pacific Tsunami Update

Rebuilding in Samoa

The sea wall at Saleapaga provided little protection as the coastal village was pounded by tsunami waves on 29 September 2009. With waves up to 14 metres high, areas of Samoa, Tonga and American Samoa were devastated. 189 people were killed.

The small community of Saleapaga on the southern coast of Samoa's Upolu Island lost 31 lives, 20 of them young children. Most homes were destroyed and much of the local infrastructure disappeared into the sea.

It was too much for the community to live with. Despite their close cultural attachment to the sea, which provides their living, the people made the decision to relocate inland.

The local minister, Rev. Uaea Isaraelu, is overseeing the building of a new village on higher ground three kilometres inland – safely out of reach of the sea. CWS is supporting the building of the community hall, a critical heart for the community's new home. Nick Clarke recently visited the site and was impressed by the energy of the minister, combining construction with his regular duties as the Congregational Church minister to over 500 members.

"Rev. Uaea is the gospel with boots



Samoa communities were devastated by the tsunami

on," says Nick of the dynamic manner in which the minister is leading the project. "He is hands-on in shorts and tool belt, determined to get the job done quickly." Rev. Uaea has a background in mechanical engineering which he is now putting to the test and is mobilising community volunteers to assist the skilled carpenters and tradesmen.

The 600 square foot hall was started in January and will be finished soon. It will be used for Village Council meetings, youth group initiatives and women's group activities as well as Sunday services and includes a preschool, guest rooms and office space.

Rev. Uaea says the hall will mean a lot to the people of Saleapaga as a place to get together and is already providing hope and a sense of moving forward. People are grateful for the support they have had from people in New Zealand. "We feel we are not on our own. We are very thankful and I want to take this opportunity to convey that."

CWS has sent \$130,000 to the tsunami affected areas. Further funds are earmarked for ongoing work with the Samoan Council of Churches. CWS and sister agency Act for Peace Australia are now conducting disaster preparedness training for Samoan churches who played such a critical role in responding to the tsunami. From day one they distributed water, food, clothes, and provided shelter for people left homeless. Over the following days they organised clean ups, funerals, rebuilding and trauma counselling (supported by CWS). Acknowledging how churches already help, the aim of the training is to enable them to respond more effectively and to work with communities before disaster strikes so its impact can be lessened, for example by clearing trees close to houses.

CWS News in Brief



- » **CWS joins HAP:** Christian World Service is the first New Zealand agency to join HAP (Humanitarian Accountability Partnership) International, a self-regulatory body championing the rights and the dignity of disaster survivors and ensuring accountability to intended beneficiaries. CWS is the 11th associate member.
- » **Cluster Munitions Treaty:** Having received its thirtieth ratification (Moldova) on 16 February, the treaty will come into force as binding international law on 1 August 2010. CWS was part of the global campaign to ban the use, production and transfer of cluster bombs. By May there were 106 signatures and 32 ratifications, including New Zealand in December 2009.
- » **Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:** CWS has welcomed the government's signing of this UN declaration. CWS has helped provide funding to Maori groups, indigenous people from Kanaky and hill tribe communities in south India to take part in UN negotiations. New Zealand was one of only three countries that had failed to acknowledge the very special place indigenous peoples have.
- » **Payroll giving:** Thank you to supporters who have taken up the new option of payroll giving to CWS, an approved donee organisation for the scheme that lets you make donations direct from your pay and receive immediate tax credits, reducing PAYE payable.



Conservation Farming: Africa's best kept secret

How can we feed the world? The latest figures from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation say there are now one billion hungry people in the world. This is expected to double by 2050. The World Food Programme reports that one child dies every 6 seconds from hunger related causes. Climate change is worsening the situation. CWS partner in Zimbabwe, Christian Care, has an answer – conservation farming.

"Conservation farming aims to develop a higher return using low cost methods of crop production," explains Addmore Makunura, Deputy Director of Programmes and Planning at Christian Care. It has been designed specifically for drought prone areas that receive less than 450mm annual rainfall. The farmers use 'open pollinated varieties of seeds' which are drought tolerant and perform better than improved seeds from commercial seed companies. "They do not require a great deal of input like pesticides and high use of fertilizers but only natural organic manure and therefore are environmentally friendly." It is cheap and easy-to-use technology that is helping poor farmers increase yield per hectare by 150-200%. Christian

Care has reported that in some areas yields are 750% higher than the national average.

The conservation farming approach, also known as God's Farming Way for its emphasis on returning to the basics and concern for the earth, involves an 8 step process:

1. Dig a hole (planting station)
2. Add cow manure

3. Mix with soil
4. Add fertilizer
5. Add soil
6. Use 3 maize or sorghum seeds per hole
7. Cover with soil
8. Cover the whole planted area with mulch to a depth greater than three centimetres.

Christian Care's conservation farming programme is just one example the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) has been promoting as part of its Food for Life campaign. Food for Life, supported by EAA member CWS, is working globally to ensure everyone enjoys the right to food and wants a return to food production being primarily about feeding people. It is asking for churches to promote the campaign during an international week of action, 10 –17 October. It is timed around World Food Day (16 October) and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October).

A resource guide will be available from CWS in August with additional local

material. It will highlight the threats to global food security and analyse how the right to food is being fulfilled, respected and protected. It will also tell stories of women affected by unjust trade and food production systems. The guide will link what the Bible says about food and the role of the church to care for humanity. It offers action ideas, as well as worship resources, including a liturgy and a prayer card.

Join churches around the world as they demand people have access to the food they need for life. Contact CWS if you want to take part.



The mulch (also called God's blanket) ensures moisture is conserved, there are few or no weeds, and when the mulch eventually breaks down it improves soil structure and provides organic matter which improves the soil's fertility. It reduces runoff by 90%, ensuring the best use of precious water.

While labour intensive in the first year, families agree the extra effort is well worth it. They can ensure food for their family and are freed from reliance on the market as they no longer have to purchase seeds, inputs or food. Christian Care sees it as returning "dignity and power to the poor producer", because "they do not have to wait for hand outs from the state, political parties or donors". It will only be during the worst droughts that assistance will be needed, and in some areas where Christian Care has been providing food relief while developing conservation farming, demand for food aid has fallen 30%.

After the first harvest, the system is easier to manage, with the residue from last year's crops providing the mulch for the next. Farmers who have not been part of the programme are learning from their neighbours and adapting the new technique.

As the programme develops, community seed banks will be established. Farmers will contribute a share of their crop each year to extend the scheme to others and make it self-sustaining.

"Despite the failing rains and unpredictable dry spells, conservation farmers have consistently managed to register better yields compared to their counterparts practising conventional agriculture," says Addmore. "It provides a viable option for poor farmers."



Digging the planting station

You can help grow a better future. Give generously to this @world appeal and help our partners ensure people can access the food they need. Return your coupon today.

Back to the future in Tonga

Tongan health and wealth are both improving in areas where people heed the call to revert to old ways says Tonga Community Development Trust spokeswoman, Oketi Faletau.

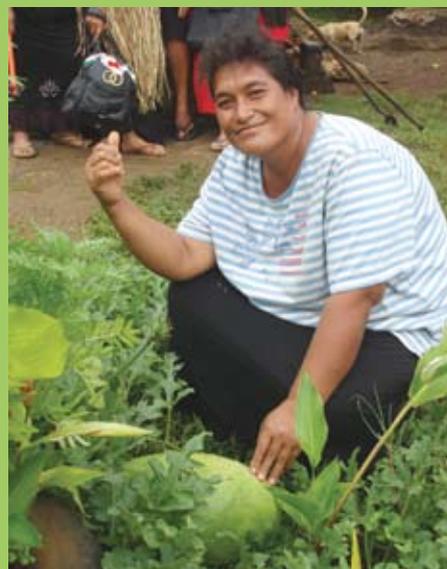
Oketi recently visited CWS and reported that our core financial support for their programme was helping the Trust to improve the quality of life for Tongans in the outer Islands.

As with conservation farming in Zimbabwe, the Trust's approach has been to learn from the past and return to simpler, cheaper and sustainable ways of living. They run workshops on traditional diets and support home garden projects to strengthen self reliance.

Many Tongans have become dependent on remittances for cash to buy imported food which has detrimental health impacts. Elders are delighted to see people reverting to a simpler, healthier diet and way of life.

The benefits of better eating habits are demonstrable. One of the supporters of the Trust was a 104 year old woman who was sure a diet of fish, salad and seaweed had helped her attain her great age. Studies show how education improves along with health. "It is more healthy for us to know our traditional ways. The smartest children in our schools are those who are eating the traditional foods," said Oketi.

Oketi said that the Trust was also encouraging women to use their newly rediscovered agricultural skills to grow the materials used for making tapa mats. Tapa mats are an integral part of Tongan culture and are presented as gifts at weddings, birthdays, for the birth of a first born and at funerals. They no longer have to buy the finished products or materials, reducing the need for cash. Women now come



Growing better melons

together to weave, an important social function and way to share information. They are also increasing income opportunities by selling tapa and mats both locally and to Tongans living overseas.

The work of the Trust is not just about returning to old ways, it is about improving traditional techniques in a low cost, low tech manner.

For the vegetable and crop growing lessons an important innovation has been the teaching of compost making techniques. Compost had not been an established feature of Tongan agriculture but its introduction is helping improve crop yields and food quality.

Oketi said that the unfolding results from the CWS-backed workshops were spreading through communities as the benefits of more self determination became apparent.

"Women on the outer islands have told us that the programmes empowered them and have made such a difference to their household budgets that they have been able to afford to build "palangi" (Western) style homes," said Oketi.

When they took this step they were then freed from yearly maintenance on their homes that effectively meant rebuilding them. This in turn gave the women time for other more useful forms of activity, economic and social.



Oketi (left) on a garden inspection

Haiti Update

Are you helping? YES says CWS media officer, Greg Jackson after witnessing firsthand the impact of our global network, ACT Alliance, in Haiti.

“I saw what a practical difference our donations made. The examples are numerous and compelling.

One day we went to a shanty city for earthquake survivors to see a tent hand out for mothers with young babies. The tents were a huge step up from the flimsy shelters of sheets, blankets and plastic they were living in beforehand.

The next day we went to a feeding station where street traders were paid to hand out one meal a day to 80 families apiece. The meal was often the only food they got. What was great about it was that it kept the former street traders in business and fed the hungry in a way that let them hold onto their dignity while being fed.

When our fact finding group went out



into the countryside near Léogâne, where 90% of buildings were destroyed, we met people like the amazing Mama George who had lost everything. Mrs George Bouvais, aged 90, is the sprightly head of a large clan of children and grandchildren left squatting in the ruins of their family compound, existing on food and water from ACT Alliance. “It is thanks to your help that we are still alive,” she told Greg. ”



Eric's fair trade portrait.

Fair Trade Fortnight 2010

Christian World Service was proud to coordinate Fair Trade events in Christchurch, birthplace of New Zealand's fair trade movement. A highlight was the Heaton Normal Intermediate art exhibition, hosted by the Christ Church Cathedral. Bishop Victoria Matthews opened the exhibition of 35 paintings by Year 8 (ages 12-13 years) students. The medium was fair trade coffee which created golden hues and lustrous surface texture. The subjects were self portraits incorporating fair trade goods and the results were impressive. Bishop Victoria Matthews opened the exhibition.

Eric's painting incorporated the most fair trade goods. “My friend is holding a fair

trade mug. The fingers on it represent that we hold change in our hands. I'm wearing an apron made by unemployed women in South Africa out of recycled plastics and a Kanga from Kenya.” A backdrop of fairtrade coffee and sugar packaging completes his picture.

Teacher Fiona Taylor organised the project as part of the school's global citizenship and sustainability curriculum. “Images have a profound power to change behaviours,” she says and hopes her students' work will encourage visitors to think about their purchases and give fair trade goods a try. “It is the easiest thing to do for social justice.”

Haiti aid continues

ACT Alliance continues distributing food, shelter, water, and other essentials. Sanitation efforts have been critical to the success in preventing disease. One member has handed out over 23,000 hygiene kits. Another has been supplying 86,000 litres of safe water per day. Now we are shifting to reconstruction. Five tent schools have opened in the Léogâne region while work starts on rebuilding the 30 destroyed schools. Thousands of farmers have received seeds and tools. Temporary housing has been improved to withstand the rainy season. Land ownership issues need to be resolved before permanent housing is rebuilt. ACT Alliance is ensuring groups plan for future disasters in rebuilding so people are better able to withstand future hurricanes and earthquakes. The Haiti Appeal remains open.

Haiti Helpers

The response to the CWS Haiti Appeal has been one of the biggest ever. Thank you to everyone who has generously supported it, especially:

- Sunday School children at Waipaoa Parish, Gisborne who made sweets, biscuits and sandwiches to sell after morning service
- Korean Methodist Church in Takapuna who held a garage sale targeted at the local Korean community and raised \$4000
- Kezia Vai and Lamond Marmia of Rise Up Kidz clubs in Otahuhu, who pledged the funds they raised in a \$5 Challenge to the CWS Haiti Appeal. They had to make \$5 grow so selected an item, then auctioned it and raised \$100
- Queen Margaret College, Wellington and Christ's College, Christchurch.

Let CWS know about your group or parish's fundraising efforts.



New Brighton's 'sand man' devoted his 1029th sand sculpture to fair trade, taking 3 hours to recreate the fairtrade logo on a massive scale. Thanks also to all the churches and other groups that held 'fair cuppa' events.



“I survived!”

On 7 May, CWS led Christchurch Anglican young people in a hands on learning event about justice issues. The focus on the Millennium Development Goals drove home how much survival is an accident of birth. Faced with a giant fifth birthday cake, the young people (aged 12-18) took a lucky dip to see if they reached the milestone. A child born in a developing country is over 13 times more likely to die within the first 5 years of life than a child in an industrialised country. “It’s a bit like

a birthday present just to survive,” noted one participant. In another challenge Emily Falloon tried her luck at crossing the world. Where she landed determined her prognosis. She survived but decided it was “a bit of a fluke really that we are born into a country with a good health system”.

Other thought provoking activities included spotting the sad face (representing a woman who died in childbirth) among the happy faces of the surviving mothers. A shockingly easy

task for Africa where 1 in 27 women die in childbirth but reassuringly difficult for New Zealand where people struggled to find the 1 in 7,300. “I know where I would rather give birth,” quipped one young man. It was an eye opener for everyone. Many went on to make an artistic response, creating a poster, while others joined CWS field worker Andrew Johnston to learn how to get involved in the life changing work of CWS and our partners.



Spotlight on Malaria

Malaria now threatens half the world’s population - 3.3 billion people in 109 countries. Each year brings 247 million cases and one million deaths. The direct economic loss is US\$12 billion per year. The loss of productive energy and potential is immeasurable. In Africa a child dies every 45 seconds from this preventable and curable mosquito-borne disease.

Halting malaria by 2015 is a Millennium Development Goal. ACT Alliance is helping by doubling net distribution. In the last three years, 18 million people have received help. Church agencies are well placed in instilling a culture of using mosquito nets, says John Nduna ACT General Secretary. “People trust the churches. It is part of the added value of the ACT Alliance.”

In Uganda, malaria is responsible for 28.5% of all deaths. CWS is helping the Church of Uganda, which last year gave nets to 35,000 households. Their education programme has spectacular results. Awareness that malaria can kill pregnant women rose exponentially from 1.9% to 94% and bed net usage for children under 5 has risen from 26.8% to 93.9%.



UNDP Brazil

The Millennium Development Goals

In 2000, all UN member states, including New Zealand, signed up to the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a framework for addressing global poverty. Each has measurable targets for 2015 and with only 5 years to go, progress has been uneven. Some countries have achieved major successes in reducing poverty, improving school enrolment and child health, expanding access to clean water, and fighting disease while in others targets will be missed unless additional action is taken.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon believes progress is too slow. “If

we fail, the dangers in the world – instability, violence, epidemic diseases, environmental degradation, runaway population growth – will all be multiplied.” He has called a high-level meeting for September 2010 to act on lessons learnt. One lesson is that economic growth alone is not sufficient. A UN report says it “must be inclusive and equitable to maximize poverty reduction and progress on other MDGs.” Richer countries must deliver on long standing promises to greatly expand official development assistance.



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Winter 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

National Office

PO Box 22652, High Street

Christchurch 8142

Ph: 03 366 9274 0800 74 73 72

cws@cws.org.nz www.cws.org.nz

Northern Fieldworker (Upper North Island):

Ph: 09 571 9150 cwsnorthern@cws.org.nz

Central Fieldworker (Lower North Island):

Ph: 04 496 9513 cwscentral@cws.org.nz

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