



CWS

@world

ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

Autumn 2010



Surviving Haiti's heartbreak

Community resilience shines
through the rubble

Also inside:

- » Christian World Service support for Haiti
- » The gift of clean, safe water
- » A fair deal for small farmers



Surviving Haiti's heartbreak:

A woman helps clear rubble from Haiti's earthquake ruins. The resilience of people who were already struggling to find enough to eat amidst extreme poverty has been amazing. See pages 4-5 on how CWS partners are helping and why it is so important to prepare before disaster strikes.

ACT Alliance/P Jeffrey.



A life remembered

CWS was very saddened by the death of Bert Naraval following a short illness in December 2009. Bert and his wife Tet founded long term CWS partner, Developers Foundation in 1991 and worked together as its directors. Developers continues to transform the lives of many individuals and families located throughout Aklan, one of the poorest provinces in the Philippines. Bert and Tet's vision and determination was to assist people to change their reality, empowering

them to address issues of poverty and injustice throughout their communities. He was described as a 'coiled spring' as it took a lot of energy to keep up with his innovative ideas. Bert never rested on past achievements. He always had an eye out for improvements to their programmes and new ideas for doing things better. CWS has expressed our sympathies to Tet, daughter Vini and the wider Developers' family. We know the work will continue as a lasting testimony to Bert.

@world: recovering from ruin



It took a devastating force of nature to push the plight of Haiti into the world's spotlight. The unrelenting grind of poverty had been largely ignored but the magnitude 7 quake tragically showed the vulnerability of the people and their extreme fortitude. Many see the disaster as an opportunity.

The response from CWS supporters has been overwhelming, even more so coming after the Christmas Appeal and Pacific tsunami where your donations have paid for two replacement boats for a community in Niuaotupapu, Tonga. These boats are critical for transporting people to a more fertile nearby island where the families have plantations and fish. Without them, people would go hungry. In Samoa, CWS has supported counselling for families and children severely traumatised by the disaster as well as restoration of livelihoods. Counselling is a valued church role and one that is now being undertaken in Haiti.

In many ways, Haiti can be seen as a microcosm of CWS work. Poverty made the impact of the earthquake far worse, and much of that was created through debt and harmful economic policies. The work of CWS partners to strengthen communities is critical to surviving disasters. Our campaigns help address the injustices that leave them so vulnerable. I appreciate the support you have already given but hope you can give again for this @world appeal so we can continue supporting our partners' life changing work.

Pauline McKay

Going fairly bananas!

CWS is delighted that fair trade bananas have finally made it to New Zealand. Sourced from El Guabo Cooperative in Ecuador, they are currently available only in a few Auckland supermarkets. Continued support is needed to guarantee ongoing supply and extend the number of stockists around the country. Demand cards, telling store managers that if they stock Fairtrade bananas we will buy them, are available from the CWS website. The guaranteed fair price and community benefits from fair trade have enabled the El Guabo growers to invest in a medical clinic for workers and families, a retirement fund for growers and in education for local children.

Fair Trade Fortnight 2010 will be held 1-16 May. This is the annual opportunity for people across New Zealand and Australia to celebrate and recognise the life-changing difference



fair trade makes for the wellbeing of small farmers, their families and communities in developing countries. Show your support by hosting a fair cuppa or think about converting your home, workplace or church to fair trade. More information is available from the CWS website or phone 0800 74 73 72.

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Urgently needed: Clean water

When it comes to water, just having access is not enough. Water needs to be clean and safe. This year's World Water Day (22 March) is calling on political leaders to focus on quality not just quantity.

The United Nations says that worldwide water quality is declining – mainly due to human activities. Increasing population growth, rapid urbanisation, discharge of new pathogens and new chemicals from industries, and invasive species are key factors along with the threats that climate change poses.

Increasing temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns (both drought and flooding) will exacerbate water pollution such as sediments, nutrients and carbon. Rising sea levels will bring salinisation of groundwater and estuaries, with a serious impact for freshwater aquifers in coastal areas.



ACT Alliance/P. Jeffrey

Clean water is a priority following disasters like the Pakistan Earthquake. We support ACT Alliance to provide water and sanitation to affected communities.

What happens when water is contaminated? Illness spreads, children miss school, people cannot work or earn income. Poverty worsens. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) 4 billion cases of diarrhoea each year are associated with lack of access to safe water. 1.7 million people, mainly children under 5, will die as a consequence.

Nearly 1.5 billion people around the world still lack access to water that is safe for human consumption and more than 2.6 billion people do not have adequate sanitation. Lack of sewage treatment, especially in developing countries undergoing rapid urbanisation, leads to more contamination of drinking water and the deadly cycle continues.

With human health, and the future of drinking and agricultural water supplies at stake, the UN Environment Programme wants more emphasis placed on protecting water from pollution. World Water Day is a chance to put the focus on this critical human need.

Did you know?

- People need 40 litres of clean water each day for the purposes of drinking and sanitation. This rises to 50 litres when bathing and kitchen needs are included.
- Globally 1,500 cubic kilometres of waste water (600 million Olympic sized swimming pools) is produced every year.
- In developing countries, 80% of waste is discharged untreated due to lack of regulation and resources.

(United Nations Environmental Programme)

CWS and water

We at Christian World Service help our partners to address water and sanitation needs as they work with communities to improve living conditions and opportunities.

A recent report from CCS in Uganda (featured in the last @world) says their rainwater tanks are having a very positive impact on AIDS orphans and their carers, improving their health and quality of life.

Isingiro district still ranks as one of the most water stressed districts in Uganda. Underground water is scarce and contaminated. The families live on steep hills making the fetching of water a permanent burden. Between July and Christmas CCS completed 80 rainwater harvesting tanks and have the materials to complete the final 20 by the end of June. With each carers' group involved in the design and building process, some have requested larger tanks to hold 10,000 litres instead of 6000. These are built partially below ground and the group raise funds for the additional cost. Since 2008, CWS has helped with the construction of 250 tanks but more are needed. Another 253 families remain unserved.

"There is a need for CCS and CWS to remain together in the struggle" concludes the report. It also passes on the families' gratitude and appreciation for the support New Zealanders have given through CWS.

In the West Bank, Palestine, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees constructs cisterns (tanks) for extended families to access safe water for personal use and irrigation of small family gardens. The programme provides training in conservation of water, grey waste water uses in domestic farming, maintenance of water cisterns, and improving water quality.

In Tonga, the Tonga Community Development Trust has a small rainwater harvesting programme and the women's programme works to address water and sanitation issues. Along with developing home gardens to improve family nutrition and income, the women's groups train members in water collection and conservation, providing privacy for their toilet (by fencing or planting of trees) and building small water containers with taps or dippers for washing hands. Regular 'village inspections' to encourage home gardening and care of property are helping to identify areas of poor sanitation, flooding, and leaking pipes.



Haiti's heart

“They are used to struggle so life goes on.”

The resilience, determination and strength of local people has shone amidst the ruins and despair of the Haitian earthquake.

“Not having had a real opportunity to grieve their dead, and still panicked by rumbling aftershocks, women and men across the city were nonetheless busy setting up temporary shelters in parks and open spaces, clearing away debris, struggling to restart their small businesses and market stalls, and caring for their children and the children of those who didn’t survive,” reported ACT Alliance photographer Paul Jeffrey. “They are used to struggle, and so life goes on.”

The magnitude 7 earthquake struck Haiti on 12 January, 2010. Over 220,000 people were killed. The final death toll could be 300,000. The capital, Port-au-Prince, lost almost 80% of its buildings. One and a half million people out of a total population of 10 million are homeless. Yet Haitians retain a phenomenal spirit of optimism. “The Haitian people are fighters,” says the Episcopal Bishop of Haiti, Jean Zache Duracin. “We will not give up. We must see within this situation the possibilities that exist.”

Any country would be struggling to cope with death and destruction on this scale, but Haiti is particularly vulnerable. The Caribbean nation was already socially and economically shattered. The poorest country in the Americas, its infrastructure

was fragile and hunger was widespread. According to the UN, only Afghanistan and Somalia have a lower average calorie intake per person. Life expectancy is only 59.5 years. Even before the earthquake:

- » Four-fifths of Haiti’s 10 million people lived in poverty
- » 42% lacked access to safe water
- » 81% lacked access to adequate sanitation

Now, Haitian development groups like long standing CWS partner Institut Culturel Karl Leveque (ICKL) are joining the Bishop in seeing this disaster as a moment of opportunity to rebuild the country from the ground up. Haiti needs a whole new way forward that is free of “paternalism, pity and the taint of inferiority” say ICKL. They are advocating for a Haitian voice in relief and rebuilding programmes so that humanitarian efforts respect their culture and environment and do not undermine their years of work toward economic self sufficiency.

ICKL is proud of the extraordinary spirit of solidarity amongst Haitians. They estimate that the rescue efforts of survivors in the immediate aftermath saved thousands of people trapped in the rubble. Survivors helped set up 450 refugee camps which are now used by 1.5 million people. Most people are generously sharing any available food, water and clothing. ICKL offices were



flattened but luckily no staff lost their lives. ICKL salutes the extraordinary generosity of spirit which has moved people across the world to help. While thanking donors for the funds they desperately need, they also want to make it clear that **their greatest long term desire is to “rise again from this terrible catastrophe and struggle to break free of the cycle of dependency.”**

CWS quickly sent \$5,000 to ICKL for their immediate needs and \$140,000 to our global partner ACT Alliance’s relief efforts that have reached more than 150,000 people in the first month alone. Communities are being assisted with water, sanitation, shelter, medical care, food and trauma counselling.

ACT Alliance is focusing on the most vulnerable people and groups not reached by other organisations. Logistical restrictions focused the first relief on Port-au-Prince but many towns further out were worst hit. ACT has airlifted mobile health clinics to Jacmel, and is now providing relief supplies. In the capital they are assisting work in protecting the rights of people with disabilities.

Through careful planning CWS partners have escaped many of the difficulties with aid delivery highlighted in media reports. Almost all food distributions were without incidents. The recipients themselves helped identify the most vulnerable families and people then shared what was available with their neighbours.

Outbreak:

Now with the rainy season approaching, shelter is the urgent priority. By mid February only 24% of homeless people had received tarpaulins or tents. Many have built shelters from scavenged materials – bed sheets or pieces of plastic strung between sticks over dirt floors.

Ouslande Beaubrun, 30, lives with her cousin and two children in a shelter made of bed sheets. When rain fell early, the cloth could not keep it out. They turned their mattress up on its side and spent the night standing on blocks inside their shelter to stay out of the mud. None of them got any sleep.

ACT Alliance members are prioritizing the delivery of shelter items in hope of reaching as many people as possible before the rainy season arrives. "It's a major concern for us," explains Sophie Gebreyes, an ACT programme officer. "We simply cannot build houses fast enough, so we're starting with emergency shelter like distribution of plastic sheeting. We'll also provide building materials so people can build sturdier shelters before the hurricane season begins." The plan is to help people clear their land and build transitional shelters in order to close the camps as quickly as possible.

The rebuilding and recovery of Haiti will be a long term programme. A huge amount of work is needed on livelihoods and governance issues, ensuring communities are involved in local decision-making and that everyone

is listened to, not just the powerful. Communities need to be strengthened as they rebuild so they are better prepared to withstand future disasters.

The issues underlying Haiti's vulnerability, such as poverty, debt and food insecurity, also need to be addressed. The country has \$890 million debt, money it cannot possibly repay. CWS has supported calls for debt cancellation. On 6 February the G7 members of the world's richest countries promised to cancel Haiti's debts to them and support further cancellation including of a new USD \$102 million emergency loan from the International Monetary Fund in January.

The combined approaches of emergency relief, community development, debt cancellation and advocacy for peoples'

rights needs to be drawn together to rebuild a better Haiti. CWS will be continuing its support for Haiti, and in other communities facing similar challenges. Please give your ongoing support.



Surviving nature's fury:

5 years on in South Asia

The scale and global response to Haiti has brought back memories of the Boxing Day tsunami. As survivors marked five years of recovery and rebuilding, Valarmathi knows only too well the strength needed and long struggle ahead for Haiti.

Now 40, Valarmathi is a street fish seller in South India. On 26 December 2004 she was on the beach to buy fish. "When we saw water coming we just thought that it was a high tide. But this wave was huge and soon it engulfed us." Swept along uncontrollably by the water she managed to grab what she thought was a tree. "When water subsided, I realized it's not a tree but a temple pillar. I could see corpses around me. I had no clothes on me. Everything was torn and washed away." Even in that state she helped rescue others from the debris.

Her house was washed away but her customers quickly came to her aid.

"They gave me clothes, money and moral support. I was very moved by the affection they showed me at the time of my worst crisis."

She was also helped by our partner Sneha. They work with community self help groups, known as sangams, to improve incomes, living conditions and human rights. Using these networks they distributed relief packages to people like Valarmathi. With sangam help, she was able to restart her work. The biggest problem remains access to credit. "If you have money to rotate you can earn a decent living," says Valarmathi. The sangam provides affordable loans.

Still, the trauma of 5 years ago remains. "More than lives it killed our courage. We fisher people are a courageous lot. Our men fare into the sea and face storms and we women go to distant markets during the night to sell our fish. But today we are scared – scared for our lives, our children. It's very painful. But thanks to our innate strength and grit we have started our journey towards normalcy."

Just fix the world...

the challenge for young people



The UN's International Year of Youth will be launched in August, with the aim of harnessing the energy, imagination and initiative of the world's young people in overcoming challenges such as poverty and conflict.

It also encourages young people to dedicate themselves to fostering social justice, including the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These aim to slash extreme poverty, hunger, maternal and infant mortality, lack of access to education and health care and other social ills by 2015.

At Parachute 2010, CWS staff and volunteers braved floods, mud and frogs to educate New Zealand young people about the MDGs. CWS was part of the 'one life, one world for all' contingent notable for their bright pink (fair trade) shirts and being a role model for diverse groups working together for change. Catholic organisations Caritas and Mahitahi plus the Christian conservation group A Rocha joined CWS to challenge young people to take action for a fairer world. They fished challenges out of a well, such as donating 10 cents to charity for every text message they



The children at St Mark's Presbyterian Church Christchurch are already setting a great example of young people taking action. The 10-12 year olds raised over \$1200 for CWS partners through a café, sale of gingerbread houses and an art auction featuring their own work.

sent, planting trees to reduce their carbon footprint and taking two actions to make the world a better place. The emphasis was on solidarity with the poor and showing young people that change is possible. Further actions will be held in the build up to a UN summit on the MDGs in September this year.

The MDGs are a road map for change, but people must be aware of them and demand that world leaders fulfil the promises. Time is running out to reach the 2015 targets and UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon wants a redoubling of efforts. "The MDGs are too big to fail," he has warned. Getting young people involved will help make 2010 a year of results.

Gifted!

Water, ducks and goats were the most popular gifts last Christmas. The newly launched Gifted programme raised nearly \$60,000, including 455 gifts of water and 407 of ducks. Novel and fun gifts, especially for the person with 'everything', Gifted has been popular with youth groups and churches. Supporters appreciate a more concrete idea of how their donations can assist and they enjoy their paper magnet reminder of what they have helped achieve. Gifted is available all year round.

A new way of giving

New Zealanders can now donate directly from their pay to approved organisations. For every dollar an employee donates they receive a third back as a tax credit in the same pay period, reducing PAYE payable. Christian World Service is an approved

donee organisation so find out now if your employer offers payroll giving. Regular giving such as payroll donations enable CWS to better plan the assistance we can provide overseas partners to help people in need.



St Paul's Methodist Youth Group in Remuera held a car wash raising \$165 for Gifted. They enjoyed choosing what special areas to assist, helping partners in Timor, Philippines, Uganda and South Asia.



CHRISTIAN FAITH FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

The World Council of Churches (WCC) presented pledges at the Copenhagen talks and held an ecumenical celebration, led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. They were heartened by the growing movement for climate justice now touching millions of people in hundreds of countries. "In a very threatening and very disturbing way, the climate crisis brings us together as one humanity", said Olav Fykse Tveit, WCC general secretary. Hope, justice and peace are essential contributions Christian theology brings to the debates. "It is not a matter of saying this is a planet for some of us", said Tveit, "this is a planet for all of us".

Thousands of congregations rang their bells for climate justice on 10 December, including the small rural community of Hawea Flat, near Wanaka. Rev Diane Gilliam-Weeks and her husband Reg rang the Upper Clutha Presbyterian bells 350 times because of community concern for sustainability issues. With the Anglican church joining in, "I'm sure our bells echoed off Mt Roy to be heard by everyone," she says. "We were very energetic".

Tuvalu's Rev Tofiga Falani expressed the pain Pacific church leaders feel by Copenhagen's failure. "Our petition is that we want to survive". Fei Tevi, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches noted, "we are all on this boat together". They pray that voices will join them in calling for more action.

Lunch time!

CWS has sent \$150,000 to Zimbabwe partner, Christian Care, for a school feeding programme. Around 17,000 children at 49 primary schools in the Zvishavane district are benefitting. The area has struggled to recover from poor harvests and economic collapse. The programme will help the most vulnerable families survive until the next harvest. It is also improving school attendance and class performance, thanks to better nutrition. Mothers are rostered to prepare the daily lunch of a corn soya blend porridge, which they say is filling and nutritious. They also have to collect firewood and water for cooking.

The emergency feeding programme runs alongside a plan to rehabilitate wells and rainwater tanks at the schools. This will reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases such as dysentery.

The rural communities are also part of a conservation farming project. As households adopt more effective farming methods, production will improve and their children will not rely on food handouts. Unfortunately, the rains in Zvishavane have been very poor this growing season and a long drought and disappointing harvest are anticipated. CWS will continue to monitor the situation and provide more assistance as needed.

Fair deal for farmers in changing climate

Training in low cost agriculture is helping small farmers in developing countries better feed their families. Many CWS partners are implementing these programmes, based on traditional techniques improved by modern research, rather than promoting high cost agriculture. The success was evident last year when despite skyrocketing food costs these families could still eat. Now their right to food is threatened by a rapidly changing environment.

Small farmers listened with interest to what happened at the much heralded climate change talks held last December in Copenhagen. Amidst the disappointment around the lack of



substantial agreement to cut emissions was one announcement supported by the New Zealand Government. The first meeting of the Global Research Alliance

in April will focus on growing more food without increasing greenhouse gas emissions. This Alliance could support small farmers like Overt (pictured left), a Zimbabwean farmer, increase production by organic farming, rather than focus on costly large scale farming probably using genetically engineered seeds and expensive fertilizers. Traditional organic agriculture produces few emissions and can even sequester carbon, allows for intensive multi cropping and is cheap. CWS's Clean up the Climate Campaign will turn its focus to this, asking the New Zealand Government to include plans that respect peasant farmer rights to grow good food.



HELP HOPE HAPPEN

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Autumn 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.

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