

Displaced people flee to safety

CWS partners working to build peace

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Irin News

Displaced people flee for safety

Conflict in Pakistan has devastated the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians. CWS is supporting relief efforts, but to rebuild their lives and enjoy the basic needs of life such as food, water, and safety, people need a genuine peace. Many CWS partners work on peace building in the home, in the community and in the wake of civil war. See page 4-5 for examples of their work.



ACT International

“Give us this day our daily bread”

@world: building hope



It is a challenging time to be at CWS. The conflicts in Pakistan and Sri Lanka have shown once again the vulnerabilities of poor communities who have no resources to fall back on. Fleeing for their lives they have lost what little they had as they escape renewed tensions caused by injustices and poverty.

At the same time, the financial crisis is impacting on us all. But while we may have to tighten our belts and forgo some luxuries, it is no exaggeration to say the crisis is killing the poorest people. Many can literally not afford to feed their families. I have just returned from a World Council of Churches' meeting in Geneva where the right to food was a main focus. Fourteen percent of the world is hungry, many of them in India. “Supermarketization” in the developing world has meant that farmers are forced to grow cash crops they cannot afford to buy. It is astonishing that many of the hungriest are those that grow commodities for global markets.

Now more than ever, we need your help so people can eat and drink, support their families and build lasting peace that meets the basic needs of everyone. I feel lucky to be working with our partners who are able to do just this. At a time when all seems gloom, they provide the sign of hope we all need.

Please join me in building this hope. Please give generously to this @world appeal.

Pauline McKay

An estimated 963 million people live with constant hunger – and this does not include people who are hungry as a result of war or natural disaster. These are the nearly one in seven of the world’s population for whom hunger is a daily fact of life.

- Every day 16 000 children die of hunger and malnutrition
- Every year, 10 million people – 2.5 times the population of New Zealand – die of hunger related causes
- The food price crisis of 2008 threw over 100 million more people into a life of hunger.

The appalling reality of this situation is that there is absolutely no need for it. The world currently grows enough food to feed the world’s population twice over. This is not a crisis due to the physical limits of our planet but

the result of how food is produced, shared, bought and sold.

The good news is that this means we CAN change the reality.

CWS is joining the Ecumenical Advocacy Agency’s new food campaign. Over the next three years, this international movement of churches and church-related agencies will be working together to promote understanding of the causes of hunger and food justice. It seeks to get global policy makers to implement policies that guarantee the right to food. Events are planned for World Bank, G8, FAO and United Nations meetings and there will be a churches’ week of action in October. CWS director, Pauline McKay, has already signed a statement presented to UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. Keep watching for further information and ways you can join the Campaign for Daily Bread.

Go Bananas for Fair Trade

The banana is the world’s most popular fruit. People spend over \$25 billion a year on them, making bananas the fifth largest agricultural item traded. New Zealand is the highest per capita importer in the world yet New Zealand consumers do not have the choice to buy fair trade.

The banana industry is dominated by multinational corporations. Small farmers struggle to cover production costs and many banana plantation workers earn less than \$3 a day.

Fair trade can change this with its guarantee of minimum prices, improved working conditions, and investment in the local community.

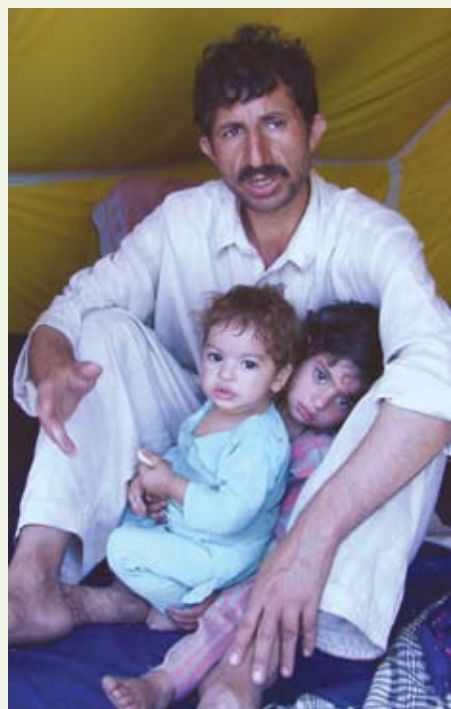
Fifty-seven certified Fairtrade banana producers supply Fairtrade bananas to 20 countries. Let’s make it 21! Contact CWS for banana demand cards to take to your local supermarket or email the major supermarket chains. Details are on the CWS website.



Pakistan: Plight of displaced worsens

CWS P/A

Children without shoes walk for miles to reach safety in a camp without adequate facilities. An elderly man struggles to travel the distance and finds that his destination cannot offer him the medical care he needs. A widowed mother, whose husband died in crossfire en route, escapes with her young children only to find that she cannot get food. This is the reality for many in Pakistan's North West Province who need assistance to survive. On 8 May alone, over 200,000 people fled fighting between the Pakistani army and Taliban forces. To date 2.5 million people have been displaced. The UN expects this to exceed 3 million, making it the world's largest displacement in 15 years.



CWS P/A

The crisis unfolded as Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan staff were meeting with CWS in New Zealand. They were alarmed at the escalating disaster. "These people are under the open sky in a very insecure and unstable environment," said deputy director Sharma Mall. "People have been forced to leave at short notice and their immediate needs are not being met. Many have never had to leave their communities before and are afraid."

CWS immediately launched an appeal to support relief efforts. The crisis is expected to be long and much more will be needed including trauma counselling and educational programmes. CWS P/A is working to address challenges such as getting relief to the majority who are staying outside the camps, putting huge pressure on communities already struggling to feed and support themselves. The plight of women is difficult. Cultural norms have made it difficult for women without husbands, fathers or brothers to go out in public to collect food rations.

Nevertheless, those able to get assistance are extremely grateful. Zamar Khan (pictured left) fled Buner with his wife and three young daughters after a mortar bomb fell on their neighbour's house. "It took us three days to walk in the mountains to reach the Mardan camp, and on the second day my wife and I got separated," he said. "My wife and daughters were able to reach the Mardan camp and were assisted by CWS-P/A who provided her tent and blankets." He was very happy to be reunited with them.

Changes to NZAID

Christian World Service has condemned Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully's announcement that NZAID will be absorbed into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In melding the two bodies, he has shifted the emphasis of overseas development aid from poverty elimination to economic development and tied it to foreign policy interests. There was no public discussion and the decision ignores the recommendations of Treasury and a 2005 OECD review that said NZAID was the world's best focused overseas aid programme.

With many other agencies, CWS argued that NZAID should retain its semi-autonomous focus and its mission to 'eliminate poverty'. It is relieved that this objective has not been completely lost. Cabinet has agreed to include the aim to reduce poverty as well as 'support broad-based economic development as its central focus'.

The view from Afghanistan

While in New Zealand, Church World Service's manager for disaster response in Pakistan and Afghanistan met with MFAT, NZAID and MPs in Wellington. Takeshi Komino says in Afghanistan, politically tied aid has failed to address poverty and as people become poorer and more disillusioned, they are becoming a fertile ground for Taliban recruitment. "Economic development does not trickle down," he explained. "You need to focus on the root causes of poverty."

He also raised concerns about the militarization of aid. "Of course people view the work of the New Zealand Army's Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in a positive light," he said. "If you build a new road, people will accept these things." The question is: wouldn't it be more effective and cheaper for New Zealand to work through local NGOs for development work? He gave the example of a US PRT that built a large potato storage facility for people in one region. Sounds good, but in the neighbouring region a local group had set up a livelihood programme with a business making traditional potato storage for individual houses. Now they have no market. Takeshi reinforced the message that a focus on poverty alleviation was key to providing stability.

Peacebuilding

The people of South Sudan know that peace means more than just the absence of guns and a halt to fighting. To break the cycle of violence the basic needs of people must be met and the tensions that cause conflict fairly addressed. Poverty and conflict are closely intertwined, with ongoing conflicts in developing countries adding to the burden of poverty and inequality. Most CWS partners are dealing with some form of conflict within the communities they work. Building peace at the family, community, and national levels is a part of wider programmes enabling people to build better futures and enjoy their basic rights. This issue of @world features some examples of how your donations help build peace at all these levels.



In the home...

The young girls from the slums and streets of one of Brazil's poorest and most violent cities, Recife, are like porcupines. When someone tries to get close, their spikes go out. It is a survival instinct for living with sexual and domestic violence within gang dominated communities. All too often it perpetuates the cycle of poverty and conflict, trapping the girls into a sense of hopelessness and a life offering only illegal and dangerous work, drugs, violence and sexual abuse in the home.

CWS partner, House of Passage, offers girls a different path. Its rich programme including education, counselling, health services, vocational training, art, and music helps improve their self esteem and gives them the chance of a "normal life" of paid work and relatively stable relationships.

"When I first came, I was timid. I didn't like to be touched; if my teacher showed me affection, I dropped my head. I wasn't used to it," says Gilvania (pictured above). "But I grew as a human being. I am very happy now and I have brought my calmer, tolerant, "House of Passage self" to my home life."

Gilvania is a role model for the change House of Passage makes possible. She is living proof that someone can escape a

community's violence, drugs, alcoholism and prostitution.

"I come from a family with problems," says Gilvania openly. "When I was young my father drank a lot, and he would hit my mother. I couldn't do anything except cry. And the violence grew and grew."

At age 14, she found refuge in House of Passage. She joined a vocational course which taught painting and handicrafts. Loving it, Gilvania did further training and was able to support herself selling jewellery and other crafts. Then in 2007 she got a phone call. House of Passage offered her a teaching position.

"I am so proud of myself! I never thought I could be a teacher. But now I work with four classes of 30 girls every day." Having come from the dangerous slums herself, Gilvania shows her students just what is possible.

A recent report shows that through their involvement with House of Passage, 75% of the girls in the programme have suffered less domestic violence at home and there is a 90% reduction of girls committing physical and verbal violence. A policeman stationed at the centre to prevent drug pushers and gangs getting to the girls explains "this place gives security and it is vital to containing drugs and prostitution. They learn a lot here. It's a great formation for life and it definitely reduces crime."



In a war zone...

A young girl sits in a garden painting. "This is my house. I was here," she says, pointing to a stick figure on the second floor. "This plane bombed my house and it was burned. This is my brother and this is my uncle," she continues, now pointing to figures lying in front of the house. "They are dead and I was burned." This drawing is far from innocent children's play. It is part of a special therapy programme CWS partners are running in Gaza.

During the war in January, food was a priority but increasingly parents wanted help to stop their children crying. They are scared of loud noises, the dark and being alone. About 6,000 students are being helped. Some write painful memories of the bombardment on scraps of paper. They place them on a parachute and then, each taking an edge of the fabric, they scatter the bad memories by shaking the



“To maintain peace we need to maintain people. Conflict is because of poverty.”

Paul Malok, Rumbek Peace Council, South Sudan.



ACT International



Irini News

parachute. Puppet shows, games and art help them deal with the pain, fear and sadness experienced in a war zone.

At the Middle East Council of Churches' health clinics, trauma counselling has been added to the health and nutrition programme for women and infants. Families in need of additional support are identified for more intensive followup.

The war has compounded issues for the people of Gaza stemming from years of embargo, occupation and economic deprivation. It is hoped that ongoing psychosocial support will help break the cycle of violence and enable them to contribute to a better future for their people, locked in the middle of a decades long conflict.

“The suffering of civilians and acts of war will never be a way out of conflict and will not secure peace in this troubled land!”

Dr. Bernard Sabella, Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, Middle East Council of Churches

After civil war...

In the wake of heavy fighting between the Sri Lankan military and the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam (LTTE), over 30,000 civilians need medical care. Some have been sent to distant hospitals for treatment where they have no family to help them. Finding this out, CWS partner Devasarana is trying to help those at Kurunegala hospital with food and other supplies that are not provided by the government.

While not part of their everyday work of strengthening communities and improving livelihoods, it is an understandable extension of their efforts to promote better relations between Tamils and Sinhala. In the past they have brought together some of the poorest people of both groups to share resources, stories and celebrations. This community to community outreach has helped break down some of the tensions created by the continued war between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE.

In the northeast, CWS is supporting ACT International partners including the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of the almost 300,000 Tamils who fled the war zone after months of bitter fighting. Through local partners they are providing

food, clothing, hygiene items and psychosocial support to deal with the trauma.

On May 18, the Sri Lankan government declared victory but the real test of their intention to end the conflict will come in the months ahead. For Sri Lanka to move towards a lasting peace it is critical that there are significant political steps to improve the rights and participation of Tamils after decades of mistrust and discrimination. Part of the peacemaking process should also involve reviewing what happened during the war and the failure of both sides to protect civilian populations. Building a durable peace after decades of conflict requires better government policies, greater political participation and fair treatment of those who have suffered during hostilities. This is something that all Sri Lankan partners are working to make happen.

CWS partners need your help to meet the basic needs of their communities, assist in times of conflict and build durable peace. Please give generously to allow work like this to continue.

Climate change update:

A Pacific call for action

Pacific church leaders have issued a strong statement on climate change and the imminent threat of forced relocation and displacement faced by Pacific peoples. The Moana Declaration was formulated after a week of discussion in Fiji in April. "The word *moana* in all Polynesian societies represents the sea and its life giving force - the watery tapa that conjoins Oceania and its peoples," explains Peter Emberson, climate change campaign officer for the Pacific Conference of Churches. "The saddening reality is that this same moana - endeared and valued in all Pacific cultures - is threatening the very concepts of our lives as oceanic peoples."

The statement outlines the need for protection, land, resources and dignity for all climate refugees and strategies for action. It reaffirms the prophetic role of the church and its responsibility to recognize and speak out against the injustices of climate change.

A petition has been drafted to present to the Pacific Islands Leaders Forum in September. It calls on Pacific governments to push for a bold and effective agreement at the UN Climate

Change Conference in Copenhagen in December, where the international community will set new commitments to come into force when the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012.

The petition asks the Forum to impress upon the international community the urgent need to set in place an ambitious limit to the release of greenhouse gases to protect the Pacific environment, and the health and welfare of Pacific peoples. It supports negotiating a just resettlement framework and to have the Right to Comprehensive Resettlement recognised in international law. "Our response has been inadequate to the scale and pace of Earth's degradation. To continue to walk the current path of ecological destruction is not only recklessness, it is sin."

TAKE ACTION

The Moana Declaration and copies of the petition are available from CWS. Download at [www.cws.org.nz/takeaction/climate change](http://www.cws.org.nz/takeaction/climate%20change) or call the CWS office. CWS will forward the signed petitions to the Conference of Churches in September.

Burma Cyclone: One year on

"I can't thank you enough," says the principal of a primary school rebuilt by ACT International partners in Burma. The new school is a sign of recovery in the cyclone ravaged region.

It's now over a year since Cyclone Nargis hit Burma's Irrawaddy delta killing 140,000 people and affecting 2.4 million more. CWS sent \$129,000 for relief. Initially the priority was life saving assistance including food, safe water, and shelter. The focus then moved to rehabilitation: rebuilding schools, constructing storm-safe houses and seeds for farmers. With better quality seeds, many farmers doubled their rice harvest, helping avert a famine in the country.



The need to act becomes more urgent

PNG has reported the start of the official transfer of the world's first climate change refugees. On 6 May, representatives of five Carteret Island families moved into their new houses on Tinputz. They are preparing the land before the rest of their families move over permanently. The Carterets are a small group of low lying islands northeast of Bougainville. Their highest point is 1.5 metres and it may be submerged by 2015. Higher tides and flooding are making the atoll uninhabitable. The entire population is being relocated to the Bougainville mainland where they need to build relationships with the host community and income generating activities to sustain their lives.

St Paul's supports the small farm revolution

Small farms will feed the world was the message of Sri Lankan environmentalist and director of CWS partner, Monlar, on his recent trip to New Zealand. Sarath Fernando, pictured here with CWS parish link Alison Linscott at St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Timaru, has long campaigned for small-scale farming. He argues modified traditional methods are better for the environment and are the best way to secure food for the millions of people around the world living in poverty. Commercial agriculture has failed to deliver adequate food security, nutrition, environmental

protection and income, he told the Dairy Workers Union, Council for International Development and several public forums.

Five years ago, the congregation at St Paul's saw a CWS documentary featuring Sarath's vision. They were motivated to plant potatoes and other crops to raise money for CWS partners. Since then, the garden has raised over \$1300. "Meeting someone who has done this work for so long really brings home the reality of what they are dealing with. Our contribution might be small but together we can make a difference," says Alison.

St Margaret's harvests funds



Over the last three years St Margaret's Presbyterian in Silverstream have combined their annual Harvest Festival with appeals for CWS's virtual gifts programme raising \$2050. This year they raised funds for the equivalent of more than four bicycles in Sudan, part of a programme helping women set up their own small businesses.

Traditionally the Harvest Festival has been a time for parishioners to give thanks for all they have and to remember those who are having it tough, with extra donations for the Upper Hutt Food Bank. In 2007, they decided to combine this with a CWS appeal to "recognise both need in our own community and in other countries," explains their minister, Lynn Russell.

In 2007, they raised funds for goats with cardboard cut-outs of goats peeking out from the pews. In 2008, it was a water programme in Uganda. The display, constructed each year by the Reverend Ian McCallum and his wife Yvonne, included big drawings of taps and wells and an indoor fountain. This year they had a 'person' on a bike by the Communion Table amongst the display items.

Lynn says the parish looks to support CWS whenever they can. "We give to the Christmas Appeal and many of our members support emergency appeals. We feel that we can trust CWS to use our money wisely and also in ways that increase the independence of those who receive our gifts."

Kowai Presbyterian tastes fair trade

Kowai Presbyterian, Amberley, put their taste buds to the test for Fair Trade Fortnight. As part of morning worship service, volunteers blind tasted fair trade and commercial chocolate. There was little difference in quality or taste, but fair trade can be enjoyed somewhat guilt free. Since then the women's fellowship have tried Fair Trade tea and coffee and agree they are just as nice as any other brand. The parish is now looking at becoming a Fair Trade Church.

Our thanks to all churches that held a fair cuppa and other events to raise the profile of fair trade.

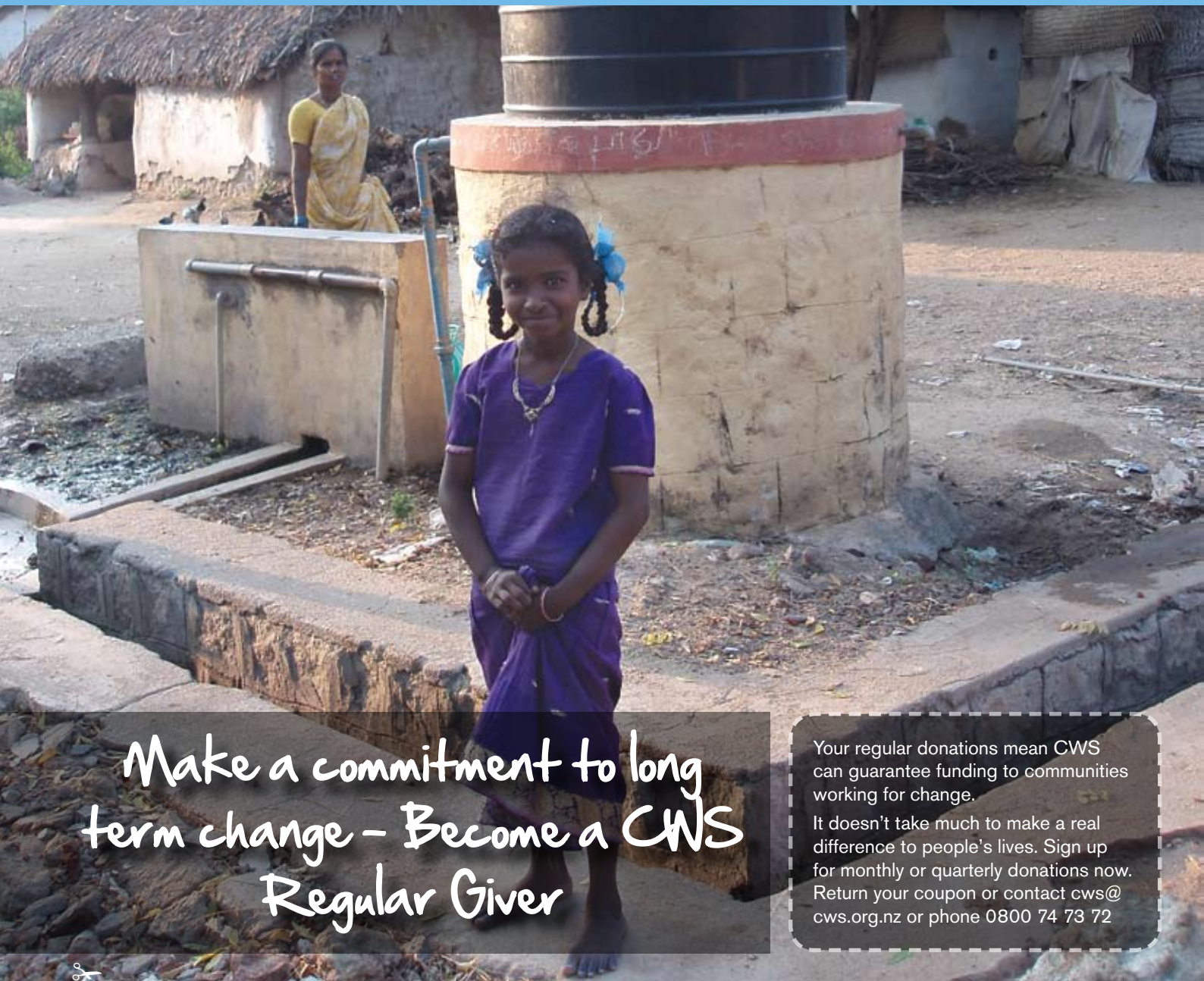


Walk for the Planet

Walk for the Planet, held as an act of pilgrimage during this year's Lenten season, raised many environmental concerns. CWS supported the walk that began on Rakiura Stewart Island on Ash Wednesday, traversed State Highway One, featured at Christchurch city's celebration of Earth Hour and culminated on the steps of Parliament and St Paul's Cathedral on Easter Sunday.

CWS launched its climate change focus with the walk by linking local community action with partner groups responding to the consequences of climate change throughout the world. Along the way people were able to share stories and actions and add their prayers and concerns. Students of Rangī Ruru School and visitors to Christ Church Cathedral, Christchurch, added their messages to giant footprints that were laid out on the steps of parliament. These thoughts will be compiled into written form with other stories from the journey.

Give some certainty in an uncertain world



Make a commitment to long term change - Become a CWS Regular Giver

Your regular donations mean CWS can guarantee funding to communities working for change.

It doesn't take much to make a real difference to people's lives. Sign up for monthly or quarterly donations now. Return your coupon or contact cws@cws.org.nz or phone 0800 74 73 72

Yes, I would like to support the work of CWS

Name _____

Address _____

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Telephone () _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my contribution of: \$25 \$60 \$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

Winter 09

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