

From the National Director



I took up the position of National Director of Christian World Service in February 2009, after 15 years in Geneva working with the World YWCA, the World Council of Churches and lately with the World Health Organisation. I feel privileged to have been able to bring my interests and skills in development, social justice and ecumenism to CWS. It is an honour to work for this organisation, which has such a strong analytical base and a 64-year history of standing alongside and working with the poor.

Three main areas of our work really stand out for me.

Firstly, the inspiring programmes of our overseas partners as they tackle poverty in their own communities. It is no cliché to say they are making a real difference. As local people, they are on the spot and able to respond to actual needs, with a fuller understanding of the context they work in. I admire the way their focus changes as needs change, especially in the area of emergency relief. With their existing networks and commitment to involving people in their own recovery, our partners can provide relief quickly and appropriately. Many such disasters are being driven by climate change, and they are taking on this and other new issues that affect the wellbeing of their communities.



Computer exam, South India. CWS partners help educate and empower women. Photo: EKTA

As my knowledge of, and communication with, CWS partners increases, I have been struck by how similar we all are. We may be in different countries working in different contexts facing different realities but we are motivated by a common purpose and shared concerns.

Secondly, I am proud of the wider approach CWS takes. We do not just provide financial support to our partners, but we advocate and educate on the causes of poverty and injustice rather than providing 'band aid' relief for a few individuals. Thus we can make long term gains and bring about meaningful change.

Finally, since taking up this position, I have come to realise the incredible loyalty of our supporters. Over the last 60 plus years, CWS has formed close relationships with many churches, church groups and individuals. We appreciate this ongoing support and are humbled by the commitment and trust shown us. We feel honoured to act as this bridge between individuals and groups in New Zealand and communities in need overseas.

In reflecting on another successful year of action against poverty, we need to acknowledge the challenges of the year ahead. The economic recession and climate change are just two global problems that are impacting on our lives in New Zealand. CWS is concerned about how much greater the impact is for poor communities who have fewer resources to cope. Millions already live in a fragile balance between poverty and basic survival. More than ever people need decent community development assistance if they are going to survive. CWS will continue to advocate for appropriate overseas development assistance and call on supporters to assist the self reliance programmes that CWS funds.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this work over the past year. We look forward to your ongoing partnership.

Pauline McKay
Pauline McKay

Annual Review

Over the last financial year, CWS staff have continued to produce resources, initiate campaigns for justice, relate to overseas partners, contact and visit parishes nationwide, and administer donations. The following are just some of the highlights and important changes for CWS during that time

Overseas Partners

Over the year CWS has supported 29 overseas partner groups as well as regional programmes in Asia and the Pacific and peace and justice programmes through the World Council of Churches (WCC). The WCC programmes have included being a public witness in conflict areas, promoting reconciliation, working for a nuclear weapon free zone in Africa and engaging churches to protect the earth's atmosphere and rights to water.

Central to the work of all our partners is the idea of empowerment – giving the support, training and resources needed for communities to be able to transform their own lives. One example is CEPAD (Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua). At the end of 2008 CEPAD ended their direct involvement with 33 communities. More than 800 people had been trained in advocacy for community services, agriculture, environmental protection and counselling. They now share this knowledge to help others improve their livelihoods and no longer need CEPAD's help. With these communities more self-sufficient, CEPAD has moved to 43 new communities, and the process continues.

CWS partners funded in 2008-09:

Africa: Maridi Service Agency Youth Programme (Sudan), Church of Uganda/PDR Participatory Community Empowerment, CCS Rainwater Tanks for HIV and AIDS affected Groups (Uganda), African Women Filmmakers Trust (Zimbabwe).

Asia: Christian Conference of Asia (regional), Church World Service Cambodia Local Institution Development Support (Cambodia),

EKTA Gender Training Programme, FEDWE Promotion of the Dalit Women's Movement, HRF Empowering Women in Local Government, NEYTHAL Coastal Protection, SNEHA Integrated Development of Tsunami Affected Communities, Social Action for New Development, Women Development Resource Centre, Youth Education (India), Developers Women's Enterprise Development and Gender Equality (Philippines), Devasarana Development Centre Rural Programme, Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform, Women's Centre Programme for Workers (Sri Lanka).

Latin America: House of Passage for Children and Youth (Brazil), Las Dignas National Women's Programme (El Salvador), ICKL Popular Education and Capacity Building (Haiti), CEPAD National Community Development Programme (Nicaragua).

Middle East: Programme for Palestinian Refugees (Palestine)

Pacific: Pacific Conference of Churches (Regional), Bougainville Education Development Programme (Bougainville), ECREA Capacity Building Programme (Fiji), Human Rights and Democracy Movement in Tonga, Tonga Trust Village Women's Programme - Ama Takiloa (Tonga), Sustainable Agriculture & Youth/Women's Training, Fusona Livelihood Improvement Programme (Timor Leste), Association Morurua e tatou (Tahiti).

Aotearoa: CAFCA/Anti Bases Coalition, ChangeMakers Refugee Forum, Christchurch People's Resource Centre – BAS, Peace Movement Aotearoa, Human Rights Film Festival.

Emergencies

CWS has responded to a range of emergencies this year with funds going to relief in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Darfur, Zimbabwe, Burma, China, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Haiti, Gaza, Fiji, the Solomon Islands and the Victorian bushfire appeal in Australia.

Some have been large public appeals, others have received support from the New Zealand government's Humanitarian Action Fund (HAF). Based on proven capacity, organisations like CWS can apply for HAF block grants. Three years on, we are really seeing its value as it enables us to plan and respond quickly when needs arise. For example, we could send money to help in the wake of Typhoon Frank in the Philippines as soon as we received a phone call from our partners. In the case of Sri Lanka, CWS's commitment to funding gave

our partners the guarantee they needed to start providing relief. NGOs need to demonstrate support from the New Zealand community in the form of public donations, so donor support has been important in accessing the HAF fund.

Emergency response is not just about relief when needed. CWS has been active in advocacy over the causes of humanitarian disasters and treatment of civilians caught up in conflict, most recently in regard to conditions for Tamils in the displacement camps in Sri Lanka. Disaster preparedness is another area CWS is working on with partners, ensuring communities are ready to cope when disaster strikes. In South India, village task forces trained and equipped after the 2004 tsunami were able to act quickly when Cyclone Nisha struck in November 2008. They arranged evacuations, removed trees and other debris, diverted stagnant water and provided rice for emergency rations.

CWS was pleased to be able to provide ongoing support in Darfur. When the International Criminal Court issued a warrant for the President of Sudan on war crimes in Darfur in March 2009, many foreign relief agencies were expelled. The programme CWS is supporting was one of the few to be able to keep operating.

Campaigning for Change

It has been a busy year for raising awareness and educating on the issues behind poverty and injustice. The Global Youth Encounter brought together young people around New Zealand with partner representatives from Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Fiji. They shared common experiences and issues facing young people and learnt more about living with conflict. One participant said it made the news stories more real, having met someone her own age who had had to hide from soldiers. CWS also worked with young people, raising awareness of how the materials used to manufacture their mobile phones are fuelling conflict over resources in the Congo. The Lenten Walk for the Planet launched the CWS climate change campaign and CWS provided a unique perspective with a stall on climate change impacts in developing countries at the Earth Hour celebrations in Christchurch in March. Sarath Fernando, from MONLAR in Sri Lanka was a special guest and spoke of the impact of disrupted weather patterns on agriculture and food production. We also produced many publications, responded to parliamentary select committees and advocated with key MPs on partner issues.

Another successful activity is the annual APW/MWF's special project. The women's associations of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches focus on and fundraise for a CWS partner, CWS provides background information and speakers on the issue.

Improved communications

CWS has built its new website over the last year, with the goal of providing an informative and regularly updated site. It features news, partner stories and resources. We hope to add video footage in the coming year. Our thanks to people who have used the online surveys and feedback forms. The Christmas Appeal has also been streamlined, and now features electronic media. Other new media includes a CWS facebook page started by the young people participating in the Global Youth Encounter and a CWS presence on Twitter. These adaptations enable us to reach new audiences and meet the changing needs of current supporters. The traditional paper communications are still available for those who prefer it.

Partner visits

CWS hosted Tet Naraval from Developers in the Philippines, Sarath Fernando from MONLAR, Sri Lanka, as well as four representatives from Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan. Such visits are important opportunities to strengthen relationships, especially allowing our partners to learn more about how CWS works and how New Zealanders support their work. They provide the space to discuss development issues and challenges away from the day-to-day demands of their offices, improve understanding and share practical information. Such visitors are also important for letting churches and supporters know how their donations help bring about change and allowing partners to raise issues directly with New Zealand aid officials and politicians.

A goat for your nanny!

Last Christmas, many people wanted to give virtual gifts that assisted our partners' programmes so CWS launched Just Gifts. Based on the excellent feedback, CWS has further expanded this into the 'Gifted' programme with a larger range of 'gifts' and a special magnet as a more lasting reminder of the donation being made on the recipients' behalf. See the back cover for more details.

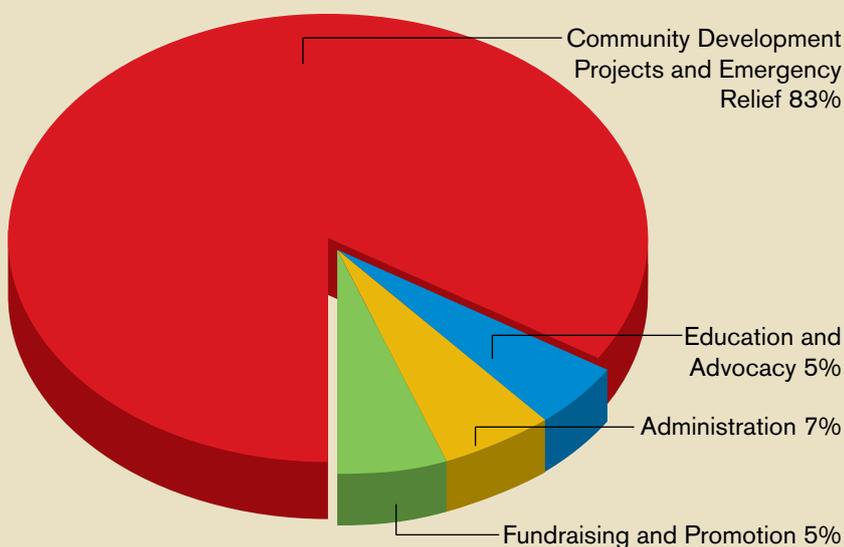


Annual Report 2008-2009

Summary Statement of Financial Performance

Income	\$
2008 Christmas Appeal	560 572
<i>Grants from the Government's Overseas Development Assistance</i>	
-Subsidies under the KOHA-PICD Scheme	2 370 000
-Humanitarian Action Fund (Emergency) grants	548 297
<i>Special Appeals for</i>	
-Sudan	41 005
-Burma	8 414
Methodist 2% grant	9 931
William Walters Trust	5 568
Christchurch Anglican Diocese	6 500
Association of Presbyterian Women/ Methodist Women's Fellowship (for Brazil – House of Passage Programme for Children and Youth)	56 662
World Day of Prayer (Nat. Committee Church Women United Aotearoa-New Zealand)	23 000
Quaker Peace and Service Aotearoa/New Zealand	10 500
Regular Contributors	129 864
Direct Mail Appeals	179 535
David Ellison Trust	7 000
Other donations from individuals, groups and parishes	300 751
Interest	179 641
Total Income for the Year	4 437 240
Expenditure	
Funding for Community Development Projects and Emergency Relief	3 610 625
Education and Advocacy	231 641
Administration	289 529
Fundraising and Promotion	221 894
Total Expenditure for the Year	4 353 689

CWS expenditure 2008-2009



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



July 08: Young people in New Zealand got a firsthand account of peace and justice issues in Fiji, Timor Leste and Sri Lanka during the Global Youth Encounter. It was a good opportunity to share the common issues and difficulties facing young kiwis while opening their eyes to experiences elsewhere.



November: Craft activities are such a popular part of the Women's Programme on Lauru, in the Solomon Islands, that male boat drivers are asking to be involved! Income from the sale of crafts enables women to be more independent and meet increasing financial demands such as their children's school fees.



March: The focus was the environment, with CWS supporting the Lenten Walk for the Planet and participating in Christchurch's Earth Hour events. The only development agency to be represented, CWS highlighted the plight of poor communities as climate change further challenges their vulnerable existence.



August: CWS launched a special appeal for Darfur with Caritas, focusing attention on a forgotten crisis with vigils on 1 August. An impressive display of Darfur images showed the reality facing over 2 million people displaced from their homes. The images have since toured churches and cathedrals around the country raising funds for Darfur.



September: CWS staff met with the Church of Uganda, who last year trained 240 volunteers as home carers for people living with HIV and AIDS. Where there is limited or expensive public transport, bicycles help them reach the families they care for. Other projects include income generation, livestock and reforestation.



October: CWS supported an international campaign to highlight conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo and funded ACT International relief programmes for people displaced by the ongoing fighting. Nearly 6 million people have died since 1996 in the war over resources, half of them children under 5 years.

Photo: ACT International



December: Tet Naraval, from Developers in the Philippines, was one of several partner representatives hosted by CWS. These visits are important for raising issues with government officials, letting churches and supporters know how their donations help bring about change and enable partners to reach a larger audience with their concerns.



January 09: The Gaza crisis. CWS partner, the Middle East Council of Churches was directly affected when its mother and child health clinic was destroyed. Despite this, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees managed to provide medical care for injured civilians, food and water, and ongoing trauma counselling.

Photo: ACT International



February: Youth Topics 15 was released. It examines what peacemakers do at the grass roots level – the courageous, determined people working tirelessly to resolve the differences at the heart of conflict in their communities. This was just one of the many publications CWS produced during the year to educate and advocate on justice issues.



April: A visit to Timor Leste showed the struggling new nation is putting civil unrest behind it and approaching the future more optimistically. CWS staff saw lots of energy and commitment for building a better future, with CWS partners helping women's groups improve their income, some by mattress and pillow making.



May: Fighting between the Pakistani Army and Taleban forces displaced over one million people in Pakistan's North West. People, many of whom had never left their communities before, were forced to go at short notice, with few belongings. CWS launched an appeal to assist with shelter, food, water and medicines.

Photo: ACT International



June: A visit to Haiti highlighted amazing determination. Women received seeds to help restart their farms following a hurricane. But heavy rains destroyed their new crops. Not giving up, the women are being assisted by CWS partner ICKL. They were thankful someone from NZ came to see them when their own politicians never have.