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CULTIVATING HOPE
2007 ANNUAL REPORT





CULTIVATING HOPE

UMCOR cultivates hope in our world by sowing seeds of mercy and compassion through its programs that strengthen communities. UMCOR's commitment to alleviating suffering with open minds and hearts to all people works itself out day by day around the world through growing relationships with beneficiaries and other humanitarian relief organizations. As those relationships grow, so grows hope.

UMCOR participates in a network of global ecumenical alliances that share the same mission to save lives and restore livelihoods that are threatened by war, conflict, or natural disasters. When difficult conditions disrupt or forestall humanitarian relief programs in a region, UMCOR's long-term presence can be sustained by its relationships with local partners. Collaboration with partners such as Action by Churches Together, Church World Service, Muslim Aid, Bread for the World, and the Amity Foundation extends UMCOR's reach to the hurting places of the world to comfort and heal those in greatest need.

- In the Kabul and Paktya Provinces of Afghanistan, UMCOR engineers supply materials and engineering assistance while beneficiaries supply the labor, working together to construct 540 shelters and latrines in four sites for returning refugees.
- In Gaza, when intense factional fighting caused injury and severe economic hardship for many families, UMCOR grants helped the Middle East Council of Churches Department of Service to Palestine Refugees provide emergency assistance to 950 families.
- In the Gulf Coast, UMCOR led in managing a FEMA grant to fund the consortium "Katrina Aid Today," bringing together nine national partners and local consortium members in 34 states to serve survivors of Hurricane Katrina. At its peak in 2007, the consortium employed over 600 paid case managers and nearly 1,400 volunteer case managers, providing 185,956 persons with guidance and tools for recovery.
- In Liberia, UMCOR trainers shared crop management and nutritional knowledge with farmers, community clinics, and health workers who in turn shared the knowledge with others and multiplied the hope for a bountiful, healthful harvest.

Sharing resources, partnering in advocacy, nurturing a web of precious relationships—all these components help create a rich soil in which to grow hope for dignity, justice, health, and compassion.

The following pages offer glimpses of UMCOR's work in this context.



Andrea Booker /FEMA

U.S. DISASTER RESPONSE

Beyond the ongoing hurricane recovery work in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama-West Florida and Florida Annual Conferences, UMCOR responded to disasters across the United States.

EMERGENCY	LOCATION
Tornadoes	Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Texas
Wildfires	Alaska, California
Floods	Alaska, California, Dakotas, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Wisconsin
Severe storms	Kansas, Oklahoma
Hurricane Humberto	Louisiana, Texas
Shooting at Virginia Tech	Virginia

DISASTER READINESS PREPARATION

Throughout the year, multiple levels of training events were conducted in Annual Conferences throughout the US.

- Basic Disaster Response Training Academy
- Early Response “Train the Trainer”
- Early Response Training
- Care Team Training
- Spiritual & Emotional Care
- Case Management
- Case management training to other ecumenical entities

SERVING HURRICANE SURVIVORS

Two years into a planned five-year response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, UMCOR reported assisting approximately 60,000 survivors and reconstructing or repairing some 25,000 homes.

RESPONSE TIMELINE: September 2005: emergency grants; October 2005 start-up funds during emergency and relief phases; April 2006 & April 2007 long-term recovery funding.				
Response / Partner	Total Committed through April 2007	Total Disbursed as of June 30, 2007	Purposes & Number of People Helped from Inception to June 30, 2007	Total & Partial Rebuilds
Louisiana Annual Conference	\$20,474,389	9,622,891	Direct assistance, rebuilding, case management, initial relief for 16,973 individuals affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita	3,301
Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference	2,763,262	1,385,185	Direct assistance, rebuilding, case management, initial relief for 2,571 individuals affected by Hurricanes Dennis and Katrina	161
Florida Annual Conference	2,148,156	1,553,983	Direct assistance, rebuilding, case management, initial relief for 26,027 survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma	5,400
Mississippi Annual Conference	11,967,353	5,918,372	Direct assistance, rebuilding, case management, initial relief for 6,827 individuals	15,037*
GRACE Community Services, Houston, Texas	4,084,186	1,216,511	Direct assistance, case management, disaster preparedness training for African American communities in Houston	n/a
Texas Annual Conference	4,551,477	2,006,554	Direct assistance, case management, rebuilding, for 4,766 individuals affected by Hurricane Rita	348
Other Annual Conferences	336,650	336,650	Direct assistance, case management for Hurricane Katrina survivors displaced to those conferences, serving approximately 2,203 displaced individuals	n/a
Other UM Institutions	658,806	658,806	Emergency grants to United Methodist institutions destroyed by Hurricane Katrina so they could continue to provide social services to their constituents	

UMCOR Training	393,967	393,967	Training of new case managers to fortify ability to respond to a disaster the magnitude of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Dennis, Wilma
Disaster Program Support	1,011,931	292,602	Special ministries such as spiritual and pastoral care, call center set up
Local Faith-Based Case Mgmt. Agencies affiliated with UMCOR	2,300,000	1,987,439	Disaster case management agencies serving special populations. Covers gaps in social service funding. Direct assistance, case management for approximately 4,000 survivors
Katrina Aid Today Local Service Agencies (programs ending in October 2007)	5,000,000	4,137,337	Faith-based disaster case management agencies serving localized and special populations, approximately 8,000 survivors. Committed as a good-faith gesture in securing a government grant from FEMA
Katrina Aid Today Start-up Costs	70,428	70,428	Grant writing and implementation costs (refunded by grant)
International Response	1,500,000	920,829	Aid to vulnerable farm families in Nicaragua and Guatemala to restore wells and farmlands destroyed by Hurricane Stan
UM Social Services Properties	1,000,000	992,437	Rebuilt service agencies serving vulnerable populations, such as children and disabled, in the affected states, and also serving displaced Katrina survivors outside the Gulf states
Volunteer Housing	750,000	750,000	Built dormitory housing on UM church sites for the 136,000+ volunteers who have served in the region so far
Racism Awareness Training	500,000	250,000	Training for case managers and others in the impact of racism on the communities
Total	59,510,605	32,493,991	
Total Received	66,472,160		Any remaining balance is expected to be approved for additional direct assistance and case management activity at April 2008 UMCOR board directors meeting

OPERATIONS: THE NUMBERS

As case management operations reached a peak in 2007, the stunning numbers reported reflected the sheer magnitude of the recovery and case management task.

- At its height of operation, Katrina Aid Today's nine national partners and Local Consortium Members had operations through 135 affiliate sites in 34 states.
- As part of UMCOR's proposal to FEMA, a \$5 million matching program was included to support local grassroots organizations conducting case management for Katrina survivors.
- The consortium employed over 600 paid case managers as well as nearly 1,400 volunteer case managers.
- The over 70,000 households that were served by the consortium's case managers are represented by the following subgroups:

HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS AGE GROUP	Age 18-34	Age 35-49	Age 50-65	Age Over 65
	25%	30%	27%	10%
CLIENT ETHNICITY	African American	Caucasian	Asian	
	75%	13%	3%	
CLIENT GENDER	Female	Male		
	73%	26%		

- 84% of clients reported having a recovery plan.
- As of June 2007, the top valued services provided to Katrina Aid Today case managed households were "Utilities and Services," followed by "Housing" and "Application Assistance."
- Over the course of consortium program, through the coordination efforts of UMCOR and Katrina Aid Today, case managers at all levels attended a series of KAT training programs, including new web-based training.
- The Case Management Technical Supervisor team provided technical assistance, facilitated and/or participated in hundreds of regional meetings, agency visits, and conference calls to UMCOR/Katrina Aid Today national partners and local consortium members.
- Katrina Aid Today closed March 31, 2008. Transitional activities included communicating and implementing procedures for agency logistics, case closure or case transfers.

SUCCESS STORY

A NEW BEGINNING FOR FORMER SOLDIERS



Dean Snyder & Jane Malone/UMNS

At the end of July a group of former soldiers in Liberia's drawn-out civil war graduated with skills that have nothing to do with the guns of their youth. This class of 771 young men in Lofa County, Liberia, completed nine months of training in marketable skills such as carpentry, masonry, tailoring, and auto mechanics. In addition, they gained basic math and literacy skills and learned how to operate a small business.

Kezelee, one of the former soldiers participating in the program, recalls how his village was attacked and he was faced with the terrible decision of being killed or becoming a soldier. He chose to live and spent the next few years fighting in the civil war.

After the war he was left orphaned and without any peacetime skills. Kezelee was accepted in the UMCOR program. "I was very happy because some of my friends who were trained by UMCOR in 2005 were already skilled in various trades and have started earning money." Kezelee entered the carpentry program and is happy with his new-found skills, especially the literacy classes, "instead of thumb printing my name," he says, "I started writing my name!" Kezelee is just one success story of well over 1,000 who have found a new life after so many years of war.

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE

AFRICA

Chad

In response to the grim refugee situation in Chad, UMCOR joined Action by Churches Together (ACT) partners in supporting new work to support 35,000 individuals living in camps, helping to ensure that camp residents can live with dignity through site planning and management, provision of water, sanitation, hygiene promotion, protection, and community services.

Kenya

Violence that erupted throughout Kenya following elections in late December 2007 has bred more violence. UMCOR is assisting those displaced within Kenya and those who fled into neighboring Uganda through Action by Churches Together, the East Africa Annual Conference, and the Methodist Church of Kenya. UMCOR's support has helped more than 10,000 people left vulnerable by the conflict.

Swaziland and Ghana: Drought and Famine

Suffering from drought and the resulting famine, Swaziland and its economy continue in a downward spiral, threatening families' livelihoods and people's ability to cope with increasing bouts of food insecurity. In response, UMCOR assisted the Methodist Church of Southern Africa with a general food security program that benefited 27,000 people.

In Northern Ghana, the opening up of dams in Burkina Faso caused massive flooding and resultant displacement of people. The Government was forced to declare a National Emergency as 275,000 people were affected. Food, shelter, water and sanitation needs for more than 18,000 people were met through UMCOR funding to long-term partner Concern Universal.

ASIA

China Earthquake

More than half a million people were affected by damage from the serious earthquake in Southwest China, Yunan Province in June 2007. Through its partner, the Amity Foundation, an independent Chinese voluntary organization, UMCOR helped to relieve suffering and meet basic needs of 2,000 of the most vulnerable families made homeless and who had not received assistance from the government or other agencies. Emergency food, blankets and plastic sheeting were distributed initially. Rebuilding efforts are underway on houses, irrigation systems and schools.

Bangladesh

When Cyclone Sidr struck on the southern coast of Bangladesh on November 15, the trail of devastation left 1.5 million people living in shelters with crops, livestock, and infrastructure in ruins. With UMCOR

support, partner Muslim Aid responded with emergency aid to provide essential food, water and medical supplies, latrines, and transitional shelters for 150 families. UMCOR also responded through Action by Churches Together partners which reached out to 5,000 vulnerable households with basic necessities such as clothing and temporary shelter.

Burma (Myanmar)

The deteriorating humanitarian situation in Burma continues to cause displacement of civilians, driving many across the border into Thailand. The refugees are entirely dependent on outside support for their food. UMCOR, working through Church World Service, is securing and stabilizing the food rations for refugees. This helps providing a monthly food ration for severely malnourished children.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Nicaragua

Hurricane Felix hit the North Atlantic Autonomous Region of Nicaragua on September 4, 2007. The storm contaminated wells, flooded latrines and destroyed homes, community centers and health centers. UMCOR supported both immediate and long-term responses to help more than 2,000 families recover from this disaster and to be better prepared in the future.

MIDDLE EAST

Gaza/Palestinian Territories

Intense factional fighting led to more injury, loss of life and severe economic hardship for the people of Gaza. UMCOR grants helped the Middle East Council of Churches' Department of Service to Palestine Refugees (DSPR) to provide emergency cash assistance to 950 families in Gaza. The aid was used by families to buy basic provisions, ensure sufficient nutrition for their children and purchase other basic necessities.

SOUTH ASIA TSUNAMI

As communities continue to recreate the fabric of life and show hopeful signs of revitalized infrastructure, UMCOR church partners in the tsunami region have used UMCOR grants to complete many vital projects in the long-term recovery plans for Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka.

- The Methodist Church of Indonesia rebuilt the Methodist school in Banda Aceh and rebuilt a health center on the island of Nias. It also provided educational scholarships for 20 students whose parents were killed in the disaster to enable them to continue their education.
- The Methodist Church of India provided nursing scholarships to tsunami-affected students, reconstructed and repaired 299 homes, and provided training in tailoring and computer operation to unemployed youth and widows.
- The Methodist Church Sri Lanka completed the renovation and reconstruction of 100 houses and supported the reestablishment of the livelihoods of individuals who lost their means of income in the tsunami.

HARVESTING RECOVERY IN MANY FORMS

Empowering Communities in Indonesia

The Integrated Rehabilitation of Tsunami Affected Communities program was completed in March 2007. This program produced a wide range of life-restoring work in Indonesia. Some highlights of this work are:

With the goal of empowering community members to re-establish their homes and livelihoods, UMCOR Indonesia reconstructed 433 permanent houses and rehabilitated 91 tsunami-damaged houses in several Aceh Province districts to provide long-term shelter for 524 families. The impact of the new housing went far beyond providing shelter. It offered home owners and the community a sense of security and the confidence to begin rebuilding their lives. Many of the home owners now feel confident to look for work or start their own small businesses.

Participants in the business skills and technical trainings have increased knowledge and skills that will continue to benefit their businesses beyond the end of the project.

Some 474 families benefited directly from income generation assistance and have either started, rehabilitated, and/or improved some 256 businesses. Almost all residents of target communities will be supported through income generation packages, also called "social loans." The social loans are partially recoverable through repayments by those 474 families.

Providing New Educational and Community Facilities

Another completed grant project in Banda Aceh, Aceh Province, provided a high-quality primary school constructed by UMCOR Indonesia to 473 students, 61 teachers, and other staff. The school was designed to be more earthquake and flood resistant, with sturdier columns and improved drainage.

A new multi-purpose community center now under construction in Banda Aceh will include a community room, kitchen facilities and a bathroom. The center will be used by many groups including youth, girls, women, and cooking groups.

Sri Lanka Recovery

The Integrated Settlement Program in Sri Lanka has led to work that, as of June 30, 2007, has helped a total of 28,098 socio-economically disadvantaged tsunami and conflict affected persons. They received emergency relief and community rehabilitation assistance through the Integrated Settlement Program.

In Batticaloa District over 7,000 people now use basic public services resulting from completed infrastructure, such as roads, electricity, access to fresh water, and a playground.

Thousands of lives continue to improve as a result of shelter, infrastructure and livelihood assistance in tsunami and conflict affected communities in Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts. Two hundred permanent houses were constructed. Rehabilitation of a main electricity network, rebuilding of roads and drainage systems and replacing lost furnishings in a school are benefiting more than 200 families in several villages. More than 1,000 farming families will be able to cultivate their rice paddy fields year-round as a result of improved irrigation and access roads. Clean water for agriculture and farming is now available to conflict affected families in the community.

Five vocational training centers are being established in collaboration with the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka to enable 1,500 students to gain essential livelihood knowledge and skills. An emergency assistance plan was implemented to enable the population to reestablish their livelihoods by using bicycles, motorcycles, cooler boxes, lagoon fishing canoes, sea boats and nets provided to fishing societies.



SUCCESS STORY

Edward Nowolo, 33, may have never believed that he would one day be able to purchase a plot of land or construct his very own home. But he is doing just that thanks to the fruitful training he received through UMCOR's Liberia Integrated Crop and Pest Management Agricultural Project. Almost two years since he began training, his wife Sarah, six-month old daughter and two dependents will soon move into their new home by year end.

Edward, one of the original members of UMCOR's Integrated Crop and Pest Management training in 2006, has successfully grown vegetables and has earned enough proceeds from his vegetable garden to purchase land and build a home he can call his own.

Programs like this can transform lives and generate hope for a brighter future. The results are healthy crops, market goods and a steady income for families.

