

FIELD OPERATIONS

Afghanistan

- The UMCOR Sager Brown Depot shipped 6,721 health kits, 3,361 school kits, 1,961 layette kits, 4,705 sewing kits, and nearly 6,000 pounds of other items including school supplies, household items, sports equipment, clothing, and fabric to Kabul. The supplies were distributed at 29 kindergartens, schools, orphanages, and training centers, including girls' schools and vocational centers for blind and disabled people.
- In Kabul and Paktya Provinces, UMCOR is supplying materials and engineering assistance while beneficiaries supply the labor in constructing 540 shelters and latrines in four sites for returning refugees. This program, which targets the most vulnerable members of returnee communities, will provide new homes for over 3,200 returning refugees. UMCOR also began work on eight wells in these communities to provide all residents with a reliable source of clean water.
- Households that were determined to be especially vulnerable received the gift of goats. UMCOR distributed 751 pairs of milk-bearing goats that will help families increase their nutrition and income through their steady source of milk and wool.

Armenia

- The Cheese Distribution Program delivered locally produced cheese to over 58 institutions supporting about 6,816 vulnerable children, disabled people and elderly.
- Some 653 children and 224 elderly people living at institutions have an improved diet resulting from UMCOR's partnership with the Foods Resource Bank. Cows and beehives were given to these institutions along with the necessary training to properly care for them and process the milk and honey.
- UMCOR Armenia's Mobile Medical Team consulted 913 patients at risk on prevention of and control of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.
- To strengthen law enforcement's response to human trafficking, UMCOR Armenia trained law enforcement officers to become trainers on identifying people who are being trafficked and providing them with assistance. The office hotline received 270 calls with inquires about topics including human trafficking, employment, and legal and psychological advice.
- The Farmer Organization Support Program, including 15 agricultural cooperatives, continued to receive capacity building assistance in areas such as financial and organizational management.

Azerbaijan

- UMCOR Azerbaijan consulted 11,527 internally displaced patients through its community healthcare providers, distributed free medicines and medical supplies to medicine dispensaries, state health facilities, and children's institutions.
- Successfully completed renovation of showers and bathrooms in an institution in Baku for children who are deaf and unable to speak. Some 355 children attend the school from across the country.

Democratic Republic of Congo

- More than 2,000 girls in North Katanga province attended 56 primary schools funded through grants from UMCOR Emergency Service Office and USAID, through AED. The girls also work with mentors who encourage them to go to school and follow-up with them when they are absent. The girls received medical checkups, mentoring on hygiene and training on HIV/AIDS prevention.
- The Kamina food security program, funded by USDA, provides agricultural training, seeds and tools, and excavation of hand-pump water wells in 35 communities serving 45,000 beneficiaries.
- Beneficiaries involved in the Kamina and Likasi microfinance programs saved a total of US \$183,462, while increasing their savings association members and training 4,977 people.

Georgia

- UMCOR Georgia carried out coordination responsibilities as consignee of the US Department of State/Project Hope-sponsored September airlift by liaising with appropriate government officials and NGO partners. As part of the airlift, UMCOR imported \$6,420,154 worth of medicines which are being distributed to 92 health institutions and ambulance services throughout the country.
- Pharmaceuticals were delivered to 109 health facilities and non-medical goods donated by the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot were distributed to 227 target facilities.
- UMCOR Georgia's agricultural staff met with some 4,150 farmers as part of the *Modern Agricultural Quest* program in the Samtskhe-Javakheti and Shida-Kartli regions of the country.

Haiti

- A container of health and school kits arrived from UMCOR Sager Brown valued at \$204,502. Contents were distributed to 17,772 beneficiaries in Haiti's public schools.
- More than 1,800 households were recruited for the entire Dondon Agriculture Project. Over 80,000 pounds of vegetable seed were planted by 750 participating households.
- Two piggeries were constructed to house the Creole pigs in the Creole Pig Program and reintroduced the Creole pig into Haiti in collaboration with the Mouvement Paysan du Papaye (MPP), a local NGO.

- The Micro-credit program (a cooperative agreement between UMCOR and COD of the Methodist Church of Haiti) formed 12 micro-enterprise units through five community banks, with women comprising 75% of the beneficiaries.

Indonesia

(See full report in South Asia Tsunami section.)

Liberia

- The Apprenticeship Skill Training Program funded by UNDP culminated in graduation ceremonies for 771 ex-combatants in Lofa County. Gaining skills training in carpentry, masonry, tailoring, and auto mechanics, the former soldiers also learned basic math and literacy skills as well as training in small business. The participants took part in community peace building and reconciliation activities as well.
- In May, a 40-foot container with hygiene and school kits donated by United Methodists arrived from UMCOR Sager Brown. In collaboration with The United Methodist Church, the Ministries of Education and the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare finalized the distribution of hygiene kits to schools and welfare homes in Monrovia and schools in Lofa County.

Sri Lanka

(See full report in South Asia Tsunami section.)

UMCOR and UK-based Muslim Aid forged a partnership agreement that formalizes and globalizes a partnership that began between the two agencies in Sri Lanka following the outbreak of conflict in 2006. The partnership recognizes the impact two faith-based agencies could have when working together in other communities and settings. The goal is to help some of the world's most vulnerable people and to be a model for peace.

Sudan

UMCOR operated programs in food security, education, child protection, water and sanitation, and shelter construction in South Darfur and Southern Sudan, benefiting tens of thousands of people thirsting for hope amidst the humanitarian crisis in the region.

- UMCOR distributed food to 57,654 beneficiaries in South Adilla. Between August and November, ongoing fighting between the GoS soldiers and the rebel factions in the region disrupted their food distribution.



Carol van Gorp/UMCOR

HUNGER, POVERTY, & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- During August and September, 1,625 tree seedlings were distributed under an OFDA-funded program through the farmer committees.
- Veterinary health workers received veterinary kits and first aid curative drugs, donated by FAO Nyala as in-kind donation for animal treatment.
- Milling machines for cereal grinding were distributed among Kedik, Reiadth, Ferdous Darfurian IDPs, Abu Jabra, Dar el Salem, Abu Karinka, and Jadelsid sites, and also to small groups of vulnerable households.
- The education and child protection program in Darfur funded by a grant from Ginhamsburg United Methodist Church served 526 children with special needs who are living in IDP camps and other locations. Children received books, clothes, blankets, chairs, mats, exercise books, and other items to support and comfort them.
- Even amidst difficult security conditions in Adilla, 12 communities were reached with hygiene promotion activities. UMCOR together with other agencies coordinated soap distribution for 800 people sourced from UNICEF as part of the hygiene promotion activities in El Naeem Camp.
- UMCOR constructed a water elevation platform for two water bladders in El Ferdous Camp, which helped in increasing the water supply for the newly arrived internally displaced persons from Buram. Also, shelter construction began for 500 households among El Naeem and El Ferdous IDP Camps.
- After torrential rains and severe flooding wiped out many schools and homes in Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan, UMCOR Sudan is rehabilitating classrooms in 10 primary schools and provided mosquito nets, soap, blankets, and other necessities. In total, 10,000 people benefited from UMCOR's work. More relief assistance includes constructing latrines and classrooms for the most affected areas, and supplying students with educational materials.

UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture and Development (SA&D) programs are grounded in the concepts of multiplying shared resources and building capacity to strengthen communities as a whole, while improving lives of many individuals in the process.

FOODS RESOURCE BANK (FRB)

Through its Foods Resource Bank partner, UMCOR is putting \$196,074 to work in food security programs overseas. One example: in Armenia, some 653 vulnerable people living at state-run institutions in Armenia will enjoy a more stable food supply in a program operated by UMCOR that provides these institutions with cows and beehives along with the training on how to care for them and process their products.

AGRO FORESTRY TRAINING AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN LIBERIA

Building on its successful six year period of integrated crop and pest management training, beekeeping, soy and moringa production, UMCOR-SA&D began introducing new skills into its participating communities. In 2006, teak cultivation was introduced and promoted as an environmentally sustainable long-term investment opportunity for furniture making and for production of electric poles. By early 2007, over 3,500 seedlings of teak were planted in three Liberia locations by about 90 farmers.

Another program introduced livestock production in three locations: Camphor, Sanniquillie and Ganta. A group of 100 women and men received training in keeping livestock.

MORINGA PRODUCTION IN GHANA

UMCOR-SA&D's Regional Coordinator Mozart Adevu is working with Ghana's regulatory bodies such as the Food & Drugs Board (FDB), the Ghana Standards Board (GSB) and Food Research Institute (FRI) in addressing issues of quality assurance and codes of best practices in moringa production.

TRAINING IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

As part of UMCOR's unique training method involving farmer-to-farmer exchange of knowledge and experiences, some 15 farmers attended a two-week training in integrated crop and pest management in the North Katanga province. They are currently training 300 other farmers selected from 10 communities.



Paul Jeffrey/UMCOR



Arne Grieg Riisnaes/ACT International



Paul Jeffrey/UMCOR

Until recently soybeans were a relatively unknown crop in the Kamina area. UMCOR introduced soybean cultivation there in 2004 to help alleviate malnutrition, and today, virtually every household in the area uses soybeans in the family diet at least twice a week. With the start of the planting season in November, soybean seeds have been distributed to more than 60 newly trained farmers.

BUILDING HUNGER AWARENESS AMONG US YOUTH, LA. CAMPUS

While fostering sustainable agriculture and building food security programs overseas, UMCOR also promotes hunger awareness among United Methodist youth in the US through its support of the Souper Bowl of Caring program. Some 4,635 United Methodist youths participated in the Service Blitz prior to Souper Bowl Sunday, serving at local soup kitchens and food pantries or helping feed the hungry in their communities. The youth collected 186,980 food items and raised \$777,752 in funds.



SUCCESS STORY

Beyan Ketty, aged 30, is married to Anita, aged 28, and lives in Montserrado County in Liberia. The couple is blessed with two children, Dwanah, aged 9 and Theresa, 6. Beyan was previously a fire coal burner. A year ago Beyan received crop and pest management training in UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture and Development program. As a result of that training, Beyan and Anita were able to become vegetable farmers. They produced and sold enough vegetables to raise money to send their children to school for the very first time. They also have been able for the very first time to pay rent on their accommodation in advance for one year. Beyan and his family live relatively well now, are healthy, and have won admiration and respect in their extended family and among peers.

