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UMCOR FIELD OPERATIONS: EUROPE & ASIA

Field Operations opened new offices in Sudan, Grenada, Haiti, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. Where UMCOR has significant funding from United Methodists or government partners, field operations teams provide relief, recovery and long-term development programs in consultation with local community leadership.

AFGHANISTAN INTEGRATED RETURN TO PAKTYA AND KHOST PROVINCES

Integrated returns involve a constellation of activity—shelter reconstruction, community improvement such as latrines, and livelihood opportunities. In Paktya Province, UMCOR served some 500 of Afghanistan’s poorest families. Using building materials supplied by UMCOR and cash payments, families and community members built their own homes. UMCOR engineers provided training and constant oversight to ensure structures. Contractors built twelve homes for extremely vulnerable beneficiaries. A similar program in Khost Province, to serve another 500 families, began in September.

PASSING THE GIFT

UMCOR provided all the returning Paktya beneficiaries with two goats and two kids. The UMCOR veterinarian trained families to care for the animals so that newborn kids could be passed to a second beneficiary. Through this “passing on the gift” concept, some 500 selected beneficiaries received goats and all of them gave a kid to a second family. Additional beneficiaries were scheduled to receive goats near the end of 2005.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In other Afghanistan community development activity, ten health clinics and four schools have been rebuilt, and 310 children received services from a transit center that assists children who have survived human trafficking.

ALBANIA

In Albania, 350 farmers participated in a program providing a boost to the sunflower production industry. The farmers received agriculture training and extension services, marketing tips, and assistance with strengthening their trade association and buying groups.

Farmers gained access to markets, processing companies, and other sunflower industry stakeholders. Farmers also gained increased eligibility for and access to commercial financing and were able to fund future expansion from conventional sources of finance. The program also built trust between farmers and processors through crop sales guarantees.

Children play on the beach in Indonesia near a village where UMCOR Indonesia is at work.

ARMENIA
MOBILE MEDICAL TEAM
HELPS ARMENIANS
GET HEALTHY

Health. It's a word that is at work every day in Armenia. Since 2003, a three-doctor Mobile Medical Team has worked in three regions of the country, consulting patients at risk of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), as well as patients susceptible to tuberculosis (TB). Staff members also trained local primary health care providers and conducted public health education activities, including training peer educators. The holistic approach—education, prevention, and treatment—made a difference in the health of thousands of Armenians by preventing the spread of the target diseases.

FREE SERVICES PROVIDED BY MMT HEALTH STAFF

- Consulted some 2,500 patients at risk of having HIV/AIDS and STIs
- Provided STI treatment to some 840 patients and advised them to notify their partners and invite them for a consultation with the MMT
- Provided free and voluntary HIV counseling to more than 900 patients and testing on request
- Distributed condoms
- Attended to 1,250 TB-related cases and provided free testing for diagnosis of TB

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT
OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESS
(IMCI) PROGRAM

Children are especially vulnerable to illness. In integrated management of childhood illness, medical workers train pediatricians, physicians, family doctors, and pediatric nurses to recognize and treat common childhood diseases. UMCOR also made 114 medicine distributions to health institutions.

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

UMCOR provided more than 150 health facilities with free medicines and supplies. Thousands of vulnerable Armenians benefited.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING
PROGRAM

UMCOR continued to work with local NGO Democracy Today to raise awareness about human trafficking issues. UMCOR sponsored a telephone hot line. All trafficking survivors at the shelter received health exams and psychological assistance. Some received vocational training and limited financial support. Armenian and Georgian border guards received training on human trafficking to increase their capacity to identify potential trafficking casualties.

AGRICULTURE AND
NUTRITION PROGRAMS

UMCOR Armenia is improving farmers' knowledge and skills, expanding access to quality tools and to credit, and providing nutritious supplements to secondary beneficiaries.

FARMERS ORGANIZATION SUPPORT PROGRAM IN ARMENIA (FOSPA)

UMCOR staff worked with farmer organizations to develop business plans and to access interest-free loans to support their work.

DEMONSTRATION FARMS

UMCOR staff trained more than 900 farmers in new farming methods and distributed produce and livestock to orphanages, hospitals, and other communities.

CHEESE DISTRIBUTION

Participating dairy manufacturers distributed valuable nutritional assistance to 80 institutions for children and the elderly to supplement beneficiaries' limited daily diets.

AREGAK MICRO-CREDIT
PROGRAM

Active in over 400 communities in nine provinces of Armenia and in Nagorno-Karabakh, this successful program targeted beneficiaries who need capital to set-up or expand small businesses but who have limited access to traditional sources of credit. Efforts continued to register AREGAK as a local organization to set the stage for continuing the program's good work long into the future.

AZERBAIJAN
BAKU CLINIC TREATS
THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES

More than 1,000 patients per month seek treatment at the UMCOR refugee clinic in Baku. This clinic provides free-of-charge primary health care services and tuberculosis testing and treatment for refugees and asylum seekers living in Azerbaijan. Refugees, mainly from Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and the Middle East, have very limited financial resources and are unable to access local health services. They have fled conflict or persecution in their home country and often suffer both health and psychological illnesses. Staff doctors include a pediatrician, gynecologist, tuberculosis specialist, and a psychologist. Patients are referred to specialists if additional care is needed, and the medical team proactively targets the health of refugee children by regularly visiting Chechen schools and children's centers to examine the children. Some refugees are also provided subsistence allowances and/or vocational training.

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

In emergency medical services, UMCOR continued to provide community-based health consultations to thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and distributed free medicines, medical supplies, and non-medical goods to 11 UMCOR medicine dispensers, 53 state health facilities, 37 children's institutions, four elderly institutions, two correctional institutions, one invalid house, and several local NGOs.



A man rests amid the wreckage of his home in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, following the Dec. 26 tsunami that devastated the area. A delegation of mission and communications leaders of the United Methodist Church visited areas of Sumatra, Indonesia, near the epicenter of the earthquake that triggered the waves.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (B&H)

The era of relief in Bosnia and Herzegovina is drawing to a close. After 13 years, UMCOR Bosnia and Herzegovina is closing its first permanent in-country operation outside the US. The UMCOR program—over the years totaling over \$133 million in development and services in Bosnia and Herzegovina—began in the midst of the war and humanitarian crisis in 1993. The future is now up to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina themselves. External support for development and reform in B&H continues with local partners determining objectives and outcomes.

Closing ceremonies were held in Sarajevo on January 17, 2006.

GEORGIA THE MOST VULNERABLE RECEIVE HEALTH CARE

This UMCOR health program has been under way since 1993. While much has changed in Georgia since then, many Georgians are still unable to afford health care or life-saving medicines. UMCOR continued to help vulnerable populations in Georgia by distributing medicines and medical supplies to over 20 health facilities each month in the Imereti Region of Western Georgia, in the capital city of Tbilisi, and in the Gali District, which is part of the disputed region of Abkhazia.

Each health facility is monitored to ensure that the medicines and supplies are only given to the most vulnerable, defined as internally displaced persons, elderly persons without families, the disabled, families with more than three children under 15 years old, families without an income-earning member, orphans, and single mothers. Additionally, 277 distributions of health kits and other items from UMCOR Sager Brown were made to institutions for the vulnerable.

INDONESIA SHELTER RECONSTRUCTION, PUBLIC WORKS, AND INCOME

UMCOR workers built 10 demonstration homes and turned them over to their new families. Another 422 new homes are under way. Workers are repairing about 90 homes that could be salvaged. Water, drainage systems, and road repair were on the docket for UMCOR workers cooperating with Community Development Committees. Some 250 entrepreneurs in Bireuen, including women with business skills, are receiving skills training and new sources of income generation. Initial proposals were diverse—replacement of fishing equipment, motorcycle repair shops, and bamboo furniture workshops.

SRI LANKA

UMCOR received formal recognition and registration as an International Non-Governmental Agency by the Social Services Ministry of Sri Lanka. In recovery efforts in Sri Lanka, UMCOR partnered with the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka.

Similar work took place in two major regions: Batticaloa and Trincomalee.

- Underwater debris was a first activity, to ready beaches for the return of fishing societies. An important side benefit is the infusion of cash income into village economies devastated by loss of life and traditional livelihoods.
- Road rehabilitation. The rehabilitation of a school road is a relatively small-scale infrastructure project with a huge impact on the community. Reconstruction of the school road will directly affect approximately 1,500 families (including 1,200 students) who use the road every day. Most of the beneficiaries are fishing families who have lost part of their livelihoods. Work will be completed in early 2006.
- UMCOR rehabilitated an irrigation channel in the Muthur area. This irrigation channel supports up to 800 acres of paddy field. Some 600 families restarted farming in the area as a result. An access road to the fields was completed. Nearby, UMCOR workers rebuilt damaged irrigation tanks.
- Flooding seawater killed many crops and fruit trees. UMCOR's replacement of 8,400 fruit seedlings for 1,200 families earned a government commendation.

UMCOR also supported the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka with transportation and computer equipment as part of the capacity-building program.



Sri Lanka Beach Clearance.



UMCOR FIELD OPERATIONS: AFRICA & CARIBBEAN

LIBERIA SKILLS TRAINING AND ROAD REBUILDING

Former soldiers and people who were caught up in Liberia's long civil war often have no clear way to reintegrate into their communities at peacetime. UMCOR implemented a skills training project for 1,200 people in this situation. Skills training included road rehabilitation; training in various trades such as carpentry, masonry, tailoring, blacksmithing, auto mechanics; and agriculture production and management. It also included literacy and arithmetic classes, trauma and reconciliation counseling and basic training in cash box management. Training was carried out by selected trainers and technicians recruited from within the local communities. Beneficiaries received monthly stipend for food and transportation.

ROAD REHABILITATION

To improve access and traffic flow on the 60-kilometer main road between Zorzor and Beyan town, UMCOR paid 150 women and men—some of them former combatants in the war—to repair culverts, clean up bridges, and fill pot holes.

AGRICULTURE REHABILITATION

- The 300 people who participated fully in practical training in agriculture production and management practice are now in a position to establish and manage their own farms. Tools provided at the beginning of the project were distributed at the close to beneficiaries.
- Swamp rice, cocoa, and coffee production exceeded plan. Enough seeds were harvested to fulfill seed requirements of agricultural beneficiaries in the 2006 crop season.
- Blacksmith beneficiaries in Foya and Kolahun district learned how to produce small implements and equipment needed by the community. In addition, they were able to extend their income from the sales of their produce.
- With the construction of standard fish ponds in the five districts, fishery development has increased by 200%.

Throughout the project a committee of beneficiaries, trainers, and community members ensured that skills of management, community participation, and ownership were strongly addressed to ensure continuity and sustainability.

SUCCESS STORY

SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP : UMCOR AND GINGHAMSBERG CHURCH

A partnership with the Ginghamburg United Methodist Church, Tipp City, Ohio, enabled UMCOR to reach the war-affected internally displaced persons and host communities of South Darfur in Sudan. UMCOR opened a field office in February 2005. Church funds facilitated purchase of seeds and tools for the mainly agricultural beneficiaries, a vital need for them since the monthly World Food Programme food ration was always insufficient to meet their family food and other social needs. In addition, the beneficiaries yearn to be self reliant, and farming had been their main source of livelihood back home. Host communities, indirectly affected by the conflict, also lacked adequate seeds and tools to till their land, resulting in large areas of land lying idle. UMCOR's purchase of hoes, muk muks and other handheld tools from local blacksmiths injected capital into the local community, creating employment opportunities.

The partnership has enabled UMCOR to have a positive impact on the livelihood security of beneficiaries. In 2005 a total of 5,209 families were supported to prepare, till, and harvest their land (3,609 displaced families and 1,600 host community families). At an average of five people per family, this translated to well over 25,000 individuals who directly benefited from the agriculture program. The revenues—about \$230 per family—contributed to the restoration of livestock, food purchases, and savings. Earned revenue per household was approximately seven times the original cost. Given the precarious conditions in which displaced families find themselves, this amount of revenue in cash or in-kind has had a positive impact on the region's economy.

The Ginghamburg Church is viewed with much respect and gratitude by the community—especially after their field visit in August, a first donor visit in Al Daein. Beneficiaries appreciate the twofold aspect of the program: support to needy farmers and support of the daily needs of families. Future family welfare is a compelling motive for a family to participate in any relief and development project. Hence, Al Daein community and government officials have pledged to nurture and protect the program. UMCOR enjoys enormous support from the community and local government administration, made possible by this partnership.

TRADE SKILLS TRAINING

SKILL	BENEFIT
Carpentry, Upholstery	100% of the beneficiaries are in a position to run their own small carpentry or upholstery businesses.
Masonry	100% of the beneficiaries are able to do all sorts of masonry work without external support.
Tailoring	This sector showed exceptional impact in motivating the beneficiaries for their future careers. 100% of the beneficiaries are able to handle tailoring activities including preparing saleable quality items. Almost all wish to continue with the tailoring business.
Auto Mechanics	Some 85% of beneficiaries are able to undertake simple to medium repairs. About 10% showed interest in starting and running their own business. About 5% of them would be able to run their own garages independently.
TOTAL BENEFICIARIES	1,050

ACCELERATED LEARNING FOR LITERACY AND MATH SKILLS

All the 1,050 agricultural and skills sector beneficiaries received accelerated literacy and arithmetic education three times per week. Out of the 80% originally registered illiterate beneficiaries, nearly all are now able to read, write, and do some numeric work.

COUNSELING

Some 1,200 persons benefited from individual and group counseling sessions.

SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Training in small business management (cash box management, marketing concepts) was provided to persons intending to enter into business. Among these were fishing groups, blacksmiths, and seed and animal sales groups.

TRANSIT CAMPS MANAGEMENT

Two transit camps and two way stations in Lofa County operated 24 hours a day by UMCOR workers. Major services rendered at the transit/way stations camps were:

- Food and non-food item distribution to returnees and displaced persons
- Payment of travel allowances to returnees
- Hygiene promotion
- Community clerk services
- Gender and child protection monitoring
- Camp security

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

GIRLS' SCHOLARSHIP IN LUBUMBASHI AND RURAL KATANGA

All the above activities were possible through the cooperation of eight other organizations that provided specialized services such as counseling, tracing lost children, transportation and logistics, and medical service.

During the course of the project, UMCOR welcomed 16,866 refugee returnees. UMCOR also managed the distribution of emergency supplies in four regions during 2005. Blankets, undergarments, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, and lanterns are examples. Food distributed included cereals, vegetable oil, salt, and rice.

UMCOR identified some 62 potential community empowerment projects for the upcoming year, including teacher housing, medical staff housing, and sustainable income.

UMCOR has been instrumental in restoring a sense of normalcy in the war impacted country of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Nearly 37,000 people living in Katanga province participated in development programs that aim at improved education, food security, and community capacity. Here are some highlights.

Beneficiaries have received tuition, uniforms and school materials, and personal mentoring. Community participation increased— parents seem to be putting extra effort into their children's education. The project goal is to provide access to education for 2,000 primary school girls in areas affected by the civil crises. Girls traditionally face daunting barriers to attend school. The program has been influential in providing an alternative to participants. The objectives are:

- Payment of tuition or school fees.
- Provision of school uniforms and materials.
- Involvement of local communities through the selection committee.
- Home and family visits to reinforce the decision of the parents to send their girls to school.
- Mentoring and nurturing interventions through junior mentors.
- Parent/teachers association and interaction—community involvement in children's education.

Beneficiaries: 2,250 in 57 elementary schools.

A displaced woman farming near Al Daein.

PWETO FOOD SECURITY

The Pweto Food Security project was designed to provide sustainable food supplements and income to beneficiaries. A total of 114,727 kg of seeds was procured from the project. Beneficiaries receive training in improved agricultural techniques. Some 65 training sessions were held on land preparation and soil tillage, advantages of sowing on line, horticultural practices for various crops, methods of sowing, and seed bed preparation.

Beneficiaries to date: 10,467

SUDAN

There are four components in UMCOR's programs in South Darfur, Sudan, funded principally by United Methodist donations: distribution of emergency supplies, food security, camp coordination (a pilot project), and water projects.

- In 2005, some 10,670 households in the Al Daein and Adilla localities received emergency supplies like plastic sheets, plastic mats, jerry cans and buckets, and mosquito nets.
- Food security is attained with great risk, unexpected delays, and very hard work. Farm family members also have other work—gathering wood and bringing water from distant water stations. The farms themselves are some distance from the camps and host communities. Some 5,200 families received seeds and tools. Ancillary beneficiaries included community blacksmiths who crafted tools, and people hired to help with the thrashing and harvest. In addition, families "repaid" some of their harvest. Current beneficiaries are expected to repay a portion of what has been provided to them. This has two benefits: one, beneficiaries feel empowered and self-reliant; and additional beneficiaries can participate. Using the amounts repaid so far, an additional 616 families can be offered the program in the next harvest season.
- The UMCOR-Sudan camp coordination is unique at El Ferdous. UMCOR workers and beneficiaries re-roofed a reception center, dug new latrines, and constructed 30 houses to receive new families and provide a safe area where they could transition to their life in camp. A total of 618 individuals have been screened and serviced at the reception center.
- UMCOR rehabilitated Jad Elsid water yard. Preparations such as rebuilding pump houses and slabs commenced in five other locations in South Darfur areas. UNICEF will provide generators and complete pumping units to the five stations. This is a high profile project as UMCOR is now considered as one of the NGOs with close working relationship with the regional military command.

CARIBBEAN

Two devastating hurricanes leveled much of Haiti. UMCOR opened an office and applied for accreditation to start income generation programs in agriculture.