

## HUNGER, POVERTY, & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture and Development program has lived true to its name "Sustainable." SA&D's programs are not only environmentally friendly but also socially just and economically feasible. Besides, social issues play an important role in UMCOR-SA&D's capacity building processes. Assessment is based not only on knowledge of the technology but also on how programs keep societies and communities closely knit. This concept is at work among United Methodists, too. Sixty-nine churches participated in UMCOR partner Foods Resource Bank growing projects for a total of \$193,233 in overseas food security programs.

The multiplier effect of shared resources has strengthened communities as their farmers communicate information and learnings among themselves. The main thrust of all the sustainable agriculture programs is capacity building. UMCOR-SA&D introduced a unique training method, a farmer-to-farmer exchange of knowledge and experiences, to farmers in Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ghana. Agricultural technologies included in the training were beekeeping, integrated crop & pest management, agro-forestry and the production and utilization of moringa, the miracle plant. Trainers are mostly farmers with proven field experience in the subjects in which they serve as facilitators.

Participants have responded to these trainings with formation of their own learning groups in their home communities. They also have successfully created innovations in these fields of study and have shared such innovations and results with other farmers and entire communities. Here are examples.

### BEEKEEPING AND MICRO-LOAN PROGRAM IN LIBERIA

The UMCOR-supported beekeeping micro-loan program, initiated in four communities in the Ganta area of Liberia, resulted in a harvest of 300 gallons of honey in 2006. This is substantial income in communities where unemployment is almost 100 percent.

### TRAINING IN GHANA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SA&D trained 25 participants selected from the Southern sector of the Methodist Church Dioceses in Ghana. Topics were production and utilization of moringa and proposal and report writing. Another 329 Congolese farmers, 139 of them women, completed an 18-week training in Community Integrated Crop and Pest Management.

#### Continued Emphasis on Agriculture Technologies

Beekeeping, agroforestry, cultivation of new crops such as soy and moringa, and organic pest management were emphasized in UMCOR-funded programs in 2006.

## IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE MINISTRIES

Immigration and Refugee Ministries focused on four major issues as they brought the church's attention to the plight of refugees worldwide and of asylum seekers both inside and outside US borders:

- legal services
- material support policy
- comprehensive immigration reform
- refugee resettlement

(NOTE: Whenever UMCOR or its parent Global Ministries engage in advocacy activities, such as on immigration reform, we do so consistent with the 2004 Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, adopted by the General Conference. On matters pertaining to refugees and immigration, see specifically Resolution 119.)

### JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

#### LEGAL SERVICES

Justice for Our Neighbors expanded to 21 clinics located in areas of the US to serve growing numbers of immigrants with immigration legal services. On average the clinics serve 300 new clients a month. About 2,800 new clients received services in 2006 and there were more than 2103 follow-up clients each month.

#### Noteworthy Case Examples

- Peruvian man, husband of a young U.S. citizen and mother, finally granted a visa to enter the U.S. to join his family and take care of them.
- Three unaccompanied children granted permanent residency are soon to be adopted by foster parents.
- A Mexican man who had been in the US since age 3 granted lawful status.
- A Thai widow of a US citizen finally granted lawful status after husband's death.
- JFON Attorney T.J. Mills scored a significant legal victory when the Board of Immigration Appeals, the highest immigration court, declared his client to be a U.S. citizen based on the relevant law. The client was born in Guyana and had been kept in jail for more than a year.

#### PROGRAMMATIC REPORT

JFON National Advisory Committee, composed of UMCOR representatives, clinic representatives, and key programmatic supporters, met for the first time in 2006. The Committee's role is to consider network-related matters and submit policy advice and recommendation to UMCOR.

JFON Attorneys made numerous presentations on immigration law in many forums, including AIDS Interfaith Network in Dallas, TX; GBCS's workshops in Washington, D.C.

#### IMMIGRATION

**MATERIAL SUPPORT POLICY**

A new policy caused the numbers of refugees admitted in the United States in FY 2006 to decline. The number of admissions for this year, ending September 30, was some 40,000—much lower than the hoped-for 70,000.

**Material support is a statutory bar that has been interpreted to deny protection to bona fide refugees who have been coerced or who have acted under extreme duress in providing “support” to groups engaged in terrorist activity. The application of this new policy has in effect labeled refugee survivors of rape, robbery, extortion, torture and mutilation as terrorists.**

Thousands of vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers, including Burmese, Colombians, Liberians, Hmong, Vietnamese Montagnards, and Sudanese, were denied admission to the United States refugee resettlement program because of the expanded definition.

UMCOR advocated on refugees’ behalf by sending letters and Action Alerts to the 700-plus churches that have been involved with refugee resettlement over the past five years, requesting them to write to their senators and representatives to ensure that refugees receive the protection they deserve.

**COMPREHENSIVE REFORM**

Comprehensive immigration reform became a leading topic in 2006. In a call for compassionate immigration UMCOR sent letters and action alerts to more than 1,600 United Methodist churches, including 900 Spanish-speaking congregations. These issues continue to provide an opportunity for our multi-cultural nation to embrace our immigrant roots and be a safe place for the world’s most vulnerable people.

**REFUGEE CASE ARRIVALS**

**REFUGEES**

1,956 persons were assigned to UMCOR in 2006. Those who arrived were sponsored by relatives and the affiliate offices of Church World Service Immigration and Refugee program, and assisted by 79 United Methodist congregations across the country. Churches in the Denver, CO, area were especially involved in refugee ministry. Thirteen congregations made a commitment to either full co-sponsorship or assisting refugees resettling in that area.

**NETWORKING WITH ANNUAL CONFERENCES**

UMCOR refugee ministries continued to strengthen ties with annual conferences through expanding the network of Refugee/Immigration Ministries coordinators. There were 27 refugee coordinators in 2006.

**PROJECT GRANTS**

UMCOR funded projects with grants ranging in the amounts of \$600 to \$6,000.

- Ethiopian Community Development Council
- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
- Just Neighbors
- Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
- Vermont Refugee Assistance (VRA)
- Las Americas, El Paso, TX
- SEACM Serving Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Redding, CA
- Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries, Los Fresnos, TX
- First Friends, Elizabeth Detention Center Visitors Project, Elizabeth, NJ
- Vive, Buffalo, NY (Serving asylum seekers, many bound for Canada)
- Refugee and Immigration Ministry, Boston, MA
- Golden Vision Foundation, York, PA

**RELIEF SUPPLIES: UMCOR SAGER BROWN**



GOODS AND MATERIALS SHIPPED	
Nationally	Internationally
\$4,218,472.00	\$3,730,098.75
Totals:	\$7,948,570.75
VOLUNTEERS	
# of volunteers	# of work hours
3,073	43,534.5
MEALS SERVED	
33,971	

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 8,645 food boxes to local senior citizens
- 93 community housing projects

Date	Destination	Health	School	Sewing	Layette	Blankets	Bedding	Flood Buckets	Weight	Seal #	Value	Other	
3/9/2006	Azerbaijan	31,625							45,155	431	\$379,500.00		
3/9/2006	Grenada	6,700	2,352	3,433					17,793	454	\$168,066.00		
3/30/2006	Armenia	30,100							36,891	443	\$361,400.00	5 Boxes Shoes	4 Bales Clothing
4/6/2006	Tblisi Georgia	30,360							36,726	430	\$364,320.00		
5/15/2006	Haiti	8,064	9,744						38,228	458	\$204,502.00	63 Boxes Paper	
6/1/2006	Tblisi Georgia	12,769	4,705	672	1,961				31,386	428	\$285,732.00		
6/2/2006	Azerbaijan	16,129	5,377	672	589				33,401	449	\$285,424.00		
7/25/2006	Sudan	2,017	3,361						16,456	447	\$96,207.75	Balls-Frisbees	Blankets
7/27/2006	Armenia	6,721	6,721	1,345	1,935	420	56		32,201	448	\$251,418.00		
7/28/2006	Afghanistan	2,689	9,073			840			35,611	490	\$144,131.00	50 UNICEF	School in Box
8/14/2006	El Paso, TX							504	10,220	Truck	\$22,680.00		
9/20/2006	Waco, TX	11,305					224		12,000	Truck	\$135,575.00		
10/18/2006	Azerbaijan	16,801	3,457		1,963					202	\$308,344.00	5 Bales Shirts	Clothing
12/5/2006	Tblisi Georgia	20,160	2,688			472			35,109	429	\$276,887.00	1,013	Sweatshirts
12/12/2006	South Sudan	8,065	3,708						20,139	284	\$137,568.00		
		203,505	51,186	6,122	6,448	1,732	280	504	436,425		3,730,098.75		

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