

United Methodist Committee on Relief: UMCOR at Work

Multiplying Hope

Since 1940



(Speakers Notes)

Welcome to the world of UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief.



UMCOR at Work: Contents



- UMCOR purpose and mission
- UMCOR scope of work
- Four sectors or specialties
- UMCOR demographics
- UMCOR's character
- UMCOR funding challenges—and a call to action

Content of today's presentation

UMCOR Purpose and Mission: UMCOR responds to natural or human-made disasters. UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering with open minds to all religions and open hearts to all people. UMCOR is the humanitarian, non-proselytizing agency of the United Methodist church.

Sectors: Food, health, shelter, peacebuilding

"Demographics"

Our character—idealistic, practical, experienced, ready, faithful

Funding

Finally, we'd like you to have a perspective on how UMCOR's organizational character connects with the Gospel imperative to serve the very most vulnerable people—women, men, children, families in post conflict and post-disaster environments, To sum it all up, we'll show a brief movie at the end. And there will be time for your questions.



UMCOR Purpose



- Alleviate human suffering
- Restore social stability
- Empower community members in their own recovery

UMCOR's purpose is to alleviate human suffering—one of the four goals of the General Board of Global Ministries

Impelled by the compassion of Jesus, UMCOR responds in natural or human-made disasters with open hearts to all religions and faiths and open doors to all people.

UMCOR provides transitional development and disaster relief transnationally. UMCOR works collaboratively—with local communities, local religious leaders, including United Methodists in many countries, other faith based organizations, and governments—to help restore social stability, revitalize community structures, and empower community members to retake control of their lives.

By involving people in their own recovery, UMCOR affirms the dignity and worth of each beneficiary.



UMCOR Program Scope



- \$47 million in programs in 2004
- Receipts in 2005: \$168 million
- 3% fundraising cost ratio (to all income)
- 7% administrative cost ration (to all income)
- 88 countries, including US
- Specialties: Food, peace and civil society, shelter, health

The agency did \$47 million dollars of good in the world in 2004, and was a good steward of the generosity of United Methodists—spending just about 10 percent of these funds overall in administrative costs.



Specialties



- Food
- Peace and Civil Society
- Shelter
- Health

There are many ways to provide humanitarian service. In UMCOR—impelled by the compassion of Jesus—we work in four specialties or sectors, as they are called.

These specialties are food, peace and civil society, shelter and health.

All bear witness for the United Methodist Church and its commitment to service in some of the most challenging environments in the world.

After the conflict, after the major disaster, UMCOR settles in with its expertise to bring healing, build peace, create infrastructure, and provide basic necessities.

This is the way UMCOR does things: having the patience to be the last ones out.



Food Security



- Albania: Sustainable agriculture
- US: Foods Resource Bank
- Haiti: Hot lunches
- Africa and US: Hunger Poverty advocacy
- Armenia: Income Generation
- US: 9/11 response

Food security is about so much more than alleviating hunger.

Food security assures that everyone has enough to eat through interlinking many aspects of a society: its economy, its ability to learn new methods, its infrastructure.

Food security is that condition that allows children to get good educations because they've been nourished with a hot meal. Food security is about families having decent housing and health care, Food security is about retraining farmers in new methods that mean their fields can sustain crops for many years, even when nature doesn't cooperate.

Our favorite example is from Liberia, where farmers are learning how to be beekeepers thanks to an UMCOR training program. The honey produced this way is delicious and has many uses—building materials, food supply, medicine. In the past when a farmer harvested honey, she or he simply tore out the tree where the bees were nesting. Deforestation resulted. Even worse, the source of the honey died off! Now as beekeepers, farmers conserve the wild nests and trees. And the honey tastes even better!



Peace and Civil Society



- Georgia: Youth houses
- Armenia: Microcredit
- Sierra Leone, Liberia: Soldier demobilization camps
- Afghanistan: Schools, kits
- US: Justice for Our Neighbors—immigrant rights
- Mozambique: Landmine removal
- All: Practice of partnerships with grass roots organizations

Peace and Civil Society is the sector that is about building the social infrastructures that hold a society together.

In the US we think of fraternal organizations, police, fire departments, churches, commerce, banks, election boards, and the rule of law.

In a post conflict situation these infrastructures have often been destroyed.

So they need nurture and process in order to bring them back.

UMCOR's role in the nurture and the process includes building safe places for communities to come together, for example youth houses in Georgia.

In India UMCOR supports projects that teach democracy—for example, that everyone has a vote, and how to use it.

In Afghanistan UMCOR is currently rehabbing up to 26 schools and health clinics so that families can

And in the US—an event like 9/11 shook up some of our own civil society infrastructure, such as immigrant rights and the honoring of diversity. UMCOR has supported programs to restore and nurture these basic social processes.



Shelter: International



- Liberia, Sudan: Displaced persons camps
- Indonesia, Sri Lanka: Restoring homes after tsunami
- Afghanistan: Water, wells
- Pakistan: Emergency shelter
- El Salvador: UMCOR and Volunteers in Mission partnership



We said that Food Security is about so much more than having enough to eat. The same is true of the Shelter sector. Shelter is about so much more than a house.

Shelter is about helping create or recreate infrastructure so that refugees returning to their homelands can have jobs, an income, schools for their children, and a supportive community.

Shelter is about rebuilding whole neighborhoods in places like Jackson, Tennessee, devastated by tornadoes, and South Asia, where UMCOR is rebuilding whole neighborhoods after the tsunami washed them away.

At the same time as rebuilding, UMCOR works to provide job skills training for people who cannot return to their old employment following a disaster, and for people who have known no other life beyond the violence of being a soldier in places of chronic conflict.



Shelter: Domestic US



- US: Refugee resettlement
- US: Immigration legal counseling
- 9/11: Direct assistance in New York, New Jersey, Long Island
- US: Rebuilding after Hurricanes in 2005



In the US UMCOR also is active in providing shelter, both literally and metaphorically.



- Kosovo: Counter-trafficking
- Azerbaijan: Pharmaceuticals
- Zimbabwe: AIDS education, school fees
- South America: Community based primary health care

UMCOR's health initiatives ensure that babies, mothers, adults of all ages, and families in many countries have a chance to receive basic health care. Our safe house in Kosovo, for instance, offers health education to women and children whose lives were endangered through coercion into the sex industry.

Some pharmaceutical initiatives include Medicine Boxes—a project with Interchurch Medical Assistance. Every Medicine Box contains enough prescription drugs and over the counter remedies to treat about 1,000 people for a month.

United Methodists from 1100 churches have contributed about 3,000 medicine boxes since the program started a few years ago.

Some initiatives address the AIDS pandemic. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa has already orphaned a generation of children—and now seems set to orphan generations more.

And in South America and other places, communities are taking responsibility for their own health through community based primary health care initiatives.



- 12 mission hospitals in the revitalization program
- US: Congregational health, deaf ministries, disabilities

Some 12 hospitals are in various stages of rehabilitation thanks to UMCOR funding.

And in the US, deaf and disabilities ministries engage local congregations in health issues.

Now back to Linda, who will remind us of how broad our world really is....



Where in the World



- 13 offices
- 88 countries
- Six program units
- Some 600 staff in field
- 33 staff in headquarters





Funding



- World Service gifts underwrite many ministries—but not UMCOR
- Project funds: UMCOR Advances and other sources
- One Great Hour of Sharing—critical role for an offering

What are UMCOR's funding challenges?

First of all, UMCOR receives no funding from your apportionments. No World Service money comes to UMCOR.

UMCOR projects receive support from the generosity of congregations and individuals who contribute gifts of money to the Advance for Christ and His Church—the United Methodist second-mile giving program. One hundred percent of these gifts go directly to support vulnerable people in the midst of post-conflict or post-disaster environments.

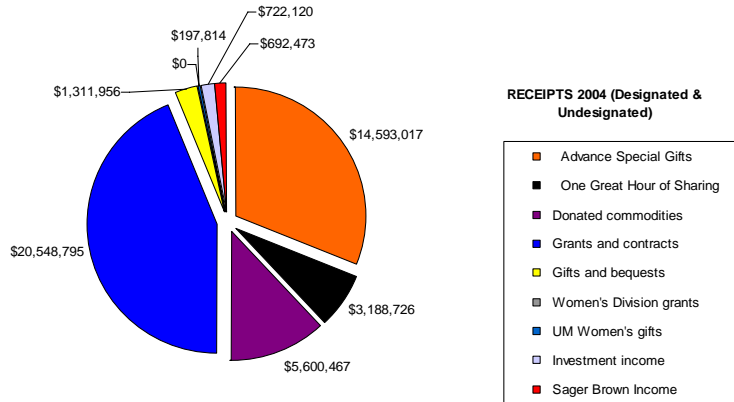
UMCOR also applies for project grants from government entities, such as the Dutch Government and the US Department of Agriculture; from humanitarian groups such as some units within the UN; and other faith-based groups such as Diaconie Werk.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering—received in many churches during Lent—is critical to UMCOR's ability to deliver these programs. This offering helps support UMCOR's administrative costs. Without this offering many fewer people would be able to benefit from the humanitarian service of the United Methodist Church through UMCOR.

Now we said earlier that overall our administrative costs are about 11 percent of our total budget. This percentage is calculated by dividing administrative costs by the total received in both designated and undesignated gifts. Looking at the cost of doing business another way—UMCOR spends every cent of Advance funding on projects.



Funding 2004 Unaudited



Here is a visual way to see how UMCOR's funding spreads out among programs.

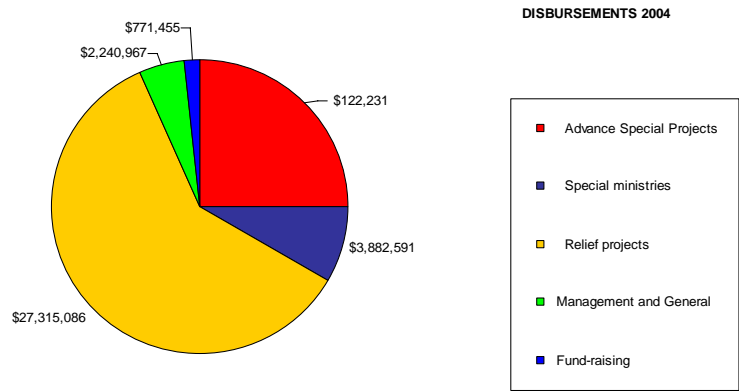
A few highlights:

(Add highlights)

United Methodists can also take satisfaction in UMCOR's leveraging of their donations. In countries where UMCOR's work is supported by funds from government and United Nations sources, funds from churches are multiplied more than 20 times. The use of funds from major grants extends the reach of United Methodist humanitarian work, so members' support yields humanitarian value multiplied many times over.



Program Response 2004 Unaudited



Here is a visual that shows where UMCOR invested its gifts and grants during 2004.

Here are some highlights:

(add highlights)



UMCOR Facets



- Global
- Complex
- Deep
- Faithful
- Ready
- Idealistic

These are ways to describe UMCOR as the staff in headquarters and in the field experience it. Some of these facets are really our aspirations as we continue to learn and grow organizationally.

(Platte River analogy)

Humanitarian aid agencies have a special role in assisting struggling people to find a new life after conflict or natural disaster has disrupted it. In our world, conflict is often chronic. For example Afghanistan was at war for 24 years—an entire generation! Liberia's civil conflict lasted 14 years—long enough for small children to know no life but the brutality of a soldier's lot.

UMCOR as an agency of The United Methodist Church holds as a high value the additional requirement of providing assistance that takes the whole person into account. In the complex environments in which UMCOR operates that means that each member of the team must bring a global perspective. Each one must operate from a profound understanding of causes, caring actions, evaluative judgment, and professionalism.

In this segment I will talk about how UMCOR responds to the complexities of humanitarian service. This takes deep knowledge of the way the world works and doesn't; it means UMCOR must be faithful, idealistic and ready for action.



- UMCOR responds to plight of millions in post-conflict environments
- In service in some 88 countries, including the US
- Very large, e.g. Bosnia
- Moderate, e.g. Mozambique, Haiti
- Small, e.g. Tanzania



UMCOR's context is the globe.

We're at work in 88 countries, bearing witness to the Gospel of Jesus by providing practical and often physical support to the most vulnerable survivors of chronic or temporary emergencies due to natural or civil causes.

One way to describe these is by size. In some 12 countries we operate very large projects—such as Bosnia, where UMCOR built 7,000 houses since 1992, and installed street lighting in the town of Mostar. UMCOR exits Bosnia this year after a 13 year stay.

In five countries UMCOR assists with operation of some moderate sized programs managed by others. Mozambique landmine removal, and Haiti school lunch programs come to mind.

In about 70 countries we administer Advance Specials to a number of small projects. For example, Tanzania, where a group of women in a DP camp applied for a small grant to make and market batik fabric.

There are different strategies for these different sized initiatives.

UMCOR's main goal as a global development and relief organization is to restore beneficiaries. That is why we think globally but partner locally. Connections to stable local organizations help people sustain their restoration.

UMCOR resists identification with partisans of any stripe.



Complex



- Whom would you choose?
- What's in the equation?
- The dilemmas of today's humanitarian service

Guy Hovey's story: For a moment, imagine you are an aid worker in the international field operations of UMCOR. You have a warehouse with enough drugs to save 100 babies from certain death—yet there are 1,000 babies in your area facing a tragic end without the correct medication. To whom do you give the drugs? How do you decide who lives and who dies?

Throw into the equation a war or the aftermath of one. Religious and ethnic tensions constantly spill over into violence and death, the murder rate is running at 50 per week, and massacres of civilians are common. The country is effectively controlled by warlords who demand extortionate bribes to allow aid to pass.

The babies you can save lie within a warlord's territory. These same warlords are the ones causing the situation you are working in. In order for you to save lives, you have a choice. Do you work with the warlords knowing that they are the perpetrators of mass murder and get the drugs through? Or do you not, and let the babies die?

You know that working with the warlords will bestow a modicum of respectability on them which they will use to exploit the international media and garner support which will help them continue the killing. You know that without the warlords help you will be unable to save lives but with their help you will be helping them to destroy more lives.

Add the presence of international troops who are viewed as peacemakers or invaders by the local population depending on their viewpoint. They have offered their assistance to force through your drugs at the point of the gun (or, in this case, many guns). Do you take their offer and save lives? But you know that this will ally yourself with the international forces, thus exposing you, your staff, and the communities you work with to danger from those who regard the troops as invaders?

What would you do? Whatever you do people will die. How do you live with yourself, whatever decision you take?

These are the types of dilemmas facing UMCOR staff in the field where they are working in war and post-war zones.



- Credentials
- Holistic approach
- Knowledge of the church
- Performance excellence
- Competitiveness

The complex situation just described makes demands on UMCOR. Serving in the field are professional humanitarian workers whose credentials command the respect of donors and beneficiaries alike.

Serving here at home are professionals who understand disaster response as a holistic endeavor—and who also know the church.

Together, the staff work at increasingly complex situations and deliver a product that is known for its quality throughout donor communities as well as receiving communities.

One of the reasons large donors select UMCOR as project grant recipient is the agency's performance in past projects. Other criteria often include program budget, implementation plan, and competitiveness. Strong denominational support allows UMCOR to seek sources of funding outside the church, and the professionalism of UMCOR's staff keeps the funding flowing.



Faithful



- Quality and Gospel link together
- “We say the Gospel in everything, and sometimes we talk”
- We work with people of all faiths
- United Methodists have “open hearts, open hands, open doors”



UMCOR serves constituents on behalf of the church in the spirit of Jesus, who always made sure people’s basic needs were met.

UMCOR does not proselytize—but UMCOR is faithful to the Gospel imperative to serve, feed, and care for the most vulnerable.

Here’s how:

UMCOR bears witness through its quality work and service—its emphasis on excellence.

The agency stands in solidarity with people of all faiths and cultures.

UMCOR honors human worth and dignity by inviting people to participate in their own recovery.



- Assessment
- Initial response
- Case management model
- Training
- Direct assistance
- Volunteer mobilization
- Partnerships

UMCOR aspires to be ready to deliver excellence in the field and at home.

A process developed through experience, learning, creative experimentation and attention to detail has resulted in a model of service that the agency uses in all its situations.

This process involves first a careful assessment of all the opportunities, threats, strengths and possibilities in a situation.

Then in-depth training for staff or volunteers is undertaken, with UMCOR providing support and assistance.

Direct assistance to beneficiaries helps to close the gaps between the post-disaster or the post conflict situation. This may mean cash to a landlord for a rent payment, or money to a former soldier so he or she can resume family life.

UMCOR never works alone, but with others, in partnership. This ensures that efforts on behalf of The United Methodist Church are sensitive to the culture where we work, to the needs of the community, and to the complexity of the situation.

UMCOR's mandate is to be ready for that moment to pay attention to where hurt is in the world.



Idealistic



- Searching for ways to affect root causes
- Linking hurts and needs with compassionate hearts



UMCOR aspires to the highest ethical standards. Because we try to live an ethic of caring, we are interested in root causes.

Houses built in Honduras for instance—deeds to women, property ownership always in hands of men before.

UMCOR belongs to/partners with many agencies that uphold high ideals, such as Bread for the World.