ADRA Global

Disaster—What Does It Mean to You?

Lisa Mercer,  
International Program Director

Disasters can come in many different forms. For many around the world disaster is the storm that washes away their home and steals their loved ones. For others it may be the drought that destroys what little crops they had, leaving them with nothing to eat. It is the ongoing cold that kills hundreds of animals and leaves people scared, wondering what is to become of them and their families. Disasters affect thousands of people around the world everyday. For some, the disaster never ends, but becomes a way of life without hope.

Over the past year ADRA Canada has responded to disasters and helped many families find hope. ADRA Canada continues to help families affected by long winter storms (dzuds) in Mongolia by providing fodder for their animals and involving them in gardening programs where they learn to dry fruits and vegetables to sustain them over the extensive winters. In Croatia, ADRA continues to help the blind with firewood, blankets and food to sustain them over the long, bitter winter. ADRA Canada also responded to flooding in Bangladesh and Mexico, providing emergency supplies to families who were in need. And at home we assisted the fire victims in British Columbia.

With your support, we can continue meeting the needs of those affected by disasters through emergency assistance activities. People do not have to remain helpless and hopeless. You can be a part of this by giving to the Disaster and Famine Offering collected in Adventist churches in May, or by sending your gift directly to ADRA Canada.

ADRA National

ADRA Annual Appeal Funds Helps Disaster Victims

Nick Trent,  
National Program Director

Each year a portion of the ADRA Annual Appeal is set aside for Disaster Response within Canada. When a disaster occurs, the ADRA Canada National Program responds to a request for assistance from the Conference office of the affected Province with matching funds up to $5,000. It was these funds that assisted the Adventist Disaster Response effort during the 2003 fires in British Columbia. Members of the Rutland Seventh-day Adventist Church teamed up with Home Depot and other local partners to meet the needs of those affected by the fires and did an excellent job! Soon afterwards B.C. was hit by flooding, and again assistance was coordinated by the B.C. Conference. We pray that 2004 is a better year for our West Coast friends.

Earlier in the year in Badger, Newfoundland, flood victims were assisted with ADRA Annual Appeal funds in cooperation with the Newfoundland Mission. A community of over 1,000 people was flooded. Within hours the community was covered in ice. Adventist Disaster Response partnered with other organisations and responded. Essential appliances were replaced, bringing relief to families in need. Again the generosity and hard work of Adventist Disaster Response and ADRA Canada made a difference...one life at a time. Thank you for your support in this essential service.
Saddening Facts & Statistics

Chronic under-nutrition impairs the mental and physical development of children, keeps people from leading healthy, productive lives and hinders the economic development of countries. Hunger is both a consequence and a cause of poverty.

“According to Prakash Shetty, Chief of FAO’s Nutrition, Planning, Assessment and Evaluation Service, child under-nutrition is a better indicator of poverty than looking only at food availability or per capita income. This is the case because it involves a host of factors including families’ access to food, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and health care.”

“If you reduce under-nutrition, you reduce poverty,” he adds, “because a healthy, productive population contributes to the economic growth of communities.”

- One child of every three lives in a dwelling with more than five people per room, or with a mud floor.
- Nearly 20% of the world’s children do not have safe water sources or have more than a 15-minute walk to water.
- Over 15% of children under five in the developing world are severely malnourished. In South Asia alone, more than 90 million children go hungry every day.
- 134 million children between the ages of 7 to 18 have never been to school.
- Girls are more likely to go without schooling than boys. In the Middle East and North Africa, in particular, girls are three times more likely than boys to have never attended school.

Out of 100 children born in 2000, 30 will most likely suffer from malnutrition in their first five years of life, 26 will not be immunized against the basic childhood diseases, 19 will lack access to safe drinking water and 40 to adequate sanitation, and 17 will never go to school. In developing countries, every fourth child lives in abject poverty, in families with an income of less than $1 a day.

The most flagrant consequence is that nearly 11 million children each year—about 30,000 children a day—die before reaching their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable causes. Of these children, 4 million die in their first month of life. In many of the world’s poorest countries, child mortality rates have either not changed or else they have worsened. In sub-Saharan Africa, child mortality averages 173 deaths per 1,000 live births, and in South Asia 98 deaths per 1,000—many times the industrialized country average of 7 deaths per 1,000.

ADRA Canada at Your Camp Meeting

ADRA, as you may know, is the humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each year church members meet for a retreat—usually a week long period referred to as “camp meetings.” These meetings, open to both church members and non-church members, are held in a beautiful country setting with camping and lodge facilities. This is a good time for ADRA Canada staff to meet members of the Adventist church, and share with them the work that ADRA Canada is doing at home and abroad.

If you wish to meet with ADRA Canada staff or are interested in learning more about ADRA Canada, please call us for directions to the camp meeting nearest you.

- Oliver Lofton-Brook
  Executive Director
  Alberta Camp Meeting
  July 9–17

- Nola Pal
  Finance Director
  BC Camp Meeting
  July 23–31

- Eric Rajah
  Director for Public Engagement (Volunteer)
  BC Camp Meeting
  July 23–31

- James Astleford
  Assistant to the Director
  Maritimes Camp Meeting
  July 30–August 7

- Lisa Mercer
  International Program Director
  Ontario Camp Meeting
  July 7–10

- Nick Trent
  National Program Director
  Man–Sask Camp Meeting
  July 2–10

- Sandy Brittain
  Administrative Assistant
  National Projects
  Newfoundland
  July 19–24

● ADRA On-Site

Continuing Benefit from a Finished Project

In the central Kenyan highlands, not far from the city of Eldoret, Mary is making a difference for scores of primary school children. Although primary education is supposed to be free, the reality is that often it is not provided.

Mary became involved with an ADRA Canada integrated project. She took out a loan, received training and got involved. With her loans Mary started a small school, collecting fees from the families in order to pay the teachers. The little school is very successful and when ADRA Canada personnel visited it this year, a beaming Mary laughingly asked if we were ready to give her an even bigger loan so she could double her outreach!

Unfortunately the project is now over; but because of Mary’s success, she will now be able to access the formal borrowing sector, something she could not do before. ADRA made the difference.
Each issue of Global Impact will feature specific needs. Your ongoing support helps ADRA Canada continue to meet the needs of others around the world.

Famine and Disaster Fund

‘Be prepared’ is not just for the Boy Scouts, it is plain good advice for anyone—especially for ADRA Canada. With your help ADRA Canada will be ready to respond to disasters that may take place around the world, and help victims of famine, floods, tornadoes, and unrest of all kinds.

You have read in this issue the importance of disaster preparedness, and the challenges people face when disaster strikes.

This issue of Global Impact is dedicated to helping those affected by disasters. Donations to this appeal will help us to respond to those in need of urgent assistance.

If all of our readers sent in just $50 some time before the end of the year we would have a third of a million dollars ready!

Thank you for your gift.

My Gift Commitment

Please Accept a Gift of: $ ___________________________, for the Famine and Disaster Fund

Please Accept a Gift of: $ ___________________________ to be used where it is needed most

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: ___________________________ Province: ___________ Postal Code: _____________

Method of Payment: ☐ Cheque ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Pledge: $ ________________

Credit Card Number: ___________________________ Expires: ________________

I would like to discuss other giving opportunities with an ADRA Canada Representative

Please contact me at this Phone Number: ___________________________
**ADRA Corporate Compassion**

**Glassco Foundation Partners with ADRA Canada**

Since 1998 Colin B. Glassco, a Hamilton, Ontario native, and his charitable foundation have been working with Dr. Boetang Wiafe, a local doctor, on various eye programs in Zambia. In March 2002, he visited the remote Gwembe Valley, 5–6 hours south of the capital, Lusaka, and treated trachoma, an eye disease, which when left untreated will cause a very painful blindness. Since then, he has looked at fighting this highly treatable disease by providing the following essential tools and resources: education, clean water, and medicine.

In 2001, Glassco’s organization drilled the first 10 water wells. With the confirmation that the clean water was having a positive effect on the villagers’ health, they drilled another 21 wells in 2002. Currently, the total number of wells drilled is 71. At an average of 300 people per well, it means that the lives of over 20,000 people have been impacted. Glassco reveals that visiting the wells is the greatest experience. “We were greeted with singing and dancing in celebration of the villagers’ good fortune; and, in fact, at one well I was given a goat in appreciation of the well being drilled. That, of course, was a great honor.”

In 2000, the Lusaka Eye Hospital was opened and The Glassco Foundation was able to provide all the beds and equipment for the children’s ward. Dr. Wiafe feels he will be able to restore sight to over 100 children per year. The Glassco Foundation has also committed to look after the costs of all the surgeries.

The future plans of The Glassco Foundation include providing funds for orthopedic surgeries for children with various deformities in Lusaka and providing the Gwembe Valley School with supplies. Right now, the Foundation is in the process of attempting to build a school/orphanage close to Lusaka to look after some of the many orphans in the area. If they are successful in their plans, The Glassco Foundation will also look at ongoing funding as their programs develop.

When asked what he receives most satisfaction from, Colin Glassco replied, “Two things. The first and most satisfying thing is knowing we have helped so many people. The other is having my peers support what we are doing.” ADRA Canada appreciates the initiative and generosity of The Glassco Foundation and is pleased with their partnership.

**ADRA People**

**Cargo of Hope**

On a blustery April morning in a Ukrainian port, a small group of men and women huddle beside a waterfront warehouse, pulling their coat collars up against the chilling drizzle. Finally, an official with a clipboard gives them a nod and the group eagerly begins opening an industrial-sized metal shipping container filled with medical equipment, dried fruit, clothing, and textbooks.

Meanwhile, half a world away, Edmontonian Lovyl Marion is having breakfast and considering how to best assist a group of local church women in a clothing drive. The women may never meet the recipients of the clothing, or the volunteers from the Alberta Adventist Community Services Society, who work closely with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada.

Marion vigorously denies the importance of his role in the network of disaster relief. Instead, as president of a volunteer board, he prefers to cast the spotlight on what he sees as the marvel of ordinary people giving of their spare time to help collect, sort, and pack goods into the enormous, forty foot shipping containers bound for countries struck by disaster.

Although Marion insists on sidestepping the limelight, there is no denying the benefit of his years of experience and community service.

*Esther Polishchuk packing supplies*

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knowledge in steering the relief aid containers through the maze of details and bureaucracy to their final destinations. His expertise and tenacity is critical: knowing what articles will be accepted in which country, which specific permits will be required, establishing reliable contacts to receive and distribute the goods to the intended recipients, and how to navigate the web of local customs and politics.

On any given day, Marion and others among the nearly 200 volunteers in Alberta organize the pickup, sorting, and packing of supplies that will end up in hospitals, schools, and communities in Africa, India, Eastern Europe, or the Philippines. Amazingly, items like trucks, ambulances, dry wall, lumber, even metal to build a wheelchair factory find their way into the containers. Each one is packed solidly and carefully to hold inventories valued at no less than a half million dollars.

Brought up in the Seventh-day Adventist church, Marion regards his parents' outreach work as his first inspiration. Today, he feels his life work is to carry out the words of the Bible and to share whatever he can with others. According to Marion, people need to focus on the search for truth themselves and develop their own “individual ministries.” A retired farmer, hospital administrator, and former member of town council, Marion ruefully admits he is still as busy as he ever was, having traveled three times to the Ukraine and also to Africa. In Llovyl Marion’s mind, there are no limits, no boundaries. Although the container projects can become overwhelming, he believes each one is a miracle, and that “Someone bigger than me is handling them.” In his own words, “I’m dedicated to helping others complete their dreams.”

ADRA Responds to Haiti Crisis with Food, Medical Supplies

A DC-10 aircraft landed in Port-au-Prince Sunday morning, March 7, loaded with 125,000 pounds of food and medical supplies provided by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in cooperation with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The shipment, valued at $160,470, contained sugar, rice, milk, vegetable oil, pinto beans, flour, and rice that will be distributed to Haiti’s residents affected by recent political turmoil. Additionally, the shipment included medical materials that will be delivered to hospitals with dwindling supplies and shelter materials for approximately 120 internally displaced families were also delivered.

As the country experiences leadership changes and ensuing instability and civil unrest, distribution systems for critical items have been disrupted. “The civil unrest in Haiti has caused much disruption in food and medical supplies and displaced many people. With this shipment ADRA seeks to ameliorate the situation of those affected,” said Frank Tmweuwen, bureau chief for disaster preparedness and response for ADRA International.

Become a Member

Have you ever considered becoming a member of the ADRA Canada corporation—that is, a member of the constituency? Under the bylaws anyone who gives a minimum donation of $100 a year can apply to be a member for that year provided that they make application and agree to the statements of mission and belief. Being a member means that you become one of the “owners” of ADRA Canada, and can attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting (and any other extraordinary general meetings) and can lend your influence and support to this exciting way of investing, involving and implementing! You may contact ADRA Canada for the application form, or download it directly from the website at www.adra.ca

Make a positive difference today.