How do you capture, in just a phrase, the outreach of the ADRA network? You and ADRA, embracing the world for over 25 years? Millions of people have been helped with access to water and sanitation, food and agricultural support, literacy and livelihood training, nutrition and health services, and assistance in times of disaster. More than 6,000 ADRA workers across the globe work to extend relief assistance, new opportunities and knowledge. Many thousands more volunteers make projects happen in Africa, Asia, South America and elsewhere.

As we in ADRA Canada have pondered the lasting positive changes to the lives of individuals, families, and communities provided through your support, a phrase began to settle into our consciousness: Hearts on the Ground!

Hearts—representing the compassion, care and loving involvement of everyone from the little boy who slips a dollar (or the established business person who places a cheque) into an ADRA Canada envelope, to the government employee or community leader who opens doors of opportunity for ADRA projects in his country.

On the Ground—representing the fact that ADRA projects face up to the real needs of real people and communities in poverty and distress. It isn’t just a theory, or a pious prayer—it really happens.

As I have worked with ADRA in six different countries, and visited projects in many more, I am impressed with the fact that while ADRA programs face many challenges, they really make a positive difference. There is a “blessing” attached to every activity.

Your heart.
Our ground.
Let’s keep it happening!

James Astleford,
Donor Relations Director
ADRA Mission
ADRA works with people in poverty and distress to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible action.

ADRA Vision
ADRA is a professional, learning, and efficient network that embodies integrity and transparency. ADRA reaches across boundaries empowering and speaking out for the at-risk and forgotten to achieve measurable, documented and durable changes in lives and society.

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Don’t forget to follow us on
Let Your Heart Respond

At ADRA Canada, the compassion we feel deep in our hearts doesn’t stay there. It runs in the water of the wells we dig. It bonds and strengthens the communities we support. And it shines in the opportunities we create. From Afghanistan to Zambia, from Kenya to Cambodia, to right here at home in Canada, we put Christian compassion to work.

You can too. Support us and help create a real change in the world. So your heart can be on the ground wherever we go.

1.888.274.2372 • www.adra.ca
Let your heart respond...
When we hear the word disaster we quickly picture the devastating effects of hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis. But what about drought, famine and war? These too cause loss, destruction, hardship, unhappiness, or even death. These too are classified as disasters.

Afghanistan is a perfect example. 30 years of conflict has taken its toll on the people and in particular on women and girls. Under Taliban rule women had very few rights and Afghan girls were denied an education. Now that the ban has been lifted, these girls are eager to go to school, but there are not enough classrooms to accommodate them. Schools and classrooms are often make-shift, with weather-beaten tents for classrooms and abandoned military equipment for playgrounds.

Charmgar Khana High School (gr.1-12) is one such school. Located in Sherberghan, Jawzjan Province, just below Uzbekistan, this school is situated on the site of an old armoury and consists of one bullet-riddled classroom and 30 tents. The 2,200 girls registered at the school attend classes in a nearby rental compound.

Grade 6 students might be considered privileged here, where their classroom is the only building on campus. Upon entering, one will notice the sunlight streaming through the bullet holes in its ceiling. A blackboard leans against the far wall. During a school day, grade 6 students huddle on the dusty floor around the blackboard, eager to learn.

Recognizing that children and youth will thrive and excel in secure, healthy and stimulating environments, A Better World has partnered with ADRA Canada and ADRA Afghanistan to implement the “100 Classrooms Project”. This is an initiative to assist and support the Afghan government in its effort to provide proper educational

continued on page 8...
facilities and services to the socially ignored women and girls through the construction of 100 classrooms in the Shergerghan area.

When considering the devastation and scars left by war, schools and classroom may seem minor causalities but imagine the joy girls will experience as they begin to socialize and learn to read, write and calculate. Imagine the impact an education will have on a girl’s life, on a country, on future generations. 100 classrooms and thousands of lives are changed forever. 100 classrooms and disaster is transformed into recovery.

Did you know?

In Afghanistan:

• 90% of girls over the age of 15 are illiterate.

• Over 70% of the schools are tents or outdoors with no permanent structures.

• $500,000 will launch one tomahawk missile. $500,000 will build 100 classrooms.

In the World:

• Nearly half of the planet’s 6.5 billion inhabitants is under the age of 25.

• Of 163 million illiterate youth in the world, 63 percent are female.

• Of the 104 million children aged 6 to 11 not in school, 60 million are girls.

• Educated women are three times more likely to take part in political meetings than those without schooling.
Through ADRA Canada’s Connections program, you can participate in a short-term project with long-term, life-changing potential.

Travel to an ADRA project and meet families and communities who are struggling with poverty. Experience the culture, see the faces, listen to the stories, and get to know the people we serve. See community development work in action and learn how ADRA transforms lives.

Join community members and participate in life-changing activities. Perhaps you’ll build a house for a family without one, give attention and hugs to an orphan, construct a dormitory so rural people can attend skills training workshops, visit and encourage an impoverished family, or help plant a vegetable garden. Whatever the activity, you can be sure that your presence will make a difference.

Come see for yourself the difference between the impact of poverty and the amazing potential of partnership and hope to change lives.

If you would like more information please contact Liz at 905-433-8004, Ext. 3101

Upcoming Trips:

Kenya Connections
November 23 - December 8, 2011: www.adra.ca/ConnectionsKenya

St. Lucia Youth Connections
December 20-30, 2011
Details will be available soon!

Caribbean Cruise Connections
January 26 - February 4, 2012
www.adra.ca/ConnectionsCruise
The ADRA network was quick to respond to the devastating earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan in March of this year and support is continuing for the country’s reconstruction work. As reported on the ADRA Canada website and eNews releases, ADRA Japan’s Emergency Response and Recovery Program is providing support to displaced people from the earthquake and tsunami. Watch for the May edition of the Canadian Adventist Messenger which is scheduled to carry a feature article on the disaster and ADRA’s response.

As this is written, one month has passed since the mega quake and the following provides an example of the type of activities carried out by ADRA Japan during one week in April:

• served 1,800 meals (including 206 lunch boxes) to people assisting in recovery activities
• procured and delivered non-food
items such as tissues, disposable towels, diapers, thermometers to a retirement centre in Higashimatsushima
• distributed similar items to victims in Kesennuma
• despatched ten volunteers to support project implementation, mainly for hot meal distribution.

As time passes, ADRA Japan is finding that it is not enough to provide “things” for the disaster survivors—they also have to find ways to help people reconstruct their lives and cope with mental stress.

Looking to the future, the local government of Yamamoto is planning to build 2,000 shelters/houses for displaced families. ADRA Japan is scheduled to assist 78 families re-establish households by the end of April through the procurement of cooking utensils, vacuum cleaners, electric heaters, table sets, bedding sets and towels. Household items for 100 more families are scheduled to be procured by the middle of May. The budget for helping each family is about $1,200.

Thank you to all the supporters who have contributed to this, and other ADRA Canada responses!

Disaster Summary

In the past two years, ADRA Canada has provided hope to victims of disaster in the following countries:

- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Congo
- Haiti
- Ivory Coast
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Kenya
- Mexico
- Myanmar (Burma)
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Philippines
- Serbia
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Uganda
- Vietnam
- Zimbabwe

ADRA Canada is currently responding to disasters in Ivory Coast, Japan and Myanmar.
When ADRA Canada was planning for the 2011 World Focus Event, we knew that we had found a speaker with a story that people would want to hear, but we had no idea how moving and inspiring the evening would turn out to be.

On March 6, over 700 people joined ADRA Canada at The Embassy in Oshawa to hear the amazing story of Kim Phuc.

Kim, familiar to many as “the girl in the photo”, told us of that day when she, her family and her village in Vietnam became the casualties of a napalm bombing. With amazing grace and peace, Kim recounted how she recovered from her injuries. Highlighting the challenges that continued to confront her over the years Kim spoke of how she overcame adversity, reconciled with those who caused her harm, and faces the future with peace and hope in her heart. Many were moved to tears and all were challenged to re-evaluate their personal response to adversity.

Kim’s message was complemented by the stirring performances of ADRA Canada Musical Ambassadors Christine Wollman and Naomi Striemer.

Thank you to all involved for making this a magical and successful evening.
ADRA Canada is pleased to announce that the current program supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has been officially approved for a three-month cost extension. The five year program was due to end 30 June 2011, but will now continue until 30 September, 2011. The budget for the extension is for $298,889, three quarters (3/4) of which will be funded by CIDA. The remaining one quarter (1/4) of the funds will be provided by ADRA Canada and our supporters.

This program is the longest and largest that ADRA Canada has ever implemented with CIDA support, with a new total budget of $6,798,886 ($1,699,721 from ADRA Canada supporters and $5,099,165 from CIDA) for the entire program life of 63 months. The program benefits ADRA projects in Mongolia, Laos, Cambodia, Kenya, Togo and Canada. Most importantly, this means help for hundreds of thousands of people who have been caught in poverty or distress.

You can help ADRA Canada with our commitment to this project by donating to the ADRA Canada/CIDA Projects Funds.

Thank you to everyone who generously donated their Aeroplan miles to support the humanitarian work of ADRA Canada. Our next Aeroplan Charitable Pooling Program will be throughout the month of February 2012.
As a member of the Canadian Food Grains Bank, ADRA Canada shares their vision of a world without hunger.

Farmers have always faced climate variability. Floods, droughts, and erratic rainfall have long been leading causes of hunger.

Now, climate change is causing even more unpredictable weather.

If we’re serious about ending hunger, we need to talk about climate change.

To learn more about this pressing subject and how you can become involved request a free copy of *Let’s talk about the weather!* Call 1-888-274-2372 or email your request and complete mailing address to pr@adra.ca.*

*to Canadians addresses only.
Please accept my gift of:

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$________ for the ADRA Annual Appeal
$________ for Afghanistan 100 Classrooms Project
$________ for Where Needed Most

_____ Please send me a copy of *Let’s talk about the weather.*

Please attribute my donation to the goal of my local Adventist Church:

__________________________________________________________

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Language Preference:  ☐ English    ☐ French

Occasionally, programs may receive more funding than is needed for a specific project, or conditions on the ground alter program activity. If that happens, ADRA Canada will redirect funds to similar activities that meet the immediate needs of the children, women, and men we serve.

Make cheques payable to ADRA Canada.

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