Your donations at work (pg. 6)
Dear ADRA supporter,

This *Global Impact* is a special issue to report back on what your donations to ADRA’s Disaster and Famine Relief Offering, and other ADRA Canada emergency response funds, have accomplished.

Just look what amazing things you’ve done! (pg. 4)

While the majority of ADRA’s work is development assistance – providing sustainable solutions to food, education, income-generation and health needs – a portion of our work also responds to natural and human-caused disasters around the world like drought, tsunami or war.

And each year, your donations to the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering collected in churches, and your donations to ADRA Canada’s emergency response funds, enable ADRA to have funds on hand to respond immediately when a disaster occurs.

Thank you! The assistance you provide is so valuable.

When disasters strike, ADRA is proud to be your hands and feet on the ground and to represent your collective compassion.

In past years, you have responded to this offering with amazing generosity and ADRA is honoured by your support. So as you consider a donation this year to our emergency response activities, I hope you’ll remember people like those you’ve helped this year: those currently struggling for survival in severe drought in Niger (pg. 5) and the Horn of Africa famine in Kenya (pg. 8), survivors of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan (pg. 7), those affected by floods in New Brunswick, those still struggling today to recover from past disasters and, sadly, those who will be affected by disasters in the year ahead—and again give generously.

With gratitude,

Michelle L. Oetman
*Donor Relations Director*
ADRA works with people in poverty and distress to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible action.

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ADRA CANADA Emergency Response Summary January 2010 - March 2012

<table>
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<tr>
<th>RESPONSE TYPE</th>
<th>PROJECT VALUE</th>
<th>BENEFICIARIES</th>
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<td>Drought</td>
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The severity of the famine in the Sahel region of Africa is escalating. Extended periods without rain along with infestations of pests have brought severe drought conditions and crop failures. The area is facing its worse famine in decades.

ADRA has been working in Niger for over 26 years with food security, water, health and sanitation and emergency response programs. Our efforts in this area are being intensified to meet the growing need.

Niger is already the poorest country in the Sahel. It is estimated that half of its population is affected by food insecurity, including 300,000 children under the age of five suffering from severe food insecurity. The influx of thousands of Malians, as well as Nigerien returnees fleeing the civil unrest in Mali, is placing even greater stress on an already fragile ecosystem.

*The Sahel region of Africa is comprised of eight countries: Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mali, Northern Nigeria, Cameroon and Senegal.*
About 20 kilometres outside the Nigerien town of Ayorou there is an expanse of barren, vacant land where a make shift camp has sprung up. The number of refugees and internally displaced persons occupying this camp has grown from 800 to 3,900 in just a matter of months. ADRA Niger is tirelessly working to meet the needs of these families, who often arrive with no more than the clothes on their backs. Water, hygiene and access to food are their most urgent needs. Small, inadequate amounts of drinking water are available from hand-dug pits in the dry wadi that cuts through the area. No latrines are available for the refugees and the closest market is 20 kilometres away with drastically inflated food prices.

ADRA Canada has contributed $10,000 to the $170,000 ADRA network initiative to assist ADRA Niger as they respond to this crisis. As part of this project, distribution of hygiene kits for refugees flooding in from Mali, valued at $20,000 has already been completed. In addition, ADRA Niger will drill four boreholes in the Ayorou area to provide 2,000 individuals with potable water. Latrines with hand washing units will be constructed for 100 families.

A partnership between ADRA offices in Canada, Denmark, France, and Norway has provided ADRA Niger with a heavy-duty truck to facilitate the distribution of food and other emergency items.

Finally, some big news! ADRA Canada has begun a food distribution to the most vulnerable villages in Niger worth $800,000! This response has been made possible with support from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

You can help save lives in Niger. Please support the famine relief efforts and donate to the ADRA Canada Emergency Response Fund.

Q: Can ADRA Canada Emergency Response Funds be used for a Canadian disaster response?

A: While the incidence of disaster is far more common in other parts of our world, there are times when the devastation of disaster occurs right here at home. When disasters strike in Canada, local services and governments can often handle initial response and recovery. Should an emergency require additional support, application may be made, via the local Seventh-day Adventist Conference office, for assistance from the ADRA Canada Emergency Response Fund.

DID YOU KNOW that ADRA Canada has contributed $5,000 to assist with the current flood relief efforts in Perth Andover, New Brunswick? To read more about this response visit [http://news.adra.ca/emperthandover](http://news.adra.ca/emperthandover)
Villages and towns racked by the earthquake suffered significant damage. Then, only moments later, survivors and rescuers were taken by surprise as coastal areas were struck by a tsunami wave rising as high as 23 meters, washing upwards of 10 kilometers inland, submerging low-lying communities! On that March day 19,000 people, both Japanese and foreign, lost their lives and countless injuries were reported. Homes, industries, schools, hospitals, retirement communities, shopping centres, roads, highways, the Fukushima Nuclear Plant -- nothing escaped the devastating effects of this natural disaster; not even the office and workers of ADRA Japan!

In the face of such insurmountable loss, ADRA Japan staff, although victims themselves, boarded a helicopter (the only mode of immediate transportation able to reach the remote and worst damaged low-lying areas quickly) and began the important steps of assessing and analyzing the response required to assist the survivors.

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How could that be?” I wondered. After all they were only talking about beans and corn!

Come with me to the north of Kenya. Not to the romantic game parks or the white sandy beaches filled with tourists. Nor to the highlands where nutritious soil provides rich harvests. Instead, come to a desert, almost barren area. This is where the Horn of Africa famine has caused overwhelming challenges to the local people. Their livestock drastically reduced by the drought, many of the people have little, if anything, to eat. We should take the bus, but it will take three to four days from Nairobi. We will probably have to stand much of the way, and there’s the threat of bandits. So instead, we charter a 13-seater Cessna Caravan. Flying with us is ADRA Kenya Executive Director, Gabriel Villarreal, and several other staffs from the ADRA Kenya office in Nairobi. Because of the security situation, and the severe logistical difficulties, this will be their first visit to the project, too.

Strong headwinds slow our progress and it is almost mid-morning by the time Takaba comes into view. We land on the long dirt and grass strip, and as we taxi...
back we find several Land Rovers driving out to meet us. A contingent of police, armed with rifles and machine guns are there to provide security and they, along with the local ADRA staffers, greet us enthusiastically.

We bump along a dusty track to the town, which consists of a few forlorn shops lining a dirt road. At the ADRA office a large truck is idling at the gate. After verifying that it is loaded with bags of beans and corn secured for the food distribution project, we head out to a nearby village. Initially ADRA planned to help two local communities affected by the current food crisis but the need has been so great, and the requests so pressing, that the relief efforts now reach 13 areas.

On our way to the food distribution, we stop at the District Commissioner’s Office. The senior District Officer and local village chiefs thank me for the generous support we are providing to local communities. I respond by stressing that I am merely a representative of ADRA Canada, that all this help comes from ordinary Canadians (yes, with some government support) who have sent donations of $10, $50, $100 or more to help. In my mind I am imagining all the individuals who have given to the Disaster and Famine Relief offering in their local Adventist church, given online, or sent donation cheques to ADRA Canada. I am expecting the speeches of thanks and the requests for more aid; what surprises me is the emphasis on development: “Help us to survive this hard time; but also help us to be able to cope in the future,” they pleaded. These leaders (and the community members at the next stop) do not just want a hand out—they want a hand to help them up...to self-sufficiency.

Our next stop, organized by ADRA Kenya’s Project Director, Patrick, is to assist with food distribution at a local community. (Some of the distributions take place as far as 130 kilometres away, up on the Ethiopian border). Under the doubtful shade of a thorn tree, ADRA has lined up (in rows of ten) sacks of maize and beans, with containers of vegetable oil and packets of salt. Weeks of patient discussion and negotiation with community leaders has helped select the most destitute and vulnerable households in the region, subsequently verified by ADRA.

Every beneficiary has been contacted and told exactly what assistance will be provided. All the negotiations are transparent and everyone appreciates that ADRA acts with integrity to ensure that the food gets to those in need. The

I am merely a representative of ADRA Canada...all this help comes from ordinary Canadians

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beneficiaries, almost all of them women, wait patiently.

The first ten women line up by their food sacks and symbolically place a hand on their rations. This signals (more than the signature or thumbprint on the ADRA distribution sheet) that they have “received” their gift and that it belongs to them. Once this is done, they start arranging for their husbands, children or use a wheelbarrow to carry the food to their home. Everyone chatters away happily, and that is when I am told that the ADRA food is sweet. You see, the careful transparent distribution method has ensured that people get a good ration (“we never received so much before,” exclaimed one happy mother) without a large portion disappearing to intermediaries. These women now have enough to keep the family alive for another month. The food is sweet...life is sweet!

As we take off from the Takaba airstrip that afternoon, I am proud of what ADRA Canada and its supporters have been able to accomplish. Since this project was made possible by the generous support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (of which ADRA Canada is a member/owner), I am also grateful to the Canadian Christian community that is working together to relieve the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people in the region. By nightfall, we have landed back in the modern bustling city of Nairobi, but I think of our ADRA team in Takaba; without electricity, without the comforts we take for granted, working tirelessly to ensure that ADRA’s reputation of helping people in poverty and distress shines brightly.
Join an ADRA Connections Trip

Kenya: November 19 - December 8, 2012

Instead of facing icy November winds and long dark nights next winter, transport yourself to the beautiful, warm, sunny country of Kenya for a trip with purpose. Application deadline is May 28, so be sure to reserve your place today!

www.adra.ca/ConnectionsKenya

Jamaica: December 19-30, 2012

During the hectic Christmas season this year, give a priceless gift! Donate ten days of your precious time to construct latrines in Jamaica and help save lives. With the absence of proper sanitation facilities in poverty stricken communities, waterborne diseases can thrive and seriously affect the health of the inhabitants. Working side-by-side with local labourers, you will be part of an important sanitation program. Learn more about this Christmas adventure at

www.adra.ca/ConnectionsJamaica
Others members of the team boarded trucks loaded with supplies to make the long journey along severely damaged roads, to the most significantly damaged and remote areas of Touhoku area. Meanwhile, ADRA supporters also responded immediately with donations supporting victim relief efforts. Your generosity and compassion made it possible for ADRA to provide meals to evacuees, care and support to the elderly and disabled, operate a dining hall, and distribute non-food items (NFI’s) to temporary housing residents.

By March 15, ADRA Japan had participated in the establishment of an Evacuation Centre in Takasago Secondary School, Sendai City; providing evacuees with supplementary meals (vegetables to balance the largely carb-heavy meals being provided). And a few days later, evacuee centers, also serving supplementary vegetable meals, were established at Okino Secondary School and Rokugo Primary school.

The same week, ADRA Japan responded to a call from the Japan Network for Nursing Homes to assess the status and needs of nursing homes in the area. Five facilities in three communities were immediately identified as needing assistance. Residents had been saved by the dedicated nursing home staff, who carried them to second and third floor rooms to escape the rising waters of the tsunami, and while the buildings were found to be structurally sound, the water had deposited rubble, debris and mud on the first level of the facilities. ADRA recruited volunteers to assist in the clean-up and repairs, while staff focused on securing emergency supplies for the residents including adult diapers, toilet tissue, detergent, a washing machine, water, fuel, cooking equipment and food.

The compassion and energy of the ADRA team was boundless. When the team realized that Yamamoto City Disaster Response Headquarters staff members were not entitled to receive meals from government programs due to their status as public servants, the ADRA Dining Hall was quickly set up. Working with the Council of Social Welfare to meet the needs of the city employees, the soup kitchen operated six hours a day. Over a four month period more than 11,000 meals were served to an average of 44 people daily. An even greater gift was the peace of mind and healing brought to workers who needed to concentrate on their daily disaster relief and reconstruction efforts.
Public servants utilizing the dining hall had the following to say:

“I was grateful for the fruits and vegetables served at the ADRA Dining Hall.”

“I felt relaxed every time I came to the ADRA Dining Hall.”

“I was healed by talking with ADRA staff and volunteers while eating.”

Recognizing the dedication and exemplary standards of ADRA Japan, government officials enlisted their assistance with transitioning victims in the cities of Yamamoto, Watari and Higashimatusima to temporary government housing. ADRA’s assistance included supplying and distributing items such as pots and pans, appliances and personal hygiene kits to the displaced families. ADRA procured the items, secured and managed a warehouse, and recruited and trained volunteers to assist in the distributions, benefitting 4,320 households.

The dedication and efforts of ADRA Japan during this crisis is commended by the staff, supporters, and beneficiaries of the ADRA network. Their sacrifice and relentless efforts to ensure the welfare of the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami survivors are testament to the commitment of ADRA employees and volunteers worldwide.

ADRA continues to respond to disaster and assist recovering communities around the world, ensuring that the vulnerable are cared for. You can be part of this vital work and bring hope to those in crisis. Please support the May 12 Disaster and Famine Relief Offering. You can also give to the ADRA Canada Emergency Response Fund throughout the year.
Who has super-sonic hearing? can leap tall buildings? is stronger than ten oxen put together? (OK, not really, but she’s got a pretty nifty cane!)

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Thank you for giving hope.
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