ADRA project in Nepal seeks to help affected children in wake of conflict

Posted: 29 Aug 2011 09:00 PM PDT

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The Adventist Development and Relief Agency last week announced it is implementing a project in Nepal to provide protection and promote the rights of former child soldiers and conflict-affected children.

The project, "Action for Social Inclusion of Children Affected by Armed Conflict in Nepal," is being implemented in four districts of mid-western Nepal.

Before Nepal's decade-long conflict, the country was among one of the worst ranked in terms of socioeconomics and health. Thousands of children in the mid-western region of Nepal were exploited, assaulted and faced other forms of violence.

The primary focused of the project improves literacy and job skills for 4,000 vulnerable children and adolescents, enhancing availability and improving access to psychosocial support for 2,000 abused and exploited children, and increasing awareness of child protection, child labor, gender-based violence and human trafficking among 50,000 people at national, district and local levels.

At least 70 percent of beneficiaries targeted are expected to be girls and adolescents. Other marginalized groups represent members of low castes, ethnic minorities, and indigenous groups.

In addition to suffering from psychological trauma, the continuing political instability and violence have made life for children in the region particularly difficult. Access to education, health care and other basic services is severely limited. These children are more vulnerable to labor, sexual exploitation, homelessness and human trafficking.

The project, worth nearly US$650,000, is being funded by the European Union through ADRA UK and in partnership with Association for Social Transformation and Humanitarian Assistance Nepal. It is expected to last for 36 months.

For more information, visit www.adra.org
Guatemala: Adventist radio stations now reach more than five million people

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August 29, 2011 - Guatemala City, Guatemala...IAD Staff

In less than four months, the Seventh-day Adventists in Guatemala raised more than US $250,000 dollars towards the purchase of a new radio station that allows the gospel to reach nearly one million listeners in the southwest region of the country. The acquisition was part of the church's five-year strategic plan to purchase two additional radio frequencies to cover more than half of the 14 million people in Guatemala, church leaders said.

"Thanks to the great effort of our members, we can now reach San Marcos with two radio repeaters that are able to link to our frequency," said Pastor Guenther Garcia, president of the church in Guatemala, as he congratulated church leaders and members for the accomplishment.

Top local church leaders celebrated the success of "La Gran Recaudación 2011" or "The Great Fundraising of 2011" as well as the 33rd anniversary of Union Radio radio stations in Guatemala.

"We praise God for the 33 years that Union Radio has been able to set the platform that today the Adventist Communication system takes to expand its range with the eternal gospel to more than 900,000 people in the southwest region in Guatemala," said Garcia.

According to Pastor Gustavo Menendez, communication director for the church in Guatemala, the church is now reaching more than five million people through the radio - roughly 35% of the country.

"This new frequency is a result of the unconditional sacrifice and support of our members, churches, pastors and administrators of our eight field offices in Guatemala," said Menendez, who oversees the Adventist Communication system, which includes radio, television production, the internet and the social media in Guatemala.

"We are planning to expand the broadcast range in San Marcos to cover the southern coast of Guatemala and the state of Chiapas in Mexico, reaching more than 4 million people," he added.

Regional leaders shared in their joy as more and more radio waves reach the nation.

"We are very happy to see the enthusiasm of each field of this great union to contribute and further expand the preaching of the gospel," said Pastor Rudy Mendez, president of the Metropolitan region in Guatemala. "To know that thousands upon thousands of new people will be able to hear the three angel's message, has brought a wonderful impact in the Metropolitan conference."

"Union Radio has given me a lot of hope during the most difficult times in my life," said Lucas Morales, a radio listener, who donated money to the project. "I have seen that music, messages, and teachings have helped me in my spiritual life since I tuned into the station 20 years ago."
Puerto Rico: Church aims to attract 10,000 new members in coming months

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Puerto Rico kicked off its "Heeding the Word" spiritual revival initiative this month by gathering more than 600 delegates to become active leaders in promoting the reading of the Scriptures across the island.

Pastor Jose A. Rodríguez, president of the church in Puerto Rico, spoke to the delegates on the importance of Heeding the Word and presented the church's evangelistic program on the island adopted and coined as Vision 10,000. "I challenge you leaders to reach 10,000 of our disciples, our church members to reach 10,000 new members and disciple them for Christ," Rodríguez said.

IAD leaders Pastor Samuel Telemaque, Sabbath school director, and Pastor Melchor Ferreyra, personal ministries director, led the delegates on the importance of their role as Sabbath school teachers to educate the church, and on becoming effective preachers and Bible instructors in partnering with the division-wide initiative.

Church leaders are planning to hold special activities throughout the following weeks and months to promote the initiatives.

Plans are underway for all Adventist churches in Puerto Rico to carry two special satellite broadcasts in February and March of 2012, with the special visit of Adventist World President Pastor Ted N.C. Wilson and Evangelist Alejandro Bullón to the island.

There are more than 36,000 Seventh-day Adventists worshiping in 302 churches in Puerto Rico. The church on the island operates a university, hospital, clinic, several radio stations as well as dozens of primary and secondary schools.

For information on the church in Puerto Rico, visit http://www.upasd.org/