



CWRD UPDATE

THE COVENANT WORLD RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

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“2025 RESOLUTION ON HUMANITARIAN AID”

The 140th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church affirms the essential humanitarian work that many governments provide, acknowledges that work as one way we carry out our Lord’s command to love our neighbor, grieves the preventable suffering and loss that will result when such funds are cut, and humbly encourages and implores governments to consider the restoration of the life-saving funding where it has been reduced, and expansion of such funding wherever possible.

Throughout this year as Covenant World Relief & Development has interacted with our global partners, a common theme has come up: **the impact of the changes to US foreign aid around the world.** The stories take different forms. In Laos, cuts in funding have led to stoppage of mine clearing, leaving farmers and their families at great risk. In Kenya, reduced food rations in refugee camps have led to violence and further displacement. In Ecuador, entire agencies have shuttered, creating a massive stress on our partners working for justice and peace.

At Gather 2025, the Covenant’s Annual Meeting, in Orlando, Florida, the assembly directly addressed the topic of changes to foreign aid. In this topic, we witnessed a powerful moment when two CWRD partners—Rev. Mathew Jock Moses from South Sudan and Rev. Jyotirmaya Deep (pictured above) from India—stood before the assembly and spoke with courage and conviction. Representing sister Covenant churches that are committed to carrying out disaster responses and community development, both leaders told of the painful impact that recent cuts to humanitarian aid are having in the communities they serve.

Their words were not only testimony to hardship, but a prophetic reminder that we are bound together as one body in Christ. **As we listened to their words, the truth became clear that the global church does not exist at the margins of our life together. It speaks into the very center of who we are and who God is calling us to be.**

As we celebrate CWRD’s 80 years of ministry, we carry with us the witness of Pastor Mathew and Pastor Jyotirmaya as well as the many other partners they represent. This newsletter focuses on the ways in which we have partnered specifically in disaster response in the past year with the hope that we can enter into ever deeper solidarity with these efforts around the world.



Nils Clauson,
Director of CWRD

“If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.” —Isaiah 58:10–11, NIV

THE CYCLE OF DISASTER, TOGETHER WE EMPOWER CHANGE

CWRD partners walk with communities to rebuild after war, famine, and disaster.

In the past year, the world faced both new as well as ongoing disasters that impacted every region of our earth. Partner organizations with courageous local leaders and committed teams bring relief to those in the middle of these crises, attending to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those suffering. Together with these partners, the Covenant has joined in responding to **cholera outbreaks, violent conflicts and war, cyclones, earthquakes, and floods**. Additionally, efforts have addressed the secondary impacts of crisis such as **hunger, displacement, and emotional trauma**. The following are examples of the 15 disaster responses in 11 different countries that were part of CWRD's efforts in the past year.

Colombia

In Medellin, Colombia, thousands of cubic meters of earth were released from a mountain slope because of intense rains that fell in the area this summer. The most severely impacted areas were densely populated, highly vulnerable neighborhoods in the upper portions of the hills surrounding the city. Shalom Corporation, a new CWRD partner, was already serving the community and ready to respond in a collaborative method together with physical, emotional, and spiritual care.



Natural disasters often impact the most vulnerable communities. Many of our partners are working to help communities prepare, respond, and rebuild.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Violence brought on by the M23 group continues to wreak havoc in the streets of Goma. Partner AGIR-RDC has been working through community development projects in the region and has also responded to the waves of violence by providing physical and emotional care for those displaced and traumatized by the ongoing violence.



Emotional care for those displaced and traumatized by violence is central to the work of many of our partners, including AGIR-RDC in Goma.



In addition to these disaster responses, this year Covenant World Relief and Development is partnering in 50 community development projects through 34 partnerships in 20 different countries around the world.

Palestine/Israel

Two years of combat in Gaza have resulted in devastating loss of life as well as mass displacement and hunger. Additionally, the West Bank has felt the indirect impact of the conflict as 47% of the population faces unemployment. The Shepherd Society has been able to help run a clinic (though often without sufficient medicines) and helps to offset the economic tragedy through job creation.

UKRAINE

PALESTINE/ISRAEL

Ukraine

As war in Ukraine drags on, the response to those impacted has evolved over the past 3+ years. This has been one of CWRD's largest disaster responses in our 80-year history and has included partnering with an amazing variety of organizations such as Medical Teams International, Hope International Ministries, Asociatia Echiparea Liderilor Pentru Succes (The Equipping Leaders for Success Association), WeCare Centers, and of course, World Relief International, CWRD's longest-standing partner. The care provided has included building shelters for families, medical care for those dealing with chronic illness, job training and placement in host countries, and an increasing emphasis on counseling and trauma care as the emotional toll increases over time.

Nepal

In Nepal, heavy rain and hailstorms devastated entire communities with flooding and landslides. Fortunately, partners Shanti Nepal and Nepal Christian Relief Services were working even before crisis struck by creating healthy communities resilient to disaster. When the storms hit, our partners and their communities were prepared and organized to respond, collaboratively rebuilding infrastructure including clean water systems.

India

When flash floods wiped out communities in northern India, long-time partner and sister denomination, Hindustani Covenant Church (HCC) was prepared to deliver aid to even the most remote regions. HCC provided supplies essential to survival in the moment of crisis and followed up with emotional care for the ongoing trauma that was experienced in the harrowing disaster.

Northeast Africa

Across Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, people have faced multi-layered crises that include brutal civil war, gender-based violence, outbreaks of cholera, as well as natural disaster in the form of flooding and landslides. Our sister denominations the ECC of South Sudan & Ethiopia and the ECC of Kenya are caring for the displaced by providing food and shelter to those who have had to flee their homes. This includes both emergency aid as well as programs designed to build healthy communities for the long-term through community gardening and education.

DR CONGO

SOUTH SUDAN

ETHIOPIA

KENYA

INDIA

NEPAL





The Ukraine response has been one of CWRD's largest responses in our 80-year history.



Together, we can respond with compassion when disaster strikes. **Join us in bringing relief and restoration to those in crisis.**

Our partnership in NE Africa includes both emergency aid as well as long-term community development.



NEW
Can for
Change
Magnets



Resources Now Available

Every fall Covenant churches across the country set aside a Sunday to focus on the ministry of Covenant World Relief and Development (CWRD). This year's date is November 23, but churches may choose any day throughout the year that works for their schedule. This designated Sunday is a chance to celebrate the ways God's love and compassion are being lived out through global partners. This year's CWRD Sunday materials were sent to churches at the beginning of September, giving pastors and leaders everything they need to help their congregations engage in meaningful ways. Waymaker Churches also received a box with resources in October.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE FOR CWRD SUNDAY?

- **CWRD Poster:** A full-size poster to display in your church, inviting the congregation to participate and view the work of CWRD.
- **Infographic:** A visual tool highlighting the impact and reach of CWRD's global partnerships in 2025.
- **Brochure:** A brochure explaining the work of CWRD (available in English and Spanish).
- **Bulletin Insert Sample:** Half-sheet format with the poster image on the front and infographic on the back. Available to be printed as needed by churches.
- **Giving Slips and Envelopes**
- **Soup Can Lids and Labels:** The long-standing Covenant tradition for creating your own CWRD bank.
- **CWRD Soup Can Magnet:** Brand-new option for electronic giving.

HOW CAN CHURCHES USE THESE MATERIALS?

There's no single way to celebrate CWRD Sunday. Some churches dedicate an entire worship service, while others weave the stories, prayers, and visuals into worship throughout the fall. Children's ministry teams can adapt the resources for Sunday school or children's church. Gratitude and Giving guides can be used not only on Sunday but in small groups and Bible studies for a month or all year long.


All resources are available online or to order at covchurch.org/cwrld-sunday.

CWRD Sunday is a way for the Covenant Church to remember that we are part of something bigger. Together we get to celebrate and support God's mission of hope, justice, and transformation in communities across the globe.

2025 CWRD YEAR IN REVIEW

Thank you for your generous support and partnership with Covenant World Relief and Development. Here is a glimpse of your support of CWRD this year!

\$1.58 MILLION GRANTED



Jesus,
The Refugee King
ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

114 total
downloads

220
CHURCHES
CONTRIBUTED
TO CWRD
THIS PAST YEAR
SUPPORTING:

- Advocacy
- Animal Husbandry
- Economic Development
- Ending Human Trafficking
- Food Security
- Health
- Human Rights
- Justice
- Nutrition
- Peacemaking
- Refugee Care
- Vulnerable Children
- Water
- Women's Empowerment

12
PROJECTS
Combat
Hunger and
Malnutrition

15
PROJECTS
Working
for Peace,
Healing, and
Reconciliation

20
PROJECTS
Focused on
Community
Health

20
COUNTRIES

50
PROJECTS

34
PARTNERS

NEARLY 50% OF PROJECTS
Specifically
Seek to
Empower Women

\$1,340,000

8 **PROJECTS**
Committed
to Ending
Sex-Trafficking
(as part of the
FREE initiative in
partnership with LMDJ)

COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

**DISASTER
RESPONSE**

\$189,300

15
PROJECTS

11
COUNTRIES

Types of disasters addressed:


- CHOLERA OUTBREAK
- HUNGER
- VIOLENT CONFLICT
- WAR
- CYCLONE
- EARTHQUAKE
- FLOOD

The majority of CWRD projects support multiple sectors each. For example, one project might address both hunger and community health.



\$29,730.44
Raised by
Covenant campers
for peacemaking
efforts in
Colombia,
Palestine/Israel, and
Ethiopia/South Sudan

5,442
CWRD monthly
email subscribers



**COVENANT
KIDS CONGO**

- \$236,825 raised by Covenant churches through the 2025 Global 6K
- 2,283 Global 6K participants on Covenant teams
- 6,543 children sponsored globally
- 5,626 total children sponsored in DR Congo



Covenant World Relief and Development

PARTNERS IN TRANSFORMATION

Covenant World Relief and Development is funded solely through gifts specifically designated to CWRD. **We fully depend on churches and individuals like you to continue this ministry.** To learn more about giving to CWRD, please contact us at cwrdd@covchurch.org.



Preparing the Way for What God Will Do Next

Celebration Gala & Film Premiere

Celebrate transformation—honor the past, be part of the future! Covenant World Relief and Development's 80th Anniversary Gala and Film Premiere will be Sunday, January 25, 2026, in Chicago. Can you join us? Host a table for your church, or purchase an individual ticket to this historic evening of inspiration, community, and global impact.

Waymaker Church

Becoming a Waymaker Church means hosting a CWRD Sunday every year for three years and walking alongside global partners in prayer and partnership! Your church can help make transformation possible by supporting relief, development, and justice initiatives worldwide. More information and CWRD Sunday resources available online at covchurch.org/cwrd-sunday.



Call for Artists

As part of our 80th anniversary celebration, CWRD is hosting an art gallery featuring Covenant creatives like YOU! Artists are invited to submit original works reflecting transformation, hope, and renewal. Submissions are due November 1, 2025, with selected pieces displayed at the Anniversary Gala and Film Premiere on January 25, 2026. For more information, scan the QR code above.

Visit covchurch.org/cwrd80years for more information and to watch a sneak peek of the CWRD documentary!

