



CWRD UPDATE

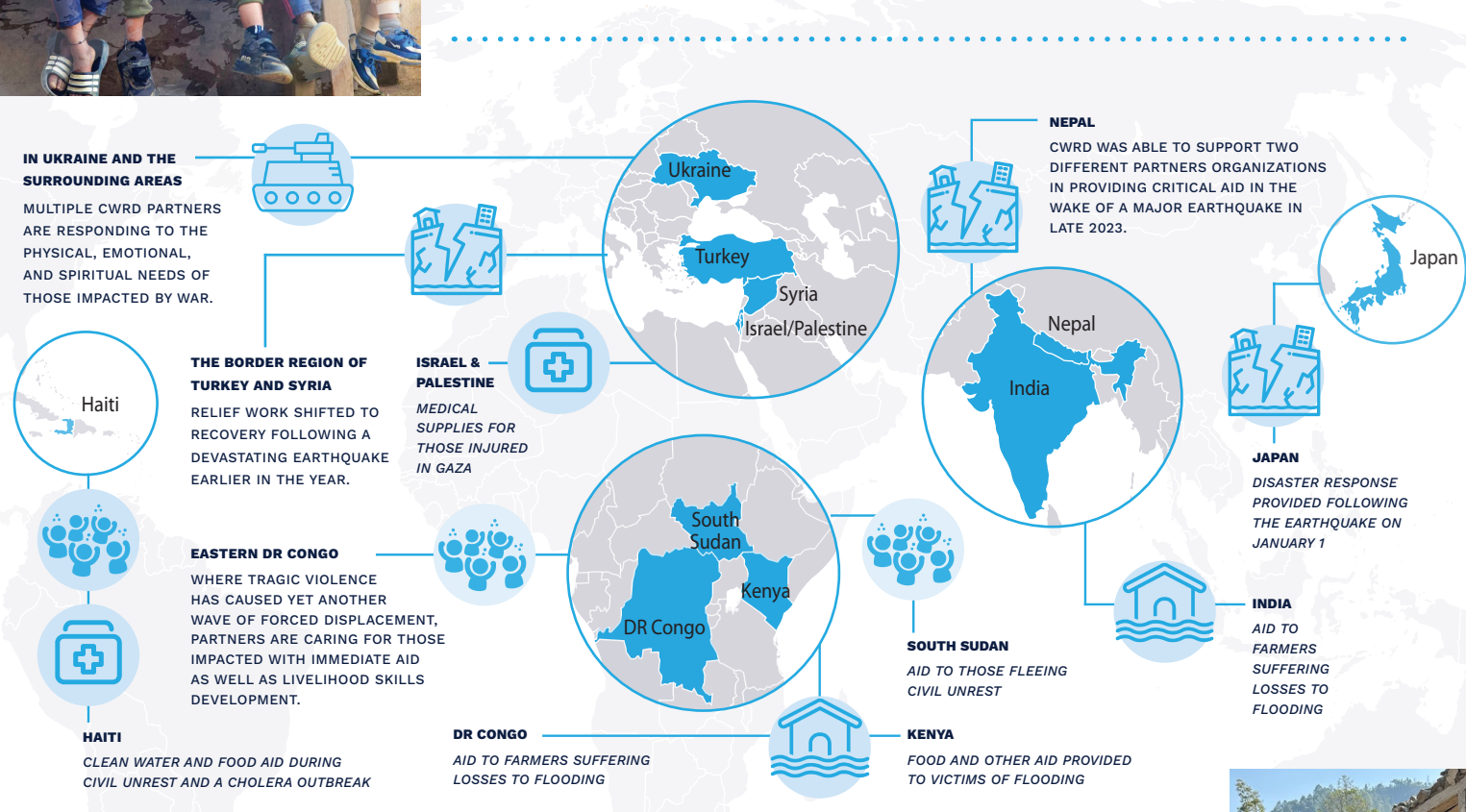
THE COVENANT WORLD RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024



Standing Together in Times of Crisis

Over the past year, CWRD has partnered in over twenty disaster response efforts worldwide. It is through the generosity of churches and individuals of the Evangelical Covenant Church that we have been able to commit to standing with our global partners who are working tirelessly to alleviate human suffering in the most difficult of circumstances. The disasters include everything from civil unrest and outright war, drought, and famine to flooding and mudslides, disease, earthquakes, hurricanes, and more. *The map below shows some specific examples of CWRD's relief efforts in 2023-24.*



These examples demonstrate the diversity of disasters and the unique responses required. In the face of these complex situations, there are guiding principles that form CWRD's disaster response. The first is to **lean into the expertise of local partners and use local resources whenever possible**. Another is to **empower the church to love their neighbors well**. This implies that aid is provided to those most in need in the broader community whether or not they are part of the church.

Finally, **collaboration** is key in disaster response. In Nehemiah 3, as the daunting task of rebuilding Jerusalem is described in detail, each participant is mentioned with the repeated phrase "and next to them..." Each group that agreed to help rebuild the wall of Jerusalem did their part and stood next to each other,

which exemplified the power of unity and collective action in times of crisis.

In times of disaster, we consistently look for global partners who adopt this collaborative approach demonstrated in Nehemiah, to stand side by side and commit to caring for those most in need.

We boldly ask you to stand with us as well! Will you support our International Disaster Response Fund with an additional monthly gift?



Strong Communities Prepared for Disaster

As a young adult, Ram, like many other men his age, left his hometown in West Rukum, Nepal, to find a manufacturing job in a Middle Eastern nation, supporting his family by sending remittances from a distance. When he heard about the agricultural program being offered by Nepal Christian Relief Services, however, he returned to participate. Equipped with new agricultural techniques, improved materials, and ongoing entrepreneurial coaching from NCRS, Ram decided to remain with his family and farm the land. Working in collaboration with other



growers in the area to get produce to market, Ram has successfully transitioned the picturesque property cut into the beautiful Nepali mountainside from a subsistence farm to a sustainable, income-generating operation.

When a powerful earthquake shook the region last November, some buildings on Ram's farm were damaged, including one that was left unusable. Other nearby communities were less fortunate as entire blocks of homes were completely destroyed. In that moment, NCRS was an immediate responder, providing food, water, warm clothing, blankets, and temporary shelter to help families get through the cold winter nights.

The diligent work of Ram and the committed support of NCRS could not prevent the devastating impact of the earth shaking. It did, however, go a long way toward strengthening the whole community to be prepared and resilient in the face of tragedy. Specifically, the type of community organizing that NCRS provides allows for a rapid and structured response that gets the essential items to those most in need by having knowledge of the community, open lines of communication, and collaboration with local leadership as well as other aid organizations.

We are grateful for CWRD's partnership with NCRS as they have much to teach us about weaving together community development and disaster preparedness.

Initiating a monthly gift to CWRD's International Disaster Response Fund helps communities to be prepared to face disaster. Visit [giving.covchurch.org/priorities-detail/International-Disaster-Response](https://covchurch.org/priorities-detail/International-Disaster-Response).



CHOOSE YOUR DATE CWRD Sunday

Each year churches across the denomination highlight the ministry of Covenant World Relief and Development on CWRD Sunday, typically the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This year, your church is invited to choose your own date! CWRD Sunday materials, including a video and bulletin insert, will be available for download any time after September 15. Scan above to view CWRD Sunday materials.



They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

NEHEMIAH 2:18B (NIV)