



CWR UPDATE

The Covenant World Relief Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2018

Strengthening Communities in Laos, Sharing Faith

This past year, CWR partner Mulberries in Laos continued to reduce the poverty of 270 vulnerable farmers through organic production of mulberry leaves (for tea) and soybeans. Last year they also successfully raised silk worms and harvested a total of 2.25 tons of silk cocoons! The silk is used for onsite training in silk weaving, spinning, and producing natural dyes.

Mulberries plans to add 300 new silk farmers and 100 new weavers by 2022. But the impact of Mulberries goes beyond economic empowerment for the community. Local staff are also given the opportunity to share their faith in a nation where many people have never heard the gospel.



Spinning silk is a special skill taught at Mulberries.

Laos, officially the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), is a creative access nation and Thathom District in Xaisomboun Province has no known Christian presence at the moment. Xieng Khouang and Hua Phan are also ethnically diverse populations with a very small Christian presence. The presence of the Christian staff is bringing the word of God to many local areas.

The Christian staff at Mulberries encourages students to attend the local church in Xieng Khouang and incorporates prayers in their daily life. This past December, four students were baptized in Vientiane. These students had been preparing and studying the Bible for five to six months prior to accepting Jesus.



Mulberry leaves produce tea and also are food for the silk worms.

CWR Sunday is November 18!

We invite all Covenant Churches to participate in Covenant World Relief Sunday on November 18 - but you can plan a CWR Sunday whenever it fits in your church calendar.

The week of Thanksgiving is always a time of reflecting on God's blessings. We are grateful for all of you who support CWR and our partners around the world. To learn more about hosting a CWR Sunday, visit CovChurch.org/cwr.



Has your church experienced the Refugee Journey?

Nearly 5,000 students at CHIC participated in a Refugee Journey to learn about our brothers and sisters around the world who have been forced from their homes. Over 68 million people are displaced from their homes, and more than half of the 22.5 million refugees are children under the age of 18. Learn more about how your church can join in the Covenant's refugee response at CovChurch.org/refugeejourney or make your gift today at CovChurch.org/givetorefugees.



"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." —MATTHEW 25:35

A Long-Term Approach in Refugee Care

BY DAVE HUSBY

Approximately one in five people in Lebanon is a Syrian refugee. If unregistered refugees are included in that number, the ratio is much higher. Covenant World Relief has the privilege of partnering with Medical Teams International (MTI) Lebanon working in 120 informal settlements in the Bekaa Valley. MTI Lebanon staff have trained nearly 300 community health (CH) volunteers, all of whom are themselves refugees from Syria. These CH volunteers are equipped to teach

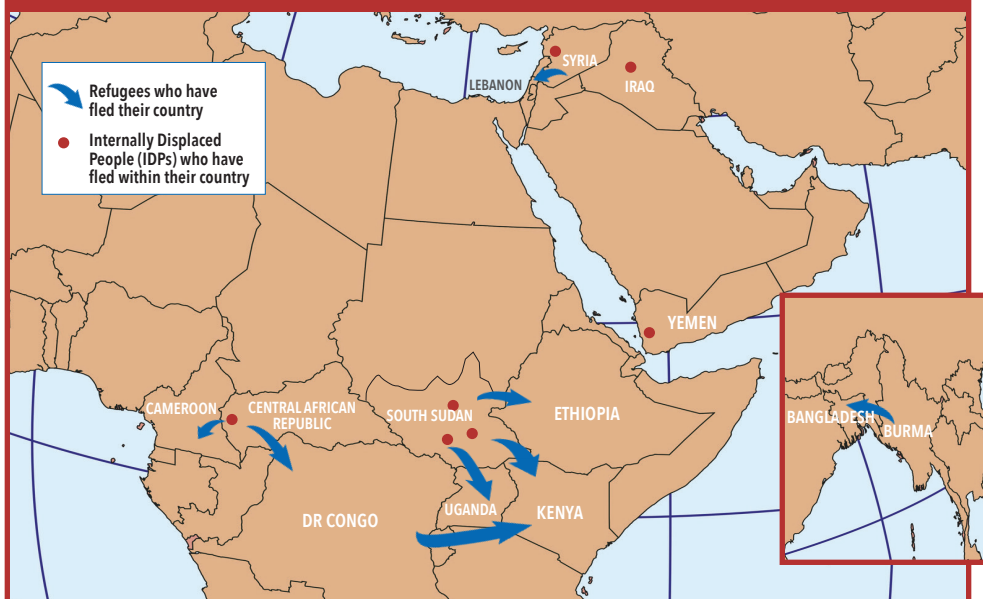
good nutrition, sanitation, and preventative health practices to the refugees in their informal settlements. They are also equipped with and trained to use instruments to test for illnesses such as high blood pressure and diabetes. I was able to meet many of these volunteers in February and was moved by their passion and dedication in serving their



fellow refugees. They are very proud of their accomplishments. Some have now reached a level where they are training new community health volunteers. This long-term approach is vital because when the refugees return to their homeland someday, these community health volunteers will be able to continue their service to their communities. Unfortunately, due to ongoing conflict, it doesn't appear that they will be able to return to Syria soon, so we are very grateful for Covenant churches and individuals who continue to give so that this vital work can continue. Support refugee care today at CovChurch.org/givetorefugees.

Dave Husby is the director of Covenant World Relief.

CWR Work with Refugees and IDPs



Kids Helping Kids



REFUGEES
AROUND THE
WORLD

AVAILABLE FOR FREE

12-part Resource

Encouraging Children to

Serve God & Others

CovChurch.org/kidshelpingkids

From Drought to Floods: Disaster Response in Kenya

Mugure was asleep when she heard a loud gush of water near her bed where she was sleeping with her baby. It was 1:00 a.m. She opened her eyes and couldn't believe what she saw in the moonlight. Water had pushed open her door and it was swirling, throwing furniture outside. She held her baby tight on the wet mattress, not knowing what to do. Her husband was working in Nairobi, many miles away.

Kenya, among many other African countries this year, has been suffering from periods of extreme drought followed by periods of extreme flooding. When rains finally come after a time of drought, the ground is so dry that water is unable to percolate into the ground and therefore floods the land, causing

great damage. This year Covenant World Relief has been joining with the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya (ECCK) and its sister organization, Covenant Connections in Development (CCD), to respond to emergency needs caused by drought and flooding.

CCD staff have been providing social and psychological support to those traumatized by these disasters. Mugure (pictured) gives thanks to God that she and her baby escaped the flooding to safety. She is grateful for the immediate support of food and basic necessities she received from the ECCK to help her and her child. Now Mugure and her child are living with a host family until she and her husband can rebuild their home. The ECCK is looking into ways to help rebuild



homes once the rains subside.

Your undesigned gifts to CWR help us respond in situations like these when immediate relief is needed. Thank you for your generous, faithful support!

The Next Generation of Peacemakers

Covenant World Relief is partnering with Colombian Covenant youth to inspire the next generation of leaders in peacemaking. Twenty-five Covenant youth from various regions of the country completed a course last year called Agents of Peace and Reconciliation. One of the young men said that the challenge they received from the course is "to be agents of transformation and reconciliation, not only in our local Covenant churches, but to be able to take this message of peace and reconciliation to our neighborhoods and to those most vulnerable and in need." A young woman who graduated from the course explained, "As Colombians and Christians it is our responsibility to contribute to the peace we so deeply desire."

After 52 years of violence in Colombia in which 220,000 people were killed and seven million displaced from their homes, a peace agreement was signed one year ago with the FARC rebels. Although all parties signed the peace agreement and most of the violence has ended, much hatred, bitterness, and hostility remain among the millions who have suffered the loss of loved ones and those who have been traumatized. Therefore, the real work of peacemaking and reconciliation



is only just beginning.

This year, after graduating from the Agents of Peace and Reconciliation course, several young leaders from Asociación Jóvenes del Pacto (the Association of Colombian Covenant Youth) began a three-year project to teach peacemaking strategies to children and youth. Younger children (7-15 years old) participate in peace fairs and older youth (16-28 years old) participate in forums, workshops, dialogues, and other activities which invite them to transform the current culture of animosity and work toward

reconciliation, peace, and forgiveness. These Colombian Covenant youth are generating spaces where a culture of peace can be built.

"The time has arrived for children and youth to be the voice of peace, forgiveness, love, and dreams that contribute to the culture of peace," explains one of the leaders.

"Promoting a culture of peace through education permits each child and teenager to be a spokesperson for peace—rejecting violence, oppression, and all those acts that do not contribute to the construction of peace."

CWR YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2017-JUNE 2018



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

100% of every gift to CWR goes to ministry.
90% of every gift goes directly to ministry programs. We are able to do this through the continuous generosity of legacy gifts. If you would like to learn more about making a bequest or other legacy gift to CWR, please contact us at cwr@covchurch.org.

\$1.5M
SENT TO CWR
PROJECTS

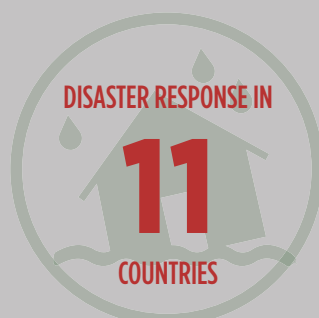
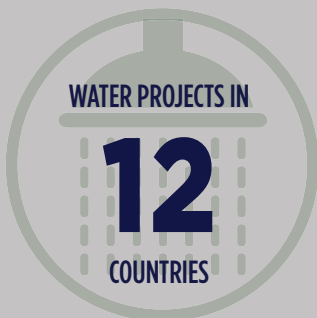
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219

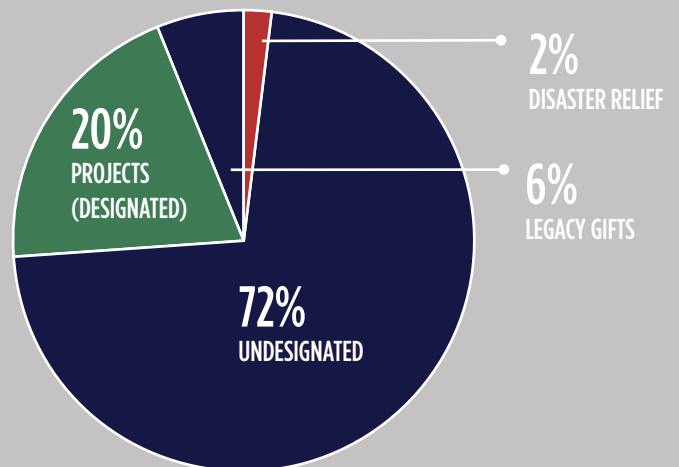
NEW DONORS

311

100 PROJECTS | **26 COUNTRIES** | **5 CONTINENTS**



PERCENTAGE OF GIVING TO SPECIFIC AREAS



*Undesignated giving allows for the greatest flexibility to respond to disasters and community development.



COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

A Serve Globally ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church
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