



CWR UPDATE

The Covenant World Relief Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2019

Caring for Children Through Community

Story from a CWR partner in East Asia

Eight-year-old Gi* casually flipped through the book in her hand, but looked around absently, as if she was not used to this strange environment. With eyes full of anticipation, she willingly came when I gestured my welcome for her to come talk to me. We began a very frank and open



conversation and I learned that this little girl was abandoned by her mother and now lives with her elderly grandparents because her father works far away. As I listened to her, my eyes teared up thinking about how she was only eight years old and had experienced such things. A child this age should be carefree, but her ease and confidence in talking made me suddenly feel that the school of life had taught her so much. I could see that even though she is a child left behind by her single parent, she is a strong little girl who is full of hope and confidence. She told me that although she is lonely, she likes puppies, drawing, and sleeping. At the community center, Gi found other children to play with and books to read. As she played on our community center's small wooden rocking horse, seeming to be one hundred percent happy, she looked at me and said, "Auntie, if you are my mother, that would be good!" I had all sorts of mixed feelings in my heart. I gave her a hug and said to her, "The community center is your home; I will love you like a mother!"

We at CWR thank God for our partnership with this community center

**orphans and
Vulnerable Children**

A LOVING FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD

**AVAILABLE NOW FOR CHRISTIAN
FORMATION OR VBS PLANNING**

**FREE 12-Part Resource
Encouraging Children
to Serve God & Others**

CovChurch.org/KidsHelpingKids

that shares the love of Christ, encourages healthy growth and development, and creates a platform for the improvement of the quality of life for local children like Gi and their families.

**Name shortened for privacy.*



Making a Legacy Gift to CWR

Would you like to make a gift today that will help sustain the ministry of CWR for future generations? Your legacy gift will further the mission of CWR to join God in loving, serving, and working together with the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized. If you would like to learn about making a bequest or other planned gift to CWR, please contact us at cwr@covchurch.org or call us at **773-299-7274**.

“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the orphan.”

ISAIAH 1:17

Yemen: Facing the World's Largest Humanitarian Crisis

Yemen is on the brink of experiencing the world's worst famine in 100 years. Due to ongoing conflict in Yemen, sustainable food sources are being destroyed and aid agencies are struggling to reach families with emergency supplies. More than 17.8 million men, women, and children in Yemen lack access to clean water. Poor sanitation conditions contribute to waterborne diseases. Already Yemen is experiencing the largest cholera outbreak in recorded history.

A Covenant World Relief partner in Yemen is strengthening the resilience of



vulnerable households and communities in three ways: by improving the local water infrastructure, raising awareness, and strengthening local capacity for maintaining the installed systems for rainwater harvesting. This project impacts 360 households through restoring cisterns in 7 rural communities, installing rainwater harvesting systems on rooftops of households, and distributing water filters.

Our CWR partner (left unnamed for security reasons), is establishing water committees in each rural community. These local water committees are trained to manage and maintain the cisterns, and will be better able to advocate for improved access to water through the local authorities. Additionally, each household is trained on water hygiene and ways to prevent waterborne diseases, as well as how to maintain the water filters and rainwater harvesting systems. Please continue to pray for peace and our ongoing response in Yemen.

Partner with us in the response by giving at CovChurch.org/cwr/disasters.



CWR Sunday is November 24!

We invite all Covenant churches to participate in Covenant World Relief Sunday on November 24 – or you can plan a CWR Sunday whenever it fits in your church calendar. CWR Sunday is a day that your congregation can celebrate and highlight the ways God is working through CWR partners around the world.

To learn more about hosting a CWR Sunday or to invite a speaker to your church for your CWR Sunday, visit CovChurch.org/cwr.

Collecting Clean Water Around the World

There are many different ways to collect clean water in a community besides drilling wells.

DAMS

Sometimes the land cannot handle the drilling of a well or pump, and instead the community can contour the shape of the land with small dams to better collect rainwater. This also allows the rainwater to seep into the ground, recharging nearby wells and helping crops to flourish.



RAINWATER HARVESTING

Another way to gather water is by building rain collection structures on roofs of homes.



PUMPS & SOLAR ENERGY

Sometimes pumps can be installed and can be charged by solar energy when electricity is not readily available in a community.

When these different water systems are implemented, women and children can spend less time carrying water in jerry cans and more time in school or working to contribute to the development of the entire community.



A Better Future for Families in Honduras

CWR Director David Husby met Porfiria and Mercedes during a recent visit with CWR partner, Cocepradil, in Honduras. When Porfiria was asked how their lives have changed since the water system was completed through the labor of the whole community, her answer was, "Everything has changed!" She went on to share that since she doesn't have to fetch water multiple times a day, she is able to spend more time improving their home and working with her husband, Mercedes, on their small farm. Her children have been able to focus more on their studies. Another major impact has been improved health for their family since they now have access to clean water.

Porfiria and Mercedes are currently participating in the CWR-funded food security program that focuses on improved agricultural techniques, diversification of crops, nutrition, sanitation, and health. One of the activities of the program is to draw a poster with three sections that portrays their house and surrounding property in the past, the present, and their dreams for the future. Porfiria and Mercedes are thankful to God for all of the changes in their family so far, but they believe that with God's help the changes will continue into the future.

We are grateful to Covenant churches and individuals who generously give to CWR which results in transformed families.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

MATTHEW 25:35

Water: A Precious Resource in Somaliland

For people who live in Somaliland, there is no resource more precious than water. There are no natural lakes or rivers in all of Somaliland and drilling wells is not feasible for those living anywhere near the coast since the well water is usually brackish.

CWR is engaged with our local partner to help communities more effectively catch and hold rainwater to last through the long dry season. In 2017 there was an extended drought. CWR provided funds for tanker trucks from the capital city of Hargeisa to bring much needed water. Unfortunately, most of the livestock died that year due to lack of water. However, many human lives were saved through that emergency intervention of providing water.

In addition to water, the CWR funded program focuses on sustainable agriculture and women's empowerment through Self



Help Groups (SHGs). The women in these SHGs regularly save and receive microloans to start small businesses. With increased income the women are better able to provide much needed food, water, and medical care for their families.

We are deeply grateful for all who have given and continue to give to Project Blue and to the CWR general fund so that ten communities in Somaliland are better able to sustain themselves. **Learn more and give at CovChurch.org/ProjectBlue.**

CWR YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2018-JUNE 2019



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. God has blessed us with increased partnerships and projects. **We depend fully on you to continue this ministry.** If you would like to learn more about giving to CWR, please contact us at cwr@covchurch.org.

\$1.6M
SENT TO CWR
PROJECTS

CHURCH PARTNERS

235

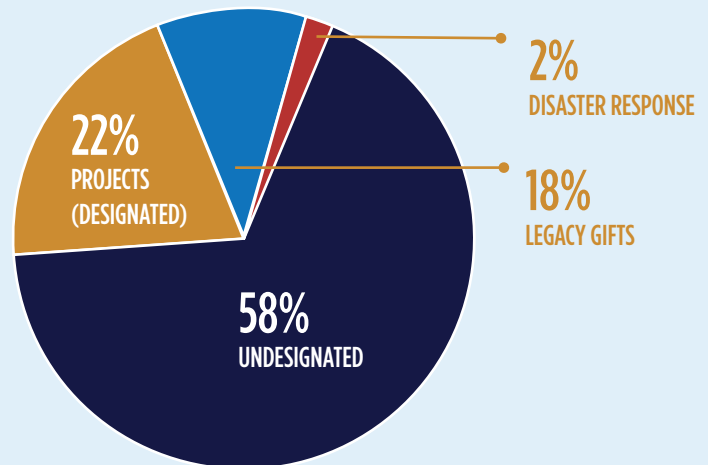
INDIVIDUAL DONORS

1268



93 PROJECTS | **30 COUNTRIES**
5 CONTINENTS | **34 PARTNERS**

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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