



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE  
HOTLINE**

Church World Service Hotline Update for the week of October 22, 2007 – available in Spanish (línea de noticias) and in [podcasts](#) in English and Spanish--at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)

- Cane cutter families in the **Dominican Republic** gain food security
- CWS helps at-risk youth along **U.S. Gulf Coast**
- Tsunami-affected families in **India** enjoy comfort of new homes
- CWS continues response to Sept. quake in Sumatra, **Indonesia**
- Tornado devastates community in Nappanee, **Indiana**

**Dominican Republic**--This fall, tens of thousands of people are participating in CROP Hunger Walks. Your support for the CROP Hunger Walk is helping people around the world to achieve food security and improve their lives through gardening, building, water, and other projects.

In the **Dominican Republic**, for example, when Eloy Ramirez brought in his last crop, the harvest yielded a triple bounty: Food, income, and a better standard of living. Ramirez sold some of his produce for about \$900, "in addition to what we were able to consume at home," he says. "We even gave some to neighbors and friends."

A leader in the Yabacao community in the southwest region of the country, Ramirez is the head of one of nearly a thousand households participating in a Church World Service-sponsored program to improve food security among sugar cane cutters and their families.

With the help of agricultural experts provided by the program, Ramirez says the community brought in a generous crop of corn, yucca, sweet potatoes, squash, tomatoes, green beans, and other fruits and vegetables.

Children are benefiting immediately--eating a nutritious diet of fresh foods, including eggs and chicken harvested through poultry farming.

**U.S. Gulf Coast**--When Hurricane Katrina hit, 16-year-old Orlando was poised to choose between a hopeful future and a street gang recruiting new members. "They were trying to get me to wear their colors and stuff," Orlando says. "But here, where they help me avoid the gangs."

Here, for the children in Gulfport, Mississippi's Forest Heights neighborhood, is the Boys & Girls Club of the Gulf Coast. Part of a \$1.35 million grant through Church World Service allowed the Club's programs to continue even though three Club buildings were destroyed.

The Club attracts kids who want help with homework, sports programs, and life skills to four facilities in the Gulfport and Biloxi area.

"We knew these youth were vulnerable before the storm and Hurricane Katrina made it worse," says CWS Associate Director



**Dominican Republic**--"With the fruits of our harvest and what we are able to sell, we now buy our children shoes, notebooks, and pencils. The income has helped us go to the doctor and buy medicine," says cane cutter and farmer Jose Peña. Photo: SSID

for Emergency Response Linda Reed-Brown. "These clubs had a good record of engaging kids in their neighborhoods, so if they didn't do it, who would?"

**India**--Mathi Kanniyappan finds the house she lives in now--one of 93 new homes built in her village since the December 2004 tsunami--more solid, secure, and liveable than the damaged home she and her family had to vacate. She particularly praises the new home's flat, concrete roof--an improvement over the thatched roof that afforded little shelter in case of rain.

"It's a very good house," she says. "We can feel the breeze."

Nearby is the village's new community center and shelter, a structure that is being used most days for festivals, nursery school, family reunions, etc.

Down the road, the 53 new houses in a neighboring village are taking on individual character, with fencing, decoration, planted hedges, and new trees. Its young people have formed a disaster preparedness task force and are demonstrating newly acquired rescue and mapping skills.

The post-tsunami reconstruction and recovery efforts of CWS partner Church's Auxiliary for Social Action includes the construction of 4,000 permanent homes in southern India. For more on this story, visit [www.churchworldservice.org/news/archives/2007/10/777.html](http://www.churchworldservice.org/news/archives/2007/10/777.html).

**Indonesia**--Some 18,000 families lost their homes in the Sept. 12 quake that hit the southwest coast of Sumatra. Also lost were about 2,000 schools and 620 medical facilities. An estimated 88,000 homes were damaged.

Church World Service is currently working in partnership to distribute 1,506 shelter kits for displaced families and medical equipment for 14 local health centers. CWS is also working with partners to provide disaster preparedness programs and psychosocial support. In the early days following the quake, CWS provided emergency relief of plastic mats, ropes, and tarpaulins to 1,891 quake-affected people in nine villages.

Contributions are urgently needed to assist these emergency relief efforts in Indonesia.

**Indiana**--This past week, a tornado damaged or destroyed more than 200 homes and businesses in Nappanee, Ind. Three of Nappanee's largest employers are recreational vehicle manufacturers. All three sustained damage, which may have long-term employment implications. CWS is in contact with Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, which is convening a long-term recovery group to respond to the needs of vulnerable families in Nappanee.

Thank you for your prayers and support for the life-sustaining work of Church World Service. Contributions may be sent through your church or directly to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515. Credit card contributions may be made by calling 1-800-297-1516 or at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org). To SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE to the e-mail version of the Church World Service Hotline, reply to this message, or write to [jearlson@churchworldservice.org](mailto:jearlson@churchworldservice.org).