



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
HOTLINE**

This CWS Hotline lifts up just a few of the many things that are possible with offerings and gifts to **CWS Blankets+**.

- CWS quake-related assistance continues in **Haiti**
- Displaced families in **Pakistan** continue flood recovery
- Microcredit loans help women in the **Dominican Republic**
- Clean water brings joy to a community in **Kenya**

Haiti--More than a year after the earthquake, the situation in Haiti remains very serious. The thousands of tent camps and destroyed buildings are physical reminders of the damaged lives and the desperate struggle for Haiti to build a strong, stable country. However, we know that our projects are creating small communities of hope and strength that will grow and form an important part of the fabric of Haitian society now and in the future.

"In the communities where we work, we see people trying to move on with their lives," says Aaron Tate, Church World Service Haiti earthquake response coordinator.

CWS continues to focus on several priorities in its response efforts, including continued support and expansion for 13 food cooperatives in Haiti's Northwest and Artibonite regions, which have more than 3,000 members; ongoing support for vulnerable Haitian children in Port-au-Prince, including children working as domestic servants, former gang members and teenage mothers; and continued support for 1,200 people with disabilities and their families in Port-au-Prince.

Following the quake in Haiti, CWS also provided 8,950 lightweight blankets, 1,452 food packages, 150 tents, 60 cartons of Interchurch Medical Assistance medical supplies (each carton providing enough basic medicines and medical supplies to treat 1,000 people for about two months) and 20 cartons of miscellaneous items (flashlights, soap, towels).

Pakistan--The winter season is now upon the northern areas of Pakistan, with below-freezing temperatures and snow in some areas, making recovery for families displaced by the severe floods that started in July all the more difficult.

CWS has distributed 24,200 family food packages (each package of staples weighs about 100 lbs.), benefitting 137,400 people, as well 2,010 tents and 1,000 plastic sheets, benefitting 88,000 people, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh provinces.



Haiti--Children at the CWS-supported House of Hope, a program of partner Ecumenical Foundation for Peace and Justice, received CWS Blankets. The children -- most working as domestic servants -- receive education and other services through the FOPJ in a newly purchased and renovated center in Port-au-Prince. Following the quake, CWS provided a total of 8,950 blankets for vulnerable people in Haiti. Photo: Chris Herlinger/CWS

CWS also continues to provide health services through health centers and 10 mobile health units. By mid-December 2010, the health teams had conducted more than 100,000 consultations.

Dominican Republic--Graciela is a single mother who has borrowed \$45 through a microcredit loan from CWS-supported partner, Caminante. Graciela makes and sells women's undergarments in her community at a lower price than can be found in stores.

Graciela's daughter attends Caminante's afterschool program. And, through her microcredit support group, Graciela learned of an adult literacy class that will help her learn to read.

Caminante's microcredit program provides more than just money; it also targets skills development and community support, and focuses on helping children, youth and adults in Boca Chica, especially those at risk of sexual exploitation. Its microcredit program helps women who do not have other economic opportunities. Women who receive loans meet together twice a month as a support group, where they receive training and guidance on repayment and other financial skills.

Kenya--"I was among the few elders who came from the forest and settled in this village," says Nabeyei Naposi, a resident of Loitanit village, Turkana district. "Water has been a big issue in our village since we settled here." The community has grown from 30 to some 300 families, and they have used the River Turkwel as the only source of water for domestic and livestock use.

"When the Anglican Church of Kenya [a CWS partner] came and informed us that our community would be supported with a water program, and that we would dig a borehole, we could not hold our joy. Water has been a great challenge and more so for our wives and children who would walk up to 9 miles round trip to collect water from the river," Naposi says. "The forest between the village and the river is a battle ground and often harbors Pokot warriors as they go to collect water.

"The new water source is a symbol of relief to women and children in the village," says Naposi. "In addition to improved security, the water is plenty and the pump has never failed. The women now get water when they want and return to other domestic chores including small business, since they have more time.

"One more beauty of this water is, it is very clean... It's very clean and tastes good as compared to water from the River Turkwel and other seasonal rivers," Naposi explains.

Your gifts and offerings for the Blankets+ program of Church World Service are urgently needed. 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-800-297-1516 or at www.churchworldservice.org/blanketsplus. To SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE, please register at www.churchworldservice.org and indicate your email preferences.
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