



ADRAUPDATE

AUTUMN 2015

STRONGER THAN ANY STORM

Cyclone Pam was the strongest storm to ever hit the South Pacific. Its winds tore across Vanuatu at more than 300km/h. The destruction it brought was incomparable to anything the country has faced before. Overnight thousands became homeless, water sources became undrinkable and life-sustaining crops were destroyed. Despite all of this families across Vanuatu are proving there is something far stronger than any storm, even Cyclone Pam – and that is hope.

It was hope that has inspired Helen, a mother of four, to live-on amongst the destruction. Like others across the country Helen and her community of Epau, on the island of Efate, emerged from their hiding places to find their homes damaged or destroyed, and their water source compromised. “The water was dirty,” she said. “When we took it from the tank it was sour. We couldn’t drink it.” Experience had taught them that drinking what was once safe water could prove deadly. Fortunately, with water filtration kits pre-positioned across the country ADRA was able to respond quickly, and with immediate effect. “Before ADRA distributed the filters there were some people who had diarrhoea from drinking the water,” Helen said. “But now no one is sick!”

Helen isn’t just keeping the water to herself either. She is assisting in the village clinic, and when someone is sick they are able to use the clean water from her house. Plus, five of her neighbouring families are also able to access clean, safe and potentially life-saving water. “I use it all day,” she smiled. Helen is just one of the many thousands of people who have been touched by your support of our Cyclone Pam Appeal. ADRA was not only able to respond immediately, but with



the support of Kiwi’s, Australians and others across the globe has continued to deliver urgent assistance right up to this day. Here’s a snapshot of what you have helped achieve so far:

- 550 families received kits with a spade, machete, nails, hammer so that they can repair their homes, rebuild toilets, and re-start their gardens.
- 550 families received seeds to re-start their gardens
- Water supply systems damaged by the cyclone have been repaired
- 1000 families have received Emergency food packs
- 1000 families have received water and sanitation kits including water storage containers, water filters, soap, bucket, and information on safe hygiene in emergencies

More than just tarps, water filters and food your support has helped Helen and others like her stand strong despite the storm. In powerful ways, both symbolic and practical, you have provided a hand-up to the people of Vanuatu. ADRA’s response, which can only happen because of people like you, is proof that amazing things happen when we work together. As we continue to provide support and plan for long-term recovery in Vanuatu we

would like to offer our deep and sincere thanks - thank you! Vanuatu’s recovery has only just begun, but the people of Vanuatu and the hope that they share are stronger than any storm.

To see and hear more from the ADRA team in Vanuatu check out the one-month on video now available at www.adra.org.nz As this ADRA Update goes to print we are preparing an ADRA Connections program that could see your church group, family or workplace standing alongside people in Vanuatu as we help local schools ‘build back better’. Register your interest at www.adra.org.nz now!

NOW

QUEENSTOWN CLASSIC
REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW

MAY 1

CPP FUNDING DEADLINE

JUNE 5

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

JULY 6

ADRA SHORT FILM COMPETITION
APPLICATIONS DUE

JULY 20

ADRA SHORT FILM
COMPETITION FILM DUE

For more information
on the ADRA short
film competition see
<http://bit.ly/1UHeF7>

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



MATT SILIGA

Big – that's how I'd describe 2015 so far.

We've had big rides (see the Queenstown Classic report on page 4), big storms (see page 1 for an update from Vanuatu) and big hearts (yes, I'm talking about you) all crammed into the first four months of the year.

I am humbled every day by this ministry and the incredible generosity of every ADRA supporter and volunteer. Thank you.

I'll be honest – this edition of ADRA Update is out later than we had planned, but keeping you up-to-date with the impact your support is having is a key priority of the team. So I offer you my apologies and a suggested solution. If you haven't already, sign up for ADRA eUpdates and get the latest news, views and opportunities from the team in our inbox every month. It's easy, cheap and as I write plans are being finalized and budgets set for the next financial year. It's a challenging and exciting time and I am so thankful that many of you keep the team here in your prayers – please continue to do so.

There are more big things on the horizon and great new ways for you to get involved with ADRA's work. I can't wait to change the lives of more families at home and overseas. Enjoy this edition of ADRA Update.

PS – Don't forget you can opt to contribute your tax refund (or a portion of it) to ADRA. For those who have donated directly to ADRA in the past 12 months we've included an IRD form with your receipt. If you are yet to receive your annual donations receipt from ADRA New Zealand please let us know – they were sent from our office on April 20.

Matt Siliga
Chief Executive Officer

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please join with us as we pray for the following:

Cyclone Pam

With the initial disaster response coming to an end in Vanuatu we are now starting to transition into a recovery stage and your prayers would be greatly appreciated as we aim to help rebuild the lives of those who were affected by Cyclone Pam.

Praise and Thanks for new team member

We would like to give thanks for our new staff member Braden Blyde who will be our new Marketing and Donor Relations Director. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they settle into New Zealand and his new role.

Winter Warmth

As the cool of winter approaches please pray for those Kiwi families who may not have the opportunity or means to remain in comfort. Pray too for the many ADRA volunteers who work hard to care for them and their needs.

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SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Matthew Siliga, *Chief Executive Officer* | Victoria Fray,
International Programme Director | Robert Patton,
Emergency Management Director | Evan Fray, *National
Programme Director* | Braden Blyde, *Marketing and
Donor Relations Director*

BOARD MEMBERS

Brad Kemp, *Chairman* | Matthew Siliga, *Secretary* |
Graeme Drinkall | Leanne Davies | Greg Young |
Stephen Andrews | Susan Piket | Paul Hopson | Reno
Paotonu

OUR WORK OVERSEAS

RECONNECTING WITH MAO

Remember Mao? We introduced you to her during last year's 'No More Losses' campaign. Half of her 15 children have died from preventable water-borne disease – but when Leanne Davies, from PAPSDA, visited as part of their ADRA Connections team she witnessed the impact ADRA is having in Mao's life and on hundreds of other families in the district.

"There was a real, palpable sense of home in the village," Leanne said. "You could feel the difference."

"Last year Mao was despondent and sick – this time she was a different lady. She looked happy and excited to see us. She told me she was well, and her kids looked well. They are learning from the weekly ADRA meetings and can see hope – that things can be better!" "That was so exciting to see and to feel," she said.

Working with 30 communities in Mao's district ADRA's is working with community members and local partners to provide hygiene education programs, installing water catchment, storage and filtering facilities and build sanitary latrines. So far 12 wells, 183 tanks and 10 ponds have been created and 196 latrines built. More than 2,600 people have received hygiene training.

But more importantly each one is discovering hope just like Mao!



CAFÉ CHANGING LIVES IN NEW LYNN

Did you know that New Zealand has one of the highest rates of youth suicide in the world? Every week two people under the age of 25 commit suicide, and 26 others seriously self harm. Seriously shocking statistics.

New Lynn Samoan Church is helping change this by building a community of resilient young people and empowering young leaders. "God has a plan for all young people," says Tafa Fidow, New Lynn Samoan Youth Leader, "but that plan cannot come to fruition if our youth are taking their own lives and falling by the wayside to a world that has become increasingly difficult and challenging to navigate."

Tafa and his team are now preparing to run café style meetings in the heart of their local community.

"It will be a really informal, relaxed atmosphere," he says. "We want to create a place where young people can build significant relationships and hear inspirational messages that address key issues such as identity, peer pressure, service, and compassion."

After each message, a challenge activity will be run such as random acts of kindness, visitations or team building to help practically apply or address the issue at hand. "Through this project, we'll provide opportunities for youth to develop and build resilience. We've always run lots of activities at Church, but this year we want to do something really different," he says.

"Thank you ADRA for the opportunity the Church Partnership Programme has provided to get this project off the ground. Together we can make a real difference in our community!"

OUR WORK AT HOME



HOW MANY PASTORS DOES IT TAKE TO... CHANGE A BIKE TYRE? | It may sound like the start of a familiar joke, but the recently completed Queenstown Classic ride proved that while pastors may not be the best bike mechanics in the world – they are passionate about making the world a better place.

Setting off in the early hours of Sunday, March 8 more than 50 cyclists left Queenstown to embark on an epic three-day ride in support of ADRA. Among the group were a large number of Pastors from our local Adventist churches. Their efforts were double - they took up the challenge to get fit and make a difference at the same time.

Thanks to the fundraising of the riders more than \$100,000 was raised for ADRA. An amazing effort by all involved!

"It was brilliant," said ADRA New Zealand CEO Matthew Siliga. "Great scenery, great cause, great camaraderie and just a great time overall." Next year's event is set to be even better - and bigger, with spaces opening for up to 100 riders."

Registrations for the 2016 Queenstown Classic are now open. Don't miss out - register online today! Visit www.adra.org.nz/QueenstownClassic

GETTING INVOLVED



THE CHRISTMAS GLOW CONTINUES | Christmas is a distant memory – but I just couldn't let the opportunity pass to thank Karen publicly. We'd love to hear and share more stories about how you are changing lives with ADRA. Email your story and photos to info@adra.org.au Thanks – Matt.

While most people were slowing down and getting ready for a Christmas holiday Karen Davison, from East Hamilton church, was working hard to raise funds for ADRA as part of the Give Life Christmas Tree Appeal. Karen made a special booklet that not only included gifts from our appeal, but additional gifts she enquired about. She also worked to provide brief notes detailing where the funds were being used.

A lot of time and effort was put into this booklet and thanks to Karen's efforts several hundred dollars were raised. **Thank you Karen for helping ADRA 'give life' to families at home and overseas!**



THINK ABOUT IT | Every \$1 spent on disaster preparedness saves \$7 in disaster aftermath