



# ADRA UPDATE



## WHEN IS A DISASTER, NOT A DISASTER?

Police, fire and ambulance services rushed to the scene. The Red Cross and Salvation Army were there too. And, at the call of Auckland Civil Defence ADRA staff began planning a response. Following a 9.3 magnitude earthquake a deadly tsunami had swept through the Whangateau, Leigh and Point Wells communities north of Auckland. If assistance didn't reach those affected soon the death toll was set to climb rapidly. All of this occurred in early November, but the disaster never made the national news. Why? It was just an exercise. Exercise Wharenga.

“Exercise Wharenga was a two-day operation that tested the systems and practices of the local community and organisations like ADRA following a large-scale, natural disaster,” said Robert Patton, Emergency Management Director for ADRA New Zealand. Mr Patton, who instigated the exercise, plans numerous simulations across the globe each year. “The situation may not have been real – but our response was. It’s important that we are ready to respond to disasters quickly and effectively. These exercises ensure we are prepared.”

ADRA staff and volunteers from New Zealand, Australia, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu were brought together as part of ADRA’s South Pacific Emergency Response Team. Members of this team are on stand-by year-round to respond to disasters that occur in the Pacific. All hands on deck! After two days of training the ADRA team entered the simulation, quickly moving to the affected area and liaising with Auckland Council, emergency services and community organisations to plan a response. A ‘rapid needs assessment’ was carried out – a surveying process that allowed the team to quickly identify the most pressing needs of the community and begin planning their response.

In this case, water tanks had been inundated with salt water and other water infrastructure destroyed. Not only was dehydration a risk, but so too the spread of disease. In the space of 36 hours the ADRA team had planned and budgeted a response that would assist close to 800 people. It’s far from easy work. Mr Patton and his team of exercise monitors

carefully orchestrate ‘injects’ – scenarios designed to test participant’s response to a range of crisis – throughout the simulation. From ongoing tsunami warnings to pushy reporters the team were forced to stay on their toes around the clock. “Responding to a disaster is a stressful experience,” said Mr Patton. “There are time pressures, demands on a multitude of fronts and the constant thought that people’s lives may be reliant on your personal performance.”

Exercise Wharenga highlighted a number of areas in the local communities’ response plans that could be strengthened – from communication contingencies to evacuation points. “The community is always the first responder in an actual emergency,” said Mr Patton. “It happens everywhere in the world. It’s good for them to be prepared – and a privilege to be part of their continual journey of improvement.” The simulation, which is an annual event for the emergency response team, is an important part of ensuring ADRA can respond to disasters quickly and effectively. Testing the team’s skills, and the systems that support them will ensure lives can be saved, and the road to recovery can be made just a little bit smoother for families who may have lost it all.

Your support ensures ADRA can deliver life-changing assistance to people affected by disaster – thank you!



Kiri putting her training into action.

**THINK ABOUT IT | Nearly half the population of Syria have either been displaced or are now living in refugee camps due to the Syrian crisis.**



# FROM THE CEO

A few days ago I received an invitation for our work Christmas party. I was a little taken back by how quickly the year has gone by. It feels like only yesterday I was sharing Christmas celebrations with my family and welcoming in the New Year. Yet a year has passed, new challenges faced and opportunities taken up. It's been a great year for ADRA and we praise God for His many blessings.

Among many highlights, this year ADRA have achieved re-accreditation with the NZ Government, recruited two new talented staff members and have introduced the Church Partnership Programme, which has seen and will continue to see more projects and more impact in New Zealand.

ADRA have a lot to be thankful for this Christmas - we all do!

The fact that we have a roof over our heads, access to clean water and food, education and healthcare, makes us a part of a small minority group, labelled the richest 5% of the world's population. While we may not always see it, we are blessed!

Join ADRA as we give thanks this Christmas. By purchasing a gift off ADRA's Give Life Christmas Tree, you will help to bring hope and joy to families living in poverty and distress. To learn more about the Give Life Campaign, check out the flyer inserted with this newsletter.

Finally as 2014 comes to a close, thank you again for your financial support, prayers and volunteer hours. You are a very big part of what we do – you are ADRA!

Stay safe these holidays and I look forward to catching up with you in 2015.

Matt Siliga  
Chief Executive Officer

7 DEC	ADRA CHARITY RUN, MISSION BAY, AUCKLAND
9-17 JAN	OPEN DOORS WORKSHOP, SNZ CAMP MEETING SNZ SHORT FILM COMPETITION
12 FEB	FUNDING DEADLINE - CHURCH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME
8-10 MARCH	PUSH THE PEDAL FOR CHANGE - QUEENSTOWN CLASSIC
1 MAY	FUNDING DEADLINE - CHURCH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME
9 MAY	DISASTER & FAMINE RELIEF CAMPAIGN/OFFERING

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please join with us as we pray for the following:

**A vision captured**  
Praise God for a vision captured. Since launching the Church Partnership Programme in September, 12 churches have come onboard and have been approved new projects to support their community.

**Ebola crisis**  
4,800 deaths have already been caused by the Ebola outbreak centred in West Africa. Experts fear as many as 1.4 million will be infected before it is under control. Please keep the communities in West Africa in your prayers and ADRA as we continue to provide assistance.

**Cyclone season**  
We are now well and truly into cyclone season in the South Pacific and weather patterns are telling us we could be in for a stormier than usual summer. Please keep our dear neighbours in your prayers.

## OUR WORK OVERSEAS

### BUILDING RESILIENCE | FIJI

Often promoted as beautiful one day and perfect the next. Fiji, like many of our Pacific neighbours is a country that each year battles cyclones, floods and droughts.

One of the districts most at-risk of such weather conditions is Viti Levu. In supporting Viti Levu ADRA is assisting 15 communities with training in improved farming practices, crop diversification and financial literacy and small business. ADRA is also refurbishing and building new water supplies as a strategy to increase productivity through the reduction of waterborne illnesses.

While it is one thing to improve sustainable farming and business practices, families also need to be more resilient to the harsh weather conditions. To assist with building resiliency, ADRA has established Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMC). These committees have been established to prepare communities for any disaster. ADRA have worked with CDMC's to draw up Emergency management plans that will see the establishment of evacuation routes and centres, for schools, villages and community organisations. While the priority is always safety, these plans are developed to also reduce the amount of loss and damage.



Men in Wavosi attending a CDMC meeting.

### LOOK OUT NZ, HERE WE COME!

Since launching the Church Partnership Programme in September we've established 12 new community projects in 12 churches across the country. Ranging from baby clothing libraries to family health initiatives to depression recovery, we've been busy. Of the 12 new projects, five are Welcome Baby (Baby Clothing library) projects funded through the My Family Funding Pool.

The Welcome Baby Programme is a clothing library for young mothers and vulnerable families. All churches participating in the programme receive 40 clothing packs filled with quality new clothes and nappies to get their library started. The programme provides clothing for new-born babies to 12 month olds. Each clothing pack is valued at \$250 and can be exchanged for another pack as the baby grows older.

Mrs Ina Louw, Welcome Baby Co-ordinator for Papatoetoe Seventh-Day Adventist Church (PAPSDA) reflects on her first call out. "They are a wonderful couple and baby Georgie is so beautiful... the parents do their best but with the father unemployed and other children to support life is tough" says Mrs Louw.

This is the story often heard by social workers across New Zealand.

While the distribution of clothes is the core activity of the programme, Welcome Baby is more than this as the programme builds relationships with mothers, mentoring them through an important part of their life journey.

"Being a mum, especially for the first time can be very stressful and scary. I'm glad I can share some of my experiences and what I've learnt over the years" says Mrs Louw.

### CHURCH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

For more information about the Church Partnership Programme, or to download an application form for the My Family Fund or Innovations Fund go to [www.adra.org.nz](http://www.adra.org.nz), or email [adra.info@adra.org.nz](mailto:adra.info@adra.org.nz). Alternatively you can call toll-free on 0800 499 911. Next funding round closes on 12 February.

## OUR WORK AT HOME



Packed and ready to go out the door...any takers?



Mrs Louw on her first Welcome Baby visit.





# GETTING INVOLVED

**ONLY 6 PLACES LEFT** | What started off as a dream is now well and truly a reality. In March this year ADRA in partnership with 25000spins ran its first major charity cycling event. With only 18 cyclists, six from New Zealand, 11 from Australia and one from the

United States the ride was nothing more than a humble beginning. But fast forward 9 months and we now have 44 riders signed up for next year's Push the Pedal for Change: Queenstown Classic, including a team from South NZ led by Conference President, Damien Rice and a team from North NZ led by Conference Treasurer Shane Palipane. And of course no ride will be complete without a team from our cousins across the Tasman. Thank you to the 35 incredible kiwis who have committed themselves to this amazing challenge that will not only take in some of the prettiest sights in world but will also help raise funds to support communities in Philippines and Vanuatu. With next year's ride capped at 50 places, there are still six spots left. If you are interested in joining the ride or if you would like to learn more about it please go to <http://queenstownclassic.gofundraise.co.nz/> or alternatively call ADRA toll-free on 0800 499 911.

**KNOCKTOBER, A SMART CHOICE** | Lusi Sione knows how to get a job done. A member at Addington Samoan Adventist Church, Mr Sione is the personal ministries and Pathfinder leader for his church. For most people two big jobs that demand an equal amount of time is a formula for working harder, but for Mr Sione it means working smarter. When reading last quarter's ADRA Update, Mr Sione signed his Pathfinder club up to do a public place collection for Knocktober (a.k.a ADRA appeal). Seeing it as an opportunity for his Pathfinders to earn an honor in Community Service while raising funds to make a difference in the lives of people at home and overseas, was also an opportunity to revive a collection that has been dormant the last few years. As a result of four hours collecting outside of two shopping malls, Addington Samoan Pathfinders collected \$610. Thank you Mr Sione and Addington Samoan Pathfinder Club. Great effort!



Addington Samoan Pathfinders.



## Give Life This Christmas

Purchase a gift off ADRA's gift tree today and help support families around the world and here in NZ

**THINK ABOUT IT** | Thanks to you ADRA responds to a disaster every second month around the globe. To learn more about ADRA go to [www.adra.org.nz](http://www.adra.org.nz) or visit us at [www.facebook.com/adra.newzealand](http://www.facebook.com/adra.newzealand)