



ADRAUPDATE

WINTER 2015



LIFE IN FULL COLOUR

Selina is part of a shocking statistical majority – 90% of rural Fijians lack access to adequate water and sanitation. It's hard to comprehend isn't it? As you read this, safe-drinking water is only a matter of metres away, you could find soap without so much as looking, and a hygienic toilet is never more than a short stroll down the hall.

The fact that 9 out of 10 of our closest neighbours have their lives not only limited, but put at risk by a lack of adequate water and hygiene simply isn't fair. That's why we have been working in one of Fiji's most remote and disadvantaged regions to provide the opportunities people need to break out of a limited, black and white life and begin living life in full colour.

In the remote Fijian province of Navosa we've been helping thousands of people like Selina access improved water sources and better hygiene facilities, while teaching them how to make the most of it.

The result – children are sick less often and spend more time in school and their parents have the time to earn more money. Plus, your support has meant that it's not just better water and hygiene that's changing lives in Fiji. We've also been working with 15 communities to help them produce and sell more food to businesses in the nearest business district, 45km away.

While that doesn't seem far, transport from the communities is only available once or twice a fortnight and costs NZ\$350 – twice what most households earn each month! By helping local farmers sell collectively and demand higher prices we can ensure they have the income they need to provide food, education and medical care for their children.

"The word I heard most during the ceremony was empowerment", said Matthew Siliga, ADRA New Zealand's CEO, after recently attending the opening ceremony of one of the water systems this project has provided (you can read more about his experience on the next page). "The community understood that this wasn't about the water

– this was about their children. The taps didn't symbolise saving time, but better health and ultimately a better life for their children. This project has given them the ability to think and choose beyond the day-to-day. It has opened up the opportunity to live life to the full, not some second-best, trapped in black and white kind of existence."

During the next 12 months we have plans to continue changing lives in places including Vietnam, Cambodia, Vanuatu and right here in New Zealand. But we can't do it without you. Please help us raise the \$150,000 we need to create vibrant communities and help people like Selina live life in full colour. Your gift of \$20, \$100 or a very generous \$200 will change lives.

Donate online now at www.adra.org.nz/winterappeal, call 0800 499911 or simply return the form included with this newsletter to ADRA New Zealand.



Improving water systems and hygiene facilities like this means people like Selina can live healthy, happy lives. Help others live life in full colour by donating at www.adra.org.nz/winterappeal

THINK ABOUT IT | \$100 can provide a hygienic toilet

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please join with us as we pray for the following:

Nepal

We ask that you continue to keep the people of Nepal in your prayers as they continue to rebuild their livelihoods and continue to recover from the earthquakes that hit them.

Vanuatu

Vanuatu is still facing a long road to recovery after being hit by Cyclone Pam. We ask that you continue to pray for the people who are trying to get back on their feet and continue to be resilient in the aftermath.

Fiji

Thank you for praying for all our projects overseas. We ask this month that you keep the people running projects in Fiji in your prayers as they continue to work with local farmers to improve their efficiency and help improve the lives of the farmers with a steady income stream and food.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



MATT SILIGA

You can't just go out and buy a whale's tooth. The tabua is one of the most valuable of all traditional Fijian objects, they are gifts passed down at only the most important ceremonies. I was recently humbled to receive a whales tooth from a chief in Fiji. I was invited to attend the opening of a community water system constructed in Nakasayaga village as part of our project focused addressing the food, income and water challenges faced by rural communities.

The ceremony was astonishingly vibrant and incredibly moving (read more about it on page 1). To be gifted such a culturally significant item as a whales tooth really touched me. It wasn't me who built the water system – it was them. It isn't me who is taking the opportunities opened to them to build a brighter future for their children – it is them. The people in front of me had done infinitely more than I had or ever would to change their lives. They were the ones creating a vibrant community made up of thriving families – people living life in full colour.

And, it wasn't me who provided the funds to get this project off the ground – it was you.

This water system and the hope that it brings to the children of Nakasayaga is only possible because of you. Your support is vital in ensuring we can continue to change lives at home and overseas. Thank you for being part of ADRA's vital ministry! This winter we need your help to raise the \$150,000 we need changing lives in the year ahead. Simply complete and return the included form, call 0800 499 911 or donate online at www.adra.org.nz

Please help us continue helping others live life in full colour this winter.

Matt Siliga
Chief Executive Officer

OUR WORK OVERSEAS



NEPAL STANDS TALL

"It was a hard walk back home but I could see everyone in joy. I still remember seeing the look on the faces of my wife and children's when they saw me with the load food. They asked if I bought it, or how many organization was there to distribute, when I said just one, she was shocked. If ever you need our support, me and the entire village will speak up and stand up for you."

Thanks to your support, comments like these are common across Nepal. Since the first of the country's deadly earthquakes struck in April, ADRA has assisted more than 30,000 people – a number that continues to grow.

While emergency food packs, water and sanitation kits, tarpaulins and mobile health clinics saved lives in the week following the disaster, ADRA is committed to truly helping Nepal stand tall. And we can thanks to you.

Your support allowed ADRA New Zealand, in partnership with the New Zealand Government, to fund a project that is refurbishing damaged water supply systems, providing families with seeds and tools to restart their gardens and small-scale solar power systems to provide light and charging for their radios and mobile phones. In addition, the local economy is being bolstered through a cash-for-work program where community members are paid to help repair their community's water systems.

Thank you for changing lives in Nepal!

OUR WORK AT HOME

SOLUTION FOUND

Aroha's name means 'love', but her childhood was anything but loving. A victim of sexual abuse, family violence and a deeply ingrained gang culture, Aroha's slide towards self-destruction early.

By her early 20's Aroha had witnessed two suicides, worked as a prostitute and was living with a methamphetamine producer and pimp. She still sports scars from the last beating he inflicted – violence which only stopped when he committed suicide. "I would wake every night with dreams of him hurting me," she remembers. "I was going crazy."

While committing herself to getting clean and building a lifestyle that could see her children return to her care, Aroha faced incredible disadvantage and relapsed harder into drugs. She took up drug dealing - initially to pay the bills but she was quickly earning a large income and living the lifestyle to match it. Things quickly turned and Aroha found herself homeless. With the help of a friend Aroha relocated to Auckland and found a place to live. She also started taking part in ADRA's Solutions Programme.

The Solutions Programme offers Aroha and others like her a supportive group environment that provides the opportunity to develop positive attitudes, change behaviours and learn practical life skills that literally change lives. "Everyone is on the same page me," she says. "We are journeying together and the leaders are so supportive. I went back home and was offered to sell drugs," she said. "Now I am strong enough to say no, and continue living positively. I had everything; now I have nothing - but I'm happy."

"My dream is to get my kids back and the Solutions Programme is a key part of this happening." Aroha and others like her have had their lives changes thanks to your support of the ADRA Solutions Programme.



SPIRIT LED

ADRA WORKSHOPS: FAMILY HEALTH AND YOUTH PROGRAMMES

25-27 SEPT

KNOCKTOBER

THE ADRA APPEAL

OCTOBER

PATHFINDER FAIR + RALLY
COMPLETE THE ADRA HONOUR

23-26 OCT

ADRA CHARITY RUN
MISSION BAY, AUCKLAND

29 NOV

CPP APPLICATIONS

FUNDING DEADLINE: CHURCH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

21 AUG, 6 NOV

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Paotonu

THINK ABOUT IT | 22,000 Children die each day due to poverty



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GIVING TIME AND TIME-AGAIN | More than 1/3 of all Kiwi's volunteer their time to help others – a figure that puts New Zealanders amongst the most generous givers of time on the planet. We think that's amazing.

June 21-27 was National Volunteer Week, and although this publication comes at least a month later, we wanted to take the chance to say a huge 'thank-you' to all the ADRA volunteers across the country. In total more than 250 people give up their time to help others through ADRA projects. We wish it were possible to thank each one of you individually on this page!

Whether you volunteer your time as part of the Welcome Baby Programme, lead a youth-mentoring group or simply spend an hour collecting during the ADRA Appeal, your contribution really is changing lives. Thank-you!

Learn more about volunteering with ADRA by calling 0800 499 911 or email adra.info@adra.org.nz

KIDS MAKE BIG SPLASH FOR VANUATU | Either the prefects of South Auckland Seventh-day Adventist School forgot that winter is cold, and not the ideal time to get soaked with water – or they were simply willing to take up an uncomfortable challenge to help change lives overseas.

Whatever the case, their leadership recently saw the school raise more than \$800 to support ADRA's work in Vanuatu as a part of The Big Splash fun-run. With Vanuatu making the headlines as a result of Cyclone Pam, the school leaders realized that accessing water isn't as easy as just turning on the tap for many people around the world. "Every term we place a huge emphasis on Service Projects," said school Chaplain Keli Pepa. "The projects can range from collecting cans, to visiting elderly or collecting funds for ADRA. Being splashed with cold water was a bit of a sacrifice," Keli said. "But every student was aware that it was all worthwhile considering the struggles others have."

Thank you SASDA students, parents and staff for helping to change lives! Want to hold a meaningful event or get creative in your fundraising for ADRA? Contact adra.info@adra.org.nz for support and ideas.



THINK ABOUT IT | 443 Million school days are lost each year due to water-related illnesses