

# ADRA UPDATE

## A JAR OF LIFE



Thach moves slowly, grimacing with every step. Each one more painful than the last. Today, there are no clouds in Vietnam's warm sky and Thach, despite her gasping breaths has a first-class view of the golden sun setting.

The grass beneath her feet often reminds her of the long journeys through the plains she would make as a young girl. Although only 58, rheumatoid arthritis has taken away her ability to walk long distances. The pain has tethered her close to her home, the chain shrinking with time.

Thach cultivates the land as a source of both food and income, her reliance on crops leaves her at the mercy of the seasons. As the journey becomes increasingly difficult, Thach takes fewer trips to the nearby water supply and her harvest suffers.

The Mekong River Delta region is not connected to a water supply. Families are reliant on the rain. Rain water is used to bathe in, clean clothes and dishes, cook food in and drink from. The most basic of needs are all met through the rain water provided – but it is often dangerously fickle.

The drought arrived without warning.

Many families in Thach's village lost their harvest as saltwater intrusion ravaged cultivatable land and the last drops of water quickly disappeared. Families would have to walk many kilometres to the next village for clean water.

Thach's daughter now has the sole responsibility of making the long journey to collect water, not just for her mother but for her own family.

It's a task placed on the shoulders of many in her village, mostly mothers and young girls who make countless trips throughout the day, sometimes in sweltering heat, to retrieve water for their families.

Through ADRA's Livelihood Improvement for Building Resilient Communities (LIBRE) Project, Thach received a water jar which makes it easier to collect and store water. ADRA's long term presence, which is only possible thanks to your support, has helped establish income generating cow-banks and other businesses – but it also means we can support families like Thach's in crisis.

The jar means Thach can collect water from her roof and store it safely. She and her community had dreamed of simple rain-water catchment, but "It would have made no sense if we had not had the proper container for storing," Thach happily shares.

It is incredible to witness the impact that something as small as a water jar makes for a family like Thach's. This small gift has made a difference for a family in a time of great need. And your ongoing support is helping Thach not only survive – but thrive.

Your support, whether small or large is making an amazing difference in the lives of people like Thach. Thank you! The LIBRE project requires \$170,000 in private funds to operate each year. Learn more about this project at [www.adra.org.nz/libre](http://www.adra.org.nz/libre)

Want to see ADRA's work in Vietnam first hand and be part of something life-changing? Join us in July for an ADRA Connections trip to Vietnam.

**Find out more at [www.adra.org.nz/connections](http://www.adra.org.nz/connections) and help us change the world.**

**THINK ABOUT IT | Over 60% of rural Vietnamese don't have access to clean water.**

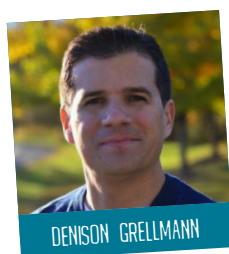
# FROM THE CEO

New Year's resolutions - you either love them, hate them or simply ignore them. Whatever your reaction there is no denying that a new year brings the chance to reflect and learn from the past, and not only dream but pursue a brighter future.

Obviously, sticking with them is something we all struggle with. Whether at an individual or organisational level, creating sustainable, life-altering change takes commitment and the confidence to be just a little bit brave.

I want to say a huge thank you for your commitment to helping create a brighter future for families in need here in New Zealand and overseas. Without your support none of life-changing projects you'll read about here (or in our emails – see below if you don't receive these) would be possible. A recent review of our programme here in New Zealand highlighted the amazing things that are happening. From Te Kao to Invercargill, communities are being transformed through your efforts, prayers and support. Thank you!

It also showed us opportunities to improve and grow our ministry, engage more churches and other groups in meeting the needs they see around them, and transform communities right across the country.



DENISON GRELLMANN

So this month sees the launch of ADRA New Zealand's Community Transformation Partnerships (CTP). These partnerships provide funding, resources and support to churches like yours to connect with and change the community around you. Whether you want to run a My Money, Welcome Baby or a Health CREATION Initiative – or something completely different, we are committed to partnering with you to bring sustainable, life-altering change to your community.

For more information about the CTP visit [www.adra.org.nz/ctp](http://www.adra.org.nz/ctp) or call 0800 499 911. The first funding round closes on 31 March.

Thank you for partnering with ADRA to help families at home and overseas thrive!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please join with us as we pray for the following:

ADRA is planning a new project to help rural families in Timor Leste improve their farming and incomes. Please pray for guidance and the successful funding of this project

Earlier this year, thanks to our supporters, we were able to start a new project in Myanmar. Please pray for the families in Myanmar this project is supporting and the ADRA staff on the ground.

In recent months countless Kiwi families have been affected by earthquake, flood and fire. We are praying for them and investigating ways to help effectively – please join us in this.

12 MARCH

### TRAIL BUSTER HUNUA

Register Online at [www.adra.org.nz/trailbusterhunua](http://www.adra.org.nz/trailbusterhunua)

26 MARCH

### HAMILTON RUN

Register Online at [www.adra.org.nz/hamiltonrun2017](http://www.adra.org.nz/hamiltonrun2017)

31 MARCH

### COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION PARTNERSHIP DEADLINE

Visit [www.adra.org.nz/ctp](http://www.adra.org.nz/ctp) and get your applications in!

31 MARCH

### END OF TAX YEAR

Have you considered using your Tax Refund to help families thrive?

> GET IN TOUCH >

Fill in and return the form below and one of our team will get in contact shortly.

NAME

EMAIL

ADDRESS

PHONE

I would like to :

- ☐ Update my details    ☐ Have ADRA speak at my church    ☐ Make a donation  
☐ Leave a gift in my will    ☐ Go on an ADRA Connections Trip    ☐ Receive regular ADRA email updates  
☐ Run an ADRA Community Transformation Partnership initiative

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# YOUR IMPACT AT HOME AND OVERSEAS



## OUR WORK AT HOME | TANIA'S WARM WELCOME

Tania was seven months pregnant, and devastated. Child, Youth and Family Services had just called her in the prison she called home to confirm that her twin daughters would be taken into their care immediately after birth.

Born into a family entrenched in gang life, Tania lived "a life in and out of jail" from a young age. And now, behind bars again, Tania knew this was not the life she wanted for her children. The same day Tania was told her twins would be taken, she was visited by two women from the Grace Foundation, a partner of ADRA based in South Auckland.

Knowing Tania's situation, one of the leaders from the Grace Foundation contacted Papatoetoe Adventist Church to see if there was a place for Tania in ADRA's Welcome Baby programme. The Welcome Baby team was excited for the opportunity to help Tania and her beautiful twin girls. Tania was given two Welcome Baby packs filled with clothes, booties, nappies along with other utilities to support the babies' in their first year of life.

Tania was incredibly grateful for all the support she received, "I was blessed... to know that at 3-6 months I can hand [the baby clothes] back and get bigger ones." Not only was Tania blessed through this experience, but the Welcome Baby team was thankful for the opportunity to give. Karyn, from Papatoetoe church shares that Welcome Baby is "an amazing way we get to connect, it's there for our community." Her dream is that of ADRA's own, "I just want to see us do that more. I want to see us work together because I think that as a body, our whole church together is so much stronger than when we are on our own."

You too can help families in your community! Learn how at [www.adra.org.nz/communitytransformation](http://www.adra.org.nz/communitytransformation) or call 0800 499 911  
Thank you for helping kiwi families like Tania thrive!

## OUR WORK OVERSEAS | HOPE GROWS IN FIJI

The illusive work-life balance is a challenge not just faced by city-dwellers in wealthy countries. Poverty, as it stretches incomes and workloads often drives families apart. In many cases to breaking point.

Take for example Aporosa, a participant in ADRA's project in Navosa, Fiji. Before ADRA established a collection centre and linkages with a wholesaler, Aporosa would spend much of his time, and money, transporting his watermelons to Nadi or Suva for sale. His family was left to fend for themselves, and his meagre profits barely met their basic needs when he returned.

Or Litiana, a mother who would leave her family behind to make the trip from her rural home to coastal markets. Not only was she burdened by poverty, and the workload of selling her crops – but the guilt and worry of leaving her children at home.

The good news – things are now different! Your support has ensured ADRA can support farming families from the rural Navosa community through training on sustainable land use, organic farming techniques, financial literacy and business management. ADRA has also partnered with a wholesaler, meaning families like Aporosa's and Litiana's can collectively sell their produce for a better price, just a few minutes from home.

"I am able to spend more time at home with my household chores, spend time with my children and also help my husband in the farm," said Litiana.  
"I am still finding it hard to believe. Thank you ADRA!" Thank you for helping families in Fiji thrive!



**THINK ABOUT IT | One in every five kiwi kids live in poverty.**

# GETTING INVOLVED

## GET RUNNING

ADRA's annual Making Heroes Charity Run once again transformed Auckland's waterfront, with thousands of runners, walkers and supporters joining the event in November last year. More than \$80,000 was raised to support the work of ADRA. A huge thanks to all the volunteers who came out to make this such an amazing event!

But, it's not just Aucklanders putting on their running shoes. ADRA Charity Run events have also sprung up in Hamilton and New Plymouth, and a partnership between ADRA and Adventist Health saw the inaugural running of the Hagley Hunger Run in Christchurch in January. "Holding events like this across the country is a great way to engage people with ADRA's ministry," said Braden Blyde, Marketing and Donor Relations Director for ADRA New Zealand. "It's exciting to hear from more and more churches looking to not only raise funds, but creatively connect with their community."

The next running event will be in Hamilton on the 26th of March. Check out [www.adra.org.nz/hamiltonrun2017](http://www.adra.org.nz/hamiltonrun2017) for more details. If you would like to host an ADRA run or other event, contact the team and we'll get you started.

## CHRISTMAS TREE CAMPAIGN

This year we had more churches than ever register to be a part of our Christmas Tree campaign – almost doubling our previous record! For Mrs Liem\*, her wish of a cow was granted and she now has a source of income for her family. Thank you for granting wishes from all over the world.

\* name changed to protect privacy



## QUEENSTOWN CLASSIC

A huge thank you to all those who took part in the Queenstown Classic. From the 5th-7th of March, 22 brave individuals took on the 300km cycle in support of families at home and overseas!

Keep an eye out for more life-changing adventures in 2017.



**Vietnam – July**  
**Vanuatu – October (Youth)**  
**Myanmar – December**  
**Or get a group of 12+ and we'll customize a trip for you!**

# GO HELP THE WORLD

**REGISTER or LEARN MORE today! Visit [www.adra.org.nz/connections](http://www.adra.org.nz/connections) or email [connections@adra.org.nz](mailto:connections@adra.org.nz)**