



ADRA RESPONDS

VOLUME 2 | 2020

**ADRA &  
YOU**





# CEO'S CORNER

## FAITHFULLY RESPONDING

Dear ADRA family,

These last months have certainly challenged us in many ways. COVID-19 has extensively impacted our lives and many of us are still processing the fact that life will be different from what we once knew. It is perhaps natural for us to feel a bit anxious about our uncertain future. We have also experienced it with our work at ADRA in New Zealand and overseas, but as a team, decided to keep a positive focus and keep pushing on.

At the beginning of the lockdown, Cyclone Harold caused widespread destruction in Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, and the Solomon Islands. All of a sudden, we had not only an emergency in the Pacific to respond to, but also in New Zealand, as hundreds of families in our communities were experiencing financial difficulties due to the loss of jobs and income.


Initially, we had very little funds to respond to these emergencies, but in faith, we prayed about it and started knocking on many doors for donations. What at first seemed

impossible became possible. Our ADRA team put a proposal together for a *'Love Thy Neighbour'* intervention in the Pacific and New Zealand and piece by piece, all funds we needed to respond were supplied.

I have been personally reminded in a big way that God is in control of everything. When we trust Him and faithfully engage in His work which includes loving our neighbour through actions of compassion and love, He will continue to show His mercy.

This newsletter will give you a glimpse of the impact of your generosity during these uncertain times.

Blessings,

  
**Denison Grellmann**  
ADRA NZ Chief Executive Officer



*In response* TO CYCLONE HAROLD, WE'VE PROVIDED SUPPORT TO FAMILIES MOST IN NEED IN VANUATU. P3



DISTRIBUTING ESSENTIALS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IS HOW WE'VE EXPRESSED LOVE TO OUR *neighbours* HERE IN NZ. P4-5



LEARN HOW YOU CAN *get involved* WITH ADRA AND SERVE YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. P6

# RESPONDING TO TROPICAL CYCLONE HAROLD

**ADRA responded to the Category 5, Tropical Cyclone Harold in Vanuatu earlier this year by providing immediate relief to families most in need.**

Vanuatu is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to natural disasters. With over 80 islands, the country is located on the earthquake-prone "ring of fire" and sits at the centre of the Pacific cyclone belt.

Many families in Vanuatu have experienced these disasters; volcanic eruptions, cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, storm surges, coastal flooding, and landslides. However, experience alone doesn't always prepare someone for the next major disaster.

After Cyclone Harold, over half the country's population needed emergency shelter (total population is approximately 300,000), with aid agencies reporting that between 50-70% of buildings were damaged by the cyclone.

Before the cyclone, Vanuatu had already declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19. While there were no confirmed cases, fear of the virus prompted emergency shut-down procedures limiting social gatherings and closing all non-essential business.

However, after the cyclone, these restrictions were no longer practical as hundreds of people sought refuge in evacuation centres. As such, restrictions on social gatherings were forced to be lifted, but borders remained closed to international travel and aid personnel.

For the ADRA team in Vanuatu, this meant that they would need to rebuild their country without the physical help of other international workers. On top of this, some of the ADRA team responding to the cyclone had also lost their own homes in the cyclone. However, they continued to work through and ensure those who needed help received it.

ADRA distributed water, sanitation and hygiene kits to thousands of people needing immediate help in Santo and Tanna (two large islands in Vanuatu). Shelter kits, iron roofing and materials were also distributed to assist with families who have lost their homes.

ADRA also helped to rebuild broken water supply systems for 10 different communities ensuring that everyone was able to access clean water.

Today, we are continuing to work in Vanuatu to provide water for communities without clean water, ensuring a long-term sustainable difference.

Thank you to everyone that donated to our emergency response. Through your support, we can help people when they are most in need.

■ By Sahara Anae



GRAHAM WAS THE LEAD RESPONDER FOR ADRA VANUATU. HE LOST HIS OWN HOME IN LUGANVILLE DUE TO THE CYCLONE BUT CONTINUED TO LEAD THE RESPONSE TO HELP OTHERS. HERE HE IS SEEN VISITING ONE OF THE WORST AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN THE WEST COAST WHERE ALMOST ALL BUILDINGS WERE DAMAGED BY THE CYCLONE.



THE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE KITS IN TASIRIKI SHORES (BOAT DOCK) AWAITING THE BANANA BOAT TO TAKE THE KITS TO AFFECTED FAMILIES IN WEST COAST.



MANY SMALLER ISLANDS DID NOT HAVE A WHARF TO DOCK SUPPLIES, MEANING SMALLER BANANA BOATS WERE USED BY ADRA TO DISTRIBUTE EMERGENCY KITS.



LOCAL MATERIALS WERE USED TO REBUILD TOILETS.



THIS YOUNG GIRL IS CELEBRATING THE REHABILITATION OF HER COMMUNITY'S WATER SYSTEM.



# LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

Over the past few months, the world has been devastated by COVID-19. Sadly, many have lost loved ones from this illness. It has caused widespread disruption to our everyday lives and many are still experiencing the ongoing economic strain.

During lockdown measures here in New Zealand, thousands of households lost either all or a percentage of their income. Along with the financial burden, many experienced stress about their health and faced uncertainty during unprecedented times. This was a very difficult time for everyone, especially for families already living in poverty.

In response, ADRA launched the “Love Thy Neighbour” campaign. We encouraged everyone to do something to show love to their neighbour.

In our initial response, we mobilised an amazing group of volunteers in local SDA churches throughout the country.

Many of our volunteers are involved in community initiatives and are well connected to their communities.

The volunteers helped to identify vulnerable members in their local community, families were then given the option to receive grocery gift cards or a mobile top-up, depending on their need. Some families were also given food packs.

All volunteers were provided with the appropriate PPE gear — gloves, face masks, sanitiser, and a safety manual providing relevant health and safety guidelines and recommendations to ensure the safety of those they were delivering to, as well as their own.

Each time a family received assistance, a note was enclosed and included a contact number of the local pastor and a lead church representative with the opportunity to connect with the church for more support or prayer if they wanted. The families were given up to three gift cards during this time to help them over a longer period.

Together, we’ve helped 1,100 kiwi families in need.

Many of our volunteers have reported amazing stories of hope and gratitude from the families helped.

■ By Sarah Ryan & Sally Lavea



## GOING FURTHER

After our initial response, we recognised that the impact of COVID-19 was ongoing, even as lockdown measures were lifted, many were still without work and facing financial insecurity. ADRA decided to extend the Love Thy Neighbour response to continue helping families.

We are continuing to work with volunteers to identify ongoing needs in communities and providing essentials such as grocery gift cards and warm clothes during winter.

On July 11, we collected a special offering to help us extend our response and make this possible. We would like to say a BIG thank you to everyone that donated and is making this possible. We have already started distributing essential items to families in need throughout the country.

## HIGHLIGHTS



We helped 1,100 families in our initial response.



We partnered with 35 churches throughout New Zealand.



90 Community Champions volunteered their time and engaged in this response.

“

A recipient phoned me to thank me, she said she cried when she opened the door to [a volunteer] giving her a supermarket voucher. Her heart was overwhelmed with joy, to be thought of, gave me joy to know that.

—Volunteer, Tokoroa

What a great blessing it’s been giving out the ADRA gift cards. They were well received. One woman asked if we were angels.

—Volunteer, Hamilton

The last family we delivered to shared that they were just talking about how they were going to be able to try and get some food, and as they looked at the time they realised WINZ (Work and Income New Zealand) would be closed. Then just at that moment, we arrived — praise the Lord for God’s timing.

—Volunteer, Auckland

I burst into tears that I am able to do a bit of groceries today. We are so grateful to you all, for this little kind gesture. I’m still waiting to return to work when it is possible. Thank you all so, so much! You will always be in my prayers. —Recipient, Auckland

”



**FOOD DELIVERY**

UPON RECEIVING HIS FOOD PACK, JOHN\* SHARED HOW GRATEFUL HE WAS TO HAVE RECEIVED FOOD FOR HIS FAMILY. HE WAS EXCITED FOR HIS PARTNER TO RETURN HOME TO SHOW HER THEIR FOOD PACK.

\*NAME CHANGED TO PROTECT PRIVACY.



**SAFETY FIRST**

DURING LEVEL FOUR LOCKDOWN, VOLUNTEERS WERE DILIGENT IN KEEPING THEMSELVES AND FAMILIES THEY WERE WORKING WITH SAFE. THEY WERE EQUIPPED WITH GLOVES, MASKS, AND PLENTY OF HAND SANITIZER!



**PONSONBY PACKERS**

A TEAM FROM THE PONSONBY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH SPENT THEIR DAY PACKING FOOD PARCELS AND THEN DELIVERING THE PACKS TO VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES HERE IN NEW ZEALAND.



# WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

ADRA's hope is that after our response, churches are encouraged to engage with the vulnerable in their community and create genuine connections to provide hope and encouragement. For individuals, the hope is that everyone responds by showing love to a neighbour, whether it's through a kind word, a small gesture, or providing for someone's needs.

One way you can get involved in a practical, hands-on way, is through our Community Transformation Partnerships (CTP). CTP programmes allow ADRA to partner with your church/organisation to provide funding and support in designing a project that helps meet specific community needs.

If you've felt called to connect with your community, we'd encourage you to check out our website for more information and launch a project to make a real difference in your community. Visit [www.adra.org.nz/CTP](http://www.adra.org.nz/CTP) to get started.



## DELICIOUS DINNERS

One of our church partners helps to feed the vulnerable in their community every Thursday night.



## MENTAL HEALTH

Many churches have facilitated the Depression and Anxiety Recovery Programme (DARP) to help improve the mental health of their community.



## DRIVING LICENSE PROGRAMME

We're helping people get on the road (safely and legally) through our Pathways driver's license programme.



SUNDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2020, MISSION BAY, AUCKLAND

Walk or run in Auckland's most fun event! Fundraise to help children and families beat poverty.

3KM, 5KM, 10KM, 21KM DISTANCES



Together we've helped thousands of children and families through the ADRA Run. This year, let's help even more. Raise funds for ADRA! Sign-up for The ADRA Run today at [www.adra.org.nz/run](http://www.adra.org.nz/run)

# FUNDRAISE WITH ADRA

If you want to help families overcome poverty and hardship, one of the best things you can do is fundraise with ADRA.

This year we will be hosting our 21st ADRA run! The run is our biggest fundraising event of the year, and we want to invite you to come along, raise funds, and take part. All the details you need to know are outlined above.

If you can't make it to the run, there are still plenty of other ways you can fundraise.

Fundraising takes many different shapes and forms — whether it's a garage sale, a car wash, a quiz night, or taking part in the ADRA run, there's something everyone can do to raise funds.

Your fundraising efforts will help families living in poverty through ADRA's projects around the world. These projects bring clean water to communities, strengthen livelihoods, and provide new opportunities to teach people new skills that will help them earn a better income for their family. Just as you've read in our stories, these projects are making a life changing difference.

For ideas and support around how you can fundraise, visit [www.adra.org.nz/fundraising](http://www.adra.org.nz/fundraising)



# COMING UP

## MAKE A NOTE OF THESE EVENTS IN YOUR CALENDAR



### 15 OCTOBER 2020 | CTP Funding Applications Due

Want to make a difference in your community? Partner with ADRA to implement a project designed to help a specific community need through our Community Transformation Partnership (CTP) Programme. [www.adra.org.nz/CTP](http://www.adra.org.nz/CTP)



### 15 NOVEMBER 2020 | The ADRA Run

The ADRA Run is back for 2020 — for the 21st time! The ADRA Run will be held at Mission Bay, Auckland with 3km, 5km, 10km, and 21km distances available. Register before August 31st for a special early-bird price. [www.adra.org.nz/run](http://www.adra.org.nz/run)



### 3 OCTOBER 2020 | Special ADRA Offering

A special ADRA offering will be collecting in all Adventist churches throughout New Zealand. This offering will continue to help ADRA serve others through our life-changing projects.

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Would you like to partner with ADRA to help transform lives of children, families and communities? Sign-up to be a committed giver or make a one-off donation below.

Title: ☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss ☐ Other:

First Name:

Surname:

Address:

Suburb:

Town/City:

Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

## PAYMENT DETAILS

Amount: \$

Frequency: ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ One-off

☐ Enclosed is a cheque for \$

(make it payable to ADRA New Zealand)

☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Amex

Card Number:

Name on Card:

Signature

Expiry Date:

CVV#:

For more information visit [www.adra.org.nz/donate](http://www.adra.org.nz/donate)