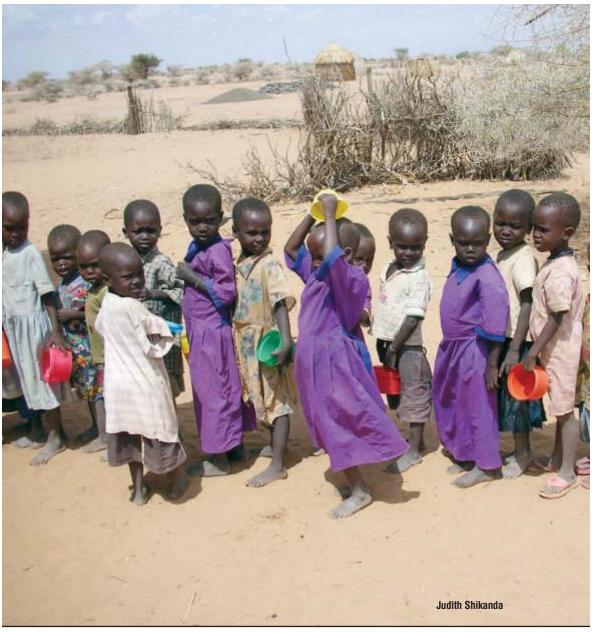
FALL 2006

Christian Children F u n d



Children in Timor-Leste have had to face the realities of civil strife as they witness their young country erupting into violence between warring factions. CCF is there helping children caught in the struggle. (See story page 1.)



While the drought still has Kenya in its grips, CCF is providing supplementary feedings that are making the difference between life and death for young children in the worst affected areas of the country. These Kenyan children stand in line at a CCF feeding station, where they receive the high protein porridge, UNIMIX. For children like these, Dorcas and many others, it's preventing severe malnutrition. (See stories, pages 6 and 7.)

CHILDWORLD

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Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is a worldwide force for children, helping the poorest and most vulnerable survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. One of the world's oldest and most respected international child development organizations, CCF works in 33 countries and assists approximately 10.5 million children and families worldwide, regardless of their race, creed, or gender.

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FALL 2006

Child WORLD

Christian Children's Fund

Realities of Conflict: CCF Works in Timor-Leste

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For Alif, life started out on a rocky footing, which is one reason he was in enrolled in CCF's sponsorship program in Sri Lanka.





Realities of Conflict: CCF Works in Timor-Leste

By Kirsten Hongisto Communications Manager-Asia

In a small community, named for the lush banana trees that grow there, families echo the sentiments of Timorese from around the country: We don't want war. We want a peaceful future, but we don't know when that will happen.

The unrest, which began in late April 2006 after the prime minister fired 600 members of the country's military, has affected families across Timor-Leste. More than 155,000 families left their homes in the capital city of Dili, afraid they would be killed or that their houses would be burned and looted.

In most cases, families went to the first place they felt safe — often a religious, government or UN institution in the city. Over time, some families

left; yet more than 100,000 displaced people remain around the capital, Dili.

CCF is running Child Centered Spaces within camps the where people housed. In these centers, children are able to play, engage in nonformal learning and participate in normal childhood activities. CCF has provided recreational kits, including art supplies UNICEF, to children participating in Child Centered Spaces programs.

"We feel sad because of the situation," says one parent from the Hudilaran section of Dili. "Things are not going well; the economy is in bad shape. We need support for the children here."

The Impact on Youth

In Hudilaran, where 268 children and youth are sponsored through Christian Children's Fund and other members of ChildFund International, many youth are facing the realities of conflict for the first time. In 1999, after Timor-Leste won independence from Indonesia, some children were too young to understand what was happening. Now, as youth, they know much more and they say they are saddened by what they see.

"We want peace: that's our hope for the future," said Daniel, one of the Dili teenagers who participates in CCF programs.



Families in Timor-Leste took what they could from their homes as they fled following attacks from insurgents. CCF is providing assistance to families there.

Journalist Finds Sponsorship Rewarding

by Elizabeth MacDonald

Elizabeth MacDonald is a journalist who wants to share her story of sponsorship. Currently she is senior editor for Forbes magazine. Prior to joining Forbes, MacDonald was a staff reporter at The Wall Street Journal. Earlier, MacDonald was a financial editor at Worth magazine and a writer at Money magazine. She has won 12 awards, including the Gerald Loeb Award for Excellence in Business Journalism and the Society of Professional Journalists' Award for Outstanding Public Service Reporting.

I thought I had it all, I thought I had everything covered — a house, a great career as a journalist, a terrific job as a magazine editor for a national business publication based in New

York City. Everything seemed great, everything seemed golden. It wasn't.

I still felt hollow inside. It wasn't just my feeling that sometimes big journalism isn't about a healthy discourse or debate, that instead it often becomes target practice, where people in the corporate, big

media or political world constantly try to tear each other down. For some time I thought: "When you're in the world, you're of the world, and you're not who you really are."

Who I really am is someone who wants to help. Sure, I thought my career would take care of my need to help, where I catch the bad guys. And I figured that if journalism leads to reforms, I could assuage some of that need to do more. My work has triggered reforms, including at the IRS where I uncovered taxpayer abuses by the agency, to the point where I won awards and ended up testifying before Congress about IRS abuses (a weird position for a journalist to be put in, which I said in testimony).

But that wasn't and isn't enough. At one point I thought, oh heck, I've got to stop ruminating on this and do something. That's when I became a Christian Children's Fund sponsor. I've been a sponsor for several years now of a beautiful little girl in Sri Lanka, Dulakshi. Her father is a farmer; her mother helps the father and attends to domestic work. As the work is seasonal, the family's income is unsteady, and her father's income of less than a dollar a day means the family can't meet its basic needs. Dulakshi lives in a mud- and stick-walled hut,

with hard-pressed earth floors and a roof covered with iluk grass. They draw water from a neighbor's well. The mother writes to me often, and I look forward to reading her letters.

Recently, Dulakshi's mom wrote to tell me that the \$24 a month I donate went toward a new bathroom in their

house (they never had one) and toward replacing a leaky roof on their mud hut ("Now we don't have to get wet," she writes). In gratitude, Dulakshi planted a mango sapling in remembrance of me. "Dulakshi loves you as she loves me," her mom writes.

What I like about CCF is that it takes action, it moves, it does the work. Just like Mother Teresa (whose Missionaries of Charity I worked with for about 10 years) would pick up a broom or mop immediately upon entering any of her houses around the world. Like Mother Teresa, CCF, it seems to me, follows this simple credo: "Always do what love requires." And it's that simple credo that can lead to all the joy in the world.



CCF Supports Bolivian Seed and

Irrigation Program

Faustino lives in Jatun Cienega, a very poor community in the upper valley region of Cochabamba, Bolivia. Many farmers like him struggle to survive, because there is not enough rainfall to support crops, especially in their tender, early stages. The farmers often lose their crops and have to travel to the

city of Cochabamba, to take whatever jobs they can find just to survive.

But a CCF food security program is enabling families to find a better way — through the provision of special seeds and a new irrigation system that families pitched in to build. Participating in the ini-

tiative are 137 families. Drawing from Jatun Cienega and six other communities, the program enables the families to increase productivity as well as improve their children's nutrition with a wider and better variety of foods, according to Teresa Salas, senior officer for CCF-Bolivia.

An initial survey of the hilly region found an underground water source that flowed at the rate of one liter (about one quart) per second. CCF installed a plastic piping system for it, and the water is pumped to a receiving tank, where it is filtered. Then it continues into a storage tank. From the tank, pipes take the water to some of the homes in lower-lying areas and also to a central plot of land shared by the families.

On the shared plot, families plant crops and support the plants in their growth. "The idea of this community plot of land is that the families can have strong, well grown plants that they can transplant to their own small gardens," said Salas. "Without water, the plants would die before they had matured."



To combat drought, CCF provided families in Jatun Cienega with better seed varieties and a new irrigation system with a holding tank (above, top).

CCF has provided training in raising the crops, which include some crops that are new to the area, such as improved onions, kidney beans, radishes, tomatoes, strawberries and peppers. Longtime farmers like Faustino are amazed by the varieties of produce they are now able to grow. Faustino, who helped his parents work their land as a child, is used to little more than corn, wheat, and potatoes. Now the variety of fruits and vegetables will improve the families' nutrition.

CCF installed a plastic piping system for it, and the water is pumped to a receiving tank, where it is filtered.



Youth Contribute to improving Their Future

Christian Children's Fund has long turned to parents in the communities we serve for guidance. Instead of telling communities what we will provide, we first ask what is needed. Parents are asked to take an active role in CCF programs, so they are a part of the solution. More and more, we are also asking youth poverty how affects them so we can deepen the effectiveness of our resources.



These youth attended a CCF-sponsored conference in Mexico offering their thoughts on how their lives could be improved.

CCF heard from young people themselves, at the organization's Youth Regional Meeting of CACUSA (Central America, Caribbean, and U.S.A.) in Puebla, Mexico. Young adults from Dominica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and the U.S. joined representatives from CCF and local organizations to discuss the issues, needs, and interests of youth in the region.

Those chosen to attend the conference in Mexico were asked this question: What is it like to be young and poor?

As in other parts of the world, the needs of young adults are changing as more are susceptible to drugs, gangs, exploitation, and peer pressure. But poor youth face additional pressures, according to the youth representatives at the conference. Socioeconomic problems limit their opportunities to study, to work, to participate, and to develop their potential. Many suffer low self-esteem and feel discriminated against because of their poverty.

At the conference, the youth expressed concern about unemploy-

ment, drugs, gangs and violence in their communities. Many feared that financial pressures would force them to drop out of school and worried about "wasting their potential." Many wished for improved schools, with better facilities and materials, and a higher quality of education. They looked for safer communities and programs for youth, along with spaces where youth could gather. Others hoped for vocational and skills programs and better access to technology.

The young leaders recommended creating youth networks and programs to provide young people with guidance and job skills training. They requested additional training to help them develop their leadership, organizational and promotional skills. In turn, they hoped to motivate and guide their classmates back home.

CCF has been able to use their input to target services to address modern day issues. Learning what poverty means to the youth it most affects offers hope for better, more lasting solutions.

MEETING EMERGENCY NEEDS

Children Like Dorcas Are Surviving — Thanks to You!

By Judith Shikanda, CCF-Kenya Staff

Recovery from the Kenya drought takes a long time. When we met 3-year-old Dorcas last fall, she was suffering from third degree malnutrition, the most severe stage. Since she began participating in CCF's emergency response feeding program, her malnutrition has decreased to second degree. Last November, she could neither stand nor walk on her own. Now, she can do both with ease. And overall, Dorcas is looking healthier.

But second degree malnutrition also means that Dorcas has a long way to go. On most days, you'll see her in the company of other girls and boys at the Kandebene Early Childhood Care and Development Center, where children converge to receive UNIMIX

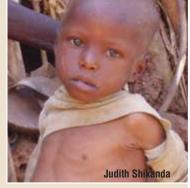
(a high-protein porridge made from soy, maize, millet, wheat and water), provided by CCF. In addition, Dorcas attends the district hospital clinic.

In October 2005, Dorcas became severely malnourished due to months of drought. The CCF program identified her as someone who needed close attention through therapeutic and supplementary feeding. CCF worked with the district hospital, which offered medical treatment and advice.

CCF is giving food rations to the family on a monthly basis. The rations include beans, maize, milk and locally prepared Corn Soya Blend flour for Dorcas and her younger sister, Angelina. Providing clothing and access to medical care are also part of CCF's assistance.

Although the basic cause of mal-

nutrition is the lack of a balanced diet, other contributing factors are addressed by CCF. CCF offers guidance on parental care and nutrition to D or c a s 's mother and



Dorcas, severely malnourished and too weak to stand or even smile several months ago, received help from CCF's nutrition program targeting the most vulnerable children.

grandmother.

In addition, CCF helps families establish alternative livelihoods, and works with the community to identify its unique underlying causes of poverty.

Ending the families' total reliance solely upon crop production and animal husbandry both activities that are rain dependent - will help in the long run. And establishing alternative sources of income will better prepare them for the inevitable next drought.

Today, thanks to CCF's supplementary feedings of UNIMIX, Dorcas is able to walk again. She is on her way to recovery from severe malnutrition brought on by the Kenyan drought.

CCF-Kenya Copes with Drought, Food **Shortages**

By Sandra Shelley

CCF workers in Kenya knew trouble was ahead when they began seeing the carcasses of livestock on the roadsides. It's a grim, but familiar, sign that drought has come and famine is not far behind.

The complete failure of the short rains last autumn caused severe

drought conditions that continued into 2006. Water sources and farmlands deteriorated, leading to crop failures and a critical shortage of food. By February, an estimated 3.5 million Kenvans needed assisemergency The long tance. rains finally began in April, but they were unusually heavy, causing flooding and more damage to crops, homes, and infrastructure. The flooding also led to sanitation concerns

and the threat of water-borne diseases. For many parts of the country, the heavy rains stopped short and are inadequate to produce crops, and drought has returned.

Scores of children have arrived at relief centers with signs of acute malnutrition—swollen bellies, thinning hair, and stunted growth. CCF is providing 66,000 malnourished children with supplemental feedings of UNIMIX, a nutritious, protein-rich porridge.

Through its Early Childhood Development centers, CCF is monitoring the health of children, mothers, and

the elderly in 60 communities in the Eastern and Rift Valley Provinces. Many of the children have weakened immune systems due to malnutrition. CCF is working to prevent the spread of disease by providing deworming and vitamin A supplements, and by instructing parents in basic health and hygiene.

The crisis has led to the eruption of

conflict in several parts of Kenya as farmers try to rebuild their livestock herds. CCF is participating in peacemaking efforts in Samburu area, is common. the Samburu peobase, and despermeas-In addition, many

the where cattle theft ple, cattle make up nearly their entire economic ate people take desperate ures, leading to conflict over cattle.

young girls are forced into early marriage by families who receive cattle as a dowry. This harsh reality is also being addressed by one of CCF's key ongoing programs to end this cultural practice by "booking" them for education now and marriage later.

These drought-affected families will need months or even years to recover. CCF will continue its emergency food assistance, as well as the long-term programs that have been in place since 1960.



This little boy holds a cup filled with **UNIMIX**, a nutritious porridge CCF provides to thousands of children facing malnutrition due to the Kenyan drought.

Abalang School Bell Rings Again



Classrooms in this Ugandan school have been cleaned up so community children can return to their education.

Reporting by Paul Mayende, CCF-Uganda Staff

The loud ring of the bell fills the air. The hum of children's voices and the sound of their feet can be heard almost half a mile away. At Abalang School, the children – ranging in age from seven years up to 15 — scurry to make their way to their classrooms. Their break is over.

The chatter of children and the ring of the bell were silenced temporarily when the school was turned into a home for 15,000 displaced persons, seeking shelter as they fled from the Lord's Resistance Army. Now, the school is once again a school.

"We are happy to host our usual class pupils," says Ewiru Moses, the school's head teacher. "The former displaced families were too many to conduct lessons."

Classrooms — once filled with families displaced by the northern Uganda insurgency — now buzz with the excitement of children eager to learn again. They sit proudly at their desks. "Things have changed," Moses

says. "Last year all these children had a class to repeat. It was just very hard to conduct lessons in the disorganized environment. Teachers and parents were all displaced, as were the students we had been teaching."

Amazingly, only general cleaning and clearing needed to be done for the school to resume its normal function. CCF staff and school staff worked hard to be sure the school the Akani project built in 1999 remained intact.

Things have improved for the teachers as well. Moses once rode his bike 18 miles round-trip in order to teach. His commute has been lessened as CCF built three homes for the teachers. The head teacher's house – where Moses lives – as well as the others were built within the school compound.

"I am not only happy that we are back to normal classes, but also because I am now staying within the school compound," Moses says. When the school functioned as a home for the displaced, Moses resided among the families, granting him a better understanding and allowing him to relate closely with them. Moses said working with all these people in a school environment as well as attending several CCF training sessions and workshops on how to deal with displaced persons helped him become a better administrator.

"I am not only a school head teacher," Moses says. "I understand the children we are dealing with. We faced it together and we are helping each other emerge out of it."

Back Home At Last

By Paul Mayende, CCF-Uganda Staff

Writer's note: Angela wears a smile as she explains her return to school after 12 months in rebel captivity in northern Uganda. The Lord's Resistance Army has abducted children and forced them to become child soldiers. Angela was one of more than 30 children abducted from the Acowa community. Most have returned. Her story was written to honor her through Uganda's Global Education Week. Hundreds of children have faced the same severe hardships, and CCF is helping them recover.

"I am happy now that I am able to be in school again," she says as she bursts into loud laughter before adding — "I am free now, I am back in school, I am back with my parents and friends."

CCF helps children like Angela adjust from rebel captivity to home – a tremendous transition, partly because of cruel treatment by rebels, but also because some families are not sure how to receive them.

CCF recognizes the physical abuse and mental distress these children suffer, offering psychosocial help. In addition, CCF networks with the community to protect and support them, since they are often shunned by friends and sometimes even by their families. Other support from CCF comes in the form of clothes, school materials and bedding, as these children were left with nothing when rebels set their homes ablaze. CCF staff conduct follow-up visits to monitor progress and see what is needed.

Angela holds her teacher, Apieu, in high regard. "My teacher encouraged me to stay in school even if other children called me a rebel." The school taught students who had not been forced to join the rebel forces, that children like Angela had little choice. Most had to join the rebels or face immediate death.

This support helped Angela cope with school, which was difficult



Some of these Ugandan school children were reunited with friends and teachers after being abducted to serve as rebel soldiers.

enough since she was behind by two years. Now, she has finished her primary school education and is in the eighth grade.

Angela was abducted in June 2003 when the Lord's Resistance Army rebels invaded her village in Acowa, a rural community in northeast Uganda. "There were about 100 abductees," she said. Her job at first was to carry heavy supplies. Some of her fellow abductees were killed along the way when they tried to escape. "Such people would be killed by either caning, hacking or crushing their limbs on rocks," said Angela.

Angela was eventually selected to baby-sit for the wife of one of the commanders. This meant she would not have to fight or be given to another soldier as his "wife." Her escape came a year later when their camp was suddenly attacked. "I ran into the bushes and kept moving. A friend escaped with me and we ate fruits, wild cassava [a root plant] and drank swamp water," she says. Government soldiers eventually found them and took them to military headquarters for medical care.

Angela and her friend were later returned to their community where local authorities and CCF staff helped them reunite with their families and start school again.

Making the Connection: A Sponsor's Visit

By Jennifer Harter

About six years ago, after years of community activism, Dianne Burnham felt discouraged. Letters to her congressmen and demonstrations no longer seemed enough. "I kept wondering, 'What can I do to make a REAL difference?'" Around that time, she saw a magazine ad for Christian Children's Fund, and a picture of a small child who needed help.

Burnham began sponsoring Celia and Eddy, both of Bolivia. She started learning Spanish so that she could write to the children in their own language. Then, when she learned about a CCF study tour to Bolivia last November, she signed up.

She felt squeamish when she boarded the plane. Friends had warned her about the high altitude in La Paz and the risk of kidnapping. But her fears were eased once she arrived. "The staff from CCF was terrific," she said.

The sponsors visited several CCF-affiliated programs in Cochabamba. "We saw wells, school buildings and sound agricultural projects," she said. "What really knocked me out was how hard everyone works, what long days they have, how they work with so little…and how they are so grateful for everything they get. By helping not only children but also entire communities, CCF is really looking to the future of Bolivia.

"When the children threw their little arms around our necks, we were goners. I have never been so enchanted or so impassioned by anything in all my life," she said. As the sponsors watched the children playing flutes, surrounded by clouds prevalent at the high altitude, "we felt like we were walking among the angels."

A few days later, the sponsors gathered to meet their own sponsored chil-

dren for the first time. Watching a dance performance, Burnham said, "I immediately recognized my sponsored children from their photos." She felt proud that her sponsored children, Celia and Eddy, remembered all their dance steps, and she noticed Eddy helping other children who had forgotten their movements. When the dance ended, "they rushed off the stage to find me and hug me."

She described 13-year-old Eddy as a "quiet, respectful, responsible person. After school, he works with his father, a driver, making deliveries and washing cars." Twelve-year-old Celia had never been to the city before. "Celia was very, very quiet. I later found out she was afraid I wouldn't like what she said. There was nothing she could have said that I would not love. I felt such a connection with these people," she said. She knew they had to leave home very early to travel to meet her. "Their love and gratitude were overwhelming."

Recalling her trip, Burnham said that she and the other sponsors were often moved to tears by the innocence of the children and the simplicity of their lives. "They reminded us of how children used to be when we were growing up. They were so humble and joyful."



SPOTLIGHT ON SRI LANKA

Building Peace in Sri Lanka

By Kirsten Hongisto, CCF Asia Region Communications Manager

For more than 20 years, many families in the Trincomalee District of northeastern Sri Lanka have found themselves living in a war zone. And while the conflict has varied in intensity over the years, it has thrown families into poverty. As the 2002 ceasefire agreement is tested by a recent upsurge in violence, families are now contending with a renewed sense of uncertainty. The Seruwila community is where the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam co-exist.

From 1985 to 2000, the Tamil, Sinhalese and Muslim families living in Seruwila contended with landmines planted on the main road. They also witnessed kidnappings, shootings and stabbings. Kidnappings, which began in 1985, have continued despite the current ceasefire. Both Tamil and Sinhalese have been kidnapped. Although some community members have resurfaced, many have never been seen again.

Despite the warfare, building positive relationships among the children and youth across ethnic and cultural lines is a major focus of an initiative supported by AusAID and CCF. CCF-Sri Lanka has established 18 early childhood care and development centers to improve education and to socially integrate children of all ethnic backgrounds. Sporting events are organized, which help build trust and friendship among Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu youth.

Living in the shadow of the conflict has limited parents' ability to provide for their families' needs. Landmines in roads and fields have impeded agricultural and trade activities. War widows, who number at least 50 in the community, have had to

become breadwinners for the first time.

Primarily an agricultural community, Seruwila suffered economic setbacks due to the conflict. Irrigation canals could no longer be cleaned because of the risks of landmines, shootings and kidnappings. CCF-Sri Lanka managed to assemble volunteers to clean out a portion of the canal, digging down 10 feet so the water would no longer flood the lands. To help further, 12,000 coconut and rice seedlings were distributed to war-affected families, and more than 500 women received small business grants, along with training in the production of yogurt, sweets, soaps, fabric painting and the operation of small shops. Some were given coconut seedlings, and others were given grants to start business such as raising hens to sell

One woman said, "What you gave me is invaluable."



Families in Sri Lanka are learning to better support themselves through planting coconut trees. This child sits beside clay pots used to help water the plants.

Tsunami Recovery — Not Just Bricks Alone

Getting Children Back On Track

Following the Asian tsunami of December 2004, CCF has worked in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia to help rebuild schools, roads, wells, sanitation facilities; clear irrigation channels, farmers fields and shorelines; has put people back to work by repairing or providing fishing boats, job training, or providing low interest loans to help people start or restart small businesses. But CCF's work in tsunami recovery has been about much more than bricks and mortar and putting people back to work. In the midst of its efforts to help tsunami countries get back on their feet, CCF has paid particular attention to individual children, trying to ensure that they don't fall through the cracks during this hectic time of

Here is a story of one of those children, pulled from the emotional wave the tsunami left in its wake. The names of the children in this report have been changed to protect their privacy. But they and their stories are very real and represent the human face of tsunami recovery.

By Kirsten Hongisto Asia Communications Manager

For Alif, life started out on a rocky footing, which is one reason he was in enrolled in CCF's sponsorship program in Sri Lanka. The oldest of three children, Alif's mother struggled with mental illness. As a young

boy, his parents had difficulty getting him to go to school. Then, at age 10, he became sponsored through CCF and began attending school. At that point in time, things seemed hopeful for Alif.

But then, the worst happened. The tsunami flattened his home and all of the homes in his oceanside neighborhood. But worse, it took the life of Alif's father, a fisherman, who was working in the harbor when a wave of water swept him away. In addition, Alif's mother has been missing since the tsunami and is presumed dead.

Orphaned, Alif's brothers and sister became separated—his sister went to live with his grandmother. Alif and his younger brother went to live with his mother's sister and her family. Alif refused to go to school after the tsunami and his uncle reported that it was difficult for him to "keep tabs" on Alif. Alif even ran away from home a few times

Alif is one of the children who became emotionally lost after the tsunami...adrift with a very questionable future. Months after the disaster, Alif was still not attending school, and he didn't have a realistic plan for

Your Tsunami Donations are Working

Christian Children's Fund continues to work in the tsunami-ravaged countries of Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka. To date, CCF has spent \$13.1 million of the \$18.2 million in contributions and grants for tsunami recovery including rebuilding infrastructure (such as schools, wells, water/sanitation facilities, community libraries, local markets, dams, etc.), providing micro-enterprise development/income generating activities (boat repair and replacement, creation of community banks, and helping establish women in small businesses), and child protection activities (helping establish a social services network to assist children who have lost parents in the tsunami, assisting separated children, nutrition programs, and peace building). CCF plans to continue reconstruction activities in tsunami-affected areas for another year and a half, as part of a three-year recovery program.

SPOTLIGHT ON SRI LANKA

his future. The 12-year-old wanted CCF to give him a fishing boat so he could make money by renting it to adults. When asked about his future, Alif had no particular profession in mind, but said he wanted to work and earn money. He said he would spend part of that money to help his brother and sister go to college.

While this was a lofty goal, in reality, Alif had begun working on fishing boats with his new adult friends. And his earnings did not go to his siblings' educations, but rather he had begun drinking and using drugs. As Alif's situation worsened, CCF staff collaborated with local government child workers and intervened further on Alif's behalf.

At first, Alif was defensive and seemed unreceptive to the team. But the staff worked with him to realize the value of having an education. They also convinced him to be respectful of and cooperative with his

guardians. CCF staff then met with the principal of the local school who agreed to re-enroll Alif.

Since the one-year anniversary of the tsunami, Alif has made great progress. He continues to attend school and now goes regularly to the Mosque. His uncle and aunt say they are happy to see how much he has changed and the confidence he has gained.

The family has moved into its new permanent house one and a half kilometers away from their old neighborhood. The uncle works as a fisherman now, and Alif and his brother and sister stay with the family, which now has two homes side by side so that they can care for the seven children. Alif continues to attend the Muslim school and the younger children in the family come regularly to CCF's Child Centered Space.



As part of it's tsunami reconstruction efforts, CCF is rebuilding infrastructure such as this school in India. But tsunami recovery is about more than bricks and mortar. It's also about ensuring that children stay on track and in school as they grow into adults.

CCF Responds to Earthquake in Central Java

By Kirsten Hongisto, CCF Asia Region Communications Manager

CCF has distributed emergency supplies and set up Child Centered Spaces in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and surrounding communities where a 6.3 magnitude earthquake killed 5,000 people, injured 30,000 and left 200,000 homeless in late May. As of this writing, 26 spaces have been set up — to accommodate the affected children.

Child Centered Spaces, which are a hallmark of CCF's emergency response, are places where children can return to normal childhood activities as parents scramble to put their lives back together. While these spaces address the more immediate needs of families, CCF is also assessing the long-term needs of earthquake survivors—40% of whom are children, according to UNICEF estimates.

Although the area is earthquakeprone, many families, especially children, had not experienced a major earthquake before. Coping with the loss of loved ones, homes and schools has been compounded by the sheer shock of the disaster. One morning, people panicked as rumors spread of a possible tsunami such as the one that hit Aceh, Indonesia.

"There is a tremendous need to ensure that the children's needs are covered. Interventions like CCF's Child Centered Spaces are vital," said Richard Thwaites, then a member of CCF's emergency response team. Child Centered Spaces provide an opportunity for children to heal through activities that are normalizing — study sessions, group activities or play. CCF is working with communities and local government officials to assess the extent of the need and to collaborate on the response.

Other needs addressed by CCF include sanitation and safe drinking water, medical help and emergency goods. Many families lost not only their homes, but also their livelihoods and their access to food supplies. In total, the Indonesian government is estimating relief and rebuilding costs could top \$107 million. The Indonesian government has pledged \$8 million itself. For now, many families are living on the street or under tarps set up in front of their destroyed homes.

In addition, CCF-Indonesia was already responding to the evacuation of families because of the eruption of Mount Merapi.

The July 2006 tsunami that hit the Indonesian coast did not affect any children being served by Christian Children's Fund.

Donations can be made to CCF's ChildAlert Fund on line at www.ChristianChildrensFund.org, by calling 1-800-776-6767 or by mailing a check to Christian Children's Fund, P.O. Box 26484, Richmond, VA 23261-6484.



Children in CCF's Child Centered Spaces in Indonesia participate in various play activities designed to help them recover from the massive earthquake there in May. The spaces provide a place where children can feel safe, get their immediate needs met, and receive much needed attention.





One of many children in Timor-Leste displaced from his home following civil strife. He is looking through a bucket of much needed items supplied by CCF.



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