

PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2001



EPISCOPAL
Relief and Development

A MINISTRY OF THE WHOLE CHURCH FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

HOPE IN THE HERE AND NOW:

Immediate Response to Crisis

On behalf of Episcopalians, Episcopal Relief and Development responds to disasters around the world with critical assistance, such as emergency funding for food, clothing, medicine, and shelter. Sometimes this response to a disaster includes providing expert technical knowledge and assistance.

At times, these catastrophic events—whether man-made or natural—overwhelm local capacity to meet the needs. In these circumstances, Episcopal Relief and Development joins forces with ecumenical partners to deliver necessary relief.

Episcopal Relief and Development often collaborates with other relief and development agencies that have specific experience in delivering disaster assistance where the basic infrastructure of communication, electricity, and transport has been compromised.

NEW YORK (U.S.) • AFGHANISTAN • SIERRA LEONE

VIETNAM • SUDAN • INDIA • PHILIPPINES • UNITED STATES

◀ Recovery workers receive rest, refuge, and prayer at St. Paul's Chapel near the World Trade Center disaster site. ERD supported workers, victims, and families.

Afghan Refugees Receive Desperately Needed Aid



Tahira, a refugee, received food and emergency supplies from ERD after fleeing her home in Kabul, Afghanistan for Pakistan.

and threw grenades. One hit my husband, severing his leg and his arm. Now we are in Pakistan with no work and nothing to eat."

In response to the bombings of Taliban strongholds in Afghanistan in October 2001, Episcopal Relief and Development joined with Church World Service to provide emergency food and shelter kits to internally displaced people within the country, as well as those seeking refuge in Pakistan.

■ Forty-year-old Tahira is from a Hazara background and has a daughter, a son, and a physically disabled husband. Her family fled Kabul, Afghanistan and now resides in a refugee camp in Pakistan. "It was becoming increasingly difficult for us to survive in Kabul as an ethnic minority," said Tahira. "On September 11, the Taliban rushed into our house, snatched whatever we had,

Episcopal Relief and Development's \$100,000 contribution also bought materials for a quilt-making project that allowed four hundred women to earn an income. Sewing by hand since they had no sewing machines, the women made 60,000 quilts, 20,000 of which were distributed to refugees free of charge. The other 40,000 were bought by humanitarian organizations to use in their emergency programs in Afghanistan. This project allowed both Afghan women and merchants more income to support their families.

Before the U.S. military action in Afghanistan, there were already one million internally displaced persons within the country. Recently, the United Nations described this situation as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.



Afghan women sew quilts to distribute to refugees, and earn an income.



Trauma Counseling Heals Wounds for Refugees from Sierra Leone

■ Twenty-nine-year-old Aiah Tomboy was a gardener when his village was invaded by Sierra Leone rebels in 1993. After being brutally struck six times with a machete, he was forced to watch the murder of his mother. The rebels mercilessly looted the town and left Aiah for dead. Now, Aiah lives in a refugee camp in Guinea. His physical wounds have healed, but the psychological scars will remain with him forever.

"I see people here in the camp with their families and it makes me sad because of the mother I lost," says Aiah. "I remember her dancing with me as a boy. They say 'forgive and forget,' but it's difficult to forget."

In response to similar horrors inflicted over ten years of civil war in Sierra Leone, Episcopal Relief and Development awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Center for Victims of Torture to administer mental health services to traumatized and tortured Sierra Leonean refugees living in Guinea.

In addition to helping people cope with torture and trauma, the program offers life skills training, children's play therapy, dance, and group activities to restore a sense of community.

To insure that the mental health program remains available, even after the original workers relocate, the program is training refugees to be psychosocial counselors. These counselors incorporate local customs and cultural practices into counseling methods.

"Episcopal Relief and Development's support has been critical this year," said Laura Littleford, Senior Manager of Institutional Philanthropy at the Center for Victims of Torture. "As Americans now know, an entire country can be traumatized by horrific acts of violence. But as the Sierra Leoneans are teaching us, an entire population can also experience the process of hope and healing."

In response to the ongoing civil unrest in West Africa, Episcopal Relief and Development contributed \$165,000 to ACT (Action by Churches Together) and the Dioceses of Liberia and Guinea for food, shelter, medical supplies, a vehicle, and trauma counseling for war victims and refugees returning to their homes.



Traumatized refugees from Sierra Leone receive counseling and care.

TRICIA CORNELL PHOTO



HOPE FOR A BETTER LIFE:

From Relief to Rebuilding

Often Episcopal Relief and Development's initial engagement in a particular country is a result of either a man-made or natural disaster. Once the immediate threat to life has subsided, however, relief takes the form of rehabilitation, restoring communities by rebuilding houses, schools, church facilities, water systems, and medical clinics. This process not only strengthens the affected community, but also the ability of the local church to be a force for assistance and real change in the lives of local communities.

EL SALVADOR • BELIZE

HONDURAS • KOSOVO • TURKEY

◀ Young boy in Honduras.



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE:

Empowering Communities to Be Instruments of Change

A recent emphasis of Episcopal Relief and Development's work has been development programs. It joins together with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to create and support substantial, long-term programs that bring hope and opportunity to communities.

Episcopal Relief and Development is building the capacity of local Anglican institutions and grassroots organizations around the world to implement and oversee programs in economic development, microcredit, education and health care, and food production.

In the United States, Episcopal Relief and Development also works with small, community-based organizations to address such long-standing issues as poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, and homelessness.

UGANDA • SOUTH AFRICA • TEXAS (U.S.)

◀ *Hope Africa, an ERD supported project, provides opportunities for South Africans, such as this young woman, to earn a living and rebuild a life torn apart by HIV/AIDS.*