IN ACTION



ANNUAL REPORT 2014







Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Thank you for your gifts, prayers and service that have made it possible for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to continue the outstanding work of responding when a disaster overwhelms a community. UMCOR has worked alongside and in partnership with those whose lives have been turned upside down in times of crisis and those who struggle with the debilitating effects of living in poverty.

This past year, UMCOR has worked with refugees and internally displaced people in places such as South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, along the southern border of the United States and throughout Europe and the Middle East. The protracted war in Syria has left thousands homeless. Working with local partners, UMCOR has been present offering humanitarian aid and relief to those left most vulnerable in the face of this conflict.

UMCOR has responded around the world to floods and tornadoes, typhoons and fires, earthquakes, and hurricanes. In the last year UMCOR trained more than 1,000 Early Response Team volunteers in the United States and worked with more than 50 international partner organizations. We have refocused our attention on Disaster Risk Reduction to build resilience in communities so that they are more prepared when faced with crisis.

In 2014 UMCOR has continued working with communities so they are able to use and sustainably manage drinking water and sanitation infrastructures. Our sustainable agriculture work focused on ensuring that individuals and families are food secure and well nourished.

In both our relief and development work, UMCOR partners with United Methodist annual conferences within the United States, United Methodist central conferences and other Methodist bodies internationally, as well as local aid organizations, international relief agencies, and community and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to implement programs around the world. UMCOR vets partners; helps coach them; provides reports; and analyzes, monitors, evaluates, and audits the programs as part of a partner-ship-based approach to ensure high levels of accountability and success. We practice great stewardship with funds that have been entrusted to us for the work of alleviating human suffering and advancing hope and healing.

Our strategic vision sees UMCOR growing as a leader in disaster response and also as a partner in community-based development. Thank you for your prayers, gifts, labor, and commitment as we work together to be a part of God's mission.

Peace

Rev. Dr. J. Denise Honeycutt, Deputy General Secretary, UMCOR



Disaster can occur anywhere at any time. UMCOR is a consistent source of humanitarian assistance when disaster occurs outside of the United States, serving as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance.

Initially, UMCOR works with partners to meet basic human needs. This can include medical aid, shelter, or cleanup, depending on the type and severity of the disaster. We realize that this short-term help is useful, but rebuilding takes time in the aftermath of a disaster. UMCOR cooperates with local partners to help them develop their own disaster response and risk reduction mechanisms. UMCOR relies on partnerships with the central conferences of The United Methodist Church, Methodist entities, and other international relief agencies to ensure that responses maximize impact.

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE 2014 OVERVIEW

In 2014, the International Disaster Response and Risk Reduction unit issued 107 grants, obligating approximately 8.5 million dollars for projects with 50 partners in 35 countries. Approximately \$5.5 million of these grants were disbursed in the same year.

To learn more about all of what International Disaster Response does, visit: www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Programs/Disaster-Response/International-Disaster-Response.



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HIGHLIGHTS

Syria—Iraq Crisis: Since 2013, UMCOR has provided assistance to those fleeing violence in Syria and Iraq. UMCOR partnered with five different organizations to provide assistance for internally displaced persons in these two countries and refugees fleeing to Turkey, Lebanon and Armenia. To date, UMCOR has granted \$2,360,965 to our partners providing emergency assistance. In response to this ongoing disaster, UMCOR continues to give assistance on a regular basis through a variety of partners.

Ebola — West Africa: Beginning May 1, 2014, UMCOR responded to the Ebola crisis in West Africa with grants to United Methodist community health boards and other partners in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Côte d'Ivoire. Over the course of the epidemic, UMCOR provided assistance totaling \$686,264.94.



Bosnia: In addition to the large disasters, UMCOR makes every effort to respond event to the lesser-known disasters. Although underreported in U.S. media, three months' worth of rain fell in the Balkans over the course of just just three days, May 13–16, 2014. Severe flooding engulfed Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Each country suffered tremendous damage. The heaviest rain experienced in 120 years caused both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia to declare a state of emergency. This widespread disaster blocked roads, damaged power transmission, cut off access to clean drinking water, and caused a loss of sewage disposal. UMCOR provided potable water, replaced kitchen implements, and other household needs through two partners with assistance totaling \$120,000.

Ukraine: The conflict in Ukraine initially did not garner much media attention. UMCOR responded early with three different partners, recommended by United Methodist Church personnel in the region. UMCOR worked on both sides of the conflict, providing food and places of refuge to displaced persons. UMCOR took the time to coach a small local organization in the best practices of humanitarian assistance as they instinctively sought to help people, but also desired to increase their capacity for handling large-scale assistance. This group went to areas where the elderly had been left behind by the conflict. UMCOR assistance to those suffering because of this disaster exceeded \$33,000.



he United Methodist Church has been present with the people of West Africa since the beginning of the largest Ebola outbreak in recorded history. As the disease picked up speed, UMCOR ramped up its response. Our health care networks were activated to get the word out about prevention and treatment.

Ebola affected the people of Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Nigeria. This deadly infectious disease spread to more than 1,700 people, killed at least 932, and there is no cure. The virus is transmitted through any bodily fluid, including saliva, urine, blood, and even sweat.

The people at the highest risk of infection are those who care for the sick: doctors and nurses. One of those at risk was Sheik Umar Khan, the leading virologist in Sierra Leone. He treated more than 100 patients before succumbing to the disease. Because of the threat, many hospitals in the affected areas simply closed their doors because they had inadequate supplies to protect their staff. This meant medical care was unavailable to those who needed it most, including the pregnant, those with HIV and AIDS, or those sick with malaria.

Beatrice Gbanga, a Global Ministries missionary and health board coordinator in Sierra Leone, used bed net distribution channels to get the word out about Ebola prevention. She stressed the importance of using protective equipment. "Nurses have died of Ebola," she said. "I am a nurse. I can see the risk. We must be prepared."

UMCOR worked to support United Methodist health care facilities in the affected countries so that their doors could remain open. A \$50,000 grant through the ACT Alliance provided for training, equipment, and construction of an isolation unit in Liberia. UMCOR also granted \$25,000 to the Sierra Leone Annual Conference to provide supplies and build an isolation unit at Mercy Hospital.

The result of UMCOR's efforts was the Ganta United Methodist Hospital functioning, not only as a treatment center, but also as a hub for the national public awareness campaign. In addition to their normal duties, the staff helped the Liberian government spread important information through pamphlets, radio programs, and word of mouth.





When responding to a disaster in the United States, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, expertise, and networking. UMCOR is able to do all of this thanks to our partnership with United Methodist annual conferences.

U.S. Disaster Response (USDR) responded to 33 new disasters while maintaining an ongoing presence in 10 disasters from previous years. As part of equipping the local church and annual conferences for disaster ministry, USDR conducted conference, jurisdictional, and national training events involving more than 1,500 participants.

Ongoing trainings in early response also pushed the number of UMCOR-trained/credentialed members to more than 22,000 nationwide.

HIGHLIGHTS

Tornado response: Tornado outbreak in early April led to long-term response in Arkansas, Tennessee, Nebraska, North Carolina, and Oklahoma.

Flood response: More than 22 inches of rain in the Pensacola, Fla., area of the Alabama/West Florida Annual Conference led to thousands of homes being flooded and a two-year \$1 million response and recovery plan.

Immigration crisis: The immigration crisis of 60,000 unaccompanied minors coming to the United States through Mexico offered an opportunity to bring humanitarian relief and hospitality education. Rio Texas, Desert Southwest, and California-Pacific Annual Conferences all received grant support for programs related to the crisis. Justice for Our Neighbors also assisted with establishing a new office in Austin.

Flood response: Extensive flooding in Greater Detroit, affecting more than 130,000 families, was the largest declared disaster of 2014. USDR is supporting a long-term recovery and rebuilding program for the survivors.

Hurricane Sandy response: UMCOR continued to provide assistance to those affected by Hurricane Sandy in Cuba by supporting the only residential reconstruction project allowed by the Cuban government. Cuban volunteer teams from the Methodist Church of Cuba built 100 homes for the survivors, while some churches received upgrades/repairs to become shelters from future storms.



n a warm June afternoon, volunteers fanned out over what looked like a field northwest of Little Rock, Ark. They picked up debris—twisted metal, large shards of glass, clothing, toys, and other personal belongings that don't belong in a pasture.

A closer look revealed it was not a field after all; it was the site of a mobile home park that was wiped away by tornadoes that struck in late April and early May, hitting the same communities that had experienced deadly tornadoes almost three years to the day, in April 2011.

A few hours after the UMCOR volunteers began working, they heard a large truck engine; a new doublewide trailer was being towed onto the site. It was the first of what would need to be many new homes to help the community reach a new sense of normal, day-to-day life.

Volunteer, Belinda Guinn brought a youth volunteer team from Sardis United Methodist Church, an hour's drive away. "We have just been

picking up and picking up," she said. "It looks like we're out in a pasture, but there were 40 mobile homes here."

As the new mobile home was brought in, Guinn saw it as a symbol that life was continuing in this small community—but she wished people realized how long it takes to recover.

"My community of Sardis is also in what they call 'Tornado Alley,'" she said. "We're familiar with what it is like to clean up. It's not two weeks of cleanup and you're done."

As 16-year-old Erica Crone paused in her cleanup work, she reflected on her own experience with disasters. "I've never really experienced this kind of tragedy in my life personally, but I have friends who have," she said.

But the horror of the tornadoes was gradually being overpowered by people's sense that they would recover, said Janice Mann, volunteer disaster recovery coordinator for the United Methodist Arkansas Conference.



UMCOR's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) program helps communities identify the ways in which they are vulnerable and then helps them to address those issues to mitigate the effects of future disasters. Training people what to do in a disaster is a key step in reducing the damaging effects of future disasters or the subsequent issues after an initial disaster.

DRR addresses fundamental problems like environmental degradation, climate change, infrastructural inequality, and political negligence through small-scale, localized solutions. UMCOR also pays attention to systemic issues related to community health, sustainable agriculture, water and sanitation, education and awareness, economic justice, and reconstruction.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2014 OVERVIEW

In 2014, the DRR unit took partner capacity building to a new level by conducting our first training event in Arica, Chile, for partners in South America. The unit placed emphasis on Disaster Risk Reduction by adding it as a focus area of our work and an executive secretary was hired to manage that portfolio.

To find out what else is happening with Disaster Risk Reduction, check out: http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Programs/Disaster-Response/US-Disaster-Response/Training/Training.

HIGHLIGHTS

Philippines: At the end of 2014, UMCOR launched a pilot project to increase the resilience and protection of at-risk communities from super storms and tsunamis in the Philippines Eastern Leyte region. The DRR unit is engaging in the construction of strategically based, multi-level evacuation shelters, which can help mitigate the factors that led to the catastrophic effects of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan). Working with local government authorities, partners, and the local communities, UMCOR began construction on what is planned to be the first of several such shelters. Prepared-

ness training will be conducted in each community hosting a shelter, so that local leadership can provide effective communication about approaching dangerous storms, develop appropriate evacuation routes, and skillfully manage safe use of the shelters.

Bangladesh: In the second half of 2014, UMCOR worked with school children to help them understand the potential hazards, develop their own early warning system, and prepare their response in case of a cyclone. In this way, the participants on this project became transformational agents in their own village.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

SOUTH AMERICA

or several years, UMCOR has been a close ally with Equipo Metodista de Ayuda Humanitaria (EMAH), the Chilean Methodist Church's relief arm.

With support from UMCOR, EMAH met enormous challenges following the massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Chile in 2010.

Chile has a reputation of being disaster prone. It's a long and narrow territory, bounded by the Andes Mountains on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other, all of it seismically active.

Local partners in a variety of South American countries created a joint effort, with the support of UMCOR, to expand the reach of disaster aid and enhance the capacity of local communities to mount effective responses. Partners from a total of 11 countries, including Chile, took part in the disaster-readiness venture.

Consequently, local residents are themselves the first responders to any natural disaster—and they may remain the only responders for some time after the disaster strikes. A prime task is to ensure, through well-planned training programs, that local and national resources are as fully prepared as possible.

The initiative, according to UMCOR's International Disaster Response executive, Francesco Paganini, will focus on building up the skills set of existing local entities.

"There is no ambition here to establish any top-end structures," says Paganini, who visited the region in January 2014 to move the project forward. "We definitely want others to have the benefit of our experience—and if together we establish training for just a few core people in each country, they could in turn act as touchstones for us, helping us negotiate emergency events, both greater and lesser. Then we all will be reinforcing capacity at the grassroots level."



UMCOR has long provided disaster-readiness training programs in individual Caribbean and Latin American countries, but the current plan is the first time a region-wide approach has been adopted. Paganini emphasizes, "The experience with EMAH, as a model of cooperation, has shown us how important it is that the international standards UMCOR adheres to are passed on in a determined and purposeful way."

The application of such international standards will continue to be vital, both for responding to disasters and for planning to mitigate the worst effects of any future catastrophe.

UMCOR assistant general secretary for International Disaster Response Rev. Jack Amick says: "We aim to have a prompt and accurate assessment of needs in a country that could be facing a disaster—plus the chance to build capacity for response in depth."

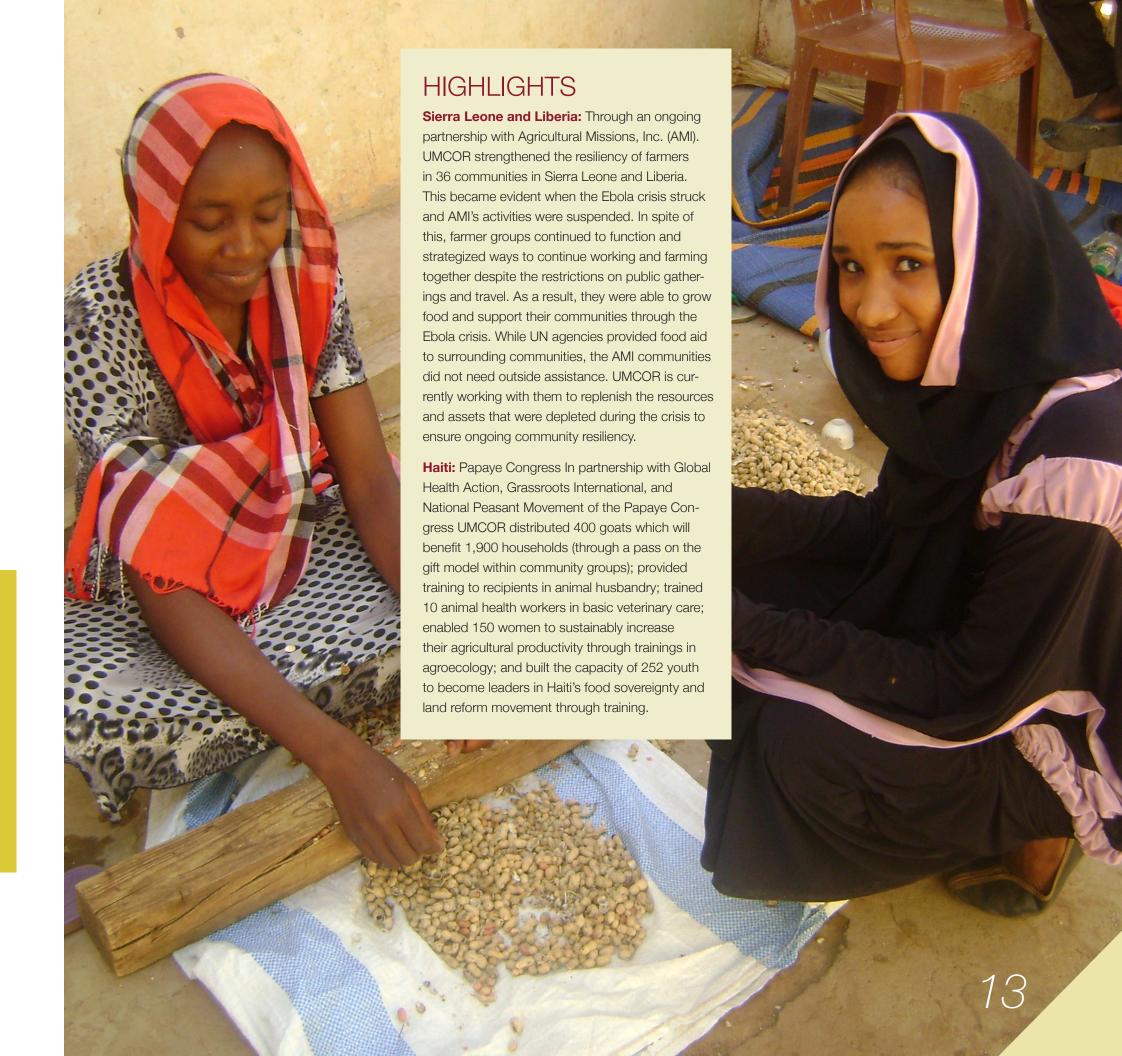


UMCOR Sustainable Agriculture and Development and Food Security program offers livelihood training to rural communities in Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. We work with local partners and communities to ensure that the program is relevant to the people we serve.

UMCOR Sustainable Agriculture and Development and Food Security emphasizes economic and environmental viability and sustainability. Training and education empower farmers to not only take care of their families, but also take care of the land while promoting independence and self-reliance.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE 2014 OVERVIEW

The program partners with organizations that empower families and communities to create self-help and sustainable solutions to address food insecurity and ensure that families are able to access enough food for a healthy and productive life. In 2014 alone, UMCOR partnered with 23 organizations to implement 28 Food Security projects in 22 countries including the United States, impacting approximately 50,000 people. Total grant making: \$1,450,552. Dig deeper into the work of Sustainable Agriculture by going to: http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Programs/Global-Development/Sustainable-Agriculture-and-Development/SA-D



GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

eatrice Monga is a mother of seven who lives in Kamina, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). A year ago, Monga's husband was out of work, they couldn't afford their children's school fees, and the youngest child fell seriously ill. When church friends encouraged them to take the child to the hospital and helped pay those fees, it was an answer to prayer. But Monga knew it was a temporary solution. She wanted to find work that would sustain her family for the long haul.

Then a friend told her about an agricultural training program offered by UMCOR.

The UMCOR country office in DRC has a field presence in Kamina. The agricultural program there that Monga heard about is funded by UMCOR partner, Foods Resource Bank. It offers committed individuals a year of training in how to grow food.

Some 90 farmers have been learning a new way to farm on United Methodist Church-owned land in DRC. Organic methods such as composting, creating organic pesticides, and seed preservation are emphasized. One of the major obstacles facing smallholder farmers in DRC is the lack of affordable and quality seeds and fertilizer for sale in local markets.

Margot Bokanga, program manager for UMCOR's work in DRC, explains: "This community relies solely on the middleman and the traders because of the lack of a good transportation system." Getting supplies this way is costly.

The training aims to help farmers gain independence from this cycle. "It is helping people move from below subsistence levels to having a small enterprise. It is enabling them to ensure that the family has reliable access to food, health care, education, and other life necessities that we take for granted," says Alice Mar, executive secretary of UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security programs.



In return, Monga committed to passing on her newfound knowledge to others in her area who were struggling to survive. That's another way that this program seeks to be sustainable: after each cycle, the students become teachers for a new cohort

"I got the training," says Monga, "and at the same time, [I used] learned skills on my field. I started to produce vegetables—and I'm still doing so. My vegetables are selling well in the market."

Monga already has earned the equivalent of about \$290 in U.S. dollars this year. That paid for supplementary food, health care, and school fees for her family, and she even had some money left over to donate to less fortunate members of her extended family.

"Today, with my production, I am a happy woman," she says. "All I can say is thank you to UMCOR and all the facilitators and donors. May God bless you all." Today, Monga is working to pass on that gift by training other people in her neighborhood.



UMCOR's WASH sector meets needs for water, by drilling wells and protecting springs; for sanitation, by improving toilets; and for hygiene, by promoting handwashing and other key behaviors that significantly reduce water and sanitation-related illness.

UMCOR-WASH is reaching the *most* underserved, adding value to the work of The United Methodist Church around the globe, and more people are gaining access to clean water and improved sanitation, and healthy hygiene practices.

WASH 2014 OVERVIEW

In 2014, UMCOR-WASH granted a total of \$173,044 to 12 partners in nine countries. It has committed to funding 19 partners with \$304,761 in funding. UMCOR-WASH is focusing on building a strong partner network comprised of national and local community organizations that are committed to serving their own communities. To find out more about how the WASH unit works, please visit: www.umcor.org/umcor/programs/global-health/water-and-sanitation/Water-and-Sanitation.

HIGHLIGHTS

Papua New Guinea: UMCOR and its partner, Enduga Egu, provided clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene education for 17,000 people in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea by constructing 40 pit latrines and 60 water points at schools, a health center, and multiple locations throughout the community.

Nepal: The entire village of Pamlathum, Nepal, (29 households and 183 people) is now using latrines they constructed with the support of Rural Integrated Development Services (RIDS-Nepal). The holistic approach they are using to first help address basic issues related to health was founded on strong community interaction and hygiene education programs that resulted in the construction of a latrine for each household and village-wide cleaning campaigns.

Guatemala: In central Guatemala, Aldea trained and facilitated 385 people in 78 households in Patsun to receive greywater filters and pit latrines in an area that previously had no latrines and a constant problem of water drainage that was contributing to illness. Every household in the village now has a water tap at or near their home, safe toilet facilities, and proper drainage.

Nicaragua: Community members with the help of UMCOR partner, El Porvenir, built 109 latrines and one water well, providing access to clean water and sanitation to the communities of La Rinconada, Carrizo, and La Sabana in Nicaragua. After drilling the well, the water tested positive for high levels of arsenic. Simple chemical filters were installed to make the water safe and now the community is able to use the well for clean, reliable water.

14 Hope in Action



erro Rico, in Potosí Department in southwestern Bolivia, literally means "Rich Hill." In the colonial era, it provided Spain great quantities of silver. Today, it is the source of 5 percent of all the silver in existence.

But, Cerro Rico does not spread its wealth to Potosí's inhabitants. Most mines on this historic mountain and in the surrounding area extract tin and other heavy metals. Left unchecked, their legacy is pollution. The Juckucha River is a prime example.

"The biggest issues with the pollution in the Juckucha River are the loss of river life and the transport of heavy metals that remain in the environment," said Mike Barbee, UMCOR technical officer for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) projects.

organization is guided by the Aymara indigenous idea of ayllu—the intimate and long-term relationship among rural community members. Political pressure from farmers downstream spurred the government to partner with Engineers in Action and their supporters to develop a feasibility plan for treating active waste that the mine company has been refusing to treat. It's been a long and complex project, and it's far from over. That's why UMCOR has supported Engineers in Action with a grant from its WASH program to help the organization continue its many activities, including the Juckucha River project. The people of The United Methodist Church are determined not to abandon the people of Potosí. Everyone deserves access to clean water.

"When I visited an area downstream of a mine in July, people there told me they used to grow peaches and apricots in abundance. But since 2011, when private mines started operating and disregarded environmental regulations, farmers have been unable to get those yields."

In Potosí Department, a toxic slurry moved down the mountains and into the Juckucha River. Some samples of its water were more acidic than the average bottle of hot sauce and contain 100,000 times the legal limit of arsenic.

People know not to drink from the Juckucha. But with so little rain in their arid climate, they were forced to use it for irrigation and livestock. In 2008, researchers found incredibly high levels of cadmium, arsenic, and lead in blood samples from villagers living as far as 100 miles downstream.

UMCOR is partnering with Engineers in Action to seek innovative solutions to this far-reaching problem and clean up the Juckucha River.

Engineers in Action funds clean water projects all over Bolivia and employs local engineers. The



RELIEF SUPPLIES

UMCOR Relief Supplies unit is a critical component of UMCOR's work, supplying essential commodities in communities impacted by disaster and conflict, and serving as a vital connectional ministry for the United Methodist community.

The UMCOR Sager Brown depot, located in Baldwin, La., and the UMCOR West office and depot, located in Salt Lake City, Utah, offer diverse and substantive volunteer opportunities for thousands of people seeking to assist communities in need at home and around the world each year.

Distributions of donated relief supplies—health kits, school kits, sewing kits, bedding packs, layette kits, birthing kits, and cleaning buckets help UMCOR and our partners meet the needs of the communities we serve as we accompany them along the path from relief to recovery.

RELIEF SUPPLIES 2014 OVERVIEW

In 2014 alone, UMCOR distributed an incredible 350,890 kits with the help of more than 92,000 volunteer hours. That equals \$5,647,639 in service and supplies. Interested in learning more about relief supplies and how you can help? Go to: www.umcor.org/UMCOR/ Relief-Supplies.





HIGHLIGHTS

Syrian Conflict: Supported community members impacted and/or displaced by the Syrian Conflict with relief supply distributions in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey. Through partnerships with American Near East Refugee Aid, International Orthodox Christian Charities, International Relief and Development, and International Blue Crescent, UMCOR distributed 79,464 health kits, 35,616 school kits, 11,270 layette kits, and 1,344 sewing kits to refugees, internally displaced persons, and host community members.

Haiti: Collaborated in Haiti with CARE International to supply more than 10,000 vulnerable students in Port-au-Prince and surrounding districts with school kits, health kits, and other materials through the UMCOR/CARE Partnership for Learning initiative.

Kenya and South Sudan: Improved birthing conditions for more than 5,000 women in Kenya and South Sudan through the distribution of clean birthing kits. Supplied hundreds of pregnant women in Armenia with layette kits during trainings on prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Philippines: Improved hygiene conditions for more than 10,000 typhoon-affected community members in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan through health kit distributions. Partnered with Methodist Border Mission Network to provide 6,150 blankets and 9,768 health kits to 10 different distribution sites in California, Arizona, and Texas.

South Dakota: Provided school, layette and sewing kits to Tree of Life Ministry on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota to assist them with their relief ministry with the Sicangu Lakota Nation.

U.S. Flood response: Responded to flooding in New York, lowa, and Michigan with cleaning buckets and health kits.

U.S. Tornado response: Responded to tornadoes in Kansas with health, school, layette, and bedding kits.

U.S. Immigration response: Provided health kits in Texas in response to the immigration crisis during the summer and fall months.

RELIEF SUPPLIES

KANSAS

UMCOR sent a truckload of relief supplies to assist tornado-battered Baxter Springs, Kan.

The truck contained bedding packs, blankets, tarps, health kits, school kits, and layette kits.

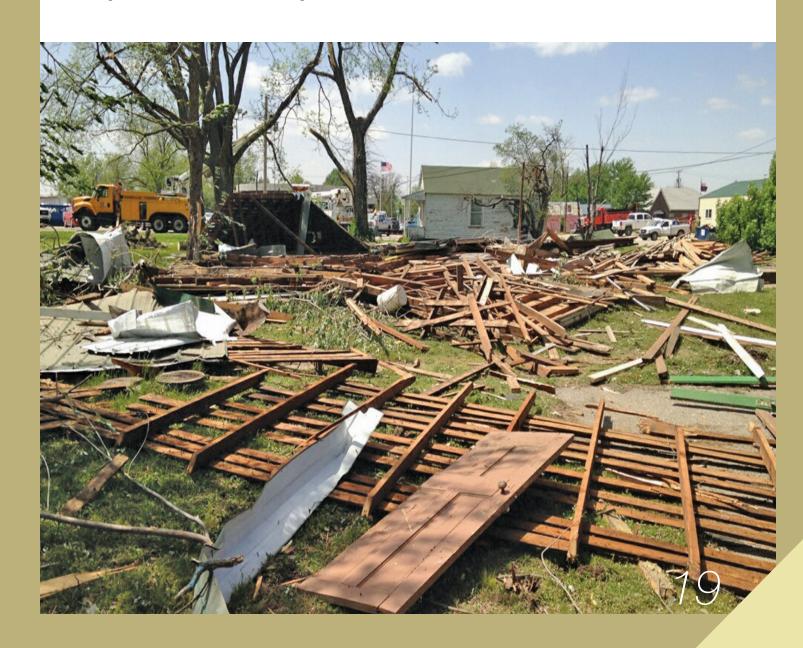
Baxter Springs (pop. 4,200) was struck by a tornado that was reportedly two miles long and two blocks wide. The twister damaged or destroyed 100 homes and 12 businesses in the small town, and injured 25 people.

The storm was part of a four-day event, during which dozens of tornadoes, damaging high winds, hail and then flooding assailed a

total of 15 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Thirty-six people died in the storms and flooding, scores were injured and, across the vast region, homes and businesses were damaged or completely destroyed.

In addition to sending the relief kits, UMCOR also issued three emergency grants to the North Carolina, North Alabama, and Great Plains United Methodist Annual Conferences. Baxter Springs is part of the Great Plains Conference, which was formed January 1, 2014, from three previously existing conferences.





UMCOR works with thousands of communities internationally through more than 300 United Methodist hospitals and clinics, using education as well as preventive and curative measures to confront these and other major health issues.

UMCOR's holistic approach to health empowers people to take charge of their own lives and develops positive health-seeking behavior in the communities we serve. This strategy emphasizes education and the development of local resources so that improvements in public health are sustained over time. UMCOR's programs reach entire communities, especially the most vulnerable, and value local cultural practices as sources of generating lasting solutions.

UMCOR's Global Health program's top priorities are water and maternal and child health.

GLOBAL HEALTH 2014 OVERVIEW

In 2014, Global Health responded to health needs in 25 countries with 91 grants, totaling \$2,891,958. The Global Health unit aims to create abundant health in economically vulnerable communities by protecting children and disadvantaged adults from preventable causes of death and disease. To achieve this, we partner with 13 health boards in Africa and other faith-based organizations.

If you want to learn more about what the Global Health unit is doing in the world, visit: www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Programs/Global-Health/Global-Health-and-Development.

HIGHLIGHTS

Malaria: Imagine No Malaria (INM) supports
UMC Health Boards in Africa to strengthen health
facilities and build integrated solutions to end
malaria and other preventable diseases. To achieve
this, INM supports efforts to educate communities
on malaria prevention and increase access to bed
nets, diagnosis, and treatment services for those
affected. INM also supports revitalization of health
facilities and capacity building for health workers.
INM purchased and distribute a total of 937,896
long-lasting insecticidal nets in South Sudan,
Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Democratic Republic
of Congo (DRC).

- INM supported the renovations of four UMC health facilities in East Congo, which were destroyed during the civil conflict. The number of patients visiting these clinics in creased by almost 10 times after the renovation was completed.
- The Zimbabwe health board trained over 400 community volunteers to provide malaria diagnostic and treatment services using a successful, cost-effective model using existing community, district, and national structures. These community volunteers provided diagnostic and treatment services to more than 39,000 people.
- U.S. Health: The U.S. Congregational Health Ministry supports efforts to nurture mind, body and spirit in a holistic way, embracing wellness in all its forms. They also advocate, educate, and empower annual conferences, districts, and local churches to recognize the gifts and needs of persons with special physical, mental, and other developmental needs. In 2014 Deaf ministry grants assisted in capacity building for the deaf. For example, Paul Aseka, a Kenyan intern supported through deaf ministry funds with Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas, learned how to lead a deaf congregation.





ore than 6,000 United Methodist Women members gathered for their quadrennial Assembly in Louisville, Ky., where they launched a new maternal and child health initiative called Abundant Health. "We need to wake up our country and wake up our world about the work that can and should be done," said the keynote speaker, former U.S. Secretary of State and First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

One participant in Assembly responded, "I felt so affirmed when Hillary Clinton specifically praised Imagine No Malaria and other successful programs of The United Methodist Church. It energized me to keep working toward our goals of improving Global Health."

UMCOR and United Methodist Women are passionate about mothers and children not only surviving, but thriving. That takes more than health care. It needs a holistic, integrated approach that seeks to educate and empower women, while also ensuring access to food security and sustainable agriculture, safe water, and sanitation. Two groups that UMCOR works with are Acción Médica Cristiana (AMC) and Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP).

AMC is an ecumenical Nicaraguan organization that confronts rural poverty through health and development work. AMC provides training for families in areas of health, farming, nutrition, and sanitation. Women's health is a big emphasis. The 2013 UN Women at a Glance report states that 800 women lose their lives each day while trying to give birth. Most of these deaths are preventable. Skilled birth attendants can make a huge difference. By training community health workers and midwives, AMC is helping to keep mothers healthy through pregnancy and delivery. AMC also empowers women through health education to protect their children from malnourishment and disease.

CRHP has been working in Jamkhed, India, for more than 40 years. It empowers the rural poor and marginalized through community-based healthcare. CRHP trains village health workers, mobile health teams, and community groups to recognize and treat diseases of poverty. Around the world, malaria kills a child every minute (Imagine No Malaria, 2014), and more than 2 million young lives are claimed each year by pneumonia and diarrhea (UN Women at a Glance, 2013). These diseases are preventable and treatable. Basic medical care and first aid can make a huge difference.

UMCOR is proud to partner with AMC and CRHP in helping families live lives of abundant health, and using healthcare to break the cycle of poverty in Jamkhed.



UMCOR Country Offices are established to provide humanitarian relief and transitional development in entire communities. In 2014, UMCOR has country offices in seven countries, including Armenia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Georgia, Haiti, South Sudan, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

In these countries, UMCOR implements programs focusing on the areas of livelihoods, emergency response, social and community development, and health to help people restore social stability, revitalize community structures, build peace, and empower communities.



HIGHLIGHTS

Armenia: The Community Integration and Development Agricultural project supported the development of two new agricultural cooperatives serving three vulnerable communities in Vayots Dzor marz. The Agarakadzor and Spitakavor cooperatives mobilized more than 70 community farmers from Vernashen, Gladzor, and Agarakadzor to adopt improved farming techniques and agricultural technologies in order to benefit their communities. More than 300 community members directly benefitted from the project.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Cholera is endemic in Katanga Province, particularly during the rainy season. In 2014, the UMCOR DRC office received funding from UMCOR's Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) portfolio to implement a project to prevent a potential cholera outbreak due to scarcity of safe drinking water and poor sanitation facilities in the Kapolowe health zone in Katanga. The project focused primarily on providing new latrine blocks; establishing water committees; rehabilitating water sources; and education activities in health and hygiene. This project reached 5,457 direct beneficiaries.



24 Hope in Action 25

Georgia: Aiming to develop connections between health providers and community members on both sides of the Georgia-Abkhazia and Georgia-South Ossetia Administrative Boundary Lines, UMCOR trained 95 health professionals from conflictaffected communities on critical health topics including maternal and child health, cardiovascular disease, oncology, and emergency medicine. More than 3,500 community members benefitted from public awareness activities related to critical health topics, demonstrating an overall knowledge gain of more than 50 percent. Some 6,300 brochures on critical health topics were delivered to community members and health professionals in the Georgian and Russian languages to reinforce learning from public awareness sessions and increase the reach of the project through future distributions by health professionals.

Haiti: In partnership with Interchurch Partnership for Development Cooperation, UMCOR completed the Strengthening Entrepreneurship and the Economy through Women's Business Development Scale-Up project to benefit 500 women in Portau-Prince, Haiti, through business training and procurement of business assets worth \$250 USD per beneficiary. The training component was completed and exceeded the aimed objectives.

South Sudan: Under the Imagine No Malaria (INM) campaign, 30,000 long lasting insecticidal nets were distributed to 8,359 households in Yei River County, protecting 54,941 individuals from malaria.

Sri Lanka: With funding from the International Organization for Migration, 200 beneficiary families in Batticaloa district received support to start small businesses through the formation of 20 Village Livelihood Groups (VLGs). The VLGs provided the basis for business skills and vocational training, including developing individual business plans and managing a revolving loan fund.



Sudan: Through funding from the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, 397 individuals (223 women) received assistance through economic development activities (skill building, financial management, etc.) and 55 new small businesses started in East Darfur state.

Zimbabwe: The UMCOR Zimbabwe office hosted the 2014 African offices regional meeting. The meeting was held October 12–17, 2014. Country offices from South Sudan, Sudan, DRC, and host, Zimbabwe, were part of the gathering. The country offices representatives included the heads of mission, finance directors, and program managers. Technical officers from the UMCOR home office for WASH, Sustainable Agriculture, monitoring and Evaluation, and Health also attended the meeting.

COUNTRY OFFICES SOUTH SUDAN

It is a well-documented truth that educating young women is one of the most effective ways to lift families and communities out of poverty and put a nation on track for sustained development. In South Sudan, the world's newest country, progress is being made in that vital area of national development.

UMCOR helped in this essential effort, through its Girls Education in South Sudan (GESS) program, aimed at transforming the lives of a generation of South Sudanese children, particularly girls.

Traditionally, only one girl in 10 completes primary education in South Sudan, and girls comprise just one third of the secondary school population.

GESS challenges this situation. A five-year project implemented in all 10 states of South Sudan through state Ministries of Education, it is supported by funding from the Department for International

Development of the United Kingdom and from the Government of South Sudan. In the state of Northern Bahr el Ghazal, where UMCOR has concentrated much of its work, the program builds upon substantial strides already taken to build up school enrollment for girls and ensure their retention in class.

The GESS effort has ramped up resources being made available to local schools—including everything from computer equipment and solar electrical systems to motorcycles and chalk. Just as vital to the plan's success are increased recruiting and specialized training of skilled staff.

"Sending women for teacher training clearly increases the number of teachers," says UMCOR GESS Team Leader Christine Meling, "and they, in turn, mentor and motivate girls to complete their education and achieve similar—or even better—goals."

The State Ministry of Education works side by side with UMCOR and Hope Agency for Relief and Development in the GESS program to promote increased enrollment, attendance, and retention of the girls supported by the project.

A creative hallmark of the program is the use of radio broadcasting. As in many other African countries, radio is the most accessible source of information for the vast majority of South Sudanese people.

Since March 2014, the series "Our School" has been airing in five languages. It portrays the lives of girls and their families as they struggle with and resolve the challenges of going to school.

UMCOR trained teachers and principals in the use of a comprehensive school attendance recording system, and encouraged its widespread adoption. The system allows daily attendance to be recorded and collated electronically in real time.

This monitoring innovation is already enabling the state education authorities to accurately assess the impact of the new effort. GESS financing is made available to schools that report encouraging attendance records.

From the Treasurer

In 2014, UMCOR continued its work of bringing hope to people who needed it most. We provided \$53.5 million to support programs that alleviated the suffering of those affected by disasters, poverty, and disease.

UMCOR's total expenditures in 2014 amounted to \$58 million, of which \$4.4 was spent on administration and fundraising efforts.

Donor giving in response to disasters impacts UMCOR's operating revenue. We are thankful that there were no major disasters in 2014, which in part resulted in UMCOR's revenue being \$51.7 million for the year; \$17.1 million lower than 2013 when donors so generously responded to Hurricane Sandy, which caused severe damage along the U.S. East Coat, and Super Typhoon Haiyan, which ravaged the Philippines. We continue to be thankful for our donors' generosity in the face of competing needs.

UMCOR's Statement of Financial Position shows net assets of \$156 million; \$66.2 million of these assets are temporarily restricted, the most significant of these is \$22.4 million held for the long-term recovery effort that remains ahead of us in Haiti. The undesignated assets of \$32 million are indicative of the ongoing financial stability within the organization.

UMCOR is progressing with hope because of your faithful generosity. Thank you for your trust in UMCOR as we work on your behalf to serve all of God's people everywhere.

Roland Fernande

Treasurer

UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND AFFILIATES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

ASSETS Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$	7,599,595	\$	8,732,504
Investments	Ψ	95,295,930	Ψ	98,224,673
Investments in debt securities of United Methodist		55,255,550		30,224,073
Development Fund		1,736,112		1,735,917
Receivables:		1,700,112		1,700,017
Advanced Special Gifts		7,634,591		12,292,090
One Great Hour of Sharing		224,360		151,284
Accrued receivables		1,262,483		2,054,999
Grants and contracts		1,430,904		1,515,158
Other		3,274,327		2,214,049
Program loans, net		32,162,518		33,515,459
Due from General Board of Global Ministries and		, ,		,
related entities		16,462		385,498
Inventory and other assets		250,030		1,260,705
Buildings and equipment, net		2,403,375		2,791,570
Endowment funds held by the General Board of				
Global Ministries		1,219,347		-
Perpetual trusts held by others		1,479,489		1,227,803
Total Assets	\$	155,989,523	\$	166,101,709
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Liabilities:				
Due to General Board of Global Ministries and				
related entities	\$	71,123	\$	250,134
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		12,230,842		13,298,978
Borrowings for program loans		434,372		853,958
Accounts held on behalf of others		2,958,524		2,942,261
Deferred revenue and amounts held under grants				
and contracts		3,214,356		5,007,679
Total Liabilities		18,909,217		22,353,010
Net Assets Unrestricted:				
Undesignated		31,757,155		22,926,116
Designated for Aregak		32,534,856		32,967,268
Designated for Sager Brown		2,094,383		2,104,873
Designated for National Justice for Our Neighbors		132,019		155,739
Other designated		788,719		7,006,332
Total Unrestricted Net Assets		67,307,132		65,160,328
Temporarily restricted net assets		66,232,243		75,539,451
Permanently restricted net assets		3,540,931		3,048,920
Total Net Assets		137,080,306		143,748,699
	\$	155,989,523		166,101,709

The accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND AFFILIATES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	2014				
		Temporarily Permanently			
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total	
Operating Revenue:					
General Funds of the United					
Methodist Church:					
Advance Special Gifts	\$ 6,851,580	\$ 10,634,052	\$ -	\$ 17,485,632	
One Great Hour of Sharing	2,837,847	.=0	_	2,837,847	
World Service Allocation	-	61,131		61,131	
Donated commodities	7,702,861	= %	; - ;	7,702,861	
Grants and contracts	9,305,766	-	-	9,305,766	
Gifts and bequests	1,578,704	1,175,047	:=:	2,753,751	
Sager-Brown program income	1,018,814	-	-	1,018,814	
Aregak program income	10,132,367	_		10,132,367	
Other income	362,307	<u>-</u>	-	362,307	
	39,790,246	11,870,230	-	51,660,476	
Net assets released from restrictions	21,774,665	(21,774,665)	=	-	
Total Operating Revenue	61,564,911	(9,904,435)		51,660,476	
Operating Expenses:					
Program Services:					
Special ministries	8,454,954	-	=	8,454,954	
Advance special projects	18,309,400	-		18,309,400	
Relief projects (grant funds)	17,735,628	=:	-	17,735,628	
Health programs	3,155,483	-;	-	3,155,483	
Aregak program	5,882,592			5,882,592	
Total Program Services	53,538,057			53,538,057	
Supporting Services:					
Management and general	3,810,354	=	-	3,810,354	
Fundraising	583,111			583,111	
Total Supporting Services	4,393,465	<u>\</u>		4,393,465	
Total Operating Expenses	57,931,522	i i	_	57,931,522	
Changes in net assets from operating activities	3,633,389	(9,904,435)		(6,271,046)	
Nonoperating activities:					
Appreciation in fair value of	3,195,601	597,227	-	3,792,828	
investments, net					
Appreciation in fair value of perpetual	-	-	6,104	6,104	
trusts, net					
Endowment contributions	~	-	485,907	485,907	
Other	(4,682,186)		-	(4,682,186)	
Changes in net assets	2,146,804	(9,307,208)	492,011	(6,668,393)	
Net assets, beginning of year	65,160,328	75,539,451	3,048,920	143,748,699	
Net assets, end of year	\$ 67,307,132	\$ 66,232,243	\$ 3,540,931	\$ 137,080,306	

The accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements are an integral part of this statement.



Photo Credits:

Cover: A family pumps clean water in South Sudan. Credit: Jay Rollins **Inside front cover:** Maternal health worker Yolande Gabriel checks on an infant near Mizak, Haiti. Gabriel is the director of community health for Haiti Artisans for Peace International. Credit: Mike DuBose/UMNS

- **1:** Survivors of Typhoon Haiyan receive emergency food rations from UMCOR in Tacloban, Philippines. Credit: Mike DuBose/UMNS
- **3:** UMCOR partnered with American Near East Refugee Aid in Lebanon to provide Palestinian Syrian refugee children with rehabilitated preschools. Credit: ANERA
- **4:** Clean water in Ecuentritos, Guatemala, combined with grey water filters, latrines, and cookstoves, is part of the integrated approach to improving health among Mayan communities in Guatemala. Credit: Mike Barbee
- **5:** Health care workers listen intently during a panel discussion to help prepare them for a possible outbreak of the Ebola virus at The United Methodist Church's Mercy Hospital in Bo, Sierra Leone. Credit: Mike Barbee
- **6:** The Rev. Tish Malloy (left) hugs the Rev. Mark Whitley during the cleanup of tornado damage at the home of Trent Steward in Moore, Okla. Credit: Mike DuBose/UMNS
- **8:** Volunteers from First United Methodist Church in Prescott, Ark, rebuild a tornado-damaged home. Credit: Rena Brown
- 10: Disaster Risk Reduction training in Barbados .
- 11: Georgia Training. Credit: UMCOR Georgia
- **12:** Women sort peanuts near the UMCOR Sudan office in El Daein, Sudan. Credit: Linda Unger
- 14: Women in India sell apples at the market. Credit: Mike Barbee
- **16:** A mother bathes her son with clean water at a bathing station. Credit: Mike Barbee
- 17: Students receive UMCOR school kits in response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. UMCOR distributed about 2,600 kits in approximately 50 schools. Credit: Francesco Paganini
- **18:** UMCOR packs a truck full of school kits in response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Credit: Francesco Paganini
- 19: Tornado damage. Credit: Linda Stewart
- 21: A mother and her children in the Nehnwaa Child Survival Project, Nimba County, Liberia. Credit: Piper Crisovan
- **22:** A village health worker trained by the Comprehensive Rural Health Program in Jamkhed, India, takes blood pressure readings for a community member.
- **24:** A man works in the garden at the Gyumri Elderly Home in Armenia. The funding of the garden are provided through the Foods Resource Bank's Fighting Hunger through Sustainable Livelihood Development Program. Credit: UMCOR Armenia
- **25:** A woman sells flour in a market in Kamina, Democratic Republic of Congo. The market was constructed by UMCOR to provide local residents with a healthy environment in which to sell their products. Credit: Paul Jeffrey
- **26–27:** Dina Mella checks one of the two female goats that UMCOR gave to her family as part of a program to combat hunger in Haiti. She will pass on two goats to another family when hers has offspring. Credit: Paul Jeffrey

Back cover: UMCOR workers visit a village in Batticaloa District in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. Credit: Nile Sprague

