Canada 2013/2014
Mennonite Central Committee Annual Report

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

Natalia Mezentseva (standing) manages a program for former prisoners and people with HIV and AIDS in Ukraine. Lubov Yarchuk lives at a centre operated by the program.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Providing 2,957 Filipino families with shelter after Typhoon Haiyan.
2. Promoting teamwork and non-violence for young adults in the West Bank.
4. Providing almost $11 million in various forms of support for Syrian refugees.
5. Building dams and earth terraces in Afghanistan.
7. Helping oversee the settlement of 190 refugees across Canada.
8. Training Rwandan farmers in conservation agriculture.
9. Training on trauma after shooting at Kenya’s Westgate mall.
10. Providing food assistance for 1,500 families after flooding in India.
11. Testifying before a parliamentary committee on work in Syria and with Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan.
12. Supporting Global Family programs in over 40 countries.
13. Providing seeds and animal feed to 316 families in Bolivia.
15. Supporting 18 young adults from 13 countries serving with International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) in Canada.

WE ARE THERE

When disaster happens
Visitacion Coral salvaged what she could to build a shelter after Typhoon Haiyan destroyed her house in the Philippines. A project supported by MCC will provide Coral with materials to help make her permanent home more typhoon resistant.

When people need food and water
Ruth Nthukilu uses leaves from the moringa tree as medicine to help prevent pain. She’s a member of a self-help group in Kenya involved in a project supported by MCC that promotes the use of drought resistant crops, such as the moringa tree.

When communities seek peace
Amira Išerić teaches about peacebuilding at a high school in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina. She tells her students that accepting other people’s cultures and beliefs are important ingredients in a non-violent lifestyle. The program she works with is supported by MCC.

When children need to feel safe
Four-year-old Roxana lives with her parents and siblings in Bolivia. She began attending a daycare and kindergarten supported by MCC’s Global Family program because it wasn’t safe for her to be home while her parents went to work.

Participants in MCC Canada’s 2013 Summerbridge program gathered in Winnipeg before heading out to service work with congregations and communities.
To fulfill its mission, MCC works with other organizations that have similar goals:

- Canadian Churches in Action
- Canadian Christian Relief and Development Association
- Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and Development
- Canadian Council for International Cooperation
- Canadian Council for Refugees
- Church Council on Justice and Corrections
- KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
- Micah Challenge
- Mines Action Canada
- National Associations Active in Criminal Justice
- Peacebuild
- Policy Action Group on Emergency Response
- Project Ploughshares

*In addition, MCC works with many other organizations on an informal and occasional basis.

MCC's mission is to share “God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice.”

Our service workers fulfill this mission every day. In September, I visited a remote, impoverished community in Nepal and sat with women who spoke of the daily challenge of providing for their families. I followed as our service worker Leah and an elderly woman walked hand-in-hand, taking me to places in the community I would never see without their presence.

MCC's mission is also fulfilled in our response to disasters. The crisis in Syria continues. The value of our overall program to date exceeds $14 M, including material resources, cash contributions, government grants and projects supported through our account at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

About 14 million people in the Philippines were affected when Typhoon Haiyan landed in November. To date MCC has raised approximately $4.3 M in donations and has allocated most of that to our ongoing response, including the construction of typhoon resistant shelters.

MCC is present in the disasters that go virtually unnoticed in North America: the East Africa food crisis, displaced South Sudanese children, flooding in Northern Gaza, drought in Guatemala, conflict in Eastern Congo.

Whether it be a disaster, or a service worker walking with a community leader, MCC is present, sharing God’s love and compassion for all in the name of Christ.

Don Peters, Executive Director, MCC Canada