

PARISH PROJECT 2010

Working for Love, Hope & Justice



Locals receive aid packages after the earthquake in West Sumatra. ©Rainer Lang/ACT2009

Global Rapid Response Fund

Target: \$100,000 in 2010

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

The LORD is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all. **Psalm 34:17-19***

Cyclones, wars, earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, droughts... Seldom can we look through a newspaper without finding evidence of the vulnerability of communities in the midst of disasters, both natural and human-caused.

ABM's mandate compels us to respond to human need with loving service, and to do this in the most efficient and effective way possible. Rather than waiting for funds to come in after launching an emergency appeal every time a disaster strikes, the Global Rapid Response Fund enables our organisation to respond to emergencies immediately. This helps to ensure that essential relief items like food, shelter and medicines can be organised and distributed often before most Australians are even aware that a disaster has occurred.

ABM responds to disasters in a number of different ways, depending upon the circumstances. We may respond directly, supporting the capacity of our existing partners; we may work with other Anglican or faith-based agencies; or we may work through the global Action by Churches Together network. Thanks to your support we are able to extend real assistance to vulnerable communities at their hour of greatest need.

During an emergency:

- **\$16** purchases a week's supply of food for a whole family
- **\$40** buys a tarpaulin for a damaged or destroyed home
- **\$500** helps to transport essential supplies to where they are needed most

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the victims of disaster, particularly remembering the vulnerable, the poor and those living with disabilities.
- Give thanks for the resilience of communities rebuilding in the wake of disasters.
- Pray for communities in the Pacific Islands as they develop strategies to adapt to changing climate and rising sea levels.

Top 10 Natural Disasters in the Philippines for 2009:

Disaster	Date	Total Affected
Storm	3/10/2009	3107162
Storm	28/09/2009	4321149
Storm	8/09/2009	388373
Storm	23/07/2009	110405
Storm	18/07/2009	248058
Flood	4/07/2009	505102
Storm	8/05/2009	412430
Storm	29/04/2009	383465
Flood	3/01/2009	200000
Flood	2/01/2009	537991

Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database

After Nargis: 3 Days in the Field with the Anglican Relief Effort

(Myanmar, 28 May 2008 – Brad Chapman, Emergencies & Climate Change Coordinator)

Sebastian (not his real name) has just returned from a three day journey down the Irrawaddy Delta. The signs of a rough trip with little sleep show clearly on his body, but his thoughts are far from his own welfare.



“We found people whose entire villages had been swept away” recounts Sebastian. “One village used to have 68 people. Now there are only 18 left”. The people that survived did so by clinging to tall coconut trees as the storm surge from Cyclone Nargis engulfed the low-lying delta region.

Sebastian has been part of a relief mission organised by the Anglican Church, his group was the third party so far. Loading two church trucks with rice, salt, plastic sheeting and medical supplies, they had taken the road as far as they could towards the worst affected area of the lower Irrawaddy Delta. When they reached the end of the road they switched to boats and navigated hazardous waterways to reach isolated communities entirely cut off from the major townships and supply centres. In many of the places they visited, the church was the first organisation to bring urgently needed relief supplies.

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OUR VISION ABM wants to see people everywhere experience the wholeness of life God offers in Jesus Christ, and to this end support our partners as they participate in God's mission.

OUR PROFILE ABM is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia.

We work with Anglican Church Partners to develop and provide for the spiritual, social and material needs of people, both overseas and within Indigenous communities in Australia. We help the Anglican Church and the wider community realise and respond to the call for each of us to be a part of God's hope for the world.