



Annual Report

2020



Chair's Report

CRWRF is celebrating 55 years of service in 2020.
 Last year the board reflected on blessings received from the Lord through the generosity of supporters throughout the years in a strategic planning process that I facilitated. These reflections provided a lens through which board members considered the organization's way forward during an all-day session in November and a follow-up evening in January.

Already in 1965 when families were getting established and setting up churches and schools in Canada, there was a desire to "provide Christian charity to any area of the world that is in need of such," driven by the understanding, "all (material) gifts entrusted to us by God are to be distributed to our neighbour's benefit." The focus on neighbours as far and wide articulated in CRWRF's current General Policy was taken from Calvin's observation that "God bids us extend to all men the love that we bear to him" (Institutes 2.8.55). These guiding principles from 1965 continue to be relevant and the board is proposing that they be accepted by the membership as part of the 2020 – 2025 Operating Policy and Strategic Plan.

During the planning workshops it was noted that operating as a volunteer, working board and sub-committees continues to be one of CRWRF's strengths. Volunteers bring various skills and perspectives while also helping to keep costs down. This and four other values to which CRWRF has adhered over the years are also being presented to the membership. The board has used some of them as a framework through which to provide you with a snapshot of CRWRF's work in this year's report.

The board also spent time considering what might need to change in order to continue to meet the needs of members, supporters and partners. The challenge was to be realistic with what a volunteer organization can accomplish and to prioritize accordingly. The membership will be asked to approve three strategic directions to enhance CRWRF's capacity in the next five years.

As the planning work is now complete my time on the board has come to an end. During the past 15 years I have been blessed to work alongside many amazing people; members of CRWRF and partner boards and project volunteers and recipients. People I've met in remote parts of Africa have humbled and inspired me; Christian and Muslim alike who had so little, yet in their adversity could praise God of the Bible for the small blessing received through the work of CRWRF. My prayer is that the vision articulated 55 years ago may continue to live in the hearts of CRWRF's supporters and donors for many years to come.

— KONNIE PEET

2019 Project Updates

Which groups of people were supported by projects funded by CRWRF in 2019?

Syrian Refugees **LEBANON**

95% of the beneficiary households who received packages from the Milk and Diapers Program were Syrian refugees and 5% were vulnerable Lebanese families.

80 kids received education, health care, counselling, spiritual care, and a safe home at Achege, Mufu, and Tumaini.

Seventy Children receive an education due to CRWRF's support.

KENYA

TIMOR

107 home visits to orphans, vulnerable children and newborns affected by HIV/AIDS.

YOUTH

7,909 participated in family life training.

18 youth training events were hosted, including topics on: hygiene, choosing a spouse, STIs, and the consequences of abortion.

MALI

FAITHWORKS

KY 26 Faithworks participants partnered with SWAP (Serving With Appalachian People) in Kentucky to help the people of Harlan.

KENTUCKY

POOR AND VULNERABLE

2,600 food parcels were donated to households affected by HIV/AIDS, people with disabilities, and/or the elderly. These were distributed during 6,893 visits made by 32 Zisize home-based care volunteers.

SOUTH AFRICA

COMMUNITY in Pan de Vida **MEXICO**

In January, seven Faithworks trip participants completed many construction and maintenance tasks at Pan de Vida.

In November, eight Faithworks trip participants worked on painting, welding, and plumbing, and each also led an English class.

How have CRWRF's partners been building capacity in their communities in 2019?

130 m DEEP WELL now supplies water to a community that once had to walk up to 2 hours to get it.

SOUTH AFRICA

family

13 children were successfully reunited with their families with help from Achege, Mufu, and Tumaini rescue centres.

12 additional home visits were made for reintegration of children with their families.

KENYA

Ninety-six programs were broadcasted on the Christian **Radio**.

station. Subjects included: spousal relations, social networks, education of children, sexual harassment, and family financial management. Church facilitators also continue to carry out training in their respective churches.

MALI

GARDENS SENEVAL TESTING

Fences were built around five community vegetable gardens. The success of the gardens allowed the women to share seeds with women from four other villages, so they could plant their own gardens.

SENEGAL

Services Luthériens pour le Développement au Sénégal (SLDS) coordinated seven 'Cercles des Femmes' (Women's Circles) continue to advocate for HIV and AIDS testing.

Which Christian-motivated organizations did CRWRF partner with in 2019?

New Hope Foundation

17 volunteers (5 board members plus 12 other volunteers) work for the educational committees established in each local church.

INDONESIA

More than 230 families in flooded Sentani received food and hygiene packages.

TIMOR

World Renew

2,465 people assisted with the Milk and Diapers program.

LEBANON

\$7,500 was used for emergency water sources after Hurricane Dorian. The funds were used for reverse osmosis water filters, water trucking, engineers, and volunteer training.

BAHAMAS

\$25,000 was used for emergency food vouchers (given to families to buy essential food items), and nutrition services focusing on pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old.

YEMEN

Zisize Khothatsong

33 volunteers in their home-based care program.

8 board volunteers run this home-based care program.

SOUTH AFRICA



Secretary's Report

Throughout the past year the CRWRF board has been busy working on a variety of projects. In the summer the Open Doors Grade 8 Geography curriculum was updated, in partnership with the CARE (Curriculum Assistance to Reformed Education) Committee. The update included an introduction to a more holistic view of poverty, as well as a new case study covering relief efforts after the flash floods in Papua in March 2019. Copies of the curriculum have now been eagerly received by 17 schools across Canada.

The board has also sought to strengthen its relationship with the Faithworks Committee by joining together for an evening of fellowship, as well as appointing a new liaison who will maintain communication between Faithworks and CRWRF. We continue to work towards updating our insurance policies as well as developing risk management strategies to ensure the safety of participants in future short term missions trips.

The board has also done extensive work to improve the format of legal forms such as Memorandums of Agreement (or MOAs: which describe the details of our partnerships with other organizations) and Project Agreements (or PAs: which outline specific details of projects being completed by the partners), both of which are critical to ensure transparency and effective implementation of relief and development work.

In addition to local activities, three members of the CRWRF board look forward to visiting Kenya in the fall of 2020 (Lord willing) in order to conduct site visits of three rescue centres (Tumaini, Mufu and Achege) and a community development project (Tamu).

The board thanks the Lord for guiding us in 2019 and covets your prayers as we continue our work in 2020.

— LAURIE KONING

Treasurer's Report

The book of Proverbs has much to say about our relationship with our neighbours. CRWRF's supporters take a broad, scriptural view of who our neighbour is. Text such as Proverbs 19:17 inform how CRWRF goes about being a bridge between those who are in need around the world and those in our church community with the opportunity to help. In doing so, we wish to reflect the love that God shines on us by being loving towards our neighbours. The accompanying charts give an overview of how we were able to provide much-needed aid, and where our funds come from. Note that the excess of expenditures over revenues was made possible due to the amount of accumulated funds from previous years that were available for us to use in 2019.

What's not evident in the charts of Revenues and Expenses is the outstanding response we've had to our Thanksgiving appeal to build up the new Education Bursary Fund. We set up this fund to assist in funding secondary school education for needy children in Africa. As at the end of March, this fund is approaching \$125,000 in capital. Our plan is to provide ongoing support with the interest earned on the principal built up in this fund.

We give thanks to our generous donors and especially to our gracious Father in heaven for making this work possible.

— MIKE DEBOERSAP

