

ADRA EU



NEWSLETTER

From Brussels



JUNE—JULY 2014

Editorial

The past weeks were packed full of international meetings and conferences, for example, in Bangkok, Brussels, Bonn and Geneva. The central theme of all meetings was to change injustices and to manage crises. These days have been overlaid by the shrill and rushing media event of the 2014 FIFA World Cup, with its millions of people around the world drawn in its spell. Therefore the suffering of the poorest quickly moves into the background.

The work of humanitarian organizations is done quietly and most unnoticed by the media. The international network of ADRA, with its 134 offices throughout the world, contributes sustainably to improving the quality of life of disadvantaged populations and to enable people in need to find the way back to a normal life.

ADRA is characterized by a holistic approach and a serving partnership with sufferers. ADRA hawks neither easy solutions nor cultures. The highly motivated and well-trained employees share a passion for people, they listen to them and help them to lead a dignified, independent life.

So as people of hope, let's stay together and work together for a better future.

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Concord – Voice– Echo

ECHO - HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION

EU assistance underway for flood victims in
Serbia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina

***[http://europa.eu/rapid/
press-release_IP-14-
569_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-569_en.htm)***

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VOICE

[‘Why is EU humanitarian aid important?’](#). The world
is again facing an increasing number of severe hu-
manitarian crises that have serious impacts at na-
tional, regional and international levels. ...

***[http://www.ngovoice.org/
documents/20140521%
20VOICE%20GA%
20Resolution%202014%
20FINAL.pdf](http://www.ngovoice.org/documents/20140521%20VOICE%20GA%20Resolution%202014%20FINAL.pdf)***

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FLASHB NEWS ADRA



Balkan Floods, 2014

***[http://www.ted-adventist.org/news/
balkan-foods-adra-in-action-to-help-
people](http://www.ted-adventist.org/news/balkan-foods-adra-in-action-to-help-people)***

Concord – Voice– Echo

CONCORD— The European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs

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**#EYD2015: Engaging Citizens for
Global Justice**

... some megatrends are changing the face of the deve-
lopment sector and identifying some strategic shifts
needed to take account of such megatrends. ‘We need to
engage the best thinkers within and beyond our sector in
reflecting what the world will look like in the next 20-30
years and how we as actors for development need to
change accordingly’...

***[http://www.concordeurope.org/civil-
society/engaging-citizens/item/322-
eyd2015-engaging-citizens-for-global-
justice](http://www.concordeurope.org/civil-society/engaging-citizens/item/322-eyd2015-engaging-citizens-for-global-justice)***

ADRA INTERNATIONAL

AGENTS OF HOPE AND HEALING

JONATHAN DUFFY

ADRA INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



I would like to start by using your imagination: you woke up this morning hearing the news, or a neighbour told you, because you may not be listening to the news, that a jumbo jet crashed killing all on board. Most of us travel in some stage, it is picking up a little bit our interest: “when and where the crash was?” And perhaps it may be the end of it. Or perhaps if the crash had occurred in our own city, that may cause more interest; or perhaps if I look out of my window I can see the smoke rising from the airport close by, then, it could pick my interest even further. Or, of course, if I knew someone in that plane, then it would move beyond being a point of interest to a point of tragedy.

I want you to extend your imagination: when you woke up this morning, you heard the news: not one passenger jet has been crashed but a hundred passenger jets have been crashed. That is huge news. And then the news operate on

every TV channel, you would be hearing nothing but this tragedy of 100 passenger jets.... What’s going wrong with this airline industry? What’s going to happen? Imagine the next day you wake up and another hundred passenger jets crash. The next day another hundred jumbo jets. It would change the way we live. There would be huge investigations, millions or billions of dollars would be spend investigating the cause of these crashes. So why is it that the equivalent to one hundred jumbo jets crashing every day is the equivalent number of children who die each day from preventable diseases that we could do something about and we never hear about it ?

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ADRA INTERNATIONAL

AGENTS OF HOPE AND HEALING...

...When I was a young man at the university, I was part of a Conference youth club running the youth activities. This camp was a 10 day event. On the first Sunday of camp, we wanted to take the youngest ones from Adelaide off to a small island called Kangaroo Island, very famous for its scenery. So we decided it would be a great event. Sunday morning, everything was planned. But the difficulty came on Friday night when I got a message from the Conference President: the Youth Director had to be rushed to hospital. He said to me: "Jonathan, would you mind staying behind from going to the Kangaroo Island with the kids?" I was quite disappointed because I had never been to Kangaroo Island, I was looking forward to this event, but I thought: that was part of my responsibility to stay. On Sunday morning, all the kids had gone to the airport, heading off to Kangaroo island. It was 7 o'clock this Sunday evening, as we were all preparing for the presentation, delivered by the president, we got the news: the last plane that took off from Kangaroo Island crashed... It was only a small plane, but there were 4 young people on board... and one of them was the president of our club. And he also happened to be... the son of the Conference President who was about to speak this Sunday evening.

See, we talk about numbers, but when it becomes personal, then it becomes real. And these 4 young people's tragedy changed the spirit of the whole camp meeting. Even today, 35 years later, when we get together, when we talk and remember that event, on what happen on that tragic Sunday, the plane crashed and 4 young people died along with the pilot.

What a tragedy... But why is it that the equivalent of one hundred jumbo jets everyday doesn't attract our attention? Why is it that our compassion for others seems to be directly correlated to people we are closed to : socially, emotionally, culturally, ethnically, economically and geographically?

Do we have empathy? Do we act out of obligation? Do we act out of moral duty? Out of a corporate social responsibility... Is that what drives us? Because it is our duty? Because we think we should do something about it? Because we feel sorry for someone? Is that the driving force?

I am the President of ADRA but ADRA is only effective when all people come together as a body to act and do something practical in a way to help. Is it enough to say that we have a good food program for the poor? Compassion... Having compassion. The root word for compassion comes from a word "com" and "passion", meaning "to suffer together with". Do we act out of compassion? Do we just feel sorry for them? Or do we have compassion, feeling their pain, suffering with them?

Having compassion on people, starting to begin to minister to their needs, mingling with them, teaching them many things, desiring their good, showing sympathy for them, giving them water to drink, meeting their physical needs. If we want to be true agents of hope and healing, we must be present where people are most broken. We must restore them physically, and then for their dignity to be restored.



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Lone Survivor

Michelle L. Oetman

On the Ground

http://www.adra.org/site/PageNavigator/work/where/central_america



"Often times I wonder if my mother has seen me but didn't recognize me," shared Ginny.

Born 16 years ago in the countryside of Haiti, Ginny's mother gave her up at birth, and her father wanted nothing to do with her. Until age four she was cared for by a string of people she doesn't remember, until she eventually ended up on the street.

At age four, a woman started talking to her on the street. Learning her story, she took her home and Ginny's life improved for a while. "I got to go to school for the first time!" Ginny said. "But after grade 5, she stopped paying for my school and wouldn't buy me any clothes," Ginny recalled. About the same time, a man living in the home began abusing her. "He would beat me and come to me at night and try to rape me. I would scream but no one answered," she said. "I was so scared that I stopped sleeping at night." At age 14, Ginny told her surrogate mom what was happening and asked her to kick him out. "She didn't so I was the one who had to leave. I moved in with a neighbour."

Still unable to attend school, Ginny spent her day doing domestic chores in this new home. Even in a new home, Ginny couldn't escape abuse. A relative of her new family started beating Ginny. Holding back many unjust details and painful memories, she simply summarized, "I've suffered a lot. No matter where I was I wasn't comfortable like I thought it would feel like if you were at home. Throughout it all," Ginny said, "I just wanted to go home, to my mother."

"One day someone told me my mom had moved to Port-au-Prince and they gave me her phone number on a slip of paper. I immediately called her and asked if I could come home and she said yes. She also told me I had five sisters!" Ginny was overjoyed that she

could finally go home and meet the mother she'd never known. She quickly made plans to visit her mom.

Tragically, the January 12 earthquake shattered those plans. Despite barely surviving herself, Ginny went to her mother's home address as soon as she could. To her horror, the home she arrived at was now just a pile of rubble. "Day and night, I worry if my mother is still alive somewhere or if she died in her house. I came so close to meeting her and then this happened! Now, I really feel alone."

Not knowing how long her mother had been living in Port-au-Prince, she now wonders if their paths had ever crossed over the years. She had no way to recognize her mother and is pained to think her mother may have seen her, but hadn't recognized her! The earthquake crushed the only hope she had of ever finding her mother. "The piece of paper I had my mom's phone number on was in my house and it's collapsed," Ginny said. "There's no way I can find the paper now."

With no place to go after the earthquake, Ginny made her way to ADRA's internally displaced persons camp that formed in the Carrefour neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince. It was here that ADRA workers discovered her, and now she's part of ADRA's child protection and post-trauma programme.

Lone Survivor

http://www.adra.org/site/PageNavigator/work/where/central_america

“ADRA is providing food, shelter and psychosocial support to children who are alone, at-risk, and suffering from unimaginable loss,” explained Patricia Muller, ADRA’s post-trauma project coordinator in Haiti.

ADRA is providing several services for separated or unaccompanied children like Ginny, who are under 18. Child-friendly spaces have been created and a temporary guardian is assigned to each child, with the assistance of community and church leaders, to ensure they have shelter and care in a safe and secure space. They also have access to psychosocial support. Additionally, ADRA is working with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and other partner agencies to trace families, and reunite unaccompanied children with their immediate or extended family members.

Jennifer Morgan, who manages the inter-agency programme, says the priority is identifying unaccompanied children and ensuring that they are safe and cared for where they are now, while efforts are made to trace their families. When people hear of separated or unaccompanied children, they often assume they’re orphans and many want to look into adoption. But Morgan warns otherwise. “Children have a right to be with their families. That is why it is so important to allow the reunification process to run its course,” said Morgan.

Ginny’s dreams for the future aren’t elaborate. “I just want to live good. I want to go to school and learn a profession because I want to survive.”

Ginny has relatives nearly four hours away; but she doesn’t know their names. Through the UNICEF network, and with the assistance of ADRA, there is a hope that she’ll be united with family and soon have a place to call home.

Until then, ADRA has introduced Ginny to another

girl who is also alone after the earthquake. As they sat together they both agreed, “We stick together and look out for each other. We are each other’s family. And for the first time, in each other, we have found a sister. We are no longer alone.”

Hope Rising

Michelle Oetman

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

“I haven’t had any time to cry,” the young teen confided. “Until now. Today, I will cry.”

For many Haitians caught in the trauma of the 7.0 earthquake, which struck on January 12, it has taken weeks for the flood of emotions to really come out. Overnight, Haiti became a nation described as a place, “where everyone has lost someone.” With overwhelming destruction all around them, and the weighty loss of homes, jobs, family and friends within them, it seems that only their determination and a drive for survival kept them going. February 12, the one-month anniversary of the earthquake, was Haiti’s National Day of Mourning, a day fashioned by the Haitian government as an opportunity for the nation to grieve and begin to heal... see more:

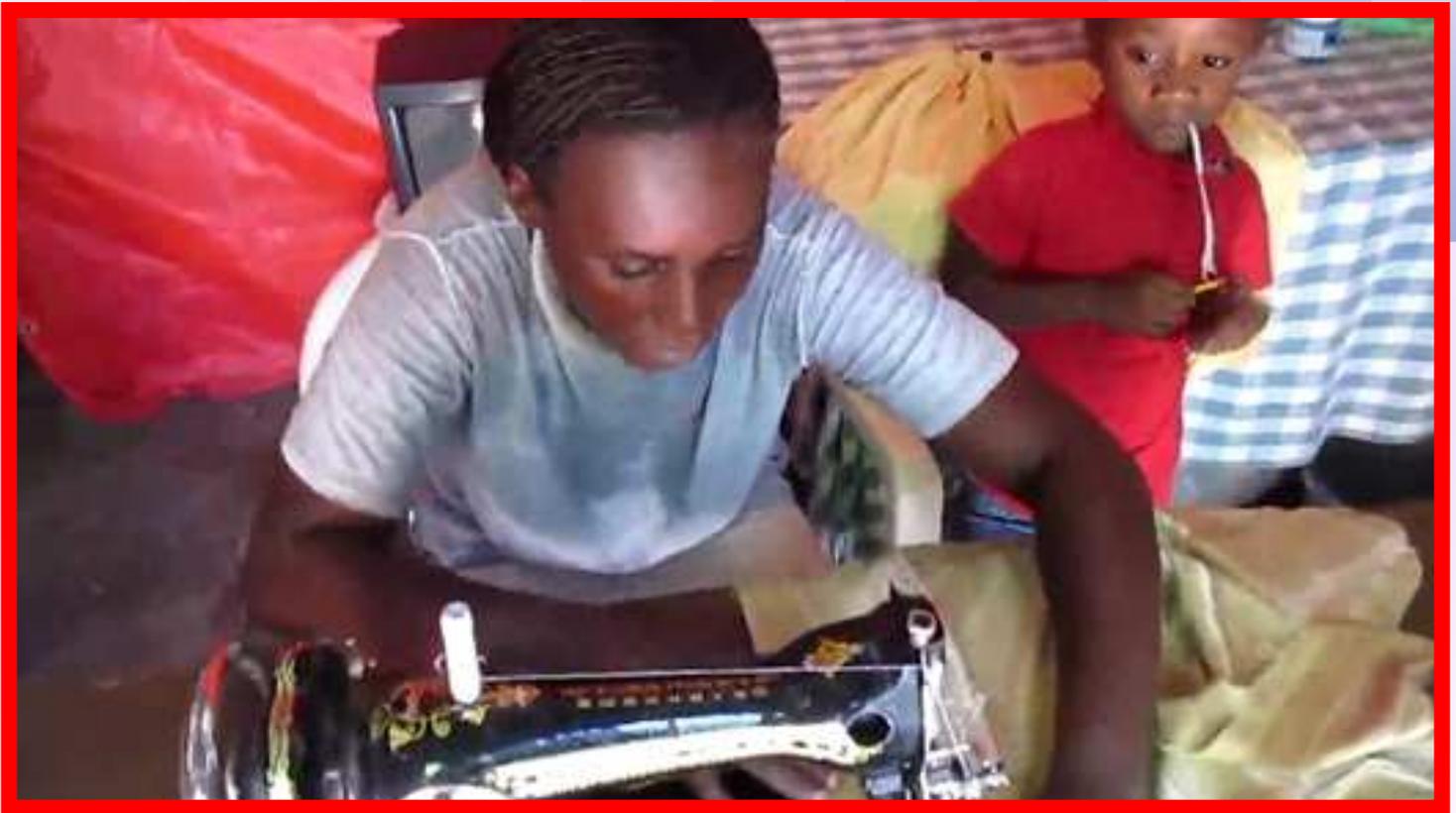
http://www.adra.org/site/PageNavigator/work/what/responding_to_emergencies/need_appeal_hope_is_rising

ADRA in HAÏTI

When Hope revives

For many Haitians caught in the trauma of the 7.0 earthquake, which struck on January 12, it has taken weeks for the flood of emotions to really come out. Overnight, Haiti became a nation described as a place, "where everyone has lost someone."

A two year dressmaking workshop and training for 300 women



EVERYTHING IS NOW POSSIBLE



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