

issue 1 -2010

cordnews

inside...

Testing fragile peace

www.cord.org.uk


new life after conflict

Photos: David Darg

welcome...

To CORD News, the first of the new decade. Truth, justice and peace are at the core of our agenda and 2010 heralds the testing of those essential components to building an equitable society in two countries key to our work: Burundi and Sudan.

Free elections for both have been a very long time coming and the challenges are enormous, as we reflect here.

Throughout the newsletter you will find messages of hope for peace collated from supporters, international, national and refugee staff across the globe. Achieving peace on earth requires long term commitment and it is refreshing to tell the stories of two young women for whom we have been a lifeline through the direst of circumstances. We hope they will

inspire you to join our 1% Legacy Club as a way of assuring peace for generations to come.

Despite the recession, and contrary to the fortunes of other international charities, we are delighted that CORD's individual support grew in 2009. It is a fantastic achievement reflecting what we always suspected: that CORD supporters like you are as committed as we are to the vital work of enabling some of the world's most vulnerable people to build themselves a better future, where violent conflict is no longer a recurring theme of their lives.

Thank you for all you continue to do for CORD and may the year bring fresh hope for those we continue to serve.

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Inequality & Violence

'If the international community is serious about reducing the likelihood of a return to conflict or abusive regimes, then peace building needs to be high on the agenda.'

'Once the peace accords have been signed and the guns have been put down, the work of building a society with a realistic prospect of peace and stability begins.'

'This means ensuring ongoing security, investing in physical reconstruction and economic infrastructure, fostering good governance, and trying to help a wounded society heal itself. No one aspect of this peace building menu is sufficient on its own.'

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs



As we look ahead it is worth reflecting back too on the progress that has been made over the last decade.

At the start of the new millennium the international community came together to set goals to reduce global poverty.

So what's the story so far? We have made progress like no other time in history; however, we also face a "development emergency". 58 countries are economically stagnant, and caught in the traps of armed conflict, natural resource dependency, poor governance and geographic isolation.

We have all been reminded of the fragility of the world with the shattering impact of the earthquake in Haiti. The devastation was a result not just of the natural disaster but also the injustices of long term violence and poverty.



When Jesus was calling his disciples- the fishermen, the tax collectors, they were those who had failed to shine academically. The Rabbi's who had taught them the scriptures had deemed them unfit to follow their lead and sent them home to learn the family trade. Jesus' call to the fishermen to follow him and learn his trade was a life changing opportunity and they responded.

All are offered the life changing opportunity to seek the kingdom of justice and peace. The challenges are huge in this next decade both here in the UK and abroad. The growing inequalities in the UK are injustices, not soft inequalities. Will we continue in the comfort of "peace" [sic] in the UK while we bomb and kill Afghans and Iraqi's, God's people?

We are called as people to love. As Martin Luther King most eloquently put it... *'non-violence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time: the need to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. We must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.'*

Brian Wakley
Chief Executive

'All are offered the life changing opportunity to seek the kingdom of justice and peace.'



UPCOMING POLLS TO TEST BURUNDI'S FRAGILE PEACE

This year's elections in Burundi, seen as a milestone on the country's long road to sustainable peace, could trigger more conflict because of a combination of widespread illegal weapons and well-organized youth wings of political parties, say analysts.

Power struggles in Burundi have provoked bouts of armed violence and civil war from independence in 1962 until the country's last rebel group gave up and became a political party last April.

'We could return to civil war,' warned Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa, founding president of the Burundi Association for the Protection of Human Rights and Detainees.

'The situation could become chaotic because youth groups have often been used during past civil wars and this is no different,' said Mbonimpa.

'We have to also pay attention to the police and army, both of which have integrated former rebels into their ranks. If there is an incident during the elections, these people could be tempted to support their original movements.'

Panrace Cimpaye, spokesman for the main opposition Front pour la Démocratie au Burundi (FRODEBU), said his party would not arm its young supporters but that they would "stand up" for the people if they were targeted by the ruling party.

Civilians across Burundi have handed in more than 80,000 guns, grenades and rounds of ammunition over the past three years, but it's thought there are tens of thousands of firearms still in circulation.

CORD's Country Director Serge Ntabikiyoboka said that most Burundians are dreading the election, anticipating violence being used as a form of intimidation and as a consequence of suspected or proven election fraud.

'However, there are some signs that give hope for good, calm and transparent elections as well as some dreams for the outcome,' he added. 'In fact, the National Commission (CENI) in charge to prepare the elections is very well trusted and presented as neutral. There is no armed group in the country and the war has totally ceased.'

UNHCR are working with the Burundian government to explain to people why the elections are important and how to conduct themselves during that period.

It is expected that the outcome will be a coalition government, with some compromise on power sharing which is the pledge of democracy.

'People want good governance, a state which is always ready to listen to the economic and social issues we face,' said Serge. 'We all need to benefit from the dividends of the war ending.'

MEANWHILE - SUDAN: COUNTDOWN TO WAR?

Sudan is also entering a critical phase in its history. In April the country is expected to hold its first multi-party elections in 24 years, while in January 2011 southerners will take part in a referendum on independence.

However major obstacles remain, perhaps the largest of which is Darfur. The Peace Agreement signed in 2005 ended a war that had torn Sudan apart; more than two million people died, and four million were forced into exile. But an armed stalemate continues, leaving the thousands of Sudanese refugees CORD works alongside in neighbouring Chad without hope of returning home in the foreseeable future.

Apart from a period of peace between 1972 and 1983 Sudan has been at war since independence in 1956. **Continued over...**

Right: SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) soldiers in south Sudan, 2008.



Picture: Timothy McSheehy/UNIS



Continued from page 5... Senior presidential adviser, Ghazi Salaheddin, has warned that South Sudan's vote on independence due next year – under the terms of the 2005 peace agreement ending a two-decade north-south war – will lead to a new war unless key questions of the north-south border, nationality and external debts are resolved.

Salaheddin of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's National Congress Party (NCP) said hundreds of thousands of southerners in the north and

northerners living in the south would be left in limbo if their nationalities were not defined.

Aid workers and activists fear that if violence escalates, Sudan could be the source of one of the biggest humanitarian emergencies in Africa in 2010.

The south is likely to vote for independence next year, threatening to take Sudan's oil-wealth with it.

Despite obstacles, setbacks and missed deadlines, the peace agreement has remained intact - although it expires in 2011 and many of its provisions have still not been implemented.

The United States is attempting to bring the government and rebel factions together.

'Aside from some notable holdouts of rebel forces, we believe that all parties to the conflict in Darfur are showing a greater willingness now to address the root causes of conflict than at any time in the past'

**Major General Scott Grattoni,
US Special Envoy to Sudan**

PEACEKEEPERS' POSSIBLE EXIT FROM CHAD

CORD and other aid agencies working in eastern Chad are anxiously awaiting discussions over the possible exit of UN peacekeepers, after the government has said it wants the mission out when its mandate ends on 15 March.

The UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) is charged in part with protecting civilians, including the 450,000 refugees and internally displaced Chadians in the region.

Even with the presence of the military and police, car hijackings, kidnappings and robberies by

armed groups remain commonplace. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said insecurity is "a major worry" with "grave crimes" affecting aid agencies and civilians in the east. There have also been armed attacks on MINURCAT peacekeepers and a UN-trained Chadian police force also tasked with protecting refugees and IDPs.

The Chadian government has asked the UN not to renew MINURCAT's mandate. It is thought that with only 3,000 of the planned 5,200 troops in place to date the force has not shown its

The United Nations Police at MINURCAT has established and operates the DIS (Détachement Intégré de Sécurité). The DIS, a force composed of selected members of the Chadian Police and Gendarmerie, has the ultimate goal of assisting in securing humanitarian activities in eastern Chad.



"Against the backdrop of all the problems within Chad, and in Darfur where they have fled from, the amazing thing is that the children in the camps are still children, and maintain that playfulness and innocence which only they can have. May they continue to be my biggest inspiration!"


James Griffin,
Security & Logistics Manager, CORD Chad

effectiveness. Chad has said it is ready to work with the UN to assure the security of the refugees.

In an unrelated move, CORD's Chad team has expanded with a new base in the capital Ndjamena, while other staff remain in Abeche and in the four camps of Farchana, Gaga, Bredjing and Treguine.



Photo: UN/Olivia Grey Pritchard



Your support is transforming family life for two young Burundian women.

Angelique Bazirutwabo and Ernest Manirambona met and married in the refugee camps of Tanzania where both had fled to escape the civil war back in 1993. Since returning home Angelique, now 30, has produced two daughters Josélyne, four and Jeanine, two.

“CORD Changed my life”

‘CORD changed my life,’ says Angelique. ‘Two years ago, before we were among the lucky ones

chosen to be supported by CORD, we were living in a poor hut. We were often very sick with malaria because we had no protection against mosquitoes, and our land was not fertile enough.’

CORD’s regeneration programme supported the couple in building their new home and the two goats they were given made their land fertile. Last year they sold their goats on and bought a pig which is expected to sow next month.

The family is also much healthier thanks to the mosquito nets they were given by CORD.

Nibizi Zidoniya was just 8 years old when she and her family were forced to leave Burundi. Now she is seventeen and an orphan, both her parents having died in the Tanzanian refugee camps.

Five years ago Nibizi returned to Burundi with a family that took care of her and her brothers and sisters in Tanzania. She was lucky enough to find her parents’ land unoccupied and turned her hand to farming as well as caring for her younger sister Elisa, seven and her nephew Faisi.

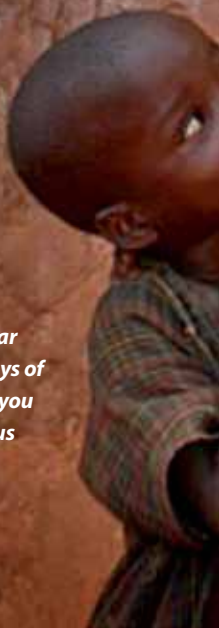
‘Life was very difficult in the camp with no place to call home, then I was orphaned and found myself taking care of other orphans,’ says Nibizi.

‘When we got home it was a struggle, but CORD became like parents for us,’ she explained. *‘We were given a house, goats, seeds and cassava cuttings and we have been able to start a new life after all the difficult times.’*

Nibizi learnt to read and write in the refugee camp but is unable to return to school; she very much hopes that Elisa and Faisi will be able to go further in their formal education. Elisa is already in one of the primary schools rebuilt with funding from CORD.

The little family have 3 goats now and a variety of crops in their field. When a CORD team member visited Nibizi showed him peanuts and Irish potatoes that were stored behind the house.

‘At the moment we aren’t going hungry and we are leading a life far better than we had in the early days of our return,’ said Nibizi. *‘So thank you to CORD’s programme for giving us such support.’*



**“CORD
became
like
parents
for us”**





THE SECRET LIFE OF DONORS

CORD Asia help our partners carry out their vital mission

Local Cambodian organisations supported by CORD all face a common and pressing challenge: how to access the funds they desperately need to maintain their important work in empowering communities to protect their rights and their environment, to promote sustainable development and to find peaceful resolutions to conflict.

CORD advisors in Cambodia recently held a series of workshops for local partner leaders, helping them to develop fundraising strategies to generate reliable sources of income.

Entitled "The Secret Life of Donors" the workshops were aimed at enabling partner organisations to manage their relationships with donors more effectively, as well as identifying new donors whose funding priorities match their particular remit.

'As well as a paucity of funding our partners also lack the knowledge and skills to find funding sources and to describe their project activities in ways which appeal to donors.' said Noel Matthews, Cord Asia

Regional Director. *'Yet many international donors actually struggle to find quality local organisations with programmes that address their core concerns.'*

In this sense, CORD is in a unique position to support the progress of development in Cambodia. By building and maintaining relationships with international donors and supporters on the one

hand and with local organisations and grass-roots groups on the other, CORD can bridge the gap and connect the two.

'I really appreciate CORD's way of working with us, with plenty of motivation, encouragement and openness. It's led to good relationships and trust between us'

**Cheang Sokha
Youth Resources Development Programme**

CORD Cambodia
Country Director Keng
BunChhoeuth said that

sometimes partners don't immediately see how the work they are doing to enable communities to protect their human rights fits into a donor initiative for democratisation.

'When we work with them to analyse this more closely they see that it's a very good fit and has strong potential for successful funding,' he explained.

Cheang Sokha from the Youth Resources Development Programme (YRDP) said he and his colleague had learnt a lot from the workshops and were starting to put some ideas in practice.

'I really appreciate CORD's way of working with us, with plenty of motivation, encouragement and openness. It's led to good relationships and trust between us,' he added.

Following the workshops, CORD Advisors are using coaching and mentoring sessions to help partners apply their new found knowledge. As BunChhoeuth noted there may be an equally

strong need to educate donors about the realities faced by grassroots organisations in Cambodia.

'Perhaps in the future we may run a workshop for donors that we call, "The Secret Life of Local Organisations"' he added.

Image left: CORD Senior Advisor Olivet Visda leads a café-style discussion with staff of local organisations about ways of improving relationships with donors. (Photo: Chhum Syrom)

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME BOOSTS BURUNDI BOYS' TEAM



The football team of Kabingo Elementary School, Burundi sporting shirts kindly donated by the UK Premier League. The young players had no matching strip to play in, so they were delighted to be linked with some of the world's best players and are convinced it will inspire

their performance on the pitch. The team's captain says that the prized shirts will be kept locked in the school store to be worn only on match days. A spokesman for the Premier League said they were delighted the shirts had found such a good home and would be useful.

Not Such a Potty Idea!

It began as a potty idea. A way of helping some of Africa's poorest families to have the basics in life - including a toilet.

But the first global Toilet Twinning Campaign launched by CORD last summer has captured imaginations the world over. From schools in the South Pacific to councils in the Hebrides; cathedrals in the Shires to royal societies in the Metropolis, all have twinned their loos with a latrine deep in the bush of Burundi.

Homes and offices, cafes and village halls, fire stations and prisons in twelve countries now proudly display a CORD toilet twinning certificate in their smallest room.

With some 1,180 twinners to date, some £72,000 has so far been raised to flush away poverty in this war torn country.

Boardroom bogs

RICOH ARENA

The Ricoh Arena and Coventry City have twinned the club's boardroom toilets at the multi-purpose venue with a school toilet block. A framed photo of School Latrine Block Number Six in Giharo, Rutana Province has been placed in the gent's of the club boardroom.

'This is an idea that is literally saving lives,' said Daniel Gidney, chief executive

of the Ricoh Arena. *'This twinning will make a real difference and I would encourage other organisations to get involved.'*

Meanwhile the cleaning industry is being urged to sign up to Toilet Twinning by linking Britain's best public conveniences.

You'll like this... not a lot, but you'll like it!

There was plenty of enthusiasm for the innovative idea at the Annual Loo of the Year Awards, where 300 delegates from the UK's railways, hotels, department stores, major supermarket and food outlet chains, holiday camps, caravan parks, tourist attractions and council run public conveniences saw the potential for promoting the cause in their five star facilities. Celebrity guest and Master magician Paul Daniels lent his support by incorporating the idea into his act at the ceremony, held at the National Motor Cycle Museum.





Join the **1% Club**

Bequeathing just 1% of your estate to CORD in your Will is tax efficient and will make a great difference to the lives of some of the most disadvantaged people in the world.

By remembering CORD you will be helping us to build lasting peace and leaving a lasting gift that will impact on generations to come.

Contact us on 01926 315301 for a pack.

Downloading CORD Computers

CORD has donated seven computers to the charity ITSchoolsAfrica for recycling and reuse in secondary schools. The charity, based in Cheltenham, supports IT programmes in 11 African countries with every computer being used by 75 students over three years.

'Without IT skills young people in Africa will remain locked into the cycle of poverty and remain dependent on aid,' said ITSchoolsAfrica Programme Manager, Tim Barnes. 'This way everyone wins - we help reduce the electronic waste going into landfill and accelerate education in Africa.'

Recycle your modems, mice, keyboards, cables, power leads, hubs and laser desktop printers via info@itschoolsafrica.org or call 01242 228800.

www.itschoolsafrica.org

Celebrating special birthday or anniversary?

Don't need presents for yourself?

Then why not consider sending out invitations to a 'drop in' tea party - no gifts please, but donations towards something from CORD's Alternative Gifts List would be very welcome.

*'For my 70th birthday I identified 2 bicycles for Cambodia and/or a latrine for Burundi. I received donations to buy 4 bikes and 8 toilets! It was the best birthday I have ever had!' **Frances Edwards,**
long term CORD Supporter*

follow us on twitter.com/corduk

We would like to thank...

All **1,180 (and counting) CORD Toilet Twinners** from 12 countries around the globe and **The National Loo of the Year Awards** for embracing the Toilet Twinning Campaign.

Schools and churches, youth groups and cubs and scouts at **Barford, Southam, Fenny Compton** and **Kenilworth, Shenstone Lodge, Canon Maggs, Avon Dassett, Farthinghoe,**

Avon Valley and **The Willows** for welcoming a speaker from CORD.

Black Voices (pictured), the Stratford Girls' Jazz Band and CORD Ambassador **Sarah Falkland** for leading the CORD Christmas Celebration and **The Pump Rooms** Leamington Spa for displaying CORD's Peace Tree in their cafe.

Women in Business Club of Warwick (WIBN) for donating the proceeds of their Christmas raffle.

Balsall Common Churches Together, St Laurence, Church Stretton and **St Edmund's, Shipston on Stour** for their generous donations.



Dates for your diary...

Do join us for these great events in support of CORD!

Floral Glory

Notcutts Garden Centre, Solihull

Wednesday March 24th.

Julia Mitchell has demonstrated on Gardeners' World Live and at RHS Royal Hampton Court Palace flower show. She also works closely with Blenheim Palace.

Tickets: £10 (inc glass of wine) via Notcutts or by phone from CORD 01926 315301

St Michael's Singers' Concert

St Nicholas Church Kenilworth

Saturday 8th May

Hosted by CORD Ambassador and BBC Presenter Sarah Falkland.

Tickets: £10 on 0845 680 1926 or via the Kenilworth Festival website:
www.kenilworthfestival.co.uk

regular giving - making your giving effortless!

By giving regularly to CORD, you can help us to be even more effective in the way we plan and manage our work. With a Standing Order, you can make regular payments to CORD direct from your bank account. If you are a taxpayer, please also complete the Gift Aid Declaration below to make your gifts worth even more! Please send the completed form back to us at the address below and we will forward it on to your bank.

NB: A standing order is an instruction from you to your bank. Please contact your bank in the first instance if you have any queries about your payments.

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giftaid it

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You must provide your name, address and postcode for us to be able to claim Gift Aid on your donation.

Yes, please treat all donations I have made to CORD in the last 6 years AND all future donations as Gift Aid

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Here**

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