



Photo: Photo/Cord

# News

Issue 4 - 2010

Injustice anywhere is  
injustice everywhere

  
Peace through Partnership

# Welcome/

**First, good news! We are delighted to announce that Cord has been awarded the Coventry International Prize for Peace and Reconciliation 2010.**

First awarded in 2000, the prize honours initiatives, organisations, individuals or projects that have made an exemplary contribution in the areas of peace, reconciliation and campaigns for social and environmental wellbeing. Orientated towards grassroots leaders and organisations, it is designed to highlight those whose work is an inspiration and model for others.

As we go to press Cord will be

honoured at the award ceremony in Coventry Cathedral at the city's Peace Festival.

Coventry's Lord Mayor, Councillor Brian Kelsey, said: "As we mark the 70th Anniversary of the bombing of Coventry, we would like this to be seen as a significant international award that honours ordinary people doing extraordinary things to bring change to their communities which have been affected by conflict."

The judging panel comprised the Lord Mayor, the Bishop of Coventry, the Vice Chancellor of Coventry University and the Dean of Coventry.

The two other organisations

nominated were Aktion Suehnezeichen Friedensdienste (ASF), a German peace and volunteer service enabling thousands of young German people to serve in countries who suffered during the Nazi regime; and Hope Flowers, a centre for education and community development in Bethlehem in the Palestinian Authority

"Those shortlisted have made a demonstrable and practical improvement to the well-being of communities, especially in conflict and post conflict situations." commented John Irvine, Dean of

Coventry. "Cord is known to many in the region from where it derives a large part of its support."

"Coventry is a worldwide symbol of rebirth out of the ashes of war," said Cord Chief Executive Brian Wakley. "That indomitable human spirit is something we recognise daily in the people we work with around the globe. We are honoured and delighted to receive this award on their behalf."

"Equally this is a tribute to the dedication of our programme teams and to the loyalty of our supporters and donors, without whom none of this would be possible." /

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# Give the gift of peace this Christmas/

## Peace Heroes



Build peace this Christmas by choosing your Peace Hero, sending the card and sunflower seeds to a friend or relative and encouraging them to sow their very own 'Seeds of Peace'.

## Alternative Gifts



Choose from our selection of 'Alternative Gifts' - chickens, fruit trees, literacy packs - and help change lives this Christmas.

## Ethically Traded Gifts



Rather send a physical gift? No problem, we have a great selection of ethically traded products from around the world to suite everyone!

Order online at [www.cord.org.uk/shop](http://www.cord.org.uk/shop)

# Schools in Chad Camps Receive Vital Upgrade/

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## **Major construction work in Cord schools in the Sudanese refugee camps of eastern Chad have seen some striking improvements in 2010, thanks to international donors.**

Six years since the Darfur crisis erupted, new schools and replacement classrooms have been built with funding from UNHCR using strong materials to withstand the intense heat, the rainy season and constant daily use. Pre-schools across all four camps where Cord operates have new improved shelters with more to follow.

In Farchana Camp 500 children who have suffered lessons sitting outside in the full heat of the sun will now be taught indoors in proper classrooms.

Two new primary schools in Treguine Camp and a ten class school in Farchana will also help to ease class sizes. Although numbers are still high, a reduction from 115 per class to 91 students in one Farchana school is seen as a step in the right direction.

Support from the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) has paid for the erection

of six latrine blocks providing the children with 22 individual toilets in Gaga Camp, with similar numbers in the three camps of Farchana, Bredjing and Treguine. Cord Programme Managers praised the new latrines as easy to clean out, with some blocks providing separate facilities for boys and girls and even for staff and students.

Schools throughout the camps now have platforms to hold water storage tanks, two per school.

Meanwhile US aid has enabled radical change inside the new classrooms. Instead of sitting on

mats on the sandy floor, students in Gaga Camp schools grades five to eight can now enjoy 200 benches and desks which were installed last month ready for the beginning of the new school year. In Farchana Camp a further 210 students are enjoying the chance to sit at a desk for the first time.

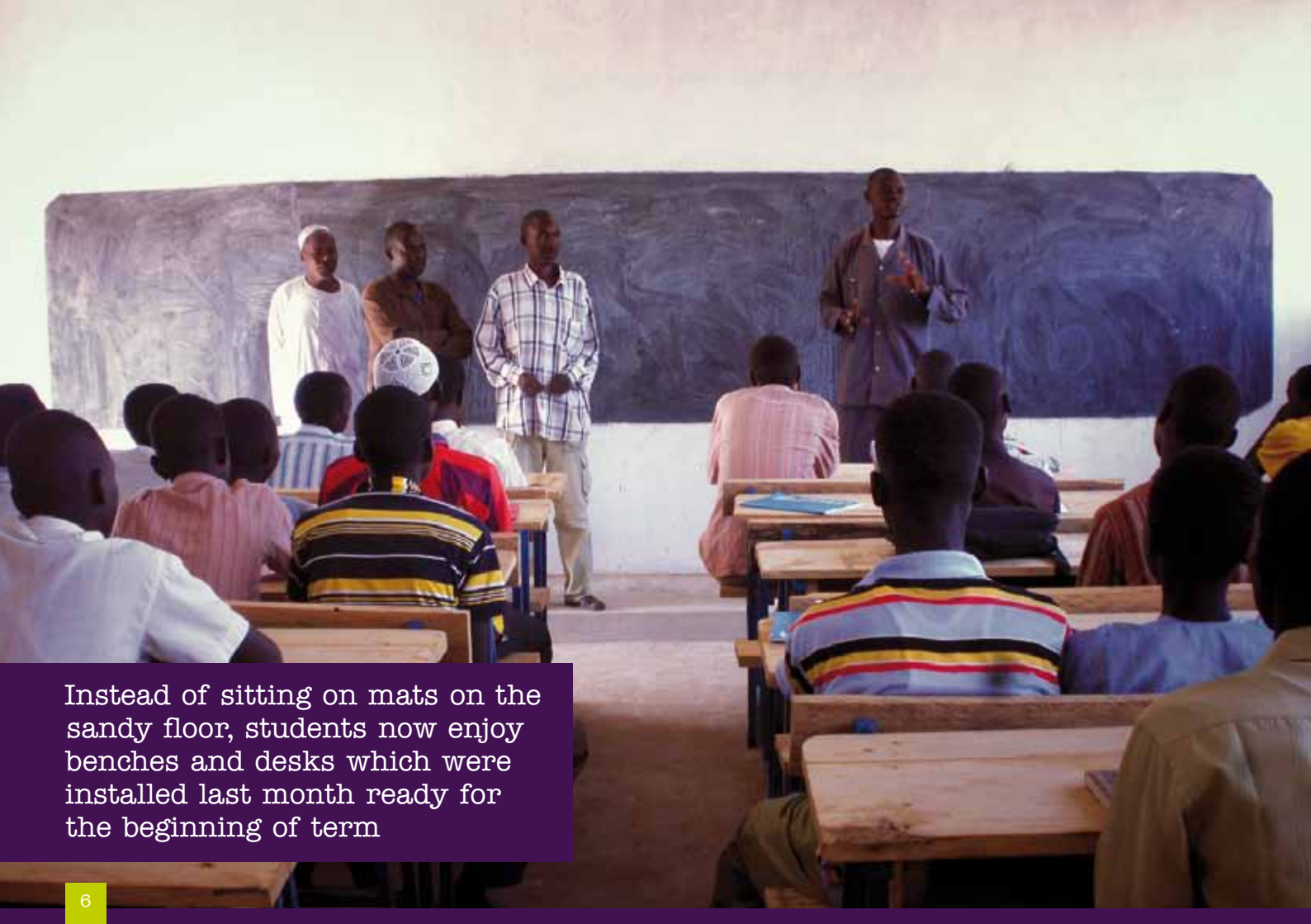
“There is a very important change in school life,” said Schools Inspector Mahamat Souleyman Issa.

“There is more respect between teacher and students; the younger children are now competing to

*continued over...*

Schools throughout the camps now have platforms to hold water storage tanks, two per school





Instead of sitting on mats on the sandy floor, students now enjoy benches and desks which were installed last month ready for the beginning of term



**Top:** New pre-school shelter under construction

**Middle:** Girls in Ladjine Primary School behind their new desks

**Bottom:** Safe and hygienic latrines for each school

reach the grades where benches are available. Our drinking water is now protected against dust and germs and we can store 2,000 litres of water in our containers - all of which makes us very happy”, he added.

Ladjine School Director Abdallah Hassan Youssef agreed.

“Before the [storage] poly tanks refugees were coming into the school compound and drawing water from our tap. But now it is difficult for them to get access so there is plenty for the children,” he said.

“And the latrines can be emptied when the pit is full and reused, which is a big improvement”.

Arbab Ahamat Ibrahim, Vice President of the Parents’ Association, said that every refugee in the camp was amazed at the new builds.

“Because of this, the number of children attending school has increased this term”, he said. Meanwhile young women who abandoned school 2 or 3 years ago want to return because of the improved classrooms and better toilet facilities.

“This is encouraging us as ladies,”

said grade seven student Iklass Mahamat Haroune.

“We are going to get the right to speak among the boys as the class is now mixed. We are very proud of this, thank you for everything,” she smiled.

Parents described the improvements as a “big revolution in our education system”.

“This is the first time that I see an improved latrine in the camp, it looks like a house where we could live,” said Ibrahim Adam Mahamat.

“Now, as parents, we have to maintain these buildings for the benefit of our children,” he added.

In 2011 Cord intends to erect more classrooms and latrines; to support parents by providing them with the means of earning an income; and to introduce solar cookers, which will revolutionise life for the Sudanese women struggling to find firewood and to feed their families.

“These are major improvements. Cord really is transforming lives and working to develop this community”, said Chad Programme Coordinator Meschac Bondo. /



# Home Truths in Cambodia/

**The importance of women's rights in Cambodia is made very real by the story of Loeun Sarok, a mother of four who suffered domestic violence at the hands of her husband who had a drink problem. Here she tells how, thanks to Cord partner Banteay Srei, she has changed not just her prospects but her home life for the better:**

"I started voluntary work with Banteay Srei because I wanted to help women in my community. But my husband was violent towards me, he didn't want me to openly communicate with anyone, he preferred me to stay at home doing the housework.

But I carried on and went to a number of Banteay Srei's training courses including advocacy, village development planning, setting up a rice cooperative, self motivation to help transform your life and, importantly for me, domestic violence.

I turned what I had learned into practice in my family life, sharing with my husband things about his attitude and telling him everything I know about how to live peacefully. I have also shared this knowledge in my village of Taprok.


Since then, my husband has stopped drinking and changed his attitude. He is now a better husband and person and on a day-to-day

basis has stopped blaming and using threatening words towards me. He now values me and my work. He even helps me with the housework including cooking rice and preparing food for our children when I'm busy attending workshops and meetings."

Her husband agrees that the reason he has changed is because his wife has taught him about the role of women and their place in the community and how his violence was harming their marriage and their family. He has even told his neighbours in Taprok and nearby Samrong about his new outlook and decision to stop drinking 'to be a better husband.'

Now Loeun Sarok has the support of her community who are making contributions and donating money to build a village shop so she can improve her livelihood and support her daughters through school.

"I want to see my community work together to understand their basic rights and work for unity and harmony which benefits everyone," says Loeun Sarok. "I have set myself eight months to improve my writing skills with the help of books, materials and coaching from Banteay Srei." /



Brian Wakley,  
Cord's Chief Executive, asks

# Why Should Britain Bother?

**Forty years ago the UK promised to give 0.7% of our national income as international aid. That target has never been met - and the Government is promising now to honour that pledge by 2013. Currently we give £7.5 billion a year, rising to £9 billion from this month. That's less than two pence in the pound of government spending - still behind countries like Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Germany.**

I can understand that people feel aggrieved by the tough situation and injustices that people face here in Britain, but that is no reason to punish those who are so much worse off than ourselves - that's perpetuating injustice on the most

poor. 'Injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere' in the words of Gandhi.

Administered astutely, professionally and effectively, as the Government has pledged to do, international aid can do incredible things to make this world a fairer place:

- Since 1990 it has lifted 300 million people out of poverty - that's more people helped in the last 25 years than in the previous four centuries
- Life expectancy has gone up ten years in just one generation
- Since 2000 there has been a 75% drop in death from measles
- 2 million people are now receiving HIV anti viral drugs
- Since 2000, 20 million new

school places have been provided in Africa

- Adult literacy in Africa has risen from 51% to 61% in ten years
- Access to clean water has risen from 64% in 1990 to 75% in 2004

And yet the need is still great; one billion people are being left behind, caught in conflict. The recession has put global development back an estimated three years and climate change could undo much of the progress.

I have just returned from visiting our team in Burundi where I was struck by one family I met. The mother was alone, she had no land, except space to erect a simple mud and wattle home. She was providing

for her family, labour in fields to earn half a dollar - enough to buy a kilo of beans in the market.

Cord and ADDF are working with her; linking her with a women's group to help her secure some land and supporting her in getting her children to school.

Our work with thousands of others like this family would just not be possible without financial support from International Aid.

International Aid can help make the world a fairer, more just and peaceful place but it comes at a price; but a price, as I hope you will see from the evidence in Cord's work, is worth paying. /

# Just how DFID is making a difference/



**A major Cord project to help 5,400 Burundians who are amongst the world's bottom billion – people living on less than 1US\$ a day – has got off to a flying start.**

Funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), the three year programme with Cord and partners ADDF – the Association for the Defence and Rights of Women – is working across ten communes and with 180 groups, 70% of whom are women, many widowed or single parents.

Aimed at improving literacy, addressing issues of HIV, domestic

violence, basic human rights and generating incomes the project ends its first year well on track.

Already 1,800 people have completed their literacy courses, 60 groups have been taught advocacy skills and are actively discussing their problems and talking with the authorities to improve their situation.

Despite early setbacks when husbands prevented their wives from attending literacy classes – preferring them to do the domestic chores - the women have persevered and won over.

Progress is slower in ensuring

families are having two meals a day, have the school fees for their children and an insurance card for medical costs - but the aim is to achieve this across the board in the three year time span.

In the meantime 1,800 families began generating an income, with support from Cord and ADDF, by growing cassava, beans, peanuts, onions, banana, cabbage and rice and keeping goats.

As part of the programme, Cord in the UK also taught 4,500 students across 40 schools and talked to congregations in 22 churches about

the plight of the hill villagers in Burundi.

“One cannot talk of lasting peace where there is injustice, basic human rights violation and widespread poverty,” said Fulgence Ndagijimana, Cord Programme Manager in Burundi.

“The project is contributing enormously to building peace; the structural mechanisms that are unfair to women are being challenged, giving them a voice in the public arena and they are sharing their skills for the benefit of all,” he added. /

# Africa's 'Green Wall' Starts to Grow/

**Chad is waking up to its environmental problems as the land becomes denuded, water is shrinking and more than one-third of the country's cattle – or about 780,000 animals – have died following last year's drought.**

At a meeting in Chad's capital N'Djamena Heads of African states launched a transcontinental 'Green Wall' - a 7,000km tree planting project, from Senegal to Djibouti in east Africa.

Despite a lack of funding, countries who have signed up to the initiative include Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti.

As part of the continent-wide barrier, Chad aims to plant a

1,000km long by 15km wide wall of trees. The initiative was launched with US\$4.6 million in government funds, but Minister of the Environment Hassan Térap estimates it will cost at least US\$11 million to reach the coverage target.

Chad's 11.9 million hectares of existing forest land has shrunk by at least 0.6 percent annually in the last 20 years, according to UN Food and Agriculture.

In 2009 the government criminalised the cutting down of trees to make charcoal in an effort to reverse deforestation. It has also started planting 160,000 heat-resistant trees, including acacia, in N'Djamena and estimates that private greenhouses in Chad planted two million trees in 2009. /



# President Leads the Way in Burundi/



**Burundians are leading the way in enterprise and self help with President Pierre Nkurunziza declaring Saturday mornings a time for nationwide community work.**

From 7am to 10am all roads are closed as the adult population have to participate in helping the nation get back on its feet after years of civil war. The initiative has contributed to

the construction of thousands of schools all over the country enabling a hundred thousand children to get an education.

Millions of fruit trees, specifically avocado, have been planted all over the country to improve food security and generate an income.

“Importantly, the initiative has brought people together to talk about matters of national interest and to share their day to day

problems,” says Cord’s Country Director, Serge Ntabikiyoboka.

“It’s true that some people try to dodge the work,” he added. “Some of the opposition parties consider it as working for the interest of the government and don’t want it to be a success. Others consider closing the roads gives the work a compulsory connotation and try to challenge it. And some take the opportunity to skive

off and rest at home, but overall it is achieving a great deal.”

The President has announced that in coming years, efforts will be focused in the rural areas on constructing more water springs. He himself is setting an example by working every Saturday, sometimes involving his children. /

# Thank you/



## Could YOU run a fundraising event for Cord?

Get in touch if you would like to help Cord raise money to build lasting peace around the world. Fundraising isn't a difficult as you might think - we have resources available to help! Maybe you could run a coffee morning, or a quiz night, or even get sponsorship for a challenge such as a marathon, cycle ride or walk. Call our UK office on 01926 315301 for support.

Rosa Maria Jose of Pinord Winery, Spain, Wine Pool (pictured) and Lord Leycester Hospital for Cord's wine tasting evening, Harrison Beale and Owen, EMA and Colin Durrant of Colin's IT for their corporate support. The Lord Leycester Hotel and Angie Archer and Jane Ibbett for hosting a Cord quiz night.

The Mayor of Southam Cr Mrs

Jane Soni for support during her year of office. The Mayor of Leamington, Cr Robert Cunliffe for his support during his year in office, Julia Mitchell, The Outreach Singers, Lord Leycester Hotel Warwick and St Patrick's Irish Club for fundraising.

Shipston Rotary Club, the Warwick Wives Christian Fellowship, Cheltenham College, Warwick

School and churches in Hutton and Shenfield, Church Stretton, Shelfanger, Radford, Leamington, Kineton, Preston Bagot, Wootton Waven, Beaconsfield and Alnwick for their donations.

Whitnash Ladies Fellowship, St. Nicholas Wives' Club, Southam Lions, Warwickshire Federation of Women's Institutes and schools in

Coventry, Claverdon, Shotteswell, Stratford upon Avon for inviting a Cord speaker.

And of course, everyone else who has supported Cord in some way recently. Sadly we can't list you all here, but we really do appreciate your vital efforts! /

# Yes, I'd like to give regularly by Standing Order Mandate!

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Gift Aid is worth an extra 28p on top of every pound you give to us - and it costs you nothing!

To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year. Please inform us if you change your name or address, or if you cease to pay enough tax to cover your donations.

You must provide your name, address, postcode and tick the box 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. (Please tick)**

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Name  Start date  Exp. date

Card No.                      Issue No.

Security Number (Last three digits on the signature strip)  (Please make cheques payable to "Cord")

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Gift Aid is worth an extra 28p on top of every pound you give to us - and it costs you nothing!

To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year. Please inform us if you change your name or address, or if you cease to pay enough tax to cover your donations.

You must provide your name, address, postcode and tick the box 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. (Please tick)**

ID

CODE

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