

Photo: David Morpew

News

Issue 3 - 2011



The generation nurturing
a peaceful future

Cord
Peace through Partnership

Welcome/

As you read this we will once again be marking United Nations World Refugee Day taking place on June 20. This year is the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Reduction of Statelessness Convention.

The theme for 2011 is "Real People, Real Needs" - refugees are individuals with real needs, just like you and me.

For the 42 million uprooted people around the world, a shortage or lack of the essentials of life - clean water, food,

sanitation, shelter, health care and protection from violence and abuse - means that every day can be a struggle just to survive.

Of the millions of people forcibly displaced by conflict, persecution and natural disasters, every one has a story to tell; they are real people, just like you and me, and they have real needs.

But, despite the best efforts of so many, 30% of basic needs are far from being met.

Improvements in nutrition and water supplies, access to primary health care, strengthened child protection programmes, better

protection for women from sexual violence and abuse, and improvements in living conditions and sanitation facilities are just some of the needs that are not being met worldwide.

This World Refugee Day, remember the millions of forcibly displaced and stateless people who struggle with their day-to-day lives in search of shalom; the peace and goodness of God.

A large proportion of the people Cord works with are displaced or have family members who have been displaced and are working hard

to address their basic needs and build cultures of peace to prevent a return to violence which lead to their displacement in the first place.

In this newsletter we have focused on some of the stories from individuals and organisations which Cord has had the privilege to partner with. We hope their stories will inspire you to see the changes you continue to support as we journey together to build peace.

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Voices of Peace/

Tucker McCravey, Cord Asia

My journey as a peacebuilder started more than 15 years ago in the midst of the Sri Lankan civil war as a young Peace Corps Volunteer. Selected by the US to serve overseas as an English teacher trainer, I was unaware of how my work involving conflict would later in life lead me to the conviction that peace is possible.

A decade and a half later I am certain that peace, on an individual, family, community, regional, national and global level is not only the way, as Gandhi tells us, but the only way.

“Humanity has yet to dedicate a fraction of the resources toward creating harmony that we have toward making war, which is a great obstacle to peace.”

Yet it is a challenge which can be overcome. When we teach our children not only the skills of

reading, writing and arithmetic, but also the relational skills to solve conflict, we will have taken our first step in that journey.

I came to Cord drawn by its vision of strengthening local capacities for peace. Having always believed that peace must begin within the communities that desire and seek to achieve it, I find Cord’s model compelling and capable of bringing about social change.

At Cord Cambodia we are helping our partners to see how they can integrate peacebuilding into their existing activities. I am currently supporting Cord partner Youth Resource Development Programme (YRDP) in developing their strategic vision. YRDP is a leading youth organisation providing critical thinking, leadership and peacebuilding skills to young people in Cambodia.

Cambodia is a nation where some 70% of the population is under 30 years of age. The future of the country depends on the strength, the vitality, and the commitment of the younger generation.

Another exciting project is the Peace Education Research project. Together with a number of local NGOs and one university we’re exploring different forms of education and how they can build peace in local communities. With university students being trained, the vision is that they will become the next generation of peace researchers.

Though Cambodia is enjoying a state of relative peace, there is still work to be done rebuilding relationships scarred by violence; strengthening civil society and rebuilding institutions that uphold principles of justice, equity and democratic participation.

The task is large and our efforts may seem but a drop in the pond. But as the pebble of our intentions creates ripples of goodness and love that spread across not only the pond but to the vast oceans beyond, so may peace one day prevail on Earth.



A story of the very personal consequences of the conflict in Burundi/



Everyday Emile Sengiyumva looks for labouring jobs to earn some money to support his two sisters through school. Now 26, he left school when his family fled to a refugee camp in Tanzania. His father died in the camp and his mother developed disabilities which means she can't now support the family.

After six years of exile the family returned to Burundi to find their land in Bukeno, Giharo Province already occupied and because their father had died they had no rights. Thanks to some financial support from

friends and neighbours they managed to buy back their land; but it's a small plot and their biggest challenge is being able to grow enough food. Meanwhile local leaders are threatening to seize some of it for themselves.

Eleven year old Magnifique Namanimana says she hasn't got any time to play with her friends like other children. "When I come home from school I have to make my own dinner and I will have to look after the goats when they arrive. I don't have enough supplies for school, so my life is hard," she added.

"There are 68 children in my

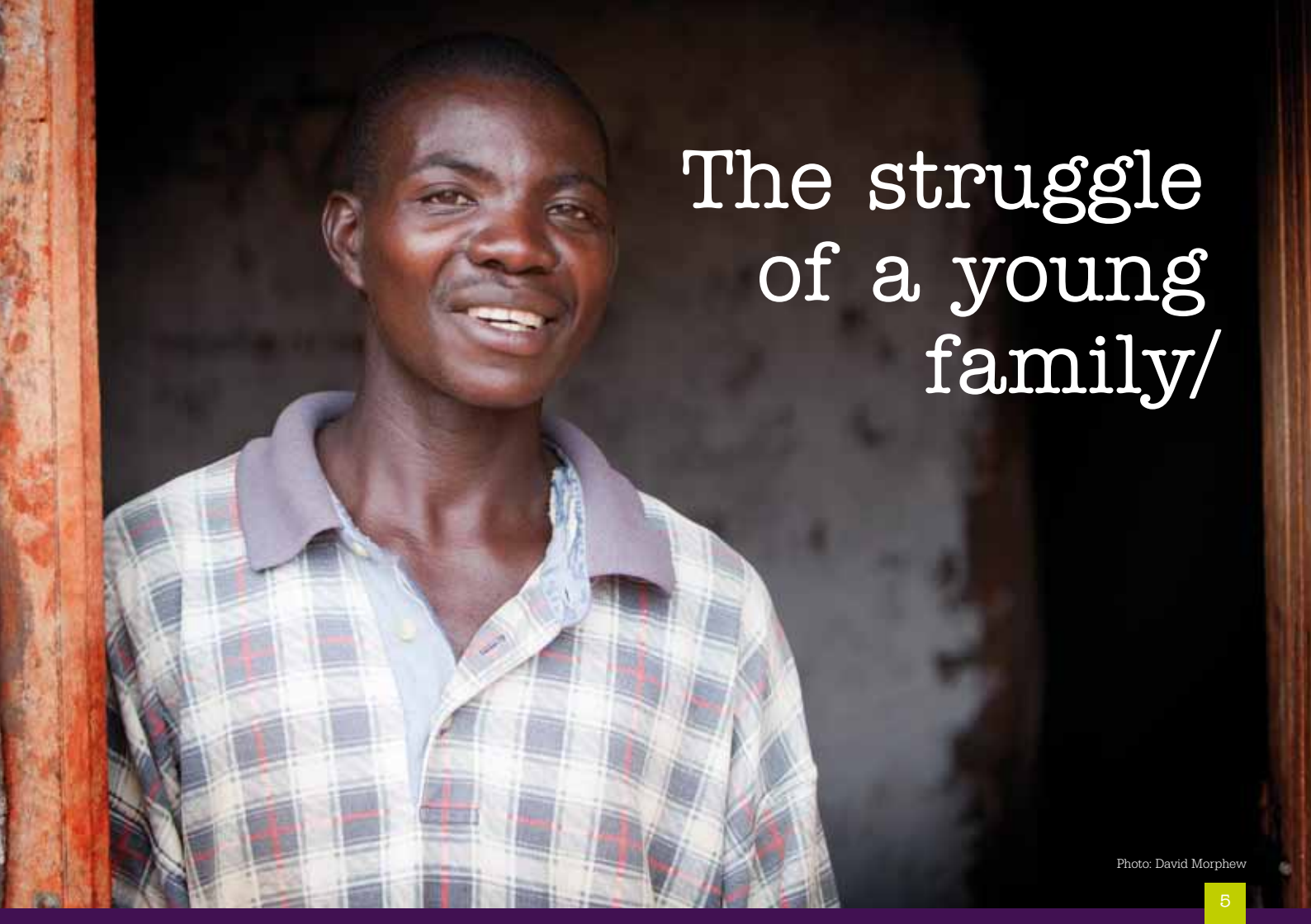
class, most are girls. I am also a member of the United Methodist church choir. I have made lots of friends there and I enjoy singing. When I grow up I want to be a teacher so I can pass on knowledge to other children."

"I want to continue my education," says her sister 16 year old Aline Niyongabine. "I am very concerned about what I hear on the news, that people are still being killed in their homes over land disputes."

"I hope things will improve so I can fulfil my dream of becoming an MP. I want to take the views and concerns of local people,

get their problems heard by the government and represent them. It's a good job and a positive way to change society," she said.

Cord's programme in Burundi is helping Emile and others in his community overcome the legacy of conflict. He and his family made their own bricks for their new home, built with support from Cord and are now awaiting the arrival of two goats. The first-born of any further goats will be given to others in the community facing similar situations. Cord is also working with the community to resolve issues over access to land.

A young man with a warm smile is standing in a doorway. He is wearing a plaid polo shirt with a purple collar. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wall or a shadowed interior. The lighting is soft, highlighting his face.

The struggle of a young family/

Photo: David Morpew

Pick of the crop for Burundi school gardeners/

Budding gardeners at seven elementary schools, built and supported by the community and Cord, are producing bumper harvests this year - helping to feed families and raise school funds.

The Pupils at Murembera, Shembe, Kabingo, Gasozi, Rutoki, Bukeno and Bweru schools in Giharo Commune say their cabbage, soya, peanuts and beans have all produced a good yield, with cabbage the king of the crop.

Shembe School garden was the most prolific, producing

2,500kg of cabbage, closely followed by Kabingo and Bweru. Gasozi School was top producer of soya with 160kg and 80kg at Rutoke, while Bekenno beat all competition with their 150kg of beans. Peanuts will be harvested in the coming month.

The gardens not only offer opportunities for pupils to learn agricultural techniques that they can replicate at home, but also mean that families are better nourished thanks to eating the result of their children's labour.

15 year EU nutrition agenda for Africa

A new international research programme backed by the EU is developing a nutrition agenda for Africa, with specific emphasis on the 34 sub-Saharan countries.

"We want to make sure nutrition interventions in the next 10-15 years - when Africa faces potential environmental changes - are sustainable and driven by African countries themselves," said Carl Lachat of the Belgium-based Institute for Tropical Medicine.

A study by the International

Food Policy Research Institute says that in another two decades the effect of climate change on food production could drive child malnutrition up by 20 percent.

The two-year project will also consider the influence of rising food prices and the future availability of water.



Photo: David Morpew



Together
we're Facing
up to Peace!

Cord  mask-arade 

Chris Tarrant 'faces up to peace' /

TV star Chris Tarrant has teamed up with us and celebrity mask makers Mask-arade to launch our joint Face up to Peace campaign.

A percentage of mask sales from the Southam based company will go directly to funding Cord's peace building work.

Chris is one of more than a hundred famous faces who have masks produced by Mask-arade – the company responsible for the Royal Family look-alike masks which featured extensively in the Royal Wedding celebrations. The company also make personalised masks to order.

"We are thrilled to be working with Cord to make a positive

contribution to their wonderful peacebuilding programmes with people living in poverty and who have known such trauma in their lives," said Maskateer Ray Duffy.

"Everyone buying a mask will be joining in Face up to Peace and doing their bit to help make peace a reality for them," he added.

Cord's Chief Executive Brian Wakley said "We are really pleased to have Mask-arade as a corporate partner. Their masks are a fun way for people to support our peacebuilding work."

For more visit Mask-arade's at www.mask-arade.co.uk

Did you know that you can now use your mobile phone to support Cord?

Donations of £1, £2, £3, £5 or £10 can be made by simply texting **CORD02 &xx** to **70070**

Not only is it quick and easy, 100% of your donation will go to Cord's work.

This month's recipe is... a Peace of Cake!

Sounds easy doesn't it? It is! A Peace of Cake is our latest campaign that we hope you will get on board with by holding a coffee morning or tea party with a difference in the countdown to the International Day of Peace on September 21.

The 'Peace of Cake' event pack contains delicious recipes invitations, posters and information about the work of Cord - everything you need to make your event a success. All you have to do is invite your friends and raise whatever funds you can to support Cord's work.

"Building long term peace is never easy; it takes a perseverance and determination. You can't rush a good cake either. Please support Cord's Peace of Cake as a simple way in which we can all engage in supporting Cord's peace agenda. By joining this nationwide venture you will be giving hope to thousands of

families in Africa and south east Asia," said Bishop Christopher of Coventry

The campaign is being generously supported by tea giant Yorkshire Tea and celebrity cook Delia Smith. Delia has kindly recommended one of her favourite recipes for A Peace of Cake events. She said about her Preserved Ginger Cake with Lemon Icing, "In all my years of cooking, this is, quite simply, my favourite cake. It's simple but absolute heaven."

For your FREE 'Peace of Cake' fundraising pack including Delia's recipe and to be in with a chance of receiving a special promotional Yorkshire Tea pack, call us on 01926 315301 or e-mail info@cord.org.uk.

For more information, visit www.cord.org.uk.



Photo copyright: Mike Druzenhof



Ingredients and method

1. Take one Cord event pack
2. Brew some tea and coffee
3. Add your favourite treats
4. Scatter in a good handful of friends
5. Add some exotic tales from overseas
6. Mix together until suitably warmed through

Result: Pounds raised for peace!

“Building long term peace is never easy; it takes a perseverance and determination. You can’t rush a good cake either!”

Bishop of Coventry



The 'Cookit' creates a stir in Chad/

The power of the sun holds the key to at least some of the challenges facing communities in Eastern Chad. That was the conclusion of Cord's research last year, validated by a successful pilot and is now the focus of a new \$200,000 programme funded by Jewish World Watch.

Some 280,000 Sudanese have crossed the border from Sudan into Chad since the eruption of violence in the Darfur region in 2003. Inevitably, tensions rise between these new encamped communities and the local

Chadian population. Not only is competition over scarce firewood for cooking and heating a common cause of conflict between the two communities, but it also leaves women exposed to the risk of violence when they travel the ever-increasing distances necessary to collect it.

Research commissioned by Cord was conducted by Bolivia Inti Sud Solaire (BISS) in July last year and looked at these issues. They concluded that due to the high population density, few trees are left in the vicinity of the camp resulting in it taking on average

10 hours to collect the wood needed for cooking and warmth. The research also recognised the growing environmental toll, especially in the semi-arid climate of Eastern Chad with little rain much of the year. In order to help overcome some of these difficulties, the BISS team proposed the introduction of solar cookers as an alternative to fuel wood.

In Farchana Camps, Cord has begun rolling out the 'Cookit' - a completely solar powered solution which can be left unattended while food is cooking. The Cookit is able to cook a wide variety

of foods including beans, meat stews, roast meats, eggs, cake, bread, rice and potatoes. It not only has the power to reduce tensions between the communities but also allows women and girls to carry out other activities while food is cooking. Reducing the need for women to be away from the camp for long periods reduced their exposure to the risk of violence and prevents further decline of natural resources. It also frees time for girls to be part of Cord's education programme. Quite a groundbreaking solution!

Continued over...

“[Cookit] will greatly reduce the daily risk of rape or violent attack as women venture out of the camp in search of a dwindling resource.”

Meschac Bondo Samba, Cord Chad



“Cookit will help us avoid the violent incidents generated when we have to go out of the camp collecting fire wood.”

Faiza Mahamat Abdallah



Cord Chad's Meschac Bondo Samba said “Not only will this make a great contribution to protecting the environment, it will reduce girls and women domestic workload giving them time to study. Importantly it will greatly reduce the daily risk of rape or violent attack as women venture out of the camp in search of a dwindling resource - firewood, for cooking and for warmth.”

Faiza Mahamat Abdallah (top right), one of the trained refugees, gave us her views. “This will be very helpful for us; we will save a lot of time. Cookit will help us avoid the violent incidents

generated when we have to go out of the camp collecting fire wood. I will do my best to look after my Cookit for the next five years,” she said.

Souleyman Ahamat Adam (bottom left) added “It's the first time I've seen a solar cooker. It means the men can cook while the women are busy with other tasks.”

Alexis Tokelal (bottom right) working to protect the environment in Chad with AFRICARE said, “I am really impressed to see that the sun can cook food, I believe this technology will reduce deforestation.”

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

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