

Classis Huron Report – winter, 2023

Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Canadian CORE Team Leader

A. General Updates:

Thank you for your continued prayers for God's children around the world. And thank you for supporting World Renew's efforts at putting those prayers into concrete action. From responding to disasters in more than 50 countries over the last several years, to transformational community development in 20 countries in 2022, to teaching, seeking and advocating for justice, you are making a difference in more than 1,000,000 people's lives.

Last year, World Renew became 60 years old; 60 years of being driven by the grace of Jesus to be a conduit for your prayers and support.

Last year, classis Huron donated an **amazing \$538,588.79** for that work. On behalf of those 1M people, **thank you so very much.**

B. Upcoming Synodically-Designated Church Offerings:

Some of the ways that churches can partner with and support the work of World Renew, are through the "Special Sunday" offerings below that Synod suggests CRCs use as opportunities for engagement. (Resources for these and all Special Sundays are ordered from FAITH ALIVE on a regular schedule, with reminders sent out.)

Mar. 5: CFGB Sunday, to support the work of this amazing organization, of which World Renew is a leading partner,

April 2: Refugee Sunday, to support World Renew as a "Sponsorship Agreement Holder" (SAH)

June 25: Justice for All Sunday, to help equip communities to overcome injustice.

Thanksgiving, Oct. 9: This day starts the **World Hunger campaign**, which culminates on Nov. 5. Many resources are available for order, and online.

Nov. 5: **World Hunger Sunday**, to support communities around the world as they walk their journeys of ending their poverty and hunger.

C. Community Development:

The people in the Turkana South region of Kenya have endured a prolonged drought. Hunger and scarcity are on the rise and so too are feelings of hopelessness – especially for those living with a disability.

Wheelchair-bound Simon Lochor Amojong, a married father of three children, was born and raised in Shanti Village in Turkana South. A self-taught beader, Simon relied on what he earned selling necklaces, called shanga, that he made to generate income to support his family. But he just did not earn enough to meet his family's basic needs – and as the drought grew worse, so too did his financial woes. Eventually, Simon's family left him and he began to depend entirely on the kindness of his neighbors for survival. He shares, "I lived hand-to-mouth as the little I got from my beading was not enough for my very basic needs... my shanga-making business would barely



bring me 100 KES (\$1.10 CAD) per day." With funding from the **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**, World Renew implemented a food distribution program in Turkana focused on supporting people living with disabilities, the



elderly, orphans, and the most vulnerable. The project came at a time when Simon had lost all hope. He and other beneficiaries were given 50 kilograms of sifted maize flour, 10 kg of beans, 3 litres of vegetable oil, and 0.5 kg of table salt monthly for a period of 9 months.

The food support was what Simon needed to lift his spirits and restore his hope for the future—there was enough to feed his family and he rejoiced when his children and wife returned home. Then, with the guidance of the project staff, Simon began to focus on his potential and his bead-crafting skills. He began to grow maize, tomatoes, green grams, cowpeas, and other crops on a half-acre of irrigated land that he had left unattended. And he revived his shanga

business. Now, with the money he earns farming and from shanga sales he is able to support his family, including paying for school fees for his children and buying school uniforms and household necessities.

Simon says, "This project brought hope to my life". Learn more at [World Renew.ca/community-development](https://www.worldrenew.ca/community-development). God calls us to respond in conditions like the ones that Simon finds himself in. **Thank you, Classis Huron.**

D. International Disaster Response (IDR)

As a result of the overwhelming current world food crisis, the prayers and generosity of God's people, and support from various organizations (like CFGB, Canadian federal government), World Renew is able to provide assistance for more than 400,000 people worldwide **right now**, with 42 programs in 22 countries.

The conflict in Ukraine has sparked a severe shortage of food worldwide, and World Renew is helping to ensure that impacted folks in parts of Africa, the Middle East and other areas in Asia are supplied with food. **Thank you.**



E. Disaster Response Services (DRS)

In response to the devastating flood of November, 2021, World Renew's partnership with Gateway CRC in the Abbotsford community continues in 2023 through supporting the *Abbotsford Disaster Response Coalition (ADRC)*. Early in 2022, DRS gave the ADRC funds to walk along-side families who had lost part if not all of their homes; later in the year, and into this year, DRS is supporting the ADRC through funding the role of the coordinator.

Churches and individuals donated to recovery efforts from the effects of Hurricane Fiona on the east coast in late September, 2022. Those funds were split between assisting the [Maritimes Salvation Army](#) with food distribution, and the rebuilding of a youth-support building in Glace Bay on Cape Breton Island ([website here](#));

These two documents are descriptions of how each church and each reader can volunteer to continue that long legacy of making a difference: [Supporting Communities when Disaster Strikes](#), and [Volunteer! Repair Disaster-Damaged Homes](#). Learn more from the World Renew website [here](#). **Thank you.**

F. Refugee Settlement Activities:

	# of Refugees Sponsored	# of Arrivals
2022	200	193
2021	115	96
2020	205	55
2019	226	224
2018	216	190

With unprecedented numbers of refugees in the world today, refugee sponsorship and resettlement is more urgent than ever. We are grateful for the churches that commit to providing safety, protection and hope for a better future through World Renew's Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Program (RSRP). We are a "Sponsorship Agreement Holder" (SAH) which enables and supports churches' desire to sponsor refugees; without a SAH, churches would be much less capable of sponsorship.

As well, World Renew, along with other SAHs across Canada have been advocating for a fair, consistent and equitable Canadian response to global crises through the development of a *Large-Scale Emergency Refugee Response Framework*, allowing for rapid and fair responses in times of crisis for all displaced persons, in addition the response offered to Ukrainian refugees in 2022. **Thank you.**

Churches across Canada that have sponsored and resettled refugees: 73 (that's almost 1/3 of all the CRCs in Canada.)

Top three countries of origin in 2022: Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq.

G. What else can the people and the churches of Classis Huron do?

-Donate for the ongoing disaster response work in around the world, especially in response to the *World Hunger Crisis*, on our website [here](#); use the **DONATE** button.

-Be open to the Spirit's leading, and connect with us to learn about a possible partnership with a program of project in an area outside of North America. Contact Iona Buisman (ibuisman@worldrenew.ca)

Blessings,

P. Bulthuis

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