

Cry From Africa: UMCOR Response

Niger: Emergency Food Appeal



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is rushing food aid to 55 villages in southern Niger where starvation and malnourishment have become epidemic. Drought and locusts have created an acute crisis. UMCOR is partnering with Swiss Interchurch Aid,

known as HEKS, which has long-term commitments in Niger. The United Methodist Church in Switzerland is a HEKS member. HEKS will use an UMCOR grant to provide seeds, cattle fodder, and staple foods such as milk powder in the southern region of Niger, an arid country north of Nigeria and west of Chad. (Photo: Reuters/Finbarr O'Reilly, courtesy www.alertnet.org)

Eating Grass and Leaves

The people are in a desperate situation. Last year's harvest was practically nonexistent. Press reports portray families feeding their children grass and leaves to keep them alive. Aid workers in Niger also say that a quarter of Niger's 12 million people need food aid.

"Keep This Advance Alive"

UMCOR urges United Methodists to join in this emergency aid effort. Kristin Sachen, who heads the agency's emergency services office, said, "Due to faithful year-round giving to the All Africa Drought and Famine Advance, we're able to make a rapid response." She continued, "Please, for the sake of these children and many others who don't come to your attention, keep this Advance fund alive." UMCOR Advance #101250, All Africa Drought and Famine, designate Niger.

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Zimbabwe: Urgent Needs of Camps

UMCOR has received fresh information on needs in Zimbabwe arising from Operation Restore Order, the urban clean-up campaign that began this spring. People displaced by the government's effort to clear illegally built vending sites and homes are now living in very poor conditions in transit camps. They face inadequate shelter, clothing, food, and sanitation. Illness is rampant. Harsh winter weather is adding to the woes.

Coordinated Response

General feeding programs, supplementary food for children, blankets, tents, sanitation and psychosocial support will be provided through a coordinated response of faith-based agencies in Zimbabwe. Your gifts will make a big difference. Examples:

- \$ 6.00** Supplemental porridge for 90 days for a malnourished child
- \$ 35.00** A warm winter blanket
- \$ 16.50** Maize, vegetable oil, and beans for one person for 90 days
- \$454.00** A temporary toilet
- \$1,000.00** Community psychologist for one month

Give 'Til It Heals—to Both Advances

God calls us to serve the most vulnerable. Support United Methodist efforts to give comfort and relief to vulnerable Zimbabweans and starving people in Niger through these two advances: **UMCOR Advance #199456, Zimbabwe Emergency**, and **#101250, All Africa Drought and Famine/Niger**. Write the Advance #s and names on your offering envelope and in the memo line of your check. **See over for how to give.**

How to Give to UMCOR

By Offering For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday.

By Check Make your check to UMCOR and send to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068.

By Credit Card Call toll-free (800) 554-8583

**UMCOR.
Multiplying
Hope.**

The United Methodist
Committee on Relief
delivers hope and
enhances human dignity
through food, shelter,
health and peace projects.

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Date: July 2005