



Confeder@tioNews

News of the Society around the world...

Nb 1 – 2 August 2006

LEBANON: a disastrous situation and enormous needs

Nearly three weeks after the beginning of the conflict, the situation in Lebanon is disastrous: more than 600 deaths, 1,000 civilians wounded 750,000 refugees (more than 12% of the population), and only 10% of needed humanitarian aid has arrived to the country by boat or plane: southern Lebanon needs everything: food, medicines, water, clothes...

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is very active and well structured in Lebanon. Numerous Vincentians have mobilized and have been able to constitute convoys to bring water, food, medicines, baby milk for more than 500 families in the region of Marjeyoun. But the first convoy has not been able to reach the south because of the importance of the danger. But even though the Vincentians have been commanded to get back, they have been able to give the goods to U.N. convoys. Extremely disappointed because the village of Marjeyoun has extreme needs and the inhabitants were expecting this convoy, the Vincentians have not lost faith and new convoys have left on August 1st: a truck loaded with food has reached Marjeyoun and a bus has loaded 50 alimentary packages to Kleya. The Vincentians also visit Centres that welcome the Christians displaced from the South; they give out food, clothes and underwear, hygiene items and even two washing machines; they distribute cakes prepared by “Monsieur Vincent Traiteur”, one of the Society’s work.

The Vincentians who are working there share with us how awful the situation is, how great the poverty that strikes these people is, but they also share the emotion they feel themselves when they assist these persons.

Council General has launched, on August 1st, an appeal to generosity of all the Vincentians of the world: we need your help now to assist those populations who have lost everything as soon as the Vincentians are freer to work. This work will be done in cloth collaboration with the Superior Council of Lebanon and also with the Council of France, who knows the region very well and has close and solid links with Lebanese Society. For now, an immediate emergency aid of €10,000 has been sent to Lebanon.

Please find, at the end of the document, the text of the appeal launched by President General International for the victims of this conflict

By advance, we thank you for your generosity. They lack absolutely everything, and the needs are very urgent.

PHILIPPINES: SSVP helping Leyte disaster victims



On February 17th, serious mudslides have stricken the province of Leyte, in the Philippines, provoking the death of many people, and causing uncountable damage and destructions. Local SSVP has immediately started its work to bring emergency aid to the victims and evaluate the damage and needs, notably thanks to financial assistance received from Singapore, Brunei and Australia.

Confédération Internationale de la Société de Saint Vincent de Paul – Conseil Général

6, rue de Londres – 75009 Paris – France

Tél : - + 33 - 1 53 45 87 53 Fax : + 33 - 1 42 61 72 56

cgi.information@ozanet.org – <http://www.ozanet.org>

Rédaction : Bruno Fabre



After that, and thanks to international help, Council General has been able to send in early May to Philippines Superior Council the sum €23,000 to build 20 houses. The families assisted had been identified in collaboration with the 7 non governmental organisations and religious orders of the area.

Of course, we will keep you informed of the evolution of the project, and of Superior Council's further needs.

CENTRAL AMERICA: *Society mobilized against natural disasters*

In Central America, the Vincentians are currently working a lot with the victims of October 2005 hurricanes and storms. Thanks to the generosity of Vincentians from all around the world, more than €150,000 has been sent to the most affected countries.

SSVP Guatemala is building 30 houses for families who have lost everything, and the Society in **Mexico** builds 10 in collaboration with the Vincentian family.

SSVP Nicaragua has been able to sensibly raise the output of its homes and canteens in the affected region, especially in favour of children and old age people.



Reconstruction in process in Guatemala

El Salvador has been able to rebuild two houses, to provide supplies to 6 Conferences and an eye prosthesis for a cancer-sick little girl who was among the victims. SSVP in El Salvador is now developing a wider project of construction or rehabilitation of houses, of protection of vulnerable areas and of distribution of food, clothes and medicine to passed or future victims of this kind of recurrent disasters.

REP. of CENTRAL AFRICA: *help to flood victims*

After the terrible floods that hit Bangui and its region in August 2005, a report of the situation was done and submitted to Council General of the International Confederation, who answered favourably and sent €3,000.

As soon as the Technical Commission gave its support, the national Board met and identified the victims whose situation was most urgent in order to elaborate the schedule of action to start the activities.

200 families – that is 1,000 persons – and 1,000 children from 0 to 15 have been identified and have been assisted: food (rice and beans), clothes and utensils have been distributed (the budget also included transportation costs for the Vincentians).

This work was done in collaboration with the members of the Board of St Benoit Pétovo Conference.

*Fight against hunger in **BURUNDI** and **MADAGASCAR***

In Burundi, since September 2005, five provinces in the North-East are hit by a particularly violent hunger, provoked by a too long war, by drought followed by torrential rains that have swept away human lives and cultures, and provoked many diseases to the remaining fields.



The National Council has elaborated a plan of help to the most hardly hit regions (these regions were identified by the reports of international agencies present in the country such as WFP, FAO, UNICEF). This plan includes the distribution of food supplies (beans, flour, oil, salt...), clothes, crop and medicines to 300 families, for a total amount of €12,600, financed by Council General.

The Society in Madagascar has also started, in May 2006, an ample programme in collaboration with the Vincentian Family, and supported by Council General, aimed at bringing material and spiritual support to populations that are victims of starvation.

THAILAND: *One and a half year after the tsunami, work goes on...*

In addition to actions described in different issued of Asi@news, Council General's bulletin about December 2004 tsunami, the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Thailand keeps on working unceasingly - on reconstruction and education programmes in particular – as the other affected countries also do.

Two projects deserve a particular attention.

In collaboration with Caritas Internationalis and the Catholic Foundation of Suratthan Diocese, SSVP is participating in the construction of an important professional training centre in Krabi. This centre will give an adequate formation to members of families hit by the tsunami.



This will especially allow giving to fishermen families – the most hardly hit – a professional alternative to fishing, thanks to sewing, computer, mechanics (etc.) classes. Council General has participated with €36,000 in this project that should be operational very soon.



On another hand, the Council of Thailand has received a € 100,000 grant for Pontifical Council Cor Unum. This grant is currently being used for a wide project that includes the reconstruction of 12 houses, but also the purchase of land and the construction of 5 houses, for 5 families not included in land reallocation done by the Government

Happily enough, Council General is not only dealing with emergency helps, even if they are the most visible and if they represent the most important amounts. Here are some examples of projects developed this year by our Society in the world.

The Society in **South Africa** has a home for the homeless, Frederick Ozanam Home. CGI was solicited to support the Home, whose financial resources have severely dropped, and that was menaced to close. To try to save it, Council General has sent a €10,000 grant.



In **Macedonia**, a new Vincentian country, two Conferences are facing with great difficulties to assist several families. They especially develop a project of distribution of food and of heating wood in winter, a vegetable canning workshop aimed at providing food for the Conference's distributions as well as a source of income. In order to encourage these Conferences that are beginning their existence, Council General has been supporting their initiatives since September, 2005.

In **Russia**, the only active Conference in this huge country is also very dynamic: providing food and medicines in retirement homes, providing food and sanitary items to needy families, several emergency help (fires, floods, deaths, ...), accompanying children in a Centre (physical activities, catechesis). These activities are also supported by Council General.

In **Turkey**, the Society distributes first necessity items packages for Easter.



Young inhabitants of the farm

In **Panama**, Council General has been supported since November 2004 with the help of **Spain**, a beautiful polyvalent farm project. This farm, which is to become self-sufficient in 2007, will help to feed with its production (fruit and vegetables, pork, cows and poultry...), several people helped by the Society (especially in an orphanage and, in the future, in a home for the aged), but it will also create some employment as well as a source of income for the Society.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul of **United States** has just taken over the support, and now finances the remaining year and a half.

Without your help, these projects could not exist!

You can send your donations by check to the Confederation's headquarters or by T/T transfer:

Banque CIC- Paris Bac
2 Bd Raspail
75007 Paris, FRANCE

Account no. FR76 3006 6100 4100 0105 8120 129

At the name of : Confédération Internationale – Société de St Vincent de Paul

Confédération Internationale de la Société de Saint Vincent de Paul – Conseil Général

6, rue de Londres – 75009 Paris – France

Tél : - + 33 - 1 53 45 87 53 Fax : + 33 - 1 42 61 72 56

cgi.information@ozanet.org – <http://www.ozanet.org>

Rédaction : Bruno Fabre



Le Président Général

José-Ramón Díaz-Torremocha

Paris, 1 August, 2006

To all Councils and Conferences in the world,

Dear Friends,

Once more, the disaster of war is fiercely hitting our brothers in Middle East.

First of all, and even though I know you are already doing so, I beg you to pray for a rapid end of the conflict and that there shall not be any more innocent victims. As usual, Council General is opening the corresponding subscription to all Councils and Conferences in the world in order to help the Conferences of the area as soon as the conflict comes to an end. In this mission, we will be particularly closet o what the Council of France does, as it has a special knowledge of the zone, and a lot of twinned Conferences, especially in Lebanon.

We also think about our Conferences in the Holy Land.

Insisting on the necessity of prayer, with affection and fraternal regards,

José-Ramón Díaz-Torremocha
XIV President General

You can send your donations by check to the Confederation's headquarters or by T/T transfer:

Banque CIC- Paris Bac
2 Bd Raspail
75007 Paris, FRANCE

Account no. FR76 3006 6100 4100 0105 8120 129

At the name of : Confédération Internationale – Société de St Vincent de Paul
“Disaster fund”

Confédération Internationale de la Société de Saint Vincent de Paul – Conseil Général
6, rue de Londres – 75009 Paris – France
Tél : - + 33 - 1 53 45 87 53 Fax : + 33 - 1 42 61 72 56
cgi.information@ozanet.org – <http://www.ozanet.org>
Rédaction : Bruno Fabre