

Classis Quinte Report – winter, 2021

Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Canadian Director of Church and Community Engagement

The churches of classis Quinte are experiencing changes like never before in classis' 53-year history. You've changed (several times!) worship service formats, ways of fellowshipping, kinds of outreach; so many things in your churches are not like before. BUT: *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* (Lam. 3: 22-23). You have lived in that love, and you continue to share that love in so many ways, including sharing His grace and love globally. The churches in this classis have again partnered with World Renew to support victims of poverty and disaster around the world; you have given \$176,801.92 through 2020. **Thank you!**

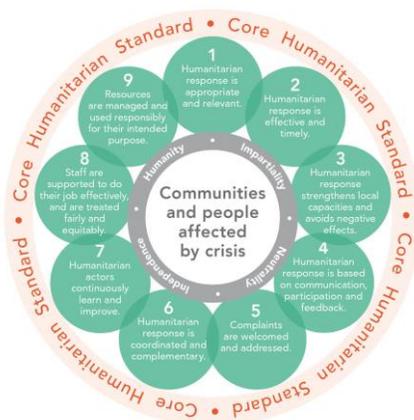
A. General Updates:

Your donations to the work of World Renew have impacted many people, both here in North America, and around the world. This report seeks to inform you of those impacts.

-In Nov.-Dec. of 2020, World Renew provided leadership on an awareness campaign across our constituency about Gender Based Violence/16 Days of Activism, highlighting the “shadow pandemic” of this tragic and overwhelming evil. (Go to the Justice page on our website, and view the video [here](https://worldrenew.ca/peaceandjustice). (<https://worldrenew.ca/peaceandjustice>))

-World Renew is going through the certification process with the “Core Humanitarian Standard” (learn about it [here](https://www.corehumanitarianstandard.org/)). This global consortium sets the standards for how disaster response organizations (like World Renew) support people and communities stricken by disasters. One of our staff, Jackie Koster, is one the board; the process is helping us learn to be better “hands and feet”. The intense process will continue through this year.

-Through 2020, as with many NGOs, donations were less than had been projected in January of last year. World Renew had to balance the need to continue to provide support to those partners with whom we were working, ramp up responses to the needs that Covid-19 threw at communities, with changes in donations. Very quickly, we decreased expenditures in these areas: travel (of course), publications, supplies, training events, continuing education, meetings, and printing costs. Program costs, and staffing costs were not cut; virtual connections with global staff, churches, donors and others have been the order of the day.



B. Upcoming Important Dates and Activities

The CRCNA Synod annually encourages churches to set aside several Sundays in each year, to hold offerings for World Renew's work. Notwithstanding Covid, those designated Sundays are still days during which your church can highlight some of the work done through World Renew, by holding an offering. We will continue to support your church in that. We will also highlight the opportunity for greater individual giving either through our website (www.worldrenew.ca)

March 7: CFGB: World Renew is a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank; this agency supports many of our projects, and very often accesses the 4:1 match from the Canadian Federal government.

April 11: Refugee Sunday: World Renew supports churches that sponsor refugee resettlement, with wisdom, experience and (the voluminous!) paper-work

May 2: Diaconal Ministries Canada: World Renew partners with DMC; each organization supports each other's work.

May 9: Maternal and Child Health/Mother's Day: World Renew's global programming very often has a health component, assisting families and communities in their work towards healthy moms and children.

June 27: Human Trafficking Awareness Sunday: World Renew works globally to assist communities to enable sustainable livelihoods for families.

C. Community Development: Pivoting to include COVID-19 Responses

There are many stories of how your donations have supported God's people globally. Here's one:

In the slums of Dhaka City, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact. Families are packed in close quarters with their neighbours, and access to testing and health service is limited. Day labourers who provided for their families struggled when their jobs disappeared during lockdown, making it nearly impossible to afford food and rent.

Rita Rani lives in Dhaka City with her husband and two children, where she's also a member of her local women's group. Her family had faced similar challenges in the past: two years ago, they faced eviction due to construction. Since then, though, Rita was able to take out a loan and start a shoe business. But when COVID-19 struck, Rita had to close the business. As a result, her family has been struggling to meet their daily needs.

To help support families like Rita's, World Renew and a local partner institution, SATHI, offered financial support and training to community leadership groups—known as People's Institutions—as they distributed relief materials to households in need. In the end, they distributed rice, lentils, and soap to over [1,600] households in Dhaka city. Rita is grateful that her family was chosen. "Everything is so uncertain for us now. We don't know how to manage our daily food and other needs in this crisis situation... At least, we have our meal for a week."

Without your church's support, this would not have been possible. God is there, in Dhaka City.

D. International Disaster Response (IDR)

(as of mid-December, 2020) IDR has initiated a total of 28 new projects valued at over US\$7 million in 2020. These projects are reaching over 200,000 people in complex environments such as Bangladesh, Colombia, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Syria as well as other WR community development countries. These are some of those responses: Hurricane Eta (Nicaragua and Honduras), Beirut blast (Lebanon), Rohingya response (Bangladesh), Syria conflict (Syria and Lebanon), Earthquakes (Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines), Food security and agriculture (Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya). And more. **We thank God for you.**



E. Disaster Response Services (DRS)

The work of World Renew DRS has been slowed down by COVID19, but has not been stopped. Individual volunteers are still completing high priority assignments to get people back in their homes before the holidays. Grants are given to local organizations so that area contractors can be hired to do the same. DRS leadership staff and volunteers are making road trips to disaster sites to plan with local groups. At this time our tentative plan is to begin reopening sometime in February. Conditions when that time comes will determine final decisions.

F. Refugee Settlement Activities:

Between January 1, 2020 and November 10, 2020, 57 refugee sponsorship applications were submitted to IRCC. 56 of these refugee sponsorship applications are Privately Sponsored Refugee (PSR) applications for a total of 129 refugees. One Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) application was submitted for a total of 5 refugees.

(As of mid-December) The Refugee team is working on 54 sponsorship applications for 141 refugees. We are working hard to ensure that we meet our allocation target for 2020.

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

Encourage your church to partner with a church or community outside North America. Call the office.

Contact Peter Bulthuis (pbulthuis@worldrenew.ca; 800-730-3490, ext. 4237), or Maria Oliveira

(moliveira@worldrenew.ca, ext. 4319) for more ideas on how we can help you achieve your ministry objectives. To learn more about World Renew's ministry and/or to sign up for our regular newsletter, please visit www.worldrenew.ca

Please continue to pray for the world. May the God of peace grant wisdom and healing to the nations.

Blessings,

Peter Bulthuis, Director, Church and Community Engagement Canada