What you need to Know



**Thank you for promoting the 2018 Christmas Appeal. Your support means can reach many more people in the ways that recognise their needs and respects their dignity. Working together, we can make good change happen that puts people and the planet first. We will do this work of *diakonia* or loving service – and leave no one behind.**

Background

The Christmas Appeal was launched by the then National Council of Churches in 1945. The money raised in the first appeal was sent to rebuild Greece after the war. For 73 years, churches and New Zealanders have given generously to others. Together we have helped millions of people survive disasters, build new livelihoods and uphold their human rights. We work with experienced local partners who achieve real gains in their communities often in very difficult situations. They are helping refugees and displaced people, families struggling to deal with the changing climate and loss of livelihood, and communities trying to overcome violence. By giving to the Christmas Appeal, you are supporting all of our partners in their work to take action against poverty.

We are always happy to answer any questions you might have – and to receive feedback. If there is any other way we can help the Christmas Appeal in your parish, please let us know. Please send in the enclosed order form for posters and other resources today.

Where to find more resources

Your church will have its own Christmas traditions so we have prepared worship materials that can be adapted for your place. We know for many the candle lighting liturgy each Sunday is the most important way of focusing on the Christmas Appeal. We are grateful to the Reverend Susan Jones, and the Reverend Clare Lind and Tawa Union Church who are producing some of the resources for each Sunday and Christmas Day. These and other resources are available on the website: [christmasappeal.org.nz](http://christmasappeal.org.nz/).



Where the money goes

CWS uses your gifts carefully. We have strong and direct relationships with local partner groups and confidence in their ability to improve the lives of people in their communities. We are proud of how much they have achieved with the gifts you have given to CWS over 70 years. The stories featured in this year’s Christmas Appeal explore a small part of the work they do.

In the last year, we have sent funds to 28 partners and in response to 5 emergency situations in 20 countries. We received matching government funding for Ama Takiloa’s response after Cyclone Gita devastated Tonga.

We are part of the [ACT Alliance](http://www.actalliance.org/) (Action by Churches Together), a coalition of 146 churches and faith-based organisations that work together in humanitarian assistance, advocacy and development in over 100 countries. We do not have offices or staff overseas. We work in partnership with skilled local groups who are the experts and the activists in their communities. They are building strong communities that stand up for themselves. Help is provided regardless of religion, politics, gender, sexual orientation, race or nationality and to the highest international codes and standards.

Examples from our partners’ plans for 2018/9:

* + In the Philippines, $2,536 will buy approximately 6,000 new trees and root crops to improve food security and boost income for 200 households.
  + In India, $637 will enable EKTA to run a training programme for college students who want to monitor public facilities like bus stations as part of their Safe Madurai campaign.
  + In Nicaragua, $3,700 will pay for one community of farmers living on 1-2 hectares of land to access training and support from CEPAD staff, purchase 320 plants to start a community nursery and assist with 160 water dams or other rainwater harvesting system.
  + In the West Bank of Palestine, $17,490 will enable the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees to complete the purchase of a new machine to package the herbal teas Palestinians are growing in Aqaba village in Area C.



Acknowledgements

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Gifts for Change

Buy a meaningful gift and the promise of transforming a life. Choose Herbs and Honey to support a small business, #Me Too to provide gender training or last year’s top gift, Fruit Trees. You make the choice for a loved one or friend.

CWS will send you a quality card to pass on. Your gift is a donation to the partner doing that work. Some churches and groups find Gifted works best for them.

Take a look at <http://gift.org.nz/>or call 0800 74 73 72 to order extra catalogues.