



## FOCUS ON MERCY

Jan - June 2010

*Inside  
Cambodian  
Harvest  
Buzz Off  
Kid's Ark  
RescueNet  
and much  
more*

## RESCUENET INVOLVED IN DRAMATIC HAITI RESCUE

*By David Skeat*

Last January a RescueNet team deployed into Haiti to respond to the disaster that resulted from the earthquake that occurred on January 12, 2010. The initial earthquake registered 7.0 on the Richter scale and by January 24 more than 50 aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater were recorded by the US Centre for Geological Survey. Thousands were affected by this disaster and some were buried alive in the rubble and had to be rescued.

On Friday, January 22, 2010 a crowd gathered on the street near where a young man had been discovered alive, trapped beneath his house. Some Haitians ran to a nearby clinic to get help. RescueNet workers responded to that call along with team members from Mercy Works.

Within an hour members of the RescueNet team were working with a specialist Israeli disaster recovery team to rescue the man. It took hours to extricate the man but at 3:00 PM local time Emmanuel Buso was carried alive and well to a waiting ambulance and taken to hospital.

It was later revealed that Buso who had been trapped under ground for 10 days had lived on some cans of drink that were in the room that had collapsed around him. Three days after arriving at the hospital Buso was reunited with members of his family and went home.

RescueNet is thrilled to have been part of this man's story, His rescue was a high light for the team who were ministering in Haiti under difficult circumstances.



# RescueNet in Haiti

The RescueNet deployment to Haiti was one of the toughest deployments RescueNet has ever done!

International news services stressed the fact that food and medical distributions were not happening in the initial phase of the disaster. This was due to the fact that both the UN and the red Red Cross had their in country centres wiped out by the quake and that people who should have been doing the distribution work were either dead or burying their dead.

However, despite the delays at the airport RescueNet were one of the first NGOs to be operational in Haiti after the quake. The deployment was led by the RescueNet office in Las Vegas and responders from Australia, Holland the US were all present.

The carnage caused by the quake was evident from first arrival, team members reported a lot of injuries and many infected wounds.. Some team members were deployed into emergency departments of local hospitals to help with the ever increasing numbers of people that were presenting there. Surgeons in the hospitals were doing an extraordinary number of amputations. This caused some controversy and six weeks into the Haiti response a US media outlet interviewed a doctor who had returned from Haiti who spoke about the amputations and called into question the need for the numbers of amputation that were being performed. This matter has not been resolved but in the health care plan for Haiti over the coming years there will be higher numbers of amputees needing to adjust to life after the Haiti earthquake.

The team reported many infected wounds and had to work long hours in just to keep pace with the need.

Some RescueNet personnel were teamed together with an Israeli Army search and rescue team and participated in the safe extraction of a man who had been trapped underground for 10 days. This event was picked up by the international media and beamed around the globe. One team member who was part of this team was interviewed on an American medical TV show.

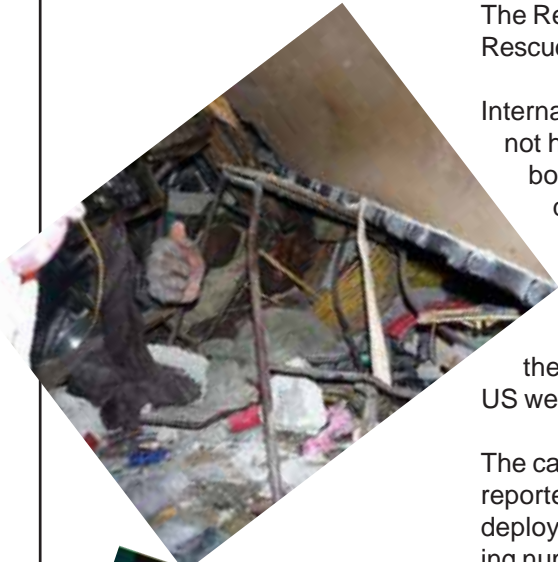
Two issues that were tough for the team were security, and the fact that so many children were being bought in with severe wounds. The team were on site for around 2 weeks and as usual with RescueNet deployments once things have stabilized the team hands on to other NGOs and returns home. RescueNet team members have returned back to Haiti since the deployment, and everyone on the team knows that Haiti provided a very difficult but very rewarding opportunity to reach out to those who have experienced the worst day of their life.

## China Response

The earthquake in Qinghai province of China in April killed thousands and saw large numbers left homeless. ARMS was contacted by a doctor who was in China at the time.

This doctor and his wife, (who cannot be named for security reasons), were well known to ARMS and were in China at the time of the quake. The doctor was able to respond to the disaster but needed financial help to cover their costs. ARMS provided travel costs from our Emergency Response Fund and then turned to our donors for further help – thousands of dollars came in and we were also able to make a significant donation towards the costs of medical supplies food, clothing and shelter for the earthquake victims.

Excess funds from the appeal have been passed on to the doctor in China who has used the funds for ongoing refugee relief.



# What's happening at Kids Ark – East Timor

A lot of good things are happening at Kid's Ark! Earlier this year we started using the new classrooms for grades 1, 2 and 3. The school now has almost 200 kids at preschool and primary. This year was the first we have had disabled kids attend - two young girls in the preschool and two young men learning to read and write. This benefits the community as a whole as they learn to accept people with differences.

It's also great to have the new kitchen and dining /multipurpose area. The government are now giving a small allowance of rice and oil to schools but we continue to top this up with vegetables, milk and other more nutritional food.

Recently I, (Soraya) spent a week training 30 government preschool teachers who in turn then trained other teachers from the districts. Our own teachers also spent two weeks in training with volunteers from Australia and New Zealand, so even though school was closed for a month's holiday the teachers continued to work hard.

The clinic in Sidara continues to function well; lots of babies have already been born in the birthing clinic this year. We now have another volunteer doctor from Dili come out to help two days a week. Dr Malaisa is from Cuba and is interested in helping the poor, so we are looking at starting another clinic in a neighbouring village, just one day a week to start with.

We have a new staff member, Carol Payne from New Zealand. Carol has been a short term volunteer to East Timor since 2000 and has now come to work with us full time. We are really please to have her aboard and she is a great asset to our team.



The rainy season has been exceptionally long this year and unfortunately our district of Hera has experienced severe flooding. Many people have had to move out of their houses and the roads are in a bad state of repair. Because one of our villages is across the river, several programs have been repeatedly

interrupted as we are unable to cross the swollen river. This is also a time when many people get malaria, dengue and general flu and colds. The wet season always sees increased pressure on our clinic and health programs.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Soraya



*Learning to read and write*



*The new school building*



*The new dining area*

## Buzzing Off Overseas?



Why not do your part to fight malaria? If you are travelling in a malaria endemic area why not take an extra mosquito net with you as a gift to a local family – for just a few dollars and a place in your baggage you could help to save a life!

Buzz Off are selling high quality mosquito nets to people travelling overseas as part of its Mozzie Net Bank program. You can buy your mosquito nets from Buzz Off from \$20 each plus postage (this amount varies according to the size of the net.) Group orders are welcome too. Just email [nets@buzzoff.org](mailto:nets@buzzoff.org) and place your order.



# RESPONDING TO DISASTERS

By David Skeat



Since September 2009 ARMS has responded to 4 disasters; Samoa, Indonesia, Haiti and China. Three of these responses have been through RescueNet and one by supporting a medical team that were already in place in China.

Disasters seem to be making the news more often than they previously have before and disaster response can take its toll. In recent years RescueNet has grown from a small number of responders to 40 people who are disaster trained and ready. These disaster responders are connected to three main RescueNet centres in Australia, Holland and the US. The numbers of people we can deploy are now greatly increased and the range of skills they bring with them further enhances our effectiveness on the field; however with increased deployments and increased team sizes comes increased costs, and RescueNet's number one need at this point in time is to develop income streams that will help it to financially recover from each deployment.

**The RescueNet teams' fundraising together with the generosity of our donors keeps us going and for that we are very thankful.**



Each team that deploys takes with it thousands of dollars worth of equipment and medical supplies; most of this has to be left behind when the team leaves and effectively replenished before the next deployment

begins. Just the replenishment of medical supplies alone can cost \$10,000 per deployment.

Developing a funding strategy for RescueNet has been a priority for ARMS for a long time. However, with regards to seeking corporate sponsorship disaster relief is an area where there are a lot of players and a lot of needs but few funders who will look at the set up costs of a deployment. Larger players who have access to both government and private funding also receive the cream of the corporate dollars making it harder for smaller groups to survive. Were it not for the fact that many of RescueNet's deployment costs are covered by the RescueNet team members who fundraise and donate towards each deployment, RescueNet would have been in serious financial trouble a long time ago. The RescueNet teams' fundraising together with the generosity of our donors keeps us going and for that we are very thankful.

Looking ahead we need to raise more funds for RescueNet. Our disaster trust gives RescueNet a small annual income but we need to raise more. The size of the trust needs to grow quickly, but we also need to attract levels of corporate sponsorship that will help us to financially recover from deployments, and help us to buy some of the bigger ticket items

that are essential to our on field success such as radios, hand held GPSs and other rescue equipment. To put this in perspective each year local SES units spend about \$40,000 on equipment and running costs just to keep things safe in the local area. RescueNet needs to raise a similar amount in order to respond to international disasters.

## Supporting ARMS Through Your Weekly Grocery Shop

Supporters of ARMS living in Victoria can now support ARMS in a new way.



The Ritchies chain of supermarkets have added ARMS to their Community Benefits Program. Through this program Ritchies seeks to pour back into the community funds that will assist local charities. Shoppers simply pick up a Community Benefit Card at the check out nominate their charity and 1% of their total grocery bill is given to that charity. Over the years this has seen millions

of dollars donated to local community groups.

People wanting to support ARMS can either fill in our name when they pick up their Community Benefits card, or write to us and we will send you a community benefits card that automatically makes sure that 1% of your grocery shop is donated to us. Just contact the ARMS National Office for details.

If you are aware of a business in your area that we could approach to tax deductibly support the work of RescueNet then please contact the ARMS National Office with details. Donations to the work of RescueNet, or to the ARMS Disaster Trust can also be made through the National Office. More information about RescueNet can be obtained on the RescueNet website [www.rescuenet.org.au](http://www.rescuenet.org.au)

# IT'S TIME TO MOVE FOWARD

By Alice McCann

Cambodian Harvest has been going now for six years. I remember when Marion Fromm went over to Phnom Penh with Marion Winn to do the preliminary paper work. It is amazing how far everything has progressed.

We payed and fundraised in Australia for two years before Marion went. We had no capital but we were determined to see the project up and running. Now there is a factory employing twenty four landmine survivors. Their families are eating. Their children are healthy, and the project is growing.

Marion is nearly 72 but she is still working hard and following her dream- a factory to employ 100. It will happen. We have had the land for three years. An ARMS supporter gave us \$50,000. And we raised the other \$54,000. Marion signed the contract and the extra funds came in within 3 months.

Now we need US\$45,000 to build a brick security fence and \$138,000 for staff housing for the builders of the factory. The housing will then be used for the factory workers. This is how we will start.

We have applied to the US for a grant of half a million to build the big factory. We are hopeful that this will eventuate, and see the next stage of our project completed.

We do not always appreciate the continuing physical suffering of the landmine wounded. Some of the factory workers are still in some pain because of the wounds that were caused by landmines; but when you see them in the factory they are filled with hope and their self esteem is high. Cambodian Harvest has done more than give them a job it has given them their lives back!

We have seen the huge success this project has been over that few years with just a few staff, now it is time to take the next step. It is time to start the new factory. There are many more who need employment and who need to be able to care for themselves and their families with pride and dignity..

We are busy fundraising and arranging speaking engagements for Marion whist she is here in July. (Let us know if you would like to have her speak.)

We would like you to join us by giving; tax deductible donations can be made to Cambodian Harvest through the ARMS National Office



## HELP NEEDED

ARMS is seeking volunteer helpers to do research on the internet for the Buzz Off Malaria program and for the Donna Mc Dermid Memorial Fund websites.

Both websites need to be updated with new and accurate information. Finding the information is not hard just a little time consuming. It involves trauling the web to find the information and either sending in the weblink or emailing us the information in PDF format. It's easy and you can do it from anywhere in the world.

Interested? Contact David [davids@buzzoff.org](mailto:davids@buzzoff.org).



ARMS partners with the World Relief Overseas Fund by acting as its agent for the delivery of aid and development projects. More information about World relief can be found at [www.wra.org.au](http://www.wra.org.au)

ARMS is also a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct, which defines minimum standards of governance, management, and accountability for non-government development organisations.



To view the ACFID Code of Conduct visit the ACFID website [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)

## THE BUZZ OFF REPORT

Buzz Off had an extremely successful year in 2009, the project provided 6701 mosquito nets to refugees and internally displaced people living inside Burma, treated over 4000 cases of severe Malaria and provided over 16000 testing kits to clinics working in poor areas. We also trained 99 Malaria workers.

The Buzz Off Online Store was selling nets and dozens of nets were distributed through Mozzie Net bank.



*The Temper Trap*

We also have formed two very helpful partnerships. Travel With A Cause ([www.travelwithacause.com.au](http://www.travelwithacause.com.au)) are not only donating towards ARMS from the profits of their airfare sales, but are selling nets for us to their customers who are heading overseas, this is helping to raise the profile of the campaign.

The profile of Buzz Off is also being raised internationally by the Australian band The Temper Trap. ([www.thetempertrap.com](http://www.thetempertrap.com)) The Temper Trap are encouraging concert goers to support the work of Buzz Off. This support has already translated into hits on our site and we are hoping that we will also see an increase in donations towards mosquito nets.

In 2010 our work in Burma is off to a slower start because the funding we are receiving for the project has been delayed, this is causing an enormous time pressure on us as wet season in Asia is only days away and we need to be ordering nets for this year's work now. So far we have only been able to distribute 500 nets this year. We plan to distribute another 7000 but need the funds to come in.

We are concerned that this delay in the funding could cost lives and we are asking for your financial help. Donations towards Buzz Off are tax deductible and

your donation will help us to get nets out to communities that are at risk in Burma. You can donate by sending funds to the ARMS National Office or through either the ARMS or Buzz Off websites. [www.arms.org.au](http://www.arms.org.au) [www.buzzoff.org](http://www.buzzoff.org)

### Teaching Aids

In the coming months Buzz Off will also produce teaching aids that will be distributed to clinics in remote areas. The teaching aids are in the form of flip charts that show how to use Rapid Diagnostic Testing kits (RDTs) and how to treat mosquito nets. The flip charts are able to be printed in dual languages and the first run will be in English and Burmese. In 2010 we hope to produce flip charts on mosquito management.

### Opportunities in PNG

Buzz Off is also seeking funding to run a similar program in Papua New Guinea as it is running in Burma. The PNG project will be run in conjunction with YWAM Ships who are currently targeting PNG.

We are hoping that the funding we are seeking will allow us to distribute mosquito nets, provide clinics with anti-malarial medicines and help local clinics to have access to and use RDTs. Donations to Buzz Off can be made either online or by sending funds to the ARMS National Office PO Box 1212 Surrey Hills North Vic, 3127.



*Mosquito Net Flip Chart in Burmese*

Check out the Buzz Off website: [www.buzzoff.org](http://www.buzzoff.org)

# SEX TRAFFICKING

(Taken from [www.donnamcdermid.org](http://www.donnamcdermid.org))



Sex trafficking is part of the larger problem of human trafficking. People can be trafficked for many reasons such as; the provision of cheap labour, slavery, migrant smuggling, the harvesting of body organs or for involvement in the worldwide sex industry.

Sex trafficking then can be defined as human trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. Simply stated it is human trafficking into prostitution. Whilst the other forms of trafficking may involve forms of sexual abuse, sex trafficking is expressly for the purpose of commercial gain. It can involve both children and adults. The vast majority of those who are trafficked are women, (The UN estimates that 79% of all trafficking victims are for sexual exploitation and that up to 83% of those who are trafficked in the sex trade are women.)

It is estimated that more than two million people worldwide are being trafficked each year, the majority of whom are women and children. Within the Southeast Asian region alone, over 225,000 are transported across borders, according to United States State Department statistics.

Sex trafficking is attractive to organized crime groups because of its high profitability. Although organized crime is seen as mainly a man's domain some statistics suggest that a higher proportion of women are involved in the actual organization of sex trafficking networks than other kinds of organized crime.

Women who are trafficked into the sex industry are used for prostitution, stripping, peep and touch shows, are forced to appear in pornographic movies, or to work in massage parlours that offer a variety of sexual services. Many die from STD and HIV / AIDS infections. Women make up over 60 per cent of 15- to 24-year-olds living with HIV/AIDS. Globally, young women are 1.6 times more likely to be living with HIV/AIDS than young men.

Children that are trafficked are usually fodder for the paedophiles who flock to the child sex capitals of the world in order to rape and molest children who are the same age as their own children or grand children.

Sex trafficking exists in many countries, and needs to be stamped out. In order to address sex trafficking issues on a governmental level the UN has laid down minimum legislative standards that create an environment in which organized sex trafficking operations find it hard to operate and courts are empowered to hand down harsh penalties to traffickers



Those countries involved in sex trafficking usually fall into two categories, source countries that provide those who are being trafficked, and countries that are service providers, who run the brothels. (Some countries do both, exploiting their own people in smaller, poorer communities in order to service brothels in large cities.)

Burma is a major contributor to the problem of sex trafficking in Asia. According to a report issued by the UNHCR Burma is a source country for women, children, and men trafficked for the purpose of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation. Burmese women and children are trafficked to Thailand, China, Bangladesh and other sites in Asia for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour.

Sex trafficking however is not just the domain of rogue governments and organized crime it has also tainted agencies such as the United Nations! On three separate occasions the Australian media have run stories about brothels in East Timor that used trafficked women from Thailand and China. The clients of these establishments were reported to be mainly UN staff! But the problem is bigger than East Timor. Peace keepers in other situations have also established brothels and employed refugees as sex workers; in some cases instances of sexual abuse to women and children have been reported. There are reports that some relief workers have left the field to return home having fathered children and spread sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV). This issue really needs addressing, and the question needs to be asked, how do we reduce the demand for prostitution so that we can eliminate the horror of sex trafficking?

Sex trafficking is a crime against humanity. Deportation or forcible transfer of population, rape or other sexual abuse of comparable gravity, or enforced prostitution, enforced disappearance of persons, detention and imprisonment or deprivation of liberty in violation of international law are listed as Crimes Against Humanity on the UN International Criminal Court website.

*The Donna McDermid Memorial Fund has been set up by ARMS to give assistance to women in the developing world who are the victims of gender injustice and sexual abuse. Your donation will really help us to make a difference in the lives of women. Donations can be made to the ARMS National Office or through the Donna McDermid website*

**[www.donnamcdermid.org](http://www.donnamcdermid.org)**

# THE Back Page

## Micah Challenge

ARMS is a member of the Micah Challenge, a global movement of Christian agencies, churches, groups and individuals inspiring and equipping Christians to speak out against poverty and injustice.

The Micah Challenge urges decision makers to fulfil their promise to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on global poverty by 2015.

You can find out more about the Micah Challenge at [www.micahchallenge.org.au](http://www.micahchallenge.org.au)



## TRAVEL WITH A CAUSE

NOT-FOR-PROFIT TRAVEL AGENCY  
[www.travelwithacause.com.au](http://www.travelwithacause.com.au)

Support the work of ARMS by booking your travel needs with *Travel With A Cause*, they will give you the same discounted airfares that you see on line and if you tell them that ARMS sent you they will donate 100% the net profit from the sale of your tickets to ARMS.

The best thing is that you can book from anywhere in the world.

[info@travelwithacause.com.au](mailto:info@travelwithacause.com.au)

## Focus On Mercy

is the newsletter of the National Office of Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd. (ARMS)  
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A Ministry Of Youth With  
A Mission Australia

## Quotable Quote

**AIDS and malaria and TB are national security issues. A worldwide program to get a start on dealing with these issues would cost about \$25 billion ... It's, what, a few months in Iraq.**

**Jared Diamond**

## Response Form

### ARMS Tax Deductible International Projects

1. Burmese IDP Project
2. Hera Comm Dev Project
3. Home Of The Open Heart
4. Karen Preschool Project
5. Cambodian Harvest
6. ARMS Disaster Trust
7. Buzz Off
8. Donna McDermid Fund



I would like to become a supporter of ARMS and will regularly pray for its ministry and /or give a monthly gift of \$ ..... per month.  
I enclose a gift of \$ ..... towards:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Office Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Cambodian Harvest   | <input type="checkbox"/> Buzz Off              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RescueNet               | <input type="checkbox"/> Kids Ark            | <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Mercy Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karen Orphanage         | <input type="checkbox"/> Donna McDermid Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Where Most Needed     |

**Donations to all of ARMS Australian Projects are Tax Deductible**

Name.....  
Address.....  
.....Post Code .....  
Contact Number .....

Please debit my credit card \* (circle one) Visa / Mastercard

□□□□    □□□□    □□□□    □□□□

Expiry date ...../..... Signature .....

\* All credit card transactions are subject to a 2% credit card fee.