

Partnership Report - Spring 2008

Myanmar – Help Comes as Thousands Struggle to Face a Fractured Future



The sweeping devastation in Myanmar has left thousands in desperate physical need while their hearts grapple to accept the painful changes awaiting their future. In some coastal areas, the cyclone brought a 12 foot wave of salt water. Much of the rice-growing regions have been made useless because of salt water contamination. Wells and river systems have become undrinkable due to salt, mud and contamination. Many bodies were buried under a mass of mud and slime, and 44 000 people are still missing. Seven weeks after the storm, rotting corpses still line the river banks and dams. Cyclone Nargis represents the complete destruction of people's emotional, physical and social lives. GAIN

has begun a strategy that takes on a holistic perspective to helping people rebuild their lives, and new developments happen on a daily basis. Here are some highlights:

Myanmar Delta Region, May 23 - GAIN was one of the first organizations to visit two Myanmar jails and provided food and comfort to starving prisoners. Over 7,000 people were fed. A senior GAIN official met local



monks and secured a joint agreement to rebuild two monasteries located in the centre of two disaster areas. One of the large monasteries will provide shelter for hundreds of people during the impending monsoon season and become the new site of the local school and a symbol of stability to help people find short term emotional comfort. Our partnership with the Buddhist monks gained such favour from local authorities that a senior GAIN official was able to meet with a senior

government official in charge of relief in one of the four affected areas. Immediate relief and assistance was offered to the local government-controlled relief camp at Maubin as well as a feeding program, women's and children's kits, and food kits. As of Friday May 23rd, 18,000 women's and children's kits have been distributed by all our local partners.

East Delta Region, May 24th - Senior GAIN Official meets with Senior minister of government. Agreements are in place to allow GAIN to assume the leadership of helping 6 villages still in a desperate situation three weeks following the storm. This is a huge advantage in being able to work openly and effectively, as security controls are very tight and otherwise very restrictive to groups attempting to give aid. GAIN will provide immediate relief items such as food, water, shelter and medicines. GAIN has organized basic emotional relief training for volunteer teams of people within Myanmar. This will be expanded to include more in-depth counseling support and emotional relief in the future. GAIN will also install an ergonomic water tank and filtration system that can provide enough clean water for an entire village and build homes and a school in each of the 6 villages.

Yangon, May 25 - A Christian Centre was selected as the training ground for 40 local people in the building of large tank water filtration system. Using simple products such as carefully selected gravel and washed river sand, people can build

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natural, chemical free, water filtration systems. This system will clean milky, muddy, bug infested and contaminated water. Within the next month, the

construction of another 10 water filter systems will commence. By training locals, GAIN can speed up the delivery of clean water to storm-affected villages and communities.

Yangon, June 3rd – the GAIN CEO of Australia and project leader for the Myanmar Relief Project returns from the Delta (worst affected) region of Myanmar. He reports that the situation is critical, with many people still in need of immediate relief. The smell in the area is now unbearable, with rotting corpses unattended. People camp along the highway hoping that benevolent locals will throw them food and aid out their car windows. The government has set up relief camps, however they are unable to serve the number of people affected. Many people are turned away. A 10-person logistics team is now set up in Yangon to implement GAIN's government-granted authority to stabilize 6 regional villages. A field operations manager has been commissioned, building materials bought and goods currently being transported to the area. This will help an area covering about a 1/4 of the affected region and help in excess of 30,000 people.

Top: GAIN Australia staff are happy to receive humanitarian aid for Myanmar

Middle: Volunteers sort and repack aid in Myanmar for further distribution on foot

Right (Top): These children are recently orphaned and have banded together to beg for food. Our emergency relief contains a priority policy of resuming school classes. This quickly helps account for missing children, and children without support can be placed into reliable orphanages (Right Bottom)

The most effective strategy for us to help has been to raise funding for GAIN Australia, the lead GAIN office for this project, for use in purchasing emergency supplies of: bottled water, non-perishable food, first aid, emergency building and storm materials and blankets and clothing. While other international groups have



encountered roadblocks in their efforts to help, we have had the humbling privilege of being accepted and trusted by the government to distribute aid in-country, and have now been granted the privilege of acting as a consignee for the government. This is major breakthrough in getting aid in the country and will further enhance GAIN's ability to get supplies through to the cyclone victims. This is in part because of our localized contacts and connection with over a hundred faithful in-country volunteer groups, who are persistent in their actions of demonstrating God's love to their hurting fellow countrymen, in spite of their own personal suffering.

To date, because of the compassionate partnership of people like you, worldwide over \$500 000 in gifts

and pledges has been raised and trucks full of desperately needed humanitarian aid have been distributed by GAIN Australia within Myanmar. We are still in negotiations regarding bringing Canadian ALERT medical staff to serve in-country. Additionally, as part of our continuing efforts to cooperate with the Myanmar

government, 10 containers of humanitarian aid have been shipped by GAIN Germany and GAIN Australia, with 6 more containers from other countries expected to arrive in the next few weeks. Our consignee agreement means that containers shipped to Myanmar will be received into government custody as per usual policy, but an internal government department has now agreed to forward GAIN's containers and allow

GAIN staff to do the distribution. As you can imagine, these short-term gifts have quickly demonstrated God's love, but long term re-building and restoration requires funding into the millions of dollars. **Please click here to join us as partners and fill our in-country volunteers' hands with much needed food and clothing to give to hurting people in Myanmar.**



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Benin, West Africa – Clean Water Ripples out to Bring Healing



When you throw a stone into a still pond, do you watch the ripples until they stop? Most of us don't and while we know with our minds that they'll reach the shore, usually we're not present to see what effect they have on the land, far away from where the stone entered the water. The last GAIN trip to Benin gave the team a chance to see some of those ripple effects. The team this time also included ALERT staff Ellana Friesen (above, second from left, and right, middle), an Occupational Therapist, and a Canadian DRIME team that performed powerful spiritual "storytelling" in drama. A first for us was being able to work in partnership with staff from a Beninese medical NGO, Dr. Ahossime Rogatien (above, far left, and right photo, right) and his two nurses.

In this way, the entire team visited villages where our water wells have been drilled, and medical clinics offered consultation, treatment and GAIN-provided medications, and the DRIME team (below) performed dramas for the rest of the villagers, adding an atmosphere of joy and vitality to

GAIN's visits. This is one ripple: through GAIN's offer of clean water comes the opportunity to offer medical treatment which is otherwise financially impossible for the villagers. The people were exceedingly grateful, because they rarely get the chance to have their health problems addressed by anyone, much less receive medications for treatment.

Another ripple brought waves of grateful people to thank the GAIN team personally when they were in villages.

People were so excited to see the team...they are SO thankful when they receive the gift of water. One man went so far as to arrive by bicycle from a neighbouring village where GAIN had already drilled a well. He brought a gift with him; a live rabbit!! (a gift with real potential in their eyes, when you consider the expense of meat and the frequent litters that rabbits are able have!)

Yet another ripple was to have Dr. Rogatien endorse conducting medical clinics like this and to ask for more of them in the future. As well, he confirmed that the instances of disease that he encountered were indeed far less in villages which had already had a GAIN water well for a year or two. It is encouraging to hear a professional opinion that affirms tangible,

objective evidence of pure, clean water's ripple affect on health! Just as encouraging is a completely unprofessional, most practical opinion; that of a villager who was asked if having the well near her village gave her more time during the day. She answered, "Because this well is not far from our village, we have more time to produce cassava flour. We sell it and eat part of it. This has greatly improved our finances. We use the water to wash our cassava and use it in other business in the village. It helps greatly to improve the finances of our village." And so we find evidence of more ripple effects of clean water: time, more crops, and better finances.



At the end of the trip, the team had visited 8 villages and just

short of 1400 people had received medical consultation and treatment. What happened to the rabbit? He is with Patrice, our in-country Project Manager, and his family. Not only is he a beloved pet, but a daily living reminder of Patrice's gratitude of people for the hard work that he and the team do every day.

Not only have your gifts of compassion made it possible for the current 75 GAIN wells to transform the lives of up to 75 000 people in Benin with pure, clean water, but they make it possible to offer them better health through ALERT medical consultations.

Please click [here](#) to join us so that ripples of life and hope can reach farther out to more people of Benin through the gift of pure water, demonstrating God's love to them in word and deed!



Tanzania – “We are Forgotten People; Nobody Has Ever Come to Help Us!”



...So said rural Tanzanians in the 98% Muslim Lindi region, tears welling up in the eyes after our in-country team told them that they were returning in a few weeks to drill a water well for them. Tanzania is a country whose development is accelerated in urban areas, and much slower in rural ones. During a recent meeting between GAIN Canada staff and the High Commissioner of Tanzania, he confirmed the fact that as a general rule, few NGOs want to develop the far-off reaches of rural Tanzania. They also stressed that having clean water there is one of the most basic needs that exists there. This is a real problem, as 80% of the country's population lives in rural areas. Their water is undeveloped and crudely developed sources: lakes, rivers, ponds, shallow and

Top: In the Lindi region, the GAIN drilling team cleans a new well pipe. After they attach a pump to it, another village will have clean water, thanks to your help.

Right: Children from Upendo Orphanage pump water from GAIN's first drilled well in Tanzania.

open wells. In the Lindi coastal region, the most common problem in water quality is the contamination by salty ocean water seeping into the water table.

Our in-country manager Isack and his team of drilling rig operators spent most of the month of May in training for the various roles involved in drilling wells, drilling initial wells near Dar Es Salam, the capital. There are now 3 water wells successfully drilled, each serving an orphanage or a school or the community surrounding a church. Each of these wells has the capacity to reach beyond the orphanage or schools to supply up to 1000 people with pure, fresh water. During initial trips to villages in the Lindi region to coordinate upcoming drilling schedules with local authorities, the team discovered that the level of hope in these villages is very low. The people feel isolated and forgotten. When someone falls seriously sick, it is seen as a death sentence, because there are no hospitals nearby. In lieu of an ambulance, there is a large basket for the sick person to lie in, which is carried by villagers for 15 km before they reach a medical clinic. The team also discovered that word about them had already spread, and people were eagerly expecting them. These villagers are excited and grateful to know that soon they'll have their own clean, abundant water source. Our encouraged drilling team began preparing all the equipment and vehicles for the daunting drive south. It was a slow trip – the drive was only 450 km, but took an agonizing 15 hours, due to road conditions, rain, and the heaviness of the equipment. Now they can begin to bring healing and hope to needy men, women, and children in rural Tanzania! As in the water well projects in Benin and Southern Sudan, the cycle of

sickness, suffering and death that contaminated drinking water has caused for generations will be broken!

This is a tremendous opportunity to transform entire communities in rural Tanzania by demonstrating God's love through the simple gift of pure water! As part of our desire to help people holistically, GAIN will also assess possibilities for other long-term development projects in these villages, and can bring ALERT medical professionals to offer basic medical treatment. GAIN has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the national government to drill 100 water wells in this region over the next 2 years. We currently have a \$125,000 gift from a partnering business as a 1:1 matching incentive for other GAIN partners. This means that your gift can be matched with these funds and double your impact in providing these new water wells!

Will you partner with us to provide pure, clean water, demonstrating God's love to the rural Tanzanians to show that they are not forgotten? Please click here.



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Upendo Orphanage – Faces Looking for Hope in Tanzania

According to UNICEF statistics, there are nearly 2.5 million orphans in Tanzania.

Almost half of them have been orphaned because their parents have died as a result of AIDS.

These children's lives lose their stability as they are shunted from one relative to another. In the worst cases, finally end up living on the streets. They live as outcasts, shunned by many, struggling to get enough to eat.

With the lines of morality blurring against the background noise of an empty stomach, many as young as 8 years old are forced into a life of

prostitution, drugs and abuse. It's not far from there to the vicious downward spiral of despair, as good choices become harder and harder to make, and the future dims into hopelessness.

GAIN Canada staff met Mrs. Hingi (above) last year during a trip to Tanzania. Mrs. Rose Hingi is a Christian whose heart was nearly breaking under the painful weight of seeing hundreds of children on the streets every day with no place to go. She had taken in 16 children and offered them what little she had, calling her loving sanctuary "Upendo Orphanage". Mrs. Hingi has the moral support of her small church and so the children have not only

shelter, but also family, stability and spiritual foundations.

When Mrs. Hingi heard that she and the children were to be evicted she prayed for God's help. She sees meeting GAIN Canada staff as an answer to her prayers. We were able to help her and the children move into a different rental house with electricity and purchased beds and mosquito netting for them. They now have access across the street to one of the first water wells drilled by the new GAIN Tanzania drill rig team.



These are two of the children who are part of the Upendo Orphanage:

Salma Abdallah is 9 years old. She was born out of wedlock, because of which her Muslim community ostracized her, considering her to be "harami" – cursed herself, and bringing bad luck to others. Her father died, but his relatives kept Salma's inheritance for themselves, having already rejected her. Later her mother died, and no one was willing to look after her and her younger sister. After her little sister died, Salma was left completely by herself, and sometimes slept in the street without food. No one looked out for her until her mother's sister decided to look for her. When she found her, she wanted to keep her, but her husband threatened to kill her because she was "harami". This aunt brought Salma to Upendo orphanage, where she now lives in safety and love.



Ayubu Madembwe is 8 years old.

Both of his parents died when he was very young, and his older sister looked after him. Within a few years, however, she also died, and local government officers brought him to Upendo. Now he has a large "family" of people to love and guide him, and he looks forward to a better future.



Now there are tremendous opportunities for future development at Upendo, not only for Salma, Ayubu and the other children, aged 3-16, but for others, as well who still need a place to call home. A big part of that future depends on an education. In Tanzania, if a child has no education, he has next to no prospects for finding secure work. School is free to attend, but the required uniform and school supplies are not free. Imagine...the cost of just \$80 per child per year means the difference between attending school and having a future, and being excluded from school and ultimately, self-sufficiency.

The older children at Upendo Orphanage have planted and are tending a garden and will also tend 100 chickens, soon to arrive, in order to help provide food for the children, but it is only a start. We are looking for partners who will help us monthly to meet the children's needs – shelter, food, clothing, education and medical care.

Your gift of \$50 or more will make a difference in these children's lives. **Please click here to join us in helping Mrs. Hingi grow a future for orphaned children in Tanzania!**



Sri Lanka – Celebration of the “Village of Blessing”



In December 2004, the tsunami caused devastation in the country of Sri Lanka, destroying houses and lives and leaving chaos in its wake. GAIN was privileged not only to be able to respond to the short-term emergency needs for food, blankets and livelihood tools to help survivors and demonstrate God's love to them, but also to have had the government's cooperation in building a new community of 100 homes on 12 acres of land high up and away out of reach of a similar disaster. This was the Dickwella Housing project.

Generally speaking, even today there are thousands of families still living in camps and shelters waiting for homes to be built for them. Many aid organizations are still struggling to complete their projects that are stalled for a variety of reasons. Thankfully, after several years of hard work and perseverance through in-country tensions and resulting construction slow-downs, we can celebrate because this building project is complete! On April 11th, 2008, GAIN Canada staff were privileged to hand over the titles of ownership and keys to the last of the receiving families at Asiri Gammanaya (Village of Blessing), the new name given to the Dickwella Housing project. The timing of this celebration was perfect, because it coincided with the Sri Lankan New Year, a time traditionally focused on new beginnings.

Now 100 families who lost everything in the tsunami have a safe place to call home and an everyday reminder of God's love through the compassionate partnership of people like you. It was a privilege for us to be able to bring greetings from our Canadian donors and partners and to share with these families how people they may never know or meet gave sacrificially—simply to demonstrate God's love in reaching out to hurting and needy people. Enjoy for yourself these pictures from the celebration day and rejoice with us in these families' restoration of hope!

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Sudan – Peace in Painful Circumstances

Thank-you for being part of the difference that compassion and commitment make. Because of your partnership, thousands of people in Sudan are experiencing God's love in practical ways. In Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps in Darfur, 10,000 people have been given supplemental rations of cooking oil, sorghum, lentils, and beans. In Southern Sudan, 19 water wells are serving pure, clean water to up to 19,000 people, and needy families in Mundri county will be receiving dried soup mix, soy rice casserole and clothing as 3 containers arrive. One is being cleared through customs, one is enroute, and one is being prepared to be shipped.



[Click here](#) to join us in the ongoing demonstration of God's love and hope to men, women and children living in uncertainty in Sudan!

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New Tax Receipt Policy

Please note that as of July 1, 2008, GAIN will send out an acknowledgment letter for every gift received, but will issue only one official tax receipt, on an annual basis.

GAIN is committed to compassionately providing immediate, practical relief & development aid to hurting & needy people around the world; to restoring hope & dignity.

partnership - Our partnership with you is maximized by good relationships with government leaders and key decision makers in-country. The effect is catalytic; it boosts the flow of progress & escalates effectiveness of short term relief & long term development.

emergency response - GAIN mobilizes resources to help relieve crises arising out of natural disasters, calamity and conflict.

ongoing aid - GAIN strives to ensure that people receive help as it's needed, even long after the initial crisis.

development - GAIN purposes to holistically meet people's needs, helping them rebuild their lives and hope for their futures.

Funds are still needed for ongoing projects in Darfur & Southern Sudan, Uganda, Benin, and Paraguay. GAIN continues to offer help to meet people's ongoing needs long after their countries are no longer in the news.

Please consider giving to these ongoing projects, our operations needs, Myanmar Cyclone Relief, the A.L.E.R.T. medical intervention program, or to Tanzania's water well drilling and Upendo Orphanage projects.

Give online at: www.globalaid.net



William (Bill) Blaney
 CEO, GAIN Canada



Message from Bill Blaney

Everyone likes good value for his money, and everyone feels good after he's been able to help someone else. In Tanzania, goods are available to buy if one has the money. While it is heartbreaking to see the problem of poverty and abandoned children there, it is humbling and encouraging to meet people like Mrs. Rose Hingi, and the people from her church. They give from the little they have to help support the children of the Upendo Orphanage so that they can have a roof over their heads, food to eat and know that there are people who care. However, their meager resources are insufficient to meet the needs of the children there. How easy it was for GAIN to partner with the Upendo Orphanage to help provide the shortage of finances for essentials like food, water, house rental and utilities. How easy it would be to provide funds so that garden seeds and chickens could be purchased-investments towards long term food needs and reducing operating costs with egg sales. How easy it would be to provide this year's annual costs to purchase uniforms and books so that the children can attend school and learn critical tools to secure their future success. In Tanzania, the full costs to give these children a secure home today and a hope for their future are very inexpensive — good value for your gift and effective in demonstrating God's love in word and deed! Thank-you for your compassionate partnership and helping us make a lasting difference!