



Annual Review

2002/3



People & partners



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A charity registered in the UK,
number 294329

An organisation with consultative
status at the United Nations
Economic and Social Council
(ECOSOC)



In some countries, CIIR operates
under the name of International
Cooperation for Development (ICD).

In this report, CIIR/ICD is used for
work in Africa, Yemen, Latin
America and the Caribbean. CIIR is
used for international work, and
work in South-East Asia.

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Writers: story page 11 by Nick
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article by Gideon Burrows

Design: 25 educational

Print: APG

Front cover picture and page
3 main picture: a Ugandan dancing
group that raises awareness about
HIV/AIDS. Tackling HIV/AIDS is a
key area of CIIR's work in Africa
and throughout the world. Inset
pictures page 3: (left) a CIIR/ICD
development worker working
with farmers in Haiti; (right) Khadra
Mohamed Abdi is chairperson of
the Somaliland Culture and Sport
Association, a CIIR/ICD partner.

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Leah Gordon/CIIR

Nick Sireau/CIIR

Changing minds – changing lives

The Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR) works for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. We never forget that we are working to help improve the lives of people – and that people are our greatest strength. We work with local partners and local people in three regions – Africa and Yemen, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South-East Asia – to help them find solutions to the problems they face.

CIIR works through a combination of sharing skills and promoting just policies. During the past year more than 80 skilled professionals – placed through our development worker recruitment programme, International Cooperation for Development (ICD) – worked with local partners on projects ranging from health to communications, from the environment to women's rights.

But sharing skills is not, on its own, enough to bring about lasting change. Through our development workers, country representatives and international advocacy officers, we work to increase the ability of our partners, and of poor people, to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

Making a difference

CIIR, our partners, and the people we work with, cannot bring about change overnight. We work to build the confidence and ability of the world's poor to create more positive lives for themselves and their children.

These pages provide a snapshot of some of our achievements in 2002/3. Many more projects and initiatives, that we do not have the space to mention here, have also made their contribution. In everything we do, we aim to make a difference, and to help bring about lasting change.



RELECTING ON A YEAR in CIIR's life is a difficult task. But it is an immensely fulfilling one.

As you will read, there is a huge amount of work going on at local and international levels. This report can offer only an overview of the work of CIIR around the world. It gives examples of our work under our six key themes: building just societies; justice on gender and ethnicity; peace and conflict; HIV/AIDS; sustainable environment; and just economies. It clearly shows how we fulfil our mandate to work practically and through policy and reflection to bring about a world without poverty.

The integration of our advocacy and skill-share work is becoming much stronger and more effective at a local level. We support partners to influence and bring about policy change for themselves in their own

Executive Director's Foreword

A new understanding of "international relations"

Nick Sireau/CIIR

"For us development is a process of engaging with people..."

CIIR/ICD people in Somaliland (from left): Fawzia Haji Dahir, our office administrator; Sa'ada Abdi Ahmed, HIV/AIDS development advisor; Yvette Lopez, advocacy trainer.

countries. We also work with them to hold governments to account and ensure that communities actually get the services and rights that they are promised.

Such local advocacy support is an important element in our international advocacy work. Our ethos is about enabling the voiceless to have a voice and supporting the powerless to take some control over their lives.

For us development is a process of engaging with people and respecting the whole person – recognising the social, cultural and spiritual dimensions of life. It is not just a matter of providing the basic needs.

Many organisations talk about partners and partnerships. It is a critical word for CIIR because without our partners we simply would not be able to do any work. We value and

respect our partnerships, and this is reflected in the way we work. Local organisations help to define the contribution that they need from our development workers, while the experience and concerns of our partners help us define our advocacy agenda. It is their voices that we seek to communicate internationally.

These relationships, built on mutual respect, are with many organisations of different backgrounds, traditions and faiths. They bring a richness and diversity that perhaps reflects a new understanding of “international relations”.

All this work would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the staff, development workers and Board members. They have great professionalism and passion and I must pay tribute to them all.

During the year CIIR asked its stakeholders what they thought was important about the organisation. The feedback was very positive, with tremendous support for CIIR and the way it works. The ideas that emerged are helping to reflect and refine CIIR’s vision and values, and will in turn form the basis for future planning.

CIIR and its members have always believed that poverty is not simply a lack of skills, but is a matter of injustice and therefore requires changes in policy and attitudes as well as practice. The kind of work you will read about in this review illustrates that so well. It is the putting into practice of a simple yet hugely challenging directive: to love thy neighbour.

Christine Allen
July 2003



A woman and child in East Timor, where CIIR works to promote women's rights. Inset pictures: (left) queuing to vote in Somaliland; (right) a woman at Ayaha settlement in Somaliland.



Mark Bradbury



Nick Sireau/CIIR

themes

Building just societies

The majority of people around the world do not have an opportunity to participate in decisions and policies that affect their lives. We work to ensure that people can have a bigger say, and support partner organisations to become more effective in representing people's interests.

Justice on gender and ethnicity

Women and indigenous groups make up the bulk of people living in extreme poverty. We work to support them in their efforts to improve their economic situation and secure their rights.

FIRMINIA LIVES IN BAUCAU in East Timor. She's trying to scrape a living in a society fractured by years of brutal occupation by Indonesia.

Firminia doesn't own much, but she does have initiative. Her women's group has set up a small restaurant. It's just a rickety bamboo shed, but it has proved popular, and now earns about \$250 a month. Some of this pays the women who work there; the group – called Moris Foun – keeps the rest as a fund.

Other projects launched by the group include tailoring, bakery and selling vegetables. CIIR has helped the women with project planning and provided training on financial management. The group received start-up loans through a fund organised by another CIIR partner, Hafoti.

One of the leaders of Moris Foun told us: "We were looking for ways to improve our lives. Then we met you and you were able to show us the way." Another said: "This is our first experience of standing on our own two feet."

"This is our first experience of standing on our own two feet."

The support given to Moris Foun is part of CIIR's programme aiming to strengthen women's organisations in five districts of East Timor. While many women played an active role in the war against Indonesian occupation, following independence they found that economically they had been relegated to the background. Women's groups strongly expressed their desire to undertake income-generating projects, but lacked capital and, in many cases, organisational and financial management skills.

CIIR – through our country representative in East Timor, Maria Antonia Velasco, and our community trainer, Ildefonso Guterres – now runs training workshops for women's groups, covering areas like leadership, negotiation, campaigning and community mobilisation, as well as practical skills such as managing loans, basic record-keeping, and preparing project funding applications. The

Breaking down barriers

CIIR is working to help women play an equal part in the growth of the new nation of East Timor

groups have begun to set up projects such as a tailoring project in Padiae village, or chicken-raising in Laulara. As the projects begin to generate a regular income, more women are encouraged to join in.

"This has been the first time we

have worked together," says one woman, which reflects how the oppression and the war created mistrust and led to the breakdown of communities. "We have learned that we can work together and overcome differences."



Christine Allen/CIIR

The restaurant run by Moris Foun in Baucau.

Raising the profile of gender issues

CIIR's work in East Timor is raising the profile of gender issues in this male-dominated hierarchical society. Development worker Emily Roynestad works with REDE – the East Timorese Women's Network – to increase the capacity of women's groups to set up projects and represent women's interests. Our women's advocacy officer, Ivete de Oliveira, as a consultant on civil society and women's issues, assists East Timor's prime ministerial gender advisor, Maria Domingas Fernandes, in ensuring gender issues are integrated into government policies and the work of government departments and East Timor's 13 districts.

During the year Ivete also coordinated the production of a film on positive images of East Timorese women – the first film on East Timor ever to be filmed and produced by East Timorese people themselves. She also helped women prepare testimonies to the Reception, Truth and Reconciliation Commission on human rights violations under the Indonesian occupation, and provided an analysis of the impact of war on women and society.



highlights

Liz Light/CIIIR



Participants at a CIIR/ICD workshop on gender and masculinities in Nicaragua.

Unlearning machismo

Pioneering training on gender and masculinities developed by CIIR/ICD and partners in Nicaragua has been extended to the other five countries in CIIR's Latin America and the Caribbean region's programme. An average of 20 people per country were trained and CIIR continues to receive requests for training and support on gender and masculinities.

Tackling domestic violence

CIIR/ICD development worker Anne Rimmer worked with Women's Solidarity in Namibia on activities focusing on domestic violence against women and children. A public demonstration against domestic violence, held in Windhoek in early 2003, attracted considerable media interest.

"Lawmakers of our beautiful country, speed up protection for women, please. Pass the Domestic Violence Bill, please! Save our nation. We are also God's creation!" – from a placard at the demonstration against domestic violence in Windhoek, Namibia

Access to education

CIIR/ICD development worker Yvonne Pickering, coordinator for a regional education programme for the disadvantaged San people, helped set up the Southern Africa San Education Forum during the year. Support for San students in higher education was expanded, as was production of educational materials for San children.

About 300 teachers were trained in Library Management and Basic Information Science in Namibia. As a result the number of people getting access to and using library services increased during the year. More than 300 book boxes were distributed to schools and community libraries, helping to improve community access to information.

Speaking up on human rights

CIIR/ICD worked with local partners in Zimbabwe – including the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, which groups together 350 Zimbabwean NGOs – to raise issues of human rights abuses and promote dialogue on ways out of the country's deepening crisis. We also worked with the Farm Community Trust of Zimbabwe to prepare a lobbying document on the conditions of farmworkers following the government's controversial land reform programme.

"Towards a Barrier-free World"

CIIR/ICD development worker Irene Banda worked with the Bulawayo branch of the Zimbabwe Parents of Children with Disabilities Association (ZPCDA), which during the year ran publicity events under its theme "Towards a Barrier-free World". A number of ZPCDA members got access to affordable housing and got their children into schools, while the branch established positive contacts with civic leaders and government departments.

Forward Mlotswa from Zimbabwe, himself a disabled person, was recruited to work with the Namibian network of disabled people, NFPDN. The network lobbied successfully for the creation of a post of special advisor on disability in the office of the prime minister.

Elections in Somaliland

CIIR/ICD helped the Somaliland National Electoral Commission (NEC) and civil society groups prepare for local council elections in December 2002 – the first elections in the area for 30 years. We also fielded nine teams of independent observers during voting. Afterwards the NEC wrote: “Your support to us reflects your organisation’s values and your commitment to nurturing the emergence of a strong civil society and democratic governance in a troubled part of the world.”



Mark Bradbury

Voters queuing at a polling station in Somaliland.

Rights for Haitian Dominicans

In the Dominican Republic (DR), a case was successfully prosecuted in the courts to secure a birth certificate for a Dominican child of Haitian origin who had no documentation. The case was a landmark achievement in the campaign for the right to Dominican nationality for Haitian Dominicans, which is spearheaded by the umbrella organisation Red de Encuentro Dominico-Haitiano Jacques Viau (Contact Network for Dominicans and Haitians). CIIR/ICD has three development workers in the DR working with partners on citizenship issues. Good progress has been made in the struggle to have changes in the Migration Bill adopted by the DR Congress.

Citizenship and democracy

In Peru, youth organisations in the marginal neighbourhoods of San Juan de Lurigancho have, with support from CIIR/ICD, created a network to discuss development issues facing the district and participated in educational campaigns to promote citizenship and democracy. In the Dominican Republic, active participation by community organisations in Villa Gonzalez has influenced the municipality to prepare a participatory budget. This will ensure that citizen’s needs – including those of the most marginalised communities – are incorporated in the municipality’s spending plans.

“I would like to thank CIIR for its support and the placement of development workers. It has meant a lot to us over the years.” – Sonia Pierre, Director of the Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico-Haitianas (MUDHA)



Building self-reliance

Female health workers trained by CIIR/ICD development workers in Yemen are now running their own work and some have progressed to management positions. Training of community midwives, district level health workers and primary health care workers continues – enabling the country to move further towards self-reliance in health care delivery.

Training women in health care enables the health service to reach more women in a strongly conservative society with a high maternal and child mortality rate.

Primary health care training in Yemen.



Weighing a baby at the maternal and child health clinic at Sheik Nur, Somaliland. Inset pictures: (left) Sheik Nur settlement; (right) A lab technician tests blood samples for HIV.



Nick Sireau/CIIR



Nick Sireau/CIIR

themes

Peace & conflict

War and conflict affect millions of people around the world – particularly the poor. We work with local partners to increase the contribution of civil society organisations to re-building after conflict.

HIV/AIDS

An estimated 70 million people will die prematurely of AIDS before 2020. We work to bring all sections of the community together to respond effectively to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

THREE YOUNG WOMEN wait on wooden benches in the entrance area to the maternal and child health clinic at Sheik Nur, one of the poorest new settlements near Hargeisa, Somaliland. The women have come to get some medicine, says the team leader of the clinic, Suuur Mohamoud Egeh.

Another two women carrying babies in shawls on their backs enter the centre and are shown to the child check-up room. Nurse Abdullshi Ahmed checks young Abdi Ahmed, aged eight, who has a breathing problem. Then he checks Jimaleh Hussein, aged one, whose throat and lung infection seems to have spread to his ear.

It's all standard medical work – nothing special, except that in post-war Somaliland, such basic care has been lacking for years. Decades of civil war left the country with no basic infrastructure – no roads, no water or sanitation system, no schools, no health services. “Women and children are by far the most vulnerable,” says Boniface Muia, a CIIR/ICD development worker from Kenya. “They’re the ones that suffer the most from disease, malnutrition and general ill-health.”

CIIR – which operates as International Cooperation for Development (ICD) in Somaliland – is working with local partners to ensure that health care improvements, such as the clinic at Sheik Nur, can be sustained. A major problem is the government’s lack of resources. Muia has therefore been working with Somaliland’s Ministry of Health and Labour to introduce a cost-sharing system to alleviate the financial burden.

Cost-sharing means that the government and communities share the cost of health care. For instance, mothers visiting the Sheik Nur health centre pay 500 Somaliland shillings (about seven US cents) for a consultation, although some essential services are free. The money received from patients is re-invested back into the health centre. It covers only a small proportion of the total costs for health care, but as Muia says, “it means that people feel more involved in the health care provision. It gives a sense of ownership.”

Halimo Elmi Weheliye, who works

Building a healthy nation

CIIR/ICD is working to help the people of Somaliland build sustainable health services after decades of civil war



Nick Sireau/CIIR

A laboratory technician at Hargeisa Hospital. The lab used to be housed in a semi-derelict building, with paint peeling off cracked walls and broken lab instruments. CIIR/ICD funded the renovation of the laboratory and trained assistant laboratory technicians with support from the Community Fund.

as a CIIR/ICD development worker specialising in maternal and child health care, explains that cost-sharing and income generation help free the health system from donor dependence. Although external funding is crucial for setting up health programmes, after a time they need to become more financially independent to be sustainable.

Key to achieving a sustainable health strategy is accurate information and statistics on the country’s health needs. Ram Sedhain, a CIIR/ICD development worker from Nepal, arrived in July 2002 to review the existing health management information system. A basic system was in place, but he found that many gaps in recording information existed, and that anyway nobody

was analysing it. With his government counterparts, he devised a system that would be easy to implement and manage and yet would provide the right information for analysis and policy-making.

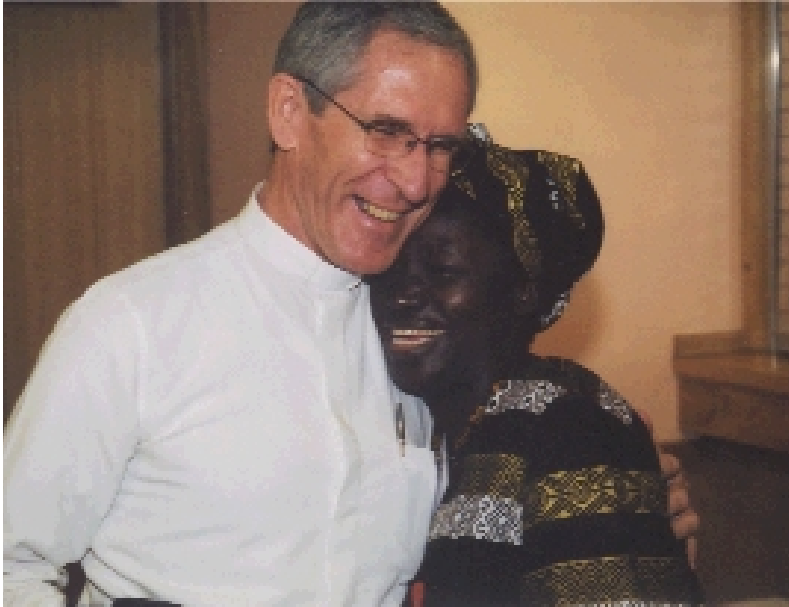
“It was difficult at the start, and at times it was frustrating. There was so much to do,” he says. “But now we’re seeing the fruits of our work, and it’s encouraging. Health workers are keeping good records, staff are happy with the tools, and the information system works better.”

In a country like Somaliland, devastated by war, this is no small achievement. Everything is being rebuilt from scratch. It’s hard, but it means that with initiative, efficiency, skill and motivation, new structures can be put in place that are sustainable.



highlights

Mark Moreve



Brigitte Syamalevwe and Bishop Kevin Dowling, head of the AIDS office of the Southern Africa Catholic Bishops' Conference, share a moment together at the CIIR conference on HIV/AIDS. Brigitte, a community worker on HIV/AIDS in Zambia and herself a person living with HIV, also spoke at the conference and impressed everyone present with her energy and commitment. At the conference, Brigitte said: "It is only the person who is living with the situation who understands best what he or she needs. It is a daring position for CIIR to say, 'we dare to listen to the voices which are not listened to, we dare to work with these people'." Sadly, Brigitte died in February 2003, leaving behind nine children, seven of them still young, who are now orphans as their father died from AIDS in November 2002.

Defending people's rights

CIIR/ICD – working with Amnesty International, SamoTallis (a Somali NGO) and Novib (an international NGO) – organised a Human Rights Defenders workshop in Somaliland. The workshop brought together 34 activists from Somaliland, Puntland and South Somalia. During the workshop the Declaration of Somali Human Rights Defenders was agreed and published.

Positive messages

As an organisation that seeks to change minds as well as lives, communications is a vital part of CIIR's work. We aim to increase understanding of development issues by working with the media, producing publications and holding events that bring out the experience of our partners. One of our major successes this year was on the theme of HIV/AIDS.

During the year CIIR published two *Comments* written by Christian theologians in Southern Africa. Both booklets aimed to help Christians think more deeply about the role of the churches and the impact of HIV/AIDS on women in particular. CIIR also sought to increase understanding about HIV/AIDS through letters and articles published in the Catholic press.

Bishop Kevin Dowling from South Africa was keynote speaker at the Annual General Meeting in November 2002 and also at an international conference on HIV/AIDS hosted by CIIR.

Inter-faith initiatives

CIIR in Asia organised an inter-faith conference involving key religious and indigenous leaders from Mindanao (Philippines) and West Papua (Indonesia), with the aim of promoting greater understanding between Christians, Muslims and members of other faiths in the region, and improving cooperation on peace-building and justice initiatives. The programme aims to develop a culture of tolerance and non-violent conflict resolution and support peace and reconciliation efforts in Mindanao, West Papua and East Timor.

In March 2003 CIIR, along with other faith-based groups, founded the Inter-faith Coalition for Human Rights, Peace and Dialogue in Papua. Partners agreed to make a long-term commitment towards working together to promote political dialogue and an end to human rights violations in West Papua.

New approaches in Somaliland

CIIR/ICD provided technical assistance to a pilot scheme introduced in six areas of Somaliland for syndromic management of sexually transmitted infections as a direct method of reducing vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. This includes supportive supervision, monitoring and refreshment courses for health professionals, as well as the medical treatment and counselling for patients, which is provided by CIIR/ICD development worker Dr Abdirashid Hashi Abdi.

Working with religious leaders

CIIR/ICD development workers and staff in Somaliland recognised that religious leaders in this strongly Muslim country are a powerful force for promoting positive messages about HIV/AIDS. In June 2002, CIIR/ICD development worker Sa'ada Abdi Ahmed held a workshop for 30 religious leaders to identify how they could play a role in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. The event was widely reported in the local media, and participants recommended that CIIR/ICD hold further similar workshops.

During the year workshops on HIV/AIDS were also held in Somaliland for over 300 participants from women's groups, youth groups, health workers, media practitioners, school teachers, and representatives from governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations.



Nick Sireau/CIIR

Sustaining peace in Angola

CIIR worked with the British-Angola Forum to raise concerns over the post-war agenda in Angola, including writing the report of the November 2002 conference "Towards Sustainable Peace in Angola".

CIIR/ICD development worker Abdirashid Hashi Abdi.

"Theology, in the context of AIDS, must reflect on the living and real situation of people. This should lead us to humbly recognise that at times we do not have all or even some of the answers; that we must search for life-giving responses with our God present in the human condition." – Bishop Kevin Dowling at the 2002 CIIR AGM

Tackling HIV/AIDS in Latin America

First steps were taken towards initiating work on HIV/AIDS in Latin America when Ana Teresa Rodriguez, a CIIR/ICD development worker with Casas de la Salud (Houses of Health) in Ica, Peru, was asked with the agreement of the partner organisation to focus on HIV/AIDS prevention work. In Honduras, development worker Sara Garcia Terrero began work with partner organisation Enmuneh (the Honduras Black Women's Network) on tackling HIV/AIDS among the marginalised Garifuna people there. Also in Honduras, Dr Adolfo Vidal works on HIV/AIDS with Asonapvsidah (the national association of people living with HIV/AIDS).



Nick Sireau/CIIR

CIIR/ICD development worker Ana Teresa Rodriguez.

CIIR promotes sustainable agriculture and campaigns to protect the environment. Inset pictures: (left) a farmer in the Dominican Republic; (right) Ecuadorean women at a protest march.



Luiz Augusto Guimaraes



Rainer Stöckelmann

themes

Sustainable environment

People living in or on the margins of poverty are usually worst affected by damage to the environment. We work to promote the local management and sustainable use of natural resources to protect the environment and improve the lives of poor people.

Just economies

People are not poor just because they lack skills, but often because of unjust and unfair policies and structures. We work for economic frameworks from the local to the global level that will provide improved opportunities for poor and excluded groups.

Jorge Arturo Díaz, a CIIR/ICD development worker, hands over a cup of coffee. “The people of Dipilto say this is the best coffee in the whole of Nicaragua,” he says. “Of course, everyone says that about their coffee,” he adds.

He’s laughing, but the atmosphere in the village, high up in the northern mountains of Nicaragua, is serious. There’s a bush fire raging just a few kilometres away, destroying acres of pine forest and coffee plantations, and driving poor farmers away from their homes and livelihoods.

“These fires are a disaster for this region,” says Jorge. A Colombian who has lived in Nicaragua for over 30 years, he is one of two CIIR/ICD development workers with Amunse, the northern region’s local government network.

Bush fires have become a regular occurrence in Nueva Segovia. Twenty years ago, the region was covered with pines and was known as the coolest place in Nicaragua. Today the days are scorching hot, and the mountains are only dotted with the occasional pine.

Logging and plagues of pine grubs have cleared the region of well over half its pine forest. During the annual rainy season the soil, no longer supported by strong tree roots, is washed down the mountainside. Once fertile land becomes like desert.

When Hurricane Mitch hit the region in 1998, the impact was devastating. Since then the pressure on the land has increased, with more forests cleared for agricultural use and poorer farmers pushed onto marginal agricultural land.

Jorge and his CIIR/ICD development worker colleague, Alex Zapata, are among those helping to tackle these problems. They work with local partner Amunse to promote sustainable environmental management, and to increase civil society participation in local development strategies.

Three more CIIR/ICD development workers assist another local partner, the National Union of Farmers and Cattle Rangers (UNAG), in its work with small farmers and coffee producers hit hardest by the climate change, soil erosion and other

Growing from the ground up

CIIR/ICD is working to help farmers in Central America protect the land that gives them their livelihood



Gideon Burrows

Marcio Filiman Sevilla Mardena, from Nicaragua, washes coffee beans.

problems.

Coffee, for which Nicaragua is famous, is the most volatile of crops. It needs cool temperatures and lots of shade. Meanwhile coffee prices are dropping, and worldwide competition is growing. Add to this the fact that coffee production and sale only take place during the three months around Christmas, and what remains are farmers with barely anything to eat when they can sell their coffee, and even less during the nine remaining months of the year.

UNAG’s approach is to encourage farmers, through its farmer-to-farmer aid programme, to grow speciality gourmet or organic coffee, which commands higher prices, and at the same time grow other crops that they and their families can eat or sell throughout the rest of the year. Growing diverse crops alongside coffee in small farms also helps to protect the soil and provides the shade needed for good coffee production.

Higher into the northern mountains near Dipilto, alongside a tiny tin building, farmer Marcio Filiman Sevilla Mardena is working with his wife and children to wash coffee beans harvested from his small plantation.

Sevilla is participating in the farmer-to-farmer programme. Among his coffee trees, there are apple trees and citrus plants, trees that produce beautiful wood for carving, and others that are harvested to produce medicines. There are plantains and tomatoes, bananas and a host of other fruits and vegetables. They appear to be planted haphazardly, but Sevilla knows exactly what grows where, and when it will be ready for harvest.

It looks like lots of work, but Sevilla – with help from UNAG – is forging his own way. When asked how many employees he has, he laughs and points to his chest. “Sólo uno,” he says. Only one.



highlights

Stemming the flow

In Ecuador, CIIR/ICD partner Pastoral Pedro Carbo (a Catholic social development organisation) and other organisations launched a coordinated challenge to state plans to build an irrigation dam for export crops. The campaign was successful in halting the project, which would have resulted in the flooding of significant areas of land and peasant communities.

A People's Festival

In November 2002, the South-East Asia Committee for Advocacy (SEACA) organised a People's Festival in Cambodia that attracted more than 400 delegates from eight countries in the region. Representatives came from organisations representing grassroots groups, peasants, indigenous people, the urban poor, workers, migrants, political refugees, youth, disabled people, elderly people, and victims of human rights abuses. A joint declaration was issued condemning the "increasing suffering due to the actions of big business, both foreign and local, and by the loss of our common natural resources". The activists lamented the dependency of South-East Asian economies on foreign resources and the fact that policies are dictated by international agreements with little regard for their adverse effects on local people.

Catherine Scott/CIIR



Rice fields in the Philippines.

Returning power to the people

In the Philippines, Agrarian Reform Now – an organisation supported by CIIR's partner, the South-East Asia Committee for Advocacy (SEACA) – launched a campaign to end the practice whereby powerful and influential families claim ownership of agricultural land even though they do not hold legal title to it. Other examples of advocacy projects run with support from SEACA included mobilising ethnic minority groups in Malaysia to campaign for affordable housing, and a mass campaign in Thailand on telecommunication/radio waves control and ownership that argued for people's right to free and full information. SEACA chair Toni Mohammed Kasim says: "We seek to give communities from the diverse regions of South-East Asia the ability to challenge policies that mitigate against them and keep them poor. We want to return power to the people."

Alternative education

In Peru, long-standing CIIR/ICD partner Formabiap, which promotes alternative methods of teaching based on the country's cultural and linguistic diversity, noted that the urban-based education system was depriving Amazonian children of an understanding of the region's environment. CIIR/ICD development worker Irene Ortiz helped Formabiap to develop an appropriate environmental education programme for teacher training and the primary school curriculum. She also assessed the environmental education needs of the Ashaninca primary school teachers of the Central Amazon region, and supervised their work in the schools as part of their training programme. Her contribution led to notable improvements in the understanding of teachers, children and community members about the protection of the environment.

Protecting natural resources

CIIR's environmental vulnerability programme in Central America, supported by the Community Fund, aims to strengthen the ability of civil society organisations in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua to run projects – such as UNAG's farmer-to-farmer programme – that enable rural people to manage and protect their own natural resources. CIIR/ICD development workers, working with local partner organisations, have assisted in areas such as the management of soils, agro-ecology and water management. In all three countries, techniques of sustainable agriculture have been developed with farmers' groups; hundreds of hectares of land have been reforested; crop diversification and the use of organic materials have been promoted; women have become increasingly involved in training workshops and productive activities; and campaigns of environmental education have been taken into schools and communities.

Maintaining diversity

In Peru, Jaime Torres, a CIIR/ICD development worker with CEPES (the Peruvian Centre for Social Studies), is developing a network of 'tele-centros' – low-cost Internet access cabins. These will provide agricultural information to around 6,000 small and subsistence farmers in the coastal Huaral region. The system enables farmers to determine which crops should be grown to suit weather conditions and market prices. It also allows each producer to find out what other farmers are growing, when the crop is due for harvest and when it will go to the market. Hector Salvador, a farmer from Pallpa, said: "The agrarian information system will be a huge help. Modernisation usually aims only to drive small producers out of business – to consolidate the land into the hands of the few. This system will help us to maintain diversity in what we grow and help ensure that we survive."

Opposing unfair trade policies

CIIR/ICD development workers in Ecuador supported partner organisations in mobilising opposition to policies that have a negative impact on small and medium-scale producers and their communities. This included awareness-raising and lobbying on the implications of the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas, which would threaten the livelihoods of small producers and farmers while safeguarding the interests of multinational businesses.



Matthew Heard/CIIR

Fernando Ruiz is an agro-forestry engineer working as a development worker in Ecuador.

Targeting decision-makers

CIIR organised a visit to the UK and Europe by representatives of CIIR/ICD partner organisations in Honduras and Nicaragua. The CIIR partners met with Members of Parliament, government officials and development agencies to inform them of the failings and weaknesses of World Bank-sponsored poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs).

Raising people's self-esteem

CIIR/ICD partner Centro EcuMénico Antonio Valdivieso in Nicaragua, assisted by CIIR/ICD development worker Wilmer Alonso Ruiz, worked with local groups – including organisations of young people in several cities in the region – to address how the deteriorating economic situation leads to low self-esteem and low expectations among poor and marginalised groups.



Rainer Stöckelmann

Indigenous people in Ecuador on a protest march against their continued impoverishment.



How CIIR/ICD works

CIIR/ICD development workers

(in post as at 30 June 2003)



The Zimbabwe Parents of Disabled Children Association has a CIIR/ICD development worker and lobbies for rights for the disabled.



Jon Spaul/CIIR-ICD

Skill-share and advocacy

CIIR'S PARTICULAR CONTRIBUTION to the process of change is through a combination of skill-sharing and policy advocacy that challenges the causes and structures of poverty.

Working with organisations and some governments in developing countries, CIIR/ICD staff identify where extra skills and support are needed. We then recruit experienced professionals, whom we call development workers, to help build our partners' abilities, capacity and self-reliance.

Around two-thirds of our development workers are themselves from developing countries. This fosters the exchange of appropriate skills and demonstrates that people in developing countries are at the forefront of devising strategies for dealing with the problems they face.

Tackling global poverty is not, however, just a question of increasing skills. National and international policies must also challenge injustice. Based on our values and experience of working with people and partner organisations, CIIR's advocacy work seeks to influence decision-makers, offer robust policy analysis, ensure the voices of our partners are heard, and mobilise members and supporters to take action for justice.

Staff at our head office in London press decision-makers for just and effective policies. We also seek to influence decision-makers and raise awareness among our members, supporters and the general public through the media and through our own publications, weekly e-mail newsletter and lively website.

In addition we are increasingly focusing on advocacy at a local level, through our country representatives and development workers who support our partners in their advocacy work.



Peters Projection World Map © Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft, Vaduz

Finances

Summary

During 2002-2003 there was an average of 80 development workers in post plus seven locally-recruited staff engaged in development work in our programmes. This was a small overall increase on last year, as CIIR recovers from the financial deficit of 2001.

Progress in some countries has been affected by security situations especially in the light of war in Iraq. We relocated development workers out of Somaliland and postponed the placement of a worker in Yemen. In Southern Africa a new structure has been put in place, with a sub-regional office based in Windhoek and a liaison officer in Zimbabwe, and is proving to be effective.

Management and administration

As part of our continuing commitment to improved management, changes to the chart of accounts have been introduced. These changes will enable greater analysis and transparency of detail. Training in the use of the new chart of accounts was undertaken with all country staff with positive effects. Levels of expenditure on management and administration remain consistent with good practice in the sector.

Reserves policy

CIIR is committed to increasing its reserves to safeguard its programmes of work and its employees in the event of sudden unexpected losses of income and/or increases in expenditure. As part of this strategy, £86,817 was transferred to reserves in this financial period, meeting the Board's target for the financial year. The Board continues to review CIIR's level of reserves on an annual basis, with a target to increase them in the coming year.

Managing risk

CIIR undertook a thorough assessment this year of risks faced by programmes and the organisation overall. This was set, discussed and reviewed by managers and the Board. Risks will be assessed regularly using this framework which includes a range of issues from security to reputation management, external factors and liabilities.

Governance

The Board of Trustees manages CIIR with the assistance of two sub-committees. One, Finance and Administration, deals with close scrutiny of budgets, performance and associated matters including fundraising. The other, the Nominations and Remuneration Committee, deals with Board recruitment, human resources and remuneration issues.

Charity Commission review

During the year, CIIR had a review with the Charity Commissioners. They found that the organisation was implementing best practice in a number of areas, highlighting trusteeship, governance and accountability. They were, however, concerned that CIIR's governing document had not been reviewed for some time. In response, a special sub-committee has been set up to oversee CIIR's review of its vision, value and purpose and to revise the governing document.

Stakeholder analysis

CIIR has a diverse group of stakeholders. To help in this process of reviewing our vision, values and purpose, we have undertaken an analysis of how members and other stakeholders see CIIR and what they see as important in its work. The results showed that our stakeholders, and especially our members, value our analysis of poverty and injustice and the structural response that we make. They call on us to continue to be radical and progressive, and we will be seeking to respond to this in the years ahead.

Financial statements

The financial statements of CIIR for the year ended 31 March 2003 have been audited by the independent auditors, Appleby & Wood. The auditors' report concludes:

"In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Institute's affairs as at 31 March 2003, as well as of the incoming resources and applications of resources, including its income and expenditure, and cash flow for the year then ended, and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985."

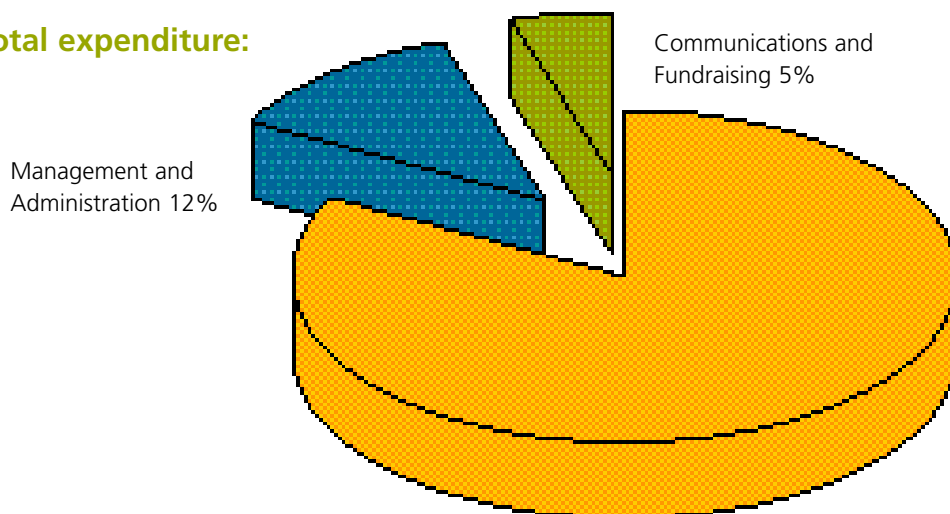
*(Appleby & Wood, Registered Auditors,
3 The Office Village, London E15 4EA)*

A copy of the full audited accounts is available on request from CIIR.

Where was the money spent?

Total expenditure: £4,559,496

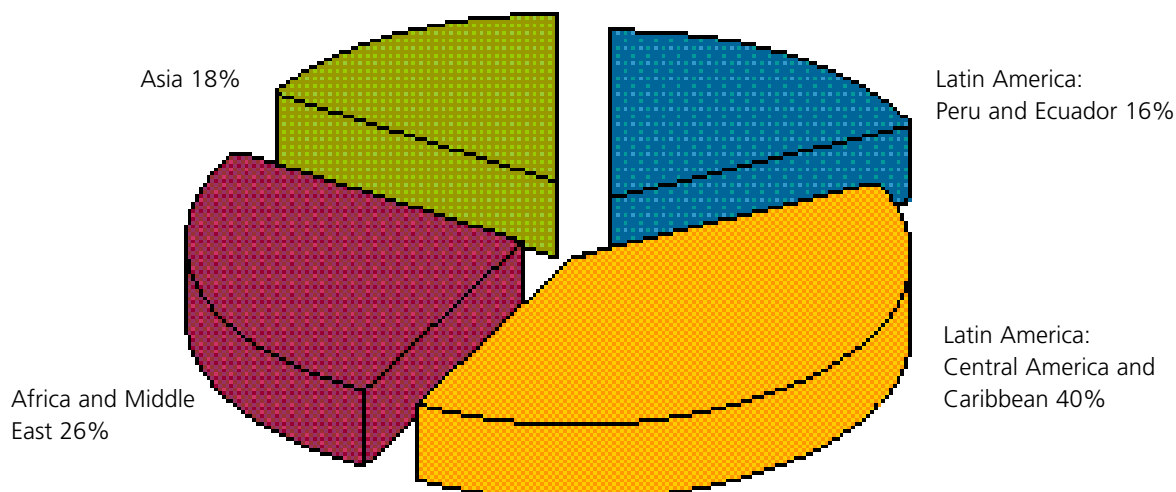
Breakdown of total expenditure:



Expenditure on programmes: £3,791,501

CIIR/ICD Programmes 83%

Regional breakdown:



Where did the money come from?

Total income: £4,646,313

- DFID PPA* 50%
- DFID South East Asia 9%
- EC 8%
- Community Fund 13%
- Comic Relief 5%
- CAFOD 3%
- APSO 2%
- Christian Aid 2%
- Cordaid 1%
- Fund for International Development (OPEC) 1%
- Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee 1%
- Kairos, Canada 1%
- Social Fund for Development (World Bank) 1%
- Trocaire 1%
- Membership, Donations, Sales & Sundries 2%

**DFID PPA is the Partnership Programme Agreement with the UK Department for International Development. For full names of other organisations listed, see under 'Acknowledgements' on page 22*

Trustees and staff

President: His Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Archbishop of Westminster

Episcopal Adviser: Rt Rev David Konstant, Bishop of Leeds

Board of Trustees

CIIR is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It is managed by a Board of Trustees.

Chair Helena Molyneux

Senior Vice Chair Max Figueiredo

Second Vice Chair Jane Leek

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Sue Lucas

Helena Molyneux

Rosemary Read

Dennis Sewell (appointed 1.11.02)

Graham Young

Trustees who retired at the 2002 AGM

Dr David Ryall

Staff

As at 30 June 2003, CIIR/ICD had 65 professional and administrative staff in post. Our country offices are staffed by nationals of those countries. Some country offices also employ support workers. CIIR/ICD also gratefully acknowledges the contributions of volunteers to our work at head office.

Head office (London, UK)

Senior staff:

Christine Allen Executive Director

James Collins Director of Finance and Administration

Denis Hawes Programmes Director

Country offices:

Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo); East Timor (Dili); Ecuador (Quito); El Salvador (San Salvador); Honduras (Tegucigalpa); Namibia (Windhoek); Nicaragua (Managua); Peru (Lima); Philippines (Manila); Somaliland (Hargeisa); Yemen (Sana'a); Zimbabwe (Harare)

SEACA Secretariat

Thailand (Bangkok)

Acknowledgements

CIIR wishes to thank all those who made donations to its work in the financial year 2002/2003.

The following agencies donated more than £20,000

- Agency for Personal Service Overseas (APSO)
- Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD)
- Christian Aid
- Community Fund
- Comic Relief
- Cordaid
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- European Commission (EC)
- Fund for International Development (OPEC – Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries)
- Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee
- Kairos, Canada (Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives)
- Social Fund for Development (World Bank)
- Trocaire (Catholic Agency for World Development)

The following agencies and individuals donated more than £1,000

- Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
- Ben Andradi
- Bethlehem Fathers
- C & G Haskins
- Canadian Catholic Organisation for Development and Peace
- Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand
- Caritas Australia
- Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales
- Daughters of Jesus
- Davies, Father P
- Fastenopfer
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- Ireland Aid
- John Hatherley
- Margaret Williams
- Marie-Henry Keane, Dominican Generalate
- Misereor
- Missio
- Missionary Society of St Columban
- Network for Social Change
- Oxfam
- Passionist Order
- Penarth CIIR Support Group
- Servite Sisters Charitable Trust Fund
- Society of the Holy Child Jesus
- Society of the Sacred Heart
- Taylor, Rt Rev Maurice
- UNICEF
- Wild Rose Trust

CIIR would like to thank all our supporters, some of whom did not wish to be publicly acknowledged.

Members

CIIR has over 1,500 members across the world. As a membership organisation our members are crucial to us. They provide support and commitment and help steer the work that we do.

During the year we welcomed 108 new members, up from 62 the previous year. We have also seen our income from subscriptions and donations from the membership increase again this year (up to nearly £34,000).

Make a difference

Help us work for justice and towards the eradication of poverty by becoming a member of CIIR today.

Our members receive:

- CIIR's quarterly magazine, which has incisive analysis and hard-hitting features on development and international issues
- Discounts on a range of CIIR publications
- In-depth analysis via CIIR's *Comment* series
- CIIR's Annual Review
- Invitations to the CIIR Annual General Meeting and CIIR conferences which have high profile keynote speakers.

Annual membership is £20, or £8 unwaged, or £25 for those outside the UK.

Share your experience

As our projects grow it has been essential to recruit new members and our current members have proven to be successful and enthusiastic advocates of CIIR, helping recruit new members to the organisation. If you would like copies of the CIIR membership leaflet to distribute to friends please contact Rebecca Swenson, Membership and Fundraising Coordinator on email rebecca@ciir.org, telephone 020 7288 8601 or by post at CIIR head office.

If you are not a member and would like to join please contact Rebecca Swenson at the above address.

Nick Sireau/CIIR



A woman at Ayaha settlement in Somaliland, where CIIR/ICD works with projects supporting returning refugees

“My membership is my main window into the continuing struggle for justice and peace overseas” – CIIR Member

For further information, please fill in the form below and return to FREEPOST CIIR or e-mail the following information to rebecca@ciir.org:

- I would like to receive a membership form
- I would like to receive a donations form
- I would like to receive membership forms to distribute to friends and family
- I would like to receive a regular e-newsletter about CIIR's work

Title Mr Mrs Ms Dr Rev

Name (please print)

Address

Post code **Tel**

e-mail





The Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR)

wants to see a world free of poverty and conflict, in which all people enjoy human rights, social justice and well-being and can look forward to a sustainable future.

We seek to bring about this vision by supporting a range of people's organisations and government agencies as they challenge poverty and injustice. Our approach is rooted in inclusion and participation:

- inclusion means working with people who are socially, politically and economically marginalised – especially women and ethnic groups – and seeking to ensure that policies and structures are inclusive
- participation is about enabling people to take an active part in working for change in their local communities and beyond.

CIIR is rooted in the Catholic community and gospel values, but is independent of official church structures. Over the last 60 years and more, CIIR has developed into an international organisation working with people of all faiths and none, with a continuing commitment to standing up for justice and truth in the face of oppression.

Youths practise juggling for Circus Hargeisa, an initiative of CIIR/ICD partner in Somaliland, Havoyoco (Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Committee).



Published by the Catholic Institute for International Relations

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In some countries, CIIR operates under the name of International Cooperation for Development (ICD).