



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday 23rd September 2009

UnitingWorld responds to Zimbabwe food security crisis

UnitingWorld has this week launched a Food Relief Appeal for the people of rural Zimbabwe, in response to worsening issues of food security.

The appeal follows an initial AUD\$25,000 commitment from UnitingWorld which saw 835 families in Buhera receive emergency food supplies through UnitingWorld's partner, the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe.

UnitingWorld now aims to raise AUD\$100,000 through the Food Relief Appeal to provide emergency food supplies for another 1,765 families in the district of Buhera. The emergency food packs will give each family enough corn and beans for one to two weeks as well as cooking oil and soap.

"After visiting Zimbabwe for the initial distribution of food in August of this year, it is clear that the people in this area know what it means to be hungry," said Rob Floyd, Associate Director of the Relief and Development Unit of UnitingWorld.

"The additional food supplies that this appeal will provide can begin to alleviate the food crisis for many people. We will continue to work for lasting change through the recommencement of our Water Harvesting project."

Rev. Simbarashe Sithole, Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe said, "On behalf of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, it would be very helpful if we can have food assistance for our people. As a church we are doing our best to ensure that whatever little is available gets to the remotest part of the country."

An estimated five million Zimbabweans are currently in need of food relief and the UN has predicted that this number could soar to over seven million by the end of the year.

More information about the appeal is available on our website at www.unitingworld.org.au, including a short video of the initial food distribution in August.

Donations can be made to UnitingWorld (Gifts of \$2 and over are tax deductible):

Online www.unitingworld.org.au

Call 1800 998 122

Via mail PO Box A2266 Sydney South 1235

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