

Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction

Volume 4
Issue 3 *The Journal of Mine Action*

Article 30

October 2000

Mercy Corps International

CISR JMU

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Recommended Citation

JMU, CISR (2000) "Mercy Corps International," *Journal of Mine Action* : Vol. 4 : Iss. 3 , Article 30.
Available at: <http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal/vol4/iss3/30>

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Mercy Corps International



Mercy Corps International, a non-profit voluntary agency, is one of the United States most resourceful international charities, contributing close to 94 percent of its resources to the most vulnerable areas in the world. Since 1979, when Mercy Corps was founded as Save the Refugees Fund, it has dispersed over \$450 million in assistance to people in more than 68 countries. With the support of several prominent Americans, Save the Refugees Fund was able to expand its efforts to assist not only the Cambodian refugees who attempted to flee by boat but also vulnerable people in other nations. In 1981, the Fund was re-named Mercy Corps International to reflect its broadened humanitarian role. With the intention of alleviating suffering, poverty and oppression, Mercy Corps' programs focus on providing support to victims of natural disaster or conflict by helping them build secure, productive and lawful communities. In recent years, Mercy Corps has become a leader in integrating civil society initiatives and human rights

advocacy into humanitarian assistance. In 1999, it provided food, shelter, health care and economic opportunity to more than three million people in 24 developing and emerging countries, sent emergency goods and material aid to eight additional countries and delivered \$93 million in humanitarian aid.

Mercy Corps is a world leader in emergency aid. It builds stronger societies and finds long-term solutions to poverty. Rather than providing a one-time consumption of resources, it offers humanitarian aid that helps lay the foundation for building stronger societies and empowers the people in countries plagued by civil, religious and ethnic conflict. With the understanding that no single agency can meet the challenges of poverty and oppression alone, Mercy Corps forges partnerships with other international and local organizations. Mercy Corps promotes a broad coalition for humanitarian action with Mercy Corps Europe, Pax World Service, Proyecto Aldea Global and MerciPhil Development Foundation. This global movement of organizations is committed to alleviating poverty and finding peaceful solutions to social problems by providing quick-response, high-impact relief and development around the globe.

Mercy Corps has several approaches to help communities find lasting solutions in overcoming poverty and oppression.

- Responding to human crises: Emergency relief services assist people afflicted by conflict or disaster.
- Investing in long-term solutions: Sustainable community development focuses on the needs of children and their caregivers. It helps people grow more food, protect their environments, improve health care, build housing and infrastructure, earn more money by starting small businesses and educate their children.
- Restoring torn social fabrics: Civil society initiatives promote citizen participation, accountability, nonviolent conflict resolution and the rule of law.

Mercy Corps has a global network of donors, including individuals, corporations, foundations, churches, governments and international organizations, such as the United Nations and the European Union. In Kosovo, Central Asia, Mongolia, the Caucasus and elsewhere, major donors have entrusted them with multimillion-dollar grants to provide humanitarian aid.

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