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Your gifts will support the Christmas Bowl at work in the world - in Fiji where the restoration of calm and purpose to people who formerly lived in idyllic locations is being pursued; in the Solomon Islands where trauma counselling programs is helping to rebuild lives; and in French Polynesia where advocacy for victims of nuclear testing is becoming more widely accepted by the governments involved.



Photo: Bjarne Ussing

Hadjé Simine, 37 years old, a refugee from Korney in West Darfur, near her tent at Iridimi Camp.

Christian World Service to incorporate

The Forum of the National Council of Churches in Australia in Adelaide agreed to incorporate Christian World Service while ensuring its close links with CWS.

The new company will be legally known as NCCA Christian World Service Limited but will operate on a day to day basis as CWS Australia (CWSA).

All 41 members of the NCCA Executive will be members of the CWSA company. There will be a further 30 members, nominated by their churches as having 'a demonstrated interest' in the work of CWSA. However, this second category of membership will constitutionally never be higher than three quarters of the size of the NCCA Executive. The Board of Directors will be elected at the AGM mostly from names nominated by churches.

What the new structure enables is a clarity of governance and decision making, required by the ACFID Code of Conduct and AusAID, for

international development agencies such as CWSA. Incorporation will also limit liability to CWSA alone and not involve the whole of NCCA, as is now the case with a CWS Commission.

The General Secretary of the NCCA, the Reverend John Henderson welcomed the decision and said : "Following many months of consideration the Forum accepted a simpler and more transparent structure for CWSA, while retaining CWSA firmly within the family of the NCCA".

The Reverend Gregor Henderson, Chair of CWS, expressed his delight with the outcome: "It will enable CWSA to increase its profile in the Australian churches and community, whilst retaining CWSA as a significant expression of Australian churches together responding to need in the world through the Christmas Bowl and other initiatives. Incorporation will in no way diminish this mission of CWS".

Caesar D'Mello

Sudan Appeal

The appeal aims to raise US\$17.5 million worldwide to provide shelter, water, sanitation, basic sleeping and kitchen materials for people in camps and burned-out villages in the Darfur Province in Western Sudan. The program also aims to provide supplementary food rations to 50,000 children under five and education for school-aged children.

The Darfur Province is home to some six million nomads and farmers. It is estimated that there are over two

million conflict-affected people in Darfur in need of emergency support.

This is the first formal joint appeal between Protestants, Orthodox and Catholics in Darfur. Their goal is to help people affected by militia attacks maintain their basic daily activities with dignity and stabilise and then reduce environmental and health-related diseases. The CWS partner in Sudan, the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) will be a key respondent on the ground in Darfur.

GIFTS FOR THE DARFUR EMERGENCY CAN BE SENT TO CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE VIA WEBSITE www.ncca.org.au/give-christmas_bowl, TOLL-FREE PHONE 1800 025 101 OR MAILED TO LOCKED BAG 199 SYDNEY 1230 AUSTRALIA