



MADRE

Fall/Winter 2007

speaks



FOOD FOR LIFE:
Your Lunch's Link to
Climate Change, Biodiversity,
and Global Justice



MADRE

**Rights, Resources & Results
for Women Worldwide**

121 West 27th Street, # 301
New York, NY 10001
Telephone: (212) 627-0444
Fax: (212) 675-3704
e-mail: madre@madre.org
www.madre.org

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From the Executive Director VIVIAN STROMBERG

Dear Friends,

This summer, we said goodbye to three friends who inspired MADRE and whose commitment to justice has enriched my own life and work over the years.

Vilma Espín, who passed on June 18, 2007, was a leader of the Cuban Revolution and the President of the Federation of Cuban Women. For years, Vilma worked with MADRE to help people in the US understand the devastating impact of the US embargo on women and families in Cuba. Vilma was a personal friend and a tireless fighter for social justice and human rights, displaying unparalleled integrity as the head of the Cuban delegations to UN Conferences on Women held in Mexico, Copenhagen, Nairobi, and Beijing.



Vilma Espín and Vivian Stromberg

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Moe Fishman

© GEORGIA WEVER

On August 6, we said goodbye to Moe Fishman, who—as a young man in the 1930s—volunteered with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade to fight fascists in Spain. For Moe, the Good Fight didn't end in Spain. During years of McCarthyist efforts to brand the Abraham Lincoln Brigade veterans as communist subversives, Moe never named names or compromised his principles. For decades, I saw Moe's dedication to the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Association. He kept the organization alive through the crucial, sometimes ordinary work of putting out the newsletter, keeping the books, and running the office. Although the Spanish Civil War ended in disaster for the Abraham Lincoln Brigades and the people of Spain, Moe helped transmit the legacy of the Spanish fight for freedom and democracy into many subsequent struggles, including today's opposition to Bush's war against Iraq. Moe was 92 when he died.



Grace Paley

© MADRE

On August 22, Grace Paley, a lifelong writer, rebel, and longtime supporter of MADRE, died at the age of 84. Grace described herself as a "combative pacifist." In fact, for as long as I knew her, wherever there was a fight for freedom, Grace was there. In Vietnam, in Central America, in the streets of New York and Washington, D.C.—there was Grace, marching with the women, listening to their stories, and putting her poems to work.

Vilma, Moe, and Grace remind us that progressive

social change is an ongoing, daily, and historic process, and that while none of us can finish the job, all of us can contribute.

Sincerely,

MADRE Speaks Volume XXIII, #2

MADRE is an international women's human rights organization that works toward a world in which all people enjoy the fullest range of individual and collective human rights; in which resources are equitably and sustainably shared; in which women participate effectively in all aspects of society; and in which people have a meaningful say in decisions that affect their lives.

Since we began in 1983, MADRE has delivered over 24 million dollars worth of support to community-based women's organizations in Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, the Balkans, and the United States.

Newsletter Staff

EDITORS: Yifat Susskind and Nancy Khweiss
DESIGN: Amy Thesing

FRONT COVER PHOTOS: © ANGELA ORGAN (LEFT),
REPLANT HAITI (RIGHT)

BACK COVER PHOTO: © MADRE

FOOD FOR LIFE: Your Lunch's Link to Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Global Justice

We know that the world has reached a tipping point in its ability to absorb the harmful impacts of unsustainable resource use driven by economic greed. This year, we saw record-breaking extreme weather on every continent, wars raging over natural resources, and a jump in the number of people who are chronically hungry. These are the symptoms of a global crisis that threatens the very viability of our planet.

But we are also on the verge of another tipping point, as hopeful as the threat is grave.

More and more people are realizing that we cannot continue to live outside the laws of nature and that we have the capability to reinvent our economies and habitats on a sustainable basis and in ways that safeguard human rights. Around the world, strong public consciousness is spreading about the interrelationships between the problems that threaten our communities and the ecosystems on which we depend. Increasingly, people are focused on creating *concrete, realizable solutions that are both local and systemic.*

MADRE's new **Food for Life** campaign is part of this movement to reset the course of the world. We began with a call to improve the US Farm Bill—the multi-billion dollar legislation that will impact health, hunger, poverty, biodiversity, climate change, Indigenous rights, and women's human rights in the US and around the world. These are some of the core issues of our global crisis, which means they must also be the site of sustainable solutions.

MADRE is crafting these solutions with the women who are on the frontlines of our global crisis. We are developing small-scale, organic family farms to promote food sovereignty in Miskito communities in Nicaragua. We are working with Kuna women in Panama to protect biological and cultural diversity and safeguard the Amazon rainforest. We are making sure that women in Sudan and other places hit hard by climate change have the resources and training they need to protect their families, defend their rights, and rebuild their communities on a stronger foundation (see page 11 for details).



Food for Life also works in the international human rights arena to make sure that economic and environmental policies recognize that women must be central to any solutions to our global crisis. The words “economy” and “ecology” both come from the Greek word for household—the arena of women's traditional roles as primary caretakers of families and communities. Even today, in nearly every society, women are mainly responsible for providing families with healthy food, clean water, and—particularly in the Global South—sufficient fuel. These resources depend on the health of the environment, placing women at the heart of economy and ecology the world over.

But the ecosystems that have always provided our food and energy have been exploited to their breaking points. That's because our global economy is driven by an irrational and amoral economic model (unregulated capitalism) that seeks infinite growth on a finite planet without regard for people's wellbeing. Global warming, along with the ravages of industrialized agriculture (including hunger, rural poverty, and the destruction of biodiversity) are some of the consequences of this economic system. Ultimately, it's this economic model, which prioritizes limitless profit-making above all else, that must change if we are to avoid the worst impacts of global warming.

Food for Life is part of a worldwide effort to turn our global crisis into an opportunity; a chance not to save the world, but to remake it. As we face rising temperatures and declining supplies of cheap energy, change will come of necessity. It's up to us—working in partnership with women and families around the world—to create a change for the better.

FOOD FOR LIFE: Your Lunch's Link to Climate

Our global food system is at a point of great transition. On one hand, corporate agriculture has never had so much control over the world's food supply, and the destructive effects are felt by people everywhere: gas-guzzling machinery, toxic pesticides, and the clear-cutting of forests and grasslands are fueling global warming and poisoning the environment. In the North, heavily subsidized factory farms overproduce grains that are dumped throughout the global South, bankrupting local farmers. And sales of processed and genetically modified foods are replacing healthier, traditional diets—not just in the US, but around the world.

At the same time, these dangers have led people everywhere to think about the links between food, the environment, and social justice. Demands for food sovereignty—peoples' right to control their own food systems—is at an all-time high. Even in the US, where much of the population thinks of farming as a quaint and remote activity, more and more people are realizing that if you eat, you're involved in agriculture.

The US Farm Bill, with its far-reaching implications for climate change, world hunger, and the ecological health of the planet, demonstrates that there are no “single issues” because the problems we face are inter-related. That's why we chose the Farm Bill as the starting point for MADRE's **Food for Life** campaign. We invite you to visit MADRE's website to read our **Food for Life** articles excerpted here.

INDUSTRIALIZED AGRICULTURE: Globalizing Hunger

The world produces more food than ever—enough to feed twice the global population. Yet, more people than ever suffer from hunger, and numbers are rising. Today, 854 million people—70 percent of them women—are chronically hungry, up from 800 million in 1996. The root cause is the inequitable distribution of food and the resources needed to produce it. In order to eat, people need either land to farm or money to buy food. Over the last few decades, industrial agriculture (the type enshrined in the 2007 US Farm Bill) has siphoned off land and money from rural communities. Today, 70 percent of the world's hungry people live in rural areas, where nearly all food is grown.

Visit the websites of corporations like Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland—who together control 65 percent of the global grain trade—and you will read that their mission is to “feed a growing world.” The reality is that industrial farming has made more people hungry. That's because Big Farming is part of a larger corporate model that prioritizes profit-making over all else, even people's basic right to food. Around the world, industrial agriculture bankrupts and displaces small farmers, most of whom are women, and compels farmers to grow luxury “export crops” instead of food.

Export farming is also a major contributor to global warming. Industrial agriculture requires huge inputs of petroleum: it takes 100 gallons of oil to grow just one acre of US corn. This model of agriculture also requires a massive worldwide transportation infrastructure, often built at the expense of local people and ecosystems. Today, food that could be grown locally is shipped, trucked, or flown halfway around the planet. That's because trade rules have so distorted agricultural markets that almost anywhere you go, food from the other side of the world costs less than food grown locally. In the US, the average bite of food travels 1,300 miles from farm to fork. The system is



The Food From Family Farms Act

The Food From Family Farms Act promotes an alternative to the current US Farm Bill.

Drafted by a coalition of US family farmers, it works to ensure that federal policies support small farmers, rural communities, and sustainable farming practices at home and abroad. It proposes cooperative international trade based on the principle of food sovereignty, which protects human rights and the environment.

Visit www.nffc.net for details.

© MADRE

Change, Biodiversity, and Global Justice

so wasteful that many countries import the very same foods that they export. For example, last year the US exported—and imported—900,000 tons of beef.

Around the world, women farmers are creating sustainable alternatives to this model of corporate agriculture. In Bangladesh, 65,000 families have joined the Nayakrishi farmers' movement to cultivate community-based, organic farms. Nayakrishi combines ancient farming practices with scientific innovations; revives traditional crops and diets; uses locally available, renewable resources; and encourages farmers to share seeds as the basis of household food security.

CLIMATE CHANGE: What Do Women's Human Rights Have To Do With It?

Climate change threatens everyone, but it does not threaten all people equally. The most severe effects are not occurring in the industrialized countries that have caused the problem, but in the Global South. Poor people whose governments are unable or unwilling to respond to their needs are most at risk, and worldwide, 70 percent of poor people are women.

Most approaches to tackling climate change focus on scientific and technological aspects of the problem, ignoring its social impact. Both the Kyoto Protocol and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change neglect to even mention gender. Yet women living in poverty are the most threatened by the dangers that stem from climate change, including food and water shortages, flooding, and disasters like hurricanes. At the same time, women are key actors in ensuring their communities' ability to survive and adapt.

As those who plant, produce, procure, and prepare most of the world's food, women have specialized knowledge about preserving threatened food supplies and ensuring their families' survival in the face of scarcity. During water shortages, women's knowledge of managing and maintaining water sources becomes critical to communities' survival. Women's central role in building wind-resistant housing, planting trees to mitigate erosion, preserving seeds, composting to improve soil quality, and conserving safe drinking water have protected generations of

Feed People, Not Cars: Biofuels are no Solution to Climate Change

Biofuels are being touted as a solution for "clean energy." Yet, most of the policies being put forward envision substituting plant-based fuels for fossil fuels without reducing our overall consumption of energy. These proposals—backed by agribusiness, biotech companies, and oil interests—are already jacking up food prices, depleting soil and water supplies, destroying forests, and violating the rights of Indigenous and local people in areas designated as "biofuel plantations."

We need sustainable solutions to climate change, not corporate solutions that seek to simply shift our energy addiction from one resource to another. We need to consume less, not just differently, and steer clear of proposals that expand the reach—along with all the pitfalls—of industrialized agriculture. Creative and practical solutions for meeting our energy requirements—including some local, sustainable biofuel programs—are being developed around the world. We can support proposals for developing renewable energy sources, while recognizing the need to reduce overall consumption and protect human rights—including everyone's basic right to food.

© JONATHAN SNOW

communities from the worst effects of flooding. In the wake of climate disasters such as hurricanes, women are primarily responsible for meeting the needs of survivors. They do so by extending their social networks and intensifying their roles of caring for families and communities.

All of this knowledge needs to be protected and developed for poor communities to meet the challenges of climate change. In fact, defending the full range of women's human rights within the context of addressing climate change is essential both to protecting women themselves and to cultivating their capacity for leadership—on which so many lives depend. Too often, women's knowledge and the burdens women carry during times of emergency go unrecognized.

FOOD FOR LIFE: Your Lunch's Link to Climate

© ELIZABETH RAPPAPORT



Through MADRE's Harvesting Hope program, Indigenous women in Nicaragua cultivate small-scale, organic farms, like this one shown above.

In December, MADRE will be at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia. MADRE is working to infuse the priorities and perspectives of community-based women into new international policies to control climate change, and to make sure that women have the resources and training they need to play leadership roles in their communities, their countries, and globally.

Biodiversity = Life

For the first time in 65 million years, we are facing a mass extinction of the Earth's plants and animals. The main culprit is industrialized agriculture, which has displaced diverse native species, destroyed habitats, and polluted land and water ecosystems the world over. The damage is propelled by global trade rules that treat biodiversity—or the variety and patterns of life on Earth—merely as the raw material for profit-making.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) allows corporations to patent pretty much anything, including microorganisms, seeds, plants, medicines, and traditional knowledge. By “owning” sources of life, such as seeds, giant biotech corporations like Monsanto and Cargill exert a dangerous degree of control over the world's food supply. As Monsanto President Robert Fraley boasted, “What you are seeing is not just a consolidation of seed companies, it's really a consolidation of the entire food chain.”

Since the WTO was formed in 1995, control over biodiversity has been taken away from communities and national governments and claimed by corporations. As a result, communities have lost access to natural resources, governments have lost the right to control patent laws on food, and citizens have lost the right to influence those laws in ways that could benefit their communities and countries.

Around the world, Indigenous Peoples whose territories hold most of the world's biodiversity have taken the lead in denouncing and resisting patent rights as conceived by the WTO. They reject the claim that individuals “invent” knowledge and that knowledge exists merely to be bought and sold. Instead, Indigenous worldviews suggest that knowledge is created communally, over time, and through processes that are always embedded in culture and place. Based on this understanding, Indigenous Peoples demand that their collective knowledge, including their expertise in preserving biodiversity, be exempt from WTO regulations.

MADRE monitors governments' commitments to protecting biodiversity through the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). MADRE is working to ensure that the rights and perspectives of local women and Indigenous Peoples are recognized in the policies crafted at the CSD.

— By YIFAT SUSSKIND, *Communications Director*

Positive Change Is Not Only Possible—It Is Already Happening

You probably don't need to be told that the threat of climate change is real. If you're concerned about the issue, it's fairly easy to conjure the apocalyptic scenes of widespread drought, frequent deadly storms, mass hunger, and wars over natural resources like oil and water. Much harder to come by are examples of positive actions that can avert these disasters and ease the crisis in places where they are already in play. So we've decided to skip the litany of catastrophes that await if global warming is not controlled. Instead, we want to share some solutions. None are perfect or complete, but each offers a model of positive change that is more than theoretically possible—it is already happening.

Many of these examples are small-scale and local. That's instructive because our best hope for sustainability—in agriculture, industry, energy, community design, and government—may lie in local, small-scale models like some of those presented here. It may seem as though large-scale problems require large-scale solutions. But most big institutions and processes are driven by the very people and ideas that have generated our global crisis. It's

in the local and the small that the majority of people can exercise agency and decision-making power. That's what the women of MADRE's sister organizations discover as they work with us to create change in their communities.

While we may not be looking to create large-scale models of every success story, we do need to replicate, adapt, and institutionalize what works for people, communities, and the environment. We need to link local initiatives and build on them by enacting policies that can sustain their momentum. That's the crux of MADRE's human rights advocacy work at the national and international levels. Ultimately, it's governments that are responsible for ensuring human rights and environmental sustainability, so we've focused here on viable solutions that have been adopted by national governments.

To overcome our global environmental crisis, we need solutions that are at once visionary and concrete. Here are some of the many innovations that are ours to develop.

Q&A **What if women—the majority of the world's farmers—could resist the commercialization of agriculture and strengthen food-centered economies?**

When the World Bank forced Kenyan farmers to start growing tea for export instead of food, Kenyan women took the lead in resisting those policies. Through their Green Belt Movement, the women planted over 40 million trees to offset deforestation caused by tea plantations and created initiatives to promote sustainable farming. Today, the Green Belt Movement includes hundreds of thousands of rural people across Africa.

What if poor rural families were given land so that they could grow their own food?

Through mass civil disobedience and political organizing, the Landless Workers' Movement (MST) in Brazil succeeded in overturning government policy and securing 15 million acres of farmland for 250,000 families. The families' average income is now four times the minimum wage. Infant mortality is half the national average and many MST settlements are models of sustainable agriculture.

What if Indigenous Peoples' collective rights were recognized, ending the attack on those who have managed and maintained the world's most delicate ecosystems for millennia?

This year saw a major step in this direction with the passage of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration



© ELIZABETH RAPPAPORT

Women from Umoja, MADRE's Kenyan sister organization.

recognizes Indigenous Peoples' right to control their territories and resources, which hold much of the Earth's remaining biodiversity and half its untapped fossil fuels. Now, MADRE is working with Indigenous women to ensure that governments honor the Declaration.

What if economic policies recognized that preserving the environment was more important than obtaining fossil fuels?

Ecuador's President Correa has announced that he will not drill for oil in Yasuni National Park. The decision marks the first time an oil-producing country has formally chosen to forgo oil exploration and shift its economy from oil dependency to more sustainable alternatives that protect ecosystems and Indigenous rights while averting more global carbon emissions.

What if governments valued people's happiness over economic growth?

The government of Bhutan has replaced the singular, narrow standard of Gross Domestic Product with a measure it calls Gross National Happiness. Bhutan is not a utopia, but it has made remarkable progress in building its economy while preserving the environment, limiting corruption, and supporting education and healthcare. Life expectancy in Bhutan has risen by 19 years since the "happiness index" was established in 1972.

What if genuine democracy—the precondition for policies that benefit people over profits—were to flourish?

In the past eight years, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Bolivia have elected governments that are forging alternatives to US-led corporate globalization. The Indigenous and social movements that brought these governments to power are not just reforming, but redefining the state through a shift from representative democracy (easily controlled by elites) to participatory democracy, where power is devolved to communities and the principle of majority rule with minority rights is upheld.

What if we could redress the forced impoverishment of the Global South?

Debt cancellation, carbon fees, and international taxes on arms sales and on profits derived from financial speculation are some of the complex yet concrete proposals at hand. MADRE is part of a broad movement working to craft debt cancellation policies that can support national sovereignty and women's human rights. Not long ago, it seemed impossible. Today, debt cancellation has been partially implemented and is squarely on the agenda of economic policymakers.

What if climate change could be stopped?

Climate change *can* be stopped, with existing technologies, if

governments use their prerogative to regulate and tax corporations so that they limit resource use and generate funds for sustainable development. According to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we have the know-how to reduce global carbon emissions by 26 billion tons by 2030—that's more than enough to avoid the 2-degree Celsius rise in temperatures that would bring on the worst consequences of global warming.

What if governments realized that striving for limitless economic growth is not a solution, but a cause of poverty and ecological collapse?

Thailand has pioneered a "sufficiency economy," based on low growth to reduce poverty and conserve natural resources. The model aims to promote economic self-reliance, rural development, and environmental protection. According to the Thai government, "during these times of rapid globalization and global warming, emphasizing moderation, responsible consumption, and resilience to external shocks is of great relevance not just to Thailand but to countries and communities across the world."

What if we saw the need to de-industrialize our societies as an opportunity, not a crisis?

In the UK, "transition towns" are creating new modes of locally rooted agriculture, commerce, energy, transportation, housing, and government that are the building blocks of a "post-carbon future." This "transition movement" holds that the need to consume less oil can lead to a healthier, happier future in places where the shift is well-planned, locally grounded, and democratic. Sweden has announced its intention to be oil-free by 2020, and Finland may soon follow. Cuba has already transitioned from being one of Latin America's most industrialized countries to being one of the most sustainable. For decades, Soviet oil imports and trade fueled Cuba's economy. Today, 80 percent of Cuban agriculture is organic and the country is largely self-sufficient.

What if a critical mass of people the world over realized the need for urgent action?

We are already there! People on every continent are mobilizing to address our global crisis. They are not waiting for governments or outside leadership, but are organizing their own community-based solutions, including local food systems; community-controlled, renewable sources of energy; and sustainable modes of manufacturing, trade, and consumption. Women are at the heart of much of this organizing. Working at the crossroads of economy and ecology, they are propelling a transformation of global values and policies on which our future depends.

— By YIFAT SUSSKIND, *Communications Director*

For citations, please visit: www.madre.org.

The MADRE Food for Life

THANKS/GIVING PLEDGE:

A Holiday Table Resource



Thanksgiving is a perfect time to help expand the circle of support for MADRE's work to promote food security, sustainable farming, and environmental justice for all. Tear out and copy these pledge cards to distribute to friends and family at your Thanksgiving table. Collect the pledge cards at the end of the evening and mail back to MADRE.

Contact us if you would like additional copies of this newsletter to share during the holiday.

TAKE THE THANKS/GIVING PLEDGE

Support food security, sustainable farming, and environmental justice for women worldwide. Help MADRE fight for women through projects like these:

- > **HARVESTING HOPE**
An organic farming project in Nicaragua
- > **SAVING SEEDS, SAVING LIVES**
A women's farming cooperative in Sudan
- > **DAUGHTERS OF THE STARS**
An Indigenous women's initiative to preserve biodiversity in Panama



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PHOTO © ANGELA ORGAN

YES, I want to make a tax-deductible THANKS/GIVING PLEDGE of \$_____ to support MADRE's programs with women and families around the world.

NAME _____

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PLEASE CHARGE MY VISA/MASTERCARD (CIRCLE ONE)

CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

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House destroyed by Hurricane Felix in Nicaragua in Sept. 2007. © CADPI



Indigenous Kuna women in Panama at a MADRE-sponsored training on Indigenous rights. © FPCI

MADRE Program Highlights, Fall 2007

Emergency and Disaster Relief

NICARAGUA > In September, immediately following Hurricane Felix, MADRE provided emergency shelters and medical supplies to families on the North Atlantic Coast. Because the storm hit just before the bean harvest, wiping out the staple food supply of many families, MADRE delivered agricultural seeds for women's organic food gardens. MADRE also sent a construction worker who had worked in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to help rebuild schools and repair Casa Museo, home to our sister organization CADPI.



© CADPI

PERU > In August, after a magnitude-8.0 earthquake, MADRE acted quickly to raise money for our sister organizations, LUNDU and CHIRAPAQ. MADRE's support

enabled our partners to deliver safe water, food, medicines, housing, stoves, clothing, and other necessities to 1,000 Afro-Peruvian and Indigenous families living near the earthquake's epicenter.

Environmental Justice

PANAMA New Partner! > MADRE has begun working with Daughters of the Stars, a collective of Indigenous Kuna women who recently came together through a MADRE-sponsored workshop on the recovery of Indigenous knowledge of biodiversity. Daughters of the Stars is organizing to protect and develop Indigenous knowledge related to the environment and Indigenous rights.

Women's Health

PALESTINE New Partner! > MADRE is pleased to announce our new partnership with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS). This dedicated group of healthcare workers and community health organizers in the West Bank and Gaza provides crucial medical services to Palestinian women and families. The PMRS *Safe Birth Project* promotes Palestinian women's right to high-quality reproductive health services—a basic human right that is violated by Israeli occupation policies.

NICARAGUA > MADRE is working with the Autonomous Women's Movement to challenge a draconian new anti-abortion law that criminalizes even therapeutic abortion needed to save a woman's life. As part of the September 28 Campaign for the Decriminalization of Abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean, MADRE is working to give voice to the women's movement and to strategize legal challenges to the Nicaraguan law in the international arena.

MADRE'S Emergency and Disaster Relief Fund

One of MADRE's strengths is our ability to meet urgent needs of women and families as we work toward a longterm vision of social justice. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to MADRE's Emergency and Disaster Relief Fund at www.madre.org/emergencyfund ■ Call (212) 627-0444 ■ Or you can send a check to MADRE.



fall 2007 program highlights



(TOP LEFT) Young women attend a MADRE-supported youth education initiative in Cité Soleil, Haiti © ANNE SOSIN
 (BOTTOM LEFT) A MADRE-sponsored women's march in Haiti demands justice for rape survivors © KOFIVIV
 (AT RIGHT) In Kenya, children learn at a MADRE-supported kindergarten. © ELIZABETH RAPPAPORT

Building Peace

IRAQ > This fall, with support from MADRE members, our partner in Baghdad, the Organization for Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI) organized their 7th *ArtAction for Peace* event, attracting more than 200 young people—their largest crowd yet. These gatherings bring together Sunni and Shiite youth promoting peace and women's human rights through art, music, and poetry. OWFI continues to combat violence against women through a MADRE-supported network of women's shelters and the *Underground Railroad for Iraqi Women*, an escape and support network for women fleeing "honor killings."

SUDAN > Together with Zenab for Women in Development, our Sudanese partner, MADRE is working directly with women and families who have been driven from their homes by the violence in Sudan. MADRE recently delivered \$60,000 worth of humanitarian aid to women and families, including medical supplies and equipment for disabled children and adults, school supplies, and educational materials.

Ending Violence Against Women

HAITI > In the first half of 2007, MADRE's sister organization, KOFIVIV, provided free medical services to an average of 55 women rape survivors in Port-au-Prince each month, an increase from previous years. KOFIVIV is providing physical examination, lab tests, medication, and HIV/AIDS counseling. KOFIVIV also organizes peer support groups that enable rape survivors to help one another through the process of healing and recovery.

KENYA > MADRE is working with the Fair Winds Trading Company and *O, The Oprah Magazine* to strengthen the income-generating projects of our sister organization, the Umoja Women's Group. The women of Umoja rely on income from their jewelry-making cooperative to meet essential needs of their families, send their children to school, and avoid forced early marriages for their daughters. Look for jewelry from Umoja on sale in the April 2008 issue of *O, The Oprah Magazine!*

On behalf of the women & children of Sudan, including Darfur, I would like to thank you. We appreciate all the courage and the support we found from MADRE. It is really an honor for us to be a MADRE partner and sister organization in Sudan. Hopefully, together we can make big difference in the lives of the women and families of Sudan.

All the best
 Fatima Ahmed / President
 Zenab for Women in Development

MADRE at the UN: *Human Rights Advocacy*

- In preparation for the May 2008 meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, MADRE is monitoring governments' commitments to protect biodiversity. We have submitted materials to help shape the debate, which focus on the rights of women and Indigenous Peoples.
- At the fourth Annual Youth Assembly at the UN, MADRE facilitated a workshop entitled "Key Issues on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment." The event underscored the necessity of women's leadership in achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals.
- In the context of UN reform, MADRE is supporting the Gender Architecture (GEAR) Campaign, which focuses on women throughout the UN system and works toward the creation of a body devoted to gender within the UN.

MADRE welcomes the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the United Nations General Assembly.

The adoption of the Declaration on September 13, 2007, is an important victory for Indigenous Peoples worldwide and for all people who care about human rights.

To learn how the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples can support more sustainable global environmental policies, please visit:

<http://www.madre.org/articles/int/agrofuels.html>

All Eyes on Bali: A MADRE Blog

In December, UN Member States will meet in Bali, Indonesia, to try and craft international policy to control climate change. MADRE will be there to monitor and inform the debate, and to ensure that the voices of women are heard. You too will be able to follow the developments through All Eyes on Bali, a MADRE blog. Check out MADRE's website for more information on how you can tune into MADRE's blog and stay on top of this crucial climate change conference.

MADRE and Our Sister Organizations in the News



Radio France International

Brulio Moro interviews MADRE Program Director Mónica Alemán on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

OneWorld US

"Facts Belie Petraeus' Case, Say Humanitarian Groups"

Yahoo! News

"UN Adopts Historic Statement on Native Rights"

In These Times

"Who Does U.S. Food Aid Benefit?"

Wake-Up Call with Mario Murrillo, WBAI

Interview with MADRE Executive Director Vivian Stromberg on hurricane damage in Nicaragua

The New York Times

"Nicaraguans Survey Hurricane's Wreckage"

CounterPunch, ZNet, Portside, Common Dreams

"Hurricane Felix's First Responders"

Yahoo! News

"Peru's Remote Areas Getting Less Aid"

Foreign Policy in Focus

"Indigenous Women's Pushback" & "Roadmap to a Sustainable Future: The Declaration on Indigenous Rights"

Fresh Air, National Public Radio

"In Iraq, Activist Struggles as Women's Rights Shrink"

The Guardian

"You can come upon women's bodies anywhere"

Democracy Now!

Yanar Mohammed on the dire situation for women under U.S. occupation and rising fundamentalism

The Nation

"'Democracy' is Hell"

ABC News Now

"Top Priority" interviews Yanar Mohammed about OWFI's *Underground Railroad for Iraqi Women* and violence against women in Iraq

Element TV, in partnership with MTV

Releases short video documentary profiling Monica Carrillo, Director of LUNDU, MADRE's partner organization in Lima, Peru

Turn your Outrage into Action: Creative Ways to Support MADRE

Sign up for **MADRE Speaks Online** and receive emails with action alerts, updates on MADRE's programs, and articles from women fighting for human rights worldwide. **MORE INFO:** www.madre.org/madrespeaks ■ madrespeaks@madre.org ■ (212) 627-0444



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Donate School Supplies to MADRE's Helping Hands Campaign and provide children in Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru, and Kenya with books, educational posters, games, and new notebooks, crayons, and art supplies.

MORE INFO: www.madre.org/helpinghands ■ helpinghands@madre.org ■ (212) 627-0444

Organize a Fundraiser for MADRE. Host a walk-a-thon, bake sale, movie night, concert—the ideas are limitless. We'll help you plan. **MORE INFO:** fundraising@madre.org ■ (212) 627-0444

Host a MADRE Speaker! Spread awareness about US foreign policy and women's human rights struggles around the world, and raise support for MADRE's programs. **MORE INFO:** speakers@madre.org ■ (212) 627-0444



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Six Easy Ways to Give to MADRE

DO SOME HOLIDAY SHOPPING at the MADRE online store. Help generate support for women's human rights worldwide by shopping at MADRE's online store. Visit <http://madre.org/about/donate/gifts.html> for more information.



GIVE A GIFT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE. Donate in honor of a friend or family member this holiday season and we'll send them a beautiful card describing the programs you are supporting together.

1 JOIN OUR SUSTAINER PROGRAM. A no-hassle, tax-deductible way to support MADRE's work. Give a fixed amount on a monthly or quarterly basis through a secure, automatic credit card deduction.

ARRANGE A MATCHING GIFT. Many employers will match your gift to MADRE, doubling your contribution at no cost to you. Ask at work; many employers have a simple form that you can fill out.

DONATE A USED CAR AND SAVE YOURSELF A HEADACHE. Claim a tax deduction for donating your car, without any of the hassle of selling it yourself.



DONATE APPRECIATED STOCK, ART, OR REAL ESTATE. Claim a tax deduction for the full market value of appreciated stock, bonds, and other securities or property that you have held for over a year.

Contact MADRE at (212) 627-0444 or by email at fundraising@madre.org.

ENSURE THAT YOUR VALUES LIVE ON THROUGH THE JOCELYN CIRCLE

Including MADRE in your will is simple and powerful, and guarantees your continued support for women's human rights for generations to come. Dozens of other MADRE members have chosen to make a lasting impact on the world by joining the Jocelyn Circle, a special group of supporters who have included MADRE in their wills or estate plans. Please call Vivian Stromberg at (212) 627-0444 for more information.

PLAN AN EVENT TO BENEFIT MADRE

This year's MADRE events included the donation of tips from a Minnesota restaurant, V-Day events across the US, and several successful house parties. We'll help you plan your event too!

SPRING 2008 Speaking Tour

Climate Changers: Women's Solutions for a World in Crisis



©CHRISTY RUPP

MADRE invites you to meet two remarkable women who will share ideas and strategies about how to combat global climate change, its impact on communities, and what we can do to promote change.

Vivian Stromberg, Executive Director of MADRE, will discuss the struggle that women and families face as global climate change worsens and the solutions that MADRE and our sister organizations have implemented.

Fatima Ahmed, of MADRE's Sudanese sister organization, Zenab for Women in Development, will talk about

the hardships faced by women farmers in Sudan and about Zenab's sustainable development programs.

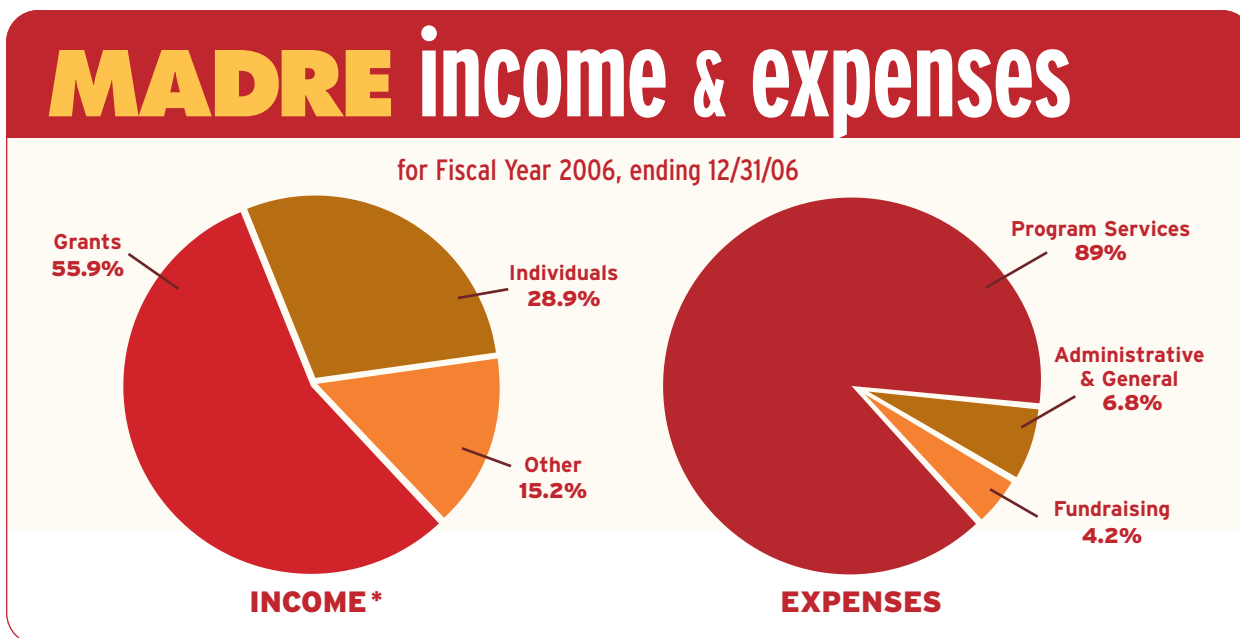
To arrange a speaking engagement, or if you have any questions, please contact us at speakers@madre.org or (212) 627-0444 and visit our website, www.MADRE.org.



Thank you to our interns!

SUMMER 2007
Alia Al-Khatib
Christine Kim
Grace Spangler
Rose Thomas
Sylvia Wewiora

FALL 2007
Crissie Ferrara
Miranda Loos
Martha Pichardo Medina
Heliana Mezzabolta
Kristi Romero
Anna Sloan



* \$442,776 is the value of "in-kind" medical shipments and services donated to MADRE during this fiscal year. This category is not included in the above totals and is not considered income by the Internal Revenue Service, but it is a very important source of support for MADRE.

TRAVEL WITH MADRE

Climate Change: The Eye of the Storm

JANUARY 5-12, 2008



Some of the worst impacts of climate change are occurring in the tropical communities of MADRE's Nicaraguan sister organizations. And some of the most innovative solutions are being crafted by Indigenous Peoples in these same communities.

Visit communities devastated by Hurricane Felix in September 2007.

Explore organic gardens and other food-sovereignty projects in Indigenous communities on the North Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua.

Meet with local women leaders and activists working to protect their communities from climate disasters and create long-term solutions to our global environmental crisis.

For more information, visit:
www.madre.org/travel/voyages.html.

MADRE

121 West 27th Street, # 301
New York, NY 10001

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