



MADRE

Fall 2010 www.madre.org

speaks

*See the
Difference
You
Make*





MADRE

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

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**From the Executive Director
VIVIAN STROMBERG**

Dear Friends,

When the ground shook in Haiti this winter and record-breaking floods hit Pakistan this summer, I thought of you. I thought about how thankful I am that our sisters in these places—and in so many others—have your support. I felt a tremendous sense of relief knowing that I could turn to you on their behalf and you would be there, giving what you can. And you don't just give money—though we all know how critical that is—you also give encouragement and strength to our sisters. As the women of our sister organizations make clear in this issue of *MADRE Speaks*, your support for them is so much more: it is friendship and an understanding of the needs of women.

Of course, we did not start the year planning on earthquakes and floods, or with funds earmarked to respond to the emergencies in Haiti and Pakistan. But we *did* respond—and we did so immediately and effectively thanks to you. Most importantly, we responded with programs that go beyond the urgent need to save lives. These programs enable women who are caught in disasters to rebuild in ways that strengthen their fight for human rights and make their communities more resilient to disasters for the long-term.

In many ways 2010 has been dominated by the terrible events in Haiti and Pakistan. But because you've been so steady and generous in your support, we were able to respond to these crises and still continue other crucial programs to advance women's human rights around the world. I'm proud to share highlights of our accomplishments here.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that our search for MADRE's next Executive Director is proceeding smoothly. As I've mentioned before, I will remain deeply involved with MADRE as we welcome new leadership and move into the future. I hope that you will, too—the women of our sister organizations are counting on us.

Sincerely,

Stay current with MADRE

Get up-to-date information about MADRE projects from women on the frontlines of today's global crises.

Blog: madre.org/mymadre

E-Newsletter:
madre.org/enews

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**MADRE Speaks
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MADRE is an international women's human rights organization working 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. ■ MADRE's vision is enacted with an understanding of the inter-relationships among the various issues we address and by a commitment to working in partnership with women at the local, regional, and international levels who share our goals. ■ Since we began in 1983, MADRE has delivered over 27 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

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COVER PHOTO: A woman holds her baby, born after the January earthquake in Haiti. ©UNICEF/Canada

Thanks *for* Giving

From Our Sisters Around the World

Your support for MADRE is so much more than dollars: it is friendship and an understanding of the needs of women.



©MADRE

ERAMITHE DELVA KOFVIV, Haiti: Before the earthquake, MADRE helped us to strengthen our work to stop rape and bring democracy to Haiti. When the disaster happened, MADRE was there. More than any government or big agency, MADRE has helped us to keep going during this terrible year and to protect women and girls from rape in a time of great danger. You have even helped us achieve something we were not able to do alone—make the authorities pay attention to the epidemic of rapes in the camps. For the first time they are listening to us—really hearing our demands and our proposals for change.



©Shirkat Gah

SADIA AHMED Shirkat Gah, Pakistan: Women in Pakistan have been devastated by these floods—and then devastated again by relief agencies that ignored women's needs in the disaster. Thankfully, MADRE understands. With your aid, we have been able to reach women who are disabled, nursing or pregnant. We have set up mobile delivery rooms, provided women's medical and hygiene supplies and created safe spaces for women to get the support they need to care for themselves and their families. The women of Pakistan thank you!



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ROSE CUNNINGHAM Wangki Tangni, Nicaragua: What would we do without MADRE? For 27 years, you have been our sisters, working with us each step of the way—to heal from the war, to protect our lands and to pass our Indigenous traditions to our children. This year, we launched a new campaign to safeguard our communal water resources and defend our rights as Indigenous women. Our lives depend on this work, and we know we can depend on MADRE.



©FIMI

TARCILA RIVERA ZEA CHIRAPAQ, Peru: Some people say that women shouldn't speak. Well, MADRE helps us broadcast our voices from the highest mountains. The Voices for Justice radio program that you support gives us a way to connect to each other and to raise our voices as Indigenous women. On the air, we talk about health, climate change, food security, domestic violence and women's political participation. Because of MADRE, more and more Indigenous women are learning radio production and broadcasting and have the ability to speak out.



©Zakher

MARYAM SEMMOUNI Zakher Association, Palestine: I know the dangers of giving my children dirty water to drink, but some days I have no alternative. I breathed a huge sigh of relief when I heard that you sent funds for us to buy water filters for our neighborhoods. There are thousands of families here in Gaza City who have no way to get clean water. Now we will have it. As a mother, this is a dream come true for me!



©OneWorld

YANAR MOHAMMED The Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq: The politicians say the war is over, but you understand that the women and families of Iraq are still suffering. MADRE is one of the only organizations that continues to stand with us even after the news teams have packed up and left. You are true friends.



©MADRE

LUCY MULENKEI Indigenous Information Network, Kenya: MADRE's support for the Kilgoris Girls School is a true life-saver. You've given these girls a refuge from forced marriages and ritualized genital cutting. It's one thing to beg not to be married off at age 12. It's quite another to have a real alternative—and a way to realize your right to education. Thank you, MADRE!



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STELLA DUQUE Taller de Vida, Colombia: Sometimes I look into the eyes of a child who has been used as a soldier and I see no light. I am afraid for that child and for my country. How will these children ever create peace if they cannot imagine it? This is the aim of our child counseling and arts programming: we put light back into the eyes of the children. To me, this is the most important work in the world, and MADRE makes it possible.

The Afghan Women's Survival Fund MADRE

Naseema's photo could not be used for fear of putting her life in danger.

NASEEMA The Afghan Women's Survival Fund, Afghanistan: I went to the police when I saw my husband murder a woman. But he was soon out of jail. He came looking for me. He found my sister and shot her. I was afraid for my life and for my children. Through MADRE's Afghan Women's Survival Fund my children and I were able to escape to Pakistan. Thank you for keeping my family safe!



©Zenab for Women in Development

FATIMA AHMED Zenab for Women in Development, Sudan: Without food you cannot dream, but this year, the women I work with were able to feed their children every day. The support that MADRE gave to our Women Farmers Union brought a plentiful harvest of organic crops. The women were even able to sell surplus crops and buy school uniforms and books so that their daughters can go to school. As mothers, it is our greatest dream that our children will have a better life than we do. With MADRE, we are making this dream come true.



©MADRE

SANDRA GONZALEZ Women Workers' Committee, Guatemala: Some people say we have nothing: we are poor, we are landless, we live in shacks. But we have something that these people do not see: we have dignity. The women of MADRE have always seen our dignity and worked with us as true partners to create health fairs, job training programs and community improvement projects. Thank you for seeing our dignity and supporting our rights.

Your Support in Action:

MADRE Accomplishments 2010



Peace Building

AFGHANISTAN: With the help of MADRE's Afghan Women's Survival Fund, Zarbobo, a young married woman, was able to escape a husband who beat and starved her. She is now living in a safe shelter and taking legal action against her husband. Zarbobo is one of many women who have escaped abuse and even murder thanks to MADRE member support.

COLOMBIA: MADRE secured a set of recommendations from the UN Human Rights Committee that strengthen our sister organizations' work for peace and women's reproductive rights. In response to MADRE's Shadow Report on Violations of Women's Human Rights, the Committee has instructed the Colombian government to strengthen measures to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers, increase resources for displaced women and children and ensure that all reported acts of sexual violence are investigated, tried and punished. These recommendations have the force of law in Colombia, making them especially powerful tools for human rights advocates. Now we are working with our partners to make sure the recommendations are fulfilled.



©Lisa Davis

After the earthquake, women and families in Mosolee and several other displacement camps received food and medicine thanks to MADRE member support.



©Taller de Vida

Thank you for supporting art and play therapy programs for former child soldiers and other at-risk children in Colombia.

Women's Health and Combating Violence Against Women

HAITI: MADRE has continued to meet urgent needs for food, medicine and basic provisions for women and families displaced by the earthquake. In July, MADRE produced a powerful report about violence against women in the displacement camps. The report, co-authored with the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, was presented to the US Congress and circulated widely among government and international agencies doing relief work in Haiti. In September, the UN launched a campaign against rape, adopting our recommendations almost verbatim. Since we began our campaign to combat violence against women, 800 Haitian police officers have been trained on sexual violence awareness,



©Shirkat Gah

Your support enabled our partner organization, Shirkat Gah, to feed hungry families after the flooding in Pakistan.

and our partners at KOFIV have presented their concerns at UN-led meetings where important decisions are made about the camps.

PAKISTAN: MADRE's ally in Pakistan, Shirkat Gah, was one of the first organizations providing relief after the floods hit. With MADRE's support, Shirkat Gah set up mobile medical clinics and delivery rooms, brought in medical supplies for women and established food distribution centers to ensure that the specific needs of women are met in disaster response efforts.

NICARAGUA: Our partners, Wangki Tangni, organized the third Indigenous Women's Forum, a gathering for Indigenous women to strengthen their work for women's rights. The women produced a plan of action to press the Nicaraguan government to adopt more gender-sensitive policies and create local laws and public programs to prevent violence against women.

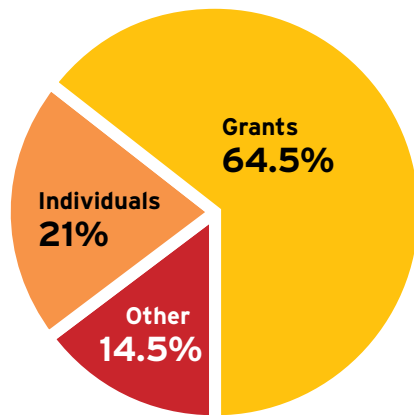
Economic and Environmental Justice

SUDAN: The country's first-ever Women Farmers Union, co-founded by MADRE and our local partner, Zenab for Women in Development, reached a milestone this year: the women can now produce enough to supply at least a portion of the food aid that the US will purchase for East Africa this year. On World Food Day, MADRE launched a campaign calling on the US to buy food aid crops from the Women Farmers Union—not from big US-based agribusiness. The campaign is part of our efforts to ensure that US foreign assistance dollars support local, sustainable agriculture and the smallholder women farmers who are the key to long-term food security in Africa.

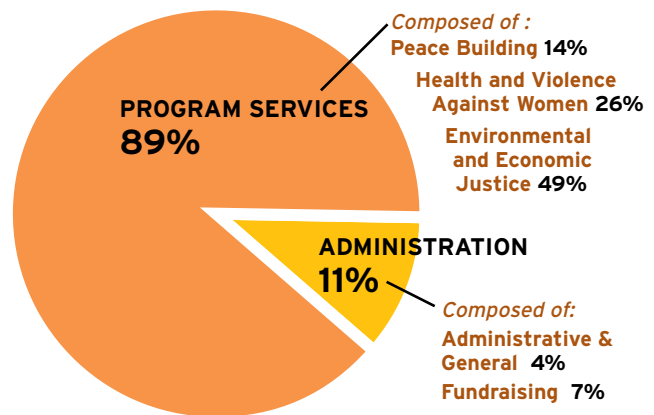
PALESTINE: MADRE purchased 31 water filters for the three neighborhoods with the worst water quality in Gaza City. These filters will provide clean water to more than 50,000 people! MADRE also enabled our sister organization, the Zakher Association, to buy four water filters for kindergartens, giving 600 children clean drinking water in their classrooms.

KENYA: MADRE supported installations of three large water tanks for the Kilgoris Girls School. With this new supply of clean drinking water, the school can stay open and continue to provide quality education and act as a safe haven for girls who are at risk of forced marriage and genital mutilation.

MADRE Income & Expenses Fiscal Year 2009, January 1 to December 31, 2009



INCOME



EXPENSES

In addition, \$1,037,484 is the value of "in-kind" medical and humanitarian shipments sent 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.

6 Easy Ways to Support MADRE

ARRANGE A MATCHING GIFT. Ask at work—many employers will match your gift to MADRE, doubling your contribution and impact at no extra cost to you.

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. Through our planned giving program, you can receive lifetime income and tax benefits and ensure the legacy of MADRE.

ORGANIZE A FUNDRAISER FOR MADRE. Host a bake sale, movie night, benefit concert, art exhibit, walk-a-thon—the ideas are limitless. We will give you the personalized support and materials you need to get started.

COORDINATE A COLLECTION DRIVE. Have your friends, family or community collect over-the-counter medication, school supplies, eyeglasses and contact lenses to give to families that would otherwise not have access to essential supplies.

HOST A MADRE SPEAKER. Bring MADRE and women's rights leaders from around the world to your organization or school to speak about the issues you care about. We travel anywhere in the US.

CELEBRATE SPECIAL OCCASIONS WITH MADRE. Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and holidays by asking friends and family to send support to a MADRE program in your honor.

To get involved contact us at (212) 627-0444 or email fundraising@madre.org.

Become a Women's Human Rights Sustainer!

You can help ensure that MADRE's programs remain strong and vibrant without writing another check or making another trip to the post office. All you have to do is sign up to give a fixed amount through a secure, automatic credit card deduction.

When you give to MADRE on a recurring basis, you allow women in embattled communities to do more than just survive the crises they face. Your sustained gift lets them know that they can count on you as they work to build a future for themselves and their families.

MADRE sustainers also get added benefits, such as a 15% discount at MADRE's Webstore. To see more benefits or to sign up, visit

madre.org/sustainer

MADRE gives you a critical feminist perspective on the global issues that affect us all.

Visit our website for these recent MADRE articles:

- [Culture Alone Fails to Account for Female Genital Mutilation, June 20](#)
- [The Role of the US in Colombia's Conflict, June 30](#)
- [Using International Law to Wage Peace in Colombia, July 7](#)
- [Demanding a Second Chance for Colombia's Children of War, July 12](#)
- [In Israel, Miscegenation Equals Rape, July 21](#)
- [A Peaceful Boycott Should Not be a Crime, July 29](#)
- [Our Bodies Are Still Trembling, July 27](#)
(co-authored with the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti)
- [Buying Local Halfway Across the Globe, October 11](#)

We would be happy to mail these articles to you. Please give us a call at (212) 627-0444 or email public_ed@madre.org to request copies.

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 us at (212) 627-0444 for more information.

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You Can Prevent Rape:

Provide Flashlights and Whistles for Women in Haiti

The January 2010 earthquake not only devastated Haiti's frail infrastructure, it also created a severe crisis of safety and security—especially for those living in the Internally Displaced Persons camps. Women in these camps are asking for whistles and flashlights to deter sexual violence and help protect each other. You can provide the tools that help prevent rape.

HOW TO DONATE:

Mail or drop off your donation at: MADRE, Attn: Helping Hands Campaign
121 West 27th Street Suite 301, New York, NY 10001

If you're in Manhattan, call us and we'll pick it up! (212) 627-0444

Women in Haiti Need:



- Whistles
- Flashlights
- Batteries

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