

## Chronology of Tzu Chi's International Relief Work

1991

**Bangladesh:** Tzu Chi donates cash relief to the Red Cross for flood victims.

1992

**Mongolia:** Lack of the necessities of life aggravated by severe weather conditions. Tzu Chi distributes 8,700 cans of powdered milk, 5,000 blankets, children's clothes, 10,000 pairs of gloves, 10,000 hats, 20,000 pairs of socks, and 1,800 sets of cotton-padded pants and coats for the elderly.

1993

**Ethiopia:** Lack of medical resources following long-term civil war. Tzu Chi cooperates with Medecins du Monde (MDM) to reconstruct two medical centers and 14 medical stations in Menz and Gishe Awraja Highland, train 300 local medical personnel, develop clean water sources, and conduct community hygiene and health surveys. The operation helps 347,000 people.

1994

**Cambodia:** Floods and drought destroy agriculture. Tzu Chi donates 20 water pumps, 10,000 liters of diesel oil and 300 liters of gasoline for irrigation of rice paddies. In addition, 600 tons of seed and 1,640 tons of rice are given to assist over 82,000 people.

**Nepal:** Floods displace over 400,000 people. Tzu Chi constructs 1,800 houses in the three worst-struck counties.

**Rwanda:** Genocide causes massive refugee outflow. Tzu Chi works with MDM to set up medical stations in Goma, border city of Zaire, providing medical assistance to the refugees.

**Alaska, US:** Tzu Chi provides cash relief to American Indians in Allakaket who lost their homes to floodwaters.

1995

**Cambodia:** Flooding continues. Tzu Chi provides 100 water pumps, 10,000 liters of diesel oil and 300 liters of gasoline to save tens of thousands of hectares of rice submerged in floodwaters. To alleviate food shortages, 7,000 tons of rice and 1,700 tons of seed are donated. The mission helps 233,718 people in four provinces.

**Northern Thailand:** Tzu Chi launches three-year relief plan for former Chinese nationalist soldiers and their offspring in northern Thailand: (1) monthly stipend and regular visits to the disabled veterans living in nursing homes; (2) reconstruction of four refugee camps for 130 households and of 28 houses destroyed by fire; (3) seminars on agriculture and farm management, cultivation of fruit trees and tea seedlings, and help in general farming; (4) provision of scholarships and construction of four classrooms; (5) medical assistance for low-income households.

**The Philippines:** Tzu Chi begins holding free clinics in remote areas every three months. As of March 2000, 16 large-scale free clinics had helped over 100,000 people.

**Chechen:** Tzu Chi works with MDM to implement a five-month emergency medical aid program. The program includes psychological rehabilitation for women and children, medical services at the refugee camps, disease prevention, etc.

**South Africa:** Tzu Chi donates 104,411 items of clothing, 992 blankets and 102 wheelchairs over a period of three years, helping 100,000 impoverished people in South Africa.

**Lesotho:** Tzu Chi launches operations in the country impoverished by political unrest and violence. For four years, clothes and food are regularly distributed to the poor.

**Guinea-Bissau:** Tzu Chi donates medicine for 1,200 patients in five hospitals.

**Swaziland:** Tzu Chi donates clothes and food to the poor.

**Mexico:** Tzu Chi provides free clinics and relief supplies following hurricane. The Mexico liaison office is set up to carry out long-term charitable work.

## 1996

**Cambodia:** Flooding continues. Tzu Chi donates 5,000 tons of seed and three generators to Phnom Penh and 13 provinces. One ambulance equipped with medical apparatus is donated to a local hospital. Eight classrooms are constructed for a Chinese school.

**Azerbaijan:** The war with Armenia had ended in 1994, but had made roughly a million Azerbaijanis homeless. Tzu Chi works with the University of London and Leonard Cheshire Chair to implement a relief project at the refugee camps. Tzu Chi donates 1,500 tents, 100 wheelchairs, winter clothes and mattress pads.

**Ivory Coast:** Tzu Chi works with MDM to establish a shelter for street children that provides vocational training and counseling.

**Mexico:** The Morita Tzu Chi Elementary School is inaugurated.

## 1997

**Malaysia:** Forest fires in Indonesia give rise to severe smog. Tzu Chi hands out 11,000 masks in Sarawak.

**Cambodia:** A drought sets in. Tzu Chi donates 1,200 tons of seed to Kampong Thom and Siem Reap provinces.

**Liberia:** Tzu Chi donates 58,000 items of winter and summer clothing and blankets to refugees of the civil war.

**Gambia:** Tzu Chi donates 58,000 items of summer clothing.

## 1998

**North Korea:** Tzu Chi donates 11 containers of winter clothes and daily necessities.

**Indonesia:** Financial crises and violence plague the archipelago. Tzu Chi donates 38,650 bags of rice to the police and military forces. Daily necessities and medicine are distributed in Tangerang. In Tempa, free clinics are held that help more than four thousand people.

**Vietnam:** Medical resources are scarce and expensive. Tzu Chi holds free clinics in Ho Chi Minh City and two other counties, treating a total of 6,488 people.

**The Philippines:** Typhoon Babs ravages Luzon Island. Tzu Chi distributes food, clothes, medicine, blankets, and nylon mats to the victims in Pangasinan and Catanduanes.



**Afghanistan:** An earthquake on February 4 aggravates the lack of medical resources and daily necessities in regions impoverished by long-term civil war. Tzu Chi cooperates with Knightsbridge International to distribute food and 2,000 kilograms of antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medicine in the highland province of Bamiyan, one of the most affected areas.

**Papua New Guinea:** A tsunami wipes out over ten coastal villages. Tzu Chi donates medical equipment to the Boram Hospital, where the wounded were sent. Two thousand sets of building tools are handed out to survivors to rebuild homes.

**Ethiopia:** An agreement is signed with MDM to renovate and expand the Debre Birhan Hospital in the North Shoa region. The reconstructed hospital is scheduled to open in June 2000.

**Senegal:** Medicine is donated to remote southeastern areas.

**Lesotho:** Political unrest leads to **antiforeign** violence in Maseru, the national capital. Tzu Chi provides shelter for the refugees and hands out food, sleeping bags, blankets and cash relief.

**South Africa:** Tzu Chi distributes rice, 23 containers of clothes and one container of fabrics to help over 150,000 people following tornado. Two containers of fabrics are donated to vocational training centers in Johannesburg, Durban, and Ladysmith to create jobs. Winter relief supplies are distributed to 4,000 impoverished households.

**Paraguay:** Floods follow heavy rainfall. Tzu Chi members twice travel to an Indian village where roads have been blocked. They distribute 2000 kilograms of noodles, 600 kilograms of bread, 936 cans of food, 1,500 items of clothing and 600 pairs of socks to two hundred aboriginal households.

**Argentina:** Floods inundate the northern provinces of Chaco and Corrientes; victims are forced to live in tarpaulin tents. Tzu Chi sets up fifteen distribution stations where a total of 1,183 blankets and five hundred packs of food, including cornstarch, sugar, flour, rice and cooking oil, are handed out. The operation helps 801 households.

**Brazil:** El Nino causes a nine-month drought; over ten million people face food shortages. Tzu Chi distributes over 1,000 packs of rice and other relief items.

**Peru:** El Nino gives rise to torrential rains. Floodwaters destroy human lives and property and induce outbreaks of contagious diseases. Tzu Chi distributes medicine and daily necessities to 2000 households in Lambayeque Province, and holds free clinics at the distribution sites. In addition, building material and tools for 100 brick houses are donated to the villagers of Chiclayo Country.

**Dominican Republic:** Hurricanes across the Caribbean Sea ravage the country. Tzu Chi distributes food, blankets, and first aid kits for 850 households, and holds free clinics that treat 823 people.

**Honduras:** Malaria and Dengue Fever are rampant following hurricanes. Tzu Chi donates much needed sterilization chemicals and equipment to stop transmission of the diseases in Tegucigalpa, the national capital.

## 1999

**North Korea:** The famine continues. Tzu Chi donates 20,000 tons of fertilizer, 2,600 tons of rice, 93,600 packs of powdered milk, 600 cans of vegetarian food, 935 cartons of butter

and 700,000 items of clothing.

**Malaysia:** A viral disease attacking both humans and animals breaks out. Tzu Chi establishes care centers for patients' families at two hospitals, and distributes cash relief to 449 pig farmers.

**Indonesia:** Tzu Chi distributes 50,000 packs of daily necessities to low-income households in the suburbs of Jakarta. Large-scale free clinics are held in Tangerang, treating 13,730 people.

**East Timor:** Political unrest gives rise to refugee outflow. Tzu Chi members in Australia donate 70 tons of medicine and rice to the "Mercy Ship Project" organized by Timor Aid (a charity organization in the port city of Darwin) and distribute daily necessities and cash relief to East Timor refugees who had fled to Australia. In November the same year, members visit the refugee camp in western Timor, where they distribute one hundred kilograms of rice. In addition, one month's worth of food, clothes, eggs and powdered milk are donated to school-age children.

**Thailand:** At the end of July, heavy rainfall causes the Mekong River to overflow in eight northeastern provinces. Tzu Chi distributes 1,000 packs of daily necessities that include rice, canned food, soybean milk, drinking water, detergent, soap and bread to the victims in Ginjuwenfu and Dadaofu.

**Vietnam:** The central region experiences the most severe flooding in a century. Tzu Chi hands out cash relief and daily goods to 407 households.

**The Philippines:** In the flooded areas of Manila, and Pampanga and Pangasinan provinces, Tzu Chi distributes rice and daily necessities to 5,137 households. In addition, responding to the needs of the victims of a big fire in Malibay Barangay, Tzu Chi hands out 10 kilograms of rice, one wok, two pairs of slippers and ten items of clothing to each of the 635 affected households.

**Turkey:** A massive earthquake occurs on August 17. Tzu Chi donates 3,000 water-proof pads and 6,000 blankets for the victims who camp out in the open, as well as begins construction of 300 prefabricated "Great Love" houses. Following the second strong quake in November, 5,000 blankets are handed out and construction of 200 large insulated tents starts. The prefabricated houses and tents, as well as four temporary classrooms for the Tersane Elementary School are completed and handed over in January 2000.

**South Africa:** Hurricanes again visit the country. Tzu Chi distributes blankets, dried food and powdered milk in the disaster area of Cape Town.

**Sao Tome and Principe:** Tzu Chi donates 22,247 items of clothing and 2,000 items of stationery, which are distributed by Taiwan's medical team stationed in the country.

**Colombia:** A Richter-scale six earthquake occurs. Tzu Chi donates 280 first aid kits to the Colombian Red Cross. In the most-affected cities of Calarca, Circasis, and Finlandia, Tzu Chi distributes two month's food to 4,303 victims and holds free clinics that treat 650 people.

**Dominican Republic:** Hurricanes again attack the island. Tzu Chi donates five forty-foot containers of clothing, distributes food, and holds free clinics. Construction begins of the Tzu Chi La Romana Elementary School which is opened in February 2000.

**Honduras:** After the hurricanes, Tzu Chi donates 1,334,000 items of clothing, three twenty-foot containers of canned vegetarian food and rice, and 2,000 first aid kits. Free clinics are



held that treat 902 people.

**Haiti:** Tzu Chi donates 232,000 items of clothing after the hurricanes.

**Nicaragua:** Tzu Chi donates 696,000 items of clothing, as well as one container of sewing machines, shoes, and canned food following hurricane.

**Guatemala:** Tzu Chi donates 464,000 items of clothing following hurricane.

**El Salvador:** Tzu Chi donates 464,000 items of clothing following hurricane.

**Mexico:** The country experiences worst flood in forty years. Tzu Chi distributes emergency medicine and cash relief to the victims.

**Albania:** Yugoslavia launches a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Albanians in Kosovo, resulting in massive refugee outflows to neighboring countries, Albania among them. Tzu Chi works with Knightsbridge International to provide 4,600 pounds of antibiotics for refugee camps in the country.

**Kosovo:** Tzu Chi works with MDM to implement a five-month medical aid project in Pristina and its suburbs, establishing three medical centers and 27 medical stations. Tzu Chi also donates 2,275 tons of chemical fertilizer through Mercy Corps International. In cooperation with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) Tzu Chi provides Kosovar refugees in America with food, clothes and daily necessities. A resettlement project for the refugees is carried out, including the provision of free clinics and living assistance to them.

**Marshall Islands:** Tzu Chi holds free clinics providing training opportunity for local medical personnel, aimed at alleviating the problem of insufficient medical resources.

2000

**Indonesia:** Tzu Chi conducts free clinics in Padang, treating a total of 1,497 people.

**Vietnam:** In response to lack of medical resources, Tzu Chi holds free clinics in Nha Be County, treating 4,418 people. In addition, 2,655 packs of daily necessities and food are distributed to the residents.

**Solomon Islands:** Tzu Chi donates one twenty-foot container of clothes and eight cartons of stationery for local students.

**South Africa:** Heavy rainfall results in the worst flood in fifty years. Tzu Chi constructs 187 temporary houses in Alexandra, Johannesburg, taking in 408 refugees. To hard-hit Mpumalanga Province, Tzu Chi donates water-purification chemicals, antiseptics and one thousand items of new clothing.

**Lesotho:** To help the poor in the slums of Maseru, Tzu Chi establishes 15 vocational training centers and donates sewing machines and fabric.

**Gambia:** Two forty-foot containers of clothes are donated to the poor in five provinces.

**Venezuela:** Unusually heavy rainfall causes massive mudflows. A fact-finding team travels to the worst-hit state of Vargas and distributes antipyretic, painkillers, gastrointestinal medicine, antibiotics and vitamins. After evaluation, a large water-purification machine is donated to Naiguata, a coastal city along the Caribbean.

**North Korea:** Shortages of food persist. Tzu Chi distributes 9,378 tons of fertilizer, 13,397 kilograms of agricultural appliances, as well as winter clothes, medical equipment and medicine.