Mercy Corps
2002 Annual Report

Mercy Corps is an international relief and development organization that reaches more than five million people in 38 countries and regions torn by poverty and conflict.

With support from donors worldwide, the more than 2,000 staff, volunteers and partners of Mercy Corps change lives each day by working hand in hand with those who seek to build a better future for their families and their communities.

We renew hope.

We find solutions.

We leave behind a legacy of change.
How does change happen? And can it be sustained in a world torn by war and poverty? Those were the two questions we set out to answer in this year’s annual report.

Our methodology is to explore four case studies from Mercy Corps’ recent past in which communities have succeeded in overcoming obstacles once thought insurmountable. Each example comes from a different part of the world, with a different set of problems.

There is a common thread. In each case, Mercy Corps helped community members find their own voices, their own strength, and ultimately their own solutions. In the process, we left behind stronger communities and stronger civil societies.

Today Mercy Corps is bringing these lessons to a new humanitarian arena — Iraq. The needs are intense and the task of rebuilding will be long. But as this report shows — even in the most difficult circumstances — change is possible when people set aside differences and search for common bonds.
Dear Friends and Partners,

We are living in historic times. Since September 11, 2001, our sense of security has been shattered. Afghanistan, the war on terrorism, homeland security, pre-emptive strikes, now Iraq — these are the signs of our times.

Where will all this lead? What will the future hold for our children, for all the world’s children? We search for understanding, for the right kind of action.

There are no simple solutions, fast fixes or easy answers. Mercy Corps believes this — military might alone will not end terrorism. The battle for a better world requires a sustained assault against those terrible conditions upon which terror and violence breed and feed — abject poverty, hunger, disease, ignorance, intolerance, and fear.

Winning the peace always and everywhere means bringing hope — for the one billion people on our planet who live on less than $1 per day; for those millions who live without basic political and human rights; for the seven million children who die each year from preventable diseases; for the 42 million individuals infected with the AIDS virus; for the 100 million children who never go to school; and for those millions of families forced from their homes because of war and conflict.

Unprecedented commitment, creativity, coalitions, and resources compose the cornerstones for building a better, safer world. If we work together, if we engage our political leaders, if we bring new ideas directly to hurting communities, if we push for greater transparency and accountability, if we focus daily on results — then we will succeed. Our world will become more just, secure, and productive. Hope will prevail where fear and uncertainty once resided.

This is exactly what Mercy Corps is doing daily in more than 30 struggling countries and republics, directly touching more than five million people. We seek not just to meet needs but to eliminate them, to redress the root causes of poverty and despair, to provide both relief and long-term solutions. We work not simply as angels of mercy, but as ambassadors for peaceful problem solving, for promoting the rule of law, and strengthening civil societies.

This year’s annual report provides four case studies on how positive change happens, frequently in the aftermath of war and conflict, when solutions seem impossible. We offer them as proof positive that successful strategies can help build a better world with the help of loyal donors, an expert team, tireless volunteers, and enthusiastic local partners. For all your commitment and sacrifice, we offer our sincere gratitude.

Dan W. O’Neill
President and Co-Founder

Neal L. Keny-Guyer
Chief Executive Officer

A Letter from the Executive Team
Mercy Corps is committed to providing humanitarian support that is appropriate, timely and respectful of people’s dignity, empowering the people with whom we work to move beyond crises and lay the foundation for a more hopeful future.

Nowhere is this commitment more vital than in Afghanistan. Twenty-three years of war and five years of ongoing drought — with no end in sight — have left this country uniquely impoverished and virtually destroyed. More than four million Afghans are still refugees in neighboring countries.

Mercy Corps’ work supports Afghans in their desire to return home by equipping them with the skills and tools needed to reinvigorate a land devastated by conflict and drought. Long-term development in Afghanistan means not just rebuilding local economies, but also recognizing that without addressing issues of inclusivity and community stability, Afghanistan could remain mired in poverty, insecurity and intolerance.
Mercy Corps has been working in Afghanistan and in Pakistan assisting Afghan refugees since 1986. Our long-term programming there — agricultural and infrastructure development, drought mitigation, health care, and orthopedic rehabilitation — has continued with only minor interruptions due to the military action that followed September 11, 2001.

But many Afghans are returning to villages that are completely destroyed and land that has been devastated by drought. Mercy Corps quickly realized that we needed new ways to implement our programs and ensure community stabilization by including all Afghan citizens in rebuilding this ravaged country.

Infrastructure reconstruction and agricultural projects are a major priority in Afghanistan. Mercy Corps has taken a cash for work approach to many of our reconstruction initiatives, focusing on labor intensive projects that require a large number of workers. The goal: to create employment opportunities and increase family purchasing power, while providing desperately needed improvements in rural infrastructure. This injection of cash into local economies enables families to buy much needed commodities and services, pay off debts, and minimize the need for migration in search of income.

Mercy Corps also considers the creation of economic opportunities critical to achieving long-term stability within Afghanistan. Through a dual approach of providing both financial and technical services to new and existing businesses, Mercy Corps ensures that program participants have the skills needed to launch their own small businesses in Afghanistan’s embryonic business climate.

To this end, we recently launched the Chelsitun Women’s Center in Kabul — notable because it was constructed brick by brick by both men and women. The Center’s cornerstone activities connect low-income women from one of the hardest hit neighborhoods in Kabul with vocational training opportunities, and provide microcredit loans and technical assistance to male and female entrepreneurs. Through these activities, Mercy Corps’ program in Kabul will help build a foundation for economically stable communities by increasing income and employment for all.

Today, Afghans are heading home in record numbers. This unprecedented repatriation demonstrates the hope and optimism of the Afghan people, but also presents new challenges for the international community. We must continue our collective commitment to stay engaged. As Molly Little, Mercy Corps’ Shelter Project Manager in Kabul, was quoted in the New York Times, “What has taken many years to destroy will require a patient, sustained effort to rebuild.”
challenge:

A decade of ethnic hostility, culminating in the 1999 conflict between NATO forces and Yugoslavia, destroyed Kosovo’s largely rural economy. With so much tension between Serbs and Albanians, how can the region rebuild its economy and create jobs?
Initially, there was considerable fear and suspicion. How can I trust a Serb not to cheat me? How can I trust an Albanian not to poison the milk? But optimism and economic self-interest are powerful incentives for risk taking. Soon, hundreds of farmers and small entrepreneurs were taking part in the program.

In the village of Livoc, for example, Mercy Corps provided a loan to an Albanian owned dairy so it could purchase a generator, packaging machinery and modern cooling tanks. In turn, the dairy owner bought milk from Serb farmers who otherwise had no market for their goods. The result? More jobs at the dairy, more income for the farmers — and delicious yogurt and cheese in the local markets.

Beyond the economic gains, a profound realization has taken hold among Serbs and Albanians. Together, they can solve problems and rekindle connections. Their fates are intertwined.

Mercy Corps believes in practical peacebuilding. If people have been fighting each other for years, one cannot simply hold a meeting at the town hall and expect everyone to speak freely and work together amicably. One way to start a dialogue is to find shared interests — creating jobs, building roads and generating income, to name but a few.

In Kosovo, ethnic Serbs and Albanians have been fighting for years. But in this primarily agricultural region, each group shared one overpowering common interest: the need to produce and sell food. The entire regional economy depended on it and neither ethnic community could succeed alone.

With a decade of experience in Kosovo, Mercy Corps had earned the trust of both communities. We engaged them with a bold idea — work together to rebuild Kosovo’s agricultural markets. Mercy Corps’ plan brought both sides together to devise and implement concrete steps to increase agricultural and dairy production. Farmers and businesses would receive training and grants — but with one condition. Serbs and Albanians had to be willing to do business with members of the “other” ethnic group.

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challenge:

Three poor, unstable nations come together in Central Asia's Ferghana Valley, where arbitrary borders hinder movement, complicate economic life and increase inter-ethnic friction in the region. How can tensions be eased before potential conflict becomes a reality in the Ferghana Valley?
solution:

Mercy Corps began work in Central Asia in 1992 and quickly realized that an important key to stability there was keeping peace in the Ferghana Valley. This region of three separate and interlocking countries — Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan — contained tensions in danger of spiraling out of control. Mercy Corps was committed to acting in these former Soviet states before a conflagration occurred.

The task was — and is — formidable. Amid grinding poverty, the competition for scarce resources is a competition for survival — and a jumble of arcane borders makes everything more difficult. A Kyrgyz farmer in Uzbekistan, for example, might spend hours crossing international borders just to get to a Kyrgyzstan city where he can sell his goods or buy supplies.

Mercy Corps’ solution was to find mutual interests with which to bridge peaceful ties across borders. But in a region facing increased nationalism and ruled by central planners in distant capitals, the idea of community organization and collective action was a difficult sell at first.

A key to the project’s success was using multi-ethnic and multi-national teams to break down the walls of suspicion and mistrust. Eventually, communities began to see that the initiative was about local people solving local problems. In one instance, this meant the community repairing a school used by villages on each side of the Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan border. In another, the community built a water system that serves a pair of villages straddling the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan border.

The construction projects themselves were straightforward. But the revolutionary aspect of the program was in how it was achieved. Communities that had become increasingly wary of each other sat down together — often for the first time — to prioritize needs and design solutions.

Today, dozens of communities throughout the region are working together to improve their futures. And in the process of discussing where to build the school or how to lay the pipe, something far more important is being built — a new belief that conflicts can be resolved without force.

case study: preventing conflict in the Ferghana Valley

Abduakym Kurbanov & Abdukahhar Kholmatov

A good neighbor Bad Fences

Naiman and Jekke Near are small villages in the Ferghana Valley, on opposite sides of the Uzbekistan-
Kyrgyzstan border. Growing poverty, high unemployment, and poor health have taken a toll on these border communities.

Mercy Corps helped organize a Friendship Holiday to bring both villages together again. “For the first time in 10 years, I came to a holiday on the Uzbek side,” said Abduakym Kurbanov of Jekke Near.

With Mercy Corps’ assistance, the two villages are now constructing a trans-border water system that will serve both communities. “I am positive that this project will improve relations between us,” says Abdukahhar Kholmatov of Naiman.

“This never thought that things would change for the better,” Abdukahhar says. “Now, we have hope and faith in ourselves.”
challenge:

Fierce fighting between Muslims and Christians in Indonesia left an entire province segregated along ethnic and religious lines. How can humanitarian relief be delivered in a way that builds bridges between rival groups — and sets the stage for reconciliation and recovery?
solution:

The conflict that divided Maluku Province in Indonesia in January 1999 was sudden and complete. By the time the fighting ended, 6,000 were dead — and more than 500,000 people were left homeless. Everybody knew somebody who had died. Once integrated villages were now “Muslim only” or “Christian only.” Former inhabitants lived in makeshift camps and shelters. Villages barricaded themselves against the outside world. Roads were a deadly gauntlet. Government services and the economy ground to a halt.

When Mercy Corps arrived, the need for shelter, water and basic relief supplies was intense. But even distributing emergency goods posed a danger in a hostile environment with no communication between the warring parties. If you helped one side, the other might regard you as an enemy collaborator.

Mercy Corps’ solution was to hire staff from both faith communities and channel relief distributions through local organizers across the religious and ethnic spectrum. As trust in Mercy Corps grew, our program expanded to building shelters, water and sanitation system repair, school reconstruction, and microcredit. Some 200,000 people received assistance.

Along the way, subtle steps were taken to bring the two communities together. When Mercy Corps established a central warehouse, we asked one Muslim group and one Christian group to serve as partners in managing it. At first, the two groups were surprised and wary. But each community realized the warehouse was urgently needed to help its own members. Why not give it a try?

Over time, something happened. Muslims and Christians found that they could once again work together. It started simply with sharing ideas on procurement. Next, each group helped the other work safely in mixed communities. Two years later, the relationship of convenience had grown into something more durable and meaningful. Recently, the two communities established a consortium of Muslim and Christian organizations. Their goal: to advocate for the needs and rights of victims of conflict. Not just Muslims. Not just Christians. But all people — regardless of race or religion.

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A health clinic in one of Guatemala’s poorest regions had fallen into disrepair and was going largely unused nearly a decade after its construction. How can citizens, local officials and community leaders come together to create a health care system that works?
The first step was to create a local health committee to help manage the clinic and secure resources from local and national governments. Next, health workers were trained in traditional medical practices. “Cultural agents” were recruited from the community to help bridge the divide between health workers and the people they served. These agents ensure that indigenous clients’ rights are clearly articulated, and accompany health workers on trips into the surrounding rural areas, helping both groups understand one another.

Today, there is new life in Tucurú and the surrounding community. Local citizens have stopped waiting passively for officials in distant Guatemala City to solve their health problems. Much work remains to be done. But there is a new spirit, and a new hope.

After almost 40 years of civil war, the people of Guatemala are taking the first steps towards a more democratic, civil society. But huge challenges remain. Many Guatemalans, particularly rural, indigenous people, are traumatized and 60 percent live in poverty.

Nowhere in the country is this more true than in Tucurú, a poor community in the rugged northern highlands. Near the top of Tucurú’s problems is poor health care. Maternal and child mortality rates are among the highest in the Americas. Nearly a decade ago, a new health clinic was built to address the community’s health needs. But the clinic lacked resources. Cultural and language barriers isolated health staff from the indigenous Q’eqchi people. Over time, little progress had been made in improving community health standards.

Mercy Corps’ solution was to directly involve local citizens in creating a more responsive health care system. The answer was not in more buildings, more doctors or more supplies. Instead, health officials needed to “meet people where they were” and develop a stronger understanding of local culture. At the same time, the local health care system urgently needed a network of citizen advocates who would ensure that the government did not ignore health needs.

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Realizing Solutions in Eritrea

The border war between Eritrea and Ethiopia ended in 2000 and caused widespread infrastructure damage and displaced nearly one-half of the Eritrean civilian population. At the same time, Eritrea has been severely affected by the multi-year drought that has plagued the entire Horn of Africa. The result is rising malnutrition, especially among children.

Mercy Corps’ programs in Eritrea strive to empower local community groups and improve nutrition while promoting the participation of girls in education. In 2002, we focused on ways to increase student attendance and community support for schools. Mercy Corps supplies fortified biscuits to 35,000 Eritrean children, strengthens parent-teacher associations, and promotes girls’ participation in education.
Local communities form the social foundation of people’s lives — groups of determined individuals drive the engines of change the world over. In the Balkans, Mongolia, Georgia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and many other countries and regions, Mercy Corps works side by side with local communities as they determine their own priorities and goals.

Local change creates powerful repercussions in larger cultures — community empowerment lays the groundwork for the pursuit of political equity. Focused through the lens of our civil society principles — participation, accountability and peaceful change — Mercy Corps’ programs are designed to facilitate this process.

Whether in moments of severe crisis or during the turmoil of reconstruction, it is the people — men, women, children — with whom Mercy Corps works who create a better future, a more just and productive world. We are honored to be at their sides, their partners in hope.
Mercy Corps' programming in eastern Georgia addresses the economic, political and social challenges that have developed since the demise of the Soviet Union. The ensuing civil conflict and economic collapse left Georgians with a profound sense of powerlessness over their lives.

To counter this, Mercy Corps has incorporated community mobilization into the heart of our Georgia programming. Our Community Initiative Groups identify, plan and implement projects that address their collective needs. The groups are responsible for developing their own local project proposals, including detailed budgets of which at least 25 percent must be contributed by the community in the form of money, materials, labor, and services.

Shared community projects inspire hope, confidence and the belief that things can change. Once a community successfully completes an initial project, they often move onto a second, third — and more. By the third project, the local contribution must reach 75 percent, enabling a community ownership that emphasizes responsibility over dependence.

Such achievement at the local level creates the preconditions for civic and political action at the national level. Mercy Corps' Georgia programming has empowered participants to take increasing control over their lives, and to understand that it is neither possible nor necessary to rely extensively on government assistance or international aid groups.

As Mongolia struggles to establish a democratic government, it is burdened by a widely dispersed population, weak infrastructure and the transition from a centralized state to a market economy. Mercy Corps' Gobi Initiative engages businesses, government, local organizations, and herders — whose livelihoods form the bulk of the region's economy — to create an environment that encourages economic development.

Before our program, herders often received reduced value for their products because they were isolated and dependent on traders' market information. Herders also did not consider improving the appearance of their products before sale to be important, and often received less money for their goods than they might have.

Now, thanks to Mercy Corps' Rural Business News radio program, newspaper and website, Gobi herders are well aware of market prices for their products and are able to bargain knowledgeably. Mercy Corps also provides workshops on increasing the value of cashmere. Since we introduced these Cashmere Clinics to Gobi residents, herders now wash and sort their cashmere, which increases its value — and the herders' incomes.

Both Mercy Corps' Rural Business News and the Cashmere Clinics have enabled herders to have more control over the material conditions that structure their lives. This has made an enormous difference in the lives of individual herders and in the economic well-being of the entire herder community.

Mercy Corps' Azerbaijan Humanitarian Assistance Program provides grants for organizations and programs that organize and mobilize communities to address self identified needs. By providing leadership that shapes the strategy of the largest humanitarian assistance initiative in Azerbaijan, Mercy Corps has altered the way in which many participants...
to ongoing mentoring. We also provide one-to-one business counseling and assistance in asset building. In 2002, we provided start-up financing for more than 20 businesses, half of which were owned by women, and 80 percent of which were minority, refugee or immigrant owned. These successful entrepreneurs are now giving back to their communities as they become mentors to yet another generation of entrepreneurs.

In partnership with JP Morgan Chase, Bright Horizons and the Douggy Center for Grieving Children, Mercy Corps’ Comfort for Kids program in New York City assists parents and childcare providers in recognizing and helping children affected by trauma.

Mercy Corps’ Comfort for Kids program raises awareness of the impact of trauma on children from both September 11 and from violence in their daily lives. This training program, aimed at parents and caregivers, is designed to strengthen emotional resilience in children. We also promote awareness of diversity and respect for others, helping to reduce racial and ethnic mistrust in our young people.

The long-term benefits of this program are enormous. Mercy Corps is helping participants to understand and address the signs and impact of trauma in themselves, their children and their communities.

In Portland, Oregon, Mercy Corps promotes self-sufficiency through microenterprise activities for low income, minority, women, refuge, and immigrant entrepreneurs, a constituency often considered “unbankable” by traditional lending institutions. By offering microcredit to this community, we provide opportunities for those who might not otherwise be able to start their own small businesses.

Mercy Corps educates participants in basic business practices, providing everything from pre-loan consulting to ongoing mentoring. We also provide one-to-one business counseling and assistance in asset building. In 2002, we provided start-up financing for more than 20 businesses, half of which were owned by women, and 80 percent of which were minority, refugee or immigrant owned. These successful entrepreneurs are now giving back to their communities as they become mentors to yet another generation of entrepreneurs.

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the first of its kind in the region — is currently being developed.

North Korea
Mercy Corps has remained active in North Korea since 1996. We have provided food, agricultural help and medical supplies, initiated conferences to increase communication, and organized professional exchanges between North Korea and the United States.

In 2002, Mercy Corps established a feeding project for 12,000 school children, providing students with two to three nutritious meals per week.

Russia
In Russia, social and economic problems often lead to family deterioration. There are currently over 600,000 orphaned and abandoned children in Russia.

Mercy Corps’ program in Russia combats these conditions through support services that promote alternative childcare and social services. Our program has trained more than 1,200 people and directly assisted more than 700 children and 400 families.

COMMUNITIES IN BOSNIA THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR. TAILORING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO FIT THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, MERCY CORPS’ PROGRAMS IN BOSNIA FOCUS ON INCREASING THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

A MERCY CORPS INITIATED MICROCREDIT INSTITUTION, PARTNER MICROCREDIT ORGANIZATION, HAS EMERGED AS THE LARGEST LENDING INSTITUTION IN BOSNIA, ENABLING NACENT ENTREPRENEURS TO START OR IMPROVE BUSINESSES. PEACE BUILDING IS INDIRECTLY PROMOTED BY RE-ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC LINKS BETWEEN FORMERLY DIVIDED COMMUNITIES, THUS BUILDING A BETTER ECONOMIC FUTURE FOR ALL.

WHEN THE SOVIET UNION COLLAPSED, CENTRAL ASIA WAS LEFT IN CHAOS. MERCY CORPS’ WORK IN TAJIKISTAN IS A STRONG VOICE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OPEN SOCIETY IN TAJIKISTAN, IN WHICH GOVERNMENT, LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES EACH PLAY A DECISIVE ROLE.

OUR PROGRAM FOCUSES ON CONSTRUCTING AN EFFECTIVE NETWORK OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND STRENGTHENING SMALL BUSINESSES TO SURVIVE IN A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT. WE PROMOTE DIALOGUE, IMPROVE STANDARDS OF LIVING, AND FACILITATE STRONGER COOPERATION AMONG COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

THROUGH LOCAL GROUPS, COMMUNITIES DETERMINE THEIR OWN PRIORITIES AND DESIGN THEIR OWN SOCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AIMED AT REDUCING CONFLICT.

IN KYRGYZSTAN, MERCY CORPS HAS FOUND THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION ENABLE LOCAL CITIZENS TO PRE-EMPT POTENTIAL CONFLICT. WE HAVE ENGAGED COMMUNITY GROUPS TO REPAIR SCHOOLS SHARED BY VILLAGES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE TAJIKISTAN-KYRGYZSTAN BORDER, PROVIDE CLEAN WATER TO A PAIR OF VILLAGES THAT STRADDLE THE KYRGYZSTAN-UZBEKISTAN BORDER, AND BUILD A HEALTH CLINIC FOR TWO KYRGYZ VILLAGES ISOLATED WITHIN UZBEKISTAN.

MERCY CORPS’ WORK IN LEBANON IS BASED ON A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MODEL, WHICH ENTAILS DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING COMPLEMENTARY PROJECTS IN SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC AREAS INSTEAD OF INITIATING THEM IN INDIVIDUAL VILLAGES. THIS ALLOWS OTHERWISE ISOLATED RURAL COMMUNITIES TO COMBINE RESOURCES.

AS THESE COMMUNITIES IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS THEIR OWN NEEDS, A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP IS ESTABLISHED, INCREASING CITIZENS’ SENSE OF SUCCESS AND SELF-RELIANCE. MERCY CORPS’ INCLUSIVE APPROACHENSURES THAT BOTH MEN AND WOMEN PARTICIPATE, WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY, EQUITY AND JUSTICE.

ONE OF MERCY CORPS’ MOST SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS IS THE BELMINE WOMEN’S COOPERATIVE. EDUCATIONAL TRAINING IS SUPPORTED BY MICROCREDIT LOANS, REINFORCING PARTICIPATION IN THE REGION’S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, THE COOPERATIVE HAS PROVEN TO BE AN AVENUE FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE WITH RESPECT TO WOMEN’S ROLES AND STATUS IN THE COMMUNITY.

MERCY CORPS ALSO PROMOTES DIALOGUE AMONG LEBANESE COMMUNITIES, REDUCING SOURCES OF CONFLICT. OUR FOCUS ON LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT, AND ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES PROVIDES A COMMON GOAL CROSSING ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS DIVIDES.

SNAPSHOTS

North Korea
MERCY CORPS HAS REMAINED ACTIVE IN NORTH KOREA SINCE 1996. WE HAVE PROVIDED FOOD, AGRICULTURAL HELP AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES, INITIATED CONFERENCES TO INCREASE COMMUNICATION, AND ORGANIZED PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES.

IN 2002, MERCY CORPS ESTABLISHED A FEEDING PROJECT FOR 12,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN, PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH TWO TO THREE NUTRITIOUS MEALS PER WEEK.

Russia
In Russia, social and economic problems often lead to family deterioration. There are currently over 600,000 orphaned and abandoned children in Russia.

Mercy Corps’ Program in Russia Combats These Conditions Through Support Services That Promote Alternative Childcare and Social Services. Our Program Has Trained More Than 1,200 People and Directly Assisted More Than 700 Children and 400 Families.

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As the manager of the US government-funded umbrella grant Azerbaijan Humanitarian Assistance Program, Mercy Corps has steered the movement in Azerbaijan away from short-term relief, and towards long-term, integrated community development. The programming Mercy Corps provides helps strengthen the ability of communities to address health care, economic development and agriculture priorities. The grants we disseminate and monitor enable communities to attend to self-identified needs.

Mercy Corps’ Child Survival program — the first of its kind in Azerbaijan — is helping three underserved mountainous districts on the Iranian border to improve maternal and child health. In this same remote area, we have also launched a Business Development Services project to improve local livestock production.
The World of Mercy Corps

Where We Work

In 2002, the global resources of Mercy Corps and its partners totaled more than $117 million. We managed 36 ongoing worldwide programs, assisting more than five million people in need. This map highlights where we currently work (shown in color), where we have operated in the past (shown in beige), and the headquarters of the partners that form the Mercy Corps family.

Worldwide Programs

Africa
1. Democratic Republic of Congo
2. Eritrea
3. Liberia

Americas
4. El Salvador
5. Guatemala
6. Honduras
7. Mexico
8. Peru
9. United States
10. Venezuela

Europe
11. Albania
12. Bosnia-Herzegovina
13. Croatia
14. Kosovo (Republic of Yugoslavia)
15. Macedonia
16. Montenegro (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)
17. Serbia (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)

Central and South Asia
18. Afghanistan
19. India
20. Kazakhstan
21. Kyrgyzstan
22. Pakistan
23. Tajikistan
24. Turkmenistan
25. Uzbekistan

East Asia
26. China
27. Indonesia
28. Mongolia
29. North Korea
30. Russia

Middle East/Caucasus
31. Azerbaijan
32. Chechnya (Russian Federation)
33. Georgia
34. Ingushetia (Russian Federation)
35. Iraq
36. Jordan
37. Lebanon
38. West Bank

Material Aid


Mercy Corps Family

A. Mercy Corps (Portland, OR, USA)
B. Mercy Corps Scotland (Edinburgh, Scotland, UK)
C. Mercy Corps DC and Pax World Service (Washington, DC, USA)
D. Mercy Corps Seattle (Seattle, WA, USA)
E. Projects Asia Global (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)
F. Projects Africa Global (Johannesburg, South Africa)
acknowledgements

To our Mercy Corps supporters, compassion knows no borders. From Albania to Azerbaijan, Central Asia to Central America, your generosity was overwhelming in 2002. Without each one of you, our work would simply not be possible.

As we express our deep gratitude to our many dedicated partners, we would like to renew our commitment to share mercy, justice and compassion around the world. With your help, we will continue to work to overcome hate, violence, poverty, and despair. Together, we are doing the things that matter most.

Thank you.

THE MERCY CORPS FAMILY

With headquarters in the US and Scotland, and vital partnerships around the globe, Mercy Corps reaches millions of people in need worldwide. We are proud to honor the organizations that make up the Mercy Corps family.

Mercy Corps Scotland

Based in the United Kingdom, Mercy Corps Scotland is Mercy Corps’ European headquarters, and one of the leading international humanitarian agencies in Scotland. In 2002, Mercy Corps Scotland managed a wide spectrum of relief and development programs in the Balkans, Central Asia, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Eritrea. Current activities include emergency support for refugees and war affected populations, health and educational programming, economic development for rural communities, and microcredit loans.

Proyecto Aldea Global – PAG

Mercy Corps/Proyecto Aldea Global has been working in Honduras since 1982. We are recognized there for our high-impact programs in underserved communities, particularly in the areas of health care and civil society initiatives. In 2002, Mercy Corps/PAG’s programs served over 200 villages in 17 municipalities. We are one of the few non-governmental organizations working in rural north and central Honduras.

Proyecto Aldea Global Jinotega – PAGJINO

Mercy Corps played a critical role in the founding of Proyecto Aldea Global Jinotega in Nicaragua in 1996. PAGJINO currently works in 32 communities, offering assistance to more than 1,000 farm families. In 1999, Mercy Corps and PAGJINO implemented a civil society strengthening program in Jinotega, helping PAGJINO establish itself as a self-sustaining local organization.

Pax World Service

Pax World Service formally affiliated with Mercy Corps in January 1998, creating a unique partnership that couples Mercy Corps’ emphasis on civil society initiatives with Pax World Service’s interest in peace and reconciliation. The Mercy Corps/Pax World Service merger also augments a unique relationship with the Pax World Fund, the first socially responsible mutual fund. Pax World Fund shareholders are able to designate a portion of their investments to Pax World Service, helping to increase Mercy Corps/Pax World Service’s support for those most in need worldwide.

Peace Winds Japan

In 2001, Mercy Corps formed an alliance with Peace Winds Japan, an international humanitarian organization based in Tokyo. The Mercy Corps/Peace Winds Japan partnership is committed to achieving social justice, equity and respect for human rights. By incorporating civil society initiatives into joint projects, we promote citizen participation, accountability, conflict management, and the rule of law.


Making a Difference, Changing the World

Mercy Corps’ message of hope inspired thousands of supporters around the world in 2002, resulting in near record contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, religious groups, and organizations. In all, private contributions totaled more than $13 million in cash and more than $10 million in commodities and services. In addition, more than 120 volunteers donated nearly 7,000 hours of work.

Mercy Corps and Tazo Tea Company Launch Partnership in Darjeeling, India

In 2002, Mercy Corps and Tazo Tea Company launched a joint project called Collaboration for Hope and Advancement in India (CHAI). The program focuses on improving access to high quality potable water, strengthening community groups through self-directed projects, and developing young people’s life skills. CHAI involves a coalition of growers, traders, and brokers—everyone who has a stake in the production and sale of Darjeeling tea. This multi-level commitment will help ensure long-term success.

Mercy Corps’ Stewardship is Honored

Worth magazine, a well known business and money management forum, selected Mercy Corps (from a poll of more than 800,000 US charities) as one of America’s 100 Best Charities for the second consecutive year. And the American Institute of Philanthropy has consistently given Mercy Corps an “A” rating for financial efficiency in the last eight of its rating guides.

Global Envision

Envision a World without Poverty

In 2002, Mercy Corps proudly launched a new web initiative, www.GlobalEnvision.org. Global Envision promotes the idea that creating responsible market opportunities for people worldwide is an effective way to alleviate poverty. Through Global Envision, we hope to reach more people with whom to share the stories and challenges of improving the lives of the poor. The more we know, the better our chances that the global economy will create prosperity for all. To find out more or to contribute your opinion, please visit www.GlobalEnvision.org.

Global Technology Solutions

Microsoft Supports Mercy Corps with Global Technology Solutions

Microsoft awarded Mercy Corps software valued at $739,000 in 2002. This enabled us to streamline operations and improve communications throughout more than 30 worldwide locations. It enhanced our worldwide staff’s ability to share information and track resources, critical tasks for efficient humanitarian aid and development strategies. The new software from Microsoft will provide Mercy Corps with the building blocks necessary to develop innovative technical solutions to local problems—and that means we can help more people more effectively.

The Hunger Site

The Hunger Site

In 2002, The Hunger Site once again selected Mercy Corps as one of two partners to receive funding from its popular “click-to-give” website. The Hunger Site is one of the most visited sites on the Internet. Every time you visit, advertisers on the site donate enough money to provide a cup of food to a hungry person. To find out more, visit www.hungersite.org.

Mobility International USA – Doors of Opportunity

For more than 20 years, Mercy Corps has been opening doors for people in need around the world. A new partnership with Mobility International USA promises to open the doors even wider to ensure that people with disabilities can participate. It is estimated that nearly 600 million people worldwide are disabled. With Mobility International, we are working to develop new organizational approaches and policies towards inclusiveness.

The Landrum Bolling Peace Fund

Dr. Landrum Bolling, Mercy Corps’ Director-at-Large, is an international expert at bridging gaps across religions, cultures and ethnicities. Dr. Bolling’s approach emphasizes global and grassroots initiatives that foster reconciliation as a foundation for building lasting peace. To honor and continue Dr. Bolling’s work, Mercy Corps is establishing the Landrum Bolling Peace Fund to support our civil society initiatives worldwide.

In 2002, Mercy Corps launched a new opportunity for supporters and friends to customize global tours to see our worldwide programs first hand. Our first trip found a group of 20 intrepid explorers—including Mercy Corps CEO Neal Keny-Guyer—travelling to the vast, open steppe lands of Mongolia to exchange expertise with participants in Mercy Corps’ Gobi Economic Growth Initiative. More trips are planned for 2003, including visits to Guatemala, China and a return to Mongolia. For more information or to join a tour, please visit www.mercycorps.org.

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Elizabeth and Bruce Goff

Founders Circle

Jonathan and Mark Weise

Founders Circle

Robert and Maryann Decker

Founders Circle

Steven and Nancy Turley

Founders Circle

Jennifer and Brian Rotenberg

PARTNERS IN MERCY — John Michael Talbot, Honorary Chair

Mary McLeod is a humanitarian and philanthropist whose fulfilling career and personal life demonstrate an authentic, living faith.

Those giving $1,000+ during 2002

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Founders Circle

Scott Thor

Founders Circle

Phillip P. Tamzen

Founders Circle

Makita and Emerina Simon

Founders Circle

John Failor

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Founded in 1998, the Good Samaritan Society has 512 members, 124 of whom are anonymous. These generous individuals annually give between 3,000 and 5,000.

Give For Kids

Here’s your chance to put your pitch into action and change a child’s life for good. Give For Kids is an easy way to make a difference in a child’s life every month. This truly web-based program is the perfect way to easily support camps, hospitals and other worthy causes. Click on the website at mygoodsam.org, give away your free gift and set up a new Give For Kids program and you’ve used a free gift.

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Good Samaritan Society

Give For Kids

For your next gift giving opportunity, Mercy Corps will send you a getting card and with a certificate describing your gift. Simply go to mygoodsam.org, or call 888-202-3785, ext. 359 for more information.

Mercy Corps

Give the Gift of Mercy

Mercy Corps is a way to honor friends and family while making a difference in the world. Remember Mercy Corps for your next gift giving opportunity. Mercy Corps will send you a getting card and with a certificate describing your gift. Simply go to mygoodsam.org, or call 888-202-3785, ext. 359 for more information.

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Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please consult your financial advisor before giving.

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Ensuring that resources are wisely spent is the cornerstone of our values, vision and strategy for

Material aid, government grants and private fundraising enabled us to provide significant relief and

The resources of Mercy Corps' global operations totaled more than $117 million in fiscal year 2002.

Mercy Corps — An Exemplary Stewardship Record