

... WITH A PASSION FOR FEEDING THE HUNGRY



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The Challenges of Tarahmara life in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico have been increased by a multi-year drought which has left many hungry and weakened by malnutrition. These conditions are further complicated by water contamination which leaves many sick from parasites, cholera, dysentery, or other waterborne diseases. Hunger Plus, in partnership with New Life (a water purification company) and Creation Care International (a community development organization) is helping to address these conditions by sponsoring water purification systems for rural communities. Four new water purifiers are presently being installed in rural Tarahumara communities in the Sierra in cooperation with Coordinacion Estatal de la Tarahumara (the State of Chihuahua agency with responsibility for assistance to indigenous groups in the State) It is hoped that these interventions will lead to improved health for Tarahumara communities.

The food that Hunger Plus has obtained through Salvation Army and sent into the Copper Canyon of Mexico is going to save lives this winter. The food is being distributed to remote communities in the region along with blankets. A five hour horseback ride will take you into the remote community of Mocorichi, a Tepajuano community, one of the other tribes that inhabit the Sierra in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico. There is no health center or school for the families who live here. An assessment has been undertaken to determine what can be done to assist the people in this area. We have toured local hospitals where we have witnessed the effects of malnutrition and starvation. The Hunger Plus food is definitely needed and can be critical to the survival of many this winter. The absence of rainfall this summer has produced the predicted food shortage which has weakened the population and contributes to dysentery, pneumonia and tuberculosis. The lack of appropriate nutrition and the critical time has also caused many complications for pregnant women and their babies, so the food donations are much appreciated. The weather is cold which is contributing to health problems among the Tarahumara, but the days are bright and we are constantly amazed at the patience of the Tarahumara through their trials.

Contributed by Bob Kuck, founder, Creation Care International

WFP advances drought insurance program: The World Food Programme has launched a new insurance tool aimed at providing food aid faster to poor countries hit by drought. WFP will pay insurers a premium and get a payout if rains do not fall, ensuring that it has funds on hand to provide disaster relief during droughts. Financial Times (London) (free content) (3/6)

U.S. food aid budget to \$1.3 billion: The U.S. should boost its spending on overseas food aid from \$1.2 billion in 2006 to \$1.3 billion in fiscal 2007, President George W. Bush proposed as part of his federal budget. Bush also advocated up to a quarter of the money be used to buy emergency food overseas, near the crisis spots, rather than from U.S. sources. AlertNet.org/Reuters (2/6)