**Christian World Service report to the 2020 General Synod/Te Hinota Whanui of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa and Polynesia.**

In 2018 Christian World Service (CWS) began working on a new three year strategic plan, partnering with global communities to transform lives. The plan has five strategic priorities.

1. **Grow downwards:** Attract a younger support base.

In seven decades of work, CWS has developed a distinctive approach to development which works through strong local partnerships to strengthen communities, improve livelihoods and ensure everyone has a say in their shared future. It is an approach that is shaped by our belief in the God of Life and the dignity of all people. In 2018, staff members spoke at the Justice Conference, attended other youth focused events, and continued to explore avenues for cooperation with church schools in particular. Through a new programme initiated by the Board, CWS trained two younger mentees in governance. Their contribution to discussions and promotion has been significant.

In 2019 CWS invited younger theologians and supporters to prepare resource material. Rev Jordan Redding contributed to the Peace Sunday resources and Kate Boardman, a Board mentee, wrote a prayer for Refugee Sunday. Alice Bates, a theology student and former Children’s, Youth and Young Adults’ leader at St Michael’s of All Angels in Christchurch, prepared the worship resources for the 2019 Christmas Appeal.

One of the challenges CWS is confronting head on is the need to increase income and support. CWS is now working with Black Advertising to reach new supporters with better marketing strategies. In this first year of the new strategic plan, CWS has put in place plans to reach new audiences and increase income.

1. **Tell Stories:** Communicate creatively and deeply about CWS’s work

Each year CWS has used the four seasonal appeals to communicate directly with supporters about the work our partners do as well as ask for support. CWS is grateful to Diocesan staff and publications as well as Anglican Taonga for including stories and news about our appeals. Through regular articles in church magazines and weekly mailings, CWS is able to share stories with a wider audience. Update (electronic newsletter) and emails have kept people informed of new appeals and resources as well as reports from partners. CWS launched a new website, covering its work.

Staff have spoken in local parishes and wider groups. Key areas of focus for this important activity were climate justice, the SDGs, emergency response and disaster preparedness, and the plight of refugees.

CWS continues to participate in the campaign for self-determination for West Papua and welcomes growing support for the indigenous peoples. We provided funding for the visit of human rights campaigner and filmmaker Wensilaus Fatubun and for scholar and human rights defender Rosa Biwangko Moiwend in 2019.

1. **Build Beyond:** Widening engagement with NZ churches and other Christians

CWS prepared material for worship and reflection for Refugee Sunday and Peace Sunday, designated in the church calendar. Refugee Sunday focused on the critical work done by the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees for refugee communities in the Middle East, tying in with Operation Refugee. On Peace Sunday in 2018, CWS encouraged churches to pray and support the churches of South Sudan in their work for peace and in 2019, the Maohi Protestant Church in its advocacy for compensation for those affected by nuclear testing in Maohi Nui or Tahiti.

In 2018, former MP Marian Hobbs spoke at the annual Supporters’ Council in Dunedin and in 2019 Archbishop Sir David Moxon spoke at the Council meeting held in Hamilton. He spoke about the ecumenical and interfaith response to human trafficking and modern slavery. The Supporters’ Council is one way CWS is accountable to supporters as well as through reporting to partner churches. Meetings are held annually in different places around the country so local supporters can attend.

1. **Think Ahead:** Developing skilled staff with succession plans in place.

There has been some Staff and Board changes over the past two years. CWS is grateful for David Lawson’s work as Relationships Coordinator. Eric Park was appointed to this position in June. Jordyn Kotara joined the staff in October 2019 and Steve Hamlin resigned in January 2020.

David Fielding resigned as the Anglican nominee on the Board and has been replaced by Fe’iloakitau (Fei) Tevi. Claire Gray, the chair of the Board resigned from the Board and Ian Lothian has been the acting chair since Claire’s resignation. Jonathan Fletcher was appointed to the Board as the nominee from The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

1. **Partner Well:** Resource, empower and support worldwide partners

In 2018-9 CWS made development grants to partners and provided humanitarian assistance in 22 countries and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Trish Murray, International Programmes Coordinator and I attended the ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance Assembly in November 2018. The meeting was held in Uppsala Sweden where members adopted a new way of working and a seven-year strategic plan. Following the meeting Trish attended the roundtable of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees and visited their programmes in Jordan, Lebanon and the West Bank. International Programmes Officer Steve Hamlin visited the Pacific Conference of Churches and the Social Empowerment Education Programme in Fiji and Church World Service Cambodia. CWS staff welcomed Rev James Bhagwan, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches to Christchurch in September 2019.

CWS was able to assist local partners provide humanitarian assistance after Typhoon Mangkhut in northern Philippines, earthquake and tsunami Central Sulawesi in Indonesia, Cyclone Gaja in South India in November, Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in March as well as our ongoing support for displaced people of South Sudan, Rohingya refugees and Syrian refugees. Local ACT Alliance partners who are deeply involved in their communities and know who is in most need of relief did much of this work. CWS received matching funding from the New Zealand Government for relief assistance in Central Sulawesi.

In response to the measles outbreak in Samoa in November 2019, CWS sent financial support to the Anglican Family Centre. The funds supported their work with the aiga or families who had lost loved ones and assisted families to meet basic needs.

**Conclusion**

In January 2020 CWS moved into a permanent home at the Aldersgate Centre, Durham Street Methodist Church in Christchurch. CWS and the Social Services Department of the Christchurch Methodist Mission are foundation tenants.

I wish to thank David Fielding for his time on the CWS Board. His expertise in Overseas Development sharpened the Board’s appreciation of our work and kept us up to date with aid trends. We welcome Fei to the Board and thank the General Secretary of the Anglican General Synod, Rev Michael Hughes for enabling his attendance at the Board meetings.

Most of all we are grateful to the many CWS supporters in Anglican and Cooperating parishes throughout the country. For more information about the work of Christian World Service, please go to the website [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)

Pauline McKay

National Director

14 February 2020