



## Ending the Injustice of Hunger

### Message from AMI's Board President, June Kim

The injustice of hunger continues unabated, even here in the United States. In one of the world's most industrialized nations, over 50 million people go hungry on any given day and of these 17 million are children. This unspeakable injustice occurs even as we throw away more than 40% of our food. Food justice has become a rallying cry for those who are working to end injustices that afflict humanity.

At the individual level, for the more than one billion (and increasing) people who earn less than two dollars per day, it is a daily struggle against incredible odds to feed them-selves and their families. At the global level communities and countries have become more dependent on the global market to provide their foods. Communities and countries that were once self-sufficient in production of basic foods are now dependent on imports to feed their populations, particularly in the rapidly growing cities. These countries are now in a critical situation as they spend more on food imports at the expense of other basic needs.

At AMI, we believe that the most salient factor contributing to the situation of food injustice is that communities and countries have lost control of their food production and distribution systems. As a result, most consumers have very little control over their food choices - where their food comes from, the conditions under which it was produced and how it is processed and transported. We also firmly believe that food sovereignty at the community level is essential to solving this problem in a sustainable and permanent manner. This is the reason our organization has focused its programs on working with local communities to restore their capacity to produce and distribute their own food.

This report briefly mentions some of the efforts in which AMI is engaged in accompanying our partner as they seek to build food systems that end injustice in their communities. Against incredible odds we are making progress which is the result of strong partnerships with our ecumenical and community based partners, with AMI playing a critical facilitating and technical role. I wish to thank all of you, our partners, both organizational and individual, for the support you provided during the year and look forward to your continued support in the future. We could not have done it without you.

Please do not hesitate to contact the staff if you need more detailed information on any of the programs described in this report.

Sincerely,  
June H Kim, AMI Board President



Food justice has become a rallying cry for those who are working to end injustices that afflict humanity.

*Kamusinde Community-Based Organization, Kenya — Women Watering Tree Nursery.*

## Message from the Executive Director, Winston Carroo

Rural Peoples all over the world are crying out for Justice and so is the land that sustains them. Accompaniment of our rural partners and in their struggles for justice is our reason for being.

In pure economic terms, the already wide gap between the rich and the impoverished continues to get even wider. Oxfam's recent report "Working For the Few" puts this stark reality into perspective: 1% of the global population controls half the world's wealth and the world's richest 85 people own as much as the entire bottom 50% of the global population. Just think about this for a moment. In the current era where money buys political influence, the basic tenet of democracy that embraces the concept of "one person one vote" goes out the window. Income inequality of this scale is not only a threat to democracy but is also a grave risk to global peace and stability.

The injustice which we witness today goes beyond mere economic reality. It manifests itself in the land grabs and the displacement of people from their ancestral lands, reckless exploitation of the natural resources that destroys the environment and the use of violence and draconian laws to protect the wealthy and politically powerful. It is a vicious cycle where wealth is the means of controlling political power and political power is the means of controlling wealth.

We cannot separate injustice against People of the Land from injustice against the Land itself. An act of injustice against one is an act of injustice against the other. Removing people from their land, who many understand as their spiritual mothers and fathers, is the gravest of all injustices, if there ever was a scale of measurement for this. People who are rendered landless are subjected to other forms of injustice –the injustice of homelessness, the injustice of hunger, the injustice of sickness, the injustice of ignorance, the injustice of the incomplete self- and on and on.....the injustice of injustice.

more on **3**

At AMI we firmly believe that injustice in all its forms must be confronted and challenged. This has been the main purpose of our organization since its founding in 1930. Since that time the world has changed and in response, AMI has also changed. Despite all these changes one thing has remained constant: **AMI'S COMMITMENT TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF OUR PARTNERS IN THEIR STRUGGLES FOR JUSTICE.**

This report will briefly describe some of our current efforts in the United States and many other parts of the world in our accompaniment of people who are at the forefront of this struggle. We consider it both a duty and a privilege to be engaged in these efforts. One thing is certain: Those who suffer injustice are engaged in a struggle against this evil. WE MUST BE THERE.

I hope you will join us in this struggle by supporting Agricultural Missions and by joining in our activities and actions. For more information please contact the staff or member of the Board.

Winston G. Carroo,  
AMI Executive Director



AMI firmly believes that injustice in all its forms must be confronted and challenged.

*Food Sovereignty Prize Group  
Picture - NNC portion of Haiti Tour*

## AMI'S MISSION

To follow the example of the teachings and life of Jesus Christ, to accompany and support people of faith and conscience around the world in the struggle to end poverty and injustice that affect rural communities, and work toward creation of a Sustainable Society.

## AMI'S VISION

To become a leading ecumenical organization recognized for prophetically standing with and connecting rural networks and faith communities in challenging the injustices of globalization.



## AGRICULTURAL MISSIONS, INC. PROGRAMS

### Rural Network

Facilitates exchange of communication, personnel and knowledge among peoples' organizations.

### Consciousness-Raising, Witness and Advocacy for Future Direction in Rural Mission

Education and training among representatives of member denominations and agencies, and North American church and community based constituencies, leading to advocacy and support on issues important to AMI constituencies.

### Rural Sustainability

- Gender and Development
- Earth, Culture and Spirituality
- Appropriate Technology
- Social and Racial Justice
- Rural Legal Assistance
- Training

### Capacity Restoration of Community Organizations Affected by Disasters

Assists partners in restoration and rebuilding of their capabilities to function effectively following disasters and to address specific issues of injustice, resulting from or exacerbated by disasters.



*Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville (SAL) Seed savers harvest 3 sisters field in rural Kentucky*



*Breaching Gate in Lands Recovered by Garifuna Partners: AMI Study Session 2013*

## CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING, WITNESS AND ADVOCACY FOR FUTURE DIRECTION IN RURAL MISSION

This program is designed to raise awareness and bring to the forefront both challenges and opportunities relating to food security, sustainable agriculture, land and water rights, economic development and other issues of importance to rural peoples. Our members, ecumenical and community partners are provided opportunities to engage in discussions, site visits that provide support and accompaniment and result in advocacy that seek changes in policy and action.





*Three Sisters Collective Field six weeks after planting—Rhodelia, Kentucky*

The 2012 study session was held at the Alma de Mujer Retreat Center in Austin, Texas, hosted by the Indigenous Women's Network, and centered on the theme "Food Sovereignty: A Human Right!" This 3-day gathering engaged participants in intense discussions on health and food justice, climate change, sustainable agriculture, advocacy and movement building around these issues. Tours of church and community gardens within Austin served to illustrate these and struggles for land, food sovereignty and local food production within their communities.

The 2013 study session was held in Vallecito, Honduras, hosted by our Garifuna partner organization The National Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH). With the theme of: Land, Culture, Climate and Sustainability this event provided vital accompaniment in the Land Recovery Campaign of OFRANEH and other indigenous peoples of Honduras whose lands have been illegally and forcibly appropriated by wealthy landowners. This Study Session provided opportunities for consciousness-raising for the North American and Salvadoran delegations. Follow up activities included advocacy to bring attention to the land grabbing situation in Honduras and the violence and intimidation being used to suppress the efforts of the indigenous peoples, and to support their access to legal services.



*Two Person Blockade, Rio Blanco—Honduras  
The Confederación de Organizaciones Populares Indigenas (COPINH), Honduras*



### **Drop the Unjust Charges!**

These Study Sessions are examples of AMI's premier educational event, where Board members, staff, partners and guests participate in educational forums and tours that assemble diverse organizations, activists, and concerned people leading to actions that increase awareness and advocacy that further the cause of justice.

*VIGIL—Honduras: Confederación de Organizaciones Populares Indigenas—(COPINH), Honduras Coordinated Honduran Consular Vigils in Solidarity with persecuted COPINH leadership*

## THE RURAL SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

The Rural Sustainability Program aims to accompany community based partners in activities that promote just and sustainable development processes. This program encompasses the elements of Gender and Development, Earth Culture and Spirituality, Social and Racial Justice, Training and Rural Legal Assistance. Through this program, technical service is also provided to our ecumenical partners in the planning and implementation of their own programs. Critical to this program is training in leadership and technical skill development that enhances the capacity of partner organizations as they assume responsibility for their own development. This program is integrated with our **Capacity Restoration Program** that is designed to help communities rebuild following disasters as we are doing in Haiti, Liberia and Sierra Leone.



*Vegetable Nursery - Democratic Republic of Congo, Kamina District, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) - Sustainable Agriculture and Development Program (SA&D)*

Within this program, deliberate emphasis is placed on empowerment of women, through access to training, education, and resources for leadership and economic development. As a result, women are engaged in critical leadership roles in their organizations and communities. Support for micro-credit activities, managed and operated by women's groups that have proven to be very successful for economic advancement, empowerment and overall improvement in the status of women.



*Facilitator Shows Solar Dryer for MORINGA Leaves — WAI Community Ideas Development Association, Roehen Village, Sierra Leone*

## CAPACITY RESTORATION

The Capacity Restoration Program is designed to assist in the restoration of partners' capabilities following disasters and to further enhance their ability to engage in and lead the reconstruction and rebuilding processes. Disasters have often been used as excuses to usurp the ownership and rights of use of land and other natural resources of indigenous peoples and those lacking in economic and political clout. Whether it is a lack of access to emergency relief and resources for rebuilding or grabbing of lands resulting displacement, the less privileged often suffer injustice and indignity in these circumstances.





## HAITI EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY

The Earthquake Recovery program began as a result of the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010. The program initially provided seeds and tools to restart food production, but in subsequent years focused on the construction of community seed silos, water catchment and storage cisterns and training in agro-ecological farming and business for women. More than 240 women benefited from the micro-lending program for agro based production and marketing.

*Women preparing food at AMI-2009 Study Session held in Haiti.*

## WEST AFRICA INITIATIVE (WAI)

The WAI program continues to make significant progress towards building sustainable communities in Liberia and Sierra Leone following the destructive civil wars in both countries. The program was initiated in 2009 and by the of 2013 was successfully implemented in 33 communities, with a total of 1100 group members and over 7500 direct beneficiaries. In addition 15 community facilitators have been trained and deployed in rural areas. The evolution of the Village to Village aspect of the program is being emphasized to ensure continuation of the after external support end.



*Harvesting Groundnuts—UMCOR Sustainable Agriculture and Development Program in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.” AMI provides technical services to this program.*

## RURAL NETWORK PROGRAM

Rural Network Program is the vehicle AMI uses to facilitate visits and exchanges among our rural partners and between them and our community based and ecumenical partners. Through this program, AMI affords Board members, staff and partners the opportunity to expand their knowledge base and contacts as they learn of longstanding and emerging issues facing rural peoples. This program provides many opportunities to stand in solidarity with partners in the United States and overseas.



*STUDY SESSION 2012 - Board Members and Guest Visit Community Garden — Austin, TX*



**WE STOOD IN SOLIDARITY** with partners in Detroit by engaging our network in the use of social media to raise awareness and increase pressure to prevent land grabbing. **WE STOOD IN SOLIDARITY** with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) in their successful campaign to force fast food companies to sign a fair food agreement that resulted in increase wages for farmworkers. **WE STOOD IN SOLIDARITY** with the Indigenous people of Honduras in our accompaniment Honduras of their struggles to retain control of their ancestral lands.



“ If 2013 is any indication of the future, then the work of AMI becomes even more important amid rising inequality, the impact of climate change and the ongoing food crisis.”

- Winston Caroo  
AMI, Executive Director

*MPP 40th Anniversary march streams out of the National Training Center in Papaye toward the Provincial capital Hinche. Rallying for Agrarian Reform!*

Through the Food Sovereignty Delegation to Haiti, **WE STOOD IN SOLIDARITY** with partner organizations in their efforts to rebuild the rural sector of that country from the rubble of the earthquake of January 2010.

These efforts are leading to a more secure food supply and economic well being in hundreds of rural communities. Women are engaged in agro-ecological agricultural production and marketing through training and technical support and revolving loan program for inputs and marketing assistance.



*MPP and MPNKP delegates rest before march to Hinche at 40th Anniversary of MPP*



AMI worked closely throughout the year as part of the U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA) that works to empower of its members—farmers, farmworkers, urban agriculturalists and food justice advocates- to define, coordinate and stimulate their on-going work of achieving food justice.

*OFRANEH—Flag raised over land recovery gathering, Vallecito, Honduras.*



*Training for Facilitators from Liberia and Sierra Leone — West Africa Initiative (WAI).*



*Girl With Plantains - Rochen Village, Sierra Leone*

## 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

### INCOME

Religious Agencies	293,342
Organizations and Congregations	2,560
Foundations	1,100
Individuals	7,753
Miscellaneous	185
<b>Total</b>	<b>304,940</b>

### EXPENSES

Administration	64,173
Partner/Program Support and Activities	259,934
Printing, Publications, Resource Development	1,502
<b>Total</b>	<b>325,609</b>

## List of Partners

- African Center for Human Development (ACHD), Ghana
- Alma de Mujer, USA
- Articulación Nacional Campesina (ANC) / The National Peasant Articulation, Dominican Republic
- Bharathi Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS), India
- Catholic Charities, Refugee Agriculture Partnership Program (RAPP)
- Chethana Network, India
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion, USA
- Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), USA
- Comercializadoras de Productores del Campo (ANEC), Mexico
- Community Farm Alliance (CFA), USA
- Community Research on Environmental and Development Initiatives (CREADIS), Kenya
- Confederación de Organizaciones Populares Indigenas (COPINH), Honduras
- Convergencia de Movimientos de los Pueblos de las Americas, (COMPA), Latin America and the Caribbean
- Council of Churches Sierra Leone, (CCSL) Africa
- Family Farm Defenders (FFC), USA
- Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), USA
- Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (FSC/LAF), USA
- FONDAMA Foundation, Haiti
- Forum on Women's Rights and Development Organization (FORWARD), India
- Friends of the MST, USA
- Gender Development Institute (GDI), Ghana
- Grassroots International (GRI)
- Grenada Community Development Agency (GRENCODA), Grenada
- Honduras Solidarity Network (HSN), USA
- Indigenous Women's Network (IWN), USA
- Institute of Social Ecology, USA
- International Institute for the Cooperation Amongst People, (IICP)
- El Salvador /Siglo XXIII, El Salvador
- Kamusinde Christian-Based Community Organization (KCCBO), Kenya
- Kentucky Jobs with Justice, USA
- Kentucky May Day Coalition, USA
- Kenya Institute of Organic Farming (KIOF), Kenya
- Mississippi Association of Cooperatives, USA
- Movimento Dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST), Brazil
- Mouvmman Peyizan Papay (MPP), Petionville Haiti
- Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico-Haitianas, Dominican Republic (MUDHA)
- National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC), USA
- National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM), USA
- National Fisheries Solidarity Organization (NAFSO), Sri Lanka
- Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña (OFRANEH), Honduras
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), USA
- Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), USA
- Rural Coalition (RC), USA
- Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative, USA
- Southwest Alabama Association of Rural Minority Women SAARMW), USA
- Uganda Resource and Development Foundation (URDF), Uganda
- Uniendo Manos Por La Vida (UMAVIDA), Bolivia
- United Church of Christ, Wider Church Ministries, (WCM), USA
- United Church of Canada—Canada
- United Methodist Women, USA
- U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA)
- Via Campesina International
- Virginia Organizing, USA
- West Africa Initiative of Liberia (WAIOL) - Liberia
- West Africa Initiative of Sierra Leone – Sierra Leone
- World Hunger Year, USA



## Denominations and Religious Agencies

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
*Week of Compassion*

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
*Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*  
*Presbyterian Hunger Program*  
*Self Development of People*

United Church of Canada

United Church of Christ  
*Wider Church Ministries*

United Methodist Church  
*United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)*  
*United Methodist Women*

## Congregations and Organizations

Alliance for Global Justice  
*Week of Compassion*

Center for New Community

Christ United Methodist Church

Columbia Peace Fellowship

Kentucky Interfaith Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean

Mississippi Association of Cooperatives

Sisters of St. Dominic

St. Williams Church

Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville

## Other Support

G.E. Foundation

Promised Land Legacy Project

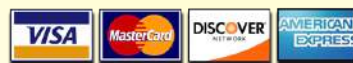
University of Wisconsin

## Supporting Members



*Child and Rooster, Kangana Group, Sierra Leone*

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