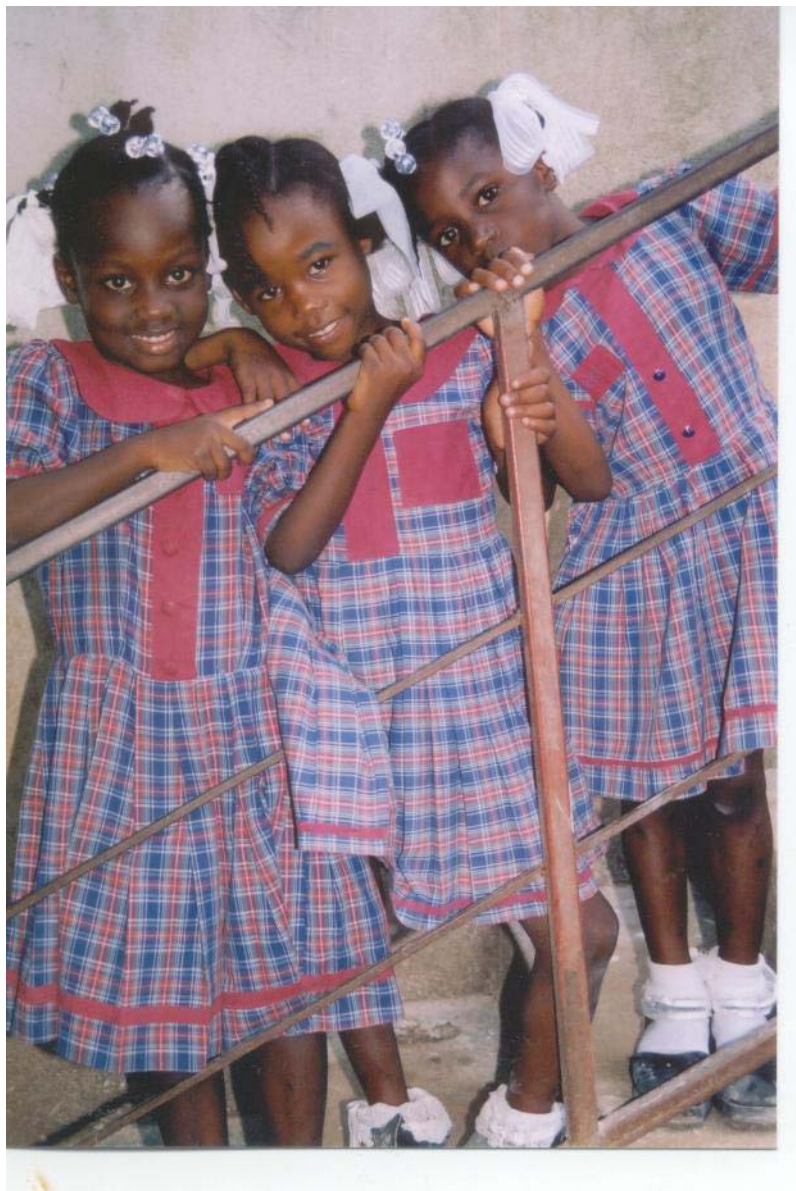


**ANANDA MARGA  
UNIVERSAL RELIEF TEAM  
(AMURT)**

**2004  
ANNUAL REPORT**



## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to help improve the quality of life for the poor and underprivileged people of the world, and to assist the victims of natural and man-made disasters.

We believe that the best assistance is that which encourages and enables people to develop themselves. Hence we help individuals harness their own resources for securing the basic necessities of life and for gaining greater economic, social and spiritual fulfillment



## BACKGROUND

AMURT (Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team) is one of the few private voluntary organizations of Third World origin, being founded in India in 1965. Its original objective was to help meet the needs of victims of disasters that regularly hit the Indian sub-continent. Over the years AMURT has established teams in eighty countries, to create a network that can meet development and disaster needs almost anywhere in the world.

AMURT (USA.) was established in 1973 and incorporated in 1985. In the same year we broadened our goals to include long-term development. We feel we can play a useful role in helping the poor break the cycle of poverty and gain greater control over their lives. For us, development is human exchange: people sharing wisdom, knowledge and experience to build a better world.

AMURTEL was formed in 1975 as a sister organization to respond specifically to the problems faced by women and children in their struggle to develop. AMURTEL is managed by women and initiates programs that raise the standard of health and education of women and their children. The programs also permit women to gain greater self-determination and economic independence.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- Every human being has the right to meet his or her own fundamental needs such as nourishment, accommodation, medical care, clothing and education. The resources of the earth should be used in a just and appropriate way to meet those needs.
- Every human being regardless of race, creed, sex, color or social status is a dignified member of the human family and should be treated with understanding and respect.
- It is only by showing respect for women, and ensuring their integration and active participation in the development process, that a harmonious growth of the family, community and society as a whole can be achieved.
- Development is a balanced process that maintains an equilibrium between industry and the environment, urban and rural growth, human needs and available resources. Development should lessen the gap between rich and poor and provide opportunities for all.
- Appropriate development begins within the social and culture framework of each community. It enables underprivileged communities to gain a greater degree of independence to determine their own future.
- Development should respect the natural ecosystems of the earth so that all living beings may live in health and harmony.
- The freedom to express our full potential for all-round physical, intellectual and spiritual fulfillment is a fundamental right of all people.

## **AMURT Projects at a Glance**

Albania (Tirana):	Micro-credit
Burkina Faso (Deou):	Village health training
Dominican Republic: (San Cristobal, San Francisco, Arroyo de Leche)	Pre- and primary schools
Ghana (Seva):	Medical clinic and public health, child survival
Ghana (Adidome):	Drinking water supply
Haiti (Port-au-Prince):	Health care, education
India (Ananda Nagar):	Children's night schools
Jamaica (Kingston):	Pre- and primary schools
Kenya (Mombasa/Nairobi):	Children's homes, child survival, HIV/AIDS programs
Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar):	Children's homes, child survival
Mozambique (Xai-Xai):	Hygiene and sanitation program in schools
Nicaragua (Managua):	Child survival, preschool
Peru (Paraiso Alto):	Child survival, women's economic development
Philippines (Davao):	Child education, farmers cooperatives, microcredit, sustainable agriculture, women's cooperatives
Romania (Bucharest/Panatau):	Children's homes
South Africa (Orange Farm):	Child education, computer training, healthcare, HIV/AIDS
Thailand (Chumpon/Sangkaburi):	Children's villages, child survival
Uganda (Wsswa)	Child education, children's home

## Ghana: Water and Healthcare Projects Expand

After a prolonged battle, AMURT finally received VAT exemption for the Zongo Water Project from the Ghana government. Since that time, plumbers, masons, drilling teams, and community organizers have often been compelled to work seven days a week. We faced a tough challenge with installation of the iron pipes on the hill up to the reservoir. But we tamed the hill and it became our friend. The tuning of the electrical installations, the generator and the pumps also gave us many difficulties. Our next task is to ensure the smooth implementation of community management for the Zongo Water Project. This will also give many challenges, as many similar projects are being mismanaged.



*Teaching standard patient assessment procedures to the clinic staff*



Testing a woman's eyes with a focometer

The Seva Clinic has been lifted to a new level as we began hosting overseas nurse volunteers through Kidworldwide in March. The presence of the volunteers has improved the services at the clinic. In addition to helping to see patients, volunteers have been training the local staff, and have upgraded the procedures at the clinic, which now has a much wider stock of medicines and supplies, and a resource library.

With the help of the volunteers, we have initiated community health education programs in villages throughout the water project area and beyond. This adds a new dimension to AMURT's work in the area, which we are looking to expand in the future.



*The water project in Ghana is assisted with communal labor. Here women from Wudzrlo are carrying pipes*

## **Burkina Faso: Health for Remote Villages**

AMURT's work continues in the remote Deou District of Oudalan province in North Eastern Burkina Faso. The focus is on the health sector, and specifically on the training of village midwives and health promoters. In 2004 another five midwives were trained for villages under the jurisdiction of the Boulekessi Medical Center. The candidates were elected by the women in their villages. Midwives from the villages under Deou Medical Center and Gandafabou medical center, also received further training. Currently we have 18 midwives working well. They work as volunteers and have become true leaders for the women in their communities. Every summer they receive sack of millet (the staple food in the desert communities) to help feed their families until the next harvest in December. AMURT and the department of health conduct monthly joint follow up visits to monitor the work and give support and guidance. The program is now in it's third year, and the impact on the health of mothers and children is being felt throughout the district.

We have been able to assist the Deou Medical Center to have their own vehicle that will be used for ambulance and also for the SMI Mobile outreach program to the villages. Recently AMURT received funding from NORAD, the Norwegian Development Agency which allows us to build on the midwifery program and launch the SMI Mobile.



*AMURT donated this ambulance for the Deou Medical Center*

## AMURT Schools in Haiti

In 2004, we raised \$43,600 in the US and Canada for the Haiti project. This money was used primarily to renovate the primary school in Delmas, and to purchase land for a playground for the Delmas school.

As a result of the 2004 funding, we were able to provide a variety of new activities for the children, including dance and martial arts. We were also able to take the children on their first field trip to the beach!

We have two schools. The Delmas school (kindergarten and primary) educates 460 children. We have fourteen teachers. Currently, we are only able to provide cooked food for the fifty poorest students. The Bourdon school (kindergarten and primary) educates 300

children with 8 teachers. It provides a meal of rice and beans every day to all the children. We also engage the children in social service activities. For example, recently the older children from the Bourdon school cooked and distributed food to children in a pediatric hospital in Port-au-Price. These activities give the children a taste of the joy of reaching out to others.



*Many of the children receive free food at the school because their families are unable to care for them properly*



*The children do yoga and other activities to broaden their education*



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### **Affiliations**

AMURT is a member of the American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction), and the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). AMURT is affiliated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations as a Non-Government Organization.