

# Club of Friends of People in Need



Peaceful protests of Buddhist monks were the main "force" of the Saffron revolution



The army used gas and arms against the protesting monks



Tens of people were killed and thousands were arrested during the crackdown

The Friends Club was established as a means for individual supporters to make contributions to the efforts the organization was making, in order to ease the lives of people in need around the world. Most members send 200 or 300 crowns a month. Their donations then change people's lives for the better in many countries of the world, including Burma. Club of Friends was founded in 2003 and has approximately 5,000 members.

The Club's motto is: **Donate ten crowns a day.** Even a modest sum like this can save lives. A great many people can afford to donate ten crowns a day. The advantage of this collection is the regularity of the donations. If we enlist a donor who gives ten crowns, in a month they send 300 and in a year 3,600 crowns. This is a significant sum of money that can be used to help people, without affecting very much the donor's family budget.

## The means of the Club of Friends are used as follows:

### 50% humanitarian fund

Thanks to this fund we are able to react immediately and send aid to disaster-stricken places.

### 25% protection of human rights

We aid people persecuted politically and those close to them with medicines and food. This mainly concerns Burma, Belarus and Cuba.

### 25% new projects and our activity

Development of our organisation and support facilities. Preparatory trips to afflicted countries, increasing security of our workers, running Club of Friends, and acquiring new members.

Members of Club of Friends are regularly informed of the activities of People in Need. We e-mail them several times a year up-to-date information on where their money is helping. Every member also receives the annual report by e-mail. Members also receive free tickets to selected performances at the One World film festival.

**You can find more about 2009 aid projects at**

<http://www.peopleinneed.cz/club>



## Use of donations from members of Club of Friends in 2008:

### 50% humanitarian fund

Half the donation is used for direct humanitarian assistance in the world. The donations are collected in the Humanitarian Fund which enables us to react immediately. **Aid financed from this Fund is available to those in need when they need it most and every hour saved in the transport of aid makes a difference.** This determines the nature of aid, which is usually food, drinking water, medicines, water disinfection means, provisional shelters, and the like. The overriding task is to assure survival of the victims, to prevent infections, to supply staple foods and sanitary aids.

**A catastrophic draught struck Ethiopia in spring 2008.** People had to drink dirty river water because usual sources of drinking water had dried. As a result, diarrhoeic diseases and malnutrition rapidly spread, and this could end with death, particularly in children. Responding to the threatening catastrophe the branch of People in Need asked for one million crowns to be released by the Club of Friends and the very next day this was sent to Ethiopia. Thanks to this rescue work could start right away and medicines were distributed to provisional first-aid posts in tents for undernourished children. At the same time, money from the Club was used to restore sources of drinking water.

**Assistance for victims of the cyclone in Burma was as swift.** In the first weeks after the disaster people in 122 villages received aid thanks to finance from the Club of Friends and the collection SOS Burma. People in Need distributed there 120 tons of food and clothing for 9,000 people, 1,720 blankets, 8,000 metres of fabric for provisional shelters, medicines and tablets to decontaminate 3 million litres of water.

Club of Friends funds were used to aid people suffering from the ten-year war in **Congo**, where a hospital was equipped, for example, to provide care to raped women. Further care was assured for these women, including accommodation and employment. At the end of the year we started to prepare aid in refugee camps where hundreds of thousands of people live from hand to mouth.

Thanks to Czech donors refugees in **Georgia** and draught-afflicted farmers in **Afghanistan** received aid. After the brutal suppression of the demonstrations in **Tibet** medical supplies were purchased on the spot to be used by brave doctors treating the wounded.

### 25% protection of human rights

Twenty-five per cent of the donations is used to directly aid people persecuted for political reasons and their families. Donations from the members of the Club have been helping people persecuted by totalitarian regimes in **Cuba, Burma** and **Belarus**. Aid is distributed from the Fund to prisoners of conscience and their families, who thus obtain necessary medicines, money to buy food or legal aid. People in Need supports in these countries independent journalists and other representatives of civil society.

### 25% support for projects and development of organisation

Twenty-five percent is earmarked for the development of the organisation and support facilities, preparatory trips of our workers to afflicted countries, increasing the security of our workers, running the Club of Friends and acquiring new members.



People in Need coordinators deliver medicines to a hospital in Sri Lanka



People are standing in a queue for water at a 200m deep well built in Ethiopia



Women in Kongo found job in a workshop launched by People in Need