

East Jamaica Conference
Of Seventh-day Adventists
ADRA COORDINATOR

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November 6, 2024.

TO ALL: PASTORS, ELDERS, CHURCH BOARDS, AND MEMBERS.

RE: ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA)

ADRA: Yesterday and Today

Yesterday

Since its beginning, ADRA has been committed to reflecting God's love through compassionate acts of humanitarian service.

ADRA began in the early years after World War II. It was established to help bring relief to war victims in Europe. However, it broadened its reach to include anyone anywhere who suffered from a major disaster. By 1956, ADRA was officially established under the name Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Service (SAWS).

By the mid-1970s, SAWS began to extend its work into long-term development through programs that combat hunger, boost local economies, empower community development, establish health clinics, teach hygiene, health, and nutrition, and much more. SAWS underwent another name change in 1973 to Seventh-day Adventist World Service to acknowledge this extension of its work. In 1983, SAWS changed its final name to Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

Today

Relief continues to be an integral part of ADRA's work, ADRA responds to sudden and chronic disasters worldwide with emergency relief such as food, shelter, medicine, and emergency supplies. ADRA's work in development improves the quality and standard of living in poor communities worldwide. ADRA does this through income generation, programs, water and sanitation projects, agricultural training, micro-finance opportunities, cooperatives, literacy, and health programs. Most of these programs emphasize the role of women and the protection of children.

ADRA is currently one of the leading non-governmental development and relief organizations in the world. ADRA has more than 4,000 staff members worldwide, with a presence in more than 120 countries.

Yours in the Master's Hand,

Sheldon Schooler, Pastor