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# INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

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**What is International Orthodox Christian Charities?**

IOCC is a humanitarian aid agency established in 1992 by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America. IOCC works in cooperation with the Orthodox Church and on behalf of Orthodox Christians. In carrying out its mission, IOCC applies the highest professional standards and renders itself fully accountable to the public and its donors.

**What is the mission of IOCC?**

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.

**Who benefits from the services of IOCC?**

Since its inception, IOCC has provided more than \$400 million in humanitarian relief, sustainable development and self-help programs to people in need. All assistance is provided solely on the basis of need, and benefits orphans, refugees and displaced persons, the elderly, school children, families and people with disabilities.

**Where is IOCC providing assistance?**

IOCC programs have helped people in 50 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America. Since the need for help is great, IOCC continually works to expand its programs to other areas.

**What types of services does IOCC provide?**

- **Community Development and Mobilization** programs increase the ability of local organizations to address local challenges.
- **Refugee Return and Assistance** programs facilitate the safe reintegration of refugees into their home countries.
- **Youth Development and Services** programs foster youth leadership and youth participation in their communities.
- **Business Development** programs give people the tools to work their way out of poverty with dignity.
- **Agriculture and Food Production** programs help rural populations raise their levels of nutrition, standard of living and agricultural productivity.
- **Disaster and Emergency Relief** programs address the immediate needs of people suffering from natural disaster, war or civil unrest.
- **Education and Training** programs nurture local leaders and organizations which advocate for their communities and promote the general welfare.
- **Social Welfare** programs provide material and technical assistance to social welfare institutions such as hospitals, orphanages and homeless shelters.
- **Infrastructure Construction and Repair** programs for the repair of homes, farm infrastructure, schools and public utilities.

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) was formed in the crucible of crisis and has continued to meet the needs of the world's most vulnerable people and communities in the midst of historic upheaval — from the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the wars in the former Yugoslavia, to the terrorist attacks on the United States.

Over the past 18 years, IOCC has delivered over \$330 million in humanitarian and development programs in more than 33 countries.

Prior to 1992, Orthodox Christians in North America, numbering more than 4 million, did not have a mechanism for responding in a unified way to emergencies in the United States or to African famines. Additionally, with the Eastern European revolutions of 1989 and the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, the plight of people of all faiths living in historically Orthodox countries came to new light in the West.

The Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) responded in early 1992 by uniting several Orthodox relief initiatives already underway and joining them into one agency – IOCC. The idea was to set a new standard for Orthodox philanthropy, both in terms of quality of service and efficiency of delivery. Since then, IOCC has maintained a steadfast commitment to some of the most vulnerable people in the world – children, the elderly, the disabled, displaced persons – and to its principles of Orthodox compassion and justice.



IOCC's distinguished service includes its response to the humanitarian crises in the former Yugoslavia. IOCC provided continuous humanitarian assistance during the war in the early 1990s and during the 1999 crisis in Kosovo. It continues to help the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro recover from a decade of war, international sanctions and isolation.

In the Holy Land, IOCC began working in Jerusalem and the West Bank in 1997 by providing emergency assistance to the victims of political unrest. Today, IOCC is addressing issues of deep seated rural poverty among 24 isolated villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

From 1999 – 2002, IOCC implemented \$38 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs that distributed millions of metric tons of food to vulnerable populations of the former Soviet Union. In 2001, IOCC was selected by the USDA to participate in the Global Food for Education Initiative in Lebanon and Georgia. Through this program, IOCC provided nutritious snacks to thousands of underprivileged children. In 2003, IOCC responded to the war in Iraq by providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people.

In 2004, IOCC launched a major new program, partnering with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in a massive anti-AIDS education campaign and in efforts to provide palliative and other forms of care to orphans, HIV-infected adults and their children. IOCC implemented more than \$7 million in U.S. government funding to assist Lebanon following the 2006 war, and to repair over 150 public schools throughout the country. In 2007, IOCC began a \$4 million program to provide primary education and vocational training to thousands of Iraqi refugees living in Syria. IOCC's most recent project in 2008 has included delivering \$2.2 million in medical supplies to Zimbabwe.

As IOCC concentrates on Africa, the Middle East and other parts of the world, it continues to work with the Orthodox Church as a global community of tremendous resources.



# IOCC®

## GLOBAL RESPONSE — WINTER 2012

**GREECE** – With Greece’s escalating economic woes driving more and more families into a desperate struggle to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table, IOCC in cooperation with Apostoli, the social service agency of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Athens, is putting your support to work securing food aid packages for impoverished families and jobs for the unemployed. IOCC is supporting Apostoli’s efforts to collect, sort and package food items from donation centers set up in 213 participating supermarkets in Greece. From a donated warehouse space, the newly hired workers assemble 30-pound parcels containing enough food staples such as flour, rice, beans, milk and canned tomatoes to feed a family of four for a month. The food aid packages are then delivered each month to 70 parishes in the greater Athens metropolitan area where they are distributed by the parish priest to families living in poverty.



Katerina Basileiou/Apostoli

**SYRIA** – As concern grows over the plight of displaced families in Syria, IOCC and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA) in cooperation with the Syrian Red Crescent are working to identify the most urgent needs of these families including housing assistance, aid for displaced schoolchildren, essential hygiene and household items, infant supplies, medical kits and heating fuel. GOPA teams are visiting displaced families resettled in Damascus, while IOCC staff in both Jordan and Lebanon are working to attend to the needs of Syrian refugees pouring into both countries. Syria currently hosts one of the largest urban refugee and asylum-seeker populations in the world, with more than one million refugees from neighboring Iraq. In addition to the Iraqi refugee assistance program currently being implemented by IOCC and GOPA, with the support of Finn Church Aid, IOCC continues to support Iraqi refugees in Jordan.

**ZIMBABWE** – Through a donation from the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, IOCC in cooperation with the Zimbabwe Orthodox Church and medical partners, Medical Teams International (MTI) and Wheels for Humanity (WFH), delivered 185 wheelchairs and two large medical kits to St. Nectarios Clinic in Parktown filled with enough medicine to treat 20,000 ailing children and adults for intestinal and respiratory infections, malaria, cholera and pneumonia. Since 2006, IOCC has delivered over \$13 million in medicines and medical equipment to the people of Zimbabwe.



# IOCC®

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## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT OUR WORK

“Obviously IOCC was a major player here. They came out early on. I think they did very well in terms of how they approached the problem. They went to local communities, talked to the diocese, to the priests, to the community leaders, to the farmers, to those most impacted by the damage. They went to the communities and talked to them about their needs. So we were very pleased that an American organization and private citizens reached out to help their Greek friends.

**– Daniel V. Speckhard, U.S. Ambassador to Greece**

“I want to thank ... International Orthodox Christian Charities for helping to pave the way to reconciliation and to rebuild the trust that has been so broken in Bosnia. As Americans, we are proud to support and join in these efforts.”

**– U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton**

“IOCC’s mission in the service of the poor is a common, sacred task. ... IOCC is a vehicle of cooperation for the sister Orthodox Churches. We need this inter-Orthodox unity not only in the area of philanthropy but also on a broader spectrum.”

**– His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW**

“IOCC has opened avenues for Orthodox activity where no one imagined we would ever go.”

**– His Eminence Archbishop DEMETRIOS  
of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**

“IOCC is an unprecedented endeavor for Orthodox Christians, in that it represents the collective philanthropic expression of all Orthodox jurisdictions in America. ... It is now considered an important part of the American philanthropic scene.”

**– Paul Sarbanes, former Senator, D-Md.**



# IOCC®

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## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT OUR WORK

“You don’t have to be Orthodox Christian to appreciate the great work IOCC does. Through partnership with local community organizations in more than a dozen countries, they are creating lasting, positive change on a broad scale. I have seen IOCC’s work first-hand and admire and support their humanitarian efforts around the world.”

**- Jim Rosapepe, former U.S. Ambassador to Romania**

“I certainly give my most heartfelt recommendation to all Orthodox Christians to participate in this organization, because it is indeed a manifestation of our unity and has shown itself in our hour of need.”

**- His Holiness Patriarch PAVLE of Serbia**

“We are very proud of the work which IOCC has done in Serbia. It’s really a unique organization filling a unique role in this society. IOCC is at the cutting edge, not only representing the best of American society, but representing some of the new and fresh forces in the Church.”

**- Richard Miles, former chief of mission,  
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**

“(IOCC is) American Orthodoxy’s gift to the world.”

**- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**



# IOCC®

## CONSTANTINE “DEAN” TRIANTAFILOU

*Executive Director & CEO*

Constantine M. Triantafilou exemplifies IOCC’s mission in action. Responding to the call since 1993, Triantafilou has been a driving force behind the dynamic growth of IOCC, a humanitarian aid agency of Orthodox Christians, for the past 17 years.

Triantafilou, 46, manages all facets of relief and development programs for IOCC, including its international headquarters in Baltimore, Md., and 9 field offices in Eastern Europe, Africa, the Caucasus, the Balkans, and the Middle East.

Before becoming executive director, Triantafilou served as interim executive director (1997-1998), director of programs (1996-1997), regional coordinator for Balkan programs (1995-1996), and Yugoslavia country representative (1993-1995). Under his leadership as director of programs, IOCC’s humanitarian outreach grew rapidly, expanding to serve more than 400,000 people annually.

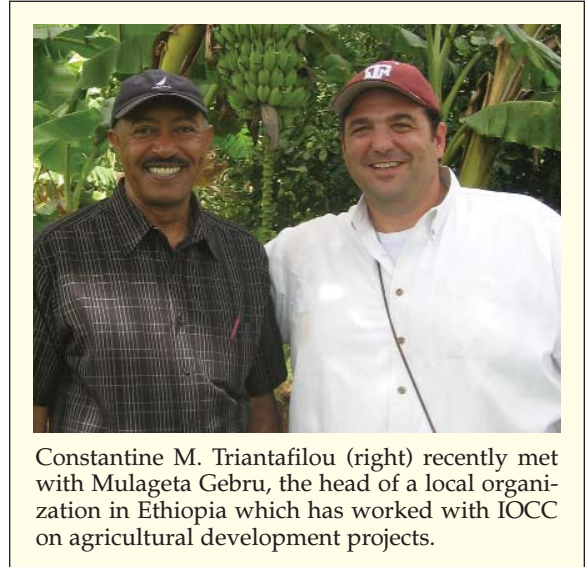
During his nearly four years in the Balkans, Triantafilou overcame formidable obstacles under wartime conditions to implement critically-needed relief programs worth tens of millions of dollars, providing assistance to people of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds.

Triantafilou’s extensive international and ecumenical experience includes ongoing dialogue with numerous government and private organizations, including Action by Churches Together (ACT), a worldwide network of churches and their humanitarian aid agencies, and Church World Service (CWS). He serves on the ACT Emergency Committee and the CWS Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Emergency Response Program.

Triantafilou has led emergency response and sustainable development initiatives in numerous countries, including Albania, Ethiopia and the Holy Land. His service with IOCC has involved regular visits to the field, fundraising efforts and speaking engagements.

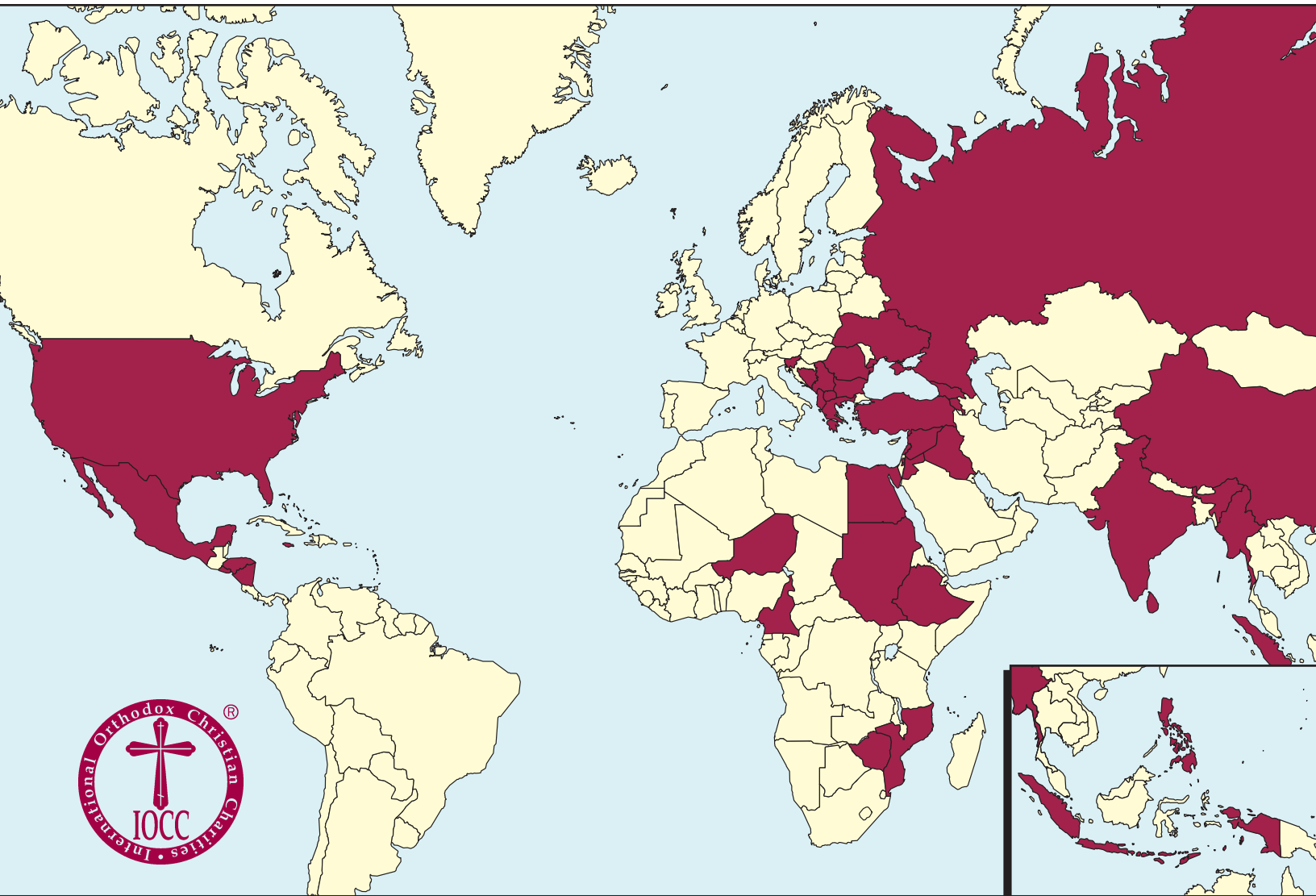
Under Triantafilou’s leadership, IOCC received the 2003 Athenagoras Human Rights Award by the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, and co-sponsored the 2004 “Orthodox Diakonia” conference in Finland, bringing together Orthodox humanitarians from five continents. The son of a priest, he has met with Orthodox hierarchs, clergy and lay people from all over the world, encouraging pan-Orthodox stewardship and cooperation on behalf of the poor.

Prior to joining IOCC, Triantafilou worked on construction projects in Kenya and Tanzania for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Mission Center and the Orthodox Church of East Africa. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in history. In 2005, Triantafilou was awarded the Order of St. Sava, First Degree from His Holiness Patriarch Pavle of Serbia, and, in the following year, was elevated to the office of Archon, the highest honor a lay person can receive in the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He served on the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA), the official advisory committee between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and its partners.



Constantine M. Triantafilou (right) recently met with Mulageta Gebru, the head of a local organization in Ethiopia which has worked with IOCC on agricultural development projects.

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## *Countries where IOCC is currently working:*

- Albania
- Armenia
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Cameroon
- China
- Ethiopia
- Georgia
- Greece
- Indonesia
- Iraq
- Jerusalem/West Bank
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Montenegro
- Myanmar
- Niger
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Slovenia
- Sudan
- Syria
- Ukraine
- U.S.A
- Zimbabwe

Since 1992, International Orthodox Christian Charities has brought help and hope to people affected by war, poverty, disease and natural disaster throughout the world. With the support of a worldwide network of Orthodox Church leaders, local partners, volunteers and contributors, IOCC works each day to assist vulnerable people — orphans, refugees, the elderly, school children, families and people with disabilities — through humanitarian and self-help programs.