

Container Aid - how it all began....

... & where it all went!



Genocide in Rwanda, Central Africa

It was back in 1994, that Christian Hope International (then called Rwanda Aid) drew its first breath.

Reports coming out of Rwanda, a small Central African republic, spoke of the killing of tens of thousands of the minority Tutsi tribe and of moderate Hutus who spoke against the killings.

Then as the killing came to an end, the sight of up to a million Rwandans fleeing their homes for the dismal camps in Tanzania and Zaire, and the outbreak of cholera touched the hearts of Christians in the UK.

Since 1994, over 70 containers & two dozen consignments have left our warehouse for Africa, India & Eastern Europe

loading
Containers are still loaded by volunteers without whom CHI could not operate.



A container was purchased and filled with essential items for the Rwandan refugees. These much needed goods came from all over England. As soon as it was filled it was dispatched - and the donors started on container number 2.

Once started, the support for the work continued and under the expert guidance of Victor Bull it developed over the next 15 years to include air freight, ambulances and vehicles and goods shipped by lorry to Eastern Europe.



Costs?

The cost of sending a container depends on the final destination - the further overland the more it costs!

Also, the costs are not fixed until the day the container is collected from our warehouse.

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COUNTRY	Humanitarian	Medical	Ambulance	Other	TOT.
Rwanda	33	4	2	8	48
Tanzania	12				12
Burundi	13	1		2	16
Turkey		1	1		2
India			1		1
Uganda	4			1	5
Ghana	1			1	2
Sudan	1				1
South Africa	3				3
Kenya				1	1
Dominican	1				1
Zaire	1				1
Mozambique	1				1
Albania			1		1
Zimbabwe				1	1
Romania	1				1
Individual totals	71	6	5	14	97

1999 Ten consignments including two by air freight and one ambulance driven to Albania!

1994 Container No.1 sent to refugee camps in Goma, just inside Zaire on the Rwanda border

1995 Five containers sent. One to Tanzania & four to Rwanda.

1996 Five more containers of aid sent to Rwanda

1997 Five sent to Rwanda and one delivered to the Dominican Republic.

1998 Seven sent to Rwanda including a Nissan Pick-up truck

2000 Eleven sent to Rwanda, Mozambique, Burundi & Tanzania. Consignments included two by air & two vehicles

2005 Six consignments including a computer workshop for South Africa, computers donated by the World Bank sent to Burundi. Also knitting machines for Rwanda

2004 Eleven consignments including two for other charities, vehicle parts and a generator sent by air.

2003 Seven sent to Rwanda & Tanzania

2002 Six consignments including Bibles for India and a vehicle for Kigali Diocese in Rwanda

2001 Eleven consignments. Ambulance driven to Turkey & an ambulance sent by sea to India.

2006 Six sent to Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Burundi and a 40' lorry of goods to Romania.

2007 Three sent including a 40' container to Burundi

2008 Container sent to refugee camps in Sudan. Vic's retirement year. More & more goods now sent by lorry to Eastern European orphanages.

2009 Two sent. One for schools in Burundi, the second for Kijjabwemi School in Uganda. Also Land Rover engine for Kigali Diocese in Rwanda

2010..2011..2012..

We still send tons of vital (and often heavy) equipment to Africa in our containers. The Containers are filled with school & educational supplies, equipment for the church and hospitals & "requested" items (car parts, motorbike, sewing machines, laptop computers, etc.) We now send the bulk of our valuable "Stitches of Hope" knitted items by lorry to Eastern Europe.

