

POVERTY AND HOPE

Appeal 2022

Friends and partners sharing God's gifts



Who is my neighbour?

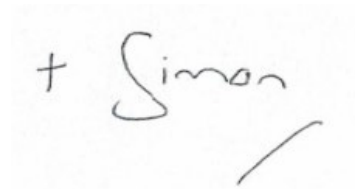
In a networked world, the options are endless. And it becomes especially hard when we try to figure out how to give generously to those in need, when so many are in need. Which is why having specific projects where there are reputations, track records and existing relationships are a massive help.

For decades, the Poverty and Hope Appeal has resourced initiatives across the world and made specific and lasting changes to the welfare of poorer communities. This year we are supporting left behind minorities in Bangladesh, children's education in rural Myanmar and people living in the favelas (slums) of Brazil.

And to these are added some exciting ongoing activities in three of our companion dioceses. These are focussed on providing clean water in Kondoa and Mpwapwa (both Tanzania), and self-sufficiency through bee-keeping and fish-farming in Harare (Zimbabwe).

Every gift you make will go to these initiatives, relieving poverty and the fear that stalks it. God in Christ loves to show his generosity. And he does this through us. We are his hands and his feet. And we are also his money.

Blessings,



The Rt Rev Simon Burton-Jones,
Bishop of Tonbridge

FOUNDING PARTNERS' PROJECTS

Since the Poverty and Hope Appeal was first launched 45 years ago it has relied on partnership with three major Christian charities to provide bridges across the world between donors in Rochester and the left behind in some of the poorest countries. Today we continue to stand together with Christian Aid, USPG and CMS, who in turn link us with trusted and experienced local partners who best understand the needs of the communities in which they work.

Christian Aid: Minority Communities in Bangladesh

11% of the population of Bangladesh belong to a minority community and are under-represented in government. The 'Empowering Left-Behind Minority Communities' project will enable these communities to find opportunities, use their voices, claim their rights and be involved in the development process of Bangladesh.

This programme qualifies for matched giving by the EU in a ratio of 5:1. This means that £5,000 provided by Poverty and Hope will release a total of £30,000 of funding for this work.

Among these minorities are the Dalits, who occupy the bottom of the caste hierarchy in Bangladesh and face multiple forms of violence and discrimination. The average annual income in Bangladesh is around US\$2,200. However, the income for a Dalit can be as little as a tenth of the national average. Dalit women and girls often face further discrimination as the communities are patriarchal with deeply conservative values about gender roles that severely restrict their rights and freedoms.

Through four local partners Christian Aid is working to provide help. Activities include ensuring the rights of participation of the poor and marginalised in the decision-making processes that affect their lives and providing access to legal aid to women, men and children living in poverty or facing disadvantage or discrimination.



CMS: Hidden Voices of the Favelas

Partnerships with CMS are based on supporting individuals, who in Florianapolis, Brazil are Andy and Kati Walsh. Inequalities in Brazil are among the worst in the world. Florianopolis, in the south, has many favelas (slums), which are controlled by drugs and gangs and house much of the city's population. Brazil is also home to some of the world's most dangerous prisons. Andy is a dual British/Argentine citizen fluent in Portuguese, and Kati is from Brazil, so Latin America has always been part of their lives and close to their hearts.

They describe their mission as follows: "We know this city well and that it is home to unreached and diverse marginalised communities. Over time, we will concentrate on engaging subcultures on the fringes including impoverished migrant communities and people that get caught in the cycle of crime just to survive. It is to these subcultures and "hidden voices", where the Church struggles to be, that we feel called by God." They see their role as working with churches and NGOs towards social justice for the excluded and marginalised, to help them find life-changing hope in Jesus.



USPG: Myanmar Education Programme

70% of Myanmar's population live in rural areas. In remote places children and young people often have to travel in small boats and walk or cycle for hours to reach schools or live in boarding houses away from their families. There is also a shortage of teachers in these areas, and they can lack the skills necessary to teach certain subjects through having limited access to training. In addition, economic hardship, classroom overcrowding, and traditional rote-based instruction have seen children from weaker academic and socio-economic backgrounds slip behind and drop out. 1 in 5 children aged 6 to 10 years of age do not attend primary school.

The Church of the Province of Myanmar (CPM) is a well-respected agency within the country and has already had substantial success running a Community Health Programme in rural areas. CPM are currently focussed on improving children's education with a new programme started in 2020, in partnership with USPG. The programme aims to raise the standard of teaching, increase school attendance, and strengthen Church and community leadership in education. It will do this by funding teacher training, the provision of basic learning aids like blackboards, plus nutritious meals and the payment of tuition fees for the poorest students.

The programme will directly support 600 girls and 600 boys at 13 primary schools and nine secondary schools, seven of which are boarding schools.



COMPANION DIOCESES INITIATIVE

There be a significant change in the allocation of funding from the Appeal from this year, with donations to be shared equally between the Founding Partner projects and Rochester's three African companion dioceses in Tanzania and Harare. This is the realisation of a vision put forward by Bishop James in a discussion paper in 2019, following his visit to a dilapidated children's home in Harare requiring modest funding for repairs and expansion. Until now financial support to our African links has been mainly on a parish-to-parish basis, but +James saw the potential for diocesan level support, particularly for the "development"-type work Poverty and Hope is involved in. He proposed that: "P&H would, therefore, become a project-funding arm of Companion Links, sitting alongside the parish-to-parish funding already established."

This will now happen, with an emphasis on building on existing successful activities which might be expanded with additional financing. Funds will be distributed by Rochester, overseen by the Companion Diocese Steering Group in a transparent and accountable way.

Tanzania Clean Water Provision

The Dioceses of Mpwapwa and Kondoa are located in the central part of Tanzania - a challenging but beautiful environment of mountains and semi-arid plains. Most people live as subsistence farmers. The impact of global warming is causing extended periods of drought followed by flash floods.

Water is precious – it's essential for people and their livestock. There are some villages with a reliable water supply, but there are still rural communities where women walk many miles each day to collect water and then carry home heavy buckets on their heads. Often water is drawn from a river or pond that is shared with livestock - that water is not clean or safe to drink.

Donations received through this year's Poverty & Hope Appeal will enable the Dioceses of Mpwapwa and Kondoa to empower rural communities with water harvesting projects, irrigation systems and safe drinking water.

Villagers freely give their labour for water projects, but most communities can't afford to: hire a bulldozer to build a sand dam for water harvesting; buy guttering and water butts to capture and store rain water; or buy piping and pumps to supply water for micro irrigation of agricultural projects; let alone simple filters to remove harmful bacteria (such as cholera and typhoid), parasites and silt. Small changes – huge impact!

While drought resistant crops are being introduced alongside traditional crops of sunflower, maize and groundnut, millet, sorghum, tomatoes, onions and green vegetables and fruit trees, water is still needed to

irrigate the land to ensure a harvest that will feed families, provide seed for planting, and have surplus to sell.

In Kondoa one option being given consideration is to fund a water supply in Kidoka, in the south of the Diocese and on the main north/south road running through it. Potentially this would not just provide water for the community, but also be the basis for establishing a demonstration agricultural plot that will be used for study trips for people from other parishes, so that they can expand their understanding of what can be done, learn about different farming techniques and also about how to grow, market and sell cash crops.

Harare: Self Supporting Communities

Harare Diocese is a mix of urban and linked rural parishes and Poverty and Hope funding will be directed towards projects and activities that will help the rural parishes to be less dependent on support from the city. This is also an important goal in Tanzania. As in Tanzania, clean water and irrigation systems are important, but in the Zimbabwean rural communities there is also a keen interest in small diversification projects which can provide both food and income.

Fish-farming is seen as a good way of improving food supplies for villagers, and some clergy have been involved in pioneering this. Bee-keeping is also viewed as a way in which quite small investments can produce rapid and significant returns in honey production and is being strongly encouraged within the diocese.





From the Appeal Coordinator

I took on the role of Appeal Coordinator in July last year, only realising afterwards that the quotation from Ephesians 2:10 used on the cover of the 2021 Appeal was talking to me. This was a job that God had prepared in advance! There have been a few challenges and a lot of learning to do, but I have been most encouraged by the continuing financial support coming from so many parishes and individuals. I am also most grateful for the help of the Rochester Diocese accounts and communications teams and the advice provided by the members of the Companion Diocese Steering Group.

Poverty and Hope – along with its partners - is a bridge between donors in Kent and communities in some of the poorest countries in the world. God's blessings flow across that bridge in both directions. I know from experience in my own parish church in Meopham how its members are lifted up by the good news coming back to us from our links overseas. Let's continue to share God's gifts with joy!

If you would like more information about Poverty and Hope please contact me. I would be happy to visit parishes and speak at services, meetings or fund-raising events.

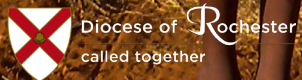
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“Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.”
(Proverbs 25:25)



www.rochester.anglican.org



www.caaid.org.uk



www.churchmissionsociety.org



www.uspg.org.uk

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