

Poverty and Hope Appeal: Sept 2019 update from Zimbabwe



Anglican Church in Zimbabwe - Tackling HIV stigma and discrimination

Partnered with USPG, supported by Poverty and Hope since 2018.

USPG is the Anglican mission agency that partners churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice. USPG's full name – United Society Partners in the Gospel – reflects its approach to mission which is inclusive and empowering.

Zimbabwe has been one of the countries most affected by the HIV epidemic. HIV and AIDS related stigma and discrimination have constituted the greatest barrier to preventing further HIV infections, providing adequate care, support and treatment.

The programme aims to reduce the level of HIV related stigma and discrimination in the dioceses of the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe through Improved relationship and interaction with people living with HIV and AIDS and knowledge of basic facts on HIV and AIDS related stigma and discrimination in church and community.

What is happening as a result of the programme?

- Church leadership is taking a leading role in addressing HIV related stigma in the churches and communities with 655 church leaders trained on engaging with people living with HIV.
- Increased number of people living with HIV participating in public forums, 90 role models actively sharing their stories in public forums.
- A Wellness, HIV workplace policy for the Anglican Council of Zimbabwe has been developed, which will help as a guiding document for addressing HIV and wellness issues across all institutions of the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe.
- 58 Wellness groups have been established in the Anglican church and communities, these are serving as a source of support for people living with HIV and those affected.



Chicken project run by women living with HIV at Holy Cross, Manyene, Mashonaland East Province, Zimbabwe (photo: USPG/Linette Frewin).

- HIV related messages now being regularly mainstreamed in church sermons.
- Improved networking with stakeholders in the HIV sector which has promoted technical support and promotion of livelihood projects.
- Establishment of nutrition and food gardens, helping to build the self-esteem of people living with HIV.



Rural healthy living garden managed by women living with HIV at Daramombe Mission, Zimbabwe (photo: USPG/Linette Frewin).

- Resource Centre opened up in the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe for sharing updated and adequate information to all people.
- People living with HIV and AIDS are being empowered in income generating projects such as peanut butter making, bee keeping, tuck shops, nutritional gardens, chicken projects, planting and processing of herbs. These measures have empowered people living with HIV to have good nutrition and take care of their families.



Nokutula Machaya who is living positive with her tuck shop selling shoes in front of her house, Clifton Park, Gweru, Diocese of Central Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe (photo: USPG/Linette Frewin).

The church and communities are working towards 90-90-90 UNAIDS target

Aiming to diagnose 90% of all HIV positive people, provide antiretroviral therapy (ART) for 90% of those diagnosed and achieve viral suppression for 90% of those treated, by 2020. The success of this programme will therefore have far-reaching benefits. *“Now we are looking at people who are living with HIV with a different eye. In our community, we are talking freely on issues of HIV and a lot of people are willing to speak on the issues of stigma.”* Mary, Zimbabwe.

Thank you

USPG believes today’s major challenges cry out for words and actions that express a love and solidarity that goes beyond narrow self-interest and national boundaries. We believe the churches of the Anglican Communion are called in mission to be communities of resistance and hope, following the teaching of Jesus Christ and witnessing to the healing power of his love. At USPG we seek to encourage and accompany local churches in their work as they seek to bring about transformation in the lives of our sisters and brothers across the globe. We invite you to join us on that journey.

Thank you once again for choosing to support this fantastic programme in Zimbabwe. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to supporting this project.



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