Transforming lives in Burkina Faso

Since 2015 the Poverty and Hope Appeal has supported communities in Burkina Faso. Your generosity has made a real difference to the lives of people living in one of the poorest countries in the world.

Three things to know about Burkina Faso:

- 45% of people in Burkina Faso still live on less than 90p a day.
- In the desert regions of the north, temperatures can reach 49°C in the midday sun.
- Malnutrition is commonplace. Two out of three children who are undernourished don’t receive medical attention.

Extremes of drought and flooding make life a constant struggle. But it wasn’t always like this.

Moussa, 54, can remember when you could rely on regular rainfall. Trees would thrive, attracting wild animals which could be caught for food. Moussa and his wife Elizabeth have seven children. They didn’t have enough money to send their two eldest sons to school, so the only option for their sons was a dangerous life of working 80 metres below ground in the mines.

Your generosity has given Moussa and Elizabeth hope for a brighter future. The Poverty and Hope Appeal has helped Christian Aid support a project to provide goats, chickens and sheep for their family. These gifts have had life-changing results.

Elizabeth says: ‘The sheep are a really important part of our lives because we pay the school fees with this, and also buy some cereals when we don’t have a good harvest.’

Christian Aid continues to stand with the people of Burkina Faso. With your support, similar projects will bring hope to many more families.
Hands on in Kent

The team at Bore Place organic dairy farm in Edenbridge, Kent, educates, empowers and inspires visitors to be global citizens. They work with schools, teachers and young people to understand how the world and those living in it are all interconnected.

Activities at Bore Place are designed to promote confidence, critical thinking, independence and practical skills. Visiting school children get a chance to experience a working organic farm, while learning about where food comes from, purchasing power, and how what we eat and buy is connected to global issues.

Hands-on, vocational and therapeutic sessions are offered to vulnerable young people aged 16 and over with mental health problems. The aim is to give them a real opportunity to engage in education and develop skills so they can transition more confidently to the next stage of their lives.

This work with young people with disabilities and learning difficulties continues to grow. Bore Place offers weekend and holiday clubs for young people with additional needs. Specialist teams work with the children and young people to help develop important skills, confidence and self-esteem in fun and engaging ways, while parents can have some much-needed respite.

The Education team has recently been working with schools and families in disadvantaged areas in Kent to help tackle the rise in childhood obesity. They support teachers with tailored classroom resources, and encourage all pupils and their families to take on healthy eating. They have also provided fantastic opportunities for local young people to visit the farm, and prepare delicious healthy meals with fresh produce.

Photos: Commonwork Trust. UK registered charity number 1160725 Company number 09254227 J49482
Poverty and Hope Appeal 2018

A journey from stigma to dignity in Zimbabwe

Gogo’s story

Gogo is a widow living with HIV in rural Zimbabwe. When she lost her husband and a daughter to AIDS, her loss inspired her to challenge stigma in her local community.

Gogo recently won a prize in a farmer of the year competition, which has motivated her to produce more crops for sale. She’s now able to harvest enough grain for a full year.

People visit Gogo to learn from her farming skills. No one thinks about her HIV status; they focus her farming skills. She’s been on a journey, from stigma and discrimination, to dignity and self-worth.

Living positively

United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG) is an Anglican Mission Agency, working in partnership with the Anglican Church across the globe, with a vision for everyone to experience life in all its fullness.

In Rochester’s companion diocese of Harare and across Zimbabwe, USPG’s partner ARDez helps tackle HIV stigma. They do this through education, training and practical support; using the influence of the church to bring about change in attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS.

USPG and ARDez are deeply grateful to Rochester Diocese and the Poverty and Hope Appeal for their partnership and generous support in 2018.

A prayer for Zimbabwe

Pray for people living with HIV, and for all of the dioceses of Zimbabwe, in their efforts to reduce stigma and support people to live positively.

Compassionate God,
you laid healing hands on
the sick and the dead.
Hear our prayer for all
whose lives have been
devastated by HIV/AIDS.
Bless the life-changing work
of the dioceses of Zimbabwe.
May all those living with HIV
find themselves welcome in
church and society.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.
Eradicating child abuse, prostitution and exploitation in Sri Lanka

Nevedita Jeevabalan is the Project Manager for ESCAPE, a programme of advocacy, intervention and rehabilitation for children who have been traumatised through experiences of abuse, including sexual abuse and exploitation in Sri Lanka.

The programme is run by the Lanka Evangelical Alliance Development Service (LEADS), where Nevedita has worked since 2001. ESCAPE was started in 1995 and is still one of the few Christian initiatives of its kind in South Asia. Nevedita describes her calling to ESCAPE: ‘My mission is to show God’s love to children who have been through trauma and abuse. Most children who are referred have been abused, abandoned at a young age and been through various traumatic situations. All through their lives they may never have had a loving, trustworthy adult. Being an ambassador of God’s love for such children is the greatest difference I would like to make in their lives.’

Nevedita is passionately committed to service in her own country, and is all too aware of the extent of the need. It is only in the last two decades, as taboos have begun to disintegrate, that the prevalence of child exploitation in Sri Lanka and across the world has come to light. A conservative estimate, says LEADS, would indicate that approximately 100 children in Sri Lanka are physically exploited or abused in a single day. In the largest city, Colombo, it is estimated that one in every three children lives in a violent and abusive home.

And the problem seeps far beyond the borders of Sri Lanka. It is believed that the country has become the principal source of child pornography for the market in the United States and Europe.

What’s more, there are an estimated 30,000 boy prostitutes operating in the country, most of them aged between 6 and 14 years. The number of them being trafficked by organised crime groups continues to grow on a daily basis.

Although the government in Sri Lanka is increasingly aware of the extent of child abuse and is putting laws in place to combat the problem, there is still a lack of capacity to provide sufficient safe houses for affected children and families. LEADS provides one of very few residential counselling centres in the country. Most of the children referred to Nevedita and her team have been abused by someone they know. Many have been placed in institutions, away from parental custody, and are referred for psychological intervention because of behavioural problems due to trauma and separation. Unfortunately, if children are not referred to LEADS for counselling and shelter, the only alternative is admission to a psychiatric ward.

Survivors of exploitation are given the space to play, thanks to the work of ESCAPE in Sri Lanka.

Nevedita’s vision is to have at least one safe home for children and families in every province in the country. Alternatively, children might receive care from grandparents, a foster carer, or stay in school hostels. Sending them to an institution is always the last resort.

Nevedita’s team is focused on responsive counselling care for survivors of abuse and their families, as well as raising awareness for prevention of abuse. The counselling team’s work is demanding and emotionally draining, but Nevedita’s overriding desire – her core mission – is to ‘be there for a child who is hurting and support them and their family through that painful time.’

The prevention team are taking the message of ESCAPE outwards – to schools, parents, local communities and to government officials – to raise awareness of abuse and exploitation, and provide tools for recognising, for example, the safest approach to social media interactions. The point is clear: to keep the children of Sri Lanka safe.

Pray for the girls and boys who come to LEADS for counselling and support on a daily basis; that they would find help and healing.

Pray for God’s wisdom to lead the team and provide the needed support for the staff.
Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

For the past two years the Poverty and Hope Appeal has supported a project in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Decades of conflict and poverty have left people in DRC without a voice. Through your support, that is starting to change.

Leonard Kimbili Libala, 30, is a father of five young children. Previously he had little hope of finding work. Thanks to this project, Leonard is now an elected member of a grassroots lobbying organisation. They have successfully worked with the local government to bring about significant improvements in the lives of the citizens of Maniema.

Leonard says: ‘The best thing about living in this area now is the peace and security. We can go peacefully about our work without being bothered by anyone. We are at peace in this part of the Congolese territory.’

Leonard’s hope for a brighter, peaceful future for the DRC is starting to become a reality. Thank you for your continued support, which is helping to transform the lives of the people of Maniema province.

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