

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

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SUMMARY OF WORK

Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) is the international relief and development agency of The Episcopal Church. An independent 501(c)(3) organization, Episcopal Relief & Development saves lives and builds hope in communities around the world. Episcopal Relief & Development provides emergency assistance in times of crisis and helps communities to rebuild after disasters. Episcopal Relief & Development enables people to climb out of poverty by offering long-term solutions to the struggles they face today. The organization, formerly known as The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, changed its name in 2000 and has been working in disaster relief and economic development for over 60 years.

Today, Episcopal Relief & Development works in more than 40 countries throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. In collaboration with its partners throughout the worldwide church, over the past 3 years the agency's programs have touched the lives of more than 10 million people.

On the international stage, Episcopal Relief & Development implements four main program areas all linked to the fundamental human right of life:

- Promoting Health and Fighting Disease;
- Alleviating Hunger and Improving Food supply;
- Creating Economic Opportunities and Strengthening Communities; and
- Responding to Disasters and Rebuilding Communities.

Domestically, Episcopal Relief & Development focuses on preparing dioceses for disasters and supporting those dioceses as they assist the vulnerable in impacted communities in their post-disaster recovery.

The board and staff are committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a plan to cut global poverty in half by 2015. General Convention Resolution 2003-D006 called on dioceses and congregations to promote education about the MDGs and charged Episcopal Relief & Development with creating MDG educational materials. Episcopal Relief & Development worked with the Episcopal Public Policy Network and Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation to produce and distribute MDG educational materials. The Budget of General Convention 2006 called upon congregations, dioceses and The Episcopal Church to give 0.7% of budgets in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

Episcopal Relief & Development is the chosen steward of the DFMS' contribution to help eradicate poverty through this effort. In 2007, the MDG Inspiration Fund (MDGIF) was launched as a partnership between Episcopal Relief & Development, the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church and Jubilee Ministries. To

inspire congregations around the country to action, Executive Council made an initial grant of \$924,000. Episcopal Relief & Development aims to raise additional resources to bring the Fund to \$3 million by the end of 2009. So far, the Fund has raised over \$2.3 million. 66% of the MDGIF goes to support *NetsforLife*[®], a malaria prevention program described below, and the remaining 33% goes to health programs from Honduras and El Salvador to the Dominican Republic and Haiti, many of which are run by Jubilee Centers. MDGIF funds have gone to:

- Support those infected with HIV/AIDS with medication, and peer and family counseling.
- Create jobs and income generation opportunities for those HIV+ in societies where infection often carries with it social stigma and discrimination.
- Create and adapt age-appropriate HIV/AIDS prevention programs for a variety of very diverse target groups from school children, to young people, to commercial sex workers.
- Create and train a cadre of health promoters to promote clean water and sanitation practices, prevent respiratory illness and strengthen nutrition education programs particularly for pregnant and lactating women and children under five.

In addition, Episcopal Relief & Development tracks its own programmatic results against the measurable objectives for each of the eight MDGs as part of its comprehensive approach towards evaluating the impact of its programs in the communities where it works. Agency programs are monitored regularly and quantifiable results for each program initiative are available on three year cycles.

2006–2008 EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Over the past three years Episcopal Relief & Development has touched the lives of over 10 million people by responding to those facing disaster, hunger and disease around the world.

Promoting Health and Fighting Disease

Episcopal Relief & Development's programs to promote health and fight disease ensure that those who are most vulnerable to poor health have access to health care and services. These programs promote basic health and protect the environment by:

- Training communities and local health care workers to control preventable diseases, provide immunizations, medicine and treatment at the community level;
- Providing clean water and sanitation systems to ensure safe and available water supplies and encouraging proper sanitation practices;
- Encouraging good nutrition through education and its work improving the food supply, discussed below;
- Preventing and controlling diseases, including education and treatment of diarrhea, malaria and HIV/AIDS; and
- Promoting maternal and child health through pre- and post-natal care, attended births, recognition and treatment of common childhood diseases and providing other medical services.

Malaria prevention is a major emphasis of Episcopal Relief & Development's health programs. In 2005, in response to requests from its local church partners, Episcopal Relief & Development piloted a malaria control program in a post-conflict setting in the Katanga region of the Democratic Republic of Congo and in the dioceses of Northern and Central Zambia. Soon thereafter, Episcopal Relief & Development created the *NetsforLife*[®] program, working with local church implementers, National Malaria Control Programs, Ministries of Health, USAID, UNICEF, WHO, corporate donors and outside evaluators in a variety of ways across numerous dioceses in 18 countries. *NetsforLife*[®] educates communities about malaria and its causes, distributes long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs) and particularly encourages those most vulnerable—pregnant women and children—to seek immediate treatment if infected. Three years since the programs inception, *NetsforLife*[®] has successfully delivered over one million LLITNs to remote communities. Communities across the African continent are also now aware of the four cardinal symptoms of malaria and the causes of malaria. They are actively preventing malaria through the use of the nets, seeking treatment when sick and protecting the most vulnerable—children under five, the immuno-compromised and pregnant women.

Alleviating Hunger and Improving Food Supply

Episcopal Relief & Development has also worked to ensure that families have enough food to eat on a daily basis and that food supplies are available, affordable and accessible. The hunger and poverty programs equip people with knowledge, skills, tools, animals and improved seeds to ensure that families have the means to generate enough food to eat year round and often some surplus to sell for income. Many of these programs are implemented in rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa and are designed to safeguard the environment and promote ecological rejuvenation, where possible, through terracing, tree planting, fish farming, soil reconstitution and rotating and other methods. Food security programs implemented through Episcopal Relief & Development are long term (three to five years) and help communities and individuals enhance their yields, diversify their nutritional intake, create grain stores and become increasingly self sufficient. Although many communities worldwide continue to reel from the impact of higher food prices on their diet during the Food Crises of 2008, in communities that have worked with Episcopal Relief & Development during the past three to five years on improving their internal food supplies, this impact is much lessened due to local sustainable food supply stewardship.

Creating economic opportunities

With a focus on women and young people, the sustainable livelihoods programs provide vocational training and micro-enterprise opportunities to people—primarily women and youth—so that they might launch small businesses, expand their sources of income, buy food and pay for schooling and other necessities. By giving families the tools they need to secure their own incomes, program participants are able to break out of the cycle of poverty and live the lives of dignity that all people deserve. Over the past three years, Episcopal Relief & Development has supported programs that provide small business and entrepreneurship skills training on all three continents, helped maintain vocational schools from the Middle East to Haiti, conducted market analysis and appropriate business development strategies for local entrepreneurs, supported the formation of farming cooperatives from the Philippines to India and provided micro loans from the Altiplano of Peru to the markets of Burundi and the tsunami devastated coasts of Sri Lanka.

Responding to Disasters and Rebuilding Communities

From 2006-2008, Episcopal Relief & Development provided emergency relief to over 40 countries throughout the world, responding to numerous crises, both domestically and internationally, and building long-term rehabilitation programs in response to natural disasters. Particularly in the United States, Episcopal Relief & Development has worked with numerous dioceses to provide short term support and long term recovery for communities devastated by nature's impact. While an act of nature may take several minutes to rock a community, the hard task of rebuilding and recovery often takes many years. Episcopal Relief & Development takes a long-term approach to many major disasters, while also extending immediate financial support to communities that are touched by smaller tornadoes, fires, ice storms and other incidents, working with the diocese and the community to help those suffering. Of particular note, during the 2006-2008 period has been Episcopal Relief & Development's partnerships with the Diocese of Louisiana and the Diocese of Mississippi in the aftermath of the massive damage to the Gulf Coast caused by Hurricane Katrina. There, the agency's programs have helped train hurricane survivors for new jobs, built new houses, introduced pastoral and emotional care support to the affected, fed and provided health care to over 100,000 people. In addition, Episcopal Relief & Development's support has helped create the infrastructure to house, manage and leverage over 7,000 Episcopal volunteers who work in the communities mucking out mud, hanging sheetrock and otherwise helping in the rebuild effort. The lessons of the combined response to Hurricane Katrina have recently been extended by Episcopal Relief & Development, volunteers and intra-diocesan advisory teams to those impacted by Hurricane Ike in Texas and the devastating floods of the Mississippi tributaries in dioceses like Iowa and Indianapolis, and a cadre of trained disaster response and preparedness teams is emerging around the U.S. dioceses.

Internationally, Episcopal Relief & Development emergency response takes on similar hues, with immediate work focusing on food, water and shelter for those impacted by floods, earthquakes, mudslides and civil unrest. Long-term recovery work continues in earthquake impacted Pakistan, in response to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and in tsunami impacted areas of Sri Lanka and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In all cases, Episcopal Relief &

Development's work over the past three years has focused on helping to rebuild houses, schools, water systems and community life, restock grain stores, replant devastated crops and extend hope and healing through psycho-social care programs for those affected.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2010–2012 TRIENNium

Episcopal Relief & Development will continue its work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by supporting quality programs in the worldwide church that promote sustainable development solutions, fight poverty, hunger and disease and provide relief and recovery in times of disaster.

- Work with strategic alliances to strengthen the capability of worldwide church partners to design, manage monitor and evaluate community focused initiatives that work to alleviate hunger and fight disease.
- Enhance the services delivered through our networks to the vulnerable throughout the world, lifting up community training and empowerment.
- Increase the numbers of people that are reached by our programs, even as we work to enhance the quality of life for the over 10 million we have touched over the past three years.
- Support U.S. dioceses, parishes and communities as they respond to disasters that impact the vulnerable in their communities.
- Share throughout the U.S. church, ecumenical, secular and other settings the clear results of Episcopal Relief & Development's program initiatives.
- Expand relationships with U.S. congregations and dioceses and encourage them to use Episcopal Relief & Development as the primary bridge between the treasure and talents within their communities and the needs present throughout the world.
- Maintain and continue to cultivate partnerships with donors and other key Episcopal constituencies.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION A178 ESTABLISH THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT AS EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT SUNDAY

- 1 The Board of Episcopal Relief & Development, in its capacity as a CCAB (Committee, Commission, Agency &
2 Board) of General Convention, submits the following Resolution to the 76th General Convention for its
3 consideration:
4
5 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church dedicate
6 the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday and that congregations and individuals be
7 encouraged to support Episcopal Relief & Development's life-saving work through prayer and a special offering
8 that will help heal a hurting world; and be it further
9
10 *Resolved*, That any costs incurred by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to implement this action shall
11 be reimbursed by Episcopal Relief & Development, provided such costs are approved by Episcopal Relief &
12 Development in advance.

EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church's ongoing commitment to fight poverty and disease around the world is lived out in a variety of ways. Advocacy with our government for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is one vital way. Another is through the ministry of Episcopal Relief & Development, which, as the relief and development arm of The Episcopal Church, works globally to alleviate hunger, fight disease and strengthen communities.

In 2008, the Presiding Bishop designated the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday and as an annual celebration of Episcopal Relief & Development's role in our collective mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

The Board of Episcopal Relief & Development believes that a Resolution of General Convention designating the first Sunday of Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday would focus the church's attention on the important work of healing a hurting world.