

Episcopal Relief & Development

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Work Summary

Episcopal Relief & Development is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church and an independent 501(c)(3) organization. The agency takes its mandate from Jesus' words found in Matthew 25. The organization works closely with the worldwide Church and ecumenical partners to help rebuild after disasters and to empower local communities to find lasting solutions that fight poverty, hunger and disease, including HIV/AIDS and malaria. The organization, formerly known as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, changed its name in 2000 and has been in existence for over 70 years.

Episcopal Relief & Development remains committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a plan to cut global poverty in half by 2015. Initially, the Episcopal Church dedicated itself to supporting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the 2003 General Convention, and put its commitment into action in 2006 by endorsing the MDG Inspiration Fund, which raised over \$3.2 million in three years.

At the 76th General Convention in 2009, the Episcopal Church called upon individuals, parishes and dioceses to recommit to the MDGs. Through Resolution D019, it reaffirmed the Church's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals as a primary mission priority through 2015, by supporting the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund. The Church pledged 0.7% of its annual budget to support the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund, a grassroots effort of Episcopal Relief & Development to educate, engage, and unite Episcopalians to support the MDGs through the fight against malaria. The goal is to build awareness about this disease and how it can be prevented, and raise \$5 million by December 2012.

The Inspiration Fund enables Episcopalians to live their faith by making a positive difference in the lives of millions around the globe through local, grassroots engagement in communities across the country. Through this grassroots effort, parishioners, clergy, students, seminarians and Episcopalians at all levels can continue to work to address the Millennium Development Goals. Visit InspirationFund.org for more details about this initiative.

Another resolution significant to Episcopal Relief & Development's Church Engagement activities is resolution A178. In 2008, the Presiding Bishop designated the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday— an annual celebration of Episcopal Relief & Development's role in our collective mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons. This resolution supports the organization's efforts to engage congregations and other Episcopal institutions in through an annual Lenten campaign. In Resolution A178, the Episcopal Church encouraged dioceses, congregations and individuals to remember and support the life-saving work of Episcopal Relief & Development during Lent through prayer and a special offering.

In 2009, Episcopal Relief & Development launched a Strategic Plan to help set institutional priorities and guide its work through 2012. Major developments and commitments were made in the following areas: International Programs, US Disaster Preparedness and Response, Church Engagement, Funding and Visibility and Awareness. Under the new the Strategic Plan, key initiatives and programs such as the US Disaster Program and Church Engagement were started. Additional details are provided in the program section of this report.

2009–2011 Episcopal Relief & Development Programs

Across 40 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, Episcopal Relief & Development is working with Anglican and ecumenical partners to impact the lives of three million people each year. The four core program areas are:

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

Here are Episcopal Relief & Development results from 2009-2011:

- Core programs to alleviate hunger and fight disease have impacted over three million people annually
- *NetsforLife*[®], the organization's special malaria initiative, has engaged 21 million people
- Disaster response programs have supported roughly 400,000 people

In 2010, Episcopal Relief & Development realigned and expanded its program focus areas to address cross-cutting themes such as gender equality, micro-finance, disaster risk reduction and climate change, integrated health, and asset-based community development. Working closely with Anglican and ecumenical partners, Episcopal Relief & Development's staff continue to empower communities worldwide and help them find local solutions to the challenges of disaster, hunger and disease. To learn more about Episcopal Relief & Development's programs in the US and abroad, please visit the Episcopal Relief & Development website.

Alleviating Hunger and Improving the Food Supply

In partnership with local churches and ecumenical agencies, Episcopal Relief & Development ensures that people have nutritious food that is available and affordable by:

- Providing tools, seeds and other resources to support family farms
- Distributing livestock to families to help them work their land and generate other forms of income from products such as selling milk and cheese.
- Teaching farming techniques that increase food production
- Training communities to embrace sustainable agriculture practices

Promoting Health and Fighting Disease

Working with local churches and ecumenical agencies, Episcopal Relief & Development promotes good health care and fights preventable diseases through:

- Training health workers to educate their communities about disease prevention
- Building wells, latrines, water stations and other systems to promote sanitation and prevent water-borne diseases
- Distributing insecticide-treated nets and educating communities about malaria prevention
- Providing immunizations and medicine through local and mobile clinics
- Offering maternal and child health programs
- Delivering health care and education to children who have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS

For example, the *NetsforLife*[®] program began with its first pilot in Zambia in 2006 and expanded to 17 countries around sub-Saharan Africa. This program partnership uses an integrated community development model for malaria prevention that includes net distribution, education, training on proper net usage and maintenance, in addition to ongoing monitoring and evaluation. This program model leads to less sickness, fewer deaths and stronger communities. Since 2008, the goal is to distribute 7 million nets over the course of five years. The *NetsforLife*[®] program is directly engaging participants through various activities, including the distribution of nets, the training of malaria control agents and the provision of community-based health care.

NetsforLife[®] works to instill a “net culture”—a community-wide understanding of the protective value of nets and the right way to use and maintain them. When a net culture is in place, people know how to prevent malaria, when to seek medical treatment and how to access effective treatment. *NetsforLife*[®] is a partnership of corporations, foundations and faith-based organizations working to fight malaria in Africa. This group includes ExxonMobil, Standard Chartered Bank, the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, Starr International Foundation, the J.C. Flowers Foundation and Episcopal Relief & Development.

Creating Economic Opportunities and Strengthening Communities

In partnership with local churches and ecumenical agencies, Episcopal Relief & Development addresses the root causes of poverty by:

- Helping people develop small businesses in a variety of fields
- Assisting communities in gaining access to local markets, increasing their ability to sell products for profit
- Providing micro-finance opportunities that enable people to generate more income
- Promoting cooperatives to help people pool their resources and maximize their purchasing power
- Working with farming communities to increase their crop yield so that the surplus can be sold for income

Responding to Disasters and Rebuilding Communities

Partnering with local churches and ecumenical agencies, Episcopal Relief & Development provides critical assistance after disasters and helps impacted communities rebuild by:

- Working with local churches and ecumenical partners to provide life-saving assistance such as food, water, shelter and medicine
- Supporting social and economic rehabilitation through small business development and income-generating opportunities
- Assisting impacted communities in conducting needs assessments and creating long-term recovery plans
- Remaining with communities and supporting the reconstruction of homes, schools, clinics and other civic structures
- Offering trauma counseling and psychosocial services for survivors
- Assisting Episcopal dioceses in the United States as they develop disaster preparedness plans

In January 2010, Haiti was struck by a massive earthquake. It destroyed much of the country's infrastructure, disrupted trade and dramatically challenged existing economic political systems.

Episcopal Relief & Development supported the efforts of its long-term partner, the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti and its diocesan development office, Centre Diocésain de Développement Intégré et de Secours (CEDDISEC). Initially, Episcopal Relief & Development worked with CEDDISEC on relief activities to supply food, medicine and other critical supplies. Today, Episcopal Relief & Development continues to work with CEDDISEC on a multi-year recovery program that includes housing/shelter, healthcare, employment opportunities/community recovery, water and sanitation, and other activities.

In addition to supporting the program work of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti and CEDDISEC, Episcopal Relief & Development is also providing direct technical and operational support to these institutions. A unique aspect of the response to the quake, as compared to Episcopal Relief & Development's other international response efforts, is that its program staff and consultants have often been deployed within Haiti for substantial periods of time. The rationale behind this deployment considers the scale of the disaster and its stress on local clergy, leadership and systems. It also offered support to CEDDISEC in coordinating with major international relief efforts and diverse US parish-based mission responses, on behalf of the vast number of individuals and communities across Haiti in which the Episcopal Church is present. Overall, these efforts helped to strengthen the diocese and support its growth and ability to manage major recovery programs. For more information, please visit the Episcopal Relief & Development website.

On the domestic front, Episcopal Relief & Development focuses on preparing US dioceses for disasters, and supporting those dioceses as they assist people and communities during post-disaster recovery. Launched in 2010, the US Disaster Program inspires, connects and equips leaders of the Episcopal Church and its partners to prepare for hazards that might affect their communities, to mitigate the impact of those disasters, and to help vulnerable people make a full and sustained recovery. The program is broken into three areas:

Emergency Relief – assists diocesan leaders in building effective emergency response programs by providing them with access to the “Ready to Serve” volunteer database, technical resources and connections to their peers around the country who have faced similar challenges. When necessary, Episcopal Relief & Development may provide emergency funds to supplement these resources, allowing churches to aid people most impacted by disaster.

Disaster Recovery – provides long-term support to dioceses following disasters, helping affected populations recover. Recovery programs build on the growing energy within the Episcopal Church to engage in hands-on service. Programs

also combine Episcopal Relief & Development's financial resources with additional technical support to reach the most vulnerable people as effectively as possible in the local context.

Disaster Preparedness Initiative – Through this initiative, Episcopal Relief & Development works with targeted dioceses to improve their preparation for a disaster and mitigate local impact. This is accomplished by building the “Ready to Serve” national volunteer and skill database, holding local and regional trainings and assisting dioceses with regional planning and coordination. There is a US Disaster Program resource library that facilitates the sharing of information and best practices throughout the Church. Additional details about the US Disaster Program is available online.

Church Engagement

Episcopal Relief & Development's Church Engagement program provides an opportunity for all Episcopalians to engage in the organization's work as the compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to help heal a hurting world. In 2009, a strategic Church Engagement effort was launched to tap into the needs of congregations interested in gaining a deeper understanding of and connection to Episcopal Relief & Development's work. The objective is to expand relationships with all Episcopal congregations, schools, seminaries, colleges and universities, as well as other church institutions.

Church Engagement activities include creating Advent/Lenten resources for churches, developing worship materials and bulletin inserts after disasters, launching special church campaigns such as the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund and producing Christian Formation curricula. Here are highlights of Episcopal Relief & Development's Christian Formation tools and resources:

- Abundant Life Garden Project - An interactive, Scripture-based children's curriculum offered to parishes, teachers, families and others who seek to share our ministry and work with elementary school-aged students. Children are invited to participate in our mission by exploring five thematic modules on water, seeds, soil, animals and harvest. It is a companion piece to the Gifts for Life catalog.
- Act Out Youth Program- An intensive educational program for middle and high school students that brings the needs and hopes of the world together with the lives of youth, in a context framed by liturgy and filled with prophetic stories of Scripture.
- Real Heroes vs. Rita Mosquito: A Children's Program on Malaria - An educational program that introduces children to the disease and how it is prevented, and invites them to participate in the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund.

These resources have been used in conjunction with Vacation Bible Schools, Sunday Schools, Children's Chapels, weekly programs, Rotation Sunday School programs and other special church programs. Additional congregational tools including worship materials, Lenten resources, brochures and special prayers can be found online, along with more information about Episcopal Relief & Development's Christian Formation efforts.

Goals and Objectives for the 2012 - 2015 Triennium

Episcopal Relief & Development will continue its work toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals by supporting quality programs in the worldwide Church which promote sustainable development solutions, fight poverty, hunger and disease, and provide relief and recovery after disasters.

- Form and cultivate strategic alliances to strengthen the capacity of worldwide Church partners to design, manage, monitor and evaluate community-focused initiatives that work to alleviate hunger and fight disease.
- Improve program delivery services through Anglican networks to the program participants around the world, with a focus on community involvement, training and empowerment.
- Increase the numbers of overall program participants and enhance the quality of life in communities with which Episcopal Relief & Development partners.
- Prepare and equip US dioceses, parishes and other church institutions, as they respond to disasters that impact vulnerable people in their communities.
- Promote stories and program results that demonstrate Episcopal Relief & Development's reach worldwide.
- Deepen relationships with US congregations and dioceses, and encourage them to recognize Episcopal Relief & Development as the bridge connecting Episcopalians with partners and program participants throughout the world.
- Foster stronger partnerships with individual and institutional donors, as well as, other key Episcopal constituencies.

- Launch a 75th Anniversary Campaign for Episcopal Relief & Development to celebrate program accomplishments and engage Episcopalians at all levels in addressing issues of hunger and disease, as we approach the 2015 target deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
- Develop a new Strategic Plan to set organizational priorities and frame Episcopal Relief & Development's program, financial, engagement and visibility goals through the next Triennium.