KIGALI DIOCESE, RWANDA

Since the 1994 genocide, healing and restoration has come to Rwanda; but with almost 40% of the population living in poverty, there is much for Kigali Diocese to do.
WHY WE’RE WORKING THERE

Rwanda has made significant progress in recovering from the devastation of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi population. Stable governance has helped the country greatly. However, 39.1 per cent of the population still live below the poverty line, while 16.3 per cent are classified as living in extreme poverty – lacking access to essential supplies and services.

The Anglican Diocese of Kigali want to help change this - ensuring all families are able to access healthcare, clean water, and nutritious foods, whilst ensuring incomes increase livelihoods become stronger. They want to see hope grow.

And their potential impact is incredible.

The Anglican Diocese of Kigali are one of eleven Anglican Dioceses in Rwanda, and work across six Districts. These include Gasabo, Nyarugenge, Kicukiro, Bugesera and Rwamagana, and Gakenke.

It is made up of 45 parishes and 192 local churches.
THE AIMS OF THE PROJECT

Through this project the Anglican Diocese of Kigali aim to directly benefit 3,780 households.

They will be using a process known as Church and Community Transformation (CCT) to bring lasting change for families.

Church and Community Transformation is used by many communities around the world. It is an approach which encourages whole communities to work together to end poverty.

By coming together, communities are able to pool their vast wealth of local expertise. And meetings and workshops provide opportunities to identify the key issues people are facing - and a space to explore ways of tackling the root causes of these issues.

Self Help Groups (SHGs) are one outworking of this transformative process - a group where individuals can come for support, save together and provide small loans to their members. In instances where these small 'seed' loans are used to grow businesses, it can result in mighty orchards of change.

THE IMPACT OF SELF HELP GROUPS

Daniel* found out about this amazing impact personally, after learning about the Church and Community Transformation process.

'I came to know that everything is possible, I immediately changed my mindset and started looking on resources around me.’ Daniel

Daniel learnt about the process in 2015, through his local pastor and a team from the Diocese, and through it he joined a Self Help Group. One of the workshops Daniel attended in that first year focused on the subject of 'Modern Agriculture'.

Using the techniques they had been finding out about in the groups Daniel started renting a small area of wetland. It was around 20-25 sqm in size and cost Daniel RwF 10,000 every six months.

Daniel used the land to plant tomatoes and when he came to harvest the crop, he raised RwF 200,000 - twenty times what he paid for the land.

With some of this money Daniel bought a bull and continued cultivating his land. A year later, Daniel sold the bull for RwF 135,000. Using the money from the sale, and some additional funds, Daniel then bought two more bulls at a total of Rwf 175,000.

Since making these investments Daniel has also planted a garden of green peppers which should increase his income again. Money which he plans to use to provide health insurance, pay school fees, and maybe even build a home for his family.

*name changed to protect identity
PROJECT IMPACT

This project aims to directly benefit 3,780 households living in the Anglican Diocese of Kigali.

- Sharing the process in 13 new areas.
- Supporting 50 local churches, who have already started the process
- Training 63 local churches about Self Help Groups
- Forming 10 new Cluster Level Associations, who will help to support the Self Help Groups
- Planting 5 demonstration gardens, to help share different agricultural techniques
- Learning about different income generating activities
- Mobilising their resources to help provide access to community health insurance
- Working together to ensure clean, safe water and safe sanitation

And this is just the start.

It is hoped that the project will benefit a further 15,120 people indirectly - the family, friends and wider communities of those taking part in the process.

JOIN US

With 3,780 beneficiaries, a gift of just £18 could change someone’s life.

- A gift of just £350 could help to cover the cost of a year’s training for a CCT facilitator, who will guide the process in their community.
- A gift of £1,700 could help to cover the cost of providing communities with training in modern agricultural and entrepreneurial skills.