

PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE CHRISTIAN AID BURUNDI

POVERTY

Strategy 2013–17





It is clear to us that poverty can be eradicated only through helping people secure power to help themselves

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

Christian Aid is an international organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

We work globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. We are part of a wider movement for social justice.

We have an integrated approach to poverty eradication, working worldwide on humanitarian relief, long-term development, specific advocacy issues and campaigns to expose the scandal of poverty by challenging and changing systems and institutions that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, Christian Aid works in some of the world's poorest communities, supporting projects on the basis of need, not religion, ethnicity or nationality.

We work with, and through, partners, including civil society organisations (CSOs), research institutions, churches, faith groups and social movements, as well as governments, the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

In 2011/12, Christian Aid gave grants to 578 partner organisations across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Our total income was £95.5m including £36.7m in funding from governments and other institutions.

OUR GLOBAL STRATEGY

At Christian Aid, we believe human action is responsible for the underlying causes of poverty, and that when people work together, the world can be changed. This thinking has framed our new corporate strategy, *Partnership for Change*.

We believe that at the root of poverty is a lack of power – the power to have your say and be heard, or to know your rights and demand them. It is clear to us that poverty can be eradicated only through helping people secure power to help themselves. Christian Aid has identified five areas on which to focus our work:

- 1. Power to change institutions**
We want to see all people having the power to influence institutions – so that the decisions affecting their lives are made responsibly and fairly.
- 2. The right to essential services**
We want to see all people able to fulfil their right to access the services essential for a healthy, secure life.
- 3. Fair shares in a constrained world**
We want to see all people have a fair and sustainable share of the world's resources.
- 4. Equality for all**
We want to see a more inclusive world where identity – gender, ethnicity, caste, religion, class and sexual orientation – is no longer a barrier to equal treatment.
- 5. Tackling violence and building peace**
We want to see vulnerable people protected from violence and living in peace.

Our new strategy for Burundi is closely aligned with *Partnership for Change*.

A FRAGILE STATE, SLOWLY RECOVERING

Burundi is recovering slowly from a civil war that lasted over a decade and is still a fragile state with little financial support from donors. The country is ranked among the 10 least developed countries in the world on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index.

Most Burundians live in rural areas and are dependent on agriculture. Agricultural livelihoods are still recovering from the consequences of the war, and have been affected in recent years by an increasingly variable climate, making food security a real challenge for many, particularly in the eastern provinces. Poor infrastructure, lack of business support services and land fragmentation have limited productivity and market access in the country, making it difficult for farmers who have achieved food security to move beyond this.

However, market opportunities are opening up. The liberalisation of the coffee sector has provided opportunities for farmers and has encouraged international companies to engage more with the country. The Burundian government committed to meet the 2003 Maputo Declaration, with 11 per cent of its budget set aside for agriculture in 2012, but it remains important to monitor whether this allocation is truly contributing to the welfare of poor farmers and consumers.

Burundi is ranked among the 10 least developed countries in the world on the UNDP Human Development Index

The civil war devastated the health sector and it is struggling to recover because of insufficient budget and staff, especially doctors, who often prefer to work in Europe. Expenditure by the government on health at US\$51 per capita is much lower than the African average of US\$137 and significantly lower than its neighbour Rwanda at US\$95. Christian Aid aims to address this imbalance and improve the quality of services provided by government and faith-based organisations.

The HIV prevalence rate is over three per cent and progress on this front continues to be hindered by traditional attitudes that cause stigma against those affected. The fight against HIV in Burundi has been effective, with the number of new infections decreasing due to huge investment from government and donors. But following the financial turmoil in the world and internal institutional problems in Burundi, and their consequences on the Global Fund, there are serious concerns that services provided to people living with HIV will decline and that new infections will start to increase again.

Women's participation in decision-making is still very limited and Burundian women continue to experience exclusion and violence. Women and those affected by HIV have no rights to land, according to a Christian Aid study in 2010.



Marubizi



Christian Aid/Severine Flores

CHRISTIAN AID IN BURUNDI

After the genocide in Rwanda and the humanitarian situation that followed in the Great Lakes region Christian Aid opened its first field offices in Burundi, Rwanda and Bukavu (in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo) in 1995. The first programmes focused on providing humanitarian assistance to restore the dignity of genocide survivors, especially women and children, returnees and other victims of the tragedy. The programme's focus changed from humanitarian to rehabilitation and then to development, addressing the root causes of poverty through governance projects and tackling the spread of HIV and the related stigma and discrimination.

More recently we have built our capacity in market development work, supporting four separate pilot projects – sorghum, honey, soybean and sunflowers – and undertaking research in the coffee sector. This has provided us with invaluable experience of markets in Burundi and enabled us to develop new relationships with national and international private sector organisations and other agencies involved in market development. Christian Aid is a founding member of Agri-Hub Burundi, a network that promotes rural entrepreneurship and agribusiness. We are now recognised as a leading agency on market development by government and other development agencies and are ready to scale up this work.

The programme has also focused on citizen participation in decision-making. Partners have been empowered to challenge structures and institutions regarding promoting citizen participation and government transparency and accountability. We were among the few organisations to support Rwandan civil society organisations involved in seeking the space for civil society and accountability.

Christian Aid has built strong partnerships with churches, faith-based organisations and government institutions in the promotion of the SAVE approach to HIV (Safer practices; Access to treatment and nutrition; Voluntary, routine and stigma-free counselling and testing; Empowerment). Beginning in 2006, we worked for an end to HIV-related stigma and discrimination in Rwanda and the programme was extended to Burundi in 2010. Our work also includes wider health promotion and a focus on women's empowerment and on positive masculinity.

Religion is a powerful force in Burundi, and the legitimacy and reach of our faith-based partners is vital in improving health-seeking behaviour and mobilising communities to demand better services. We will use these relationships, and our previous experience of HIV work, to support systemic changes to the health system in Burundi. Our partnership with BUNERELA+ provides us with a unique opportunity to mobilise the power of faith to address the HIV epidemic.



Christian Aid/Severine Flores

Our vision is of resilient Burundian communities living in harmony and in a secure environment, and empowered to use available resources and opportunities equitably to end poverty

OUR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS THEORY OF CHANGE

The protection of natural resources, food security, improved market access and a greater voice for poor producers are all pre-requisites for resilient livelihoods.

Our experience shows that farmers in Burundi are at different stages of development: some are struggling for food security, while others have achieved this but are struggling to gain fair and improved access to markets.

We will work with both groups of farmers in parallel, supporting some farmers to achieve food security and develop climate resilient agriculture and helping others, who are generating agricultural surpluses, to improve their access to markets.

We will focus on markets that provide opportunities to integrate food security, climate resilience and gender considerations and allow us to have impact at scale. We will bring about change in markets by stimulating actions from private sector actors that improve both the functioning of the market and the role of poor producers within it.

OUR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HIV THEORY OF CHANGE

Improved health status will only be achieved when government increases support for services and communities understand health issues better and demand improved services.

Advocacy to increase service provision and education to improve health-seeking behaviour in communities are both needed. This means that when services are provided, poor people understand their benefits and use them.

We will work with partners with the legitimacy and presence to bring about this level of community mobilisation and awareness building, predominantly faith-based organisations. We will link this to the work of our former governance partners, who can speak on behalf of disempowered people and influence government priorities and policies in the health sector.

Christian Aid and its partners will sometimes provide basic but high-quality services where government and other agencies are not able to provide them.

OUR NEW STRATEGY FOR BURUNDI

Our new programme strategy for Burundi seeks to build partnerships with churches, civil society, government and the private sector, based on a shared vision of systemic change rather than on grant-based service delivery. Christian Aid Burundi will become a broker, bringing development actors together to seek and find solutions to problems facing the poor. We will work with partners with a national reputation that also give a voice to poor and marginalised women and men.

We will focus on resilient production, food insecurity and malnutrition in urban and rural areas of Burundi, working with those whose access to markets is blocked and those who simply need food security and are not yet in a position to take advantage of markets.

We will work closely with the private sector to unlock the potential of small-scale producers and help them to access sustainable markets, and with our partners to influence policies that lead to a beneficial business

environment for small-scale farmers. We will seek to improve the exchange of expertise in different areas of our programme.

Christian Aid Burundi will strengthen its relationships and support to local churches and faith-based organisations to bring change within communities and to government practices. We will raise faith leaders’ awareness of HIV and community health in general so that they can actively contribute to disease prevention, and train them in holding the government to account on health and HIV policies and service delivery. We will also provide limited and selected support to partners’ initiatives to provide health services to communities, such as setting up and equipping voluntary testing centres.

Christian Aid and its partners will promote and reinforce gender equality in all our work. All of our projects will be integrated and our policy and advocacy work will reflect our main strategic objectives to ensure sustainability and ownership. The Burundi programme is in line with several of Christian Aid’s global strategic goals: fair shares in a constrained world, rights to essential services and the power to change institutions.

Objective 1 – To facilitate sustainable food production, and fair and empowering market access for poor producers, including women and youth.

The changes we seek	How we will bring about change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable agricultural practices that ensure food security, are resilient to climate change and market shocks, and protect the environment and natural resources • inclusive market access in which producers obtain a fair price for their produce • empowered producers, with the capacity to manage relationships with other market actors, negotiate more effectively, gain access to inputs and services and, where possible, move up the value chain • investment in key small and medium enterprises that improve the efficiency of market chains and enhance market access for poor people • policy and institutional change that supports local market and enterprise development, sustainable agriculture and financial services, and resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide technical support, inputs and information that helps farmers to increase food production and income • provide what the poor need but also stimulate local markets (or at least, do not undermine them) • raise the status of poor farmers so they can build up assets and generate surpluses to be sold in the markets • help farmers to develop techniques that increase soil and water conservation, and promote climate change resilience • launch and build community saving techniques and support local microfinance projects • support local resource mobilisation and build technical capacity and knowledge • provide technical support for government projects • use participatory market system development (PMSD) approaches to develop specific crop markets that provide opportunities to improve resilience, bring benefits on a significant scale and target the most vulnerable • use our partnership with Twin Trading to develop cooperatives and improved marketing in the coffee sector • work with Christian Aid teams in the UK to facilitate investment funding for enterprises that unblock problems in the markets on which we are working • support advocacy that challenges and changes policies, procedures and practices that keep small producers in poverty and block their access to markets and other business development services, and which engages decision makers in improving the livelihoods of poor and marginalised people • look for synergy with the efforts of other organisations and network with other stakeholders to learn from them and achieve bigger and deeper impact.

Objective 2 — To facilitate increased access to health services and reduce gender-based violence and health-related stigma and discrimination.

The changes we seek	How we will bring about change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased adoption of preventive practices related to HIV, malaria, TB, other diseases and possible epidemics in communities, and specifically among people living with and affected by HIV increased access to quality and equitable health services reduced stigma and gender inequality improved health among target populations, leading to improved productivity and more resilient livelihoods better quality of life and restored self-esteem for marginalised people, including people living with and affected by HIV equitable access to resources and decision-making processes for men and women. 	<p>Raising awareness on disease prevention and community care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> help partners in raising community awareness of disease prevention and community care and to create demand for health services encourage our partners, especially churches, to draw on traditional and Christian values to show solidarity to affected people, specifically people living with HIV use the SAVE approach enhance the role of religious leaders, including those living or affected by HIV, as agents of change – this will be done by building the capacity of their networks and encouraging them to endorse the associations and cooperatives set up to provide mutual support and economic development to people living with and affected by HIV. <p>Improving health services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support partners with health infrastructure to provide services when the government and other institutions are not able to refer community members to government institutions and other stakeholders for accessing services support advocacy and policy analysis to challenge and change unfair, disempowering and discriminatory policies against people affected by diseases. <p>Gender equity and gender-based violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> empower men and women, boys and girls to work together in associations and cooperatives for mutual support and economic development training for faith leaders to understand the impact of gender-based violence on poverty and the need for community education and policy advocacy address specific diseases that affect or that are more harmful to specific groups support advocacy and policy analysis to challenge and change unfair, disempowering and discriminatory policies against people affected by gender inequity.



OUR PARTNERS IN BURUNDI

Anglican Church of Burundi
(province and dioceses)
World Outreach Initiatives
BUNARELA+
Agribusiness Services
Observatoire de l'Action Gouvernementale
Ligue ITEKA
Twin (UK)
UCEDD
Solidarité Protestante (Belgium)

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Front-cover photo: Kayamara Pascasie works with members of her cooperative in a soya field in Nyankanda, Burundi. The community has been cultivating soya for three years but was given training and organised into cooperatives as part of a value chain development project in 2011. Christian Aid partner the Anglican Church of Burundi, Gitega Diocese, puts cooperatives in contact with large-scale buyers to agree competitive prices for produce.

Christian Aid/Ally Carnwath

Christian Aid is a member of ACT – an alliance of more than 130 churches and related organisations that work together in humanitarian assistance, advocacy and development – giving us the ability to respond quickly and easily to emergencies the world over.

Christian Aid is a member of the

actalliance



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