

DEVELOP

AUTUMN 2023 [ISSUE 11]

FARMING WITH *JOY*

Addressing food insecurity
in Mali and Burkina Faso

HELPING HAND *2024*

Strengthening community
resilience in Uganda

NURTURING *INTEGRATION*

Supporting Ukrainian refugees
in Moldova and Romania



International
Development
UK

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ISSUE 11 ~ AUTUMN 2023

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WELCOME TO DEVELOP

A message from our UK Engagement Co-ordinator Hayley Still

During October we will celebrate the fourth annual International Development Week, with this year's theme being Global Community. We will explore what it means to be a community, reflect on the idea that the Church can and should be an example of community at its best (loving, serving, inclusive, generous etc), and that we are all members of a global community connected by our shared humanity.

One of the ways we are connected to others around the world is through the things we buy and own. Today, for example, I'm wearing a T-shirt made in Portugal, I ate a banana grown in Colombia, and am typing on a laptop with components manufactured in China.

Unfortunately, the people who grow, make or assemble our products are often not paid a living wage. We can show our support for just labour practices by shopping ethically, such as choosing fairly traded or second-hand products and rejecting fast fashion.

Turn to page 5 to learn about Others, a global social enterprise of The Salvation Army that ensures artisans get paid fairly for their work. Others has recently launched in the UK, and you can help make a difference by buying their products.

Elsewhere in this issue of *Develop* we introduce the 2024 Helping-Hand Appeal. The focus will be on

Anti-Trafficking with videos and resources featuring The Salvation Army's work in Uganda. Read more on page 8.

The current Helping-Hand Appeal, which is focused on Clean Water, continues until the end of this year. The resources feature a large-scale project in Malawi which aims to improve access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene. Turn to page 28 to read an interview with Mathews Tulombolombo, Development Officer for the Malawi Territory.

On page 18 we revisit Mali and Burkina Faso where training in climate-smart agricultural techniques is helping farmers to overcome food insecurity.

In 'Nurturing Integration' on page 14, Jason Emmett reflects on his recent visit to Moldova and Romania where The Salvation Army is supporting people who have been displaced from their homes due to the war in Ukraine.

We also share an update from the Beyond project which draws on The Salvation Army's global community to support survivors of human trafficking. Turn to page 24 to read more.

I hope that in considering the theme of global community, we will broaden our understanding of our world and those we share it with. I pray that this will in turn impact our choices so that we might create a more just world for all people.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Throughout this issue of Develop you will see icons alongside the articles referencing the UN Sustainable Development Goal that each article applies to. Here is a refresher of what the goals are.

OTHERS - TRADE FOR HOPE

Others – Trade for Hope is a Salvation Army initiative using fair trade principles to give local craftspeople in emerging economies fair, paid employment for their work and a platform to sell their wares. Products are currently sold by The Salvation Army across Europe, the US, New Zealand and Canada.

Now in its 25th year, the initiative is set to expand for the first time to the UK with beautiful handmade arts and crafts available to buy at selected Salvation Army charity shops, territorial events and online through the Salvationist Publishing & Supplies (SP&S) website.

Captain Alan Bawden, chair of the project, says: *'For the past 25 years this initiative has been bringing dignity, employment and opportunity to artisans in countries including Bangladesh and Kenya who are involved in our local programmes. The introduction of the Others brand into the UK fulfils The Salvation Army's 25-year ideal of bringing "Trade for Hope" into the UK and Ireland Territory.'*

It is that mission, 'to bring hope', which drives the project and all those involved in it. Hope through

employment, hope through opportunity and hope through fair pay.

All the products are hand-crafted and often draw on years of handed-down cultural techniques. As well as providing purpose and fulfilment to local artisans, sales of the products have given them an opportunity to move out of poverty and support their families, such as being able to access healthcare and send their children to school.

Others UK items are available in store now at Strawberry Field Liverpool, Bentley (Doncaster) and Wilmslow charity shops with more outlets to follow.

There will also be opportunity to see, handle and purchase items at the 'Christmas with the Salvation Army' event (5 December at the Royal Albert Hall, London).

You can also purchase online via www.sps-shop.com/others

To find out more about the impact, values, and global reach of this initiative, visit www.tradeforhope.com



SPEND A PENNY, GIVE A POUND

Helping-Hand 2023 runs until the end of this year (find out more about next year's appeal on page 8). The focus during 2023 is Clean Water.

Two billion people across the globe do not have access to adequate sanitation. The Salvation Army around the world is working alongside communities to overcome water scarcity and improve sanitation and hygiene.

Toilets save lives!

Without a safe place to use the loo, people are vulnerable to disease and even violence. When schools don't provide private toilets, girls are more likely to skip school, damaging their education and limiting their potential.

Spend a Penny, Give a Pound

The Salvation Army is constructing school toilets as part of clean water and sanitation projects around the world. Spend a Penny, Give a Pound is a way for you to support this work. Over the course of one day – or longer if you choose – donate £1 for each time you use the loo!

What does 'spend a penny' mean?

'Spend a penny' is a British phrase that simply means 'use the toilet'. It refers to the former use of coin-operated locks on public toilets, which – you've guessed it – would cost one old penny. Nowadays public toilets are often free, although in some places there is still a fee to pee!

While the term 'spend a penny' is old-fashioned, the need it represents remains relevant. Everyone needs to use the toilet, but not everyone has access to clean, safe and private facilities. By taking part in the Spend a Penny, Give a Pound fundraising challenge, you can support projects that will ensure more people can stay safe and healthy.

'Spend a Penny' Poster

Why not promote Spend a Penny, Give a Pound in your church/community building by displaying the poster on the back of toilet doors. It includes a QR code (also shown below) so that people can donate on the go!

Toilet Tally

Children may enjoy taking part in the challenge by completing the Toilet Tally colouring sheet. They can colour in a toilet for each time they use the loo to help keep track of their visits – at the end of the day, you can donate online.

Visit salvationist.org.uk/helpinghand for more information.





JUST GIFTS

Just Gifts is a selection of ‘virtual’ gifts which represent the projects that The Salvation Army supports around the world. Buying *Just Gifts* is a simple way of contributing towards this work, and in return for your donation you can receive a card and voucher to either keep or pass on to a loved one.

The gifts in the catalogue are examples of the work we do, taken from projects that we are currently supporting. Any money raised through *Just Gifts* is used to fund future projects which fall within our five areas of work: Anti-Trafficking, Clean Water, Emergency Response, Food Security and Gender Justice.

There are lots of reasons you might choose to buy *Just Gifts*. Perhaps you want to show your loved ones you are thinking about them, but don't want to keep buying products you know they don't need. *Just Gifts* is a great solution because it is virtual, though you can choose to purchase a physical card and print out the voucher. There may be someone in your life who is always difficult to buy for – they have everything they want or buy what they need before you have a chance! Again, *Just Gifts* is a great way to show them that you care whilst also spreading the word about justice issues and supporting international projects.

If you're thinking about cutting down your carbon footprint, especially as a church or community group, *Just Gifts* could be a great alternative to everyone exchanging Christmas cards. People can make a donation and the money raised can be used to purchase one or more *Just Gifts*. This could then be displayed on a noticeboard or highlighted during a meeting.

You can buy *Just Gifts* online at sps-shop.com/justgifts or by calling Salvationist Publishing & Supplies on 01933 445445.

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Rapha



Hayley Still

HELPING-HAND 2024

With a focus on Anti-Trafficking, the 2024 Helping-Hand Appeal will feature stories from The Salvation Army's project in Uganda which aims to raise awareness about human trafficking, strengthen community resilience and support survivors.

In the heart of East Africa, Uganda boasts a diverse landscape from the lush green expanses of its national parks to the bustling vibrancy of its urban centres. Often described as the 'Pearl of Africa', this beautiful country is not without its challenges.

Unequal healthcare access, insufficient educational opportunities, constrained political freedoms and human rights, alongside persistent gender disparities in education, employment and representation – these all prevent many from fully experiencing the richness of life. Additionally, the growing youth population and the lack of sufficient job opportunities have led to high rates of youth unemployment.

Human trafficking has also been identified as a key threat, with research suggesting that Uganda is a source, transit and destination for men, women and children.

Traffickers particularly target young people, and do so either in person, through word of mouth or via social media. Generally, young men are offered work in the Ugandan and Kenyan agricultural sector, whilst women and girls are trafficked for domestic servitude both internally and across international borders.

In response, The Salvation Army's Uganda Territory is running a project focused on raising awareness, strengthening community capacity and supporting survivors. The project has focused on five towns along the Kenyan border which have been identified as trafficking hotspots in which young people are particularly vulnerable.

These communities were also chosen because The Salvation Army has an existing presence there. The trust that the community has in The Salvation Army as a local faith organisation, combined with existing knowledge and links with local stakeholders, have been great assets in the project.

Through the project, 20 champions were identified to help raise awareness locally and mobilise communities to respond creatively to the risks of trafficking. As a result, 20 community savings groups have been established to enhance economic stability and community cohesion. Young people have formed their own groups which have generally taken the form of sports teams in line with their interests.

Clinton, who is one of the young people involved in the project, shared his story:

'In 2020, a friend told me he had a connection and could get me a job in Kenya. The next day I crossed the river border into Kenya and started working on a construction site. The work involved offloading cement from a lorry and carrying it to the site. It was hard work and at the end of the day we would get paid 150 Kenyan shillings (KSH).

I stayed with some of my co-workers. We used the little money we received to pay rent. One very hot day, we went to buy some cold water and the manager immediately came and asked why we were not working. He chased us away, and whilst I was running I fell to the floor. I touched my lip and saw blood and realised that I had lost one of my teeth. We struggled from then on. It was hard to find enough money to buy food to eat and pay rent. One day I met a man in town who was seeking someone to look after the cattle at his home. I quickly accepted the job.

He said I would receive three meals each day and 5,000KSH per month. However, later he told me I should be preparing my own food and paying 3,000KSH in rent. He made a note of the food I ate, and at the end of the month gave me only 100KSH. He said I owed him.

Over time I thought of going home, but I had no transport, and my employer had taken my phone. I often thought to myself, "I wish I had stayed home, and I wish I had a way to get home."

One day I was boiling water to prepare lunch, and my boss told me to come to him. I replied that I was making lunch and would be on my way. As I was leaving, I met him at the door and he pushed me back into the room. I told him I was on my way. In response he slapped me and said I was disrespectful. He grabbed the boiling water and poured it on my shoulder and hand.

I went to the neighbours and used their phone to call my parents. I told them I was in pain and needed help. They said they had no money to send, but they would see what they could do.





My parents asked their pastor for help and managed to arrange transport for me back to Uganda. When I reached home, I learnt that the money had come from The Salvation Army anti-trafficking project. When the staff visited me, they saw that I was seriously injured. They took me to hospital and supported my recovery.

As I continued in my recovery, I joined the project and have learnt more about human trafficking.'

Clinton and his friends, who play football together, have formed a savings group with Clinton being elected chairman.

'Together, we save money and can borrow from the treasury to boost our business, or to help if we have issues.

We are also supported by a champion. He mobilises us and teaches us a lot. We now look out for our friends, and if we hear that anyone is looking to cross the border for work, we speak up. This group has helped me and my friends. I realise how dangerous human trafficking is in my community so I keep talking to my friends about it.'

Football continues to be an important part of the group.



'After we meet, we always get together to play football. This means we avoid the things in the community that could get us into trouble. We have no time for this because after football we just go home, shower and rest.

Alongside football we continue saving together and decide together how to use the money in the treasury. Recently we decided to grow spinach and sell it at the market. This way each of us in the group can get a little money. We take some of the profits for the treasury so this pot grows. Then if one of us has a challenge, we can use a bit of the money to help solve their problem.

If we have any issue, we can talk to the group. We support one another as friends here.'

The story of human trafficking does not end when a person returns home. For survivors, the journey

of recovery continues. This is why follow-up care and counselling are essential parts of the project. Clinton's story of recovery is a great example of this and his enthusiasm to support others is inspiring.

Each year the Helping-Hand Appeal focuses on a different area of The Salvation Army's international work. Whilst the appeal videos and resources for 2024 will highlight this project in Uganda, money raised will be added to the international anti-trafficking fund and used to support upcoming anti-trafficking projects.

Helping-Hand 2023, which is supporting our Clean Water projects, will run until the end of this year. There is still time to support this year's appeal either by using the resources to raise awareness, donating, or taking part in Spend a Penny, Give a Pound (see p6 for details).







Jason Emmett

NURTURING INTEGRATION

International Project Adviser for the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory, Jason Emmett, shares how The Salvation Army in Moldova and Romania have been supporting Ukrainian refugees since the beginning of the conflict.

Daily news reports from Ukraine have become the norm as the conflict with Russia continues. Over six million refugees have fled Ukraine since February 2022, the majority of whom are women and children. Many have crossed borders into neighbouring countries, while millions remain displaced within Ukraine. The Salvation Army's Eastern Europe Territory, which includes Ukraine, Georgia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Moldova, has been at the forefront of our response to the crisis.

The territory is continuing to manage over 60 projects which include a variety of activities, such as the distribution of vouchers for food and other essential items, providing transportation and accommodation, offering pastoral support, and running educational and recreational activities for children and young people.

Earlier this year, along with two colleagues I visited the Eastern Europe Territory, spending time in both the Romania and Moldova Divisions. The purpose of the visit was to support and learn from the officers,

staff and volunteers who have served since the start of the crisis and worked tirelessly to address the needs of those affected.

Both Romania and Moldova share a land border with Ukraine. Since the start of the war, Moldova has seen 889,270 Ukrainian refugees cross the border with more than 116,835 remaining in the country, whilst 2,928,725 Ukrainian refugees have crossed the border to Romania with more than 95,035 remaining in the country (UNHCR, July 2023).

Today, seven out of the fifteen Salvation Army corps in Moldova are still actively engaged in supporting Ukraine refugee projects. These encompass provision of vouchers for children, educational activities, food distribution, clothing support, and initiatives working directly with women. Each has a strong focus on integrating their response with local community work. The Salvation Army was the first organisation to work with local stores to offer voucher support to



refugees, something that was not normal practice within Moldova, and is indicative of the strong networks that have been formed.

During our time in Moldova we visited Ungheni Corps which is close to the Romanian border. Twice a week the corps provides breakfast to people staying at a nearby shelter for refugees. The corps has built strong links with the Ukrainian community, with them becoming involved in corps activities and children attending weekly sessions, and it is keenly engaging in the ongoing support given to new refugees arriving.

The Romania Division, from the start of the crisis, has actively engaged in efforts at both the Romanian-Ukraine border and at the Rom-Expo, which currently serves as a one-stop-shop managed by UNHCR in Bucharest. The territory works alongside other organisations, such as World Vision, to distribute vouchers for children from the Rom-Expo in a project managed by two Ukrainian refugees. This work has contributed to over 130,000 vouchers being distributed to Ukrainian children.

The current phase of projects in Romania and Moldova are scheduled to conclude in the coming months, yet the crisis continues without a clear ending in sight. In the past, there have been a significant number of projects aimed at addressing the immediate needs of refugees. However, the next challenge is to adopt a more holistic approach and find ways to better support Ukrainian refugees to integrate into the communities in which they currently reside.

One Salvation Army project which is due to end this Autumn is voucher distribution operating from the Rom-Expo. The Eastern Europe Territory is eager to maintain a presence there to meet new and emerging needs for longer-term support. With the Rom-Expo a key central point for the refugees, 90 per cent of whom are women and children, the division in Romania hopes to maintain its presence there for as long as it remains open. The risks of exploitation, gender-based violence and human trafficking are high, so the services The Salvation Army provides must adapt accordingly.

Those we spoke to shared that government support in both Romania and Moldova has shifted its emphasis, now focusing on people who can demonstrate a move towards social integration through temporary registration. This allows them access to social assistance and services, as well as the health and education systems. However, temporary registration also means restriction of mobility across borders. A significant number of refugees want to stay close to home and maintain the ability to return to Ukraine as soon as possible. Without temporary registration they do not qualify for government support. Vouchers provided by The Salvation Army have been a lifeline to these people.

As the situation develops, both divisions are eager to refocus on existing local community work, seeking to include Ukrainian refugees into these initiatives. In Romania this task poses a significant challenge due to the language barrier. Future projects may therefore focus on supporting Ukrainian refugees to find longer-term support from partners and other organisations. In Moldova, however, the focus will likely shift to projects created specifically for Ukrainian women and young people. This would complement recent

projects such as supporting Ukrainian children to attend school by providing clothing and supplies, and voucher distribution.

The territory is moving from a time of active response to considering how support and project activities will more intentionally connect with established local Salvation Army community work, whilst addressing the ongoing needs of the refugees in a more integrated manner.

There continues to be a consistent and steady stream of refugees crossing into both Romania and Moldova. Attacks on Ukraine continue, and with each one people are forced to move both internally and across borders. This again raises the critical need for immediate support such as vouchers, while underscoring the necessity for a sustained, long-term response.

The Salvation Army in the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory continues to provide financial support to projects in Ukraine and bordering countries. Please pray for those impacted by the conflict, for officers, employees and volunteers who are serving others throughout the crisis, and for peace.







Violet Ruria

FARMING WITH JOY

Violet Ruria revisits Mali and Burkina Faso and reconnects with farmers who have participated in The Salvation Army's agricultural training project to address climate change and food insecurity.

'I chose to grow onions because they are in high demand and sell very easily. I preserve the onions for a few months to enable me to sell when the demand is highest, thus maximizing my profits.'

Nikiema depends on the sale of his produce to afford school fees for his children. He has been a farmer all his life, but his farming methods changed after receiving training on climate-smart agriculture.

I first met Nikiema three years ago, shortly after The Salvation Army in Burkina Faso had begun a project aimed at building the resilience of small-scale farmers to withstand climate change. At the time, he was growing pawpaw trees and found success making organic liquid fertiliser and applying this to his crops – a method introduced through the Salvation Army project.

Switching to growing onions has also proved successful and he is able to earn enough income to pay school fees for his children and medical fees for the family, and to provide them all with food. The Salvation Army has had an official presence in Mali since 2007 and it was declared a region in 2010. Two years later, unofficial work began in Burkina Faso and in 2018 The Salvation Army was officially opened here too.

On my recent visit to the Mali and Burkina Faso Region, I met a number of farmers who, like Nikiema, have taken part in the project (which runs across both countries), seeking to improve their crops using climate-smart agricultural methods.

In a small village called Kamsilga, a commune of Kadiago Province in central Burkina Faso, over 100 farmers took part in agricultural training. The sessions included how to sustainably increase their productivity using natural methods. The farmers learned about agroforestry as well as how to make compost and liquid fertiliser for use on their land.

One of the farmers who participated was Musa. A father of eight and a respected farmer in his village, Musa grows different vegetables including cabbages, courgettes, onions, and tomatoes which he noted were the most profitable.

After attending the training provided by The Salvation Army, Musa shared his acquired knowledge on improved agricultural techniques with his sons. He also went on to train 40 other small-scale farmers on how to use compost and liquid fertiliser to enhance their soil and boost harvests.



Musa said, *'The price of chemical fertiliser is too high, and not good for our soils, thus I opted to use liquid fertiliser. This has saved me approximately \$1,000 per planting season.'*

Since using organic fertiliser, Musa noted the difference in the quality and quantity of his crop production. He said, *'My yields have increased, my plants are more resistant to pests and the crops can be preserved for a longer time.'*

During the visit, one of the buyers of his farm produce had also visited to purchase cabbages. Jeanne rides her motorbike from the city of Ouagadougou every week to purchase her vegetables from Musa to sell in her grocery. Jeanne said she always purchases her products from Musa because his produce is preferred at her market. She said, *'My common customers say that these cabbages taste better and have a longer shelf life. That is unlike other vegetables purchased from other farmers.'* Jeanne commented that she relied on Musa as he always has adequate produce that she requires even during the hot seasons.

Musa is very hopeful for the future and can recount the benefits he has attained from his farming efforts. *'I have been able to purchase a cow which is an asset for my family, and I've been able to teach my children about profitable agriculture. This will help them in future.'*

Whilst this project is categorised as a Food Security project, it is integrated in its approach. It is evident that overcoming food insecurity is not possible without improved access to clean water. Therefore this project also includes the installation of boreholes.

The small village of Niania, in the Koulikoro region of Mali, is the location of one of the new boreholes. It was here that I met Sali Coulibary. In Niania, The Salvation Army has established a corps and community water point, in which a borehole has been drilled and, using solar





energy, water is pumped into reservoir tanks and piped closer to the villages. The water is used for domestic use and small irrigation gardens for tree nurseries.

Sali is the mother of five children and is very hopeful for her future since the water point was established. She said, *'My life has become easier because I do not have to walk an hour's round journey to fetch water for my domestic use. I now just walk any time from my home to the water point*

and do my laundry.' She continued, *'This water point has saved me and 250 other women from having to carry water on our backs. The lives of women have become better.'*

Mali is ranked at 175th of the 188 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index, whilst Burkina Faso sits at number 185. During my visit to both countries, I spoke with community members who expressed that their biggest challenge was malnutrition due to the high costs



of food in the market and a lack of clean, safe water. Recurrent droughts also add to the pervasiveness of food insecurity.

All the farmers I visited reported that they had shared the knowledge gained through their training. They commented that the yields and quality of the crops of those who had adopted the climate-smart methods was markedly improved. In a challenging context, people are working together to identify and adopt solutions.

I was deeply encouraged during this visit by the commitment to the sharing of knowledge which serves to expand the reach and enhance the sustainability of this project.

Please uphold The Salvation Army Region of Mali and Burkina Faso in prayer as they continue to journey with communities to overcome the challenges of food insecurity, water scarcity and the increasingly damaging climate crisis.

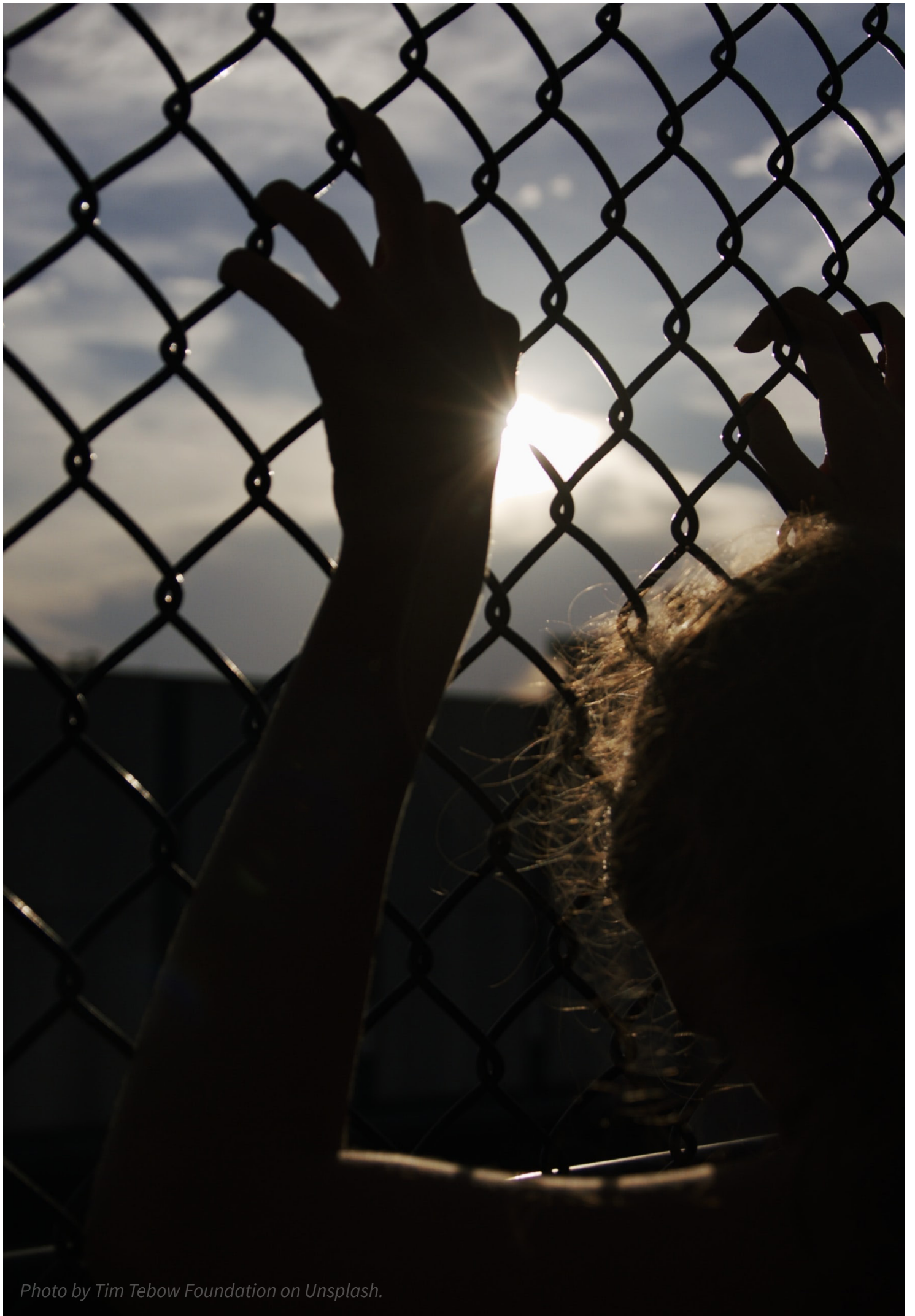


Photo by Tim Tebow Foundation on Unsplash.



Rebecca Treadaway

BEYOND

June 2023 saw the end of a pilot project delivered by The Salvation Army's Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery (ATMS) Department of the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory. Rebecca Treadaway outlines the 'Beyond' project and how it has impacted survivors of human trafficking.

Beyond explored how The Salvation Army could use its extensive global network to provide international forms of support to survivors of trafficking. This project offered four services:

1. Providing local, cultural or context-specific information.
2. Providing return and/or reintegration support for survivors of trafficking who return home.
3. Supporting family members of trafficking survivors who are separated internationally.
4. Offering cultural exchanges between regional Salvation Army teams around the world with the 'Direct Delivery Team' in the UK.

The project involved individuals being referred to the project for support. In this pilot phase we selected the Africa Zone, the South Asia Zone and three UK subcontractors of the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC) to be the primary referrers over a five-month period.

This project came out of the development of the role of National Contact Person (NCP) within The Salvation Army. The NCP is an appointment for a Salvation Army officer in which they are the point of contact within their country or territory for

responding to trafficking. This structure allows us to connect directly with an appropriate officer in each territory in which The Salvation Army has a presence. Through the NCP we can offer support to survivors, and the NCP's valuable local knowledge allows for referrals to more specialist partners.

Most referrals from UK support workers were for survivors' family members. Referrals indicated the risks that family members face back home, the majority being the children of people who had been trafficked to the UK and could not safely return home. Through these cases, we observed that the primary legal route for family reunion is only available to those who have refugee status or humanitarian protection, but many referrals were from those with pending asylum claims which may take years.

Given the nature of referrals received, we seek to collect more data in the second phase of the project to contribute to research and advocacy on this issue.

The long-term support and high-risk needs of those referred meant we primarily used the



“ This project came to relieve, it came to support...it's a blessing for us. ”

connections of our NCPs and Child Protection Officers to refer to more specialised services. This seemed to provide a relief, as suggested by feedback from one UK support worker: *‘When I told my client that ... we might be able to look into some kind of support for her daughter, she burst into tears. She was just so grateful that the Beyond project even exists.’*

We received 35 referrals for return and/or reintegration support and these primarily came from outside of the UK. These cases highlighted a gap in reintegration support, as we did not replicate the work of any existing projects. We co-ordinated support alongside the survivor, who was in direct contact with the NCP, as well as the relevant Zonal Co-ordinator and Survivor Leader for Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response. This created a rich source of collaboration using local, regional and survivor-centred approaches to support.

Part of this pilot included a small pot of funding for reintegration. Use of this funding included start-up business costs, training courses and medical check-ups. To NCPs, this access to funding made a huge difference to addressing the root causes of insecurity, as explained by an NCP in the Africa Zone:

‘We [did] what we could spiritually, [such as providing] counselling ... but that would not help in what they really needed. This project came to relieve, it came to support ... It's a blessing for us.’

We trialled a grant scheme for this funding that the survivor could apply for with the NCP. This allowed for reintegration support to be tailored to the needs of the survivor and allowed choice in the process, which is a key part of empowerment and the journey of recovery. We provided 14 grants to support survivors. We hope that by working in this way we can contribute to a reduction in re-trafficking as, otherwise, survivors may be

returning to the very precarious context from which they were trafficked. One survivor that we supported from Sri Lanka outlined the difficulties they faced on return:

'I went abroad with an intention of completing my half-built house, but I came back without my five-month salary. When I was in a helpless situation some ladies and gents from The Salvation Army visited my home, then came forward to help in this situation of poverty. They extended their full support of my small business. They provided all the things I needed to run a small boutique I have great hope after receiving the goods and material from The Salvation Army and I am getting many orders for sewing.'

Finally, for the cultural exchange, we see the potential to link up our global network to provide local perspectives on culture, and to explore ways of providing more meaningful support. Some of the key learnings from our first exchange, which focused on China, included ways of discussing

mental health and sexual exploitation, often seen as taboos.

These exchanges also increased understanding about trafficking routes to the UK and an opportunity to see what survivor support looks like in the UK, both of which can be used to shape prevention and protection strategies in future.

This project received 60 referrals in this five-month period with only limited referral partners, and so we see great potential to develop this project. We are therefore seeking funds to continue this work that provides an international perspective to responding to the needs of survivors of trafficking where this goes beyond borders.

If you would like to financially support The Salvation Army's international anti-trafficking work, please visit salvationarmy.org.uk/id/anti-trafficking or scan the Anti-Trafficking QR code on page 35.







Hayley Still

IMPROVING WATER ACCESS

Development Officer Mathews Tulombolombo talks to Hayley Still about the impact of the Integrated WASH project in Malawi's Karonga District.

What is the Integrated WASH project?

The project tackles issues of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). It is working in places which are under-served and under-prioritised in these areas. This is a widespread project and includes drilling boreholes, raising awareness about hygiene and sanitation, addressing issues around gender equality and building toilet blocks.

This work goes together with training kids in handwashing and hygiene management.

Agriculture also plays a part, such as teaching community members about conservation agriculture to ensure that households can be food secure throughout the year.

What does the project aim to achieve?

At the beginning of the project it was evident that cases of diarrhoea and cholera were rampant. Therefore, improving access to water points and enhancing knowledge around hygiene and sanitation was prioritised.

Improving water access at health clinics is also a focus. At the beginning we visited the health

clinic to get a baseline survey. We found that the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities was very low.

It is not acceptable for a health centre to draw water from a borehole. Lack of water is a challenge to the health clinics because they need to carry it into the clinic. Running water is needed.

How has the project impacted the area?

In the baseline survey, we checked the number of people who were attending the clinic for cholera and diarrhoea. Now, it is three years since we have had a case of cholera. There are still some cases of diarrhoea in the community because, although we have installed a number of boreholes, more are still needed.

We have seen dramatic change in the children. They no longer have to wake up very early to fetch water. They are now in school on time and able to listen to their teachers. Their health is no longer compromised.

We have built toilet blocks in schools for the students. This includes a room that girls can use to change when they are menstruating. We also

distribute sanitary towels to make sure girls don't need to stay home during their period. There is also a first-aid kit with painkillers available for the girls. This ensures that they can stay in school and not miss class.

What role do young people play?

Children are an important part of this project. We want to see children engaging well in school, and teaching good hygiene practices and handwashing is key to this. When children are unwell, they cannot attend classes or absorb the knowledge that their teachers are sharing. Handwashing dramatically reduces the spread of diseases and helps keep children at school.

Children are encouraged to be agents of change. Sanitation clubs provide training for young people about sanitation and hygiene. For example, handwashing is key for people to be safe from disease, as is having a toilet to use.

Children are encouraged to take these messages home to their families – behavioural change is an important part of the project and children can influence a lot at home, through their parents and their peers. So now, what is happening in school is also happening at home.

How are women involved in the project?

As it is often women who are responsible for household activities – such as caring for children,

cooking and collecting water – it is crucial for them to be at the forefront of the project. Women therefore play an important role. They are now in decision-making positions and are heading up village sanitation committees.

Women also form savings and loans groups. Every time they meet, each member contributes a small amount of money, so the shared fund grows and grows. Members can then take a loan with a very low interest rate, which also helps the fund to grow and enables the women to pay for things they need. The money loaned out also gives the members the opportunity to start and grow their own small businesses.

How are Salvation Army corps officers (church leaders) involved in the project?

Officers work hand in hand with the development office. They attend project activities and training sessions, and they provide pastoral support to community members. Working with officers is a must. Projects are not generated from territorial headquarters; they are generated by the community. For example, it was a corps officer in Karonga who raised this project.

This is an integrated project, so water and sanitation are not the only aspects. How is the issue of food security included?

We incorporate food security into the project by promoting conservation agriculture to the





community members. Each household has access to a garden where they can practise the principles of conservation agriculture. A healthy harvest from this plot of land will yield enough food for a family with five children for a whole year.

What impact has climate change had in Malawi?

We are experiencing completely strange weather patterns. In the past few years, we have had cyclones which we did not have previously. The weather is also extreme – if we do not have floods, we have droughts. The problem is that when it rains, it is so much water at once. This flooding displaces people from their homes and makes agricultural activities so difficult.

How is this project addressing climate change?

We cannot stop the rains coming, we cannot stop the wind, but we can help to prepare people. The savings groups I mentioned give people a place to find funds when disaster strikes. This means they are better able to bounce back. The conservation agriculture methods also equip people to manage

their land throughout the extreme and erratic weather patterns. This method ensures soil moisture is retained throughout the dry season and crops are not lost. Conservation agriculture helps to sustain the environment and conserve the soil.

What are your hopes for the future?

We hope to expand The Salvation Army’s catchment area. It doesn’t cover the whole district – we do not have the funding to cover everywhere. Although we have put in some water points, it is still not enough. The need for water is huge. There is need for more water points, for more hygiene and sanitation training. These things go together, the two complement each other.

We really want to reach the areas that still have zero water access.

Donate to Clean Water projects by using the form at the back of this magazine or scanning the QR code on page 35.



*Can you help us to
raise funds for our
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development projects?*

Angela Carlucci

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Fundraising events are a fantastic and fun way for people of all ages and abilities to help raise valuable funds for the work of The Salvation Army.

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