AUTUMN 2025 TISSUE 15.]

LIGHT IN THE COMMUNITY

Promoting health and sustainability in China

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF EXPLOITATION

Journeying with women and children in Bangladesh

SEEDS OF HOPE

Transformation in the highlands of Rwanda



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WELCOME TO DEVELOP

A message from our UK Engagement Coordinator Hayley Still

When I recently wrote a devotional series on the Sermon on the Mount (see page 5 for more information about this), I had the opportunity to reflect again on Jesus' familiar words. They were controversial. He challenged his listeners' understanding of what it means to be blessed and outlined a radical vision for humanity.

Jesus called his followers to reject worldly notions of success measured by power, wealth and control. Instead he invites us to live by the Kingdom values of humility, mercy, peacemaking and generosity. His message is not competition but collaboration, not about hoarding resources for the few but sharing life so that everyone can flourish.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus lifts up the humble, the merciful and the persecuted. He subverts the worldly values of domination and control, and offers a vision for a world where the voices and experiences of those oppressed or ignored are respected and honoured.

As the Sermon on the Mount continues, Jesus shows what this looks like in practice – giving

generously without performance, praying without pretence, doing to others what we would have them do to us.

The injustices of poverty, human trafficking, food insecurity, water scarcity, and violence against women and girls, alongside a myriad other challenges faced by people around the world, can feel overwhelming. Yet the stories from the projects we partner on give me hope. These projects not only meet people's practical needs but also embody the compassion and immense capacity for love that humanity holds. The projects highlighted in this issue of Develop are reminders of injustices that should never have existed, but they also testify to the transformative power of compassion.

In a world where it is so easy to become drawn into self-interest, may we be reminded of Jesus' call on our lives to build God's Kingdom here, shaped by love, hope and justice.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**





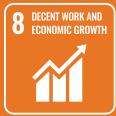
































Throughout this issue of Develop you will see icons alongside the articles referencing the UN Sustainable Development Goal that each article applies to. Here is a refresher of what the goals are.

NEW DEVOTIONAL SERIES

Launched ahead of International Development Week (18–24 October), our new devotional series invites participants on a seven-day journey of spiritual reflection through the lens of global justice. Delivered via daily emails, the series explores the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount, calling followers of Jesus to live lives marked by justice, compassion and community.

Each day's reflection draws on Jesus' words in Matthew chapters 5 to 7, challenging us to reject a worldly view of success and instead embrace Kingdom values.

The series explores themes such as peacemaking, mercy, courage and practical discipleship, encouraging readers to consider how their faith intersects with the realities faced by communities around the world.

This devotional series is more than a spiritual exercise; it is a call to live out the gospel in tangible ways. By

linking Scripture with global development themes, it fosters a holistic understanding of discipleship that embraces advocacy, generosity and justice.

The journey offers a meaningful way to engage with global justice issues that The Salvation Army International Development UK is addressing, and serves as a daily reminder that justice is not optional – it is a spiritual imperative rooted in the teachings of Christ.

Join us on the journey!

Scan the QR code below or visit www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/id-week





JUST GIFTS

Virtual gifts that make a real difference!

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 digital voucher to either keep or pass on to a loved one.

The gifts 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 Women and Girls.

There are many thoughtful reasons to choose Just Gifts. Perhaps you want to show someone you care without adding to the clutter of things they don't really need. Just Gifts offers a meaningful alternative. Just Gifts is a great solution because it is virtual; but if you prefer something tangible, you can opt for a physical card and print out the voucher.

We all know someone who's tricky to buy for – they either have everything already or tend to buy what they need before you get the chance! Just Gifts is a brilliant way to show your loved ones you are thinking about them whilst also raising awareness of justice issues and supporting international projects.

Just Gifts is also a great option for those looking to cut down on their carbon footprint. For a church or community group, this could be a great alternative to everyone exchanging Christmas cards – simply invite people to donate and use the money raised to purchase one or more Just Gifts. The voucher(s) 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**.







SPEND A PENNY, GIVE A POUND



Over 1.5 billion people do not have basic sanitation services (such as a private toilet or latrine). Without a safe place to use the loo, people are vulnerable to disease and in danger of 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

As part of integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) projects, The Salvation Army is constructing toilets in schools and communities around the world. Spend a Penny, Give a Pound is a way for you to support this work. The idea is simple - over the course of onE day, donate £1 for each time you use the loo!

World Toilet Day

World Toilet Day (19 November) is a great opportunity to get your church, school, workplace or community group involved in the Spend a Penny, Give a Pound fundraiser. Download the fundraiser pack from salvationarmy.org.uk/id/cleanwater, including a poster to display on toilet doors and the Toilet Tally colouring sheet.

What does 'spend a penny' mean?

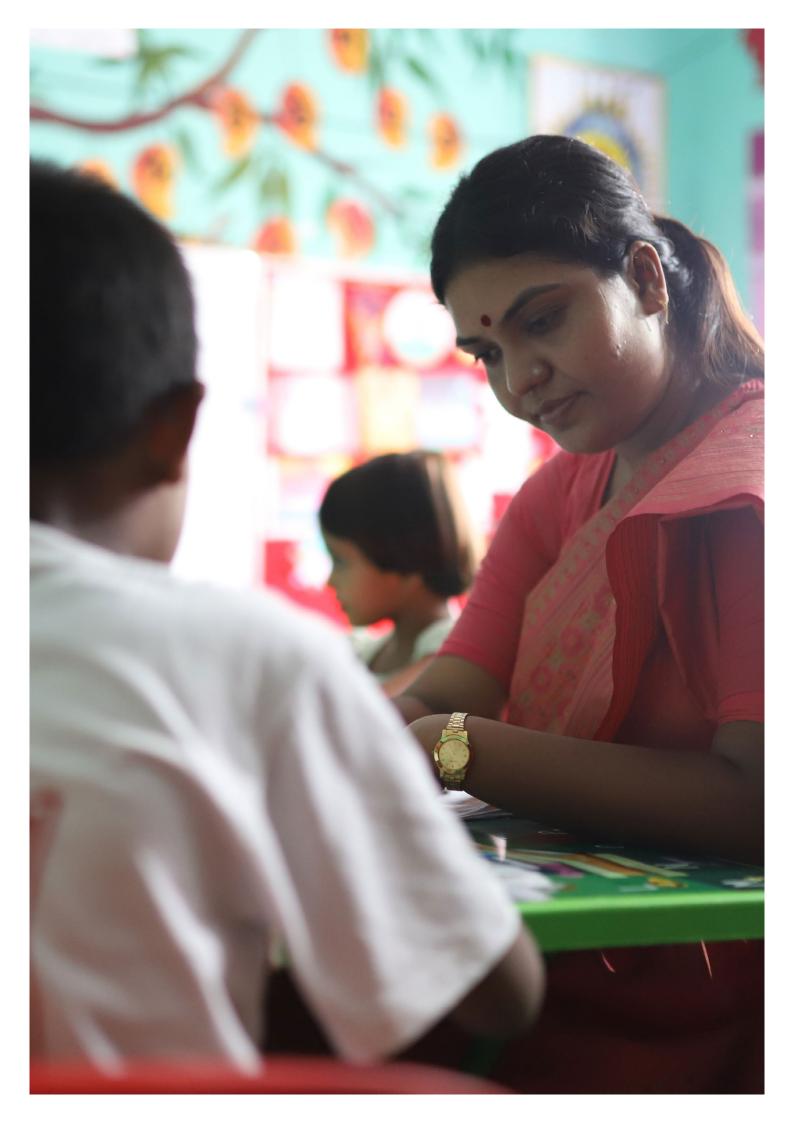
'Spend a penny' is a British phrase that simply means 'use the toilet'. It refers to the former use of coinoperated locks on public toilets, which – you've guessed it – would cost one old penny. Nowadays public toilets are often free, although in some places there is still a fee to pee!

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.













Hayley Still

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

With a focus on Women and Girls, the 2026 Helping-Hand Appeal will feature stories from The Salvation Army's project in Bangladesh. Walking alongside women and children who have experienced or are vulnerable to sexual exploitation, this project provides care, guidance and practical support creating pathways towards safety, dignity and a brighter future.

The temperature hovers in the mid-thirties. Whilst monsoon season is coming to an end, humidity clings to the air, intensifying the heat.

On the main road, drivers of easy bikes and autorickshaws – known locally as CNGs, after the fuel that powers them – jostle for space, horns blaring to announce their presence. Their passengers are bound for work, the market, school, home. It's a chaotic choreography as vehicles thread their way through the crowd, reaching their destinations without incident.

Turn down a single-lane road and the volume softens, though it lingers in the background. Overhead a tangle of power lines connects the buildings. Halfway along, you reach The Salvation Army's Health Care and Counselling Centre – a name that reflects its origins – first opened more than 30 years ago to support women living with HIV.

Now, as you ascend the winding stairs to the third floor, the noise of the street gives way to the sounds of something hopeful. Two classrooms embrace groups of children leaning in to hear their teacher's lesson. The alphabet spoken and echoed back, numbers 1 to 10 carefully etched on chalkboards.

This classroom is a haven from home, which lies just a few metres away in Jashore's brothel district, five narrow lanes where their mothers are trapped in a cycle of exploitation.

The paths that lead women there are many – debt, deception, abandonment – but choice is not one of them. In Jashore, as in so many places, choice is an illusion dressed up as opportunity. The project responds with a simple conviction: if exploitation is a cycle, then intervention must be a rhythm – proximate, consistent, reliable. This is quiet, radical work, rooted in compassion and sustained by professional resolve.



For over three decades The Salvation Army has maintained a steadfast presence, evolving and adapting the project focus over the years to meet changing needs. The current phase, which began in 2024, prioritises community-driven solutions, building trust, listening to women to understand their challenges and engaging them in setting priorities.

Alongside regular outreach – where a Salvation Army chaplain meets women in their homes within the brothel to listen, advise and support – community organisers travel to neighbouring villages to raise awareness of child marriage, gender discrimination and human trafficking, to drive social change and address the push factors that feed exploitation.

This situation is complex and nuanced and there isn't a single, simple solution. Women need stable income to be able to pay off debts, exit the brothel and support themselves. The Salvation Army partners with local organisations to provide skills training and pathways to just and sustainable income opportunities or employment. Staff practise trauma-informed care, recognising that leaving the brothel is only the beginning of a longer journey of healing and rebuilding.

The drop-in centre for children opened in 2021. It was born out of the concerns that the women shared with project staff: that their children would be drawn into the same life as them. As part of the project, the children's team provide education, creative activities and nutritious meals in a safe, caring and engaging environment, with compassion and care shown practically to children at risk of abuse and neglect.

Each weekday morning, the staff gather for a time of reflection and worship. As well as spending time in prayer, reading Scripture and singing together, this space offers an opportunity to speak openly about the concerns that weigh heavily on their

hearts. It's a time to support one another which has become an important rhythm in the week.

Barna, one of the children's workers, outlines the pastoral and practical care that they provide: 'If children don't arrive at the centre, I go over to the brothel to collect them. We give them snacks and make sure they have the appropriate clothes and books for school. For the children who are still going to school, we check that they have done their homework. For those that don't go to school, we play with them a little and then teach them basic lessons.'

For Barna, this isn't just a job, it's a vocation: 'I love being with the children. It is very important because when I go to the brothel ... sometimes I have seen children tied up there. The brothel is not a healthy place for children. When the customers come to the mothers, the children are sent out and they are just roaming around.'

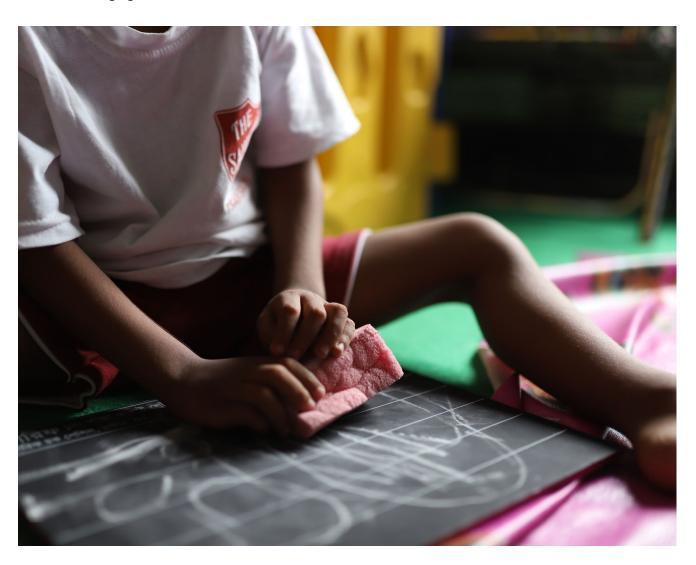
Reflecting on the centre's impact, Barna said, 'This centre is changing children's lives. Without the

centre, the children can easily get into trouble. We are educating them and teaching them a good way to live. The most beautiful thing is when I see children who have been to the centre, who are grown up and are in a good place now. When I see that they are doing well, it brings joy to my heart.'

Helping-Hand Appeal

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 2026 will highlight this project in Bangladesh, money raised will be added to the international women and girls fund and used to support upcoming projects in this area of work.

Helping-Hand 2025, which is supporting our Food Security projects, will run until the end of this year. There is still time to support this year's appeal either by using the free online resources to raise awareness, taking part in a fundraiser, or making a donation. Visit salvationist.org.uk/helpinghand for more information.











Amelia Casserley

SEEDS OF HOPE

In the highlands of Rwanda, amongst the mist-covered hills and vibrant green fields, something incredible is taking root – not just crops, but transformation. Through a shared commitment to growth, resilience and hope, The Salvation Army Rwanda and Burundi Territory, in partnership with the UK and Ireland Territory, is helping rural households sow new futures.

Since January 2023 the Strengthening Household Resilience project has reached 600 households across Kamonyi and Musanze. Its goal: to empower communities through village savings and loan associations (VSLAs), nutritional education and functional literacy. With support from The Salvation Army Australia and UKI, and in close collaboration with local corps and community leaders, this initiative is not only addressing poverty but also changing lives.

At the heart of this project is a connection with the spiritual and community life of The Salvation Army. Corps officers are not just observers – they're catalysts. From organising literacy classes to nurturing savings groups, they work shoulder to shoulder with project coordinators and local participants. The alignment of mission and community development reflects The Salvation Army's commitment to holistic transformation, meeting spiritual, emotional and practical needs.

The Rwanda and Burundi Territory has combined development into the very fabric of its

strategy. Leaders and field teams demonstrate great ownership, and the local enthusiasm is evident in every story shared, every garden tended and every loan repaid.

Mukandengo Françoise lives with her six children in the remote hills of Rubona. Once reliant on informal labour, she joined a savings group as part of the project. Françoise took a small loan of 20,000 RWF (around \$15 or £12) to purchase tomato seeds – an investment that has blossomed into a flourishing vegetable business that she has been able to channel directly into her children's education, and other household necessities.

'I no longer hesitate to speak in our group,' she said, filled with confidence. 'Now I contribute at home and in the community. We are learning to walk together toward a better future.'

Françoise's journey is echoed by hundreds of others. Through this project, 30 VSLAs have been formed, 90 per cent of members have accessed credit, and health insurance coverage has jumped from 41 per cent to 74 per



cent. These aren't just numbers – they're real stories of trust, empowerment and transformation in people's lives.

In Mahoko, Bararikunze's story speaks of innovation born from necessity. With little access to fertile land, she began growing vegetables in small sacks outside her home. That resourcefulness now feeds her family and provides an income, allowing her financial independence from her husband.

'Before, I had to buy vegetables. Now I grow my own and earn money every week,' she explained. Her savings are going into poultry farming, and she's planning to expand. What was once a struggle is now a successful business. Across all participating households, 98 per cent have constructed kitchen gardens. Training in nutrition has helped families see vegetables not as a luxury but as essential. Mothers report healthier children and fewer cases of nutrition-based illness.

But change isn't just physical. Functional literacy training, particularly aimed at women, young people and individuals with disabilities, is helping households gain the skills to read, budget and plan effectively. As well as building practical capabilities, these skills also help to reduce vulnerability to social injustices such as human trafficking.

In Cyuve, community agricultural teacher Marthe not only trains families in climate-resilient farming but also checks in personally with each member. 'We learn by doing,' she said. 'When we gather to practise, it builds more than skills – it builds community.'

60 per cent of participants have already started or expanded small businesses. Over 200 people are engaged in agribusiness, tailoring and service-based trades. A growing cultureof entrepreneurship is replacing long-standing cycles of dependency. With the project scheduled to conclude in January 2026, sustainability remains



a key priority. A comprehensive departure plan is under way to ensure the community can independently manage the project. VSLAs are being connected with formal financial institutions, corps officers are taking on increased oversight, and new advisory groups are being established to support continued learning and growth. Environmental resilience is also essential. Rwanda's terrain makes communities vulnerable to natural hazards such as landslides and flooding. That's why the next project phase will incorporate climate-smart agriculture and soil conservation, not only to reduce the probability of the hazard itself but also to mitigate the damage that follows. It's not just about growth, but growth that lasts.

Corps officers have highlighted the importance of being engaged in the project, emphasising how their active involvement has strengthened both the project outcomes and their pastoral relationships within the community. This project is an example of the difference that can be made when faith meets action, and when partnership is

built on mutual respect and trust. As one officer noted, when local leaders are empowered to serve both spiritually and practically, transformation becomes a shared mission, and the church becomes a catalyst for lasting change.

This life-changing work in Rwanda and Burundi is made possible through the generosity of supporters who give to The Salvation Army's Helping-Hand Appeal.

This project is just one of the Food Security projects that we partner on and is the focus of this year's Helping-Hand Appeal. All money raised through this year's appeal will support projects like this – sowing seeds of resilience and hope, journeying with families as they lift themselves out of poverty and work together to build stronger, healthier communities. As new projects take shape, your ongoing support is essential, so that we can continue to support those who are in need.









The Salvation Army International Headquarters

RECOGNITION FOR GEORGIA DIVISION

The Salvation Army in Georgia has been awarded the Order of St Panteleimon in recognition of its outstanding work in supporting Ukrainian refugees. We share this report from The Salvation Army International Headquarters and join in congratulating the officers, staff and volunteers of the Georgia Division for this significant achievement.

The Order of St Panteleimon, presented on behalf of the Ukrainian Government, recognises individuals and organisations for their significant contribution to the Ukrainian people's struggle for freedom and independence. The Salvation Army in Georgia was shortlisted for the award alongside 10 other organisations from around the world.

Territorial Commander for the Eastern Europe Territory – which comprises Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine – Colonel João Paulo Ramos said: 'It is a profound honour that The Salvation Army's work has been acknowledged in this way. This award is a powerful testament to the tireless efforts of Salvationists and friends of The Salvation Army, and to the impact of our God-given mission to serve displaced families and individuals with dignity and hope.

'Please join us in celebrating this remarkable achievement, and in praying that the ministry in Georgia will continue to flourish and

shine as a beacon of hope in the community.'

The Salvation Army in Georgia, and across the Eastern Europe Territory, serves with unwavering commitment and compassion in some of the most complex and challenging circumstances. From humanitarian relief for displaced families to long-term community development, The Salvation Army's presence has become a symbol of hope, dignity and practical love.

The Salvation Army was nominated for the award following recommendations by Ukrainians living in Georgia who had been assisted by The Salvation Army. It was the only organisation within the country to receive a nomination.

As part of the nomination process, Georgia Divisional Commander Major Rezo Bakhtadze was interviewed by the awards council, which included members of the Ukrainian Parliament.

The Ukrainian representative to Georgia visited



The Salvation Army's work in the country on multiple occasions because of the overwhelmingly positive feedback from Ukrainians about the support received.

The recipients of the award were announced at an event hosted at the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War, in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Monday 28 July 2025.

A ceremony will also be held at the Embassy of Ukraine in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The Order of St Panteleimon is named after St Panteleimon, a healer and the patron saint of physicians and midwives.

Major Rezo Bakhtadze (Divisional Commander, Georgia) reflected on the achievement:
Since the onset of the war, The Salvation Army in Georgia has been actively supporting families displaced from Ukraine through implementing a range of humanitarian projects aimed not only at providing aid but also at helping Ukrainian refugees temporarily resettle in Georgia.

Our social initiatives have included distributing essential household items, clothing and food. In the city of Batumi we opened a canteen that served hot meals daily to 120–130 people. A significant focus has been placed on the wellbeing of children and adolescents.

Through our Back to School project, children received school supplies and clothing vouchers. We continue to run the after-school programme, where children enjoy a meal and participate in group activities. This initiative not only supports their education and personal development but also enables parents to work, knowing their children are in a safe environment. The supportive environment plays a crucial role in helping the young people heal and adapt to their new circumstances.

Additionally, we have organised both winter and summer camps for children and youth. Our efforts have been recognised by the Ukrainian Consul in Georgia, who has visited our projects on multiple occasions. Ukrainians often express that our

care and support make them feel truly at home, even while far from their own.

One of our most impactful initiatives, now in its second year, is the distribution of food vouchers. These vouchers have also supported a Ukrainian kindergarten.

This comprehensive and flexible approach to providing education, practical aid and emotional support has made a significant impact on the lives of refugees, helping them navigate their challenging circumstances and rebuild their lives. The United Kingdom and Ireland Territory has supported a number of emergency response projects responding to the Ukraine conflict.

Jason Emmett (Project Adviser for Emergency response, International Development UK) shared his congratulations:

'It's amazing to see the journey of response the Georgia Division has been on since the start of the conflict in 2022. They have supported the displaced Ukrainian community in a variety of ways such as serving meals and providing vouchers to help children with school supplies. The officers and volunteers have consistently worked hard to help the community. The recognition of this work by the Ukrainian Government is something we celebrate, not only with our Salvation Army colleagues but also with our supporters. Without the generosity of those who have made donations, no matter how big or small, this response work would not be possible. As the conflict continues with no clear end in sight, our commitment remains steadfast. We will continue to serve and support programmes within Ukraine and the surrounding countries.'











Heidi Chan

LIGHT IN THE COMMUNITY

In Xiaozhai village, Yunnan Province, southwest China, The Salvation Army is partnering with the local community to promote healthier and more sustainable living conditions. Heidi Chan, China Development Manager for The Salvation Army Hong Kong and Macau Territory, shares insights into this ongoing three-year project.

Mr Guo is an amiable man in his early fifties. Known to his friends as Adi, he has been running a small family-owned restaurant in Xiaozhai for many years. The restaurant, famous for its delicious fish and mutton, is more than just a local favourite. As the family's only source of income, it plays a crucial role in supporting Adi's ageing parents and funding his two daughters' college education.

However, the business has been substantially impacted by an unstable and poor-quality water supply, as well as local environmental issues such as the open drainage in front of the restaurant.

For those living in Xiaozhai village, an unsafe water supply was just one of the challenges negatively affecting quality of life. Since 2023, The Salvation Army in the Hong Kong and Macau Territory has been delivering a three-year, community-led project aimed at improving wellbeing and creating healthier and safer living conditions.

The phased plan has four key aims, each addressing

an important aspect of daily life:

- 1) Provide a safe, stable water supply
- 2) Improved safety after dark
- 3) Improve sanitation and the environment
- 4) Upgrade public facilities and shared spaces

The first outcome – delivering an improved drinking water system – was achieved in the first year of the project. Improvements were needed to ensure a safe, stable and sufficient water supply for the 118 households of Xiaozhai village. Villagers contributed labour to build the reservoir and lay pipelines, demonstrating a true sense of engagement and ownership.

To address the second aim, 50 solar-powered streetlamps were installed along the village's main road to improve safety, mobility and convenience, particularly benefiting the older population, children and young people. Being able to navigate the main routes during early mornings and evenings has been



As the project enters its final year, the fourth outcome of improving public facilities for social and cultural activities is the next priority. Renovating public facilities will give space for community activities as well as ensuring that social services can be provided for elderly women and men and children.

From the outset, this project has been community-led. Village representatives helped prepare the tender, whilst the local government led procurement and appointed the contractors. This commitment to sustainability has continued, and is an important aspect of the Xiaozhai project strategy. As such, the village committee has taken over the management of key infrastructure, and a designated staff member oversees maintenance of the water system, road lamps and drainage network. These activities are funded through locally collected water usage fees. The appointed staff member ensures that all facilities are

transformative. Feedback gathered through interviews and questionnaires shows widespread satisfaction, with many expressing hope for additional lamps in future. This was another area in which villagers physically engaged with the project by installing the lamps.

The third outcome focused on improving the village's environment and sanitation. A 200-metre main drainage system was upgraded, eliminating stagnant water and reducing health risks, whilst ten recycling bins were installed to encourage better waste management. To support these physical changes, the community organised six WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) training sessions and distributed 1,000 health-related information flyers to households. With a stable water supply and targeted health education, hygiene practices have significantly improved, and almost all households now use flushing toilets. Additionally, teachers and students from local schools worked together to paint the walls of public spaces to bring joy and reinforce the message of cleanliness and community pride.



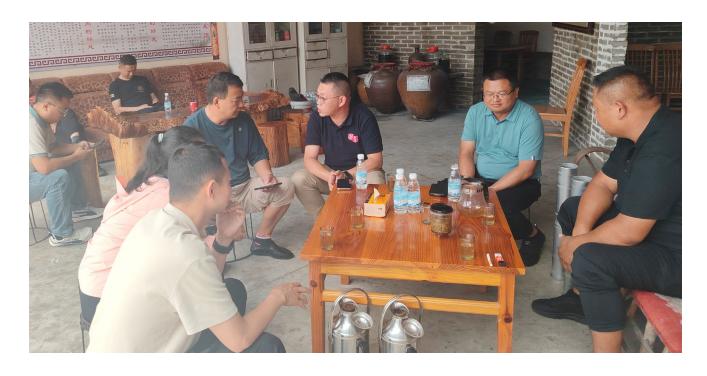
maintained in line with regulations agreed upon by the committee and villagers. During 2024, these fees generated RMB 10,000 (£1,045) which is sufficient to cover the estimated annual operating costs. Community buy-in from the outset, as well as ongoing local ownership through the village committee, ensures long-term sustainability.

With the implementation of the project, the water supply has been significantly improved, the supply is ample and stable, and villagers no longer have to worry about the water issue. The drainage improvement has promoted the sanitation within the village, and Adi was pleased to share that the unpleasant smell that once emanated from the drains in front of his restaurant has gone, thanks to the renovated drainage system.

Adi, along with other villagers, has experienced the positive impact of these improvements. Today he can run his business in a safer, healthier community and has greater opportunity to grow his income to support his family.

Adi's story is just one example of The Salvation Army's rural community development work in China. Many people are already benefiting from these initiatives, and we are looking forward to serving more people in the future.







Amy Plummer

FUNDRAISE FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Fundraising events provide a meaningful way for people of all ages and abilities to support The Salvation Army's vital work. Whether you are striving to achieve a personal goal, pushing yourself physically, celebrating a special occasion, or bringing your community together to help those in need, your efforts will make a lasting impact. There are countless ways to get involved!

For those seeking an adrenaline-fuelled challenge, our Jump for Freedom campaign offers the chance to skydive from 10,000 feet while raising funds for survivors of modern slavery.

If you prefer to keep your feet on the ground, choose from unforgettable UK treks like Ben Nevis, the Three Peaks, or the Jurassic Coast, or head overseas for a once-in-a-lifetime experience in the Sahara Desert, on Kilimanjaro or the Alps. Or if you're a runner and have secured a ballot place for the London Marathon 2026, join Team Sally Army for this iconic event!

If you're not drawn to physical challenges, there are endless ways to get creative and fundraise. Host a

bake sale, give up something for a month – whether it's fizzy drinks or social media or something else – organise a movie night or quiz night with friends and family, or fundraise for a special occasion such as your birthday or wedding.

Whatever fundraising activity you choose, The Salvation Army will be there to support you every step of the way. From providing a comprehensive fundraising pack filled with ideas and resources to offering guidance and encouragement, we are committed to making your experience as rewarding as possible.

By joining #TeamSallyArmy you will be making a tangible difference in people's lives and offering hope where it is needed most.

Would you like to learn more about our events?

Visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk/fundraise-us

Alternatively, contact the team directly at challenge@salvationarmy.org.uk or call us on 020 7367 4819

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Emergency Response



Food Security



Women and Girls



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