

PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE CHRISTIAN AID HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Strategy 2013–18

POVERTY





We have an integrated approach to poverty eradication, working on humanitarian relief, long-term development, specific advocacy issues and campaigns to expose the scandal of poverty

WHO WE ARE AND 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 (G6.1bn/RD\$5.9bn), including £36.7m (G2.3bn/RD\$2.25bn) in funding from governments and other institutions.

OUR NEW 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.

The development of Christian Aid's new programme strategy for Haiti and the Dominican Republic follows the launch of *Partnership for Change* in 2012.

TWO NATIONS WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS

Haiti and the Dominican Republic (DR) have a complex relationship characterised by both collaboration and sharing as well as deportation, discrimination and border violence. Ingrained cultural divisions and real and perceived power imbalances based on wealth, colour, ethnicity and gender remain today.

In Haiti, 77 per cent of the population live below the poverty line. In the DR the figure was 40.4 per cent in 2011 according to the World Bank, with some of the poorest people being those of Haitian descent. The structural causes of poverty are different in each country.

Haiti's history of political turmoil left space for the strong influence of foreign and international powers. Hidden power continues to lie in the hands of key international actors and the Haitian elite. Having so many disparate political tendencies in parliament perpetuates conflict and makes governing very difficult. Private and foreign interests often clash, creating further political turmoil, and are often not in line with what most Haitians want for their country.

While the DR is classed as a middle-income country, power is held by a wealthy minority who influence government decisions and public opinion through control of the media. For centuries, poor Haitians have migrated to the Dominican Republic, hoping that this relatively richer country will provide them with better economic opportunities. However, Haitian migrants and their descendants are poorly treated, and suffer widespread racism and discrimination. Discrimination on the grounds of colour, gender and nationality has perpetuated inequalities including access to land, education and employment.

Neither country has a fair or effective tax system, while corruption is rife within government. Unjust social spending leaves many of the poorest and most vulnerable without access to basic services.

Both the DR and Haiti are vulnerable to natural disasters including hurricanes and earthquakes. Climate change is increasing the intensity and frequency of severe weather events in the region, so there is an increasing need to help communities to increase their resilience to events such as flooding and droughts. Both governments have participated in international negotiations on climate change but the response seems less dynamic on the ground.

In Haiti, the state of the environment increases the vulnerability of marginalised people who depend on natural resources and agriculture, in turn making them more vulnerable to economic shocks or political instability. Living standards in Haiti have deteriorated since the 2010 earthquake – 380,000 people were still living in tents in 2012. Shelter therefore remains one of the key priorities following the earthquake. Increasing social spending to respond to food security challenges and to construct social safety nets is a priority, as well as

significantly increasing investment in health, education, agriculture and security. Levels of gender-based violence have increased in Haiti – sexual violence against girls and women is prevalent in the camps.



Christian Aid/Ruth Baker



Christian Aid/Susan Barry

Discrimination on the grounds of colour, gender and nationality has perpetuated inequalities

CHRISTIAN AID IN HAITI AND THE DR

Christian Aid has supported partners on the island of Hispaniola since the 1980s. We have always worked with poor Haitians, Dominicans and Haitian migrants and their descendants who were – and continue to be – often excluded from state support in both countries. At a time when many INGOs focused on just one of these groups, Christian Aid worked with the most poor and marginalised, regardless of race, nationality or gender.

In 1997, Christian Aid opened an office in Port-au-Prince and 10 years later in Santo Domingo. In both countries, we began supporting work on agriculture, human rights and health, including HIV. But, over time, our work has evolved to include climate change, human rights in prisons, tax and budget monitoring and corruption.

Christian Aid is one of the few INGOs on the island to consistently support binational initiatives – including human rights monitoring, HIV and climate change awareness work – and we have a wealth of experience to take into our new strategy. For example, in 2001 we supported the foundation of the Jano Sikse Border Network, bringing together NGOs, civil society and church networks from both countries to reduce human rights abuses at the border. This project currently has Christian Aid’s largest European Union grant in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Christian Aid is different from many other INGOs in their partnership approach. Our programme supports partners and communities to seek longer-term, sustainable solutions, and helps them identify the tools they need to do this. Working at the community level enables our partners to accurately identify who is the most vulnerable. This local knowledge means our work with communities is better informed and more effective both generally and in the aftermath of an emergency. Many of our partners share Christian Aid’s faith identity, but our programme is inclusive of all faiths and none.

Christian Aid has a strong track record of speaking out to bring change. While advocacy is often seen as an inaccessible and intangible element of development work, in the DR we have managed to buck this trend and attract interest from supporters and donors on key advocacy issues. For example, partner Centro Bonó ran a successful public campaign in the DR engaging millions of Dominicans to lobby the government to double the spend on education - from 2 per cent of GDP to 4 per cent. The government announced this increase in December 2012. One of our strengths is supporting partners to hold their own political space to speak out in-country. We also encourage organisations in Haiti and the DR to learn from each other’s advocacy strategies and can show that partners work together and understand binational realities.

Christian Aid’s Haiti/DR programme believes that to bring about big, deep and lasting change and reduce poverty, we must address inequality and vulnerability. The DR and Haiti are closely tied economically, socially,

politically and environmentally and so a binational approach to work in both countries is imperative. Our vision is that while some work will remain country specific, partners will work in collaboration on interventions across the island while also sharing experiences, approaches and learning. This will ensure the maximum impact of their work in enabling millions of marginalised women and men on the island to escape the cycle of poverty, become more resilient to shocks and live dignified lives.



ONE ISLAND, TWO STORIES

Challenging exclusion and inequality



Christian Aid/Susan Barry

In the DR, Haitian migrants and their descendants are often badly treated. Christian Aid partner MUDHA has a long history of challenging the exclusion of Dominicans of Haitian descent in their society. Their fight is a long one, but succeeds in bringing change at the heart of communities. Run by and for Dominico-Haitians, it defends their legal rights – such as the right to a name and nationality – campaigns for justice and helps secure basic services for people who otherwise may not have access to education and healthcare.

MUDHA works in five large ‘bateys’, communities that were originally temporary housing for sugarcane workers near to Santo Domingo. Here they help mothers to register births, provide information on migration and labour rights and support people to get the legal identity documents they need to go to school, get a job or get married.

Sirana Dolis (pictured) works for MUDHA. ‘We were formed with the objective of making the situation of Haitian migrants and their descendants more visible,’ she says. ‘Without organisations like Christian Aid, MUDHA wouldn’t exist. Christian Aid works in the most hidden corners of communities to help the most vulnerable people.

‘Other agencies are more interested in the economic [funding] part of our work, but for Christian Aid it is about how we assimilate our work with the communities – how we better the lives of everyone in the communities we work with.’

Working where no other agency does



Christian Aid/M Gonzalez-Noda

Christian Aid partner GRAMIR works with farmers groups in the provinces of Nippes and Grande Anse, along Haiti’s southern peninsula.

GRAMIR helps farmers to improve their technical and business skills, so they can sell more goods. The project supports work in seed production, crop processing and marketing food products such as fresh fruit. Haiti is vulnerable to global food price rises as it is largely dependent on imported food. That is why supporting Haitian producers is a key part of Christian Aid’s work here.

Following the earthquake of 2010, much of the attention of aid agencies was based in and around Port-au-Prince. But tens of thousands of people moved away from the capital to the rural regions, in desperate need of help. GRAMIR worked with internally displaced persons (IDPs) who had fled to rural areas in the south.

Paul Andre (pictured) is the coordinator of ROPANIP, a network of grass-roots community organisations made up of peasant farmers. After the earthquake, GRAMIR provided funding for the network to provide fertiliser and seeds to families, just in time for the planting season.

‘Frankly, neither the government nor any other NGO operate in this area. GRAMIR is the only one who helped,’ he says.



Christian Aid/Kate Tuckett

Christian Aid wants to see families with permanent shelter and builders with the skills to build a better Haiti

OUR NEW STRATEGY FOR HAITI AND THE DR

Objective 1 – Empower citizens to hold the state to account to change systems and structures and create a fairer, more transparent society through reduced human rights abuses, stronger institutions and reducing the inequality of vulnerable people.

Change we want to see	We will support this change through:
Partners and civil society hold the government to account by making alternative pro-poor policy proposals on climate change, tax, budget monitoring, corruption and human rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthening civil society networks to work together by sharing information, training and accompaniment supporting partners to strengthen advocacy work through exchanges, visits and workshops to learn new strategies and ways of working from each other supporting partners to research, develop and present alternative policy proposals.
The attitudes of people and government shift to a more pro-poor, non-discriminatory discourse on corruption, tax and human rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> training and accompaniment by partners to grassroots groups, including women’s groups, to improve their knowledge of legal systems and political structures and to carry out their own advocacy work at all levels awareness raising by partners with beneficiary groups, including Haitian migrant groups and women’s groups, to ensure their knowledge of their rights to basic social services, enabling them to join the debate and prepare adequate proposals to the authorities supporting the coordination of networks of national, cross-border and international CSOs and NGOs supporting cross-border joint campaigning on binational issues to governments and international bodies.
Government passes and implements policies and laws to promote more equitable economic systems for tax and social spending, and this process is less corrupt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting partners to organise exchanges of border communities and advocacy groups and to promote joint advocacy messages on binational issues partners presenting emblematic legal cases at national and international level awareness raising and campaigning to place international pressure on the Haitian and Dominican governments to change policies and practices awareness raising and campaigning to place international pressure on the Dominican and Haitian governments to reduce human rights abuses and corruption and implement more equitable social spending.
Policies and laws lead to reduced human rights abuses and discrimination (in particular against women) and the rights of marginalised people are upheld.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> partner monitoring of implementation of laws awareness raising by partners for beneficiaries on laws and policies that affect them, as well as their related rights and responsibilities partners working with communities to identify pro-poor policies gender-specific awareness raising with men’s and women’s groups on gender equality human rights monitoring and preparation of joint advocacy messages by Haitians and Dominicans working together at the border speaking out internationally with other INGOs on important advocacy cases.

Objective 2 – Support communities to be more resilient to shocks (including environmental, economic and social), and to play a more participatory role in improving their livelihoods.

Change we want to see	We will support this change through:
Partners and communities prepared to face a major disaster and respond more quickly and efficiently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> disaster risk reduction training with partners and communities supporting partners to build links with the Direction for the Protection of Citizens in Haiti and integrate with the national system emergency response capacity building at community level the development of joint emergency plans with key international actors such as other ACT Alliance members supporting partners to carry out participatory vulnerability capacity assessments (PVCAs) in communities to enable them to improve livelihoods and increase resilience to disasters supporting communities to implement PVCA action plans.
Reduced vulnerability to environmental risks and shocks, including climate change, and increased levels of environmental protection in marginalised communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> implementation of improved farming methods by partners to reduce vulnerabilities in border communities on both sides affected by the same environmental conditions (terracing, reforestation, crops adapted to changing weather patterns) awareness raising by partners on good and bad environmental practices in border communities partners supporting meetings and sharing of experiences between farmers and other groups on both sides of the border supporting technical development workers to increase the capacity of organisations working on climate change adaptation campaigning on climate change at international level.
Strengthened voices in marginalised communities to reduce vulnerability to human rights abuses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting partners to carry out human rights training and awareness raising in vulnerable communities partners supporting marginalised people to monitor and document human rights abuses supporting partners and communities to speak out.
Families in Haiti have access to permanent shelter and builders with extensive skills to continue to build a better Haiti.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> seeking funding or partnerships to build more earthquake- and hurricane-proof houses partners building more houses with Christian Aid technical support supporting advocacy work to lobby for land to build on and for the creation of a Ministry of Housing supporting advocacy work to open a school for builders.
Up to four sustainable agricultural businesses established in Haiti.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing technical support to grow these businesses using pro-poor market development (PPMD) and participatory market system development (PMSD) approaches.
Farmers organised and able to access fair markets and economies that enable them to secure greater shares of income, value and assets, to thrive and to live with dignity, free from exploitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting partners to start livelihoods and business development projects with technical support on the PPMD and PMSD approaches learning exchanges between farmers in the DR and Haiti.

This strategy marks a new chapter for Christian Aid in Haiti and the DR as we unite our work in the two countries under one binational programme.

Our new programme will link current projects and new areas of work across both countries. There will be three areas of collaboration to tackle issues inextricably linked between the two countries. These are: work on the ground in common areas, including climate change

adaptation with farmers and human rights monitoring on both sides of the border; cross-border learning and sharing of tools, knowledge and experiences; and binational advocacy work.

The Haiti and DR programme will contribute to several of Christian Aid's global strategic goals (as outlined on page 2): the power to change institutions, fair shares in a constrained world and equality for all.

OUR PARTNERS IN HAITI AND THE DR

Association pour la Promotions de la Sante
Intégrale de la Famille (APROSIFA)

Centre de Recherche de Formation et d'Action
Sociale (CERFAS)

Centro Bonó

Groupe d'Appui aux Refugies et Rapatries
(GARR)

Groupe de Recherche et d'Appui en Milieu Rurale
(GRAMIR)

Haiti Survie

Kounbite pou Ranfose Aksyon Lakay (KORAL)

La Fondation Héritage pour Haiti (LFHH)

Mission Sociale des Eglises Haïtiennes (MISSEH)

Movimiento de Mujeres Dominicano Haitiana
(MUDHA)

Promoteur Objectif Zero-Sida (POZ)

Réseau National de Défense et de Droit Humain
(RNDDH)

Service Chrétien d'Haiti (SCH)

Solidaridad Fronteriza

Solidarite Fwontalye

Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID)

VETERIMED

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and the DR please contact us.**

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Front-cover photo:

Christian Aid/Prosperity Raymond

Christian Aid is a member of the

actalliance

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.

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