
Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits of joining the Partnership Scheme?

Your money will be multiplied to achieve even more. The projects you can choose to support through the Partnership Scheme are 'matched' by money from the European Union or other bodies. That means that every £1 you give is worth at least £4 (the exact amount depends on the project selected) to your chosen project!

Your group can make a difference to a specific community in the developing world; it could be by providing water, improving food security, helping to combat HIV or enabling youth work.

Your giving will go where you intend. Your gifts will go to the project you have chosen to support. You will know exactly where your money is going and the impact it is having. (Please note that 90% of the money we receive from the scheme is used for the project you have chosen, the remaining 10% will be used for Christian Aid's work around the world.)

You can grow in faith. 'What does the Lord require of you, but to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God?' (Micah 6.8). We will help you pray for those in the developing world and stand in solidarity with a community.

You can rest assured that Christian Aid work with trusted local partners who have the local knowledge to manage our projects effectively. We make sure money only goes where it is really needed and that it is spent to maximum effect. Through our monitoring systems you will be sure of what is happening. As an international body we can also make sure lessons learnt in one country are communicated throughout our global network. The money is transferred directly to our overseas partners and is not sent via any government.

You can connect and learn. We can help you make a connection with overseas development by updating you regularly on the progress of the partner's work. You will be able to download or request resources including country briefings and information about the project. You will also receive regular updates on the project's progress – so that you can hear how your money is being spent and the positive changes it is bringing about.

How much do we need to commit to giving? Why?

The minimum commitment is **£5,000**.

90% of the money we receive from the scheme will be used for the project you have chosen. The remaining 10% is used for Christian Aid's work around the world.

Your contribution, matched by money from the European Union, has to be closely tracked and this is simply impracticable for small amounts of less than £5,000. This is why we have to ask that each group commits to raising £5,000 and sends the money to us in batches of no less than £500. If you feel that this amount is too much for your group you are welcome to invite others to join you. We have groups of churches, schools and even whole towns and villages who have joined together to become part of the Partnership scheme.

When do you need the money?

This will depend on the end date of your chosen project but will normally be 1-2 years after you join the scheme. For each project, there is a set maximum amount of money that can be given. As groups sign up to support a particular project, we 'allocate' that part of the target, but then you have until the end of the project to send in all the money.

What money can we give to the partnership?

The Partnership projects are additional to Christian Aid's core grants and so we ask that the money you would normally give to Christian Aid (for example, through Harvest services, Christmas appeals or Lent) continues to come through those channels and support the other projects going on all around the world. **It is essential money raised from Christian Aid Week is not diverted into the Partnership scheme.** We would encourage you to use the Partnership scheme to raise additional money, perhaps by drawing in others who would not normally give to Christian Aid.

What happens if there is a problem with the project?

If, for any reason, the project you supported no longer needed the funds or if there was a problem with the project (and we don't imagine this would happen) we would always contact you to discuss the options, such as giving your gifts to another match-funded Partnership project. However, we always have contracts in place to ensure that the European Union gives the funds it has committed to, and we always work with trusted partner organisations to minimise the risks of any problems.

What happens if we can't raise our £5,000?

Please get in touch with us if you are having difficulties, so we can suggest ways to help you. For example, we might know of others in your area who would be interested in joining your group, or we might know of another group who would like to give more than they had originally planned.

What support will Christian Aid give us?

In return for your commitment you will receive:

- quarterly updates outlining the project's progress
- leaflets about the partnerships scheme - to hand out to anyone who might be able to support you
- posters – so you can shout about your commitment
- information sheets on the country, partner and project you are supporting;
- accounts sheets
- a short DVD (if possible)
- regional staff available to come to speak to your group – please contact your local regional office to check availability
- and a named contact dedicated to helping you in your efforts

Where should I send the money?

Every time you have a sizeable amount in the bank – say £500 or more – we ask you to send us a single cheque (payable to Christian Aid) and accompanied by a completed Partnership scheme paying-in slip (which we will provide you with) It is essential that you use the codes you are given and it is very helpful if you can email Anna Couper (acouper@christian-aid.org), to us know to

keep an eye out for your gift. If you are not able to send us a single cheque, please batch your cheques together and send them together with the paying in slip. Please ask Anna if you need details for making a bank transfer instead of sending a cheque. We would also recommend that you make a note on your accounts sheet so that you have your own record of how much you have sent and the date you sent it, in case there are ever problems with the post.

How much of our money will be spent on administration costs?

90% of the money you raise will go the project and the remaining 10% is used for other Christian Aid projects. Administration costs for the scheme are met from Christian Aid's core funds, which are around 1% of the organisation's overall expenditure.

How do I make sure my donation benefits from Gift Aid?

Donations from individuals to the Partnership scheme are eligible for Gift Aid. If the money is given through a church and gift aid is collected by the church, then the entire donation including the reclaimed Gift Aid will go to the partner and be will receive the matched funding. If you cannot do this, then you are very welcome to Gift Aid the money to Christian Aid, but the reclaimed Gift Aid (ie the extra part only) this money would have to go into Christian Aid's general funds. The donation itself would continue to go to the Partnership scheme. Alternatively, you could use a website such as JustGiving to set up a special page for your appeal. Donations made through JustGiving would be eligible for Gift Aid and that would be included in your giving to the Partnership scheme, but please be aware that these website charge Christian Aid a small fee, which comes out of every amount given. Please contact us if you would like more details.

I've got a great idea for a sponsored event! Can I do it as part of my group's Partnership?

Yes! Please contact us for advice on using websites such as JustGiving for people to support you, and for linking that to your group's giving, and for any additional resources you might need. We'd love to hear what you are doing, to share with other groups, to encourage them, and to share with our overseas partners, who want to hear about our activities in the UK as much as we want to hear about what they are doing.

Why is the European Union giving Christian Aid money?

The EU has a mandate to support development work. By doing it through trusted agencies like Christian Aid, who have long established relationships with local partner organisations, they can ensure that the money they give is being put to the best possible use. Christian Aid applies for this money for specific projects and part of the agreement is that it is always given as matching funds. Although the money that Christian Aid needs to raise from our supporters may only be 25% of the total project, because this work is normally outside our core grants, we look to churches or charitable trusts for this money. We are delighted to be able to offer you the opportunity to give to a project that benefits from these matching funds.

What if I have other questions?

Please always feel free to get in touch with us with any questions or for support. You can phone Max Khanna on 020 8123 7523 or email partnershipscheme@christian-aid.org

[this document revised Nov 2010]

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UK registered charity number 1105851 Company number 5171525
Scotland charity number SC039150 NI registered charity number
XR944639 NI company number NI059154

Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty – and we believe that vision can become a reality. We work with the world's poorest people in around 50 countries, regardless of race or faith. We are part of ACT Alliance, the ecumenical relief and development network.

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