

# INFORMATION FOR SUPPORTERS

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS EXPLAINED

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**You've signed up to connect to a community in one of our partner countries. Great! Here's why what you've done is brilliant:**

**Your support will make a real difference.** All of Christian Aid's partners are carrying out work that will have a huge impact on poor communities around the world. Our partners are trusted, experienced, local organisations that have the knowledge and the ideas to help communities lift themselves out of poverty.

**This is a really exciting opportunity to invest in new projects.** The projects you can connect with are new additions to Christian Aid's work and only made possible by these partnerships. This means your community can invest in something innovative and different, on top of your regular giving (such as Christian Aid Week).

**You're connected with a real community of real people whom you can get to know as you fundraise for the project.** You'll get detailed information about the country and the project, but more importantly you'll get to know the people involved. We'll send you updates on how the project is going and stories of people whose lives are being transformed through the work of our partners, so that you can see the difference that your support is making as the project develops.

**Your money will go further.** The projects that your community can partner with are 'matched funded' by the European Union. This means that for every £1 you raise, the EU will give at least £3 – turning your gift of £5,000 into £20,000 (sometimes even more!).

**Your community can grow together as you connect with your partner.** Through our updates and prayer points, we will help you to stand in solidarity with your chosen community and to come together to support them in more ways than just fundraising.

**How is your money used?** Christian Aid uses 85 per cent of the funds raised through Community Partnerships to support the projects on offer, and 15 per cent to support the work of all our teams based both in the UK and overseas.

**Why does your giving include a levy?** It is vital to have the funds available so that there are staff who can ensure the effective and efficient delivery of our projects. For example, the organisational support mechanisms and operational costs would not be covered in the project costs. The levy ensures that we can carry out rigorous monitoring and evaluating of the projects as well as being able to approach organisations like the EU for matched funding.

**We're asking you to commit to raising £5,000. It's an exciting challenge, and we hope these top tips will help you on your way. Your friendly Christian Aid local teams are here to support you too, so please get in touch!**

**You can raise the money however you like** – through bake sales, film nights, sponsored silences, Christian Aid challenge events – whatever you can do to get your group enthused and engaged.

**Your local Christian Aid team can help you** with ideas for events, provide speakers, and connect you with other groups also partnering with your chosen project. If you're doing a sponsored event in support of your Community Partnership and using a website like JustGiving, we can help you link that to your group's overall giving. We can also help you with the paying-in slips that help us to identify your gift. Check with the team in your local office about how they'd like you to send in the money – either as you go or periodically in lump sums.

**If you think you're going to raise more than your £5,000 – fantastic!** Please do let us know, as it might be that we have to allocate some of that money to a different project elsewhere (EU matched funding has limits on how much each project can receive). We'll talk to you first to find an alternative you're happy with.

**If you're struggling to reach your target, then just get in touch.** We can help you raise those last few pounds, put you in touch with others in your area who want to get involved, or connect you with a group who has raised more than £5,000.

**You might like to keep a record yourself of the funds that you have raised** so that you don't lose track – and also just in case there are ever any problems with the post. You can also make a bank transfer if you'd prefer that to sending a cheque. Just get in touch for the necessary details.

**Each project lasts between two and four years, and all the gifts need to be with us six months before the project finishes** so that the funds can be spent in time. It might be that you have nearly three years to raise your £5,000 if you join a project near its beginning; for others you might only have a year before the end. End dates for the projects are all in the information online, so check before you sign up and choose one that will be an exciting (but realistic) challenge for your group.

**As well as being eligible for matched funding, you can make your gifts worth even more through Gift Aid. Here's how you do it...**

**Donations from individuals** taking part in a Community Partnership are eligible for Gift Aid as long as we have an existing valid Gift Aid declaration for the individual donating the money (or you send us a new one with the donation).

**If the money is given through a church and Gift Aid is claimed by the church**, then the entire donation, including the reclaimed Gift Aid, will be eligible for matched funding. If you can't claim Gift Aid through your church, then send your donation to Christian Aid along with Gift Aid declarations from individual donors and we can then get matched funding on the full donation (including the Gift Aid). (You can find out more at [hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gift\\_aid/rules/church-coll.htm#2](http://hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gift_aid/rules/church-coll.htm#2))

**Alternatively, you could use a website such as JustGiving to set up a special page for your appeal.** Donations made through these websites are eligible for Gift Aid, which again is included in the total that is matched funded by the EU (although you might like to note that these websites charge Christian Aid a small fee that comes out of the donation.)

**Your gift will be multiplied by the European Union without you needing to do anything extra.**

**The extra funding (known as matched funding) for Community Partnerships comes from the European Union.** The amount of matched funding varies from project to project, but is always at least two times and sometimes up to 10 times what a community raises. The EU has a mandate to support development and work in partnership with agencies like Christian Aid to help eradicate poverty across the global South. Raising funds in this way is a practical way to make a big impact on poverty.

**We're here for you!**

**If you have any questions or would like clarification on anything, please get in touch** with your local Christian Aid office (see [christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/inyourarea/index.aspx](http://christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/inyourarea/index.aspx) for contact details) or email [CPartnership@christian-aid.org](mailto:CPartnership@christian-aid.org)

**We're here to support you in your Community Partnership every step of the way.**

