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Representation at General Convention

Dr. Robert Radtke is authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this report at General Convention.

Summary of Work

Mandate: Episcopal Relief & Development is a compassionate response of The Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. Hearing God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, Episcopal Relief & Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world.

Episcopal Relief & Development faithfully administers the funds that are received from the Church and raised from other sources. It provides relief in times of disaster and promotes sustainable development by identifying and addressing the root causes of suffering.

Episcopal Relief & Development cherishes its partnerships within the Anglican Communion, with ecumenical bodies, and with others who share a common vision for justice and peace among all people.

Our mandate comes from Jesus' words found in Matthew 25:

Lord, when was it that
We saw you hungry and gave you food?
We saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink?
We saw you a stranger and welcomed you?
We saw you sick and took care of you?
We saw you in prison and visited you?
'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are
members of my family, you did it to me.'
– Matthew 25:37-40 (NRSV)

Millennium Development Goals

At Episcopal Relief & Development, we use the Millennium Development Goals as a framework to guide our efforts and help us measure the impact of our programs. Each of our core program areas and all of our programs work to achieve one or more of the goals.

At the 77th General Convention in 2012, The Episcopal Church called upon individuals, parishes, and dioceses to recommit to the MDGs. Through resolution A011, it reaffirmed the Church's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals as a primary mission priority through 2015. The Church pledged 0.7 percent of its annual budget for the 2013-2015 triennium to support Episcopal Relief & Development's programs that work to achieve the MDGs. Some of those key programs are highlighted below.

Our Programs

Collaborating with church and ecumenical partners in nearly 40 countries, we work with more than three million people each year through programs in four core areas. The following are highlights of the work that Episcopal Relief & Development does in partnership throughout the Anglican Communion:

Alleviating Hunger and Improving Food Supply

Agriculture and Rural Development highlight: In November 2013, Episcopal Relief & Development was awarded a grant through the Grand Challenges Explorations initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, for an innovation with women smallholder farmers in Northern Ghana.

Working together with Ghanaian partner ADDRO (the Anglican Diocesan Development and Relief Organization), the project promotes an innovative, labor-saving strategy for women smallholder farmers: the donkey plough. Most women farmers in sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to oxen for farming and are consigned to grueling and time-consuming labor using hand tools.

Women's access has been limited by cost, cultural taboos, and the difficulty of managing oxen due to their large size. In the 1990s, a plough was developed for use by a single donkey, which would be more affordable and practical for women and would save 18 or more days of labor per hectare of land versus using a hand hoe alone. However, the donkey plough has not been widely popularized to date, and cost is a major obstacle.

Episcopal Relief & Development and ADDRO give women smallholder farmers the opportunity to acquire the necessary equipment, along with improved seeds and fertilizer, through affordable credit. The project is testing two credit options through a revolving loan fund designed to be financially sustainable, and participants are receiving skills training in donkey care, farm business management, and agricultural

techniques. The loan amount covers the cost of a donkey, a plough, and a cart, enabling the owners to earn extra income and to repay their loans more quickly by renting the donkey set to others for farming and transporting goods.

Promoting Health and Fighting Disease

Health highlight: Episcopal Relief & Development is working with the Anglican Diocese of Bo in Sierra Leone and with the Episcopal Church of Liberia in response to the Ebola epidemic that has killed thousands of people since the current outbreak began in March 2014. Through its local partners, the organization is supporting awareness-raising efforts and providing food supplies in addition to personal protection equipment and disinfectants to under-resourced hospitals and clinics in affected areas.

Creating Economic Opportunities and Strengthening Communities

Economic Opportunities highlight: With five generations depending on the income from their small home bakery, a micro-finance loan made a huge difference to María Elena and Verónica, a mother and daughter in Texiguat, Honduras. Episcopal Relief & Development works with the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras and its Anglican Agency of Development (AANGLIDESH) to promote community-based savings and education groups and to offer individual and collective micro-finance loans. Both programs provide business and finance training to ensure the success of the investments and to keep the cycle going for new entrepreneurs.

Responding To Disasters and Rebuilding Communities

International Disaster Program highlight: Episcopal Relief & Development joined with a working group of 12 global church partners to create the Pastors & Disasters Toolkit. The Toolkit not only adapts many existing resources, but also creates new ones to meet the needs of the Anglican context. This is the first of its kind for the Anglican Communion, and was born out of the idea that church communities can continue to learn from each other and enhance our collective strength. The Toolkit focuses on Four Core Competencies: Community Mobilization, Risk Assessment, Disaster Risk Reduction Implementation, and Disaster Response.

U.S. Disaster Program highlight: On October 29, 2012, "Superstorm" Sandy pummeled the Eastern Seaboard of the United States. In response, Episcopal Relief & Development partnered with the Episcopal Dioceses of Easton, New Jersey, Newark, Long Island, and New York to better serve those affected by the storm. Communities throughout the region continue to recover from the storm, and many homes remain uninhabitable. The Episcopal Sandy Recovery Effort continues to work with volunteers to help restore homes and livelihoods.

Our Methodology: Asset-Based Community Development

Our programs combine multiple approaches in an integrated strategy, using local gifts and resources to respond to challenges. Since they come from within, these solutions are sustainable and customized for each community.

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) is an approach that identifies and utilizes the capacities and skills of people and their neighborhoods. It is a methodology for sustainable development based on a community's assets versus solely its needs. An ABCD approach does not create or bring development to a community from outside, but rather energizes change and development from within.

Episcopal Relief & Development seeks to transform how it views itself in relationship to its partners, communities, colleagues, and supporters. Utilizing this approach strengthens its role as a catalyst,

empowering people to engage in their own development and recognizing and reinforcing their existing assets.

Strategic Planning

In 2009, Episcopal Relief & Development launched its first strategic plan to set institutional priorities and guide the organization's work. Each triennium, the organization revisits its goals and priorities and drafts a new plan. In the three-year period from 2012 to 2015, commitments were made in the following areas: International Programs, US Disaster Preparedness and Response, Engagement, Funding, Visibility & Awareness, and a focus on the organization's 75th Anniversary (celebrated in 2015).

2015: Episcopal Relief & Development Celebrates 75 Years of Healing a Hurting World

In 2015, Episcopalians, friends, and partner agencies around the globe are joining together to celebrate Episcopal Relief & Development's 75th Anniversary. This 75-week celebration, which began during the summer of 2014 and will continue through the end of 2015, is a way to say "Thank You" to the Church and friends for helping Episcopal Relief & Development continue this important work.

Led by a volunteer Steering Committee and an Honorary Committee co-chaired by Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and her predecessors — The Rt. Rev. Frank T. Griswold and The Rt. Rev. Edmond L. Browning — the 75th Anniversary Celebration provides many opportunities to engage more deeply with Episcopal Relief & Development's programs and to get involved in promoting and sustaining the organization's work. These opportunities are detailed in a special web section at <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/75>, which also includes a social media hub around the celebration hashtag #AllHands75, and an interactive historical timeline.

One of the cornerstones of the celebration is a traveling photo exhibition, which features 33 iconic images of Episcopal Relief & Development's work, along with in-depth explanations and personal reflections through an accompanying e-docent app available for iPhone and Android phones and devices. Having previewed at Executive Council in June 2014, the exhibition officially launched at New York City's Cathedral of St. John the Divine and continues its national tour with stops in at least 25 cities.

Similarly, the organization's 75 Stories Project provides a window into the programs, events, and personalities that have shaped the last 75 years and are changing lives today. Individuals and groups are encouraged to offer reflections and stories through the Share Your Story page, and to inspire and energize others to join the celebration.

We invite you to join this celebration so that we can thank you for your support. Episcopal Relief & Development will host a 75th Anniversary event at the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City. We do hope you will join us.