

## Get involved

**Pray** for our partners and their work in their own communities. Thanks to the generosity of the churches in Scotland we are currently supporting 29 projects, in 15 different countries. You can find out more by visiting [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/speak\\_out](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/speak_out)

**Give** what you can to enable us to continue this work. If you are a taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation. Give a regular gift with a Direct Debit or Standing Order. All donations gratefully received.

**Campaign** to ensure that countries keep their promise to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. This is what provides the money for the antiretroviral medication upon which millions of people living with HIV depend. (At present less than 50% of those who need this medication are receiving it.) Visit the Stop AIDS Campaign to support their e-mail petition, asking the UK Government to take a lead in stopping children being born with HIV by 2015. [www.stopaidscampaign.org](http://www.stopaidscampaign.org)

### For more information please contact:

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Scottish charity number: SC011353

# The Church of Scotland HIV Programme



## Some facts and figures

- ✘ Today, over 33 million people around the world are living with HIV, of whom 2.5 million are children
- ✘ In 2009, there were 2.5 million new infections diagnosed, and 2 million people died of HIV-related diseases
- ✘ There is still no cure for HIV, but antiretroviral medication (ARV), taken regularly and with food, allows a person living with HIV to live a relatively normal life.
- ✘ The total number of children born with HIV has decreased by 24% over the past 5 years.
- ✘ One of the most difficult aspects for people infected or affected by HIV is the stigma and discrimination they experience within their own communities.



The Church of Scotland  
HIV Programme

Since 2002, the Church of Scotland has been supporting projects, both here in Scotland and with our partner churches overseas, tackling all aspects of the HIV and AIDS pandemic – such as

Awareness-raising; Voluntary Counselling and Testing to encourage people to ‘know their status’; Home-based care and training; Theological training for pastors; Skills training, income-generation and micro-credit schemes for people living with HIV; Nutritional supplements; Support groups for orphans and vulnerable children; Challenge to stigma and discrimination; Capacity building.



In Zambia, the Mwandia Mission AIDS Project is using our grant to ensure that people living with HIV in their catchment area get adequate food. They distribute protein enriched flour, beans and maize to patients in the hospital and out-patients – it is so important that people have food with which to take their ARV medication.



In India HEADS (Health Education and Development Society) runs a Peer Group education programme, in which women help to inform other women about HIV, and how to avoid becoming infected. HEADS also has a micro-credit scheme, enabling people living with HIV to start up small income-generating businesses to help them make a living.



In Nepal, the United Mission to Nepal is working with a number of local community organisations, to encourage people to go for testing, training people in home-based care, and challenging the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV.

“ Christian service and ministry is not about condemnation but hope and renewal for the soul

Evangelical Presbyterian Development and Relief Agency, Ghana

“ If you judge someone, you have no time to love them

Mother Teresa of Calcutta



In China recovering drug addicts have been helped by the Amity Foundation who run an integrated health, training and micro-credit programme which changes lives and communities – now they can be productive by raising livestock, growing crops and selling steamed rice cakes.



In Scotland Positive Help offers volunteer-led practical help to those affected by HIV and AIDS in Edinburgh and the Lothians. They provide help with transport, e.g. to hospital appointments, and with work around the house and garden, as well as offering a befriending service for children and young people.



In Kenya Silanga Parish Church is situated in the heart of Kibera, the largest slum in Africa. HIV is a major problem in Kibera, and many children have been orphaned and are being looked after by relatives, who themselves have very little income. The church runs a support group for guardians, where they can access micro-credit and training, as well as spiritual support. The food provided at the pre-school nursery is often the only meal the children will receive that day.