

REGIONAL PROFILE: AFRICA

WEAVING A CULTURE OF PEACE WITH JUSTICE

ONE OF THE primary aims of PWRDF's program in Africa is to address peace and justice issues, particularly in the conflict-affected areas of the Great Lakes Regions (DR Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi, and also in Sudan, and Uganda). In Rwanda, Burundi and Congo we approach peace building regionally because of the interlocking complexity of issues in the three countries. We support human rights groups such as La Ligue ITEKA, La Ligue des Droits de la Personne de la Région des Grand Lacs (LDGL), Women and a Culture of Peace, and Liprodor. They operate in the three countries to assess human rights violations, produce reports on the violations, support peace and reconciliation initiatives, and civil society forums that deal with human rights issues.

For instance, they have compiled and distributed through the population transcripts of human rights laws to raise people's awareness about their rights. They work with police and magistrates to improve the justice system. In collaboration with Human Rights Watch, our partners document and broadcast human rights abuses, and also work with national media and the International Crisis Group to keep a watch on the evolution of peace and human rights. Their publications include a number of reports on violence and impunity in the Great Lakes area, and the dynamics of peace and the logic of war. Our partners value and make a place for women's voices and contributions to the peace process.

In Uganda, our partner PDR's focus is on civil education. The Planning Development and Rehabilitation (PDR) of the Church of Uganda provides leadership training for peace and conflict



transformation to youth, church leaders and teachers. 200 teachers know how to incorporate peace building techniques, human rights principles and civic education in their school curriculum, and facilitate 50 peace groups with 500 members in elementary and high schools. PDR publishes brochures on human rights issues that are distributed in schools, colleges, and churches. A youth theatre group writes and performs plays about people's fundamental rights and freedoms, and how they should be respected.

In Sudan, PWRDF works with two councils of churches. In the North the Sudan Council of Churches provides rehabilitation and emergency services for southern populations displaced in the North. The New Sudan Council of Churches in the South provides support for peace initiatives in ecumenical peace centres.



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ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA PARTNERS IN MISSION IN THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION

PIM PARTNERS IN THE AFRICA REGION:

- *Eleven autonomous ecclesiastical Anglican Provinces: Central Africa, Kenya, Southern Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Congo, West Africa, Sudan, Indian Ocean.*
- *Five ecumenical institutions: All Africa Conference of Churches, World Student Christian Federation, Project for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA), Formation Biblique et Théologique à Mauritius, Association of Christian Lay Centres in Africa.*
- *Two Pan-African Anglican institutions: ANITEPAM (African Network of Institutions of Theological Education Preparing Anglicans for Ministry) and CAPA (Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa).*

CANADIAN COMPANION DIOCESE RELATIONSHIPS IN AFRICA

- *Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI and Diocese of Manicaland, Zimbabwe.*
- *Diocese of Toronto and Diocese of Grahamstown, South Africa.*
- *Diocese of Huron and Diocese of St. John, South Africa.*
- *Diocese of Rupert's Land and Diocese of Central Buganda (Uganda).*
- *Diocese of Montreal and Diocese of the Seychelles, Province of the Indian Ocean.*

The Anglican Church in Africa is the fastest growing area of the communion. It ministers in the midst of extraordinary social, political, economic and health turmoil. The HIV/AIDS scourge affects all areas of life on the continent. While there is increasing polarization between some parts of the Anglican Church in Africa and in Western countries over issues of human sexuality, many African provinces continue their peace building efforts, AIDS education and pastoral care programs, and leadership development and education, with support from Canadian Partners in Mission.



PRIORITIES OF OUR PARTNERS

Theological education is a priority for most partners in the region, so PIM requests that a portion of their regular block grant to Provinces be passed on to theological colleges and seminaries in West Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Seychelles, Madagascar, Uganda, Burundi, Sudan and Congo. They also support Theological Education by Extension in Mauritius and South Africa, and the work of ANITEPAM (African Network of Institutions of Theological Education Preparing Anglicans for Ministry). Bursaries enable students to attend seminaries both in Africa and Canada, with graduates from the latter serving now as bishops and seminary professors.

A second priority is conflict transformation toward lasting peace with justice for all. Partners in Mission works with regional Anglican and ecumenical organizations in efforts toward the cessation of war and violence against persons oppressed by race, ethnicity and religion.

A third regional priority is the ongoing need to support provinces and new dioceses. PIM makes regular grants to provinces for basic infrastructure needs, as well as assisting with all forms of necessary transport (bicycles, motorcycles, vehicles) and supporting catechists, evangelists and new bishops through training programs.

In Canada, Partners in Mission does its Africa justice work ecumenically, through participation in *KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives*.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE REGION SINCE 2001

- *The withdrawal of the Calgary-based company, Talisman, from the Sudan and the hopeful negotiations for a just peace.*
- *A tentative peace in the Republic of Congo, though continued violence in the eastern part of the country has forced the relocation of thousands, including the Provincial theological college at Bunia to Aru and the Provincial Office to Kinshasa.*
- *The first free and fair multi-party election in Kenya.*
- *Zimbabwe's continued unrest and withdrawal from the Commonwealth.*
- *A determination by the Primates of the Anglican Church in Africa to significantly address the issues and outcomes of the HIV/AIDS pandemic throughout the continent.*

BUILDING A MORAL ECONOMY

PWRDF's largest development programs are in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, and Burundi. In those six countries we focus on responding to basic human needs and HIV/AIDS. Therefore, our programs most often integrate issues of water and sanitation, health care, HIV/AIDS prevention, education and care, agriculture, nutrition, credit loans, and women's empowerment.

An example of integrated development is the Tumelong vegetable farm project in the Diocese of Pretoria, South Africa. The project's goal is to train 20 very low-income community members in hydroponic farming. With the training, formerly unskilled people received national certification as specialists in the field. At the same time as they trained, they grew sweet peppers and sold them to supermarket chains in Johannesburg and Pretoria. The sweet pepper income sustains an orphanage project.

The Women and Youth Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS project in the Diocese of Kampala in Uganda has a wide-ranging integrated program. 503 young women received education in 2003 on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. As they learned how to prevent AIDS infection, they also learned how to deal with violence against women and how to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Women are encouraged to participate in a credit scheme project that helps them to set up a small business and become economically independent.

The program also provides training for 60 diocesan caregivers who assist 200 people living with AIDS. The caregivers visit patients twice a week and help their families cope with the disease. A nutrition nurse visits once a week, and helps patients plan diets that will boost their immune system. Because most of the patients do not have access to anti-retrovirals (ARV), volunteer doctors prescribe and explain herbal therapies. The Diocese of Kampala supports 60 people on ARV drugs.

Diocesan caregivers range from young men to older women. All of them carry one bag with a pair of gloves, soap, sometimes aspirin for pain, a Bible, and a patient file where they keep track of medications and illnesses. On their bag is printed "HIV Homecare Program, Diocese of Kampala". Caregivers do what is appropriate for the person's health status—sometimes just visiting and reading scripture, sometimes washing them completely or caring for wounds. When asked "What is the worst thing about being a caregiver?" one person replied, "When I have to discard the file. You establish a relationship and look forward to the weekly contact, and when you have to put the file aside, it's a very sad moment."

MEET A PWRDF PARTNER: PDR, CHURCH OF UGANDA

PDR stands for Planning Development and Rehabilitation. It was established in 1974 as an advisory office of the Church of Uganda (COU), but has since become COU's Social-Economic development arm. It carries on a very comprehensive, country-wide grassroots development program, along with a complementary peace and human rights program. Both seek to reduce poverty and foster a culture of peace and respect for human rights.

ONE OF PDR's development projects involved giving out over 64,000 banana suckers to farmers in the central region of Uganda in early 2004. "We procured banana types...and took them to the farmers to improve food security," said Dr. Mukalanzi of PDR. Each family received 50-200 suckers depending on the amount of land they had. The improved varieties of suckers are drought resistant and do not succumb to disease easily.

Before the distribution, beneficiary families were trained in making composite and green manure, as well as planting techniques that ensure bananas produce to the maximum. Bananas are a major source of food and income for the regions involved in the program, and there is a ready market for them in the country. Unlike other crops, most parts of bananas are of use—banana leaves are sold domestically, the stem is used for feeding animals, and the farmer sells suckers to other farmers.

Mrs. Nalongo Christina Muwaguzi, a beneficiary of the program, speaks about her experience:

In 2000, I attended training seminars organized by PDR in my parish in Luweero district. In these seminars I learned about leadership, banana farming, tree growing, food growing and processing. After that seminar, I started improving my banana growing and started practicing the soil fertility methods I had been taught by PDR like mulching, banana pruning and applying the right spacing.



After the seminar I made another banana plantation, which I named PDR because of the great benefits PDR had brought to us. I also planted pineapples, vanilla and moringa in this plantation and I started rearing turkeys. I started with 5 turkeys but I was able to increase the number to 30. When I planted the banana plantation, I had few banana seedlings but through PDR training I was able to cut them into two and get the number of plants that I wanted.

Through the seminars we were also taught how to economically use firewood by the way we arranged our cooking stones. This helps conserve nature and avoid deforestation. The challenge I have had sometimes is the strong winds that throw down the trees and the banana plantations. The unpredictable weather also poses a big challenge. However, all our lives have been changed and we have been able to pass on what we have learned to others.