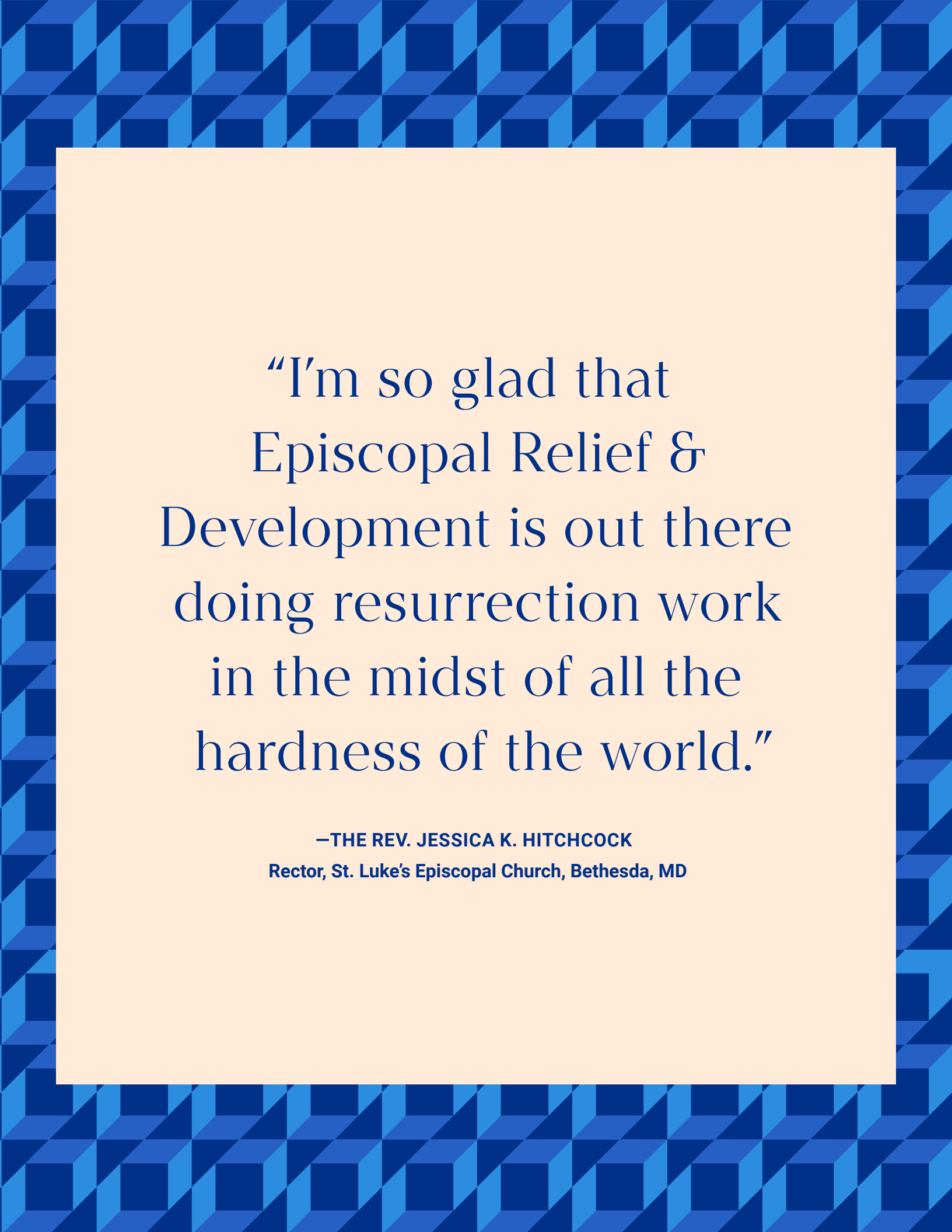




Episcopal
Relief & Development
Working Together for Lasting Change



Annual Report 2023



“I’m so glad that
Episcopal Relief &
Development is out there
doing resurrection work
in the midst of all the
hardness of the world.”

—THE REV. JESSICA K. HITCHCOCK
Rector, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Bethesda, MD

Message from the Chair of the Board

Thank you for supporting the work of Episcopal Relief & Development to help make communities around the world healthier, safer and more resilient. In 2023, your generosity enabled us to reach more than 4 million people in over 40 countries with our evidence-based approaches to reducing gender-based violence, adapting to climate change and providing nurturing care to children. Your support allowed us to act quickly through locally-led organizations to respond to disasters including the devastating earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, the destructive wildfires in Hawai'i and the ongoing Israel-Hamas war. As we continue to respond, please pray for our partners and all the people who have been affected.

As you explore this report, read the words of our staff members Nicole, Geri, Vanessa, Nagulan and Tamara for a deeper understanding of our work. We also hope you are encouraged by partners and participants:

- » **Stephen**, a government official in Vanuatu, and the way he works with the church for the benefit of his community;
- » **Caroline**, a mother and entrepreneur in Kenya, and her new view of parenting;
- » **Margaret and Alex**, two passionate literacy group facilitators in South Sudan;
- » **Warren**, an insightful volunteer doctor in Hawai'i;
- » and **Marlon**, a hopeful community leader in Nicaragua.

Their collective voices are a testament to the lasting change that is taking place around the world.

As an organization, we are navigating a changing world, constantly learning, facing challenges and holding grief. Together, with your support, we are growing and adapting. For example, we are working in drought-prone areas to help farmers learn new skills so that they can earn a consistent income regardless of how much rain they get. In the US, we are beginning to work with communities to prepare for climate refugees who are choosing to start a new life somewhere less disaster-prone. Further, we are equipping our partners to expand to more regions so that our proven model can help more families and communities.

On a personal note, this is my final Annual Report message as Chair of the Board. Serving on the Board of Episcopal Relief & Development has been among the most fulfilling endeavors of my life. During my collective 12 years on the Board, I've been blessed to witness extraordinary moments of love and grace in the midst of extraordinary human hardship. Visiting our programs in Honduras, Sri Lanka, Puerto Rico and the Holy Land has inspired me in life-changing ways.

On behalf of Episcopal Relief & Development board and staff, thank you for working together with us for lasting change. Our impact is made possible by your faithful giving and championing of our organization.



TERI LAWVER
Chair of the Board



➤ About Episcopal Relief & Development

Who We Are

Working Together for
Lasting Change

For over 80 years, Episcopal Relief & Development has worked with an extensive network of faith and community partners to advance lasting change in communities affected by injustice, poverty, disaster and climate change. Inspired by our faith, we reach over three million people each year by focusing on four interconnected priorities: nurturing the potential of caregivers and young children, reducing violence against women and girls, strengthening communities' resilience to climate change and facilitating humanitarian response to disasters. Together with our partners, we leverage what's working well to drive impact, learning and sustainability.



Our Values

Faith / Dignity / Relationship / Leadership / Excellence

2023 Impact Data

4.1 million

PEOPLE REACHED

41

COUNTRIES

\$2.3 million

SAVED BY COMMUNITY GROUPS

2,811

SAVINGS GROUPS

55,248

SAVINGS GROUP MEMBERS

77,910

LOANS

\$2.7 million

IN LOANS

797

NEW OR EXPANDED BUSINESSES

How We Work

An integrated approach to relief and development

Background photo: Açai berries, Amazon River Basin, Brazil.

Previous spread, top left: Program participant and the Rt. Rev Brian Marajh, Bishop of the Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman, South Africa; *top right:* Viviana started a tortilla-making business, Guatemala; *top middle:* Savings group member Minani Marie Rose, Burundi; *bottom left:* Early Childhood Development promoter with FAMA card, Malawi; *bottom right:* Program participant Wendelyn and her daughter, Philippines; *bottom middle:* Local assemblyman congratulates caregivers, Ghana.

Opposite page, top left: Literacy circle participants, South Sudan; *top right:* Savings group participants, Brazil; *top middle:* Partners marching on International Women's Day, DRC; *bottom left:* Bike project participants, Cyprus; *bottom right:* Garden project participant Juliet, Zimbabwe; *bottom middle:* Reverend Benjamin Sanchez and volunteers, Louisiana.



Values-based approach for purpose-driven partnerships

At Episcopal Relief & Development, our values drive our work. Together with core Episcopal and Anglican partners, in addition to other faith-based and secular partners, we achieve impact through an approach that is purpose-driven, grounded in compassion and respectful of the dignity of all human beings. Guided by our faith to seek and serve Christ in all people, we collaborate with leaders, communities and locally-led organizations to address the effects of injustice, poverty, disaster and climate change.



Community-led solutions for meaningful impact

At Episcopal Relief & Development, we believe no one knows a community better than those who actually live there. We partner with trusted faith leaders and other change agents who have strong community ties and a deep understanding of local context. Our approach, known as Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD), respects the dignity of the communities we serve and builds upon their existing strengths, knowledge and resources to achieve sustainable solutions tailored to the unique challenges they face.



Evidence-based programming for continual improvement

At Episcopal Relief & Development, we continually monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our programs. This allows us to learn from, adapt and improve programming, address challenges and identify opportunities as they emerge, and respond rapidly as community needs change and evolve. Together with community leaders and partners, we're able to leverage what's working well to drive impact, learning and sustainability.



Sustainable solutions for lasting change

At Episcopal Relief & Development, our goal is to achieve impact that will last long after a program or response ends. Through collaboration and shared learning with local faith and community organizations, we strengthen each partner's capacity to effectively deliver and to sustain and grow the impact we achieved together. This includes bolstering partners' internal systems, processes and policies to promote effective, efficient and quality management of programs. We equip partners with the resources, tools and quality assurance needed to operate within highly challenging contexts and provide effective responses and care amidst disaster, crisis and growing instability.



Scan or click to learn more about our work with Children.



883k
children

REACHED

20,475
caregivers

IN SUPPORT GROUPS

18,710
children under three

ADDED TO ECD PROGRAM

731
faith leaders

TRAINED

17,621
households

ADDED TO THE PROGRAM

Early Childhood Development



Caregivers in Malawi.

The quality of care that children receive during the first 1,000 days of life affects them in ways that last a lifetime. That's why investing in parents, caregivers and young children during the critical 0–3 age is so important. In partnership with local faith leaders and change agents, Episcopal Relief & Development promotes nurturing care that fosters responsive caregiving, good health and nutrition, and early learning and play, while working to reduce unhealthy environmental factors like poverty, malnutrition and exposure to violence.



Helping families flourish through MTM in Kenya

“When I was introduced to the program, I underwent a shift in my perspective on parenting,” shared Caroline, a mother of three and *Moments That Matter*[®] (MTM) program participant in Kenya.

Prior to participating in MTM, Caroline admits that she often thought that toys were meant to keep her kids busy while she did work around the house. She thought that play had no value in their development, and she didn't involve them much in her own work either.

Through MTM, Caroline was introduced to a new way of thinking about caring for her children socially, emotionally and physically. She participated in Caregiver Support and Learning Groups (CSLG) about the kind of support children need to develop language, motor, thinking and social skills, and how to nurture their emotional intelligence throughout the first three years of their life. This included playing games, singing songs with them and providing nutritious meals.

“The sessions I attended in the caregiver support and learning group challenged me to improve my child-rearing practices.”

— CAROLINE, program participant

Caroline and baby Marion feeding their chickens.



Supporting caregivers through home visits

Caroline was first introduced to MTM by an Early Childhood Development (ECD) promoter in her village. Through the community-led program partnership between Episcopal Relief & Development and ADS-Nyanza, volunteer ECD promoters receive training that helps them engage with parents and other caregivers who are raising children. ECD promoters facilitate the monthly CSLGs during which a different topic of child care and nurturing is taught to the caregivers. The promoters then make monthly visits to each household and provide individualized attention and coaching to the caregivers related to the lessons in the CSLG sessions that help caregivers with responsive parenting. During these home visits promoters also make referrals to health and

other social services when they see that the child or the pregnant mother needs special attention.

Caroline reflected, “I came to realize that children require nutrition, play and positive discipline to thrive and develop holistically.” She added, “The sessions I attended in the caregiver support and learning group challenged me to improve my child-rearing practices.”

Strengthening food security and economic resilience

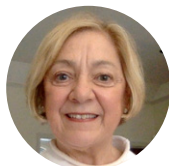
In addition to gaining an understanding of what her children need, Caroline also has taken action to make sure her children have nutritious foods every day, in every season. Before MTM, Caroline's children would often go without eating when her husband was unable to find work. As part of the program,



caregivers have the opportunity to start gardens and create a steady flow of healthy food options in their home. Caroline took advantage of that opportunity.

Today, Caroline and her children work together in their home kitchen garden, where they grow kale, pumpkin and tomatoes, and raise chickens. Caroline is able to sell the surplus vegetables and eggs for extra income for the household. Doing farmwork with her children has become her favorite activity because she is able to build her family's economic resilience while fostering her children's curiosity, teaching them values and skills through hands-on exploration.

Caroline is thankful for her participation in the MTM program, and shared, "We've become a satisfied, healthy and flourishing family."



"In early 2023, we met with our implementing partners to roll out new tools for use in Moments That Matter® (MTM), our flagship integrated Early Childhood Development program. Our program participants—parents and caregivers of children from birth to three years old—began using new FAMA (Facts, Associations, Meaning, Action) cards with lessons focused on engaging male caregivers, and a new Actions to Practice Passport, a booklet for caregivers to record the progress they are making in practicing what they are learning about nurturing care.

While we were confident that some of these new tools and lessons would be beneficial to child development, we were happy to see that including methods from our gender-based violence and climate resilience work improved lives as well. Program participants who took part in MTM also worked on mitigating family conflict and domestic violence and the women especially were able to take advantage of economic opportunities."

—GERALDINE SICOLA

Director, Early Childhood Development

Scan or click to learn more about our work with Women & Girls.



514k
women & girls

REACHED

43,503
women

ENGAGED IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

663
faith leaders

TRAINED

410
youth leaders

TRAINED

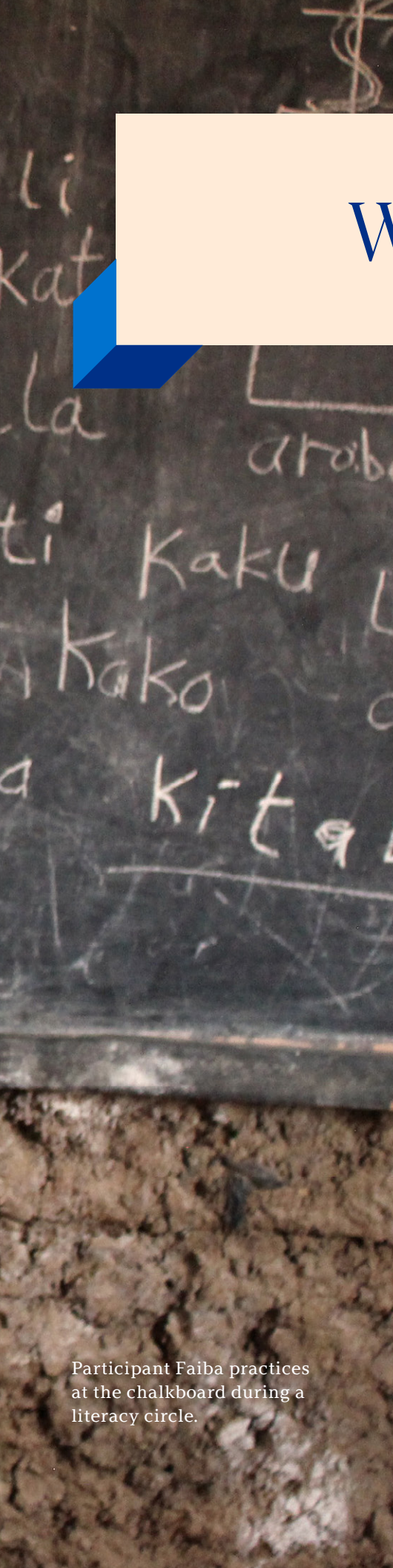
3,649
survivors

PARTICIPATED IN FOOD AND/OR FINANCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

1,434
survivors

RECEIVED COUNSELING, MEDICAL CARE, LEGAL AND/OR PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

Women & Girls



Episcopal Relief & Development believes everyone deserves to live free from violence in a society where they are treated with dignity and respect. Systems—from cultural to financial—prevent women and girls from achieving equality and fully realizing their goals. Together with our local partners, we equip faith leaders and other trusted change agents to confront harmful social norms and behaviors to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and advance women’s empowerment.

Participant Faiba practices at the chalkboard during a literacy circle.



Shifting mindsets towards equity in South Sudan

“This gender-based violence (GBV) program has brought so much change,” Margaret said. “I can see it already.”

In partnership with Mothers’ Union South Sudan, Episcopal Relief & Development is working to mitigate gender-based violence and promote social inclusion in 24 communities across the Anglican Dioceses of Juba and Rejaf.

Using a social behavior change method, together with our partners, we help individuals and communities examine their beliefs, behaviors and practices that disadvantage and harm women and girls. As part of our program in South Sudan, this work takes place during facilitator-led literacy circles.

Promoting inclusion and equity

In addition to improving the literacy of participants, the circles provide safe spaces to discuss and address a host of issues including conflict resolution, trauma healing and gender-based violence. At least 70% of participants in each group are women, and the groups are capped

“When women from my group go home, they know their rights. They tell their children that all are equal. Boys can collect water and sweep just like the girls.”

— MARGARET, literacy group facilitator

Top right: Margaret, a literacy group facilitator, poses for a picture.

Right: Viviana (standing) speaks to her peers during a literacy group.



at 30 to encourage engagement and ensure that everyone’s voice is heard. Group members help choose a meeting place—often a church, school, community center, or even under the shade of an old tree. Each literacy circle is provided with a chalkboard and other learning resources.

According to Margaret, a literacy group facilitator from the St. James Parish, changes are already starting to take place. “When women from my group go home, they know their rights,” Margaret shared. “They tell their children that all are equal. Boys can collect water and sweep just like the girls.”

Alex, a literacy group facilitator from the nearby Djeri community, noticed signs of behavior change at the household and family level, too, especially around gender equity in decision making.

Creating social change that endures

“In the Mundari culture,” Alex shared, “when a young woman wants to marry, her family meets with the young man’s family to negotiate dowry demands. Traditionally, women are excluded.” However, he continued, “So far, I have seen ten households that are starting to change. In these households, decision making is starting to include women in discussions about dowries, resources, inheritance rights, property ownership and highly-personal things like when to go to the hospital during pregnancy. These are big changes.”

The program also equips and supports local faith leaders to speak out against harmful gender norms and gender-based violence and to change mindsets in the broader community.

Recently, Christian, Muslim and traditional faith leaders from each



of the program's 24 communities participated in a five-day workshop to critically examine traditional belief systems and better understand their own beliefs and biases about gender equity and social inclusion. When they speak to people in the community, faith leaders use a behavior change toolkit—provided through the program—that includes holy scriptures and guidance from the Bible and Quran that demonstrate gender equity and social inclusion while being sensitive to the beliefs of the community.

Creating social behavior change that endures is at the heart of the work of Episcopal Relief & Development.

According to Sarah, a literacy group facilitator for St. Paul's Parish in the Juba diocese, there's no secret to social behavior change.

"You have to start with one person—yourself. Then you can help others to change."



"The work we are doing with social and behavior change strategies, training and communication tools to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in communities is exciting. Episcopal Relief & Development has a unique approach rooted in the role of religion and culture and focusing on faith leaders' influence in either maintaining the status quo or changing social norms and individual behaviors in relation to eliminating violence against women and girls (VAWG).

An evaluation of our work in Liberia since 2015 demonstrates the power of investing in faith leaders and youth in catalyzing community change to prevent and respond to VAWG, starting with their own attitudes and actions. Going forward, we will expand our proven approaches, solutions and tools to impact more individuals and communities to address the root causes and drivers of sexual and gender-based violence. This is how we're achieving change that endures."

—NICOLE HOSEIN
Director, Gender Initiatives

Scan or click to learn more about our Climate Resilience work.



46k
people

REACHED THROUGH CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROGRAMS

7,800
farmers

TRAINED IN CLIMATE RESILIENT PRACTICES

4,422
gardens

STARTED

15,889
businesses or cooperatives

LAUNCHED OR EXPANDED

5,219
people


PARTICIPATED IN INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES

206
water sources

CONSTRUCTED OR REPAIRED

A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows a young woman in Kenya weeding her garden. The image is partially obscured by a large orange banner at the top and a green horizontal bar below the text. The garden contains various plants, including green leafy vegetables and purple-stemmed plants.

Climate Resilience

A solid green horizontal bar is positioned above the text block.

Extreme weather events like heat waves, droughts and floods are leaving millions of people without food and water. Often, those most at risk are isolated, rural, subsistence farming households, far from basic support services. Episcopal Relief & Development's extensive faith network allows us to reach these most remote communities and, through our partners, provide the skills training, information and access to financial resources households need to cope and adapt to rising climate risks and uncertainty.

A young woman in Kenya weeds her garden.



Building Resilience for the Next Generation in Nicaragua

“I come from a family of farmers,” Marlon shared, “and we live off what we sow and harvest.” He lives with his wife and their young son in a rural farming community called Motuce.

Located in northern Nicaragua, Motuce is situated within the Central American Dry Corridor—a swath of land extending from southern Mexico to Panama that is especially vulnerable to extreme weather events such as prolonged drought.

Marlon participates in a climate resilience program launched in partnership between Episcopal Relief & Development and the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua (CEPAD). In addition to supporting local farmers to use climate-resilient farming techniques and facilitating the creation of revolving loan funds that allow members to start small businesses, our climate resilience work aims to support community-led transformation.

“Having clean drinking water has helped to reduce gastrointestinal diseases and having a means of transportation allows us to take our crops to market in other communities.”

— MARLON, program participant

Marlon shows off the community water pump.

“I got involved with the program because I want development for my community,” explained Marlon. “I want my son to grow up with electricity, good paths to walk on and clean drinking water.”

Supporting community-led transformation

Marlon was elected by the community to represent them on a Community Development Committee (CDC) and then appointed to the role of Vice President. Once elected, committee members received training from CEPAD partner staff designed to equip them to be effective community advocates, organizers and leaders. After the training, Marlon and five other committee members spent time in the community on a listening tour—knocking on doors and talking with neighbors to identify which projects should be prioritized.

In Motuce, access to clean water topped the list of community

improvement priorities. At the time, very few of Motuce’s 139 families had in-home access to potable water. Water for drinking needed to be fetched from a well miles away, a trip often made on the back of a donkey because the roads are otherwise impassable. Once they identified access to clean water as a priority, Marlon and the committee went to work. With support from Episcopal Relief & Development and hands-on guidance from CEPAD, the community committee in Motuce organized, secured funding for, and implemented a project to lay a system of pipes to carry clean, filtered water from nearby tanks to homes throughout the community. The job was a big one, but the CDC was up to the challenge.

Leveraging assets for sustainable change

During the process, Marlon and his committee fostered a deal with a local organization that agreed to supply materials and additional





funding. Meanwhile, the committee organized volunteers from the community who agreed to contribute their own time, energy and know-how to dig the trenches and install the pipes. In the end, the 2023 efforts of Marlon, the committee and the community not only brought clean water to hundreds of people for the first time, but also resulted in the repair of roads and the construction of a transportation route to make travel easier.

“Having clean drinking water has helped to reduce gastrointestinal diseases,” Marlon reported, “and having a means of transportation allows us to take our crops to market in other communities.”

Across 47 communities in Nicaragua, our climate resilience work with CEPAD is helping people leverage local assets like technical skills, natural resources and strong local leadership for sustainable change.



“In 2023, along with our partners, we strengthened the resilience of small-holder farmers to the impacts of climate change through community level economic empowerment interventions, such as Savings with Education (SwE) groups and revolving loans for entrepreneurs. Farmers, small business owners and other community members save money and take loans to strengthen and diversify their livelihoods.

Additionally, the program trains SwE members and entrepreneurs on agricultural value addition, horticulture, beekeeping and other activities that help them earn additional income, reducing their risk when drought, floods, extreme heat or other factors impact their livelihoods.

Financial inclusion is foundational to our Climate Resilience programs. Currently, we are expanding SwE in Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. We are excited to increase financial inclusion for farmers and other populations that are disproportionately impacted by climate change, and to test ways that climate adaptation-focused knowledge and skill building opportunities can be layered within SwE.”

—VANESSA PIZER

Director, Climate Resilience Initiatives

Scan or click to learn more about our Disaster Response work.



373k
people

REACHED THROUGH
DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAMS

563
households

TRAINED IN
DISASTER PREPARATION

195
community leaders

TRAINED

357,317
trees

PLANTED

94,906
people

USED THE PASTORS AND
DISASTERS TOOLKIT

9
countries

USED THE PASTORS AND
DISASTERS TOOLKIT

Disaster Response



Surveying the damage after an earthquake in Nepal.

Episcopal Relief & Development works through a global network of local faith and community partners to support people impacted by natural disasters and human-made crises like conflict. Our approach is inclusive, comprehensive and forward-looking, building on a community's existing strengths, assets and resources. With our partners, we strengthen community preparedness, provide emergency relief in the wake of a disaster, and support long-term recovery and resilience by investing in communities long after the crisis. We support individuals in shaping their own futures for a full and sustained recovery.



Medicine and music after the fires in Hawai'i

Immediately after the deadly fires that swept through Lāhainā and Kula areas of Maui, Hawai'i in August 2023, Episcopal Relief & Development partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i and local ministry, A Cup of Cold Water (ACCW), to respond.

The fires burned over 2,000 homes and community gathering spaces, and thousands of people were displaced. ACCW, a van care ministry formed by four Episcopal churches on Maui, serves unhoused people and others affected by poverty. Before the fires, the ministry regularly provided food, clothing and hygiene products throughout the island. During the fire response, ACCW enlisted medical care professionals and clergy from Episcopal churches across the islands to join them on van runs and help the increased number of people they were now serving.



Dr. Sparks (right) and a ukulele recipient tune the instrument together.

Serving unhoused people

“We would pull up in the van, and people wouldn’t scatter,” said Dr. Warren Sparks, who served as a medical care volunteer with the ministry for three months after the fires. Unsheltered people often mistrust outsiders because they may report them, or break up their encampment. “ACCW is known as friendly and trustworthy in the community, and that was helpful in my work.”

Grieving the loss of culture

Dr. Sparks is a doctor who specializes in emergency and family medicine. In Kauai, he has a practice where he frequently travels to patients and treats them.

Immediately after the fire, Dr. Sparks primarily focused on providing emergency medical treatment to people who were injured while evacuating. He cleaned staph wounds, did health

evaluations, and working with other certified volunteers provided trauma grief counseling.

While treating patients, he noticed that they were also grieving the loss of pieces of their culture—the fires destroyed musical instruments. Dr. Sparks and his wife purchased over 20 ukuleles and handed them out.

“It was sad to see a musical culture devoid of instrumental music,” Dr. Sparks said. “The instruments put more smiles on faces than any medical care provided.”

Together with ACCW, the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i and gifted compassionate volunteers, Episcopal Relief & Development was able to meet urgent emotional and spiritual needs, accompanying people as they begin the work of restarting their lives post fires.



“With the realities of climate change, communities are forced to make difficult decisions about where they live and how they recover. However, the church is a network of people that can take spiritual and emotional care of communities facing uncertainty in the short and longer term.”

—TAMARA PLUMMER

Senior Program Officer, U.S. Disaster Response & Resilience



A voice for the people in Vanuatu

Over 140,000 people were affected by major cyclones Judy and Kevin, and a 6.5-magnitude earthquake, all of which struck Vanuatu during the first week of March 2023. Three days of intense winds and rains contaminated drinking water and significantly damaged houses, schools, roads, bridges and planting fields.

In South Ambae and Maewo, two islands of Vanuatu, Episcopal Relief & Development worked with the Anglican Church of Melanesia to address the destruction from this devastating trio. The partnership provided food and clean water, as well as tools for rebuilding.

Building resilience to future disasters

In order to foster resilience to future disasters, the program team worked with local communities to begin replanting gardens for future food production. Four thousand people received seeds so they could plant vegetables to provide a sustainable source of nutritious food.

“South Ambae is a very remote area,” said Stephen.

Stephen is a local government officer responsible for the northwestern part of Ambae. He represents six communities in the region, many of which were impacted by the disasters. He shared that after the storms, the



Bradley (left), who works for the Anglican Church of Melanesia, with South Ambae local government representative, Stephen (right).



“As a disaster response team, we rely on our partners to be an extension of our presence and agents of Christ’s witness in the communities we serve. When it comes to designing and implementing humanitarian activities, we recognize, listen to and collaborate with our partners to identify local needs and solutions.”

—NAGULAN NESIAH

Senior Program Officer, Disaster Resilience

communities he serves have a desire to help the farmers who provide food to remote communities, older adults and people living with disabilities.

Stephen also asked the church to invest in fencing to protect gardens and fields from animals. The church gladly received all of his input, leaning into the belief that the best outcomes come through collaboration.

“Our council values working together with the church to address issues affecting lives,” he said.

Rucinta Vora, speaking on behalf of the Anglican Church of Melanesia where she works as the Vanuatu

Church Partnership Program Development Coordinator, concurs.

“It’s great working with the government to promote active inclusion and protection of local farmers, older adults and people experiencing disabilities,” she shared.

By working together with communities and local leaders, Episcopal Relief & Development and the Anglican Church of Melanesia are helping Vanuatu become resilient against future disasters. The next time a storm comes, farmers and members of remote areas will make a quicker recovery.



“The task we have in this region is immense, the demands and challenges are enormous. It is thanks to our volunteers that we are managing to impact, transform and make a difference in the lives of thousands of people.”

–THE RT. REV. MARINEZ BASSOTTO

**Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the Amazon and
Prime Bishop of the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil**

Partner Spotlight

Diocese Anglicana da Amazônia



At Episcopal Relief & Development, we believe no one knows a community better than those who live there. We partner with trusted faith leaders and other change agents who have strong community ties and a deep understanding of local context.

In Brazil, Episcopal Relief & Development partners with the Diocese Anglicana da Amazônia (Episcopal Diocese of the Amazon) on the Amazônia Resilience Initiative, a climate resilience program serving marginalized communities in the Brazilian states of Pará and Amazonas. The Amazônia Resilience Initiative is generously supported by a private funder and Trinity Church Philanthropies.



The communities served by the program are spread out, many of them remote and difficult to reach. A tireless program team—composed mainly of volunteers—travels frequently to maintain strong connections with program participants and community leaders. Their engagement with and commitment to serving diverse populations are essential to creating transformative, enduring change.

Top: Team members travel by boat to visit a community where, for generations, people have harvested what they need to survive from the land and the river. Clockwise from bottom left: Mary Joyce, Jorge, Barbara, Bishop Bassotto and Thayse.

Bottom: Isabel, a team member based in Manaus, talks to participants in a savings group of Indigenous women artisans who create jewelry and decorative items using traditional materials and techniques.

➤ Addressing Food Insecurity in the Amazon

Often, marginalized communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change and experience the effects more severely than less-vulnerable communities do. Across the Amazon region, extreme weather events are wiping out crops that families depend on for sustenance. Addressing food insecurity is an important part of how we're supporting communities to build climate resilience.



Team members deliver food relief packages as part of an integrated approach to climate resilience that includes equipping participants with climate adaptive farming techniques, supporting them to create kitchen gardens and accompanying them to strengthen and diversify their livelihoods.



➤ Building Strong Relationships with Community Leaders

Marginalized communities—including communities of Black and Indigenous people—face discrimination based on a host of factors including race, ethnicity and religion. Understandably, communities can be wary of outside organizations, but partner teams build and maintain strong relationships with well-known and respected local religious and community leaders who champion the program and help establish trust.

Team member Beatriz singing with Father Orlando (center), a local religious leader who invites program participants to convene their meetings at his cultural center for Indigenous heritage.



➤ Strengthening Financial Resilience

An important aspect of building climate resilience involves strengthening financial resilience. Using Episcopal Relief & Development's Savings with Education (SwE) approach, program teams support participants to form community-led savings and loan groups. Participants contribute monthly to a fund from which small loans can be taken with minimal interest.

Left: Thayse, a group facilitator connects with Élide, a community leader and activist who fights for the rights of Black people and Quilombola communities across Brazil. Partner staff invest time and energy to cultivate relationships, build trust and create solutions to meet each community's unique needs.



Above: Facilitator Gabriel (right) and recently elected savings and loan group president discuss group guidelines with participants.

Left: When a savings group meeting concludes, participants and their families often linger to socialize and reconnect with partnership staff. These relationships are the heart of the work we do together.

Financials

Episcopal Relief & Development strives to be a good financial steward, using contributions from our donors to support locally-led programs that have demonstrated impact.

Together with local partners, we use an evidence-based approach that's supported by robust monitoring and evaluation to ensure that resources are used where they can be most effective. Additional support is provided through contributed services from The Episcopal Church. We also receive income from investments.

Episcopal Relief & Development meets all 20 Better Business Bureau Standards for Charity Accountability and earned a four-star rating (the highest rating) from Charity Navigator and a Gold Seal of Transparency from Candid. We are involved in cooperative efforts through the Anglican Alliance, InterAction and other agencies to improve practices throughout the relief and development community.



Top: A Libyan Red Crescent worker talking to a child in a shelter who has been displaced by the flooding. (Credit: Libyan Red Crescent); Bottom left: A disaster survivor receiving cash after the earthquake in Syria. (Credit: Middle Eastern Council of Churches); Bottom right: A savings group meeting in Tanzania.



2023 Statement of Activities

	Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues and other support			
Contributions, bequests, grants and other	\$ 13,658,999	\$ 8,024,373	\$ 21,683,372
Investment return	2,377,132	150,494	2,527,626
Change in beneficial interest in outside trusts held by others	-	20,520	20,520
Contributions of non financial assets	1,632,896	-	1,632,896
Other income	311,846	-	311,846
Net assets released from restrictions	13,486,354	(13,486,354)	-
	<hr/>		
Total revenues and other support	31,467,227	(5,290,967)	26,176,260
<hr/>			
Expenses			
Sustainable development	17,156,468	-	17,156,468
Disaster relief & recovery	7,561,724	-	7,561,724
	<hr/>		
Total program expenses	24,718,192	-	24,718,192
<hr/>			
Fundraising	2,855,395	-	2,855,395
Administration	1,913,987	-	1,913,987
	<hr/>		
Total expenses	29,487,574	-	29,487,574
<hr/>			
Changes in net assets before postretirement related other than service cost	1,979,653	(5,290,967)	(3,311,314)
Postretirement related activities other than service cost	(31,388)	-	(31,388)
	<hr/>		
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,948,265	(5,290,967)	(3,342,702)
<hr/>			
Net assets, beginning of year	12,710,809	24,418,273	37,129,082
<hr/>			
Net assets, end of year	\$ 14,659,074	\$ 19,127,306	\$ 33,786,380

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During a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, pilgrims worshiped at Christ Anglican Church, Nazareth.

WE BELIEVE our life-giving, loving, liberating God gives all, gathers all and draws all towards shared wholeness with one another and the concerns of those struggling with poverty, disaster and disease.

WE BELIEVE in faith's power to guide us in honoring the dignity of every human being and in building bridges between and beyond ourselves to the world.

WE BELIEVE bridges built with local presence and assets can transform individuals, communities and systems for better.

WE BELIEVE systemic change requires collaborative, just and reconciling leadership.

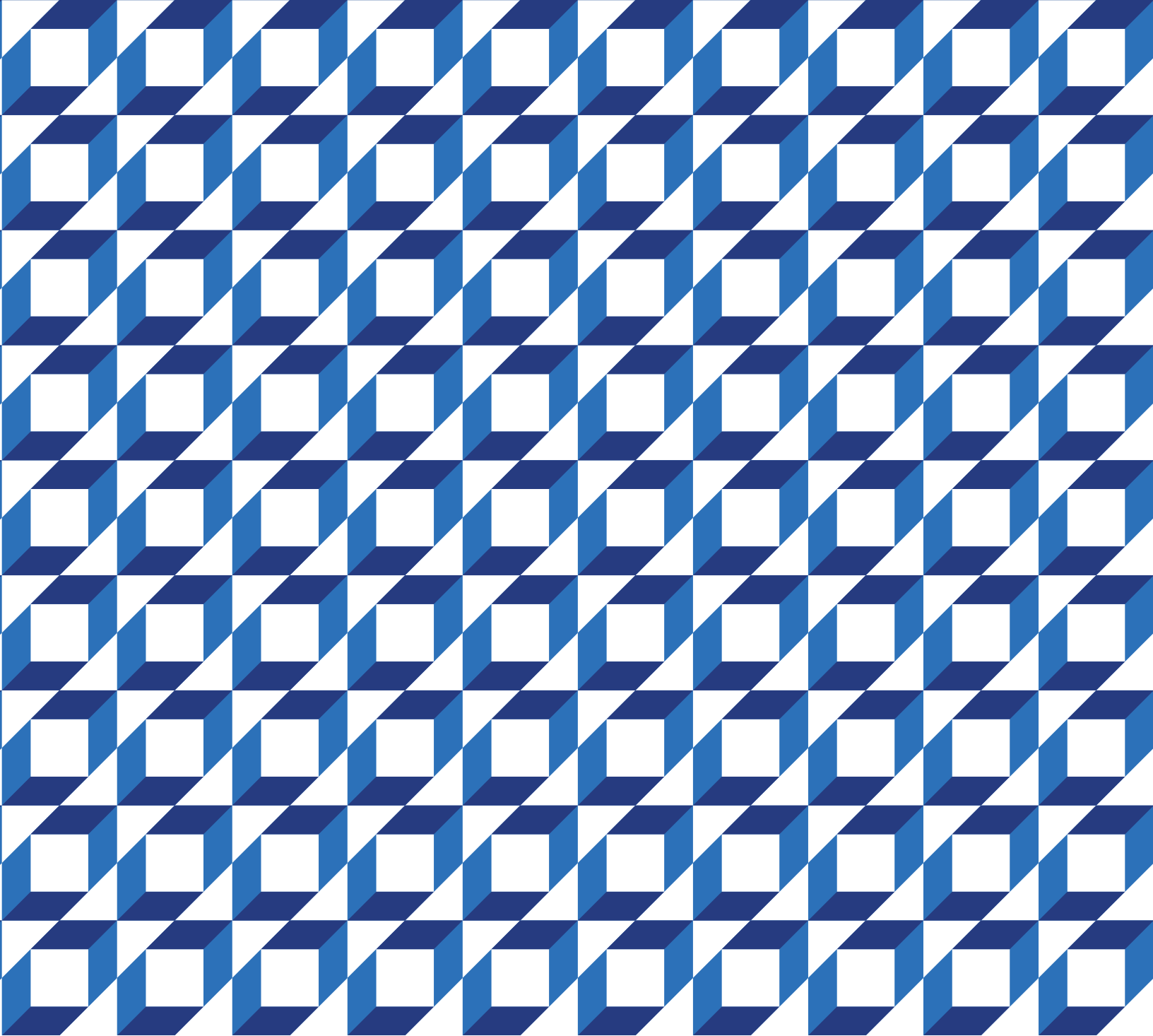
WE BELIEVE we are called to right the wrongs and sins of the past, even as we strive to repent of those sins and any we continue to commit.

WE BELIEVE the present state of the world does not fulfill the dream God intends for us.

WE BELIEVE in urgent, bold and inclusive humanitarian action that reaches the most vulnerable, builds toward tomorrow and fosters and spreads hope and healing.

WE BELIEVE in Working Together for Lasting Change.

We ask God to bless this work.



Episcopal
Relief & Development

Working Together for Lasting Change

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New York, NY 10017

episcopalrelief.org
855.312.4325

Episcopal Relief & Development partners with faith and community organizations to advance lasting change in communities affected by injustice, poverty, disaster and climate change. Inspired by our faith, we focus on four interconnected priorities: nurturing the potential of caregivers and young children, reducing violence against women and girls, strengthening communities' resilience to climate change and facilitating humanitarian response to disasters.

All photos courtesy of Episcopal Relief & Development unless otherwise noted.