



A History: Episcopal Relief & Development

1938

Moved by faith and compassion, Episcopalians raise funds to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees fleeing Europe. The National Council of The Episcopal Church authorizes the Department of Christian Social Relations – with assistance from the newly organized Episcopal Committee for European Refugees, chaired by The Rt. Rev. Paul Jones – to coordinate and lead these efforts on behalf of the Church.



1940

On December 6, a resolution at National Council passes, founding the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief. This resolution is put forth in direct response to the words of The Most Rev. Henry St. George Tucker, 19th Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, at the 1940 General Convention. He said:

"There is one problem created by the war for which we have a more direct responsibility, namely, the relief of those to whom it has brought suffering. I trust that this General Convention will call upon our people to take their full part in relief activities, wherever they are practicable under the condition of war, not only as an obligation, but still more as a Christian privilege."

1943

A resolution of General Convention gives approval to the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief to make appeals in its own name, allowing the Fund to directly reach out to dioceses and parishes and invite Episcopalians to join in its vital work.



1946

Newly elected Presiding Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill champions the PB Fund through a popular radio broadcast known as "One Great Hour of Sharing." During his first three years as Presiding Bishop, donations to the Fund reach \$4 million. Bishop Sherrill's support helps to solidify the Fund's position within the Church.

1940s – 1950s

The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief's initial mission is to assist refugees fleeing Europe during World War II. After the war, the PB Fund helps rebuild Anglican institutions such as

missions, hospitals and churches in war-ravaged Europe and China. While continuing to serve refugee families arriving in the United States, the Fund expands its mission to include humanitarian assistance worldwide.

1960s – 1970s

There is a growing awareness in the United States of suffering worldwide, as a result of hunger, disease and natural disasters. In response, the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief sets a new emphasis on rehabilitation and development work. With increased funding, the PB Fund reorganizes, becoming more professionalized in operation and expanding programs to incorporate sustainable development.



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Early 1980s

The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief registers with USAID as a Private Volunteer Organization (PVO), allowing the Fund to have operational management over its refugee programs.

Along with an increase in refugee efforts, the PBFWR advances work in development programs, primarily through a number of appeals related to famine throughout Africa and the Middle East, as well as disaster relief in Central America.



1988

The Episcopal Church forms Episcopal Migration Ministries to carry on its domestic refugee resettlement activities. The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief continues to respond to disasters both at home and abroad and increases focus on development projects around the world.



1990s

Following Hurricane Mitch, the PB Fund launches "Faith, Hope and Joy," an innovative disaster relief program in Honduras that focuses on integrated community development.

Over four years, an entire community is constructed, with 200 houses, a school, a clinic, a community center and a church. A combination of rebuilding and development through micro-finance and other initiatives helps spur economic growth in the devastated region. This is the first time that the Fund oversees the management of this type of recovery work, and the integrated approach quickly becomes a core element of its disaster relief work.

2000

The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief is renamed **Episcopal Relief & Development** to better emphasize its disaster relief work and its growing focus on implementing long-term development and rehabilitation programs.



formerly The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief

2002

Episcopal Relief & Development is incorporated as an independent, 501(c)(3) organization. This enables the agency to function independently within the global development community, while retaining a close affiliation with the General Convention and Executive Council of The Episcopal Church.

2003

The Board of Directors decides to shift from administering small grants for domestic and overseas projects to implementing long-term development programs and partnerships worldwide. For a greater global impact, the organization formally endorses the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight benchmarks developed by the international community to reduce extreme global poverty by 2015.

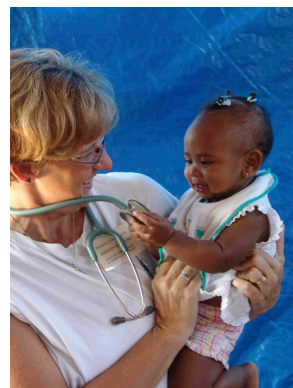
Present

In recent years, Episcopal Relief & Development has been involved in several major efforts. *NetsforLife®*, a program partnership to fight malaria in sub-Saharan Africa, began as a pilot in 2006 and was soon established in 17 countries.

In 2010, Episcopal Relief & Development helped respond to the massive earthquake in Haiti by providing food, medicine and assistance in rebuilding communities. Efforts have been increased domestically with the creation of the US Disaster Program, which supports and equips Episcopal leaders to prepare for and respond to emergencies in communities across the United States.

Shift to Long-Term Programs

Today, all of Episcopal Relief & Development's programs follow an integrated model, implemented through a network of partnerships to support initiatives that: alleviate hunger and improve food supply; create economic opportunities and strengthen communities; promote health and fight disease; and respond to disasters and rebuild communities



Over the last few years, Episcopal Relief & Development's programmatic reach has extended dramatically. In 2004, The organization was present in 21 countries, reaching nearly 250,000 people. As of 2013, Episcopal Relief & Development is working in approximately 40 countries and touches the lives of 3 million people annually.

75 years after it began, Episcopal Relief & Development is still saving lives and working to heal a hurting world.