



## Frequently Asked Questions: Episcopal Relief & Development

### **What is the mission?**

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.

Today, all of Episcopal Relief & Development's programs follow an integrated model, implemented through a network of Church and community partnerships to support initiatives that:

- Alleviate hunger and improve food supply
- Create economic opportunities and strengthen communities
- Promote health and fight disease
- Respond to disasters and rebuild communities

The organization is working in close to 40 countries and touched the lives of 3 million people each year.

### **When was the organization founded?**

Originally called the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief (the PB Fund), the organization was established in 1940 by The Episcopal Church in the United States. Its initial mission was to assist refugees fleeing Europe during World War II. After the war, the agency's efforts expanded to include additional humanitarian assistance.

### **How does Episcopal Relief & Development do its work around the world?**

Instead of imposing "one-size-fits-all" solutions, the organization supports unique, local long-term initiatives that address the effects of poverty, disaster and disease. Through Episcopal Relief & Development's Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) methodology, it works with communities to recognize their existing skills, gifts and resources. Thus, it empowers and works

alongside local leaders and residents who are best equipped to identify and address the most pressing needs.

### **When and why did Episcopal Relief & Development change its name?**

In 2000, the Presiding Bishops Fund was renamed Episcopal Relief & Development to emphasize its disaster relief work and its increased programmatic focus on integrated community development. Episcopal Relief & Development was incorporated as an independent, 501(c)(3) organization in 2002. In 2003, the Board of Directors decided 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 endorsed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight benchmarks developed by the international community to reduce extreme global poverty by 2015.

### **What have been some recent accomplishments for the organization?**

*NetsforLife®*, the organization's award winning flagship malaria prevention partnership, began as a pilot in 2006 and soon expanded to 17 countries. Since the program began over 93,600 volunteer Malaria Control Agents have received training in distributing nets to communities, educating families on their proper use and maintenance, and monitoring and evaluating net usage over time. The program has distributed over 11 million nets and reached 32 million people.

In addition, 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.