



ALL TOGETHER
Spring 2023 Update

Communities in
the driving seat



ALL TOGETHER



Thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder with those living in some of the world's most marginalised communities.

Your regular gift is a vital resource for our partners around the world navigating the impacts of Covid-19, climate change, poverty and inequality. With your committed support, All We Can is able to walk together with talented organisations making a critical difference in their communities.

Being a part of the All Together movement sends a powerful message – that communities are not alone in their struggle against poverty and injustice. It says that you are there, walking alongside them, working together to inspire lasting change.



Image: Victor Mughogho, Executive Director at Eagles. © Tom Price/All We Can

Meet Eagles

As we've closed the chapter on 2022 and charge ahead to our hopes and aspirations for 2023, we invite you to continue to walk in partnership with communities in Malawi with our All Together updates. We have developed a long-term relationship with Eagles, the organisation mobilising local churches to help transform communities in William Village, Chikwawa and we invite you to join us in this journey of communities fulfilling their potential.

Our partners and the communities they serve **hold the power**. They are the key to transforming their lives and in sharing a united vision in 2023, we witnessed the beauty of development with communities in the driving seat.

Development done in this way decolonises aid and shuts the door to practices that do not empower communities to oversee their futures. In the past, these methods have limited their access to building sustainable resources for themselves without outside influence. **We dive into our movement to decolonise aid further in this update.**

Victor Mughogho, Eagles Executive Director, champions this vision:

“You will never sustain development when the answers come from outside, into the community. What we have discovered is that people themselves know their own challenges... Our role as Eagles is to facilitate problem-solving.”

Eagles drive their work in local communities by inspiring people to work with the gifts, talents and abilities they have been blessed with to build capacity, creating a mind-set change



away from dependency towards a sense of collective responsibility and collective confidence. They work with entire villages like William Village, in southern Malawi, identifying women and men as the experts of generating their own solutions to the challenges they face – creating sustainable and tangible transformation.

Loveness, pictured below, is a farmer, a mother, and a wife. She is also an individual who is committed to seeing her community's potential fulfilled. This wasn't always the case...



Loveness's Story

Before working with Eagles, Loveness didn't understand what 'community development' meant, or how, as an individual, she could play a role in fulfilling the potential of her community.

Loveness's perspective changed when she began working with Eagles.

"I have changed in essence. My spiritual life is no longer the same."

For Loveness, this change came as a result of the teachings and training that Eagles provided for the church and for the community.

"The teaching is what has helped me to change my spiritual life. I know what development is and how I can participate."

Because Loveness now understands what development looks like in her community and how she can contribute to this, she is now an active member of her community's development initiatives. This manifests as outreach projects which seek to serve the marginalised and vulnerable within the community. Loveness's church undertook the huge task of constructing homes for vulnerable elders within the community, recognising that these individuals had only the community to support them. Loveness sees this project as a significant example of the way in which the church and community have been transformed by their relationship with Eagles.

Loveness has also been involved in tree-planting initiatives within the community. Initiatives like this are particularly pertinent because of the impact that climate change is having on communities across Malawi. Trees can help to form a barrier against storms, floods, and cyclones which have become more and more frequent. Communities like Loveness's are doing all that they can do to reduce the disaster.

Loveness is invaluable to her community and her story is a brilliant example of the power of individuals coming together to tackle the issues that affect them so that their community's potential is truly fulfilled.

Your regular gift allows communities to unlock their own potential. Only through having access to regular, committed giving, can Eagles future-proof their work in local communities to help train the next community leaders like Loveness. Will you give generously today?

To illustrate the impact of their work in communities like William Village, Eagles has coined the term, "Church and Community Transformation" (CCT) as their work comprises mostly of training sessions with churches and community members. The training empowers community members to achieve holistic change, especially for the most marginalised with an understanding that it is a core part of



their faith. As a result, communities are equipped to identify their own problems and solutions – taking responsibility for their own development.

Church and community mobilisation as an approach has been found to be **26 times more cost-effective** than traditional development and four times more sustainable.

The training encourages individuals and their communities by building their skills in problem solving, resource mobilisation, situation analysis, and money management, helping them to gain the confidence to take control of their lives, paving the way for a more promising future.

Pastor Christopher's Story



Christopher Notta is the Pastor at Holiness Revival Church in William Village, Chikwawa, Malawi. He has served the church in ministry for four years in total, two as the church's official pastor. Holiness Revival Church first interacted with Eagles in 2019 and has worked closely with them ever since.

Pastor Christopher speaks of the profound impact that Eagles has had on his church community, reflecting that before Eagles, his church was not able to interact with marginalised people within the community the way they would like to. They also could not effectively work with other churches in the community. Pastor Christopher and his community had resigned themselves to thinking that development belonged to local leaders and not church members.

'But now we have understood that we are part of the community and development concerns us as well.'

This shift in outlook came as a result of capacity development training that Eagles provided Holiness Revival Church. Capacity development is the process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes, and resources that a community needs to survive, adapt, and, ultimately, thrive. An essential ingredient in capacity-building is the transformation that is generated and sustained over time from within; transformation of this kind goes beyond performing tasks to changing mindsets and attitudes, internally and within the communities our partners work with. Consequently, the church

members are now participating in different development activities that take place within the community.

Pastor Christopher is confident that their relationship with Eagles and the training they have received has strengthened his church community to the extent that, if Eagles were to leave tomorrow, Holiness Revival Church could assist their community in recognising and then solving the problems they face. This is evident in Holiness Revival Church already being involved in conversations around tackling the shortage of houses for teachers in the community as well as the importance of planting trees.

For Pastor Christopher, the relationship his church has with Eagles is important because of how it differs from other relationships with NGOs:

'The difference is that Eagles is not in the driving seat, but they get what we are doing. Eagles helps us to understand issues, they get the problem, and they follow us as we lead the way.'

Why join us in the movement to decolonise aid?

In order to do development differently, and to prioritise the long-lasting impact on the communities facing the toughest humanitarian challenges across Africa and beyond, we must approach things inversely. Through our partners, we have identified that aid has, in the past, left out communities in the decision-making that impacts their lives the most. We, alongside our partners, are committed to putting communities in the driving seat.

We cannot dictate or enforce our development ideas on communities as we do not know their environment. They are the ones who are best placed to evaluate the issues impacting their lives. Our partners and the communities they work with hold the key to accessing aid in a way that allows it to be achieved by removing the colonial hat and constraints previously experienced.

Eagles have witnessed the work of numerous development agencies in Chikwawa, who provided 'equipment and solutions' but failed to invest in the mindsets of local community members. As the communities

had no ownership or say over their own development, the projects proved to be unsustainable. Eagles has shown that people's potential can only be fulfilled if they are the ones at the centre.

Locally-led development is a key component of decolonising aid as it "shifts power" and ensures development is done in a way that is truly beneficial to the communities we're working in partnership with, as they know best.

In implementing communities in the driving seat – communities are given the skills to map out their desires for the area – having a united vision and working together to execute it. Eagles' role is to facilitate the community taking charge of its own development, so that they are proud of themselves, and not grateful to someone else. This approach also helps with community cohesion as they bring together pastors, chiefs, and community leaders without any outside noise to help them work together for the good of the community despite differences.



Lent resource!

Lent is on its way! We want to walk together in that journey through our Lent Resource.

Look out for the upcoming resource created to hope this resource give you fresh principles and perspectives on evangelism and social action, as well as international development. We have brought together voices from across Methodism and beyond to take these partnership principles and reflect on their role in the church.

You will be able to download the resource using the following link: allwecan.org.uk/lent



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Every
person's
potential
fulfilled

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