

**ALL
WE
CAN**

Every
person's
potential
fulfilled

Walking together

Summer 2023 Newsletter



Communities at the heart of
Climate Resilience



Dear friend,

Welcome to All We Can's latest update!

As we pass this year's halfway mark, our hearts are with those in Turkey and Syria that have faced a devastating earthquake, as well as the communities in Malawi that we are walking alongside that were devastated by Storm Freddy earlier this year. We want to share with you the stories of resilience and demonstrate how in the midst of climate change disasters, your support helps in seeing every person's potential fulfilled.

Whether you've made a donation, committed to a regular gift, raised money for All We Can through a church service, put on a bake sale or sponsored walk - we are so grateful for your support. I hope that you will be inspired as you read this update and beyond, as you continue to be a vital part of the All We Can family.

With heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support,



Graeme Hodge

Graeme Hodge
Chief Executive

An introduction to Eagles

All We Can is excited to share stories from our incredible long-term partner, Eagles, in Malawi. We have developed a long-term partnership with Eagles, the organisation is 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.

Like us, Eagles is passionate about empowering communities to lead the transformation they want to see.

Victor Mughogho, Eagles Executive Director, comments.

'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 drives 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, a small 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.



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 vulnerable 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 have the confidence to take charge of their lives towards a more resilient future.

Genti's Story



Genti is a young man living in William Village, he is known in his community as a man who loves to pray. Genti's potential is being fulfilled as a result of his involvement with our local partner, Eagles.

Genti got involved with Eagles through their capacity-building work in William Village. This has focused on changing the mindset of community members, so that they believe in themselves.

'I used to look down upon myself, thinking I cannot do anything, but since I started going through the teachings that have been provided, now I can stand on my own and I'm able to do things and not look down on myself.'

The training sessions Eagles provided to the community prompted Genti to make the decision to buy a bike to help his business. Genti makes money from transporting people on his taxi bike. He uses the money he makes to support his family.

'If I'm cycling, I'm in control.'

Change isn't just happening for Genti, the impacts of working with Eagles is obvious throughout his community:

'I see that the transformation is happening, that the change is happening in other people. Because once we have been fully equipped through the training, the church evolves and the community begins to work together.'

Now that the church and the community are working together, Genti sees a bright future for William Village. Committees have begun actioning projects to develop the community and invest in its future. This has included tree planting programmes, brick-making so that more houses can be built for teachers, and providing resources and materials to the local school.

'I see the future being bright, it's just a matter of planning.'

Genti has seen the way that capacity-building and community-wide mindset change have transformed his own life and the lives of those around him. Because of the support Eagles provide, communities like William Village get to fulfil their potential and look ahead to a bright and hopeful future.



Resilience during a climate emergency

Chrissy is a single mother of three living in William Village, Malawi.

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Chrissy's story



Chrissy is all too familiar with the devastation the climate crisis causes. When Storm Ana hit southern Africa in January 2022, William Village was directly impacted.

'Storm Ana affected me badly. Some of my relatives lost their lives in the storm, some of them were children under the age of five.'

As well as the pain of losing loved ones, Chrissy lost the security and safety of her home.

'I lost my house during Storm Ana. The first of the winds took the roof off my house and I thought about fixing this by having the roof put back on. But then the floods came, and it destroyed the walls and everything that was left of my house, and so I was in no position to rebuild it.'

In response to these disasters, one significant way that Chrissy is making a difference in her community is through helping with the tree planting programme

that her neighbour set up alongside our local partner, Eagles.

'It is very important for us to plant trees because we have erratic rains due to climate change. As well as this, some of the floods we have experienced have been as a result of inadequate trees in the area.'

Trees serve as a barrier against floods and storms so this project has been a priority for Chrissy as she rebuilds her life and home after Storm Ana.

Seeing the way that disasters such as Storm Ana impact her community helps put into perspective how necessary caring for creation is for Chrissy.

'It is important for us to care about creation as it can help us prevent floods and other natural disasters which have come as a result of us not properly taking care in the past.'

While Chrissy is championing caring for creation in her own community, she is very aware of how others need to care for creation too. She understands the injustice of her community feeling the impacts of the climate crisis without being the ones who are contributing the most to the crisis in the first place.

'My message is that people in the UK should know that what they do affects us in one way or another. I want them to know that what they emit affects us as it makes us more at risk of natural disasters such as rains and storms.'



Learn directly from martha

My name is Martha, I am from William Village. I am a single mother to three children; I have no husband. I make a living by selling groceries in my community.

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I got involved in the work of Eagles because my Pastor went to a meeting they organised. Afterwards, he briefed us about the teachings he had received: loving our neighbour by providing support for them and helping them. We decided that we should start a committee to take action to help people.

There are ten of us in the Social Action Committee. I serve as the Committee's Secretary. We identify people in the community that we want to help and plan how we as a church community can best support their needs.

This has really changed me as an individual.

In the past, I could not give to others, I was stingy. I did not share what I had but that has changed. Since my change in mindset, I know that it doesn't matter how little I have, I know I must share what I have with others.

My life has changed.

I have seen my life improve completely because of what I've shared and what I've been blessed with in return. God has blessed me so much. I will not go back to the way I was because of the way I have seen God bless me as I try to bless others.

This change of mindset has not only happened in me, but there's also been a big change in our church. The way things are now, you can't even compare with the past. Now, everyone knows that sharing whatever you have is very good and so important. This mindset has helped our community to make sure that we are able to share with one another. In sharing what we have with one another, we also value one another more.

We have learned that everyone is important, and we must share what we have with one another.



The importance of disaster risk reduction

Through Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), we can create safer, more resilient, and sustainable societies. This is at the core of the work we do with your support. It requires a proactive approach to effectively identify and address risks, implement measures, and build a culture of preparedness and resilience to support communities like William Village when they are hit with a climate disaster.

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Why decolonising aid is critical to climate change resilience

Decolonising aid in the context of climate change is crucial for several reasons.

Historically, the aid sector has often perpetuated power imbalances and reinforced colonial legacies. Decolonising aid involves challenging and dismantling these structures, empowering local communities, and ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes. By decolonising aid for climate change, we can foster ownership, self-determination, and agency among marginalised communities, allowing them to lead their own efforts in addressing climate challenges.

Our approach recognises that local communities have valuable knowledge, cultural insights, and innovative solutions rooted in their specific contexts. It also promotes more equitable partnerships, knowledge sharing, and capacity-building, enabling a more inclusive and effective response to climate change that respects the sovereignty and dignity of communities.

Ultimately, decolonising aid supports the creation of more sustainable, just, and resilient societies in the face of the global climate crisis.

By implementing measures to reduce disaster risks, we can significantly minimise the loss of human lives during natural or human-induced disasters. This includes implementing early warning systems, establishing evacuation plans, and enhancing emergency response capacities. As disasters often result in the destruction of homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods, by investing in DRR, we can protect people's assets and economic activities, helping communities recover more quickly and sustain their livelihoods.

DRR measures help All We Can's partners and their communities adapt to these changes by strengthening their capacity to cope with climate-related risks. This includes measures such as flood-resistant infrastructure, climate-smart agriculture, and ecosystem-based approaches to reduce vulnerability.

Communities are in the driving seat when their resilience against climate disasters is built. They are the first responders. DRR focuses on building community resilience by empowering individuals and communities to understand and manage their own risks. This involves education, awareness raising, and community participation in decision-making processes, leading to more resilient and self-reliant communities.

My gift to All We Can



Service user number: 691213

Your vital ongoing support helps make all of the incredible impact that you have just read about possible. By making a gift today, you will help ensure that All We Can and its partners around the world are able to help even more people realise their full potential. You can also make a gift online at allwecan.org.uk/walkingtogether

If you are giving on behalf of a church or organisation, write its name below:

My one-off gift

I would like to give a gift of £

- I enclose a cheque made payable to 'All We Can' OR
- Please debit my VISA/Mastercard/Maestro/Delta/CAF card

Card number:

Expiry Date: / Start Date (Maestro only): /

Security No. Issue No. (Maestro only):

Signature: _____ Date: / / _____

My monthly gift

I would like to support the work of All We Can with a regular donation of

£ a month starting on: 1st or 15th of /

Name a full address of your Bank or Building Society

To the manager: _____ Bank / Building Society _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Names of account holder: _____

Bank/Building Society Account No

Branch Sort Code

Instruction to Bank/Building Society

Please pay All We Can Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with All We Can and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature: _____ Date: / / _____

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions from some types of account. All We Can Direct Debits are administered by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). Your donations will appear on your bank statement with the reference 'Charity Donation'.

During an emergency:

£5 a month could provide families with mosquito nets

£11 a month could provide 150 households with 4 kilograms of beans for two months

£40 a month could provide communities with bars of soap for two months

My details

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

If you would like to receive updates by email about our work and how you can support us, please enter your email above (you can unsubscribe at any time).

Would you like your donation to be acknowledged? Yes No

We promise to never sell or swap your details and you can change your preferences at any time. All We Can holds your details to thank you for your gift, process Gift Aid, to send you occasional updates about our work and how you can support us. If you would prefer **not** to receive these updates by post, please tick here

Gift Aid. Make your gift give more.

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I am a UK taxpayer and would like All We Can to treat all donations I have made for the four years prior to this year and all donations from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations unless I notify you otherwise. I understand that if I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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Please do not gift aid your donation if you are giving on behalf of a church or organisation.

To start your regular gift today, complete this form and return it using the envelope attached to: All We Can, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR. Alternatively, you can start your gift online at allwecan.org.uk/walkingtogether

