



under the sun

NEWS FROM THE PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

HEALTH CARE



What's in PWRDF's healthcare "first aid kit?"

SIMON CHAMBERS

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR,
THE PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

ONCE I HAD children, one thing became even more important in my house: a good first aid kit. Some days the kids come home with cuts and bruises, other days they have a fever. But it's important to have on hand the basics to take care of their health. I'm also fortunate to have doctors on call 24 hours a day, and a good hospital close to my home.

These benefits are not universal, and I'm keenly aware of that. At PWRDF, we work with a variety of partners in many countries to enhance health care in those places. I think of our health program as a kind of first aid kit. In

some places, PWRDF supports the construction of health clinics, in others education about cholera. Sometimes what is needed is a community health worker to sit with someone who's just been diagnosed with AIDS and help them to learn about how to handle their disease. Sometimes it is a way for women to get to the clinic when they go into labour. In this issue of *Under the Sun*, we explore the variety of ways PWRDF works with partners to improve the health of people on the edges of society around the world.

In each place where PWRDF works, the type of health care reflects the needs and situation of the communities. For example, in Mozambique, women were dying because they had to walk 25km or more to the health clinic in 40°C+ heat when they went into labour. PWRDF's partner, SALAMA, came up with an idea to create bicycle ambulances (trailers that attach to the back of bicycles which have a stretcher and weather shield for the patient) which transport the women to Mothers-in-Waiting houses built near the clinics so they can rest before giving birth.

UBINIG, a PWRDF partner in Bangladesh, heard about the bicycle ambulances and knew they could be useful in their country as well. But Bangladesh can be a very wet country, whereas the area of Mozambique where the ambulances were originally created is very arid. So the Bangladeshi created not only bicycle ambulances, but boat ambulances—ferries designed to carry the bicycle ambulances across rivers. In Bangladesh, the bicycle ambulance is built differently, with a larger back section which can carry not only the patient but also a midwife to accompany her to the clinic.

Partners in other countries are looking at the bicycle ambulance model and discerning how it can be used best in their own contexts, as SALAMA and UBINIG have done in their countries. And with each project, PWRDF's health care "first aid kit" grows.

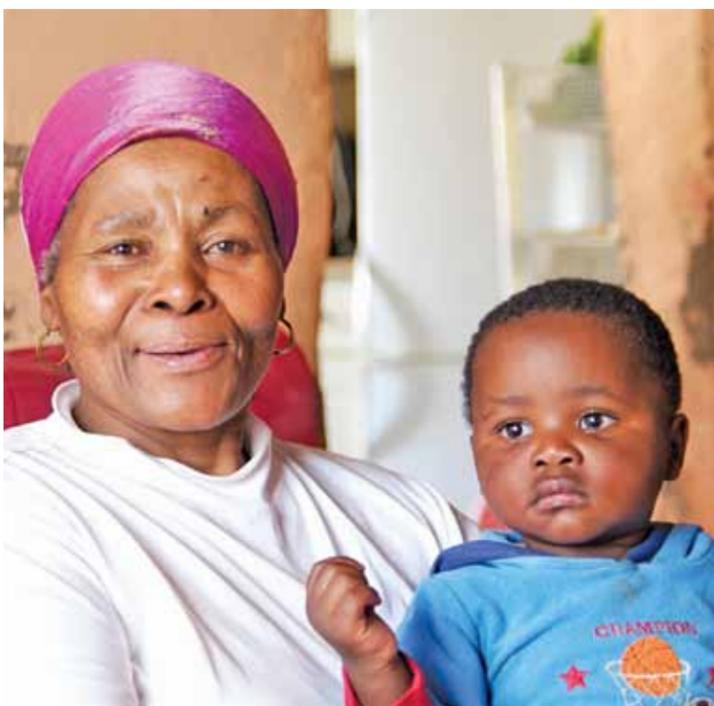


Francisco Santos demonstrates how to put together a bicycle ambulance in Kitele, Mozambique. Patients are transported 25km to the nearest clinic, saving time and energy and—ultimately—lives.

PHOTO: SIMON CHAMBERS



Bongiswa Mbambato (left) and Nontobeko Twani, a community health worker in Mgababa, South Africa. PHOTOS: SIMON CHAMBERS



Kwanele and his grandmother also benefit from Twani's care. PHOTOS: SIMON CHAMBERS



Community based health workers are invaluable providers of support, advice, medicine, and friendship

IF YOU WANT to get to know a place, walk around it with a local. People who live in a village tend to know everyone else, and usually know what's going on. Health care projects that PWRDF supports often involve community members who are trained in health issues, education, and advocacy.

In the village of Mgababa, South Africa, Nontobeko Twani is a Village Health Worker with the Keiskamma Trust, PWRDF's partner in the area. Thanks to her knowledge of the people and the village, she is able to keep an eye on people living with HIV and AIDS, to visit new patients twice a day to help them learn to cope with their disease, and to refer people to health clinics or the hospital when necessary.

"Twani is a good friend. She helps me to get seen by the doctor," says Bongiswa Mbambato. Mbambato is one of Twani's patients who is

living with HIV, which was compounded by tuberculosis. Twani gives Mbambato advice on her home garden, monitors her anti-retroviral drug (ARV) regimen, and teaches her about good hygiene and other basic health care issues.

At another house in the village, Kwanele, a fifteen month old, sits with his granny as Twani explains how she helped to keep Kwanele from contracting HIV. "I helped keep his mother going to the clinic and on her ARV regimen," Twani explained. "I advised her to breast feed him for six months. She also gave him a medicinal syrup that kept him from getting the disease."

Twani keeps her eyes open for people who stop coming to get water or to community events. They might have stopped coming because they are sick, so she visits them to find out their needs.

Thank you

Thank you to all Anglicans who make the work of PWRDF possible. Your ongoing generosity supports partners in Canada and around the globe as we strive to create a more just, healthy and peaceful world. Thank you also to all the diocesan and parish representatives, bishops, clergy, board members and youth who volunteer their time, energy and enthusiasm as ambassadors for PWRDF. Supporting the work of PWRDF improves the quality of daily life for vulnerable populations by promoting global justice and self-sustainability. Your commitment is transforming lives.

YES! I want to support PWRDF

YOUR GIFT HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM LIVES HERE:

Food Security Health Care Poverty Humanitarian Response Public Engagement GENERAL

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Subscribe to the PWRDF email update newsletter at pwrdf.org

Follow PWRDF on Facebook and Twitter

I have enclosed a gift of

\$30 \$50 \$100 \$500 other \$ _____

Please make cheque payable to PWRDF.

OR I want to make a gift of \$ _____

every month by:

Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

I want to make a gift of \$ _____ every month by pre-authorized chequing:

1st of month 16th of month

Please enclose a personal cheque marked "Void."



The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

80 Hayden St., Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

Call Jennifer Brown: 416-924-9192, ext 355 • 1-866-308-7973 • www.pwrdf.org

Charitable number: 866 434640 RR0001 AJ-07-13

