

## **CMS AFRICA: Bringing hope and change to communities in DR Congo and Tanzania through training.**

**CMS Africa was founded in 2008 and enjoys a 'sister' partnership with Church Mission Society in the UK.** Its mission is to empower churches - and, through them, whole communities - to find creative solutions to social problems such as poverty, conflict and environmental degradation. It accomplishes this through programmes of training aimed at "renewed minds leading to transformed communities".

CMS Africa's training challenges a 'poverty mind-set' and sole reliance on donor aid and seeks to replace this with an awareness of the rich resources given by God, available locally. It galvanises the church in Africa to live a 'Monday to Sunday' faith, recognising God's concern for social needs in a context where "all too often the church has been disengaged from the crying needs of the community, focusing exclusively on spiritual concerns."

CMS Africa is working across the African continent, including in DR Congo, South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. Its goal is to see 50 million families living in transformed communities by 2050. This may sound highly ambitious, but the movement is already ahead of its 2020 target of impacting 50,000 people. To date, an estimated 59,000 people have been reached, across eight African countries.

**We invite the Diocese of Guildford to partner with us and CMS Africa to achieve this remarkable vision. We would use the collection from your Lent Appeal to fund Jeff Sikabwe and Paul Kibona who are the country co-ordinators for CMS Africa's training in two countries: DR Congo and Tanzania. CMS is looking to raise £5,000 (£2,500 per country) to fund their work of leading change and training up additional trainers to reach vulnerable communities.**

## **VULNERABLE WOMEN**

CMS Africa empowers the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups within communities. In particular, it recognises the social challenges and injustices often suffered by women, and young people – who represent around 20% of the continent's population, and yet around 60% of whom are unemployed.

The training CMS Africa offers to vulnerable women aims to equip them with the financial skills to look after themselves and their families through running small businesses. It takes an interactive and holistic approach, aiming to build self-identity as well as teach practical business planning, financial management, book keeping, marketing and selling. The goal is to enable participants to see the roles they can fulfil in their families and communities, and gain the tools to enable them to sustain themselves in a way which gives dignity.

The training has so far been trialled in Kenya and DR Congo, and the training manual is now being translated into three languages: English, French and Kiswahili. The team hopes to train at least 100 women per year.



*"Now people trust me with money. I can get small loan, borrow money, in my house children are able to eat three times a day. I pay school fees of my two children and people have started to deal with me with respect."*  
Mabele Mananga, DR Congo

## **YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**



CMS Africa's training for young people helps them to discover their potential, develop it through learning new skills, and deploy themselves in service of their communities through entrepreneurial initiatives.

At 24 years old, Pendaheli Lisa is a trained facilitator of CMS Africa's training and a success story of its commitment to mobilise and release young people to be the transformation they want to see in their communities.

Back in 2015, Pendaheli attended a CMS Africa training course where he realised that he and his family could be using the acres of uncultivated land they owned for the benefit of the community. Pendaheli returned to his home village in the Arusha area of Tanzania, and began to educate other young people on farming techniques, which ultimately led to the formation of youth groups responsible for growing maize, tomatoes and beans.

Pendaheli's family and friends in the community have offered themselves as volunteer farm labourers and, at the end of every harvest season, the youth groups are now able to sell their produce and generate income for families in the area. One of the youth farming collectives has recently created a partnership with a local company to export their produce to neighbouring countries.

CMS Africa's training can have a ripple effect when young people are engaged with this sense of empowerment and social responsibility. Young people are beginning not only to be able to provide for the practical needs of their communities, but also to build sustainable hope for their countries' future.