

Progressio: Challenging poverty with people power



countries where we work

- across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America
and the Caribbean

PROGRESSIO

Progressio annual review for the year from April 2010 to 31 March 2011

Front cover: Women from the Chaitemura Chavakuseva group watering their crops in Wedza. Zimbabwe

Photo: Jon Macpherson/Progressio



development workers who we recruited and funded to work with local partner organisations

– skilled workers who build the capacity of local organisations and work with them on projects that tackle poverty and improve lives



local organisations whose capacity, skills and effectiveness we improved

- organisations that helped many thousands of people in poor communities in 2010/11 - and will continue to help them long into the future



people in poor communities who directly benefited from our work

 empowered through training, advice and support to make real changes in their lives and livelihoods



people in the countries where we work who have also benefited from our work

 through changes in national law, policy and practice that our partner organisations proposed, promoted or pushed for with our support



people in developing countries around the world who will benefit from policy change

 thanks to our international advocacy and campaigning on issues like illegal logging, water and climate change, supported by 3,250 Progressio members and supporters

What is people power?

- Farmers in Wedza, Zimbabwe, growing more and healthier food, and increasing their income three-fold, through improved farming practices
- Women in Timor-Leste, through the women's network Rede Feto, successfully lobbying for a law against domestic violence
- Community organisations on both sides of the northern Haiti-Dominican Republic border setting up a forum to resolve conflicts and agree local development plans
- Children in El Tamarindo, El Salvador, making a video about protecting the environment, and using it to take their concerns to local government leaders
- Campesinos in Salcedo, Dominican Republic, increasing their income by 50% after gaining organic certification for the coffee they produce
- Young people in Nicaragua using social media to tackle stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with HIV

- Citizens in Zimbabwe holding their elected representatives to account such as the 300 people (more than half of them women) who attended a 'Meet your representative' meeting in Chinhoyi, organised as part of our 'Action for better governance' project
- Progressio supporters taking 1,250 campaign actions on illegal logging, climate change, and government commitment to the Millennium Development Goals
- Local communities in Peru expressing their concerns about unsustainable use of water to grow export crops concerns which our research report Drop by drop brought to a global audience
- Our way or working as an independent evaluator put it, Many organisations claim to speak on behalf of the poor, but Progressio really does 'walk the talk'



Participation



We believe that in order to reduce their poverty, poor and marginalised people need to have a greater influence on decisions and policies which affect their lives.

In December 2010, we published a report *Haiti after the earthquake*, aimed at international policy-makers, which showed that the Haitian people feel they have little say in efforts to rebuild their country. Things are being decided "for, not with, Haitians," said Fr Lazard Wismith, Director of our partner organisation the Jesuit Refugee and Migrant Service. He said solutions to problems must come from the people themselves: "in this way, you will make development more sustainable and people will feel part of it."

And that's exactly what Progressio does. In the Dominican Republic (DR) and Haiti our binational, cross-border project has six development workers working with 10 partner organisations and in 20 municipalities. This project helps people find ways to respond to the effects of the earthquake, improve livelihoods, increase access to healthcare provision and improve educational infrastructure.

In one community, Fond Parisien, our development worker Daniela Peirano has helped a women's group to set up and run small businesses. At least 75 women (and their households) have seen their incomes increase. One of them, Bernadette Sauval, said: "The most important change in my life is that now I have an occupation. I learnt that I am able

to run a business and that is very important to me. And I learnt that I have lots of skills – and that I can always keep learning."

Daniela's project also includes leadership skills, literacy, education, health and wellbeing, and benefits over 8,000 people in total. Equipped with the right skills, people are better able to exercise their rights and demand more and better services from local and national governments.

And we are creating opportunities for many more people to build a better future. We worked with 18 local authorities in the border region, promoting and implementing civil society participation in local development planning. And we trained community leaders in 13 municipalities (seven in Haiti and six in the DR) on how to make best use of the opportunities to participate that are open to them.

capacity building

Self-empowered people means lasting change. That's why we build the capacity of local organisations, so that they can better meet people's needs locally, and empower the people they work with to bring changes to their own lives.



Environment



By tackling environmental degradation, resource scarcity and the impacts of climate change, we enable poor and marginalised people to improve their quality of life.

In Somaliland, our development worker Lemma Belay – working with our partner organisation Candlelight – is helping to train families in sustainable agriculture, soil and water conservation. This means people are better able to withstand environmental shocks such as drought. Lemma reported: "There are now more underground cisterns and dams constructed and rehabilitated in the drought-affected eastern regions of Somaliland."

In Honduras, as part of a project with partner organisation COOMULP supported by our development workers Marvin Zavala and Eli Escoto, 65 families from Tres Cruces, Mezcalito, Fatima and Planes de Marcala now have access to water at their small farms to irrigate their crops.

fair access to resources

Poor communities suffer the most from environmental damage and from the impacts of climate change. So we work with them to protect the environment, and help them gain fair access to natural resources. And we make sure that their voices are heard by policy-makers wherever it matters, from local up to global level. In El Salvador, our development worker Maggie von Vogt worked with our partner organisation UNES to build community understanding of the environmental impacts of climate change, and to advocate for policy change through the Central American Climate Justice Campaign.

Local experiences like these underpin our international campaigning. In the run-up to the climate change negotiations in Cancun in December 2010, our website told the inspirational stories of people responding to climate change, from the urban farming initiatives of the Mother Earth Movement in Honduras to alpaca farmers in Peru. At Cancun, we lobbied alongside UNES, and saw a major breakthrough when water issues were finally added to the climate change negotiations agenda – something we first called for with our Just Add Water campaign in 2009.

Our ability to bring local concerns to the global stage was also shown by our report *Drop by drop*. The report – about unsustainable water use by the asparagus industry in the lca valley in Peru – gained significant media coverage, including a two-page spread in *The Guardian* newspaper. We are now following up on issues of water equity in a globalised world with policy-makers in the public and private sector.

And working with our partner organisation CEPES, the report is being translated into Spanish and published locally – increasing the impact that the report will have in Peru, and ensuring that the problems of water usage and access that affect local farmers can begin to be addressed.



Livelihoods



For poor and marginalised people, protecting the environment must go hand in hand with increasing their incomes and improving their quality of life.

In Wedza, rural Zimbabwe, poverty, food shortages and low income make life a daily struggle. Families survive on as little as \$1 per day and mid-season droughts make farming, their only source of income, increasingly hard to depend on.

But with Progressio's support, the women farmers of Wedza have tripled their income to \$3 per day – meaning they can now send their children to school, feed their entire family, and feel safe knowing that tomorrow there will be food on the table.

Our development worker, Melody Kwanayi, a specialist in agro-ecology, worked alongside the women, demonstrating ways they could improve their crop yields, introduce healthier and more nutritious crops, and grow varieties that sell at a higher price at local markets.

What's more, with our partner organisation Environment Africa, we've helped farmers to process and market produce such as honey, which they used to be unable to sell – but now are selling in hygienically packaged jars with preprinted Chigondo labels. (Chigondo is the name of the local market town.)

And it doesn't stop there. The farmers invite other people in their communities to visit their farms and learn the techniques – as Mrs Ngonidzashe Mutema told us, "Meeting at a field to learn by actually doing made it easier to understand."

In total, 4,000 people in Wedza – the farmers and their dependants – have benefited from this project.

And during the project, development worker Melody has passed on her skills and knowledge to her counterparts in Environment Africa, who will use this expertise to support other local initiatives throughout Zimbabwe and Malawi.

increased income

Millions of people rely on farming for subsistence and livelihoods. Our agroecological projects in Africa, Central America and Haiti/Dominican Republic enable small-scale farmers to increase their income, while protecting and conserving the natural resources on which their livelihoods depend.



Women



Women, who make up the majority of people in poverty, are at the heart of our work to strengthen the ability of poor and marginalised people to demand and defend their rights.

In Somaliland, women played a key role in ensuring "free and fair" elections in June 2010. Progressio coordinated a team of international election observers whose report commended "the notable presence of women as campaigners and voters". Our partner organisation, the women's network NAGAAD, presented the new government with an advisory paper on gender issues, and during the year published a report on *Women's human rights in Somaliland* written by our development worker, Maria Tungaraza.

In Yemen, "women have a strong voice now," says our country representative Abeer Al-Absi, "and are putting forward their opinions about what a new Yemen should

gender transformative

An independent evaluation of Progressio, carried out in 2010 for the UK government, said Progressio has "a serious commitment" to promoting women's rights and empowering women. The evaluation report says: "Progressio seeks to be not only gender aware but also gender transformative."

look like." In 2010/11 we supported a range of civil society organisations, increasing their capacity to deliver services and to influence local government decision-making. More women than men participated in training workshops and community planning meetings.

In the Dominican Republic (DR), we jointly published with the United Nations and the DR Ministry of Women a new guide and auditing tool to ensure local government plans and budgets meet women's needs. Developed with our partner organisations, the guide will ensure that all 155 municipalities in the DR fully implement the gender requirements of the new National District and Municipalities Law – potentially benefiting all women and girls in the country.

In addition to working with partner organisations on changes at the national level, our work also empowers women at the local level. In Las Marías in Usulután, El Salvador, for example, our development worker Gloria Araque helped a local women's group to develop small business ideas. This income generation project was so successful that representatives of the Ministry of Economy approached the women and offered to fund the initiative.

And to ensure that we embed a gender focus in all our work, Progressio's internal gender working group completed a gender training manual to give all new staff and development workers a comprehensive understanding of the issue and how to implement it in their work.







People living with HIV have the right to receive adequate care and support, and to be less marginalised and stigmatised.

Our focus is on empowering people living with or affected by HIV to play a leading role in responding to HIV. One such organisation is Estrela+, a support group set up by and for people living with HIV in Timor-Leste.

Ines Lopez, manager of Estrela+, told us: "We wanted help to get ourselves organised. Our country has had a lot of conflict and problems in the past and many of our members have interrupted education and no training in how to run an organisation. Also many of our members are from very poor rural environments, and have very little understanding of the issues of HIV."

Our development worker Fi Oakes has been working with Estrela+ since March 2010, helping them build their organisational capacity and supporting them in developing advocacy strategies to reduce stigma and discrimination.

With Fi's help and advice, "we are getting stronger," says Ines. They have submitted an application to the Ministry of Justice for legal recognition and are regularly included in national level meetings on HIV strategy. They have delivered community training in rural communities on HIV awareness, and workplace policy training to other (non-HIV)

organisations. They have networked with HIV counselling and testing centres to refer people to them for care and support.

Most importantly, they have gained the confidence to stand up for themselves in a country where stigma, discrimination and misinformation are still the norm.

As Fi Oakes says: "My inspiration comes from little things, like when I see someone transform from a shy person at the back of the room, then a few months later leading a group discussion on an issue. When I compliment them on their skill they say, 'Thank you, I learned that from you.' That means a lot. But also when I hear 'No, I disagree with you, I think we should do something different,' I know they have learned to stand up for their rights."

long term impact

Our work achieves an immediate impact for people living with HIV, by reducing stigma and discrimination and promoting better policies and services; and we achieve a long term impact, by empowering organisations, communities and people to drive through changes now and in the future.



Faith



Our Catholic roots and links with the Catholic community mean we understand the importance and role of faith.

We live in a faith-based world – and many people in the countries where we work are people of faith. So in a variety of our projects, we work with local faith-based organisations and faith leaders to bring about change.

In Yemen, we organised workshops with religious leaders to raise awareness about HIV and the role they can play in reducing stigma and discrimination.

In Zimbabwe, we worked with the National Faith-Based Council of Zimbabwe and other faith movements so that they could engage more proactively with their communities

standing in solidarity

Inspired by our progressive Catholic roots, we recognise that poverty is not just about a lack of resources. It is also about unequal power relations and a lack of human rights. That's why we stand in solidarity with poor people, and work to help people gain power over their lives and overcome the barriers that keep them poor.

in eliminating sexual and gender-based violence. This included organising training on counselling for 60 pastors and church leaders in Harare and Manicaland provinces.

In El Salvador, we worked with the faith-based organisation Centro Bartolomé de las Casas to run workshops for men challenging 'macho' attitudes and raising awareness about high-risk behaviour in the context of HIV.

In the UK, the visit of Pope Benedict XVI provided the opportunity to highlight poverty issues from a faith perspective. We wrote a well-received briefing to all MPs about why international development matters to the Catholic church, and were pleased to see a focus on environmental and development priorities during the visit.

We published *Love received and given*, a guide to the Papal encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, which aimed to help Catholics make a connection between their faith and the duty to tackle poverty and work for development.

And we continued to play an active role in the *livesimply* network – a UK Catholic coalition promoting social justice. On behalf of *livesimply*, we developed the UK's first website devoted to Catholic Social Teaching, aimed at Catholic audiences who wish to have a deeper understanding of poverty and development in the context of their faith.



Progressio's people

governing body

President

His Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor

Trustees

Ijeoma Ajibade (elected October 2010 for 3 years)

John Barker

Susana Edjang (elected October 2010 for 3 years)

Phil King (Treasurer)

Tim Livesey

Martin McEnery (Chair)

Cornelius Murombedzi (resigned March 2011)

Gillian Paterson (resigned June 2010)

Dennis Sewell (Vice Chair)

Chris Smith

Carolyn Williams

senior staff

Christine Allen (Executive Director)

 ${\tt James\ Collins\ (Director\ of\ Finance\ and\ Administration\ and\ company\ secretary)}$

James Whitehead (International Programmes Director until March 2011)

Osvaldo Vasquez (Head of Programmes from March 2011)

Keith Ewing (Director of Communications until March 2011)

Tim Aldred (Head of Policy and Communications from March 2011)

Sarah Sandon (Head of Fundraising from March 2011)



Progressio is a UK registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. We are governed by a Board of Trustees who are also directors of the company.

At 31 March 2011, we had 21 staff at our head office in London, and 56 country staff (this number includes security staff).

2010/11 saw the departure of a number of long-serving staff, including Adan Abokor, our Somaliland country representative, who retired after 13 years with Progressio; Luis Camacho, who was our Ecuador country representative for 18 years (until we phased out our work in Ecuador); Patricio Cranshaw, our Nicaragua country representative, who retired after 20 years; Cathy Scott, our regional manager for Africa, Middle East and Asia, who worked for Progressio for 22 years; and Sonia Vasquez, our Haiti/ Dominican Republic sub-regional manager, who worked with us for 16 years. Our thanks and best wishes go to Adan, Luis, Patricio, Cathy and Sonia, and all other staff who left during the year and whose contribution is greatly appreciated.

Over the course of 2010/11, we had a total of 129 development workers in the 11 countries where we work. On average, there were 94 development workers in place at any one time.

We would also like to thank the many volunteers who made a significant contribution to our work during the year.

Value for money



An independent evaluation of Progressio carried out from July-September 2010 for the Department for International Development (our main funder) said: "Progressio's way of working is human resource intensive, but what it offers is rare and effective."

It said Progressio has "a high impact on the lives of many of the most socially excluded sections of the societies in which it works" and "carries out its work in a manner that is economic, efficient and effective".

improving our effectiveness

In 2010/11 we undertook a restructuring in response to an anticipated reduction in turnover for 2011/12 (see next page for more on our finances). In 2011/12, in order to increase our sustainability, effectiveness and impact, we aim to:

- broaden our funding base
- embed the changes in structure to ensure continued effective programme delivery
- develop new partnerships and new programme work to enable greater sustainability for the organisation and deliver a greater impact on the lives of those who are poor and marginalised around the world
- continue to influence the policy agenda by increasing the visibility and effectiveness of the voices of poor people and communities in the policy debate
- see more supporters and campaigners taking action.

It concluded: "For relatively low costs, Progressio is having a great deal of impact. A large number of [partner] organisations have been enabled in a meaningful way; there is an increase in civil society engagement in countries reviewed; and more policies affecting the lives of the poor and marginalised are being influenced, changed and implemented."

Partner satisfaction

In August and September 2010, we were one of 25 international NGOs included in a major survey of how well international NGOs work with local partner organisations. 39 Progressio partner organisations responded and the survey rates Progressio as average or above average in relation to financial support, capacity building support, administration, relationships, and understanding and learning.

The Keystone survey report says: "Progressio UK's relationships with its respondents are rated particularly highly. Respondents understand Progressio UK's plans and are involved in shaping Progressio's strategy. They feel that Progressio listens and responds well to their concerns and that staff are respectful, helpful and capable."

Our finances

Our financial statements are audited by the independent auditors Appleby & Wood and are included in the 2010/11 Trustees Report and Financial Statements which is available to download from www. progressio.org. uk. A printed copy is available on request from

Progressio.

2010/11 was the final year of a three-year Programme Partnership Agreement with the Department for International Development (DFID). DFID was our largest funder in 2010/11, contributing more than half of our income

During the year we successfully bid – in a competitive process in which less than one in 10 applicants were successful – for DFID funding for the next three years. Securing this funding was a major achievement and endorsement of our work, and gives us a level of security and stability for the next three years.

Despite the uncertainty of the PPA bidding process – and the funding difficulties that we, and many other charities, have faced during a period of global financial crisis and recession – in 2010/11 both our income and expenditure were up by just over 4% on the previous year's levels.

However, during the year we had to plan for a reduced turnover in 2011/12, involving a reduction in staffing levels and changes in structure, and a strategy for diversifying and broadening our funding base. We believe that this gives us a sound platform for being both effective, and cost-effective, in the years ahead: delivering value for money while continuing to achieve significant impact for the poor and marginalised people and communities with whom we work.

Our expenditure

Our expenditure for 2010/11 was £5,907,173.

Expenditure by activity

81%
11%
5%
3%

rundraising and publicity	3%	
Expenditure on country programmes		
Africa	34%	
Malawi, Somaliland, Zimbabwe		
Middle East	7%	
Yemen		
Asia	4%	
Timor-Leste		
Central America	24%	
El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua		
Caribbean	21%	
Dominican Republic, Haiti		
South America	10%	
Peru, plus expenditure on our final development worker		

Peru, plus expenditure on our final development worker placements in Ecuador

Expenditure by theme

Participation and effective governance	37%
Sustainable environment	34%
HIV and AIDS	29%

How we are funded



Our total income for 2010/11 was £6,096,280. Most of our income comes from institutional donors and funders. Our largest funder is the UK Department for International Development with whom we have an important and valued strategic programme partnership.

Funding source	Percentage of total
Big Lottery Fund	1%
Caja de Mediterraneo	1%
Canadian International Development Ag	ency (CIDA) 1%
Caritas Australia	0.5%
Catholic Fund for Overseas Development	(CAFOD) 3%
Christian Aid	0.5%
Comic Relief	0.5%
Department for International Developme	ent (DFID) 58%
Development and Peace	1%
European Commission	7%
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malar	ia 6%
Irish Aid	1%
Muslim Aid	0.5%
Porticus UK	0.5%
Progressio Ireland*	11%
United Nations High Commission for Ref	ugees (UNHCR) 3%
United Nations Development Programme	e ART GOLD 0.5%
Membership, subscriptions, donations, sa	iles, legacies,
and sundry receipts	4%

^{*} Progressio Ireland is a charity registered in Ireland which raises funds for and supports our country programmes (see page 23). A large proportion of these funds come from Irish Aid and Progressio Ireland gratefully acknowledges this generous support.

Others who donated between £1,000 and £20,000 in the financial year 2010/11 include:

Canon Thomas Atthill Rev Roger Barralet

British Embassy Small Grants Scheme (BESGS)

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

Tim Chambers

Cooperative de Mista Unidas para Progresar, limitada

(COOMUPL)

Rt Rev John Crowley

Rev Thomas Cullinan

Digicel

Fondo Canadiense para Iniciativas Locales (FCIL)

French Embassy DR

Mary Grey

Haven

Clare Parsons

Sr Bernadette Porter

Trustees for Roman Catholic Purposes

John B Ruming

Trocaire

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Waterloo Foundation

Wild Rose Trust

Margaret M Williams

Hilary L Wilson

World Bank

We are extremely grateful to the many individuals, agencies, trusts and other organisations whose donations make our work possible.

Progressio Empower



Progressio Empower is a brand new way for young people in the UK to work alongside communities in developing countries, learn about the challenges that poor people and communities face, and find out more about how to tackle poverty and challenge injustice around the world.

Empower is part of the UK government's International Citizen Service initiative (funded by DFID). Progressio is one of six UK-based development agencies participating in the pilot scheme. The unique aspect of our scheme is its faith dimension, which draws on our experience of faith partnerships worldwide.



Empower volunteers during pre-departure training, with Progressio Executive Director Christine Allen (centre right, back row) Empower enables young adults interested in faith and international development, from all over the UK, to volunteer in a developing country for 10 weeks. They then share their experience with communities back home, encouraging others to get involved in, and take action on, global issues.

For Progressio, it's a great opportunity to develop a new area of work that is in line with our vision and values – and build a new community of support for people powered development.

For the young people involved, it's a chance to see the world as it really is, meet people they'd never get the chance to meet, and to change lives – including their own.

And for the communities in Malawi, El Salvador and Peru where Empower volunteers will work, it's an expression of Progressio's solidarity and partnership – and a chance for them to work alongside young people from the UK on educational, health or environmental projects that will bring improvements to the life of their community.

During 2010/11 we worked on setting up the scheme, which was formally launched in April 2011. A total of 120 Progressio Empower volunteers will go to Malawi, El Salvador and Peru in 2011/12.

Progressio Ireland



Progressio has close working relationships with Progressio Ireland, a 'sister' charity that raises funds for and supports our country programmes.

Progressio Ireland is an independent charity and company registered in Ireland with its own Board and management structure. There is a partnership agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) between the two organisations, supported by a contract for every country programme for which Progressio Ireland provides funding.



Development worker Maggie von Vogt with Felix, from El Tamarindo in El Salvador, making an environmental awareness video (see page 4). Maggie's work with the environmental organisation UNES (see page 8) is funded by Progressio Ireland. Progressio Ireland also undertakes advocacy and awarenessraising work in Ireland in close collaboration with Progressio in the UK, and there has been increased joint planning and strategy development between the two organisations in the last year.

Projects supported by Progressio Ireland in 2010/11 include the work with our partner organisation Environment Africa in Zimbabwe and Malawi (see page 10).

Progressio Ireland's advocacy work focuses on water, climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources. It supported the campaign to introduce a Europewide law prohibiting the importation of illegally logged timber, which was voted in by the European Parliament's Environment Committee in July 2010. And it has been campaigning for the water rights of poor and vulnerable communities through 'Go with the flow' – its campaign for equitable and sustainable management of global water resources

Progressio Ireland is registered in Ireland as a charity (number CHY 14451) and a company limited by guarantee (number 385465).

Help us challenge poverty with people power



- campaign with us
- sign up for our email newsletters
- like us on Facebook
- follow us @ProgressioNEWS
- join the Progresssio community at www.progressio.org.uk
- become a Progressio member
- be our contact in your church or workplace and help spread the message about Progressio
- host us at an event near you
- become a development worker! see the latest vacancies at www.progressio.org.uk
- volunteer overseas with Progressio Empower (for young adults)



- donate online at www.progressio.org.uk
- set up a monthly direct debit at www.progressio.org.uk
- give by text text PROG40 £10 to 70070
- give while shopping on easyfundraising.org.uk
- leave a gift in your Will find out more at www.progressio.org.uk

Find out more! www.progressio.org.uk

PROGRESSIO

Progressio is an international charity with Catholic roots that works in 11 developing countries

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Progressio is the working name of the Catholic Institute for International Relations which is registered in the UK as a charity (number 294329) and a company limited by quarantee (number 2002500)