

PROGRESSIO



People powered development

Progressio annual review 2010

PROGRESSIO



We are a progressive international charity with Catholic roots that enables poor communities to solve their own problems through support from skilled workers. And we lobby decision-makers to change policies that keep people poor. Progressio is the working name of the Catholic Institute for International Relations.

Contents

What is people powered development?	3
Catalysts for change	7
Transforming lives	8
Participation and effective governance	9
HIV	13
Sustainable environment	15
Our people: Progressio development workers in 2009/10	18
Policy and campaigns.....	23
Finances.....	28
Trustees	31

Front cover: "We are now in control of our farming. We have more food to eat, more food to sell." So says Grace Kariyati (on left of picture), a farmer in Malawi who has adopted organic production methods with support and advice from Progressio development worker Innocent Ogaba.

Progressio

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What is people powered development?

Progressio's people on the front line – our development workers – have got the answer

➤ **Innocent Ogaba** is a Progressio development worker in Malawi. Malawi faces huge environmental challenges. Innocent's job is to help Malawi's people earn a better living while protecting and sustaining the environment. One of his initiatives is to advise our partner organisation Environment Africa, and the small-scale farmers they work with, on how to increase their income from their agricultural produce.

Q. What do you like about the way Progressio does development?

A. The focus on building capacity so that poor communities can gain control over their own lives. This is what makes Progressio so different – the sharing of know-how and skills. We do not impose ourselves and we do not dictate to people the solutions to their problems.

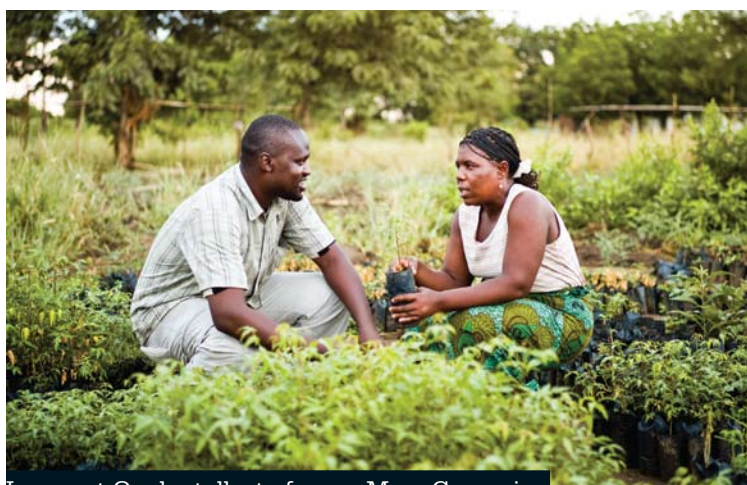
And as much as we have a responsibility to pass on skills, it is a fact that we also always learn from poor communities. I am not the same person I was when I started two-and-a-half years ago. I have learned so much. I have learned how to work with very poor communities, what makes them tick, what motivates them to overcome the barriers that keep them poor.

Q. Can you give an example from the project you are working on?

A. I am working on a project in Salima where climate change is causing farming families' harvests to drop by up to 50%. They do not have enough food. They tell me that sometimes the rains are late and sometimes they don't come at all. And this is in a region where 80% of the people rely on agriculture for food. So I am encouraging the communities to grow crops that are more drought resistant than the traditional maize, such as sorghum, cassava and sweet potatoes.

Q. Have you had much success?

A. It is a slow process. But let me tell you about one farmer, Mary. She was very sceptical about the idea of switching from



Innocent Ogaba talks to farmer Mary Gomani

maize to sorghum. But after much discussion within the community, she is now a team leader of a bakery group who use sorghum to make biscuits and cakes to sell. When I last visited her she had harvested 14 bags of sorghum from half an acre, which is more than her family needs to survive, so she can sell the rest and have money for school fees. She was so excited, she announced to everyone that "Sorghum is my cash crop now!"

Q. What do you enjoy most about being a development worker?

A. Seeing the change in the lives of people like Mary. I have been with the Salima project for one year and it really excites me. The community are so thrilled to be improving their crop yields that they sing and dance when I visit them. They are happy to have an income they did not think possible. That gives me a lot of joy.

➤ **Andrea Luque** is a Progressio development worker in Nicaragua. Andrea is a communications specialist and her job is to empower people to find ways of learning about, talking about, and responding to HIV that work for them in their lives in Nicaragua. She works with our partner organisation Centro de Información y Servicios de Asesoría en Salud (Centre for Information and Advisory Services on Health) in Managua.

Q. What inspired you to become a development worker with Progressio?

A. I like to learn and get to know about different realities. I believe in the possibility of improving the life that we live, both in Europe as well as in other continents, using communication, education and the real participation of people.

For me, the fact that Progressio always works with the participation of people is crucial. Progressio prioritises gender equality and seeks to empower social groups with a weaker voice so they can influence social transformation.

Q. What do you enjoy most about your role?

A. Working directly with beneficiaries [the people and communities who we hope will benefit from our work]. Listening to people expressing their needs first hand and building messages, actions, communication campaigns and advocacy materials together to respond effectively to HIV.



Andrea Luque (second from right) with young people on a communications workshop

Q. What has been the most exciting moment so far?

A. Designing communication materials together with a network of young people – using their artistic interests (music, graffiti, poetry and theatre) to build actions for HIV prevention and to fight stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV.

Q. And the biggest lesson?

A. That team work is the main engine to achieve our goals.

Q. What strikes you most about the way Progressio works through 'development workers'?

A. The possibility of accompanying the partner organisation, and the people it represents and works with, throughout the whole project – and in so doing to understand better their reality.

Q. What advice would you give to someone who is thinking of becoming a development worker?

A. That you need a lot of commitment, because you need to believe in what you are doing if you really want to achieve something positive for yourself and others.

✎ **Alice Auradou** has been a Progressio development worker in Haiti and the Dominican Republic (which share the island of Hispaniola) for many years. When a devastating earthquake hit Haiti in January 2010, Progressio played a key role in supporting local organisations to respond to the crisis, helping to coordinate emergency fundraising and distribution of supplies. We are now working with partner organisations to ensure that longer term projects for rebuilding Haitian people's lives are run by the people, for the people.

Q. Why did you get involved?

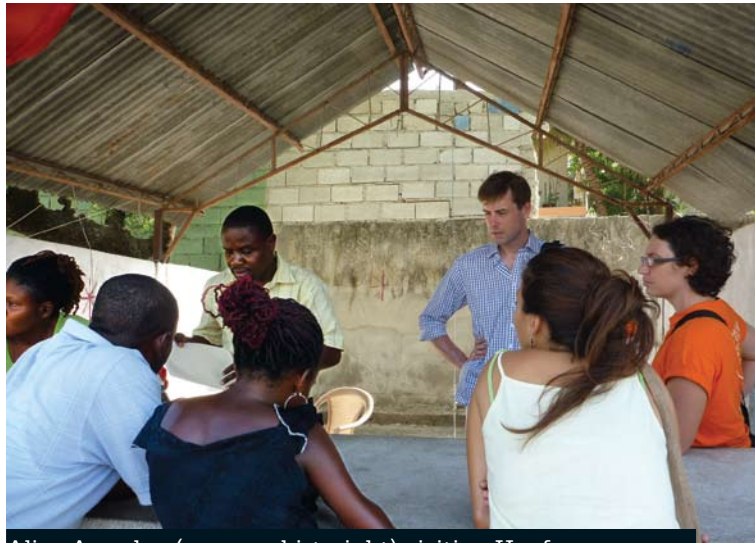
A. I feel passionately connected to Hispaniola. I lived and worked alongside people from both sides of the island and witnessed their struggles and successes first hand.

Progressio asked me to return to Haiti just a day or two after the earthquake hit in January 2010. I was devastated by what happened – I have many Haitian friends and so I was determined to use my knowledge about the challenges facing the country and its people to help achieve some good in the aftermath of the disaster.

Q. What is your role?

A. I am a development specialist. In my experience, development can involve very many things depending on the context of the country in question. Haiti has its own complex reality. The earthquake was a disaster of unprecedented proportions. People couldn't have imagined the force of it, the scale of it. Everyone was touched, friends, colleagues, rich, poor, old, young.

There are so many things to do now. But for me, the key to Haiti's future has to be 'decentralisation'. At the moment, everything in this country happens through, in, or via Port-au-Prince – everything is centred around the capital. How can a country prosper if everyone has to go to the capital every time they need a document, or a passport, or an ID card, or car insurance?



Alice Auradou (orange shirt, right) visiting Henfrasa camp for earthquake survivors in Port-au-Prince

Q. How is Progressio helping?

A. I believe Progressio is helping to show why tackling this issue is so vital. We are already working to support communities in the vulnerable border areas with the Dominican Republic, a long way from Port-au-Prince, and an area that has long been overlooked. Over time, decentralisation will help build services and infrastructure across the nation, so that all Haitians, wherever they live, can build a better life.

➤ **Musa Chibwana** is a Progressio development worker with the Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children. The Council has 120 member organisations, ranging from international agencies to local community-based organisations, and plays a key role in coordinating the child rights sector in Zimbabwe.

Q. What is life like for orphans and vulnerable children in Zimbabwe?

A. They have little expectation for their own lives, which is a dreadful situation. They are used to deprivation. With the children I see regularly, I am always having to instil hope – to invoke determination and focus, instead of an attitude of mere survival.

Q. What is your role with the National Council for the Welfare of Children?

A. To help it improve the lives of the country's 1.6 million orphans and vulnerable children. Sometimes I can help in specific ways, such as helping children's homes find funding for food, staff and other costs. I also provide training for child rights workers. I've trained over 200 workers in areas like child participation. The impact for the children may not come directly from myself, but I can safely say I equipped these child rights workers with the skills that enable them to help many, many children.

And I'm also trying to help bring about structural change. For example, I helped the Council to prepare, for the first time ever, an alternative report from Zimbabwe to the United Nations Convention on the Rights

of the Child. This has brought the sector together and empowered it to argue for the changes that are needed.

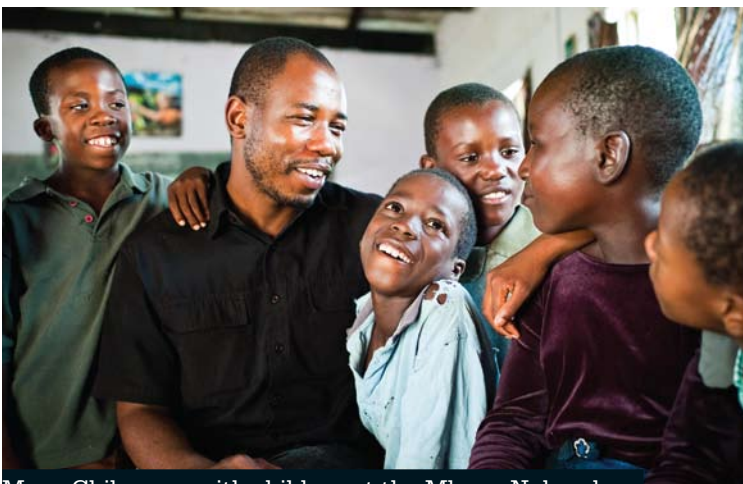
Q. You were sponsored for the past year by the Jesuits in the UK. How important is it that people like you are 'sponsored'?

A. Sponsoring a development worker is an opportunity to be a catalyst for the change we want to see. Someone like me often works as an impetus for development: we make the people we work with believe in themselves. We have the ability to invoke the conviction that as individuals we can all make a difference if we play our seemingly small parts.

We cannot all be development workers, but I believe we can all make a difference. People who fund me can claim ownership of the results and the impact that I have on the ground. There are a lot of poor children who have hope that the future will be better thanks to this generous support.

Q. What motivates you personally to do the work you do?

A. As a person driven by purpose, the opportunity to positively change people's lives always fuels my engine. The feeling that you get when you provide solutions that work is great. My satisfaction is derived from the change that a small effort makes. I love results! Results give me the enthusiasm to do more!



Musa Chibwana with children at the Mbuya Nehanda children's home outside Harare

Catalysts for change

Progressio helps empower people to solve the problems they face

▶ **Christine Allen** is Progressio's Executive Director. She tells us why 2009/10 was a challenging year – and why the response of Progressio's people makes her so proud.

Q. What were the challenges of the past year?

A. There were many! Economic factors such as the global financial crisis, political factors such as shifts in the focus of international development... These meant we had to make significant changes in our structure to ensure that we are in good shape for the future. And we had to build a new strategy for the next five years.

The way we did this was consultative and hands-on, and I found the process truly energising. We have rearticulated our vision, of poor people empowered to transform their lives, to show that yes, our focus is poverty, but our purpose is transformation. We don't just want to see a bit of an improvement, we want to see a real change. As an organisation that comes from the Christian tradition, we believe in transformation. Our outrage at poverty, exclusion, and the abuse of human dignity that it brings, fires us up to want to bring justice to the world.

Q. So how does Progressio help?

A. The world's people face massive challenges. But we know we deliver – we are catalysts for change. We show that a small number of people and a relatively modest investment can make a difference to significant numbers of people.

We also know that our work has a long term impact. It's not just because we help people and communities to empower themselves, now and in the future. We also make a long term difference through our advocacy work, which informs policy change and so benefits many more people than just those we work directly with.

And I like to think we make a difference in the lives of people here in the UK – our supporters who, through reflection, participation and action, play a crucial role in making our vision, of people powered development, a reality.



Christine Allen with (left to right) Adan Abokor, Progressio country representative for Somaliland, and development workers Innocent Ogaba and Renias Mundingi

Q. What were your personal highlights of the year?

A. One was standing in a field with Eliza, a farmer in Malawi, hearing how, with support from our partner organisation, she was growing drought resistant crops and looking forward to a better harvest and some security for her family. Words cannot express the smile she had on her face and all we could do was hug one another.

Another was the excitement of the climate negotiations in Copenhagen. Whilst the outcome itself was disappointing, for us it was a real opportunity to take the voices of people who are poor and marginalised to the corridors of power.

It's those voices which make me so proud yet humbled to be part of this organisation. Proud because of the amazing work we do, and humbled, because we do all this work in partnership – with local organisations who day in, day out, face the challenges of responding to the needs of their communities, often with few resources and in difficult political environments. It's a great privilege to work alongside them in fulfilling our mission to see poor people transform their lives.

Transforming lives

Poor people empowered to transform their lives: that's people powered development

Wherever we work, we are there supporting people who make a real difference. Our approach, through development workers, offers a flexible, responsive way to help people gain power over their lives and overcome barriers that keep them poor.



Members of the Caspigasí community in Ecuador

We believe we have a great story to tell – just like the people of Caspigasí in Ecuador, who with Progressio's support have built a water tank to ensure their village has better and more reliable access to water. "We did all of this together, as a community," says Fabiola Castro (pictured second from right, in striped jumper), one of the women who organised the project, supported by Progressio development worker German Gálvez. "Water was only the beginning," says German. "They have developed a vision for their future. They are building a community centre with a library and radio station. They have led the whole process."

On the next few pages, you can read some more stories from the people we work with, and the people who work for us. Together, we help to transform lives in three critical areas: participation and effective governance; HIV; and sustainable environment.

Participation and effective governance

Our goal: Poor and marginalised people we support, especially women, will have greater influence on decisions and policies which affect their lives

▶ **Devi Juarez Moretto** lives in San Juan de Lurigancho, one of the poorest suburbs of Lima, the capital of Peru. As an indigenous woman with no formal education, she often felt almost like a non-person. Then she started attending workshops run by Progressio's partner organisation EDUCA, with support from Progressio development worker Diana Torres. EDUCA aims to empower women to become community leaders and participate in local development projects.

Q. What was life like, before you came to the EDUCA project?

A. When I arrived from the village I was very quiet. I didn't know anything about living in a city. I found work in a house, but I didn't know how to sweep floors, how to cook, anything. But I learnt.

Q. How has the project helped you?

A. Now I have changed. I'm not so quiet. EDUCA has trained me to be a facilitator, to express myself better, to be more at ease talking to other people. It has really helped me – in fact, I'd say I have changed completely. As a citizen, I have also changed. Before, I didn't even know the name of my neighbour. Now I am a coordinator of the Glass of Milk scheme [a significant role in grassroots organising], and I get involved in everything.

Q. What does 'getting involved' mean for you?

A. I think it's much better for organisations if people will say when they don't agree with something. Before, I would have just kept quiet, but now I will stand up for myself and say if I don't like something. I think that way, the organisation makes better plans.

Now I'm on the management committee for the project, and I am training other women. So far, I've run training on self-esteem and gender. It's important for us to realise that women are also important, not just men. I think what I can bring is my



Devi Juarez Moretto (third from right) at a women's group meeting

experience – how submissive I was when I arrived, and how much I have gained from the project. I'd like to transmit that energy to other women.

HIGHLIGHT: Peru

In northern Peru, we worked to improve civil society participation in Regional Ecological and Economic Zoning in Cajamarca, an area covering 1.4 million people that is vulnerable to climate change. We supported training of civil society groups to engage with the process, which aims to develop sustainable use of the area's fragile natural resources for the benefit of the population. And we supported technical teams on natural resource management, which has led to better access to water and preservation of forest resources.

➤ **Amina Warsame** is Executive Director of the women's network NAGAAD in Somaliland. Progressio development worker Edna Onyango works with NAGAAD to help its member organisations promote women's rights in general, and in particular their participation in decision-making at all levels, from local to national.

Q. What's the situation like for women in Somaliland?

A. It's an ongoing struggle but things are changing. For example, there are now two women out of a total of 82 MPs in Parliament – it's not much, but for us it's like we have broken through a wall.

Many Somaliland families are supported by women – and in many cases, they are the sole breadwinner. Yet 90% of women are unemployed. Most Somalilanders are pastoralists, and in rural areas it is women and children who keep things going.

So it's in everyone's interests to promote women's rights!

Q. What's the role of NAGAAD?

A. NAGAAD was formed to bring women together and build their capacity. The areas we focus on now are education for women; economic power; women's rights; women's role in peacebuilding; and the environment. If women are conscious and willing to make a change, then women's organisations can help to achieve that.

Q. How has Progressio helped you?

A. Personally I always feel that if one is to make a difference in an organisation, instead of short training sessions or workshops, it is always better to have someone there to work side-by-side with us, to be part and parcel of the organisation, see how the organisation works and be part of an exchange of skills.

That's why Progressio's approach is so good for us. The Progressio development workers have really helped us build our skills and get more confidence – we really think now we can help make things better in our country.



Women campaigning on the streets of Hargeisa during the 2010 elections

HIGHLIGHT: Somaliland, Yemen and Timor-Leste

It's not enough to be innovative and develop expertise in one place – we are committed to making sure the know-how is available in other places, too. One way is through exchange visits. In 2009, partners from Yemen visited Somaliland to learn from our work with civil society organisations. Saeed Muhammad Saif from the organisation Abu Musa in Yemen said: "I was taken by surprise to see what networks could achieve with limited resources. Now I believe that scarcity of resources, and traditions and customs, are not an obstacle to building successful networks." During the year we also organised an exchange between the main women's networks in Somaliland and Timor-Leste, with a focus on how to advocate for change and influence policy in favour of more equal rights for women.

➤ **Peter Chinoko** is Director of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace of Lilongwe Diocese in Malawi. With help from Progressio development worker Mandlenkosi Mpofu, CCJP raised awareness ahead of the 2009 elections, and organised a team of monitors who helped to verify free and fair voting in 22 constituencies in Lilongwe.

Q. Why are free and fair elections important?

A. Malawi, like a lot of countries in Africa, has come out of many years of dictatorship and our people know that elections can contribute to achieving peace – and therefore the development which we all need to improve our lives. To have a free – and violence free – election is to build peace and development.

Q. How did people respond to the project?

A. Our project worked with grass roots communities through an ecumenical alliance involving the Protestant Churches, the Anglicans, the Evangelicals and the Muslims. They selected men and women to drive the process who themselves come from the districts and villages.

The people are excited about the project because they can smell the benefits already. The people realise very clearly that if they elect good leaders, they will prioritise the people's concerns and they will work for the greater good of the ordinary people of Malawi.

Q. What needs to change?

A. Often the people feel that the government of the day is not listening to them and are merely using their position to further their own interests. So people look at this civic education project as a chance to work for real change – change that will facilitate the election of representatives who will genuinely pioneer the aspirations of the poor. This is a real inspiration for these grassroots communities. They have to take the lead – they are ready and willing to drive the process. This gives all of us at CCJP enormous hope – it's a great recipe for change in our country.



Peter Chinoko

Q. What else gives you hope?

A. The ecumenical and interfaith aspects of this project have also been impressive. We have consolidated a belief in this mass-based faith community in certain fundamental values relating to economic issues. We have learned that you have to join hands to achieve something tangible in the end. If all the major faith groups are committed to this we will really make progress. Together we have major potential to succeed.

HIGHLIGHT: Yemen

We worked with local communities in Aden to build skills in participatory planning and budgeting – a new concept for Yemen. Our project in Al Khaisa village (population 16,000) made some real gains for local fishing communities, by providing training and support to enable local organisations and communities to engage effectively with local government officials. We succeeded in supporting the community to submit annual development plans to the local government – ensuring that people and local government were agreed on priorities for meeting the needs of the community. The former director of the local council in Al Buraika district wrote to Progressio, praising our initiative and achievements to date.

➤ **Xiomara Ventura** is Progressio's regional manager for Central America. She is based in Honduras, where 2009/10 was an eventful year, following the military coup in June 2009. Much of Progressio's work in Honduras aims to build people's ability to have a say in the policies and decisions that affect their lives.

Q. What impact did the June 2009 coup have on Progressio's work?

A. The coup had the greatest impact on our partners' work. The state of siege and the almost permanent curfew affected their freedom of movement which prevented them from carrying out their work.

For those partner organisations working on governance and participation (with the police, the judiciary, etc) the coup was a slap in the face. It closed the doors to the possibility of working with those state institutions and forced our partners to set new priorities. It also meant a setback in the strides made throughout the past decade in the area of governance. The coup left us far behind other countries in the region.



A demonstration in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in January 2010, calling for people's representation in a new Constituent Assembly

Q. A year on, how has the coup affected the development challenges facing Honduras?

A. The coup came at a time when the country was already suffering the effects of the global financial crisis and increased droughts brought about by the El Niño phenomenon. These three events made the country more vulnerable. Unemployment, underemployment and informal work have grown; markets have contracted, and people lack opportunities to generate income.

Also, most multilateral cooperation agencies froze their projects and disbursements to the country, especially those that were managed by the de-facto government. Of course, the ones most affected by this were the poorest Hondurans.

Q. Despite all this, are there signs of hope for Hondurans?

A. I do think there is reason for optimism. A new, fresh and diverse coalition of people's organisations emerged in the wake of the coup. This happened unexpectedly with great participation of women and other marginalised groups such as indigenous people.

The good news is this movement is alive and strong, and is calling for structural reforms to be put high on the national political agenda. It has raised awareness of the need to replace our current political processes with a model that raises people's effective participation in the democratic system. And for those of us who work in development, the emergence of this movement has also created new opportunities for us to work with and support the Honduran people.

Our goal: People who are affected by or vulnerable to HIV and AIDS will have greater access to care, support and prevention and there will be a reduction in the stigmatisation and discrimination they experience

↳ **Edson Chiota** is National Co-ordinator of the Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO). Progressio development worker Teclah Ponde works with ZACRO on HIV prevention and care initiatives.

Q. What is Teclah's role with ZACRO?

A. She is helping us develop as an organisation, so we can improve our work in Zimbabwe's 55 prisons. She has helped us to see many gaps in our work. From nothing, Teclah has produced resources to help us. For example, she produced a teaching manual on HIV which we can use throughout the country. She has never lost heart at the lack of resources and has soldiered on. I respect her for that. Teclah is one of the best things to happen to ZACRO.

Q. What is the situation with prisons in Zimbabwe?

A. Prisons have deteriorated to the point where it is hard to describe them. They are harmful to people, because of the conditions, especially the lack of food and water. They no longer serve their purpose. People can go days without eating.

Q. How can you carry out HIV work in such conditions?

A. It is difficult. If you are HIV positive and do not eat, you are vulnerable to opportunistic infections. If you cannot wash with soap for a month you will be similarly at risk of illness. HIV programmes in prison must be complemented by the provision of nutritious meals. How can we talk to someone about HIV and AIDS if they have not eaten for two days? Teclah has managed to source food, clothing and other necessities for some prisoners in need, but conditions are hard.



Edson Chiota

Q. What is your relationship like with the Prison Service?

A. The Prison Service respect us because we help them to do rehabilitation, welfare, the sourcing of food, clothing, and we provide materials for study such as chalk and pencils for prison classes.

Q. And what of the future?

A. Prisons in Zimbabwe have been forgotten. No resources can be expected from a government that cannot even afford to buy a pen or pencil for a government worker. There is not going to be money for prisons in the near future. Prisoners are at the back of the queue. But I still have hope that by working and lobbying there is potential for change. By the grace of God I hope something will improve in our prisons.

➤ **Sheikh Abdulla Mohammed El Qadesi** is an imam in Sana'a, Yemen, where Progressio development worker Wondimu Guyassa works with religious leaders to encourage them to help raise awareness about HIV and reduce stigma and discrimination.

Q. What did you think of the workshops organised by Progressio and our partner organisation, Interaction in Development?

A. I honestly had doubts at first. But as I listened my views started to change. And once I got to know people actually affected by HIV, I totally changed my mind. I am no longer afraid of them. I now know we can co-exist, share with and live alongside them.



Sheikh Abdulla Mohammed El Qadesi

HIGHLIGHT: Malawi

Religious leaders can play a key role in changing attitudes and supporting community responses to HIV. In Malawi, Progressio has been building the capacity of MANERELA+ (the network of religious leaders infected or affected by HIV and AIDS) and the Malawi Interfaith AIDS Association. As a result of the coordinating role of the Progressio development worker, Renias Mundingi, a high level religious leaders' communiqué – representing all the major faith groups in Malawi – was created, agreeing to strengthen collaboration and coordination among faith communities in responding to HIV.

Q. How has it changed you as an imam?

A. I started doing the exact opposite of what I had been doing before. In my sermons, I now encourage the Muslim community to make a place for people with HIV. And outside the mosque, I've been on TV and radio programmes, written articles, lectured students. Even when I go to the barbershop, I talk to the barbers about how they can help to prevent the spread of HIV!

Q. What do other imams think?

A. I am still debating with them. Some have changed, but many have not yet made the journey. They still stick with the old ideas. But if you reach an imam, he can go on to reach another 2,000 people. Progressio needs to multiply the workshops and scale up the work. It's much more effective than using just the media. People really listen to imams in a way that they don't with the media.

Q. What is your hope for the future for Yemenis living with HIV?

A. It's more than a hope – it's already becoming a reality! I am really seeing a change in society and in attitudes. More and more people with HIV are declaring their status, and they are being challenged and denounced less and less. Gradually disclosure is becoming normal.

Q. What do you say to those who would still stigmatise people with HIV?

A. I would say adhere to the teachings of Islam. Avoid judging people and thinking wrongly about people.

To those who are living with HIV and too afraid to say so, I would say 'Do not be afraid – the Koran supports your cause and so do the imams and preachers. And so does the state – there is now a law forbidding discrimination against people with HIV.'

Sustainable environment

Our goal: Poor and marginalised people in our projects will have improved quality of life through more equitable and sustainable management of natural resources

➤ **Betty Mkusa** is a small-scale farmer in Malawi. Progressio's development worker, Innocent Ogaba, has been working with local organisation Environment Africa to find new ways for people like Betty to market and sell their produce.

Q. Why are you growing these three plants – Jatropha, Neem and Moringa?

A. There are always droughts here in southern Malawi and it is hard for people to make a living. I am caring for two orphans. I have to pay their school fees. And I am putting myself through night school. I can only do these things because of what I have been earning from growing and selling the plants and their produce.

Q. What is so special about them?

A. From these plants, which are easy to grow in our difficult climate, you can make oil for lamps, soap for the home, fertiliser for crops, and moisturiser for the body. Moringa plants make a good food supplement... it even tastes nice in tea – I take half a teaspoon with water every day!

Q. Are other people hearing about the many uses of these drought-resistant plants?

A. Yes, I have become a trainer. I help other people in the community learn how to plant the trees, use the seeds, make the powders from the plants. Many people are now growing the plants, using the powders, and even growing seedlings and selling them on. They call me 'Mamma Jatropha' now!

Q. What has income from the plants helped you to do?

A. I am very pleased at 55-years-old to be finishing my education. Going to school is very important. If you have a good education you can do whatever you like. So I am studying for the Malawi Certificate of



Betty Mkusa

Education. After I have this qualification I would like to do a rural development course. It is only because of what I am earning from the plants that I can do these things.

Q. How do you feel about the future?

A. Day-to-day living is going to improve around here. Most years we face drought. The Jatropha, Neem and Moringa are 'miracle trees' that will change many lives.

HIGHLIGHT: Malawi

The absence of organic production standards has been one of the key stumbling blocks to developing a thriving market for organic produce in Malawi. That's why we've been supporting the work of the Malawi Organic Growers Association, which has been collaborating with the Malawi Bureau of Standards to establish organic production standards. We worked with a technical committee and assisted in reviewing the draft standards. The standards are due to become law in 2010.

➤ **Gloria Esperanza** is a mother of seven from Ococona in the district of Macquelizo, Nicaragua. Progressio development worker Alex Zapata has been working with the Macquelizo local government to provide fuel-efficient stoves, among other initiatives to tackle deforestation and falling water tables. 130 stoves have so far been fitted across the area.



Gloria Esperanza and Alex Zapata

HIGHLIGHT: Honduras

With our partner organisation LIDERS, we enabled local farmers to increase their income by setting up rigorous systems for organic fair trade coffee. The price obtained by the 13 farmers' cooperatives, representing 3,220 people, is the most quantifiable benefit: a premium of \$30 (\$20 organic premium and \$10 fair trade premium). They increased the amount they are able to export by 36% – leading to improvements in food security, health and living standards, and access to education, due to the extra income that can be invested in their communities, farms and families. "This project has benefited my family and community," said farmer Cristóbal Manueles. "I receive more money for my coffee, we no longer have to sell to a middleman, and as a result we've been able to improve our farm and our corn field."

Q. What encouraged you to switch to a new stove?

A. The old stove used too much wood. My sons would go to the woods regularly and cut down many trees. I was worried because I could see that cutting down trees for so many years was harming the soil and hurting the environment. I was using 15 logs every day for my cooking, now I use only four.

Q. Were there other problems?

A. It was a disaster before. With my old oven there was thick smoke in my home all day. My eyes would always be red and sometimes I would have difficulty breathing. Now we use much less wood and we do not have health problems.

Q. Are there other benefits to the environment?

A. We have water problems in this area which can mean a lack of water and food for families. Protecting the forests on which we rely is a vitally important thing to do.

Q. Presumably cooking is a more pleasant experience, too?

A. Yes, the stove has made a very big difference in my life. I used to have soot in my eyes and ears all the time. Now we are healthier and cleaner and we have more money. Cooking is much better now, I can cook more and I can cook it more quickly – bread, tortilla, beans and rice. My life is much better.

➤ **Miguel Rivera** lives in the small town of San Isidro in Cabañas, El Salvador. He and his older brother Marcelo, and their local community association ASIC, have taken a leading role in opposing mining projects in the area, which they fear will damage the environment, particularly the water supplies. Progressio partner organisation ADES, helped by development worker Nicoletta Marinelli, has provided advocacy and communications support to help people campaign against the mining projects.

Q. How did the project help you?

A. At first it was hard work. We had the right information, but in ASIC we had no idea about communications. We started taking part in training and, with a bit of patience, learned how to create materials on the damage caused by mining.

The videos we made managed to grab the attention of journalists at a national level. We learned to talk to the media, and produce graphic flyers and bulletins for people in the community, which have been very effective. Bit by bit we have built up communication tools which have helped us consolidate ourselves as an organisation and support the social movement for justice.

Q. Does speaking out against the powerful make you vulnerable?

A. I have been intimidated and attacked. And on 21 June 2009, my brother disappeared. Ten days later we found Marcelo in a well, dead, his body showing signs of torture.

As victims we have a right to justice. This year is the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Monseñor Romero [a Salvadoran archbishop] who sought social justice. He too is a victim of impunity in this country.

Q. Does the intimidation stop you speaking out?

A. When the National Board Against Metal Mining [a group of organisations of which ADES is a member] was given the international Letelier-Moffitt human rights award I went to Washington to receive it. We dedicated the award to my brother, but all the people who have been part of this



Miguel Rivera

fight deserve it too, and I think Progressio is included in that recognition.

Today I am even more determined to keep working to build a more just and democratic society, and to end impunity. We have learned a lot from this experience and I think we will now be able to support the social movements in this country.

HIGHLIGHT: El Salvador

We helped 24 community organisations come together into two environmental and advocacy networks to protect and manage the Olomega lagoon eco-system. Our role was to help strengthen risk management for the communities, develop advocacy and support their efforts to tackle pollution of the lake. A major achievement was the declaration of the lake as a Wetland of International Importance in February 2010. This status will help the communities obtain resources from international organisations, the government of El Salvador and local municipalities for the recovery, protection, preservation and management of the lake – so benefiting the 25 communities, and the population of 18,000 people, that live around the lake.

Our people

Progressio development workers in 2009/10

Dominican Republic & Haiti

Apocalipsis Aguilera worked with the Centre for Social Studies Fr Juan Montalvo, helping them devise and lobby for fiscal policies that effectively contribute to poverty reduction.

Jean Ariscat, a Haitian specialist in local development, supported the work of Haitian communities in the Plateau Central region, in collaboration with the municipality of Elias Piñas on the DR side of the border.

Alice Auradou worked with the Jesuit Refugee Service and other civil society organisations working in Haiti.

Paola Bacalini worked with Solidaridad Fronteriza on a forestry development plan that meets the needs of rural people in the impoverished DR/Haiti border area.

Raquel Casares worked on HIV advocacy projects with three NGOs to promote access to medical services and counselling for people living with HIV, and to reduce stigma and discrimination.

José Emperador worked with the Jesuit Refugee Service in the border town of Dajabón to promote human rights – such as access to documentation and government services – for people of Haitian origin living in the DR.

Cecilia Félix worked with COMUS to strengthen the ability of women's organisations to advocate for women's rights and participate in local development initiatives.

Ana Gómez, a medical doctor, worked to support the Help Haiti platform during the emergency period immediately after the earthquake in Haiti.

Virginia Gravalos worked with local municipal authorities to promote pro-poor development policies in the border region of Dajabón.

José Koechlin worked with Centro Puente to lobby for and support the implementation of pro-poor policies and services in DR/Haiti border areas.

Bernardo López worked with Solidarite Fwontalye in Wanament, Haiti, and Solidaridad Fronteriza in Dajabón, DR, on natural resource management projects in the border area.

José Manuel Moreno worked with Centro Pedro Francisco Bono, a Jesuit think tank, to increase its ability to influence the government over pro-poor policies.

Edgar Noguera worked with the municipalities of Elias Piña and Plateau Central on local development and to strengthen the participation of local people in development planning. Edgar has been very involved in supporting the emergency work in Haiti in the Plateau Central region.

Manuel Pereira, a marketing specialist, supported the work of the farmers' cooperative JUNACAS, which represents small-scale farmers producing all their crops in an environmentally sustainable way and marketing all their produce

through fair-trade networks. Manuel also supports the work of COOPASOL and CAFESA which are cooperatives of organic coffee producers.

María Jesús Pola worked with two women's organisations to promote the participation of women in local development and ensure that local government services respond to the needs of women.

Emilia Rossi worked with two women's organisations in the border towns Dajabón (on the DR side) and Wanament (in Haiti) to encourage the two municipalities to cooperate on local development and poverty alleviation initiatives.

Bolivar Sanchez worked with the municipality of Jimani in the DR to strengthen the participation of local people in development planning through the participatory budgeting process. Bolivar has also supported the emergency work in Haiti in the southern border region between Jimani in the DR and Fond Parisien in Haiti.

Gisela Sejenovich worked with COMUS to promote public policies in the Monte Plata municipality that will benefit women, particularly on HIV.

Fernando Umaña worked with Fundación Solidaridad on participatory budgeting in Altamira.

Sergio Vergne worked with Fundación Solidarid in Villa Gonzalez and nine other municipalities to help design a strategic plan for local development, including a policy on gender equality and women's rights.

Where are we coming from?

Progressio is committed to recruiting skilled workers from the global South as well as the global North. In 2009/10, our development workers represented 39 nationalities:

Argentinian	Ethiopian	Mexican
Australian	Filipino	Nepali
Bangladeshi	French	Nicaraguan
Belgian	German	Pakistani
Bolivian	Guatemalan	Peruvian
British	Haitian	Salvadorian
Canadian	Honduran	Spanish
Chilean	Hungarian	Sri Lankan
Colombian	Indian	Swedish
Costa Rican	Irish	Thai
Dominican	Italian	Ugandan
Dutch	Kenyan	USA
Ecuadorian	Malawian	Zimbabwean

Ecuador

Michela Accerenzi, a local development and risk management specialist, worked with Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes (the Young People's Christian Association) in the coastal city of Portoviejo.

Paulina Aguilera worked with Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes in the capital Quito to help lobby for public policies that meet the needs of children and young people.

Leticia Carrillo and **Lara McLachlan** worked with the Centre for Advice and Support in Vinces, Los Rios province, on HIV prevention with young people.

German Gálvez worked with the water resources forum Camaren to help its member organisations develop proposals for access to water, including lobbying for the right to water to be included in the country's new constitution.

Mercedes Jatuff worked as an advisor on local development, public policies and women's rights with Mujeres por la Vida (Women for Life) which is a national association with branches in the main cities of Ecuador advocating for equity, social justice, democracy and respect for gender differences, age and ethnic origin.

Guillaume Juan worked with the water resources networks Camaren and Foro del Agua to promote the social management of natural resources.

German Luebert worked with Acción Ecológica and Fundación Chankuap to help strengthen their understanding of illegal logging in the Amazon region, including mapping areas where illegal logging was taking place.

Luisa Recchia worked with Fundación Mujer y Familia Andina (the Andean Women and Families Foundation) to provide people with arguments to help secure legal rights to their land.

Ana Teresa Rodríguez worked with Corporación Kimirina to promote rights to access to HIV treatment and to tackle stigma and discrimination.

Fernando Ruiz worked with 21 communities in the Chimborazo area to promote better access to and use of water; he also worked on local and national strategies to ensure that poor farmers, especially women, have access to natural resources.

Myriam Salazar worked with the environmental network Coordinadora Ecuatoriana de Ecología to train small-scale farmers on agro-ecological approaches to farming, and to secure access to natural resources for *campesinos* in the Cotopaxi region.

Pablo Soto worked with Corporación Kimirina to promote the sexual and reproductive rights of young people and raise awareness of HIV prevention via the mass media.

Sergio Torres worked with Centro de Apoyo y Consejería (the Support and Counselling Centre) on HIV awareness and prevention in the remote diocese of Babahoyo.

HIGHLIGHT: Ecuador

In Cuenca, Ecuador's third largest city with a population of 267,000, we worked with partner organisation SENDAS to raise awareness around HIV, particularly among young people and the gay population, using a wide range of media and public events. A user survey and feedback from health workers and education workers demonstrated an increase in knowledge on sexuality and HIV among the target groups – an important achievement given the lack of action or campaigns on HIV by the government in 2010.

El Salvador

Gloria Araque worked with the women's organisation IMU to carry out research on the social care economy and to help train women to set up and run small businesses.

Andrea Bilbao worked with IMU and Flor de Piedra on communications strategies to increase women's access to the mass media, including through radio programmes.

Marcos Cerra worked with the environmental organisation UNES to promote the land use law and develop participatory processes at local level for land use planning.

Javier Garcia worked with UNES to support the research and debate around a national water law related to water management and access to water resources.

Hans Joel worked with FUMA to train people living around the Olomega lagoon to adopt agricultural techniques that won't harm their local water resources, and support community groups to increase their advocacy skills to lobby municipal and national institutions about the problems they face due to pollution of the lake.

Virginia López worked with the women's organisation Flor de Piedra on HIV prevention with women sex workers and their clients.

Nicoletta Marinelli worked with Asociación de Desarrollo Económico Social de Santa Marta (ADES – the Social and Economic Development Association

of Santa Marta) to help develop an advocacy strategy addressing the impact of mining on water resources.

María Martínez Mita worked with PADECOMSM in Morazán, the poorest department of the country, to strengthen the capacity of eight municipalities to be accountable, and the capacity of civil society groups to carry out social audits on the municipalities.

Héctor Núñez worked with Centro Bartolome de las Casas on HIV prevention using a gender and masculinities approach – working with men to challenge and change male attitudes – that CBC has developed and called Escuela Equinoccio.

John Ochoa worked with CONTRASIDA to strengthen the methodologies for HIV prevention developed by the organisation, from a gender and masculinities perspective, and to support HIV awareness-raising and prevention work with men – adults and young people – in the communities where CONTRASIDA is working.

Adriana Ospina worked with Flor de Piedra to help it use the mass media to raise awareness and advocate for the rights of sex workers and to promote HIV prevention messages.

Natalia Patiño worked with Fundación Segundo Montes to support organic farming initiatives with small-scale farmers.

Noelia Ruiz worked with Fundación para el Desarrollo Juvenil (the Youth Development Foundation) on HIV prevention with groups of young women and men in areas around San Salvador, the capital city of the country.

Maggie von Vogt worked with UNES on advocacy and communications on environmental issues. She also works to support Progressio's UK-based international advocacy and communications work.

HIGHLIGHT: Dominican Republic

By supporting close working between the local organisation CEPROSH, the Federation of Neighbourhood Organisations and the municipal council, we helped to enable improved guidelines for citizen participation in the city of Puerto Plata (population 313,000) to be drawn up. Consultation processes have been strengthened, public awareness has increased and poorer neighbourhoods have been more involved in municipal planning. For example, more than 15 poor neighbourhoods have put forward proposals which have been incorporated in municipal budgets.

HIGHLIGHT: Honduras

With our partner FUPNAPIB (Foundation National Park Pico Bonito), we provided 240 small-scale farmers and their families with training on sustainable agriculture in order to ensure environmental sustainability, increase their food security, and enable them to produce enough agricultural surplus to sell directly in the market. We also provided training to strengthen the advocacy capacity of FUPNAPIB and the local water management committees on the protection of water sources. The changes from conventional agriculture to agro-ecological practices including agro-forestry resulted in an increase in production from a baseline of 18 hundredweight per hectare to 53 hundredweight per hectare. Income levels have increased and there has been a significant reduction of agro-chemicals used for production. The project also rescued 10 local varieties of native maize, three of native beans and five of rice that were in danger of disappearing. Local producers have enough technical knowledge of agro-ecology to continue improving productivity and ensure food security.

Honduras

Juan José Amate worked with the Environmental Movement of Campamento (CAM) to develop proposals for a new law on water rights which has now been approved by the national parliament.

Oscar Danilo Davila worked with Popol Nah Tun to resist illegal logging on the Atlantic coast, providing training to community forest committees on the implementation of the new forestry law.

Roger Diaz worked with COMUCAP, a peasant women's organisation, on agricultural practices, water resource management and the marketing of farmers' produce.

Eli Escoto worked with COOMULP, a women's co-operative for personal, social and business development, on an irrigation project to enable farmers to diversify their production and gain access to markets.

Scarleth Flores worked with Consorcio UNEDFOH to help train people to form community organisations and deliver local services to their own communities.

Mónika Galeano worked with the women's organisation CEMH to strengthen their ability to advocate for the rights of women living with HIV. She also worked with various organisations to help them introduce a gender perspective in their work.

Álvaro Rivas Guzmán worked with the national NGO association to raise awareness about the protection of water resources and to create water management committees.

Francisco Hernández worked with CAM to develop and promote the new forestry law to tackle illegal logging.

José Ramos supported the creation and legalisation of the new municipality of

Nahuaterique on the border of Honduras and El Salvador. He is advocating to allow the Nahuaterique population (7,000 people) to get dual nationality and land tenure.

Marvin Zavala Ruiz worked with COOMULP to train small-scale farmers in agro-ecology techniques that won't harm the environment.

Maria José Urgel worked with the Centre for Prevention of Torture on a communications strategy to raise awareness about the prevention of violence and respect for civil rights.

Lincoln Villanueva worked with Grupo Sociedad Civil to help civil society organisations make their voices heard in the development of the alternative national plan and regional poverty reduction strategies.

Nuria Zayas worked with the Honduran Coalition of Citizen Action to design a communication strategy to advocate for citizens' rights following the 2009 coup in Honduras. Nuria also supports Progressio's international advocacy and communications work.

Malawi

Viola Kuhaisa worked with the Civil Society Coalition on Quality Basic Education to strengthen the capacity of the coalition and its partners in budget analysis, monitoring, expenditure tracking, social mobilisation, policy research, analysis and advocacy.

Philimon Majwa worked with the Catholic Development Commission to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions in their livelihood programmes, in order to enhance the livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities in Malawi.

Mandlenkosi Mpfu helped to build the advocacy and networking skills of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace and of faith leaders, in order to promote the smooth running of transparent, free, fair and non-violent election processes in Malawi.

Renias Mundingi worked with the Malawi Interfaith AIDS Association and MANERELA+ (the Malawi Network of Religious Leaders living with or affected by HIV and AIDS) to build and support the advocacy role of faith leaders in tackling the HIV epidemic.

Innocent Ogaba worked on sustainable environment initiatives including providing advice to Environment Africa and the small-scale farmers they work with on adding value to, and successfully marketing, their agricultural produce.

Tirivafi Shuro worked with the Malawi Organic Growers' Association to help promote marketing of organic produce, including setting up organic production verification schemes involving inspection services, a certification system, and accreditation of organic crops produced by small-scale farmers.

Nicaragua

Ainara Arregui worked with Centro de Información y Servicios de Asesoría en Salud (CISAS – Centre for Information and Advisory Services on Health) to influence and involve health personnel, young people, and faith groups and networks to empower people living with HIV to raise their voice.

Sarah Bradshaw conducted research for CISAS and the human rights organisation Puntos de Encuentro to support their advocacy work.

Solange Carrasco worked with FENACOOOP (the Federation of Farmers' Cooperatives) to develop and promote inter-cultural economic initiatives as a starting point for building alternative approaches to local development, including rural sustainable tourism.

Jean Casey, a communications specialist, worked with Puntos de Encuentro on media and campaigning initiatives promoting human rights and tackling violence, discrimination and inequality.

Maria Violeta Cotado worked with the Association for Municipal Development (ADM) to help build its capacity to advocate for pro-poor development policies and initiatives.

Astalo Garcia worked with CISAS to ensure that gender awareness is embedded in communications and advocacy work with and on behalf of people living with HIV.

Andrea Luque, a communications and advocacy specialist, worked with CISAS to help reduce stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV and empower people with HIV to advocate for their rights.

Sandra Monge worked with FENACCOOP to help it to develop eco-tourist initiatives with rural communities and advocate for national recognition of community-based rural tourism.

Galo Munoz worked with the indigenous people's organisation Coordinadora de los Pueblos Indígenas Chorotegas to empower indigenous people through citizen participation in local development and partnerships.

Yerina Rock, a communications specialist, worked with Puntos de Encuentro on its youth and gender projects.

Franck Tondeur worked to strengthen the productive capacities and environmental management skills of women members of Asociación de Mujeres Productoras (the Association of Women Farmers) and support its organisational development. He also worked with ADM to promote the ability of small-scale farmers to meet the food needs of their communities, and to support the right of Potable Water Committees to be recognised by law.

Alex David Zapata worked with the municipality of Macuelizo as a specialist on watershed management to support the integrated management of water, soil and forest resources and promote agro-ecological production to reverse the deterioration of Macuelizo's river basin.

Peru

Diego Arévalo worked with the environmental organisation Grupo GEA, working closely with the local communities of three Peruvian river basins on the design and implementation of ecosystem and water conservancy projects.

Sonja Bleeker worked with IDEAS Cajamarca (Centro de Investigación, Documentación, Educación, Asesoramiento y Servicios) to help incorporate a gender perspective and promote interculturality in its advocacy work on natural resource management and biodiversity.

Florencia Diehl worked on anti-corruption initiatives and monitoring of social policy with the watchdog organisation Proetica.

Oihane de Gana worked with the intercultural and bilingual education organisation Pukllasunchis to ensure the regional education plan for the Cusco region meets the needs of indigenous communities.

Bruno Guemes worked with CEPES, the Peruvian Centre of Social Studies, to promote sustainable natural resource management in the Huaral region.

Desamparados Josa worked as a food security specialist with Centro Guaman Poma in Cusco.

Cindy Krose worked with CEPES to strengthen its communications and advocacy work on water and

climate change. She also supports Progressio's international advocacy and communications work.

Laura Lucio worked with SER, the Association of Rural Education Services in Cajamarca, to promote an environmental perspective in the ecological and economic zoning plan of Cajamarca and the Act on Territorial Planning and Land Use.

Jorge Martinez worked with the Institute of Health, Sexuality and Human Development (Cayetano Heredia University) to help set up projects to improve the quality of life of people whose circumstances increase their vulnerability to HIV.

María Belén Pont worked with COINCIDE in Cusco to provide leadership training to community representatives, including how to set up and run community development projects.

Charlotte Smith worked with Instituto Bartolomé de las Casas in Lima coordinating the Justice and Reparation project in the Puno region, which includes training for leaders of local organisations in five zones of the country affected by the armed conflicts of Peru's recent past.

Pablo Soto worked with Asociación Casas de la Salud in Ica to help develop and implement a study into HIV in the Ica region (after the 2007 earthquake), and help devise an intervention strategy based on its results.

Diana Torres worked with EDUCA in San Juan de Lurigancho, Lima, empowering women to become leaders and participate in advocacy initiatives at local government level.

Somaliland

Ali Abdi worked with Talowadag to plan and implement projects providing support to people living with or affected by HIV – Talowadag is the only local organisation in Somaliland that provides such support and advocates for the rights of those living with HIV.

Angelica Chandrasekeran worked with the Hargeisa Youth and Development Association to enhance its media and communication capacities.

Korow Dahir worked with the General Assistance and Volunteer Organisation (GAVO) to promote appropriate responses to HIV for young people.

Ingrid Hartmann worked with Amoud University supporting the analysis of local people's needs with regards to soil erosion, water conservation and the environment. She worked with university staff and students to research alternative ways of dealing with soil and water conservation in Somaliland.

Rita Izsák worked as a human rights advisor with the Somaliland National Youth Organisation (SONYO), helping it to deliver training and awareness-raising activities for young people.

Sriram Kannekanti worked with GAVO as a local governance advisor.

Robert Kirenga worked as a disability rights advisor with the Somaliland National Disability Forum to strengthen local organisations working with and for disabled people.

Dr Abdulrahman Mohamed played a key role in setting up and running integrated HIV prevention, treatment, care and support centres at Hargeisa hospital and health facilities in Gabiley.

Ahmed Mohamoud worked as an election monitoring advisor with the Forum for Peace and Governance, helping them prepare for and raise awareness about the presidential elections which took place in June 2010.

Edward Musinguzi worked with Hargeisa hospital and regional health centres as an HIV and AIDS integrated services supervisor.

Stephen Mwalo worked with SONYO as a youth rights advocacy advisor.

Samuel Ogwang worked with Doses of Hope, an organisation working for blind and visually impaired people, to build their skills and capacity in human rights advocacy through the teaching of Braille

HIGHLIGHT: Somaliland

Much of our work on HIV in Somaliland is about awareness-raising and prevention, but we have also played a key role in expanding treatment provision. We have been working with the Integrated Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Services based at Hargeisa hospital since 2006: since then the number of people receiving anti-retroviral treatment has almost tripled (to 328 people). This is just one indicator among many important developments which have seen Hargeisa hospital recognised as a Centre of Excellence by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria – and Progressio regarded as the leading agency dealing with HIV in Somaliland.

HIGHLIGHT: Timor-Leste

Working with partner organisation Fundacao Timor Hari'i we helped set up the country's first network of people living with HIV. We also worked intensively to build the capacity of Fundacao Timor Hari'i – through better financial management, better planning, and better management and delivery of services – to enable it to more effectively carry out HIV work with vulnerable groups such as young people and sex workers.

and through promoting mobility.

Edna Onyango worked as an advocacy advisor with the women's network NAGAAD, supporting its member organisations to promote women's rights, in particular their participation in decision-making bodies at the local council, parliamentary and executive cabinet level.

Chinyeke Tembo worked with various partner organisations to help them use the media to reduce stigma and discrimination and promote effective responses to HIV.

Timor-Leste

Gautam Biswas worked as a capacity-building advisor focusing on strengthening of research, analysis and planning capacity of local civil society organisations. He has helped over 15 local NGOs and community-based organisations to deliver better services to local communities.

Mark Hunter worked with the Judicial System Monitoring Programme to provide human rights training for Timorese lawyers.

Napapan Der Kinderen worked as a gender advocacy advisor with Rede Feto, the national women's umbrella network, and with its members such as Caucus: Women in Politics and Feto iha Kbiit atu Serbisu Hamutuk. She built their capacity in planning and coordinating work around women's political involvement, gender-based violence, and national level policy and legislation.

Maria Ladaga worked as an institutional capacity-building advisor with the Timor-Leste NGO Forum (FONGTIL); Caritas Dili; the Kadalak Sulimutuk Institute, which works on post-conflict reconciliation; and Hamahon Feto Timor (HAFOTI), a network of women's organisations.

Nicholas Molyneux worked with the environmental organisation Haburas to identify solutions to unsustainable resource use. Together they developed a successful alternative fuel project, making bio-briquettes from coffee husks and recycled paper (both waste products) which are competitive with other fuels both in quality and price.

Dennis Obel worked with Fundasaun Timor Hari'i to strengthen their capacity in developing effective responses to HIV.

Yemen

Joseph Aloo worked with Abu Musa Al Ashary to build the capacities and skills of civil society organisations.

George Alufandika worked with the Women's Forum for Research and Training to raise awareness about HIV and introduce HIV and AIDS project activities across its research and training programmes.

Mansoor Baloch worked with the Al-Tadhamon Development Association to build the capacities and skills of civil society organisations.

Wondimu Guyassa worked with Interaction in Development to encourage the involvement of faith leaders and communities in HIV prevention, care and support, and to promote networking among civil society organisations working with people with HIV.

Krishna Karkee worked with the Al-Tadhamon Development Association to promote the participation of local communities in local government policies and ensure projects and services meet local needs.

Lisa Moalong worked to build the capacity of local organisations to deliver services to communities in the Hodeidah and Aden districts.

Jennifer Munoz worked with the Women's Association for Sustainable Development to promote HIV initiatives for women in poor communities.

Prachanda Shrestha worked with the Women's Association for Sustainable Development to encourage community involvement in HIV prevention, care and support, and to promote networking among civil society organisations working with people with HIV.

Zimbabwe

Angeline Chamunorwa-Mujeyi worked with Environment Africa to help local farmers develop new products and build links with high value markets, in order to improve the profitability of small-scale farm production.

Musavengana Chibwana worked with the Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children, coordinating its members, including care homes, street youth programmes, childcare training centres, and faith-based institutions, to effectively champion and run care and support projects for orphans and vulnerable children.

Philemon Handinahama worked with the National Faith-Based Council of Zimbabwe to promote the role of church leaders in tackling HIV and gender issues such as domestic violence.

Melody Kwanayi worked with Environment Africa to enable EA staff and government extension workers to introduce agro-ecological production methods in their work with small-scale farmers.

Beatrice Mukasa worked with the Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network as a gender budgeting advisor, strengthening the capacity of ZWRNC, civil society organisations and all other stakeholders to ensure women's needs are met in the budgeting process.

Christopher Mweembe worked with the National Association of NGOs to help build advocacy skills and promote greater civil society participation in policy debates.

Stancelous Mverechena worked with Batsirai to help produce and disseminate HIV awareness materials and build its information management and organisational learning capacity.

Tedlah Ponde worked with the Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender to improve HIV prevention and care in prisons, and to provide support for prisoners to rebuild their lives after release from prison.

Walter Otis Tapfumaneyi worked with the Zimbabwe AIDS Network to support its advocacy work on HIV-related policies, and help ensure that all advocacy work is driven by the aspirations of member organisations.

Kuziva Zimunya, an ICT specialist, worked with the Zimbabwe AIDS Network to help improve its technical capacity for internal and external communications.

Policy and campaigns

Overcoming the barriers that keep people poor

We work through development workers to empower people at a local level. But often, policies and structures beyond their control conspire to keep them poor. So we work with them, and on their behalf, to change those policies – locally, nationally, and internationally.

✦ **Tibor van Staveren** is Progressio's country representative in Timor-Leste (East Timor). He explains how Progressio's campaign East Timor: Who Cares? has helped promote justice for Timor-Leste – and how we have backed this up with support for justice and development initiatives on the ground in this desperately poor country.

Q. Why is justice important for the country's future development?

A. Not holding perpetrators accountable, through retributive justice or through forms of reparations and compensation, creates an air of impunity, as well as dissatisfaction among those who feel wronged. Here we have experienced cycles of violence, such as in 2002 with sudden burnings and lootings; violent clashes between army and police, and between differently aligned people, in 2006; and the attempted assassination of the President and the Prime Minister by a splinter group of the military in 2008. We still have many groups regularly venting anger.

Q. What is the human cost?

A. Timor-Leste was under foreign occupation for 25 years, during which a fifth of the population lost their lives. That leaves big scars for almost each and every family in this country. The recently established National Association of Victims and Victims' Families is pushing for recognition, reparations and compensation for the wrongs committed.

Q. How helpful was the campaign from the UK?

A. The cry for justice is carried by victims and is now supported by a new generation of young activists in Timor-Leste. What they need is encouragement from abroad, to hear that things are not forgotten, that there



Tibor van Staveren

continues to be solidarity. The campaign in the UK was not only successful in raising awareness among decision-makers in the UK, but even more so in re-establishing solidarity links.

Q. What has Progressio been doing in the country itself to promote justice?

A. Alongside the UK campaign Progressio supported local campaigning and advocacy. We supported the first Victims' Congress, the Solidarity Conference and Exhibition, and the collection of over 3,000 signatures from Timorese people to request the Parliament to discuss recommendations made in the report from the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation, better known by its Portuguese acronym CAVR.

We were also involved in the working group [continued overleaf]

to determine options for a CAVR follow-up institution. This led to Parliament finally committing to establishing a follow-up institution responsible for implementing the CAVR report recommendations.

At the same time we supported a local NGO called the Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP) by placing an experienced lawyer as legal trainer, to strengthen their research and analytical capacity.

HIGHLIGHT: Haiti

Responding to the January 2010 earthquake has brought about a new sense of shared purpose, and a new willingness to work together, among Haitian and Dominican authorities and civil society organisations. We have helped bring these organisations together, and make sure that the needs and wishes of Haiti's people are heard. In the aftermath of the earthquake, we collated and shared key messages from partner organisations in Haiti and the Dominican Republic with agencies active in the emergency response, with government donors, and at the level of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the EU. We successfully recommended key Haitian civil society representatives for attendance at a high level donor conference on Haiti held in New York in March 2010, and supported a 'key messages' document highlighting the concerns of Haitian civil society organisations about the reconstruction process.

HIGHLIGHT: Zimbabwe

We have continued to gather analysis from civil society organisations and churches in Zimbabwe and share it with decision-makers at EU and UK level. One way we've done this is as a lead member of the Zimbabwe Europe Network (ZEN) and the Ecumenical Zimbabwe Network (EZN). For example, under the auspices of ZEN, we presented evidence to the International Development Select Committee (IDC) concerning the human rights situation in Zimbabwe. We specifically shared our partners' concerns about ongoing levels of political violence, and that decisions taken by donors regarding the timetable for lifting sanctions should take this into account. The Progressio/ZEN evidence is drawn on considerably in the IDC's report.

Q. How does this work fit into the wider picture of development for Timor-Leste?

A. We see justice as one part of the picture. A well functioning judicial system establishes equality before the law. But we also work on strengthening constructive dialogue between civil society and government, to create mutual understanding and enable a stronger voice of poor and marginalised people. For example, we have a longstanding partnership with the umbrella network for women's organisations, Rede Feto, currently focusing on the areas of gender-based violence and on economic participation. The hard work of the women's organisations has started to pay off: Timor-Leste now has a very good domestic violence law.

And we work on reducing loss of forests and on HIV prevention and care, where we take strong rights-based approaches. So we work on different but equally important aspects of development at the same time, on health, on environment, on justice, on gender equality. We are on the right path, making small but steady steps forward.

Q. How optimistic are you for the future?

A. In Timor-Leste progress is everywhere. Education levels are slowly rising, maternal and child health is getting better. Most importantly, people more and more are agents of development themselves, not just asking or demanding others to develop the country, but taking the bull by the horns – literally, in the case of the cattle-raising community groups!

Still, 25 years of occupation and subsequent recurring violence has left many gaps. So many things need to be rebuilt, a whole economy needs to be created from scratch, the country is 95% import dependent, too many people are unemployed and disenfranchised, and too many preventable deaths occur because of the health situation. Civil society and the state continue to need assistance to step up to this daunting task.

✎ **Alberto Granados** is a farmer in La Libertad community, Campamento, Olancho, Honduras. He is married with eight children. Progressio development workers Francisco Hernández and Juan José Amate worked with CAM (the Environmental Movement of Campamento) to oppose illegal logging and to combat the environmental damage caused by deforestation. Progressio supporters in the UK have also been campaigning for a Europe-wide ban on the importation of illegally logged wood.

Q. How long have you been fighting illegal logging in your community?

A. For 12 years we have tried to protect our forests. But when illegal loggers see we are distracted and busy – or when we leave our farms in the mountains to go back to our communities – they take advantage of us. One day when you least expect it they come to cut down your trees.

Q. What do you do when you hear the chainsaws?

A. I have a mobile phone so I call the other men from the community and we try to stop it. It is dangerous and many times I have been threatened. When I tell them to stop they say: “We will kill you”, but so far they have not because we are a strong community here. Once we chased some loggers away, but we ended up stuck on a hill for eight days protecting the wood we captured and waiting for the police to arrive. We had no food or water and we were too scared to leave the timber in case the loggers came back. We gave the wood to the mayor to help build a local school.

Q. What other consequences are there from illegal logging?

A. We have big problems in the summers. We now have streams with no water at all. [Trees help retain water in the soil – deforestation means rainfall in the rainy season does not replenish the water table.] The river nearby to here was almost dry last year. Actually, some streams no longer exist; you go there and you just find sand. We all know here that water is life. Without water, life is not possible.

Q. Is corruption a problem?

A. Yes it is. Sometimes police officers go to the wood workshops to let them know that if they wish to work they will have to pay them a weekly contribution. I ask the police: “What is a sin for you? The cutting down of the trees or not getting extra money in bribes?”

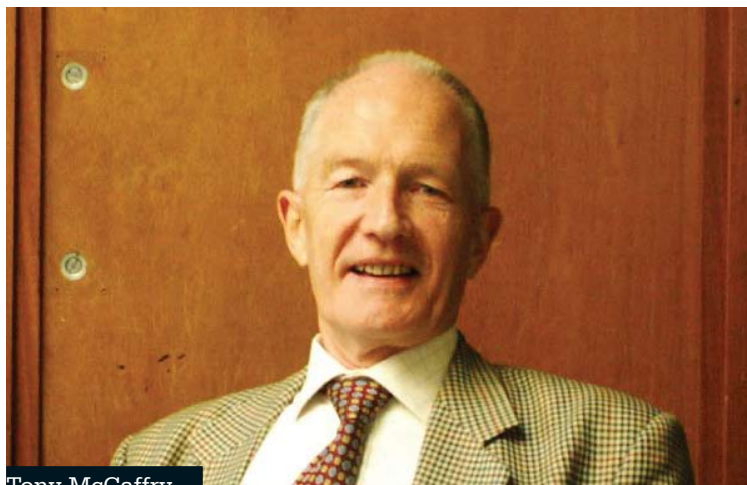
Q. What would you say to people in Europe?

A. That it is important to have a ban on illegal timber in Europe, because here in Honduras there are some who don't want our own new national forestry law to be implemented – they think it will upset certain people... So it is very important that people in other countries help us to preserve our forests by not using illegal wood.



Alberto Granados

➤ **Tony McCaffry** has been a Progressio member since 1998. Here he tells us how and why he got involved in our campaign against illegal logging.



Tony McCaffry

Q. How did you find out about the issue?

A. I had been following the Progressio campaign against illegal timber imports. I like the way Progressio fully explains the case before requesting action and then sustains the focus of the campaign to conclusion.

HIGHLIGHT: Just Add Water

Our Just Add Water campaign ran from July to December 2009, aiming to encourage governments at the Copenhagen climate summit to include the crucial issue of water in the negotiations. For the world's poorest people, climate change means water change – changes in rainfall patterns, droughts and floods. This water change puts livelihoods – and people's ability to grow the food they need – at risk. Our campaign asked climate change negotiators to prioritise the water sector in funding for climate change adaptation. It saw 2,340 people write postcards to their MPs. This was backed up by media coverage, including a letter from our partner organisations published in *The Guardian*, and a blog on the BBC website's Green Room. We also ensured that voices from the global South were heard, bringing Angel Ibarra from our partner in El Salvador, the environmental organisation UNES, to the pre-summit negotiations in Barcelona, and Fabiola Quishpe from Ecuador (see next page) to the summit itself in Copenhagen.

Q. What made you want to take action on illegal logging?

A. The drive is to do something that restores the imbalance between the rich and the poor. I've always been involved in international development. I was born in the Second World War and so have an appreciation of hard times and the benefit of good times afterwards.

Q. What did you do to support the campaign?

A. I emailed MEPs from my region. It was a busy time for me, so I was grateful for the easy identification of the MEPs for my region (via my postcode) and for the well-worded draft message which I was happy to adopt.

Q. Why is it important to you to support campaigns like this one?

A. With a Christian faith understanding, campaigning doesn't feel like an optional extra. Campaigning isn't a minority interest. It's a real mainstream thing now.

I'm learning who my neighbour is all the time. That's an important aspect for me. As a Christian, I believe that God's view is loving, so we should have a loving view of the world.

Q. Is it worth it?

A. Yes. I'm part of a trade justice group where I live in Surrey, and our local MP is on record as saying that our lobbying has changed his own appreciation of some of the issues we have raised. Those who lobby and those who are lobbied are part of the same enterprise – the greater common good. Thanks to Progressio for providing quality back-up. Please keep up the good work!

✎ **Fabiola Quishpe** lives in the community of Apahua in rural Ecuador. She has been working in her community to preserve the *paramós*, the sponge-like Andean grasslands that play a key role in preserving water in the local eco-system. Progressio arranged for Fabiola to attend the climate negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009, bringing the voice of small-scale farmers to the international decision-making table.

Q. What message did you bring to Copenhagen?

A. People in the cities, they make the decisions, but they don't know what it is like here [in rural communities]. They are in their offices, they can't imagine this life – maybe if they visited, but they do not. Rural people eat, breathe and sleep agriculture. For this we need water. Without the *paramós* we will have nothing: no water, our soil will be bad, our crops will fail. We have to protect mother earth, and care for her.

My message to international decision-makers would be to safeguard water, as it is a vital liquid for all of humanity.



Q. Do you feel that you were listened to?

A. During my time in Copenhagen, I attended the launch of a report on the environment and climate change called *Other worlds are possible*. Through my connections with Progressio, my story was featured in the report – so I was really happy to see a copy.

It was really great for me to speak at the launch – to share the experiences that we are living at the moment, not only my community's experiences but also the experiences of my province and country.

Q. What did you learn?

A. After my presentation, other indigenous representatives from around the world also spoke about their experiences. Listening to these stories I was able to understand that all of us have the same challenges. We all

have our own traditional knowledge and expertise that is going to help us adapt to climate change – and this traditional knowledge needs to be respected and promoted.

Yet in each country that has indigenous people, those governments are not respecting and not listening to the indigenous voice. The laws that they make are always their own agreements on their own terms. They are not listening to what the communities say about their needs.

Q. How important was it to have your say?

A. Some people asked me if I was nervous before I spoke. I thought that was funny. No I wasn't nervous at all, I felt very proud. I wanted to stand up proud and strong in front of so many people from so many countries and share the experiences of my community and my people.

Finances

▶ **Christine Allen** reflects on a difficult year for charity finances.

Q. How did Progressio ride out the storm?

A. Looking at the year's income it's clear that we managed to survive the economic downturn, but we had to make significant changes in our structure in order to ensure that we were fit for future years.

One particularly hard decision was to decide to close our office in Ecuador. We felt that civil society in Ecuador has grown considerably stronger over the 36 years we have been working in the country, and that while our presence could continue to contribute to this, Ecuador's people are now in a better position to shape their own future.

Q. How did you tell our partner organisations about this decision?

A. It was my job to go to Ecuador to explain to our partners face to face why we had to close the programme after so many years. It was important for me to meet with them, and to sit down and share with them the challenges we face and the decisions we have had to come to. They all expressed their gratitude and appreciation of the support they had received from Progressio, and how it was a testimony to the values of the organisation that they could meet with the Director face to face to discuss their concerns. It ranks among one of the hardest days of my life, yet it was a matter of our integrity to do it.

Q. Are there further challenges ahead?

A. It's very hard to have to make decisions to stop doing work and to focus our priorities, yet for the sake of our future sustainability that's what we had to do, and will continue to do in the face of insecurity of funding. We believe we have a good strategy in place to meet these challenges.

Q. So what does the future hold?

A. We still face the recession and massive cuts in public spending in the UK. Together these will tighten belts and make raising funds all the harder. We welcome the government commitment to international aid but we know that the general economic environment will put international spending under more scrutiny than ever.

We start from a very low base in terms of general fundraising and 'brand recognition'. We don't spend a lot of money on advertising or communicating – we prefer to get on with it. Yet we know we need to invest in fundraising – we need to spend more money on raising money! – and this will be a challenge to us.

In the next couple of years our focus will be on retaining the level of income that we currently have, as some large grants come to an end or have to be renegotiated. Our longer term vision is to grow – and this will take hard work and investment.

Q. It will be hard – but can we do it?

A. This year has been an amazing success despite the difficulties of the internal changes and the economic challenges. We have raised more money than before, and we need to keep climbing that mountain for our long term survival.

There's been a great effort from all the staff around the world and from all our supporters. If you've given, if you've encouraged others to give, if you've taken a campaign action, if you've encouraged others to, if you've remembered us in your will, I thank you. It really matters.

Our five-year strategy

You can read more about our plans for the future in *People powered development: Progressio's strategic framework 2010-2015*, available on request from Progressio or at www.progressio.org.uk

How we were funded

Our total income for 2009/10 was £5,835,710. (This compares to a total income of £5,296,099 in 2008/9.)

Most of our income in 2009/10 came from institutional donors and funders.

Our largest funder was the UK Department for International Development (DFID) with whom we have an important and valued strategic programme partnership.

Progressio Ireland is a charity registered in Ireland which raises funds for Progressio and carries out advocacy and campaigning work. The largest funder of Progressio Ireland was Irish Aid who contributed significantly to our work on sustainable environment and participation and effective governance.

In addition to those listed in the table, others who donated more than £1,000 in the financial year 2009/10 include:

Dr D Broadhurst
 Canadian Catholic Organisation for Development and Peace (CCODP) Timor
 Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand
 Ray Collier
 COOMUPL (Cooperativa Mixta Unidas para Progresar, limitada)
 Fr Thomas Cullinan
 Daughters of Jesus
 Daughters of Mary and Joseph
 Discovering Latin America
 FCIL (Fondo Canadiense para Iniciativas Locales)
 Franciscan Friary
 Michael Hirst
 HIVOS (Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation)
 The Jesuits
 Fr Kevin T Kelly
 Kulika Charitable Trust
 Dr J E M Latham
 Annette O’Gorman
 Princes Plain Primary School
 St Clare and St Francis Trust
 St Francis of Assisi, Acklam
 Servite Priory, Benburb
 Society of Jesus
 Society of Sacred Hearts
 David and Mollie Somerville
 H Swinburne

Funding source:	Percentage of total:
Department for International Development (DFID)	60%
Progressio Ireland	12%
European Commission	6%
Membership, subscriptions, donations, sales, legacies and other sundry receipts	4%
Big Lottery Fund	3%
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	3%
Comic Relief	2%
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)	2%
Trocaire	2%
British Embassy Small Grants Scheme	1%
CAFOD	1%
Caritas Australia	1%
Christian Aid (Peru)	1%
Porticus UK (formerly the Derwent Charitable Consultancy)	1%
Unifem (United Nations Development Fund for Women)	1%

UN-INSTRAW (United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women)
 USAID (United States Agency for International Development)
 Margaret Williams

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

How the money was spent

Our expenditure for 2009/10 was £5,653,536. (Our budget for 2010/11 is £5.5 million.) This is how we spent the money.

Country programmes: 78%

This is the money we spend on placing development workers with partner organisations in the countries where we work. It includes the cost of recruiting and funding development workers. Our partner organisations provide contributions in kind – such as office facilities used by the development worker, and transport to enable the development worker to do his or her work. But otherwise our development workers are fully funded by Progressio, including their living allowance, accommodation, and travel to and from their placement.

To run our country programmes, we also have to meet operational costs such as rent and bills for country offices; the salaries of staff who work on and oversee our country programmes (both in-country and at our head office in the UK); travel costs associated with managing our country programmes; and monitoring and evaluation.

Expenditure on country programmes also includes our advocacy work calling for policy changes to improve the lives of the people and communities we work with. These costs include the salaries of our UK-based policy and advocacy team.

Our expenditure on country programmes in 2009/10 was distributed as follows:

Central America and Caribbean: 41%
South America: 17%
Africa and Middle East: 37%
Asia: 5%

Governance: 13%

This is the money that we spend on running a UK-based charity. It includes the cost of essential support operations such as finance and administration and the operational costs of our UK office (rent, rates, heating, equipment, etc).

Communications: 5%

This includes salaries and related costs (eg freelance fees), and the cost of producing our publications and running our website. The proportion of expenditure on communications is small compared to many other UK charities.

Fundraising and publicity: 4%

This includes salaries of fundraising staff and associated costs (such as the cost of producing fundraising materials). Again, the proportion of our expenditure on fundraising is much smaller than many other UK charities.

Accounts

Progressio's financial statements for the year 2009/10 have been audited by the independent auditors Appleby & Wood. The full audited accounts are available to download from www.progressio.org.uk. A printed copy is available on request from Progressio.

Trustees

➤ **Martin McEnery** is Chair of the Board of Trustees. Progressio is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. We are governed by a Board of Trustees who are also directors of the company.

Q. What's so special about Progressio?

A. Our way of working, which is about empowering people, helping people to be more effective, to realise their potential, to get more control over their lives. This gives them a huge sense of achievement.

This way of working is one of the things that drew me to Progressio. You can't give power to people. They have to develop it themselves. Working with people to help them be more effective is what Progressio does and I think it's a great model.

Q. What motivates you as a trustee and as Chair of the Board?

A. Our focus on the preferential option for the poor. Our strong faith roots. Our presence in some of the most impoverished and stricken countries in the world. The fact that the majority of our development workers themselves come from the global South. Our approach of working to build up the confidence and effectiveness of our partner organisations. And the fact that our advocacy and campaign work is generated directly from the experience of our development workers and partner organisations.

Q. What is it that the trustees bring to Progressio?

A. Our trustees as a team are motivated by the challenges of development. They have a commitment to the Progressio model, and they are prepared to demonstrate their interest in and support for our staff both in the UK and in the countries where we work.

Q. What are your highlights from the past year?

A. The way the Board and staff worked together to develop our strategy for the next five years, and our ability as an

organisation to adjust our structure to the realities of the financial crisis. The success of our programmes in the countries where we work, and increased ability to quantify the effectiveness of our projects. Our raised profile in the UK and our progress in advocacy and campaigning and encouraging supporters. And finally, our success in managing our finances and raising funding in most challenging circumstances.

Q. Where do you want Progressio to be in five years' time?

A. I want to see Progressio recognised as a development agency with an approach that really works and that produces a cost-effective impact in the countries and on the issues we have prioritised. And I want us to be a leading example as a faith-based practitioner of principled development appropriate to the 21st century world, known for our innovation and flexibility rooted in our vision, mission and values.

Trustees (April 2009 to March 2010)

Ijeoma Ajibade (co-opted March 2010)
John Barker (from October 2009)
Susanna Edjang (co-opted March 2010)
Phil King (Treasurer)
Brenda Lipson (resigned after 7 years, October 2009)
Tim Livesey
Martin McEnery (Chair)
Cornelius Murombedzi (from October 2009)
Gillian Paterson
Rosemary Read (resigned after 8 years, October 2009)
Dennis Sewell (Vice-Chair)
Chris Smith (from October 2009)
Carolyn Williams

Our vision

Poor people empowered to transform their lives

Our mission

To help people gain power over their lives and overcome barriers that keep them poor

Our values

Respect

We respect every person's inherent dignity and right to justice. This requires us to ensure fairness and equity in everything we do. At the heart of our work is fair and sustainable use of the earth and its resources.

Solidarity

Poverty is not someone else's problem. We are a global community. So, we stand in partnership with poor and marginalised people to support them in achieving their rights and challenging unfair systems. We bring people together from the global South and North, from all faiths and none.

Passion

Poverty is an outrage. But we believe people can change their own lives for the better. We act with commitment and conviction to see poverty eradicated. We mobilise people from different countries to campaign and act – because every step, however small, helps to achieve lasting change.

Boldness

We are bold and innovative, bringing together Christian values of dignity and social justice with a strong, practical understanding of development. We recognise that relentless determination combined with high calibre work makes the most impact.

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

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