# **PROGRESSIO**



# A Warm Welcome

Vision: A world in which marginalised people take into their own hands the power to transform their own lives.

Mission: We equip some of the poorest and most marginalised people, especially women, to claim their rights and overcome the causes of poverty, injustice or exploitation. We do this by listening closely to our community partners, sharing skills and strengthening voices so that people can transform unjust power structures.

Values: Respecting dignity, standing in solidarity, and acting boldly. Our values are inspired by our Catholic roots and particularly by Catholic Social Teaching. We seek to speak to all people and identify the common ground where people of any background can work together to tackle poverty and injustice. Working with and for people of all faiths and none is important to us.

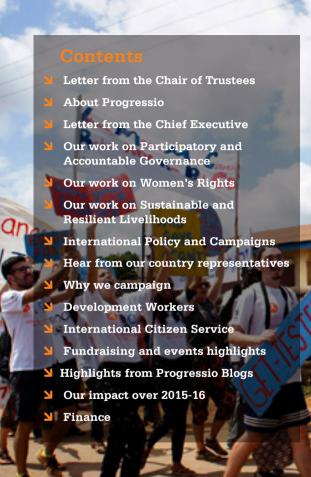
big welcome to you all. This year has been a very important year for us – marking 75 years since we were founded in 1940. We have had a long and successful track record of which we are very proud, and which we celebrated first and foremost through our continuing people powered development work in nine countries. In London, we celebrated with a service in Temple Church and our AGM in Middle Temple, for which we are thankful for their generous hospitality.

At the same time, we have had to tackle major challenges concerning our longer term financing, and in consequence there was some downsizing in our operations. These issues remain as very urgent for us in the year to come. Nevertheless, our staff as always have delivered great work and some examples include:

- → Responding to the difficult working conditions caused by the conflict in Yemen and managing to continue with an albeit more limited programme.
- Supporting women in Zimbabwe to be able to participate in the decision-making processes in their communities.
- Strengthening the capacity of partners, government and traditional elders to work together to tackle gender-based violence in Somaliland.
- Completing placements in our International Citizen Service (ICS) programme, with 349 UK volunteers and 365 national volunteers in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.
- ☑ In our international Policy and Campaigns work we made a submission, with ActionAid, to the UK Government 2015 review of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.

It has been a very productive year in difficult times, and on behalf of everyone involved with Progressio, thank you all for your continued support.

Martin McEnery, Chair of Trustees





sexual and reproductive health.

# About Progressio

People: we work alongside women and men to give practical support to partner organisations and community groups through our Development Workers and young adult volunteers.

Power: we seek to support poor and marginalised people, especially women, to raise their voices to challenge unfair power structures, locally and nationally, and to influence international policies that affect them. Material poverty is man-made, it is compounded by and flows from injustice. We work to support women and men to claim their rights and live with dignity.

Development: we work hand-in-hand with people of all faiths and none to help them transform their own lives, inspired by a combination of Catholic Social Teaching and the best development practice.

Progressio is an international development charity that works in Honduras, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Somaliland, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Yemen. Our work is focused around three thematic areas: Participatory and Accountable Governance, Women's Rights and Sustainable and Resilient Livelihoods.

The Policy and Campaigns team works in alignment with these themes to support long-term policy change. In addition, we continually strive to improve our organisational effectiveness across the board.

We believe that imposed solutions, however well-meaning, are not the answer to tackling the complex root causes of poverty and injustice. We believe that to ensure full human development, people must be authors of their own future and have the power to address their own

have the power to address their own problems. That is why we develop respectful, long-term partnerships with local organisations and community groups, to support poor and marginalised communities in fragile states to empower themselves and bring about lasting change.

We describe the way we tackle poverty as "People Powered Development"

We seek to build and strengthen the skills and experience of our partner organisations. This is so they are better placed to organise, influence and participate in local, national and international power arenas, and deliver results in poverty eradication and social justice. This includes winning respect for people's rights, gender equity and greater accountability. We describe the way we tackle poverty as "People Powered Development".

# We tackle poverty and injustice in three ways We place skilled We listen to the needs We **inform** members, supporters **Development Workers** of our partners, bringing and returned ICS volunteers on and young adult issues of injustice and poverty. This their voices to the global volunteers with local enables them to act in solidarity policy debate to advocate organisations, where they for changes in policy, with people living in the Global support local people and practice and attitudes South. communities to tackle that keep people poor and poverty and improve lives. marginalised. A Progressio Development Worker, Nadie, sitting with the Fleming family who were supported by a food security training programme, which helped to raise their income and improve the diet of some of the most deprived communities in Dominican Republic.



Mark Lister at Progressio's 75th anniversary celebration at Temple Church

"Thank you to all Progressio supporters and funders who make our work possible."

# A Message From Mark Lister

This year we continued to implement our new strategy and have worked alongside many inspiring people and local partners both in the UK and overseas. For example, we supported women in Somaliland seeking to tackle the root causes of gender-based violence and political under-representation. and we had over 300 Central American and African volunteers aged 18-25 working alongside our UK counterparts in our ICS Programme, devoting three months of their lives to support grassroots communities to tackle poverty and injustice. These are just two examples of ordinary citizens doing extraordinary things to challenge unfair power structures, which also highlight our people powered development in action.

The people behind Progressio, whether in Yemen, Africa, the Caribbean, Central America or here in the UK, are at the front of my mind as I reflect on the past year's work.

You can read more about their achievements and challenges in this review but I'd like to recognise and celebrate everyone's contribution.

The challenges to secure new funding from April 2017 are serious. They have taken top priority while never losing sight of delivering high-quality work across our overseas programmes and UK-based international policy and campaigning work.

Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you to all of Progressio's' supporters and funders who make our work possible.

> Mark Lister Chief Executive



# Progressio's Strate

# Our Work Focusing on Participatory and Accountable Governance

We support people living in poor and marginalised communities to actively and effectively participate in, and hold to account, key institutions so that they are transparent, accountable and responsive to the needs of these marginalised groups. By encouraging people to participate in and influence decision-making processes on a local, national and international level, they have the ability to influence policies and practices that affect their own lives.

Highlights of our work this year include:

■ We worked with the 7imbabwe Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (ZCCJP) to ensure 30 parishes have well-established advocacy committees to facilitate a democratic and transparent conversation between members of the communities and local leaders.

"Now a neighbour's problem is a problem for us all. We feel that we have a voice in local government affairs."

- ≥ In Somaliland we supported a local partner in Hargeisa to be better able to participate in decision-making and democratic processes.
- ☑ In El Salvador ICS volunteers worked with Fundacion Maguilishuatl (FUMA) on a project to increase the support and recognition of young people in the community. Building on the work of ICS volunteers from 2013, they delivered theatre, communications and youth rights workshops in order to promote youth participation and advocacy.

**Above quote:** Marta, one of the women we worked alongside in Dominican Republic to build a culture of transparency and community participation in local government.



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# Our Work Focusing on Women's Rights

Women's rights are human rights, and we believe that the dignity of every human being must be respected. We have a commitment to gender justice which is central to all of our work.

Highlights of our work this year include:

- In Somaliland we strengthened the capacity of partners, government and traditional elders to work in coalition, producing evidence-based advocacy aiming to reduce and prevent gender-based violence.
- > ICS volunteers in Malawi worked with the Centre for Girls Interaction (CEGI) in Mzuzu. They engaged local religious and community leaders, parents and young people to discuss gender equality and sexual and reproductive health in an effort to encourage more girls to remain in secondary education.

"A woman should have the right to report gender-based violence if she is willing. She should be able to stand up and say: This is my right, get out of my way - I'm going to the court. I can make my own decisions."

In Yemen our work was suspended in April 2015 due to the current conflict, but early in 2016, our Development Workers were able to restart the provision of technical support and advocacy training to the Protection of the Rights of Female Inmates and Juvenile Offenders project. This project aims to increase awareness of the rights of women and juveniles in prison, as well as provide vocational training to help increase their chances of reintegration into society once they are released.

**Above quote:** Suad Abdi, Country Representative for Somaliland.



"My story begins when I was accused of adultery, after I was sexually abused by a man in my village. As I was an orphan with no caring family to support me. I was jailed and the perpetrator set free. After being released, my family rejected me. I stayed with one of my friends, but was asked to go from there too, due to the fear of people talking. I remembered the Abu Musa Association, who had been kind with me during my imprisonment, and who are now my family. I have been trained on sewing, making Bakhoor "incense", and life skills, and I am now a trainer for Abu Musa, who helped me a lot. I feel happy with my role, and regularly visit female prisoners to provide counselling."

Om Khalid, one of the young women supported by the Protection of the Rights of Female Inmates and Juvenile Offenders project in Yemen.

Mariam (right), 19 years old, talking to her friend Hafsah, age 27. Hodeidah prison, Yemen.

## Our Work Focusing on Sustainable and Resilient Livelihoods

We support people living in poor and marginalised communities to forge resilient livelihoods. We want to support women and men to practise sustainable and equitable farming approaches that will achieve increased income, food security and resilient livelihoods while caring for the environment.

Highlights of our work this year include:

- In an isolated area on the border between Dominican Republic and Haiti, we worked with a local partner to support people to find ways of adapting to the challenges of climate change, deforestation and drought. The cross-border project promotes food security and sustainable agriculture. As part of this project, over 20 members of the 'Unity and Effort' mothers club, have been given training and support with setting up vegetable plots using sustainable production methods, as well as information about better nutrition, particularly for children
- Progressio also ran a food security training programme with a local partner, the Scalabrinian Association at the Service of Human Mobility (ASCALA), which helps to raise incomes and improve diets of local communities in Dominican Republic.

"ASCALA and Progressio gave us the spur to achieve what we have now. The training sessions have been excellent in helping us to improve our production techniques."

In Malawi, our ICS volunteers worked alongside the Small Producers and Transport Association (SPRODETA) to provide rural farmers with value addition and business management workshops, and train over 300 community members in village savings and loans management. ICS volunteers also constructed two fish ponds and installed 15 beehives to support farmers to diversify their income.

**Above quote:** Rafael, one of the people Progressio worked alongside in Dominican Republic.



# Women and Fragility: Challenging and Changing Institutions for a Fairer World for Women

Progressio's International Policy and Campaigns team has been working to challenge and change institutions for a fairer world for women. This work contributes to two of our strategy themes: Women's Rights and Participatory and Accountable Governance.

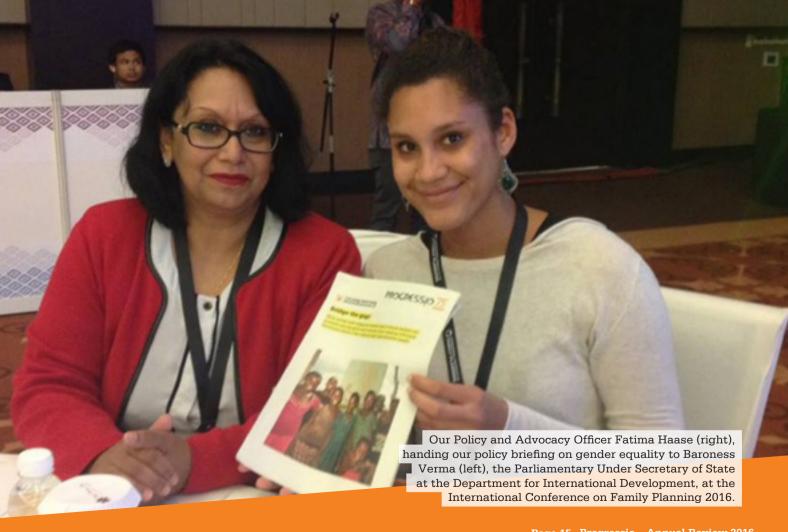
The team ensures we deliver creative, bold and effective advocacy activities, as we work increasingly to strengthen the voices of those in the Global South. This year we achieved 48 international policy interventions taking positive steps towards policy change, targeting government, corporate and multilateral bodies.

Highlights from our work this year include:

Progressio and ActionAid UK led on a Gender and Development Network submission to the UK Government's 2015 review of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights. Other civil society organizations also used its content to influence their governments' NAPs from a women's rights perspective.

This year we achieved 48 international policy interventions that are positive steps towards policy change

- Yerogressio was invited to serve as an expert facilitator during the Commonwealth Youth and Gender Network (CYGEN) conference that enabled young leaders from Commonwealth countries to develop policy positions and network in Malta. We presented on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) at the conference, and facilitated three working group sessions.
- Since January 2016, we have been observing the Somaliland voter registration process which is due to end in September. Our international observation aims to support a transparent process and provide legitimacy to the voter registration in a country that is not internationally recognised.
- △ At the 60th session on the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, Progressio were invited to host a side-event focused on the role of social norms and religious beliefs, and young women's SRHR. The event was a success, and over 60 people attended in person and more watched the event online.



"With our new Amplified for Change project, we are working with 12 partner organisations that are working on gender-based violence (GBV) in two regions of Somaliland, Togdheer and Maroodijeex. The aim is to create a unified civil society coalition, advocating for the reduction and prevention of GBV. This will be the first coalition of its kind in Somaliland, as prior to this, civil society groups with a focus in advocacy have been ad hoc.

"The project will present the opportunity to work with all the stakeholders involved in the process of preventing and ending GBV, including the parliament, the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, and civil society in Somaliland. The project intends to strengthen the voice and capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) to influence and bring fundamental changes in the attitudes of the state and traditional leaders, to address and bring an end to GBV. At the same time, it intends to create an alliance of CSOs for collective actions."

Suad Abdi, Country Representative for Somaliland



"Before the war, Yemen was already the poorest country in the Middle East, at the bottom of the Global Gender Gap Index. You can only imagine what life is like now, for women and girls, after this intense conflict that's left 21.1 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance

"There is a real need for us to listen to the suffering of the Yemeni people, especially the women. Because after the war, everything is broken, and so it's really important to work on development issues as well as the humanitarian ones.

"Through our work with local partners, we can relieve these women and girls of some of their suffering. We can support them to regain control over their lives, and to stand up for their rights. It's a distressing situation to be in, and it's not an easy path to equality, but at least we are able to relieve some of the pressure hanging on their shoulders.

"We were able to resume and start projects in Yemen in January 2016 working on empowering women and female juveniles in prison; empowering youths into advocacy and community work as opposed to violence; and preventing and ending female genital mutilation (FGM) for babies, young girls and women."

Abeer Al Absi, Country Representative for Yemen.



Saeeda, age 12, pictured carrying wood back to her village in Yemen, where Progressio provided support through a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project.

# Campaign Highlights

#### **Conflict Minerals**

Progressio supporters joined thousands of campaigners across Europe who asked the European Union to pass a new regulation on conflict minerals. We asked for all European companies that manufacture or import products that contain targeted minerals to check their supply chains to ensure they do not fuel conflict or violate human rights. Unfortunately, we feel that the deal that was eventually struck is too weak and will have a limited tangible impact for populations living near mining areas. However, the deal does have some mandatory elements that will protect people's rights and this is down to the lobbying efforts of civil society across the EU, so we can be proud of this outcome.

#### The 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

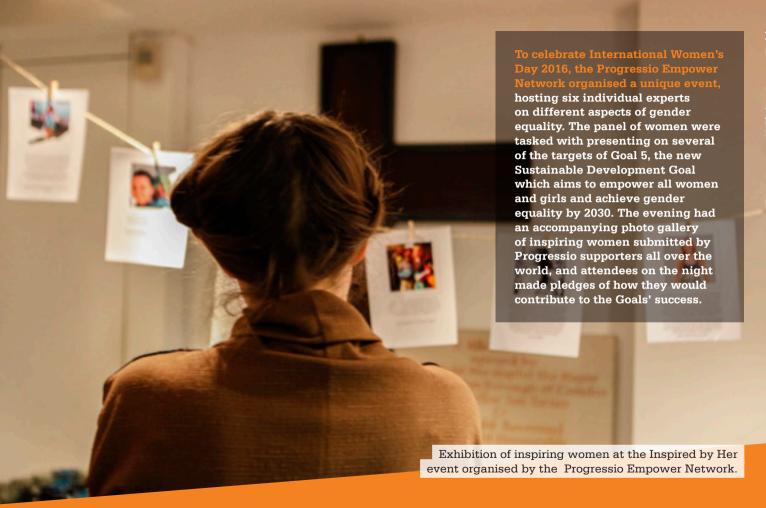
Progressio representatives attended the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March The conference was an opportunity to learn, network and advocate the rights of women and girls, while engaging directly with decision-makers.

We shared our policy briefing with delegates both from government and civil society in order to present our findings on how social and religious norms and cultural practices impact the SRHR of women and girls.





Progressio



# Progressio's Development Workers

Progressio Development Workers are experienced and professionally qualified specialists who offer skills, expertise and knowledge that is not available locally. They are all committed to helping bring about real change and are mostly hired from countries in the Global South.

For example, Eriasafu Lubowa, a Progressio Development Worker who is a specialist in advocacy and communications, has been building the capacity of the Malawi Civil Society Organisation Nutrition Alliance (CSONA) secretariat, and its member organisations in Malawi. Eriasafu said:

"One of my major accomplishments is completing the revised 2016-2018 Advocacy and Communication Strategy accompanying it with a costed strategy implementation plan. The participatory planning process has in itself been a learning process for the staff, especially on diversified advocacy and communication strategies toward scaling up nutrition."



Photo of the budget analysis and tracking training workshop for MPs and local CSOs, organised and facilitated by CSONA and Save the Children International in Blantyre, Malawi, March 2016.



### International Citizen Service (ICS)

This year ICS has continued to be very successful, and our ICS programme is consistently rated as one of the topperforming agencies across the ICS consortium. 349 UK volunteers and 365 local volunteers have completed placements in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Volunteers have exceeded targets across projects in all five country programmes. In Malawi and Zimbabwe, the focus has been on increasing the access of Sexual and Reproductive Health services to young people. One project in Malawi, with our local partner organisation Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO), engaged over 2000 young people in one 12-week cycle. MacBain Mkandawire,

"A huge difference is being made by young ICS volunteers. Their engagement with the local community, their focus on their work, and their commitment will support the young people in Malawi to change. As a leader, I see this as a huge opportunity."

Executive Director of YONECO, said:

"The programmes that Progressio supports do not only directly help the people we work alongside, but they enable volunteers to get involved, build skills and become part of an organisation."

> Charlotte, a Progressio ICS UK volunteer.



2015 was a seminal year for Progressio, marking 75 years since our foundation. During this anniversary year, we appealed to new and existing donors to make a special financial commitment to help us become less dependent on uncertain Government funding, and to meet the very pressing needs of the people we work with. As Progressio's President, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor elicited support from a number of Vice-Presidents who helped us reach new audiences and potential donors, including Catholic Dioceses, lawyers and women in business.

In the autumn, we held two special events to mark the 75th milestone: one – an evening of speeches, singing and socialising in London's Covent Garden, and the other – a service in the city's historic Temple Church. Although they took place in very different settings, both events celebrated Progressio's rich legacy of working across faiths with some of the world's poorest and most marginalised communities.

This year we developed a set of unique community fundraising challenges. ZimFare consisted of hosting a Zimbabwean-themed meal for friends using Zimbabwean recipes, while ZimFast challenged people to live on a repetitive Zimbabwean diet for six days. People from all walks of life took part to stand in solidarity with those living in extreme poverty

in Zimbabwe and around the world, and over £14,000 was raised. Participants also helped to raise awareness of the drought that badly affected Zimbabwe. Somaliland and Malawi this year.

The Archbishop of Liverpool, Malcolm McMahon said:

"By taking these simple actions we can empathise closely with the people in Zimbabwe, so that Progressio's work in developing communities [...] will be supported from strength to strength."

This challenge was run in partnership with the Liverpool Archdiocese, Birmingham Archdiocese and Clifton Diocese, and was launched on Ash Wednesday. We also raised funds through smaller initiatives throughout the year, such as the April Skydive and the Bath and Cambridge Half Marathons.





# Highlights from Progressio Blogs

"Change takes place in people's minds and people's hearts, and it only takes place when the right questions are asked, when the right education is provided, and when we reach people where they're at: often at the grassroots. So while this year's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was an important space to ask questions of governments, and I'm sure next years will be too, I was most interested in the people, not the paper, at the conference. I spent my time engaging in as many conversations as possible, finding out what works and what doesn't, and learning from my global sisters.

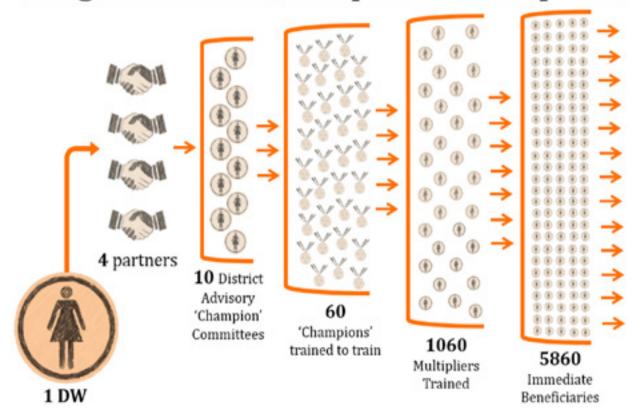
"I'm glad we have our new framework for sustainable development written down, but I'm cautious too. I hope in 15 years when we put it on the shelf we can look back and be proud of this document and know that it translated from Government's promises, in to grassroots action."

Jenny Vaughan, our Campaigns Officer, attended the 60th Session of the United Nations CSW in New York. In her blog, she shares her views on why governments and grassroots are equally important for global development, and why governments need to translate their promises into grassroots action in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Extract from a blog written by our Campaigns Officer, Jenny Vaughan.



# Progressio 1 to 6,000 'power' multiplier



# Making Change Happen

5,458

People took campaign actions, including policy change actions, awareness-raising actions and event attendance.

48

International policy interventions were achieved which are positive steps towards policy change.

36

Development Workers provided specialist support to our partner organisations.

9,134

People were directly supported (approximately 48% women and 52% men) by our work alongside 60 civil society partner organisations involving our Development Workers in our programme countries, reinforced with our international policy work.

750,000

Almost **750,000** people indirectly benefitted from Progressio's work. That's because the people we have trained have gone on to:

- Train others to help their local community;
- Improve their income or livelihood;
- Challenge unfair political systems that hold people back;
- Encourage their peers to have a say in decision-making;
- Work with our policy team and campaigners to give people power over their own lives.

714

Young adult ICS volunteers worked with local communities.

- 365 were national volunteers, volunteering in their own country
- 349 were UK volunteers who completed placements in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador

**Note:** Direct and indirect figures do not include ICS. We do not consolidate data on all ICS projects.

• Our ICS young adult volunteer programmes included activities that reached 44,978 other people through our work alongside 18 local partner organisations in five country programmes. These numbers include some overlap as some community members have attended several activities. Unfortunately it is often not possible or appropriate to obtain names of people attending activities or receiving, for example, HIV and AIDS workshops, in order to cross-compare data.

#### Our income for 2015-16 was £6,377,205

Funding source	Percentage of total
Department for International Development (D	OFID) 32%
Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)	41%
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis a	and Malaria 1%
International Citizen Service (ICS) fundraisin	g 5%
Big Lottery Fund	2%
Membership, subscriptions, donations, sales, legacies and sundry receipts	3%
Others	4%
Multi-partner trust fund	2%
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	1%
Amplify Change	1%
Comic Relief	6%
Christian Aid	1%
University College London (UCL)	1%

#### Thank you

We are extremely grateful to the many individuals who have supported us this year, as well as the agencies, trusts and other organisations whose donations make our work possible. Thank you.

#### Major funders include:









Progressio wishes to thank the individuals and organisations that made donations to its work in 2015/2016.

The following agencies and individuals donated more than £1,000 in the year 2015/2016: St Albans Rotary, Ayuntamiento De Comendador, British Embassy Small Grants Scheme (BESGS), Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), E A Costello, Daughters of Jesus, Our Lady of Dolours Servite Church, European Union, Fedomu, Franciscan Friary, David Garman, Jonny Gregson, Prof Mary Grey, Institute of Our Lady of Mercy, Institute of Christian Education, Kulika Charitable Trust, Aaron Linstead, Ruth Lister, Monastery of Christ Our Saviour, Gill Moody, Anne O'Connor, Oxfam. John B Ruming. Society of the Sacred Heart, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Margaret Gray-Williams, John A Walsh, World Vision, Stephanie Zioupos.

The following agencies donated more than £20,000 in the year 2015/2016: Amplify Change, Big Lottery Fund, Christian Aid, Comic Relief, Department for International Development (DFID), Economic & Social Research Council/UCL, Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO), The Global Fund/UNICEF, Multi Partner Trust Fund, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), World Food Programme (WFP).

#### Our expenditure for 2015-16 was £5,788,282

Expenditure by activity:	
Programmes and policy	<b>91</b> 9
Fundraising and publicity	6%
Public engagement	2%
Governance	1%
Expenditure by theme:	
Participatory and Accountable Governance	39%
Women's Rights and Gender Justice	11%
Sustainable and Resilient Livelihoods	
HIV and Aids	24%
Expenditure on Programmes (Non ICS)	
Africa	63%
Malawi, Somaliland, Zimbabwe	
Middle East	13%
Yemen	
Caribbean	24%
Dominican Republic Haiti	

Progressio is the working name of the Catholic Institute for International Relations registered in the UK as a charity (no. 294329) and a company limited by guarantee (no. 2002500). We are governed by a Board of Trustees who are also directors of the company. Details of trustees and staff, and full financial statements audited by independent auditors Appleby & Wood, are included in our 2015/16 Trustees' Report and Financial Statements which are available on request from Progressio or can be downloaded from our website www.progressio.org.uk

Cover image: Women queuing outside a voter registration center in the remote Sanaag region of Somaliland, July 2016. Photo taken by Malou Schueller, Progressio

**Back cover:** Progressio ICS team volunteers in Malawi.

**Design:** This annual review has been kindly designed by Pollard Thomas Edwards

