



Where does the money go?

Mothers' Union Community Development Coordinators (CDCs) work within their own and neighbouring communities transforming family life through relevant grassroots activities. Just some of the ways they do this is by organising training and encouraging self-help projects for communities, even for those who live in the most isolated areas.

They travel vast distances to bring support to communities, sometimes walking for days or driving such a long way it's an overnight journey. On such long journeys they need money for food and sometimes fuel. Even when they are in a vehicle the driving conditions mean the journeys can be very uncomfortable. The landscape is harsh and, without tarmac, roads become muddy in the rainy season and can be washed away or eroded fast.

Many of the Mothers' Union Community Development Coordinators receive support from Mothers' Union towards their salary and travel costs. This support enables them to carry out this work among grassroots communities. Where possible this support is offered in conjunction with the local Provincial Mothers' Union.

*Below are just some of the stories we have received from CDCs travelling in 2012. By supporting the Wheels Appeal you will help to keep the Mothers' Union's CDCs on the road, travelling to isolated communities to bring transformational change. **Your help is vital.***

Pelagie, CDC, Burundi - Diocese of Matana

As a Community Development Coordinator in Burundi, Pelagie travels almost 2,000 kilometres every year to support Mothers' Union's work. The outreach she offers Mothers' Union members and their communities includes health education to improve HIV testing and accessibility of medicine, improve hygiene and nutrition and marriage and relationship support. She also visits and cares for families who live in poverty or are unable to help themselves due to illness. Whilst she is working she also looks to the future and helps to improve the capacity for outreach for Mothers' Union and plan how it can be improved and continued for many years to come.



'I went to Mihana parish, one of the farthest parishes of the Diocese in a remote area. I raised awareness of saving and credit when people come together to develop a group. The very day we left they started a saving and credit association.'

Over the last year alone Pelagie has directly helped over 1,000 people. Each of these people will no doubt pass on her advice and training to their families and others in their community which means Pelagie's support is improving the lives of countless others too.

Even with the support Pelagie received from Mothers' Union last year she was unable to travel to all 33 parishes in the Diocese of Matana. Your support will help to make sure she can reach more parishes in 2013 to offer advice and support.

Burundi has a hugely varying terrain of hills and mountains to the North and West dropping to a plateau in the East and South. The climate is tropical with extremely high temperatures during the day and rain is irregular with some long periods of drought. In the wet season the rain can cause issues with the muddy roads.

Jane, CDC, Kenya - Diocese of Kitale

Jane is one of two CDCs in the Diocese of Kitale in Kenya. Last year she travelled over 12,000 kilometres to offer advice and training to communities. When journeys are too far to go on foot, in some cases a CDC will take a public vehicle to a neighbouring parish. On one such journey Jane took, there were no public vehicles and so instead she had to hire someone to drive her on a motorbike, she also had to take her granddaughter as there was no-one to look after her. After travelling for some time on the motorbike they had to stop as a bridge they needed to cross had collapsed. In order to get the bridge built quickly and carry on their journey Jane and the driver had to help load the stones to repair the bridge onto a lorry. By the time the bridge was fixed it was night time and too unsafe to travel. They were fortunate to be offered a place to stay with the Bishop for the night and then continued their journey in the morning. The roads in Kenya are not usually tarmaced so are dusty in the dry summer months and become muddy in the wet season. With



vast distances to cover the obstacles that come up can be difficult to overcome as there is not always help in the area.

Claudine, CDC, Rwanda - Diocese of Shyogwe

Claudine regularly travels to offer training and advice to Mothers' Union group leader Alphonsine. Alphonsine set up a Malnutrition group in her community where she educates the members on healthy eating and nutrition. As a result of the support given by Claudine, the group has learnt the importance of eating well and the benefits for themselves and their families. As a group they now grow crops and own livestock.

In fact, their first crop of maize will be ready to harvest in July of this year and they have already built a storage block to keep the grain dry. They will sell the maize to support their families and to buy seeds. They plan to grow vegetables next, which are far more nutritious.

Rwanda is a country dominated by a hilly landscape. Many people live on the side of the valleys so that the fertile bases can be used to grow crops. The hills and lack of proper roads means that it can be difficult to visit communities, particularly in the rainy season as the routes can become muddy and prone to mudslides.

Through all conditions Community Development Coordinators like Claudine want to continue to reach out to the heart of communities to offer training and advice. With their support families can find long term solutions to improve health and not only that but they can gain knowledge, learn to work together, build relationships and support one another. The work of Mothers' Union's Community Development Coordinators is vital. **Nutrition Group Member, Rwanda**

