

News from Global Care and our partner projects

Summer 2022

NEWSBRIEF



YOUNG MUMS

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

Uganda



Unplanned teenage pregnancy so often ends a young girl's hopes and dreams.

Unwelcome in the classroom and without skills, young mums are trapped into poverty. Their poverty then reduces the life chances of their own child... and so the cycle grinds on.

The Covid-19 pandemic has seen a spike in teenage pregnancies worldwide. In Uganda, the Makerere

University School of Public Health reported that teenage pregnancies increased by 28% during the 2020 lockdown.

In Kampala, Global Care's team has launched a new initiative to help young single mums and their babies.

“ Isolation breeds its own problems ”

Stigmatised in the community, young mums can become very isolated. “This isolation breeds its own problems,” says Global Care manager, Patrick. “Destitution, mental health issues and increased vulnerability to harms including prostitution and abuses, for example. In the long run their children can become victims and the cycle of poverty remains unbroken.

“Currently there is limited support. These young mothers are ostracized within their communities which demoralizes them and takes away their confidence. Unless they are supported in some way to confront these issues, their hope for a potentially good future is threatened.”

Thanks to starter funding from a church in Coventry, the Kampala team are helping young mums aged 14-19 into short vocational training courses, to equip them to better care for their children over the long term. They are focussing on young mums from Kazo-Angola, an area of Kampala with high rates of deprivation, working with local authorities to identify the right participants and safeguard both mums and babies from future harm.

Seven young mums began training in February at businesses in Kampala, including hairdressing, photography and tailoring. The young women will also receive counselling and training aimed at building life and business skills, and the team will encourage peer-to-peer support to build confidence and capacity. The first group of mums will complete their training later this year, and the team hope to recruit another eight young mums by August.

The entire programme will cost in the region of £8,460 per year.

Afiya's Story:

During lockdown, Afiya's mum couldn't feed her children in Kampala and took them back to her village. While they were there, Afiya got pregnant.

Filled with fear and shame, she ran away to her brother in Kampala but concealed the pregnancy until she was seven months along. She was just 16 years old. A Senior Two student, Afiya still had two years of

education ahead, but motherhood ended her studies. The local authorities recommended Afiya to Global Care, and she is now learning hairdressing.

Patrick writes: “Afiya is devoted to learning. She has learnt a lot and I found her working on several clients who did not even realise that she was on training. She hopes that she will be retained and given work in the same place, or else she will try to get a job in a bigger salon where she will learn even more complex styles. If possible, she would like to set up her own salon in future.”



Afiya at work

BACK TO BASICS

Thousands of children in South Sudan are benefitting from a better quality of education thanks to a teacher training initiative funded by Global Care. Education indicators in South Sudan are among the worst in the world, with only 10% of children completing primary education.

There are many issues to overcome, but one factor is a lack of qualified teachers. In 2017 Global Care began funding a teacher-training programme at St John's College of Theology and Development, in the rural Diocese of Wau. At this point, the diocese had only two qualified teachers across 13 primary schools.

Thanks to Global Care, a cohort of 50 unqualified teachers embarked on a three-year diploma, teaching in the mornings and studying in the afternoons.

Now, a total of 29 students, who between them teach more than 3,000 children, have completed the course and passed their exams, with 15 students graduating in 2020 and a further 14 in 2021. Eight more students are still resitting exams.

All the trainee teachers lived in poverty, and many also lived with the effects of trauma and loss due to South Sudan's long history of conflict. Some lived or taught in remote areas. All these factors affected attendance and performance.

However, all the students said their knowledge and skills had improved, even if they failed exams, enabling them to better teach their classes.

Kazim* and Mariam* teach a total of 530 primary-aged children. Before they started training, they had difficulty understanding resources such as syllabuses and lesson materials, which are all in English. Intensive English classes were part of their training, and now they are equipped to teach far more effectively. Mariam supports 10 dependants, and the course also increases her chances of promotion and gaining a better-paid job.

Head of Operations, Steve Wicking said: "The course evaluation highlighted that many students not only gained academic knowledge but have developed their teaching practice; they are more confident in the classroom, better organised in lessons, and have skills to better manage classes. This has impacted their whole schools, as they share their learning and support other teachers. Thousands of children are receiving a better standard of education as a result, improving opportunities for the next generation."

Global Care is supporting the college to understand how the learning from the evaluation of the programme can be implemented, with a view to taking on a new cohort of students in September.



SCHOOLS IN SOUTH SUDAN

FACTFILE



More than **70%** of children are not in school



63% of teachers are **unqualified**



2,042 schools operate **under trees**, and another **1,134** in temporary structures

LIVING IN FEAR, LEARNING IN HOPE

Fighting and airstrikes continue across Kayah State, the smallest and poorest of Myanmar's minority ethnic states, home to the Karenni people, whom Global Care have been supporting for around two decades.

The conflict, which erupted in response to the military coup in February 2021, shows no sign of abating, and government forces are undertaking more and more severe attacks.

"The situation in Karenni (Kayah) is very bad," reports DS, Global Care's local partner. "Many Karenni people had to flee their homes and there are now close to 300,000 internally displaced people in Karenni. The Global Care project is in southern Karenni, not in the fighting zone – this area used to be in the worst situation but now there is only light fighting. However, the area is affected by the fighting in central Karenni, and it is difficult to travel, and difficult to buy food as all the

prices increased a lot."

Despite difficulties accessing the area and buying goods, DS risked his own safety and navigated road closures to bring relief to families. During his most recent trip, he provided 180 vulnerable children with essentials such as cooking oil, salt, dried food, soap and candles.

DS supports children separated from their families by a local education system where children above primary age travel to live in villages adjacent to middle and high schools. Children are supported by local elders and church leaders, returning home to their families at the weekend to collect supplies for the following week, and to support their families by working on farms.

Global Care also provided financial support to 60 village primary school teachers. Teachers cannot support their families on their meagre salaries, so through DS's efforts, Global Care helps schools retain teachers. Parents and guardians also help by working on teachers' farms. DS said: "The students and teachers all are very happy and send their best special thanks to you."



Nilar's Story

13-year-old *Nilar is one of six siblings. Her father is a farmer and her mother a primary school teacher. During the week Nilar lives in a small temporary house near her school with her friends.

Here she is receiving supplies from Global Care to support her in her lodgings. DS has provided support for her for the last two years. Nilar explained: "I like studying, but there is no high education in my village."



SOLAR SOLAR ON THE WALL, WHO'S THE BRIGHTEST OF THEM ALL?

“Now I can study in the evening I will do better in my exams, now I will be top of the class!”

*Namazzi is a P7 student at Obule Primary School, near Soroti, Uganda and one of the recipients of the solar lamps bought through our ‘alternative gifts’ programme last Christmas.

Her family told our team the lamp was good quality, bright and the charge lasted a long time. They have five children who will all benefit.

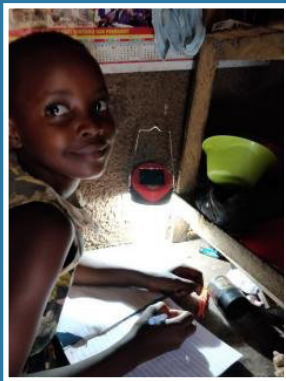
In Soroti district, 158 lamps were given to children in

P7 classes at partner schools, and to families in the Disability Support Groups.

A total of 411 lamps have been purchased by our supporters to date. So far 360 lamps have been delivered to families across Uganda, with the remainder to be distributed shortly.

The solar lamps reduce reliance on kerosene lighting which is expensive, unsafe, unhealthy and very environmentally damaging.

Lamps cost £16, with a choice of two cards for the donor, suitable for any special occasion or birthday. Find out more at www.globalcare.org/solar-lamps



COOL AND BRIGHT

A new solar energy system has been installed in the dining hall at the Home of Love in Bangladesh, thanks to a successful bid for trust funding by Global Care.

The hall is used for dining and studying by the 40 boys at the Home of Love, but the existing electricity supply was extremely unreliable, meaning both meals and study times were frequently interrupted through lack of light.

During the summer, the hall also became stiflingly hot without electricity to run fans, also making it unsuitable for use.

The new solar system supplies enough electricity to run three fans, three computers and a television, as well as lighting at night.

The new system will also reduce electricity bills at the Home of Love by around 1000BDT (£9) per month.



Can't do everything

It's hard to be optimistic about the world right now. We face seemingly insurmountable challenges everywhere we look.

HUNGER

Post-pandemic, 283 million people are food insecure with a staggering 45 million at risk of famine in 43 countries. According to the UN's World Food Programme, 3 million children a year die from malnutrition – one every ten seconds.

The war in Ukraine has made this worse: The UN says a further 8-20 million people will go hungry from the knock-on effects of soaring prices and broken supply chains for grains, cooking oil, fertiliser and fuel.



EXTREME POVERTY

Covid increased the rate of extreme poverty – those surviving on less than \$1.90 per day – by an estimated 97 million people, from a global rate of 7.8 to 9.1%, reversing two decades of progress.

This won't turn around quickly, especially in places which were already fragile (like South Sudan), still lack access to vaccines (like Kenya), have acquired huge new national debt (like Zambia) or where the economy is in freefall (like Lebanon and Sri Lanka).



CLIMATE CHANGE

Shifting weather patterns, unpredictable rainfall, traditional crops now less reliable, salination of land by rising sea levels, health impacts, eg: mosquito-borne diseases experienced further afield as conditions change, more flooding, drought and wildfires...

Climate change and disaster impacts are expected to push a further 132 million people into poverty by 2030 and displace 216 million people within their own countries by 2050.



EDUCATION

Pre-Covid, 258 million school-aged children were out of school, and those in school weren't all learning adequately. In lower and middle-income countries, 53% of children in school couldn't read by the age of ten. School closures and inequitable access to online learning had a catastrophic multiplier effect; reducing learning and exposing children to further risks including exploitation and child labour. The Covid generation will lose an estimated \$17 trillion in life-time earnings due to disrupted education.



CONFLICT

Two billion people – a quarter of the world's population – live in areas of conflict. The UN says world peace is more threatened now than at any time since the Second World War.

There are 27 ongoing conflicts worldwide, according to the Global Conflict Tracker, which categorises conflicts as 'worsening', 'unchanging' and 'improving'.

Right now, no conflict is described as 'improving'. The 'worsening' category includes Ukraine, Yemen, Myanmar and Ethiopia.



Mustn't do nothing

But we mustn't look away, we mustn't ignore the plight of suffering humanity. Here are two reasons, of many:

1

As Christians, we must answer God's call to care for the poor and vulnerable. ("Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy" Proverbs 31:8) The Bible is unmistakably clear that God's love for us was demonstrated in an inexpressibly costly way. How can we not show the same love to others?

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

1 John 3: 16-18

2

Children need our intervention today, not in five years time! The earlier we can intervene for a child in crisis, the better their chance of a stable future:

"Children suffer poverty differently from adults and they are more likely to experience lifelong consequences from it. Malnutrition can last a lifetime, having long-term consequences on children's physical, social and emotional development. And losses in learning at a young age can result in children falling behind in school, finding it difficult to ever catch up. Without access to health care, children miss out on vaccines that could be lifesaving in later years and the treatment necessary to grow up healthy and thrive. In addition, children are placed at greater risk of child marriage, violence, exploitation and abuse."

UNICEF



The good news is that we

Can do something

Global Care is working to tackle these huge world problems – one child, one family and one community at a time. On a global scale, it might not look like much. But for that child, that family and that community it is utterly life-changing.

We hope the rest of this magazine shows you what we're achieving in partnership with your generosity. Let's commit to keep on 'doing something' together.

THE BOY WITH NO SMILE

Global Care's Head of Operations, Steve Wicking, finally made it to Uganda in March. Here's a snapshot of his visit.

“ It was wonderful to be in Rukungiri at last. After two years of Zoom calls, I finally made it to this small town in the South West of Uganda. I was immediately taken with the dramatic hills and lush green vegetation contrasting starkly with the burnt orange of the dirt tracks and bumpy roads. Everywhere I looked there was life; banana trees, brightly coloured birds, lizards and insects. There was even a frog, making its home in my hotel bathroom! However, I knew that for all its beauty, this remote region close to the borders with Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, was home to some of the poorest children Global Care supports.

The world was resting on his tiny shoulders

On the Friday morning we visited four partner schools. We must have been introduced to a dozen different classes and waved to hundreds of smiling children who seemed genuinely happy to see us. (Just look at our front cover image!) However, amongst all the smiles and waves, there was one small boy who stood out for all the wrong reasons. He didn't smile once. His eyes seemed filled with sadness, his uniform was dirty and he looked like the world was resting on his tiny shoulders. The Global Care team told him to tell his mother that we would visit him at home the next day.

Late the next morning we parked our minibus at a crossroads and began the long walk down a narrow path to his small mud-plastered house. There we found this little boy crouching diligently

over a small cooking pot, boiling up some scraps of pumpkin and plantain, wrapped in banana leaves, as his little sister stood nearby, watching hungrily. A short conversation revealed that his mother had gone out and left them to their own devices. Neighbours soon gathered to tell us that the mother was alcohol dependent. It was normal for her to go out and not return until late at night, leaving the children, to fend for themselves. Aside from the cooking pot, a mattress and some clothes, half trodden into the mud, the house was bare. The mother had sold everything to fund her addiction.



As the team were discussing our course of action, the mother arrived, carrying a tiny, malnourished baby on her back in a sling. While the neighbours berated her angrily, Penlope* and I took her aside, recognising she was as much in need of help as her neglected children. The Global Care staff sprang into action. By the end of the next day the police and probation office had been informed, Global Care staff had taken the family to the hospital for a check-up,

the mother had been given nutritional supplements and Moses arranged for fresh milk to be delivered to the children every morning.

By the Monday morning, a child protection meeting had been held with the police, probation office, the local authority and health workers from the hospital. The mother agreed to a child protection plan, including two visits by a health worker every week.

Since returning to the UK, safeguarding reports from the team confirm that the mother is complying with the plan and the situation is improving, albeit slowly. It was encouraging to see how Global Care's local team dealt with the situation so professionally. Our team was the catalyst for action, mobilising local agencies and working directly with the mother to address her harmful behaviours.

Global Care's strap line is 'for vulnerable children'. We do what we say on the tin!

I have seen with my own eyes how the team in Rukungiri went that extra mile to support the neediest, most at risk children.

Thank you, Moses and Penlope, for your continued dedication and determination on behalf of Global Care and the children and families we support! ”

*Moses and Penlope are Global Care's team members in Rukungiri.

We're so grateful for the faithful support of our family of donors. But we recognise that many people feel the need to tighten their financial belts right now. Here are five ways you can carry on 'DOING SOMETHING' even when finances are tight.

5 ways you can DO SOMETHING for free!

1

Online shopping: A proportion of your everyday internet shopping can be donated to Global Care if you visit retailers via fundraising websites. Global Care is registered with Give As You Live, Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile. It's easy and doesn't cost you a penny. But if enough people do it, then funds for Global Care mount up!

2

Re-use and recycle: Donate your unwanted clothes or household items to our charity shops. Recycling and re-using in this way helps towards our goal of being a carbon neutral organisation and raises vital funds for our overseas work. If you don't live locally, sell them on eBay - with eBay for Charity you can donate 10% to 100% of your sales to Global Care.

3

Raise awareness: Share our posts on social media. We need to reach new audiences for our work – do this and it REALLY helps.

4

Talk about it: Could you tell one interested friend about Global Care's work? In a world which is desperately cynical about trusting any form of authority, word of mouth from friends and family is now one of our most trusted means of communication. Or could you simply leave this copy of Newsbrief somewhere where other like-minded people could read it?

5

Volunteer: Could you volunteer your time in our shops or in the office? Do you have a professional skill you could share with us pro-bono? Get in touch!

Above all, pray! We recognise that Global Care does not depend solely upon our own efforts, but on God's infinite resources. So, please, before everything else, pray for us.



HELPING HOPE FLOURISH

Thank you so much for supporting our Lent Appeal on behalf of our partners' work at the Hope Centre in Syria.

You raised a total of £15,502 towards our target of £17,094, for a further 12 months funding for this initiative supporting the education and welfare of some extremely vulnerable children in one of the world's most fragile nations.

Your donations will directly help children like *Mahir, whose father was shot by the militia during the war. After living in fear under ISIS for four years, Mahir, his mother and two brothers, fled their home for Damascus, travelling for several days by road and boat.

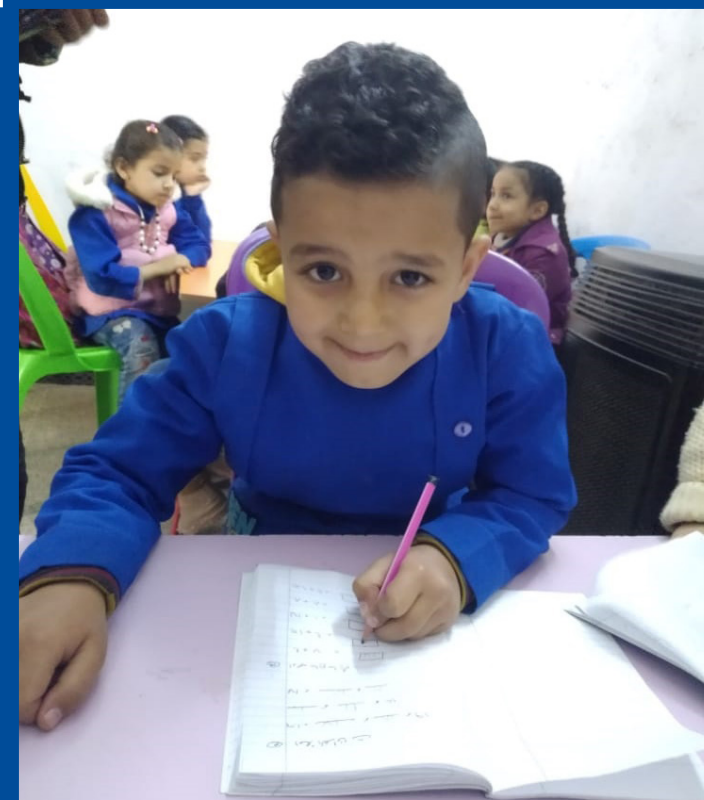
During their journey, the children saw people killed and tortured. When they first arrived in Damascus, the family lived with paternal relatives, but Mahir's mum was abused by her husband's family, who finally asked them to leave.

The family survive on very little. Mahir's mum works in a sewing factory and his older brothers work after school in a car wash and a supermarket.

When Mahir started coming to the Hope Centre, he was afraid and lacked self-confidence. He was tearful during tests and scored poorly. His teacher reported that even though his answers in class were usually correct, he didn't dare to raise his hand.

Mahir missed his father and missed his grandfather's farm in the village. However, with the care and encouragement of the Hope Centre team, Mahir gained self-confidence and began to heal from the trauma he witnessed and experienced. He is more active and involved in lessons and enjoys studying and being with other children. His academic scores have all improved.

The Hope Centre team say: "We try as much as possible to bring joy, security and confidence to children's hearts."



Global Care Cares

Global Care Cares... or maybe, Global Care C.A.R.E.S

Yes, it's a statement of fact. But it's also a strapline about values.

Vision and values statements are more than just corporate gimmicks. They can be very helpful in directing the culture of an organisation, especially as

new people join and others move on.

"The trouble was," explains CEO John White. "We had 26 values statements and no-one could ever remember what they all were!"

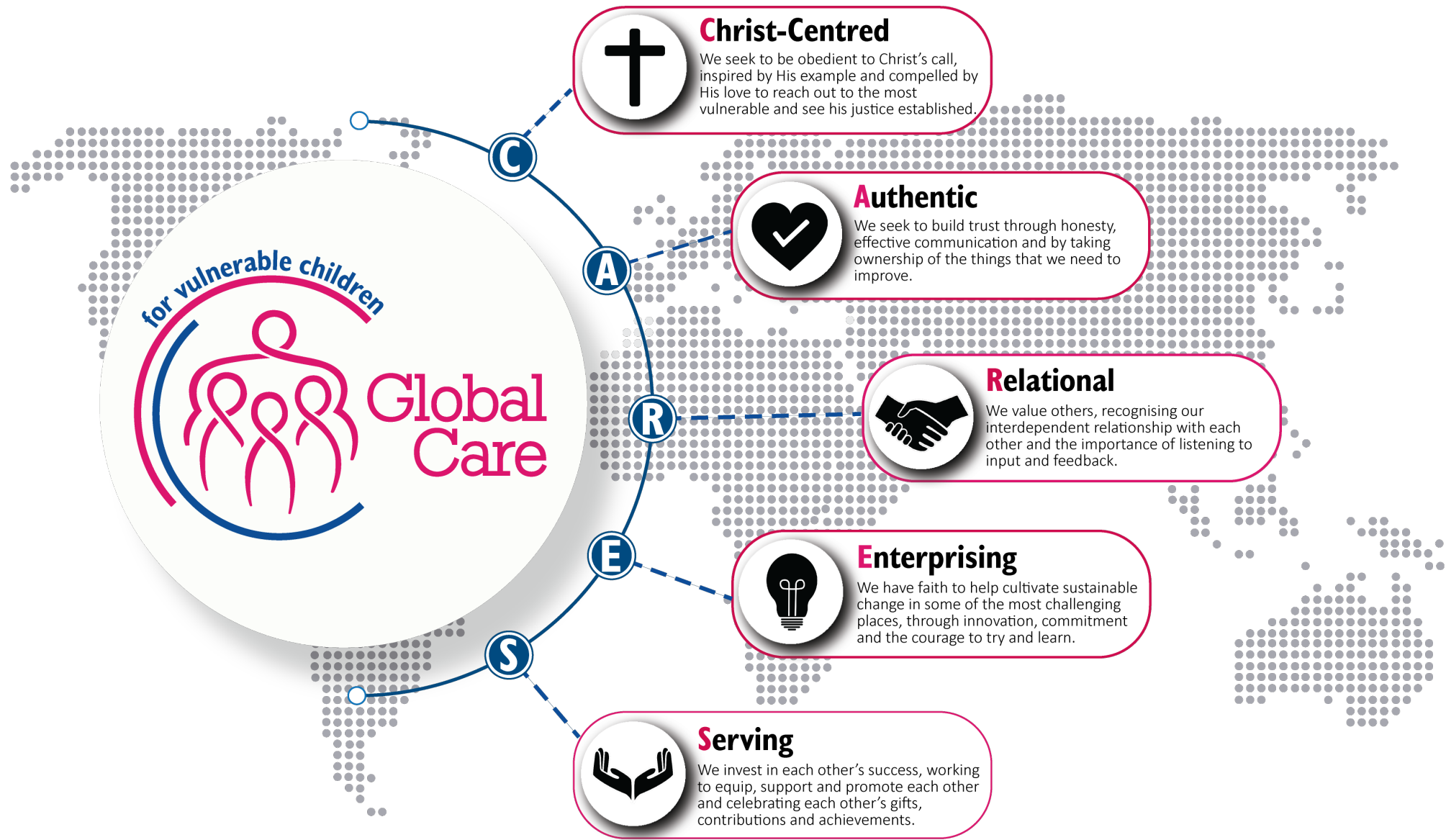
The UK team have worked to encapsulate those values, ideas and aspirations into just five simple sentences, represented by five words or phrases, and ultimately by an acronym which summarises everything.

Global Care Cares.

Yes, we do.

You'll be seeing this acronym appear in our publications over time and hope you can recognise how we live out these values. We also hope they will help new donors, volunteers and team members quickly understand the heartbeat of the organisation they have joined.

Global Care Cares



Our Vision is: A world in which every child can learn, grow and thrive

A BIT OF BENCH



Global Care funded 25 new sets of desks and benches for the primary section at Emmanuel School in Kolkata. They are being well used since India's schools finally fully re-opened.

Emmanuel Ministries founder Premila Pavamani commented: "Children and laughter! They go together. The sound of the children's voices and their laughter in the corridors and classrooms is like music to our ears, after almost two years of quiet and silence. Thank you for standing with us during the dark days, and encouraging us with your prayers and support."



MERGER: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Global Care's merger with its sister charity Global Care Volunteers is now complete. Both our international work and our charity shops in the UK are now part of the same incorporated body, in line with Charity Commission guidance. Our official name is now Global Care International, but Global Care will remain the working

name of our organisation. Our new charity and company numbers can be found at the bottom of this page.

We also took the opportunity to refresh our logo after 15 years, to give us a more fresh and modern look, whilst still recognisable as the Global Care we all know and love!

We are asking donors to update their Gift Aid declarations. Please see enclosed form for details.

Thank you so much for your support!



TRUSTEE NEWS

Our huge thanks goes to John Scott, who stepped down as chair of trustees on 14th May, after serving as chair for three years. He has been a trustee since September 2010, and we owe him a huge debt gratitude for his dedicated work for Global Care over the last 12 years.

CEO John White said he was particularly grateful to John for his help steering the charity through the recent merger.

John and his wife Anne will continue to lead the Global Care North East group, an amazing volunteer fundraising team who have raised over £100,000 since the group's inception 12 years ago.

Our new chair of trustees is Reverend Keith Parr, who has been a trustee since 2014.

*Names have been changed to protect the identity of children

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