

# GLOBAL LINK



Giving  
Hope  
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

SUMMER 2023



The Salvation Army corps in Coyah, Guinea, where community members gather every Sunday.

## A GROWING ARMY

By Kathy Nguyen

The Salvation Army first made a presence in Liberia in 1988 and expanded its work to neighbouring Sierra Leone, in 2010. Just last year, Guinea joined the Liberia and Sierra Leone fellowship, making it the 133rd country to join the Army world.

The Salvation Army is expanding in western Africa, and I was privileged to see the growth first-hand.

In **Liberia**, we visited the Sustainable Agriculture in Liberia (SAIL) project, a farming initiative funded by Canadians.

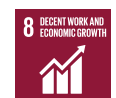
We met more than 30 farmers who travelled a great distance to greet and thank us in person. They showed their gratitude by sharing produce grown on their farms—a feat made possible thanks to the agriculture training provided by The Salvation Army.

In **Sierra Leone**, we witnessed the inauguration of four motorbikes gifted to the division. With these new bikes, officers and staff can reach more people and build the kingdom of God.

In **Guinea**, we visited the Salvation Army corps in Coyah where more than 20 faithful community members gather for a church service every Sunday. The building is owned by Jean-Paul, a man who was inspired to give his building to Salvationists after his son-in-law showed him the amazing things The Salvation Army is doing.

“We are continuing to grow,” says Lt-Colonel Luka Khayumbi, the territorial commander for The Salvation Army in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. “And it is with the glory of God that we can continue to reach out to those in need.”

From the farmlands across Liberia to the bustling hilltops of Sierra Leone and the calm of rural Guinea, The Salvation Army continues to meet human need and transform lives, and the work in each country is only getting bigger and stronger.







# REACHING OUT IN LOVE: A RESPONSE TO THE UKRAINE CRISIS

By Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray

Over the past few weeks, spring has turned to summer, and we have witnessed new growth first-hand. The buds and flowers have blossomed, and the grass has turned green and seems to grow so quickly that we can't keep up with it. Children pour into the parks and communities come to life.

New growth is important in all aspects of life, whether it is personal or professional, or we are charting new territory.

In this issue of *Global Link*, you will read about farmers in Liberia who are using “conservation agriculture” farming techniques and producing great yields of harvest. You will see how serving individuals displaced by the Ukraine crisis is dependent upon forming partnerships with other NGOs and civil society formulating a better understanding of the importance of working together. Finally, you will read how children's lives are being changed because they have the opportunity for education, providing a foundation for future growth.

Please take a few minutes to read through *Global Link* to see how your contributions enable us to provide essential services, offer opportunities for growth and education, and create positive change in communities around the world.

Thank you for your trust in us and for being part of our mission.

Sincerely,  
**Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray**  
Director of International Development

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has resulted in the displacement of millions of people, both internally and across the border into neighbouring countries. Displacement can have a devastating impact on individuals, families and communities, disrupting social networks, livelihoods and access to basic services such as health care, education and shelter. This can lead to a range of challenges, including increased poverty, social exclusion and vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.

Humanitarian aid plays a critical role in addressing the needs of displaced populations in Ukraine. This includes providing emergency assistance as well as longer-term support to help individuals and communities rebuild their lives.

Over the past year, The Salvation Army in Canada provided approximately \$2 million in support of various emergency response projects, with more than 50,000 people receiving direct assistance through voucher-based assistance, food parcels, water and sanitation projects, housing support and more.

These emergency projects were implemented by the local Salvation Army in Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Poland and Lithuania and provided new opportunities for partnership with local government, foundations, churches, local police, schools and hospitals. This was only possible because of your generous donations to the Ukraine crisis.

The provision of humanitarian aid is crucial in responding to the displacement crisis in Ukraine and addressing the needs of affected populations. It is important for governments, donors and the international community to continue to provide support and resources to ensure that displaced individuals can access the assistance and support they need to

rebuild their lives and achieve lasting peace and stability.

Because of your support, The Salvation Army can reach out in love and respond to crises around the world. Thank you!



# INVESTING IN INDIA'S CHILDREN

By Major Heather Matondo

For many children around the world, access to education is not always easy. Children living in rural villages often walk long distances to attend school, or they don't attend at all because the nearest school is simply too far away.

For many years, The Salvation Army has been providing opportunities for children to not only have access to schools, but a safe place to live, eat nutritious meals and have easy access to medical care.

During a visit to India, I met Ranya (name changed), someone who has benefited from the support of The Salvation Army. She is 16 years old and is from a small village in India where her mother and father are farmers.

After Grade 5, there was no school close enough for Ranya to attend so she began living at a Salvation Army children's hostel. If she did not have this opportunity, she knows that she would be spending her days working in the fields with her parents.

There are so many children through the years who have lived in the hostels to attend school, and because of the opportunity to receive a good education, are now living a successful life.

This was evidenced when I met a local doctor in Bapatla, India, who once lived in The Salvation Army's boy's hostel. He now has a successful medical practice and gives back to The Salvation Army by providing care for the leprosy patients at The Salvation Army Evangeline Booth Leprosy Home.

His story of transformation won't be the last, and Ranya's story is only just beginning.

Stories like this are possible thanks to the generosity of sponsors who care. The Salvation Army Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship program currently supports more than 700 children each year who live in the residential care of The Salvation Army.



To become a sponsor, visit  
[SalvationArmy.ca/brighter-futures](https://salvationarmy.ca/brighter-futures)

# A CONTINUED DREAM

By Kathy Nguyen

In 2020, The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda, in partnership with The Salvation Army in Sri Lanka, completed the Safe Water and Livelihood Development (SWALD) project. The initiative established 18 water boreholes to provide more than 6,800 families in the Polonnaruwa region with clean water, implemented agriculture training to more than 3,000 farmers, and supported more than 130 women with business and livelihood support.

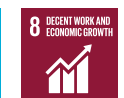
This five-year project was the result of tireless efforts from the local and international projects' team, the beneficiaries and the donors who support the international work of The Salvation Army.

Building on the success of this project, we are gearing up for another SWALD project in Sri Lanka.

Through our partnership with our friends in Sri Lanka and The Salvation Army's World Services Office in Washington, D.C., we're bringing more clean water and livelihood development programming to the Anuradhapura region.

This new project will see the construction of six additional water wells and livelihood support and agriculture training for more than 100 farmers across six remote areas.

These life-saving projects are only made possible through the support of our donors, and we're excited to carry on the dream of clean water for all.



To learn how you can support the next SWALD project,  
email [SAID@salvationarmy.ca](mailto:SAID@salvationarmy.ca)



# RAISING RWANDA

By Kathy Nguyen

The Salvation Army opened its doors to ministry in Rwanda in 1994 through relief work amidst civil war and genocide. Since then, The Salvation Army in Rwanda has expanded its work to the Burundi region and has given hope and care through children's camps, community engagement initiatives, women's ministries seminars, a new officers training college and more.

Providing education to children and youth is a core component of The Salvation Army's work in all 133 countries where the flag flies. Rwanda is no exception, where The Salvation Army operates 11 early childhood education centres across the country.

"All of the centres were established to intervene in rural communities where this kind of education did not exist," says Francois Nsengimana, head of the development office for The Salvation Army in Rwanda and Burundi. "Ten of the 11 centres are located in villages, and they provide an education to more than 500 children."

Through the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship program, Canadians are helping to uplift these important centres through integrative and holistic ways.

With your support, we provided the 11 centres with school materials, first-aid kits and nutritious meals.

Four of the centres have built their own poultry farms and kitchen gardens which will enable them to sustainably produce their own food.

Thank you for making a world of difference in the lives of children and youth today and every day.



## JOIN OUR GROUP SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM AND HELP CHILDREN THRIVE



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Your generous support will contribute to school  
supplies, tuition fees, nutritional support and more.



**Brighter Futures**  
THE SALVATION ARMY CHILDREN'S SPONSORSHIP



**INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

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