

## About Mission Direct

Mission Direct is a Hertfordshire-based Christian mission organisation that focuses on demonstrating the love of Jesus to materially poor areas of the world. Together with our Christian partners in these communities, we support long-lasting and sustainable change.

In addition to providing our expertise and sending financial resources, we also invite volunteers to experience two weeks of short term mission as part of achieving the longer term help in these communities.

If you are interested in joining a two week mission trip, or if you would just like further information, please feel free to get in touch or look at our website. Also, if your church would like us to organise a bespoke team just for your group, we would also love to help you with this.

For more information contact Mission Direct at one of the following:

[info@missiondirect.org](mailto:info@missiondirect.org)

01582 720 056

[www.missiondirect.org](http://www.missiondirect.org)

## Supporting the Harvest Appeal

We have produced a range of resources to help your church or school as you support the Harvest Appeal. These include: ideas for churches, activities for children and young people, Ugandan recipes, a collection box template, posters, editable posters and flyers, and a video. These can be downloaded from [www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/harvest-appeal-2023](http://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/harvest-appeal-2023)

Depending on how much is raised, some other food poverty projects in Kumi might also be supported.

## How to send donations

This year all donations are being made direct to Mission Direct, who will keep a record of the transactions for Bishop Alan to see, and will ensure that a thank you and receipt is sent.

For instructions for the various ways that you can donate, please go to.

[www.missiondirect.org/bishops-harvest-appeal-2023](http://www.missiondirect.org/bishops-harvest-appeal-2023)

or scan the QR code.

## Harvest Prayer

God of abundance and grace, whose Son, Jesus Christ, proclaimed good news to the poor and fed the hungry: we pray your blessing on the schools and families of Uganda.

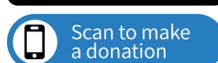
May we, your Church, overflow with generosity and joy.

In our giving may we have the imagination and courage to share our resources with all.

And may your Gospel of salvation and hope draw people throughout the world ever deeper into you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

£5	Will buy one fruit tree to provide additional nutrition.
£18	Will pay for three chickens to be given to a family, which can provide over 400 eggs a year.
£340	Can support a vulnerable family's annual supply of essential foods.



**DIOCESE OF  
ST ALBANS**  
*Living God's Love*



The Bishop of St Albans'  
Harvest Appeal 2023

## Cracking Food Poverty Together





## Dear friends,

I am delighted that this year's Bishop's Harvest Appeal is being run in partnership with Mission Direct.

The project will provide families in Uganda with chickens. These will produce eggs for food, which will help to alleviate food poverty and malnutrition. They will also be a source of much-needed income. An important part of the project is that their

first hatchlings will be given back to the scheme so that they can be passed on to another family, thus spreading the benefits.

There is huge scope for involving people of all ages but especially young people and children. We are providing a range of resources with ideas and suggestions for local involvement.

This is a programme richly deserving of our time and commitment and I commend it you.

So, please give your imagination free range, and let's get cracking!

+ Alan St Albans



### Helen's story

Helen lives in a small village within the Kumi district in Uganda. She has six children and has been greatly helped by the chicken project.

She was given some chickens a few years ago, which provided eggs and new hatchlings so that Helen was able to get more chickens. The more chickens that she had, the more eggs she received from them.

The eggs have been an important source of protein in their diet, and she has been able to sell chickens and eggs. This enabled her to support her children going to school, and she purchased a plot of land where she grows fruit trees.

Helen estimates that she has sold more than 300 chickens while retaining 50 for her family. While she has successfully expanded her chicken business and established her orchard, she has also given back to her community. One of the conditions of participation was that the first hatchlings were given back to the project so that another family could benefit. Helen has also mentored 16 other mothers to be able to look after their own chickens.



## Food poverty in Uganda

According to the Global Nutrition Report from 2022, 66% of Ugandans live below the poverty line. This meant that they lived on less than £2.59 a day. In fact, skilled workers barely earned more than this, while casual agricultural labourers only earned 90p a day, so significantly less than the poverty line.

	Annual price rise in the UK*	Annual price rise in Uganda†
Cooking oil	40%	125%
Posho / Porridge	29%	80%
Beans	20%	80%
Rice	10%	60%

\* Office for National Statistics  
Dec 2021 to Dec 2022

† Mission Direct data for  
the same period

Like most of the world, Uganda has experienced sharp food price rises. The table above compares price rises of basic foods in the UK and Uganda. As we can see, prices in Uganda have increased much more than in the UK. Some staple items used by most Ugandans have risen by 80% or more and a simple item like a bar of soap now costs more than a daily wage.

These price rises have been caused by a combination of factors. The war in Ukraine and fuel cost rises were significant, but added to these is the fact that they have experienced several droughts in recent years and suffered from locusts a couple of years ago, so successive crops were damaged. Added to this, the recent pandemic meant that people had to stay at home but did not receive government help, so livelihoods were severely affected. As a result of these challenges, many families can only eat one meal a day.

Mission Direct has supported the community of Kumi throughout this period. Much of our work is focussed on longer-term outcomes, like building schools to help the next generation to earn their way out of poverty with better jobs. However, the chicken project is a low cost and sustainable solution that has enabled families to feel a relatively quick benefit, with improved nutrition and a better income.

