

Focus on Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide

As we transition back to our regular newsletter from Global Partners in Care, we will continue to include COVID-19 information along with other updates from our partners and programs. Let us know if there is specific content or resources you would like to see in Focus on Compassion - email info@globalpartnersincare.org



GPIC's Disaster Response Fund in Action – Binga District, Zimbabwe

The people of Nsungwale Village in Binga District, Zimbabwe woke up on the morning of February 11th, 2020 to massive destruction and flooded homes due to the incessant rainfall that had been taking place for days. This comes on the heels of a series of droughts in 2019 that the World Food Programme noted were the country's worst in 40 years. Combined with the worst economic downturn Zimbabwe has seen in a decade, the droughts propelled nearly 8 million residents — half of the country's population — into a severe hunger crisis. Now, with industry shrinkages, unemployment, and multiple curfews and lockdowns resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, putting food on the table has become an even greater challenge for Zimbabweans.

The floods exacerbated these already insurmountable problems in Nsungwale. According to the Binga District Administrator (DA), a total of 180 households and 810 individuals were seriously affected by the flash floods in February. Bridges, roads, livestock, and crops had all been washed away as stranded villagers awaited rescue by incoming helicopters.

[Click to read more.](#)



The Challenge of COVID-19 for People Living with HIV/AIDS

When our organization began in 1999, it was in response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic sweeping through Sub-Saharan Africa. GPIC partner, Matthew 25 House, began in Ghana in 1998 with a similar mission. HIV is one of the deadliest global public health threats in recent history, having claimed nearly 33 million lives to date. This viral infection attacks the body's white blood cells (CD4 cells) and the body can become severely immunocompromised and advance into acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Thankfully, significant advances have been made in HIV/AIDS treatment over the past 20 years. Although a cure does not exist, a combination of drugs, or antiretroviral therapy (ART), reduces the viral load of HIV and slows its progression throughout the body. But now the COVID-19 pandemic poses a significant threat to progress in HIV diagnosis, prevention, and treatment.

[Click to read more.](#)

THANK YOU!

Through our COVID-19 Response Fund, your donations are directly helping palliative care workers safely continue to care for their patients by providing PPE and other essential supplies to protect against COVID-19.

Your support has also helped address food insecurity and other basic needs for palliative care patients and their families who are especially struggling during government lockdowns.

[Donate Now](#)

Our Contact Information

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True Colours Trust / APCA Small Grants

In collaboration with the African Palliative Care Association, True Colours Trust's Small Grants Programme is [NOW OPEN](#). Priority areas of this grant round include prevention of and protection against COVID-19. See [guidelines](#) for information on applying for this funding.

IAHPC Launches Leadership Initiative

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) recently announced a [Global Leaders in the Advancement and Development of Palliative Care \(GLAD\) Program](#). Palliative care workers with demonstrated leadership capability from any discipline may apply to the program. The goal is support the advancement of palliative care capacity and leadership globally.

ZOOM USERS

- For meetings that do not have either a Passcode or Waiting Room enabled by September 27, Zoom will automatically enable a Waiting Room for you.

- You can [customize the Waiting Room](#) experience with an approved list of domains that can bypass the Waiting Room and directly join the meeting.

- You can find meetings that are scheduled without a Passcode by [pulling the following report](#).

For more details, including a comprehensive FAQ document, visit the [Zoom support page](#). If you are using a Zoom license from GPIC and have any questions about your account, [contact GPIC](#).

COVID-19 Resources

[Africa CDC](#)
[WHQ Africa](#)
[WHPCA](#) and [IAHPC](#) both have comprehensive resource pages
[ICPCN](#) - Coronavirus and children's palliative care
[African Palliative Care Association](#) COVID-19 resource page

You can also help us spread the word!
Follow us on social media and share our story with your networks.

