**ACC-15 – Anglican Alliance**

1. **Anglican Alliance – fighting poverty and injustice**
   The Anglican Alliance stands on the brink of some major achievements in our mission to bring together the Anglican family of churches and agencies to work for a world free of poverty and injustice. Our distance learning programme commissioned from Open University will be available soon. We have three excellent regional facilitators in post, and the final one due to start very soon. We have just completed our second capacity-building workshop, on economic empowerment in Nairobi, Kenya. And we have provided support for the many church communities affected by disasters around the Communion.

2. **Delivering on our mandate**
   Achieving this has been due in great part to the care that the Anglican Alliance steering group put into the early planning, which gave us a distinctive mandate for development, relief and advocacy. We are not a funding or programmes agency - our mandate is to work with the church in capacity-building, sharing best practice, supporting and enhancing existing programmes. We have been strengthened by the support of all the Instruments of Communion, and relied on funding generously made available by the Lambeth Trust.

   After the initial planning, involving people from all parts of the Communion, the Alliance started the next stage of its existence in January 2011 at the Anglican Communion Office in London. During our first year we consulted the four regions of the developing world to find out their priorities for development relief and advocacy:
   - Africa chose economic empowerment, governance and peace and reconciliation as priorities and chose food as the focus for our advocacy
   - The Pacific's priorities were set as climate change, economic empowerment and food security at a meeting of representatives from the region in Solomon Islands.
   - Latin America and the Caribbean decided we should consider conflict related as well as natural disasters, and highlighted problems of environmental management.
   - Asia decided at a consultation in Hong Kong to prioritise regional advocacy on migrants and refugees and to hold a regional workshop on peace and reconciliation.

3. **Early achievements**
   Now we're working to carry forward the mandates from those regional consultations, which were developed into a three year strategic programme. Below are just some of our activities to date to support the work of the global Anglican family of churches and agencies.
   - Our director has been building partnerships with donors, development agencies and provinces to support the work of the Church and enhance understanding of faith-based development. She has also been taking forward the establishment of the Anglican Alliance as a charity owned by the Communion.
   - Our On-line Communities and Programme manager organised a workshop on peace and reconciliation, "The Peacebuilders Exchange" in the UK in July 2012 for

young Anglicans from conflict-affected countries. She has also co-ordinated two very effective submissions to the UK's international development select committee on behalf of the Church in Burundi and Sudan, with local and global partners, and is co-ordinating one with the Church of Pakistan.

- Our Relief and Programmes manager is working with Episcopal Relief and Development on a toolkit to help local churches deal with emergencies. She had a major success in building relations with the Mexican government when it hosted the G20, resulting in Anglicans being the only church involved in the planning meetings. Her relief work has provided real support for disaster-hit churches.
- Our Africa facilitator organised the first faith leaders meeting on the East African food crisis which also resulted in advocacy to African and Arab league governments. He also organised a major economic empowerment conference to improve skills in micro-finance, especially for women in agriculture. Africa will be the setting for the first regional steering group meeting.
- Our Latin America and Caribbean facilitator organised the effective Anglican input to Rio +20 and is playing a leading role in producing a theology of development to underpin the Alliance's work. He is planning a regional steering group meeting for the new year.

Our first Commonwealth Professional Fellowship Scheme provided a chance for four church education administrators from the Caribbean, Ghana, Nigeria and Solomon Islands to come to the UK for a nine-week study programme. Three have already supported implementation of education improvements at home as a result of their fellowships. A second scheme for health administrators is in the pipeline.

You can read more about our work at our website which is at www.anglicanalliance.org. You can also see on the site the specially-commissioned interactive map that shows development, relief and advocacy work around the Communion. The map has been specially created through an innovative IT partnership. Every diocese in the Communion has a place on the map for information and photographs of its own work. Please log on and upload information and pictures about the work in your own diocese!

## 4. Taking forward our mission

So what next for the Anglican Alliance? In the past year we have undertaken a governance review which resulted in a decision by Standing Committee that we should be incorporated as a charitable company under the auspices of the ACC. That process is due to be complete by next March. At the same time we are looking for financial sustainability as our initial funding package comes to an end.

From all the consultations, however, it is clear that that one of the great strengths of the Anglican Alliance is its local ownership, and our commitment that the priorities for fighting poverty will be set by those closest to it. Some regions are looking to create regional steering groups of people who can work with their regional facilitator to make a reality of the vision that we share of overcoming global poverty and injustice.