The Luke Fund

A Pilot Project supporting Anglican Community-based health initiatives established by the AHCN in memory of Rt Revd Luke Pato



"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Anglican Health & Community Network

Dedicated to Bishop Luke Pato



The Rt Revd Luke Pato was a revered South African born Anglican prelate who served as the 13th Bishop of the Diocese of Namibia from 2016 until his retirement in 2021. He was a **founding Co-Convenor** of the Anglican Health and Community Network in 2021 and much loved, respected, wise and humble leader.

Before his tenure in Namibia, Bishop Luke was a major intellectual and administrative pillar within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, having served as the Principal of the College of the Transfiguration, Provincial Executive Officer and collaborated closely with **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** on historic South Africa reconciliation and social justice efforts.

Although he retired from the Namibia episcopate, he transitioned into an **international figure for peacekeeping,** stepping onto the global stage to contribute to highly sensitive international peace initiatives through mediation and working on reconciliation frameworks between Israelis and Palestinians. Upon his passing, the current Namibian President, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, lauded him as a “shepherd of uncommon devotion,” whose monumental impact extended far beyond church walls.

As Bishop in Namibia, Bishop Luke championed cross-border health initiatives that leveraged the trust, reach and infrastructure of local faith communities focusing on malaria. As a key leader within the **Isdell: Flowers Cross Border Malaria Initiative,** he worked across southern African borders to coordinate regional malaria elimination efforts.

This initiative supported training community health volunteers and small community health-based initiatives which was highly effective and taken up by **churches across southern Africa.**

Bishop Luke’s commitment to **community-based health work** was a driving force for this fund and instrumental in AHCN’s commitment to the Health-Promoting Church model.

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What is The Luke Fund?

Previously named the "The 5 Loaves Initiative" **The Luke Fund** aims to actively seek out and support the invisible, local health work already taking place in the world's most remote parishes.

Grounded in the Health-Promoting Church model, that Bishop Luke championed, the fund will equip **small, community-driven church initiatives** to encourage Anglican congregations to fulfill Christ's call to care for the sick. (Matthew 10:8).

What is the aim of the fund?

Healthcare is not an optional extra to Christian faith, but a primary expression of worship, stewardship and loving service. The projects that the Luke Fund supports aim to:

To Overcome Health Inequity:

As Christians and churches we must confront the horrendous illustration of health inequity in our world, where some have plenty while others are left empty-handed. Local churches have vast potential to close this gap.

To Honor Local Wisdom & Interdependence

True healing happens through partnership and local assets - not through solutions imposed from the outside.

To Protect the Most Vulnerable

We are called to be the stewards, caregivers and custodians of God's creation, acting urgently because "it is the poorest of the poor on planet Earth who suffer first and most".

To Sow Seeds of Hope:

Bishop Luke urged the global Church to use its voice and resources to "sow the seeds of love and hope in the lives of others... so that love, friendship, and inclusiveness may flourish".

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Criteria of The Luke Fund

1. **Health:** The initiative must lead to a clear 'Betterment of Health'- defined as a measurable **improvement in local health outcomes** (e.g. reduced malaria, better maternal support, education on nutrition, etc) within the specific community context.

2. **Local Connection:** The initiative will have **grown from the local community**, be connected to an Anglican church and not an "imposed" project from the outside organisations. It will be based on local wisdom and needs. It will collaborate with or signpost to other local health agencies.

3. **Faith in Action**: Grounded in the Anglican Five Marks of Mission - specifically to respond to human need through loving service - this initiative will view healthcare not as an add-on, but as a core expression of the Church's worship & **witness to the Kingdom of God.**

4. **Asset Based Community Development:** The community will be already using what **assets** & resources they already have.

5. **Replicable:** This initiative could be **replicated** across the Anglican Communion. We hope that by highlighting individuals projects, other churches may chose to begin new initiatives in their communities & Dioceses.

What next?

The AHCN are accepting applications from churches across the Anglican Communion and we have an **application form** available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. Our prayer is that through this fund, Bishop Luke's witness lives on - enabling local Anglican churches to act as trusted, health-promoting sanctuaries that bring dignity, healing, and the hope of Christ to all.

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