



## Dear Colleagues and Partners,

In this edition of our newsletter, we're excited to share updates on several initiatives from the Global Office that are helping us build resilience and drive impact. From our journey of growth and learning in grants acquisition, to exciting developments with The Link App and our new Ministry Project Manager (MPM) system, we're committed to investing in the tools and partnerships that will help us achieve our mission. Read on to learn more about these initiatives and how they're helping us enhance our efficiency, effectiveness, and impact.

### 1. BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH GRANTS ACQUISITION: A JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND LEARNING

In December 2022, we embarked on an exciting journey to establish the Global Grants Acquisition Team (GGAT), a two-year pilot initiative approved by Congress to enhance our organization's resilience through strategic grant acquisition. This innovative approach brought together a diverse team of six members from Lead and Support Partners, representing Australia, Ghana, Kenya, India, Sri Lanka, and the UK.

### Strategic Goals

During the pilot phase, we set ambitious strategic goals to drive our success:

- Develop a comprehensive resource mobilization toolkit, including policies, strategies, and tools, within the first three months and update quarterly.
- Establish a global resource mobilization database within six months and update quarterly.
- Foster partnerships, networks, and relationships with funding agencies and donors, leveraging the database to secure grant opportunities.
- Prepare and submit at least 13 competitive grant proposals aligned with priority areas.
- Establish and strengthen relationships with at least five major funding agencies and donors to become a preferred implementing partner.
- Enhance the technical and management capacity of the GGAT to execute strategic goals, targeting at least \$100,000 in fee income and \$750,000 in grant funding for priority areas.

### Progress Update

We're pleased to share our modest progress:

- Provided grant development support to seven partner countries in Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Colombia, and Zambia.

- Developed a capacity-building toolkit and trained Partners.
- Researched and compiled a list of foundations, including their thematic areas, funding cycles, and relevant information.
- Developed and populated the resource mobilization database for Partner use.
- Secured grants totaling \$25,580 for Homecare Spiritual Fellowship and IN Zambia.

### Learnings and Lessons on Grant Development

As we reflect on our experiences, key takeaways emerge:

- Grant development is a marathon, not a sprint, requiring persistence, foresight, and a long-term strategy.
- Teamwork and collaboration are essential for building a sustainable grant acquisition and development strategy.
- Utilizing grant development tools enhances capacity, builds confidence, and enables effective grant applications.
- Cultivating healthy relationships with partners is crucial for success, requiring research, alignment, and compelling proposals.

### The GGAT in 2025 and Beyond

As we look to the future, we're committed to building on lessons learned and insights gained to inform and enhance our strategies:

- Revamp the GGAT, expanding the team and inviting participation from Lead and Support Partners to build capacity and contribute to building organizational resilience.
- Conduct a comprehensive gap and opportunity analysis to assess grant acquisition and development capacity in partner organizations and provide actionable recommendations.
- Prioritize grant research guiding data-driven grant applications and sharing of relevant funding opportunities.
- Develop a coherent grant acquisition strategy in collaboration with Partner countries, pursuing strategic priorities.

The future indeed looks promising, and there will be deeper engagement with both Lead and Support Partners, fostering stronger collaboration and alignment. GGAT is well-positioned to continue making significant strides in resource mobilization.

## 2. PROGRESS REPORT: THE LINK APP

We are delighted to provide this update on the successful implementation and adoption of The Link App for the benefit of our valued Lead Partners (LPs) and Support Partners (SPs). This progress report highlights the significant progress made in data migration, transition to

The Link App, and issue resolution. We have successfully onboarded 112 users from 24 LPs and SPs, providing comprehensive ongoing technical support to ensure seamless adoption.

### Data Migration and Key Statistics

The migration of data from the Electronic Central Profile Bank (ECPB) to The Link App has been completed successfully for both English and non-English speaking LPs.

Key statistics include:



### Transition to The Link App and Data Quality

Partners have successfully transitioned to The Link App, shifting routine management of the child assistance program away from ECPB. Users are actively engaged with the application, and feedback indicates successful utilization of its features. We are working closely with LPs to address data quality concerns, specifically inadequate responses to "Reasons for Assistance" during profile generation and photo quality issues for some participants. Issue Resolution and Feedback

Users have reported bugs, technical issues, and enhancement requests, which have been collated for resolution. Please monitor progress via URL The TRACKER. The Link App implementation and usage are progressing satisfactorily, thanks to the cooperation and feedback from our valued Partners. We remain committed to continuous improvement and support, ensuring The Link App meets the evolving needs of our Partners and enhances our collective impact.



### 3. INVESTING IN A NEW MPM: ENHANCING PARTNERSHIP EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

In 2012, the Ministry Project Manager (MPM) was adopted by Congress with the support of IN Canada and further developed for use by Partners. While MPM was an effective tool at the time, it has since become outdated and ineffective in meeting the evolving needs of our Partners.

The limitations of the current MPM include:

- Limited utility and functionality, failing to accommodate the diversity and complexity of projects undertaken by Partners.
- Outdated programming language, making upgrades costly and inefficient.
- Inadequate reporting tools and limited tracking of project management cycles

To address these shortcomings, we are developing a new, robust web application that builds on the strengths of MPM while enhancing user experience, efficiency, customization, and simplicity.

#### **Features and Capabilities of the New MPM**

The new MPM will boast a range of features and capabilities, including:

- A directory of Partner Organizations, facilitating inter-partner communication and collaboration
- A Project Management Module, streamlining concept note and project proposal development, including budgeting.
- A Funds Transfer Module, organizing financial data and extracting insights from various modules.
- An Accountability and Reporting Module, ensuring narrative and financial reporting on fund transfers and projects.
- A Monitoring and Evaluation Module, integrating effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks for projects.

#### **Validation Workshop and User Acceptance Testing**

In August 2024, we held a successful validation workshop in Ghana, collecting valuable feedback and recommendations that have been integrated into the updated MPM. We are now in the User Acceptance Testing (UAT) phase, engaging Support and Lead Partners in a collaborative effort to validate the application's functionalities and ensure seamless performance.



#### **Looking Ahead**

We are excited about the prospects of the new MPM and look forward to its successful launch in mid-2025. This investment will enhance our partnership efficiency and effectiveness, empowering us to better serve our communities and achieve our shared mission.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Annual Thanksgiving and Communion (December 4, 9 am and 6 pm GMT)
- Interactive Session: Communities of Practice (December 3, 11 am GMT)
- Joint Meeting: Executive Directors Working Group (December 10, 11am GMT)

#### **Prayer Points**

- Praise God for His faithfulness and provisions throughout 2024.
- Pray for good health, protection and unity for board members, trustees, staff, volunteers, supporters and participants.
- Pray into 2025 for purposeful planning and execution for plans and strategies in partner countries.

Blessings  
**Edmond Vanderpuye PhD, CA**  
General Secretary