

# Project IMPACT

Inter-Mission Prevention of AIDS through Care and Training

Partner: IMCARES

Amount required: £25,000 by November 2009



**Project IMPACT is changing the response to HIV and AIDS in five Mumbai slums; caring for men, women, children, transgender people and the elderly living with HIV or AIDS. It mobilises the church and educates the public in their response to the HIV pandemic. The project also cares for people living on the streets.**

## Prayer points

- That the success in tackle the HIV and AIDS crisis in Mumbai would be replicated across India.
- That churches working in the slums would not close their eyes to issues surrounding HIV, but become part of the solution.
- That the project would restore dignity and abundant life to those in the slums.

**IMPACT stands for Inter-Mission Prevention of AIDS through Care and Training. The partner has worked in destitute areas for 16 years and is transforming the current HIV situation in the Mumbai slums of Damunagar, Pampapur, Mahim, Dharavi and Charkop. Care and support is offered to those living with or affected by HIV and AIDS.**

## Key Activities

- **Sensitising and building capacity** – of society, local churches, communities, politicians and children to better respond to HIV and AIDS.
- **Advocacy and networking** – with key local organisations, for example government agencies.
- **Care and support** – of the most destitute residents in HIV-affected slums.
- **Church and community mobilisation and education** – there is a year-long community training course involving communities in the planning process, while a separate training programme contains a spiritual dimension for interested church members.

## Project Impact

- More than 8,000 people will benefit directly from this work.
- Fear of diagnosis, disclosure and discrimination is being addressed by education and counselling, as is the gender imbalance at the root of much HIV transmission.
- Building the social acceptability of transgender people and restoring dignity with inclusive treatment of people with living with HIV.
- Three HIV support groups that meet monthly that are becoming models of best practise to other charitable organisations.

## Future Plans

The hope is that students on the Community Training Course will become trailblazers in tackling the pandemic. Project IMPACT has sought to create replicable models of service in all its areas of work and is already perceived as modelling best practice to other organisations. IMPACT has many future plans, including doing more of the same: caring and fighting for the most destitute Mumbai slum-dwellers with HIV and AIDS.