

Ignite


**Project
Possible**
Be the spark

Issue 2

July 2024

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Welcome from Dave

“ I want to encourage
you, your prayers and
gifts are changing lives in
Northern Pakistan. ”

Sajjad, Shining Light



As I write this, I have just come off a call with Sajjad, the leader of Shining Light, our partners in Pakistan. He explained to me that the key to their approach in the remote mountain villages is 'go slow, go long.'

Shining Light's work in these villages focusses on community development and requires patient trust-building over many years. Sanaya's story (pages 3-4) is an amazing testament of how effective the 'go slow, go long' process has been in her village.

A few years ago, Sanaya and her family struggled financially. Despite her desire to help, her family didn't look to her for assistance because she was a woman. Without opportunities to learn new skills, it was difficult for Sanaya to know what to do.

However, as you will discover, Sanaya's potential was unleashed, and her family's situation has completely transformed. Thanks to your generosity and Shining Light's long-term presence and support, community mindsets regarding women's roles are changing.

On page 7, you will learn about supporters like you who have gone the extra mile to ignite lasting change in overlooked communities. In the article, we take the opportunity to celebrate their Spark and most importantly, express our gratitude for their generosity.

As you read this issue, I hope you will witness the long-term impact of your kindness. Thank you for being the Spark; your support and prayers mean so much to the people we serve.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave', with a long, sweeping underline.

Dave Pepper
Chief Executive

P.S. If you enjoy hiking, I'd like to invite you to join me for our Hike for Hope event on Saturday 5th October. We'll be walking to raise funds for overlooked communities, igniting hope step by step. See page 8 for details and how to book your place.

Updates from around the world



CHAD: Baby Bintou grows healthy and strong

At one month old, little Bintou was struggling to gain weight. Her mother tragically passed away following complications at birth and without formula milk, Bintou was not getting the nutrients and sustenance to survive.

Her weight dropped to 2.23kg and her concerned grandmother decided to make the 40km journey to our partner's centre in order to get some help. Over four months, Bintou and her grandmother receive the care and training they needed. Bintou finally reached a healthy weight and they were able to return home.

Your support is enabling our partners in Chad to care for more orphans and provide training for their carers so vulnerable children can have a healthy start in life. Thank you.

KENYA: New Spark Projects

In Western Kenya, 16 families have received your Spark investment and are starting to set up their businesses. Our partners share that a large number of the families are opening shops, others have used the funding for agricultural enterprises, and some are doing hairdressing to earn an income.

All the families are parents or grandparents of children with disabilities and who qualified for free treatment by our partners, Dreamland Mission Hospital.

We are overjoyed that God continues to be at work in these families, and that the gifts He has given each of them are starting to be used to help improve their standard of living. Thank you for supporting this transformative work.



Our **Next Generation Projects** help overlooked communities lift themselves out of the feelings of shame and powerlessness caused by disadvantage and material poverty. Together we open doors of possibility so they can discover their true worth in Christ and unlock their God-given potential.

As their potential is unlocked, they become empowered to form ideas to provide for themselves. Our **Spark Projects** offer short-term investments so they can turn their ideas into reality and begin building sustainable livelihoods.



Sanaya working in her tailoring shop

Sanaya's Journey of Possibility

“ For the first time, I have confidence in myself and my family trusts me in my abilities. ”

Nestled in the majestic mountain range of Northern Pakistan, you can hear the steady thrum of sewing machines being spun. Weaving in between the beat is the sound of gentle chatter and peals of laughter.

Sanaya* is making a dress in her tailoring shop, and her family is helping her with clients who have come to order some new clothes.

Much has changed for Sanaya and her family. A few years ago, they were struggling to earn enough to provide for themselves. Sanaya wanted to help, but with limited skills and a lack of belief from her family, she felt stuck.

Now, thanks to your support and Sanaya's tenacity, she is building a better life for herself and her family.

In the remote villages of Gilgit, women have been raised with restrictive traditions, where many do not have a voice in their community and are often overlooked in their efforts and responsibilities.

We believe these women should feel cherished and celebrated for their gifts and contributions.

Our local partner, Shining Light, comes alongside these communities with our Next Generation Project to provide training for women in tailoring skills. Through this training, the women begin to recognise their worth and become economically active. It also encourages the villages to see the value that the women bring to their community.

Untapped potential

Sanaya grew up in a family that faced severe financial challenges. Although Sanaya was eager to help, her family did not look to her because she is a woman. Her potential was underestimated, and without opportunities to gain new skills, it was difficult for Sanaya to know how she could change the situation.

Learning to sew

After many years of relationship building by Shining Light, our partners were able to set up our Next Generation Project in Sanaya's village in 2022. She asked her parents for permission to join the tailoring course and was able to get a place.

The trainers quickly noticed Sanaya's skill in stitching and also her determination. She enjoyed learning to sew and creating garments so much that she said, "Sometimes in my sleep, I would dream about stitching."

Due to her skill, Sanaya was invited to enrol in the advanced course in the town of Gilgit. There, her newfound confidence solidified, and her tailoring skills continued to improve.



Support from her family

By the end of the courses, Sanaya's parents had changed their perceptions of their daughter and her capabilities. They now have a huge respect for her and can see her gift in tailoring.

Thanks to your spark and the support of her family, Sanaya had the courage to use her new skills to open a tailoring shop. The income from her business would be able to help provide for her and her family.

A growing business

Over the last 6 months, Sanaya's shop has taken off. She has earned a total of 272,560PKR (£768.91) and is the best-performing shop from her cohort.

Her business has also become one of the main sources of income for her family. Even her brother, who previously was unemployed, has started working for her – running errands, going to the market

to buy materials and making deliveries.

Paving the way

Not only is Sanaya the spark of her family but she's also the spark in her community. She is an inspiration to the women in her village and is now passing on her skills and unlocking possibilities by teaching others how to sew.

Thanks to your support and Sanaya's determination, she is now paving the way in her community, and helping change mindsets on women's roles and their potential to be key earners in families.

"The course has transformed my life and my family's; today we have so much to be thankful for."

Thank you.

Your generosity is
changing lives.



*Support more women like
Sanaya by giving a gift today.*

Complete the form included with this magazine, donate online at **projectpossible.org.uk/donate** or scan the QR code.



An interview with Mia

Meet Mia, she's part of our partner's team at Change Makers, based in South Africa. She supervises the Spark Projects and mentors young men, who are overcoming drug addiction, as they transition back into society and seek employment.

We had the opportunity to ask Mia a couple of questions about her work and why Spark Projects are so important for the young men she works with. We first asked her, **what are the challenges that the individuals you mentor face?**

She shared that,

“ the challenges might be financial or their commitment. ”

Due to limited employment opportunities, it can be difficult for these individuals to find jobs and stay resilient while living out their faith and new mindsets. That's

where Spark Projects can play a vital role in preparing the men as they find their pathway into employment.

Moreover, this is a critical time for the men as they transition back into society, because there is a high risk of relapsing into their old lifestyles.



Mia explained that

“ [Spark Projects] keep the good boundaries in place; they stay on the premises, which makes them stronger and ready to go back in the community.”

We then asked Mia, **how do you guide the men towards sustainable livelihoods?**

“ We try to equip them to be stable and to support their families, to stand on their own two feet. We make them job-ready. ”

For individuals who are particularly vulnerable and lack strong family support, Change Makers assist them as they navigate their reintegration. This includes offering 1-year apprenticeships or support with further education

Mia's role provides tailored guidance and mentorship so they continue to deepen their faith and build their independence.

Lastly, we asked her, **what do you enjoy most about being a mentor?**

“ For me, it's seeing when the guys start growing as people and then when they excel. Because when they first come to the centre, I'm the person they meet, so I get to see their journey right from the beginning.

A lot of the time, the guys coming from the streets have no hope and then slowly you see the hope grow and even their appearance changes. People talk about miracles, and I get to see them every day. ”



Could you support Mia's vital work and help other young men like Thurlow have access to a mentor?

Give a gift today and together we can build more sustainable livelihoods.

Complete the form attached, donate online at projectpossible.org.uk or scan the QR code.



“ Before starting my Spark Project, I wasn't as confident. Now, I have this new self-belief and boldness.

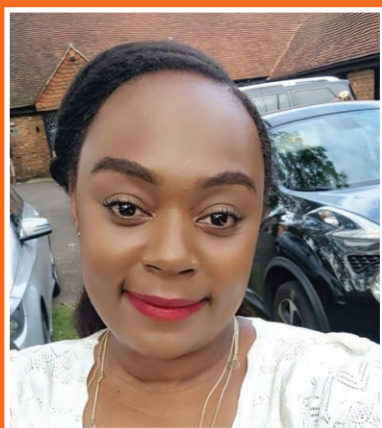
It hasn't all been easy. I faced a big mental obstacle which caused me to relapse, but my mentor, Mia, showed me grace. I remember being in shock, I had messed up and yet she showed me love. I'm not used to that type of response.

Her support and guidance stuck with me and helped me overcome the bumps in my journey and become determined to push harder and succeed. Today, I'm better than ever and making good progress in school. ”

Thurlow, Spark Participant in South Africa.

Supporter Spotlight

Our lovely volunteer



Marlene has been volunteering at the Project Possible office for over four months. She is employed in the NHS doing life-saving work, but every fortnight she kindly gives some of her time to support us.

Marlene has been a tremendous help with cataloguing the photos and videos we receive from our partners. She also helped us at the LOVE Wycombe event last month.

“ I love that every time I volunteer I learn something new. From seeing the amazing interactions between the team and the partners and supporters, to seeing the positive impact that these projects are making in communities in different corners of the world.

Just the thought of being a part of something small that is making a huge impact internationally is truly inspiring. Above all the team is amazing, welcoming and very inclusive. ”

We are so grateful that you decided to give of your time. Thank you so much, Marlene, for your kindness and generosity.

If you would like to share your time and talents by volunteering for Project Possible, please do get in touch with us.

Time for a garden tea party!



In June, Melissa very kindly hosted a garden tea party to raise funds for our Spark Appeal.

“ An afternoon tea/plant sale is a very good way to fundraise. All you need is a spacious garden (or borrow one), a love of baking (or baking friends) and a contact list! I have neighbours, friends and work colleagues coming, so it should be fun. ” – Melissa.

Thanks to Melissa and her generous friends, neighbours and colleagues, they raised over £1,100!

We would like to say a big thank you to Melissa for organising this event and for being the spark for overlooked communities around the world.

Feeling inspired?

Why not organise your own event and raise money for Project Possible.

Whatever your idea, we can help.

Give us a call or email our friendly team.

Community News

LOVE Wycombe

A few weeks ago, we had the pleasure of attending LOVE Wycombe. This is an incredible event where the churches of High Wycombe come together for an outdoor service and to spread the gospel in the community.

We had an amazing time and we were thrilled to connect with our local church community. It was great that we met so many of you and caught up with some familiar faces too.



Hike for Hope

Saturday 5th October 2024

**Challenge yourself to our
brand-new fundraising
event, Hike for Hope.**

Hike a half marathon in either the beautiful Chiltern Hills, along the picturesque Suffolk rivers or choose your own route.

Every step and every pound you raise will ignite the hope of Christ in overlooked communities around the world.

Book your place today

Please note that there is a small booking fee of £12, which is payable when you sign up.

We also ask that you pledge to raise £120.



Scan our QR code or
head to our website
projectpossible.org.uk/



New Partners

We are excited to share that we have started partnerships with two new organisations! One is based in Blantyre, Malawi and the other in N'Djamena, Chad.



Debbie Thompson
Programmes Manager

Over the past year or so, we have been actively seeking to expand our portfolio of work and partner with new Christian organisations that are providing practical support and spreading the hope of Christ in their communities.

This goes hand in hand with all that we have been doing to enhance our commitment to building equitable partnerships with lasting impact and Jesus' mission at the core, and moving away from the dependency mindset.

This has led to a growing pipeline of organisations

who are energised to partner with us in this fresh, sustainable way.

“ What's exciting about this new way of working is that the nature of our relationships with partners is different. The way we dialogue together and how they view themselves as they come to recognise that they are in the driver's seat. ”

Amos Oumounabidji,
Partnership Manager

We look forward to collaborating with these organisations over the next few years, and I am pleased to introduce these two to you.

Equip a Generation - Malawi



Just last month we began our work with Equip a Generation, in Malawi. Ten young women are receiving skills training and will be supported to join local businesses as interns.

They will learn skills according to their interests that will equip them to find employment or to set up their own enterprise.

Equip a Generation will be there to guide the young women, including how to present themselves with confidence, basics of setting up a small business, and managing money effectively.

“ I used to look down on myself and didn't think I could achieve anything, but this teaching has helped me see that I can achieve my goals in life even though I'm a woman. ”

Alisi Mwale,
project participant

Bethanie Centre - Chad

Every child deserves a healthy start in life. However, for newborns in Chad who have lost their mothers during childbirth, their likelihood of survival is slim. Without the mother's milk, the young babies become seriously ill and malnourished.

The Bethanie Centre offers vital care for vulnerable newborn orphans and training for their carers in the name of Christ.

“ We teach the carers to process baby bottles with 3 containers: one for the empty bottle to be washed, one for disinfecting and one for rinsing. ” explained Marceline,

the maternal assistant.

The babies stay with their carers at the centre until they have reached a safe weight and then return to their homes.

Our partnership with Bethanie is to improve the robustness and longevity of their service by establishing local income streams to support the high cost of formula milk.

By diversifying their sources of income, it will shift the organisation and service to a more sustainable footing, and ultimately, continue the vital care of vulnerable children for years to come.



Will you be the spark today? Every gift is a small beginning filled with possibility.

Inspired by the stories you have read? Give a gift today and together we can open more doors of possibility for overlooked communities around the world. You can do this by returning the enclosed form, phoning **01494 433170** or visiting **projectpossible.org.uk/donate**



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