



May 2024

This Summer of Hope, we have a fantastic opportunity to build on years of wonderful work that is transforming the lives of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa. Your support has made an enormous difference to thousands of women and girls already, and there are thousands more you can help lift themselves out of poverty today, with a gift of Hope for the Future.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), lack of literacy and numeracy are two of the key drivers that trap women in a never-ending cycle of poverty. You can help change that.

The cycle of poverty, crushing women's and girls' chances of a better life, has been exacerbated by decades of conflict between communities, non-state armed groups and Congolese security forces. The conflict has deepened a significant gender gap in literacy, with 66.5% of women being literate compared to 88.5% of men. Not being able to read and write means women are prevented from participating economically and socially. It severely limits their understanding of their rights and health issues.

Through your support of Summer of Hope, we can help women break the cycle of poverty for themselves.

Today Mothers' Union Literacy Circles are already making a difference in four dioceses in the DRC. Now we need to expand to four more dioceses where women are most in need of support.


The Literacy Circles enable women to learn life-changing literacy, as well as numeracy, agriculture and business skills. Helping women learn these vital life skills helps them support their families and gain status in their communities. Grace describes what this change has meant for her and how she feels much more empowered.

'I didn't know how to count. So if I went to market, they would steal my money because I couldn't count and know the weights,' she says. 'I joined the programme. Now I can spend my money wisely because of what we have learned.'

'Before I would grow beans, cassava, soya, yams and banana. Today I have cabbage in my garden because of what I was taught. The cabbage I use for my family consumption. My family is healthy and I'm able to send my children to school. I go to buy fish in the market and sell the fish or trade it with the cocoa growers. I was doing business before, but it wasn't working because I didn't know the money. I used to keep spending, and didn't know about profit. Now I make sure I have enough for savings and other things I need to buy for my business.'

Registered Charity Number 240531

Please turn over



**'Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the Lord'**
(Psalm 31:24).

With your support this Summer of Hope, we can roll out new programmes, enabling more transformations like Grace's. Over the next two years, we aim to support a further 4,800 households. We forecast this will help lift 19,200 more people out of poverty, including children and other dependents.

It's not only women participating in these life-changing programmes. We aim for each group to include up to 30% of men. This is because our experience shows us that involving men helps whole communities gain a much broader understanding of the inequalities women and girls face, and the improvements everyone experiences when women have equal empowerment. The men who participate in our programmes themselves become advocates even effective agents for positive, lasting change.

Your support can make far-reaching, sustainable and meaningful change happen.

This Summer of Hope, through giving and through our activities, we will come together as a global community and break the cycle of poverty. We'll be helping more mothers like Grace send their children to school and keep them fit and healthy. We can support more women like her to become facilitators and leaders in their communities. And we'll be helping empower women and girls to grow in confidence and skills to make a better life - for themselves, their families and their community.

You can support this life-changing work with a donation today and with your prayers. Help raise even more much-needed funds through a Summer of Hope activity, and invite your friends, family and neighbours. There are prayers, ideas and resources available to help you build Hope for the Future at mothersunion.org/summer-hope-24.

Make your gift online at mothersunion.org.uk/summer-hope-24 or by completing and returning the gift form below in the Freepost envelope enclosed.

Thank you, and I wish you and your loved ones a Summer bursting with Hope for the Future and the blessing of the Lord,

Sheran Harper
Worldwide President, Mothers' Union



PS. You can help women and mothers facing a cycle of poverty to transform their lives this Summer of Hope. Join in your local branch's fundraising events, or create your own with the resources at mothersunion.org/summer-hope-24.



You can return this form or any cheque donations to:
Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufon Street, London, SW1P 3RB

You can also donate online at www.mothersunion.org/summer-hope-24
or by calling us on 020 7222 5533



Yes, I want to build hope for a brighter future this Summer of Hope

Please accept my gift of: £

1. My details (Please change if incorrect)

2. My donation

Please enclose a cheque made payable to **Mothers' Union** or complete the credit/debit card details below.

Visa MasterCard Switch CAF Charity Card

Card No

Valid from

Expiry date

Issue No.

switch only

Security code

Signed:

To help Mothers' Union save costs, I do not require an acknowledgement.

3. Please return this form or any cheque donations to:

Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufon Street, London, SW1P 3RB

The Mothers' Union, Incorporated by Royal Charter 1926, is a charity registered in England and Wales (Registration No: 240531)

Tick this box to make every £1 of your gift worth 25p more for FREE.

Yes, I want to Gift Aid any donations made to Mothers' Union now, in the future and in the past four years until I notify you otherwise.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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4. Staying in contact

Gaming - If you tick this you **WILL NOT receive** any raffles, lotteries or free prize draws.

Campaigns and Resources - Tick to **NOT receive** mail that contains membership resources, campaign materials, or appeals. **This includes Connected and the Prayer Diary.**

Non-essential - Tick this box to **opt out** of all mail apart from essential (membership renewal). Ticking this box automatically opts you out of the other 2 options.