

# CHURCHES TOGETHER LONDON



Christians are faced with how to respond to the challenges of the poor and under-resourced communities. Through years of experience among the poor, many see the need for strong commitment, wholistic action and relationship building. Instead of having outsiders trying to alleviate the problems, we follow a philosophy known as Christian Community Development. It is based on 8 principles, of which the first 3 are from John Perkins, a CCDA pioneer.

**A Just Distribution of Resources:** Historically, justice has been available only to people with the economic means to acquire just treatment. Redistribution brings new skills, new relationships, and new resources and puts them to work to empower the residents of a given community to bring about healthy transformation.

**Relocation:** Living out the gospel means wanting for one's neighbour and their family the same benefits one desires for one's own family. The way to understand the real problems of a community is to live there.

**Reconciliation:** Christian Community Development begins with people transformed by the love of God, who then respond to God's call to share the gospel with others through evangelism, social action, economic development and justice. We recognize the need to reconcile people to God, and people to others, regardless of their background.

**Leadership Development:** The goal of leadership development is to restore a community's stabilizing glue by having local leaders filling the vacuum of moral, spiritual, and economic leadership. Leadership development requires a lot of time, and leads to communities where instead of fleeing to find a better life, residents help to build sustainable neighbourhoods.

**Empowerment:** Instead of creating dependency, Christian Community Development strives to ensure that people can help themselves and their neighbours. People's dignity is affirmed.

**Wholistic Approach:** There is never a simplistic answer to the problems in poorer communities. Christian Community Development has a wholistic approach to ministry, and networks with other churches and organizations to deal with the issues of each person, including spiritual, social, economic, political, cultural, emotional, physical, moral and educational.

**Church-Based:** The community of God's people is uniquely capable of affirming the dignity of the poor and enabling them to meet their own needs. The local church helps people to understand that each person has gifts and talents to utilize for the greater good of the community. A worshipping church breaks down many of the barriers in communities.

**Listening to the Community:** Failed approaches to community development often resulted from outsiders bringing in resources without taking into account the community itself. Christian Community Development is committed to listening to residents and hearing their dreams, ideas and thoughts.

Further information is available by [searching for Christian Community Development](#), and on these sites:

[ccda.org/about/philosophy](http://ccda.org/about/philosophy)

[churchestogetherlondon.com](http://churchestogetherlondon.com)

[youtube.com/watch?v=a1qr2LXziow](https://youtube.com/watch?v=a1qr2LXziow)