

SURVIVE-MIVA is a national Catholic Charity, founded in The Archdiocese of Liverpool in the 1974.

It exists to provide one vital element for the successful health programmes and pastoral work that is being carried out by the Church in isolated areas of great need in Africa, Asia and Latin America – an essential form of transport.

This may be a bicycle, a moped, a trail bike, a 4wd ambulance, a pickup, an outboard motor - it is the people on the ground who know what best suits their terrain and what will best help them to reach out to the people they serve.

In some parishes, for example, the distances that separate one village from the next can be enormous, with one priest having to travel for miles over rough tracks to celebrate Mass, weddings, baptisms and burials with those who live in hard to reach communities. These are people who have no regular access to either the Sacraments or to healthcare when they are unwell – and such care is provided mainly by the Church.

Parish workers and catechists use bicycles to get round their immediate area and take Holy Communion to the sick, motorbikes enable their Parish priests to minister to those living further afield, and the grants the Charity makes also go to fund outboard motors and small boats in those parts of the world where the roads are, in fact, the local rivers.

So often when we hear news from overseas, the headlines talk of disasters and conflict, and of hunger and disease - but there is more positive news too.

SURVIVE-MIVA aims to help those who *already have* the skills, who are ordained or medically trained, the Sisters who are doctors and midwives, and the village nurses who give life-saving jabs to the young and care for the elderly. Largely unpublicised and rarely if ever making the front pages, the work of the Church goes on all year round, in good times and in bad, carried out by committed staff from the local area, who speak the local languages, and know the culture and the problems their people face, because they share them.

In giving to SURVIVE-MIVA, you are providing experienced professionals with a simple way of getting from A to B, where the availability of transport means they can immediately do their jobs or carry out their apostolate much more effectively, and reach more people, more often.

The Charity provides something that is tangible, highly practical, and is in constant use.

Today we are asking once more for your support, in order to put more handlebars and steering wheels into the hands of those who come to us for assistance. Thank you for helping *us* to help *them* in a way which will bring about change for the better in poor communities overseas, by widening the scope of the work carried out by those who live there.