

What is a Community Partnership?

A Community Partnership is a long-term mutually beneficial action-orientated relationship between a *developed* community and a *developing* community.

The purpose of the Community Partnership is to create awareness of, and take action against, the mutual poverty that exists within both communities, through a relational connection.

A Community Partnership enables people in a *developed* community to strategically and tangibly support and empower their fellow neighbour in a *developing* community, by taking action against *developing* type poverty at a local level. Person-to-Person; Family-to-Family; Community-to-Community, everyone has the chance to offer someone a *hand-up* out of *developing* type poverty, even in the face of such overwhelming global statistics.

Through the very nature of taking this action, a Community Partnership also empowers those in the *developed* community to indirectly be the catalyst for taking action against their own *developed* poverty types, by bringing people together for a common-purpose, showing compassion and helping others in need in a *developing* community.

A Community Partnership develops friendship, support, cross-cultural understanding and community involvement at a grass-roots level. It is a movement of the people.

Within every community are multiple 'cells' of community, where people come to meet around common needs, likes, ideologies or responsibilities. Each of these cells represents community in its own right but the collective of this multitude of cells represents a physical geographical community, such as a village, a town or a city. This can be simplified as shown in the diagram below:



A Community Partnership operates most effectively when it involves a broad range of community cells all working together with a common purpose to partner with a range of community cells in another community. It is at this level that a community is most likely to consider looking within at their own community and how they can alleviate their own poverty.

The critical and common element to a successful Community Partnership is working with experienced and locally-based NGO development partners (non-government organisations), acting as a relational conduit, through a long-term relational approach, not a one-off project based initiative. These NGO development partners allow a scalable responsible connection to be established educating and protecting the interests of both communities, while ensuring the right people in need are helped.