



*Frederick Barasa (he prefers to be called Barasa) is an Anglican raised in Kenya, and has worked across Africa in various roles. He now works with the GRID, an international affiliate of the American Bible Society, which offers a unique and reliable assessment of projects in the Global Community. Barasa moved to the US in 2016.*



**The Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada (ARDFC)** is a Canadian global aid agency that works in close partnership with the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC).

ARDFC together with the Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF) comprise the global relief and development arm of our province, the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). In 2012, we welcomed ARDF-Australia (ARDFA) to the ARDF network.



**Mike:** Hi Barasa, and welcome. It is good to see you again, it's almost a year since we met at the ARDF US meeting in Texas. I trust all is well.

**Barasa:** Thanks Mike, it is good to be here with you. Nice to see you again

**Mike:** Thanks Barasa. The most recent project that ARDFC has taken on is the expansion of the El Redentor School in Asunción, Paraguay, and before that the development of a vocational training centre in Giza, Egypt. How do these countries make known their needs, and apply for assistance?

---

## The process for ARDF projects is from the ground up

---

**Barasa:** As opposed to the west (us) going in to third world countries and suggesting we know what they need, the process for ARDF projects is from the ground up. That is the countries, through their church leaders propose projects based on their needs. ARDF works with the Anglican Church in what is termed the Global South, and churches with projects sponsored by ARDF are found all across the world, from Latin America, to the Middle East, across the Pacific (India, Pakistan) to Africa. ARDF Global requires that projects are effective and impactful, well managed and can show proof of success. This is difficult for a church and charity based in North America. We take care of that with our contacts. We are confident in the projects we research and approve that they will make an impact on improving lives.

**Mike:** I see, so you offer via the GRID staff contacts and references (in the Anglican Church and without) on the ground across the world, as well as documentation and project plan reviews?

**Barasa:** Yes, exactly.

**Mike:** What role do you play in such a process, and what are some of the major benefits?

---

**Health has a quite obvious benefit, schooling empowers children to break the cycle of poverty, as does assisting the needy. It is important to note that assistance here is to break the cycle of continually being needy, by giving a hand up.**

---

**Barasa:** As a researcher at the GRID, I must determine the impact on what we call a three-fold vision of evangelism: Taking care of the sick (in hospitals or clinics), assisting the needy (eco development) and giving a hand up by education. Health has a quite obvious benefit, schooling empowers children to break the cycle of poverty, as does assisting the needy. It is important to note that assistance here is to break the cycle of continually being needy, by giving a hand up. I am able, as are my colleagues to tap into the relationships I have with the Anglican Church, and verify the projects, their financials, the leadership. We do a risk analysis. Based on that we do a four-page briefing document we call an Investment Opportunity (I/O). For Paraguay, we have Ana-Lisbeth in Guatemala who is taking the lead. The document is quite thorough, and gives the information required for the Global Primates to review and vote on for approval for ARDF to take on.

When a project is completed, I write up an Investment Assessment (I/A). This reviews all areas listed in the I/O, shows how the objectives were met (or not) and determines success in the impact on

lives in the project's area. Usually included are photographs of the completed project as well as testimonies. I am in the midst of preparing one for Giza, Egypt which ARDFC funded last year, though as you are aware COVID 19 has put a stop to some of the plans so all is not yet complete there.

**Mike:** This process seems sound and appears to have good checks along the way.

**Barasa:** Yes, indeed it does. And once our job is finished, as I mentioned the Global Primates vote on the projects to allow ARDF to take them on.

**Mike:** And once the Primates vote, then we at ARDFC can begin making arrangements with the host church for the project. Good. Tell me Barasa, what do you really enjoy about your function?

---

**I really enjoy seeing the consequence  
of the efforts made by these projects.**

---

**Barasa:** I really enjoy seeing the consequence of the efforts made by these projects. There is so much that can be done, and quite a lot is being done. This work as mentioned earlier, strengthens people's health, and helps them break the cycle of poverty. Doing so the church, which is at the heart of the project in leadership and oversight, is able to spread the Gospel of Christ with Global and local leaders. Since I have experience in many of these countries, I am personally able to make a difference in guiding the projects to fruition.

**Mike:** I can really understand how you would enjoy putting your skills to work for the Lord. What would you say to anyone who is interested in helping in mission work, at any level?

**Barasa:** Giving becomes a passion. This passion is hopeful. It also needs to be guided. You need to have a clear understanding as to the needs and issues for the people. You need to understand what needs to be done that will make a difference, make a long-lasting impact. You need to know what has been tried before, and what has worked and what hasn't and why. ARDF Global, with the GRID provides such guidance.

**Mike:** Yes indeed! Barasa thanks so much for taking the time to meet with me and tell me more of how the ARDF Global and ARDFC projects are chosen and vetted.

*Mike Tweedle is the National Director of ARDFC. He interviewed Barasa on early 2021 via Zoom. The discussion above is an abridged version of that interview.*