Imagine trying to feed a small family on US$1.50 a day. Now imagine how much harder it would be if you had six or more children.

Community Health and Sustainable Environment (CHASE) Africa, a UK-registered charity, is working in rural Kenya and Uganda to help address the complex issue of population pressures and the related concerns of poverty, ill health and environmental degradation.

Mobile health service visits rural communities

It provides access to free, voluntary family planning and basic health care services using mobile clinics. These clinics also offer contraception advice, vaccinations and HIV testing. As part of the programme, trusted local ‘mobilisers’ are deployed to the area where these clinics will operate, to build an understanding of family planning and maximize attendance at the clinics.

In 2016, Noble Foundation agreed to fund this project for two years. Our contribution has given more than 2,800 families access to contraception, many for the first time. With smaller families and longer periods between births, resources will not need to be stretched so far. Women with fewer children have more time available for productive work and income-generating activities.

Mobile clinics are able to reach the most rural of areas

Let the Music Play

Asian Youth Orchestra

Every year, this award-winning orchestra trains over 100 young musicians at a three-week training camp, followed by a three-week international concert tour. The musicians – from across Asia – compete in a series of auditions until the best are chosen to join the orchestra. Last year, they performed 18 concerts over 26 days to the general public, to promote music appreciation within the region.

As an ongoing supporter of the orchestra, Noble was invited to its summer concert in Hong Kong, where an audience of over 500 people packed the auditorium. In addition to the Asian Youth Orchestra, the AYO international artist-faculty and the Hong Kong Music Summer Orchestra performed at the event.

AYO offers unique opportunities for young musicians to learn from each other and tour Asia
Community Commitments

Highlights of Jamalco’s community empowerment initiatives

For the third year, Noble Foundation is continuing to fund a range of community development and empowerment programmes at Jamalco in Jamaica. Each initiative has been shown to enrich and improve the lives of the communities within the refineries’ operating areas.

Noble Foundation, in partnership with Jamalco, is committed to making an impact on the lives and communities in this area by fostering social and economic development.

Here are some highlights of 2016’s activities.

Facilities upgrade and social renewal

In 2016, we funded a number of renovations and equipment upgrades in various community facilities, such as a youth activities centre, health clinics, hospitals and a homeless shelter.

For 100 years, the Manchester Infirmary has served as a beacon of hope, providing protection, care and shelter for Manchester’s elderly and most vulnerable citizens. The recent renovation upholds the dignity of the 90 or so registered residents by providing them with improved accommodation. Bathroom facilities, an administration block and a dining room have all been refurbished and upgraded.

Residents from the community of Hayes and surrounding districts in Clarendon benefited from an renovated dental clinic at the Raymonds Health Centre, funded by the Foundation. “This is a significant upgrade that enhances dental care in the parish. It has improved the overall quality of resources and services for our staff and clients, for which we are extremely grateful. I want to commend Jamalco for its commitment in helping to enhance health care in the parish,” said Joseph Grant, parish manager for the Clarendon Health Services.

The Raymonds Health Centre serves some 10,000 people, who can take advantage of its five-day-a-week curative, dental, child health and community health services. Its dental unit offers extraction and cleaning services to adults and children, plus dental health education.

Alternative economic opportunities

In North Manchester, greenhouses are being constructed on land that had been previously mined but was now rehabilitated. This is a proven social enterprise model which creates agriculture work for farmers and their families who have been impacted by mining activity in this area.

Volunteering and fundraising

Over 40 young people in Clarendon and Manchester who had dropped out of school and were unemployed have enrolled in an 8- to 12-month vocational training programme. This will help them gain employable skills and achieve certification in electrical installation and welding, and in beauty therapy and customer service.

In North Manchester, greenhouses are being constructed on land that had been previously mined but was now rehabilitated. This is a proven social enterprise model which creates agriculture work for farmers and their families who have been impacted by mining activity in this area.

Volunteers from Jamalco paving a road at Campbell’s Castle Primary School

Every employee and their family who complete more than 50 hours of volunteer work in a year can apply for a donation that will go to the institution they have been assisting. In 2016, some 130 team members lent a hand to various NGOs. In addition, 11 renovation and refreshment projects in schools and local institutes were diligently carried out by Jamalco’s volunteers.

Six fundraising events were also jointly organised with local charities. Jamalco teams participated in various physical activities such as 5K runs and aerobic marathons to secure funds for charitable projects or institutions.
Noble has a number of operations in Indonesia. We tailor our community engagement to meet local needs and tackle developmental challenges in underprivileged regions.

**Supporting rural infrastructure, education and health care in Indonesia**

**Improved road access to remote villages**

Rural roads play a critical role in connecting people to facilities and services. In Kalimantan and Papua, we support ongoing road development in remote villages by providing heavy equipment and embankment materials for road maintenance. This includes improving the structural condition of roads, road resurfacing and repairing potholes. The improvement in the quality of the roads means that they are now accessible to motorised transport and save users a lot of travel time.

**Boosting school attendance**

According to statistics from the World Bank, net primary school enrolment rates are below 60% in poor districts of Indonesia, while net enrolment rates for secondary education are even lower: below 50%. To increase access to education, we have been providing multiple levels of scholarships to more than 66 villagers within the community, to help keep children in school.

Attendance at school is often hindered by the fact that most children live in remote areas. To help with this problem, we donated a school bus to Sorong to reach the most remote children and bring them to school.

Funding has also been given for school facilities and to pay teachers’ wages in South Barito. And our Noble employees have been volunteering with the Scouts at the junior high school.

**Child support and maternal health service**

Child malnutrition and maternal health are some of the major challenges in the health sector. For most rural children and pregnant women, monthly gatherings with health clinic staff and volunteers in their villages are their primary source of maternal health care, nutrition advice and vaccinations. Our programme funds multiple service centres in Sorong (Klamono, Klasafet, Malalilis) and Timika.

In Ipumea village, East Barito, we have been supporting a supplementary feeding programme in collaboration with the regional community health service centre. Eggs, milk, rice, chicken porridge, green bean porridge, and bread are provided in this way. Currently 45 children and 50 elderly persons are benefiting from having extra nutrition in their diets.
Give Blood, Give Life

Blood donation in Indonesia

On 22 March 2017, PT Pinang Coal Indonesia showed its continuing dedication to corporate social responsibility by successfully hosting a voluntary blood donation day. The slogan for this was “Give blood, give life”, highlighting the fact that donating blood is essential for saving lives. The day was organised in collaboration with the Blood Transfusion Unit (UTD) at Fatmawati Hospital, and involved five medical teams, one assistant doctor and one doctor.

More than 130 members of the public volunteered to donate, as well as Noble staff.

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Learning in Rural China

Enhancing educational opportunities for underprivileged youth

Rural education in China continues to be challenged by under-resourced schools, due to a significant lack of funding and the financial constraints of rural students. Youth often feel pressure to drop out of middle school to start bringing in income for their struggling families.

Since late 2015, Noble Foundation has been funding a scholarship programme for 39 selected students in two rural high schools in Hezhang County, Guizhou, through Operation Blessing (HK)’s High School Living Subsidy Programme.

These students live in one of the poorest townships in Hezhang County, mostly in a remote mountain area with limited road access. Some belong to ethnic minorities, can’t speak Mandarin well and only start reading Chinese in high school. As a result, most students have difficulty keeping up with their studies and so they start high school at a later age. Despite all the challenges they face, an opportunity to attend school will still enable them to develop life skills and improve their livelihoods.

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Thank-you letter from one of the scholarship beneficiaries – Wang Shujin, 19 years old and in year 1 at senior secondary school