

Work is starting to look at the potential for scaling up micro-finance following the first consultation of the Anglican Alliance in Nairobi, Kenya, last month.

The proposal to look at ways to increase access to finance for people in the poorest communities is one of the decisions set out in the conference report published by ACNS today.

The Anglican Alliance is an international development initiative, set up after the 2008 Lambeth conference, to bring together development, relief and advocacy work across the Anglican Communion.

The report sets out the decision by participants from every province of Africa, other regions of the world, and two Anglican aid agencies that:

- Economic empowerment, governance and peace and reconciliation should be the first three development strands for the Alliance.
- Food, economic empowerment and financing for development should be the advocacy priorities for 2011.
- Climate change should be the advocacy priority for 2012.
- Support should be provided to all communities that experience disaster – rich and poor according to their needs – and the Alliance should respond to conflict-related as well as natural disasters.

The Alliance's next consultation is in Sao Paolo in October 2012.

Sally Keeble, Anglican Alliance director, said: "This consultation was only achieved because of the initiative of the Council of African Provinces of Africa. We are now developing the Nairobi priorities into concrete proposals that will fulfil the Alliance mandate to work for a world free of poverty and injustice."