



**SHOCC** is a small charity working with trusted partners. We work with managers who have demonstrated need and have clear goals. We will then support a project financially and through tailored advice and encouragement. As a result, our projects illustrate reciprocal philanthropy where we have an ongoing relationship with our partners, treat them with respect and have a two-way, empathetic approach, aiming for projects quickly to become self-sustainable. We have very few administrative costs and 99% of every donated pound goes to our projects.

## **SANTA MARIA HOSPICE PAJAPITA, SAN MARCOS, GUATEMALA [SDGs 2, 3, 4,] 6,7, 16]**

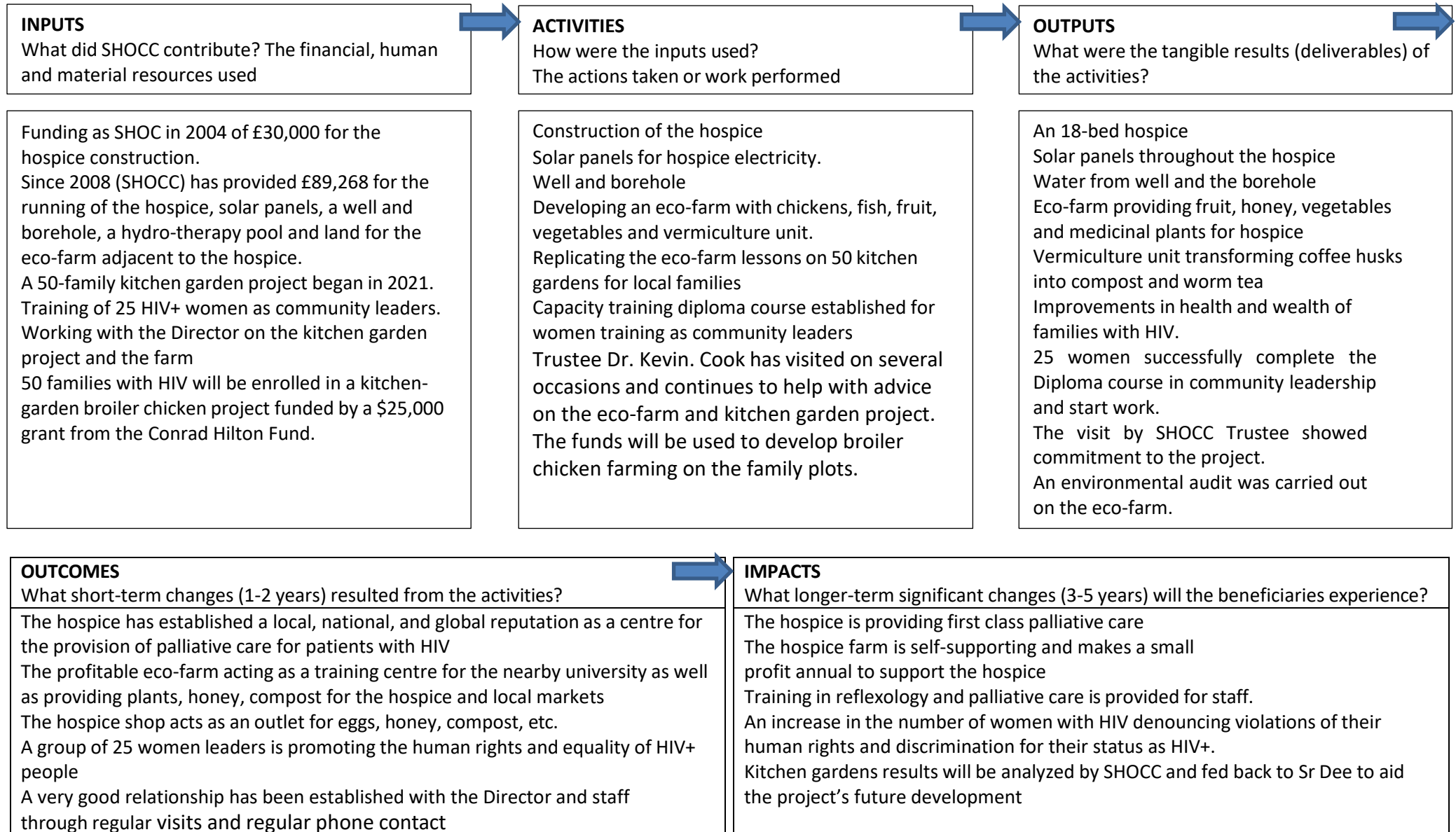
## **PROJECT STATUS: LIVE**

**Project brief:** SHOCC has provided support and funding since the Santa Maria Hospice was opened in 2004. It continues to help through advice and funding when possible

Date of entry:	21.02.2003
Project type:	Health
Year(s) of the project:	2008 -
Awarded to date:	£89,268

**Background:** SHOC/SHOCC has been involved with the Santa Maria Hospice from its beginnings in 2004 in an empty field a few miles south-west of the town of Coatepeque in Guatemala. Its director, Maryknoll Sister Delia Smith OBE, is an alumna of St Mary's and the hospice is named after the university. With generous support from St Margaret's Catholic Parish in SW London, funds were raised for its construction of a 18-bed hospice for people with HIV and Trustee Dr Kevin Cook attended the official opening. Since 2008 SHOCC has provided nearly £90,000 of funding to support a range of developments including solar panels, a hydro-therapy pool and land for a five-acre eco-farm as part of the hospice. It is currently (2023) part-funding a kitchen garden project with 50 local families living with HIV. Lessons have been learned from the hydro-therapy pool in terms of patient access and it has been replaced with a more user-friendly pool. The 'old' pool is now being used as a tank for producing fish to enhance the diets of the hospice residents with any surplus being sold to local markets.

## Our Story of Change



**Stories and case studies, with descriptions and anecdotes from beneficiaries [to be added when received from partners]**

- “In 2020 we have enough fertile soil on the farm to grow 8 different types of leafy vegetables and our resident patients are benefiting from a variety of plants that boost their immune systems. Our eco-farm has also become a demonstration plot to teach women with HIV about managing a simple kitchen garden and growing enough fresh products to supplement their diets and also to raise additional income.” (Sr Dee Smith Santa Maria Hospice Director 2020)
- “With the emphasis on totally organic production on our eco-farm, the local community is benefitting from a model of small-scale farming which will encourage them to look at and make use of sustainable practices into the future. (Farm Manager Santos 2020)
- “The Eco Farm has become a resource for local students studying Agriculture at both a technical level and at university level. They make regular visits and a most productive link has been established”. (Sr Dee Smith Santa Maria Hospice Director 2020)

Photographs taken by Trustees and others when visiting the project.



View of the hospice from the west

SHOCC has been involved with the Santa Maria HIV/AIDS Hospice since its opening in March 2004. One of the Trustees was present at the official opening (photo bottom left) and we have seen it grow from two enclosed buildings, one an 18-bed hospice and the other accommodation for the Director, Maryknoll Sister Dee Smith (photo bottom centre) and Sister Marlene Condon, now retired and living at the Maryknoll Centre in New York State. In the past 16 years, it has grown to include a five-acre farm with a fish tank, 800 chickens and a large garden producing fruit, vegetables, herbs, and medicinal plants, for the hospice and for sale in local markets. It is well known in the local community with its shop and courses in reflexology and yoga. In 2020 it began a kitchen garden project for over 200 local families suffering from HIV. The farm follows strict ecological principles with one of its highlights being the conversion of waste coffee husks from a nearby plantation into compost and worm tea. These are used on the farm and are sold to local markets. The fish tank holds 250 tilapia being grown to raise funds for the hospice. The fish are being grown in the old hydrotherapy pool (SHOCC funded) that has been replaced by a more user-friendly pool. The photo bottom right shows Sister Marlene working with a patient. Hospicio Santa Maria (named after St Mary's University) represents one of SHOCC's longest-running and most successful projects.





## THE SITUATION IN 2019-2020

Christmas parties for the patients were put on hold during the pandemic which, thankfully, did not affect the Hospice. All patients and staff received vaccinations. The first post-Covid party will be in December 2022.

During Covid, the Hospice supported local families with food parcels. Bielman is shown here preparing the parcels.

It was possible to carry on most of the Hospice farm activities during Covid and the chickens, the vermiculture unit, honey, and fish production continued.





## THE SITUATION IN JUNE 2022

To celebrate World Bee Day, SHOCC ran a campaign called 'Dee's Bees'. This raised £2,500, sufficient to enable Dee to purchase 50 new hives. These are now in use and are being stocked with their queen and other bees. They will be ready to provide honey in January 2023. We are most grateful to everyone who supported our campaign.

A notice explaining the importance of bees to the environment and the role of the Hospice, has been erected on the roadside near the rubber plantation where the hives are located.





### **THE SITUATION IN FEBRUARY 2023**

Trustee Dr Kevin Cook spent one month at the hospice in December-January 2022-2023. He took part in the first honey harvest of the year and was able to witness the success of the new hives. An impressive 25 litres of honey were collected. Three further harvests will be taken during the year.

A very successful Christmas party was attended by all the staff and patients. A full Christmas meal was provided and presents distributed.

An additional half-acre of land was acquired and this will eventually be used to expand the successful fish production unit on the hospice farm.

The four photos, from top left, show the Christmas party in full swing, checking the health of the hives, a member of the 800 egg-laying team weighs itself and a group of the women with HIV paralegals during a workshop.

