



Caring for seafarers
around the world

Flying Angel Campaign

The Mission's response
to COVID-19



Message from the Secretary General

We recognise that many have already responded to areas of need in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, over these last few months I have been enormously proud of the way in which The Mission to Seafarers has responded to unprecedented global circumstances and to the acute additional challenges that seafarers and their families have faced. These have led to significant and widespread distress, as well as real hardship.

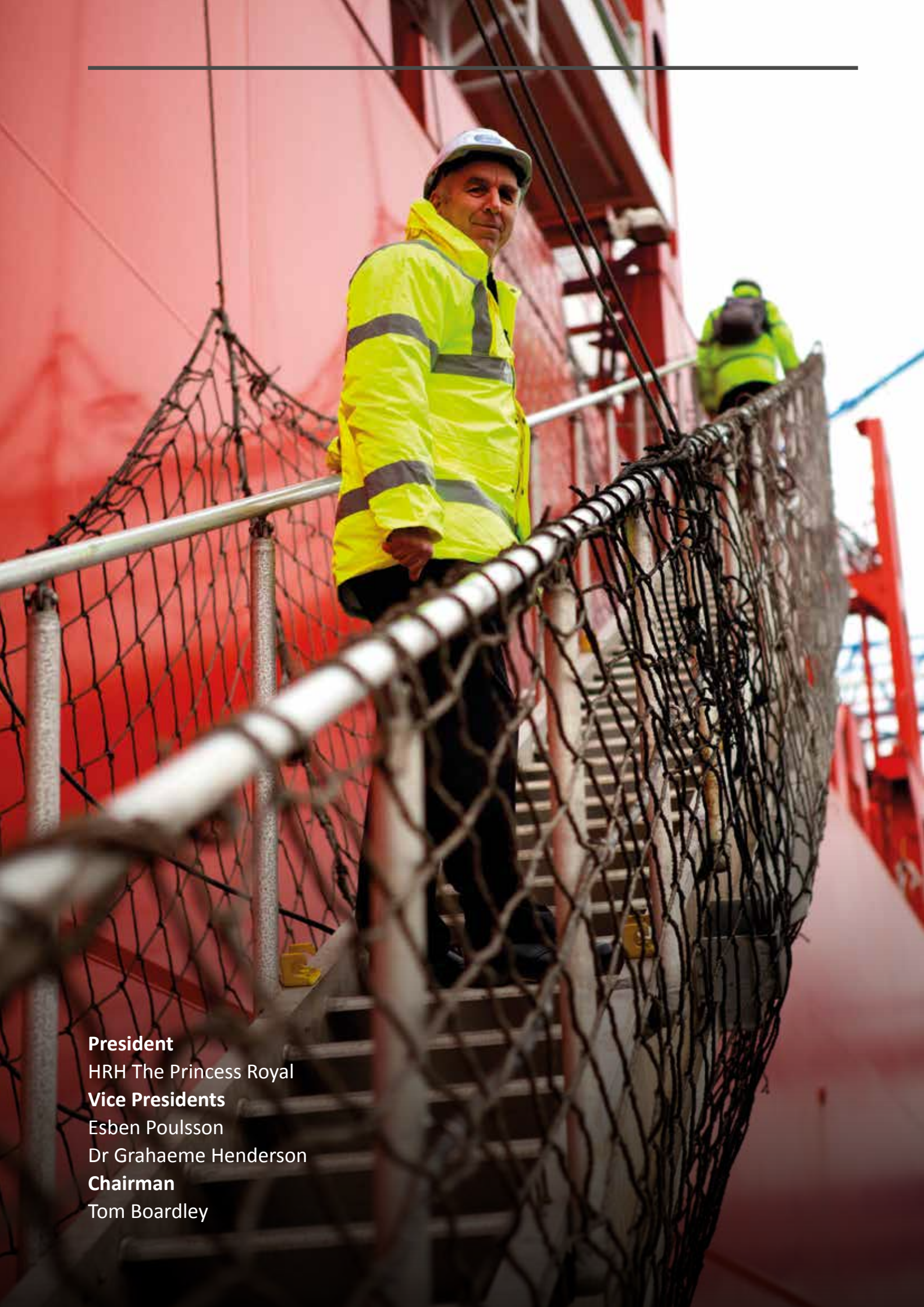
There have been many hurdles in sustaining our port-based operations. However, in very many contexts we have found ways to continue serving seafarers – including with socially distanced and carefully planned “gangway” ship visiting, together with supply delivery and the preparation of care packages.

I have been so pleased with the determination of our teams to find safe, legitimate and creative ways of continuing work. In addition, we have very significantly developed our ability to reach out to seafarers digitally, including through our excellent new “Chat to a Chaplain” facility. Our Family Support Networks have also been highly proactive.

We are now actively preparing for the next phase of our work as we emerge into a changed world. This campaign is focused on building the resource-base we need to respond to seafarer need in a new environment. We want to reintroduce our services as far as we can, as fast as we can, in as many places as we can. We need to respond to new guidelines and regulation around safe operation in ports. We need to increase our effectiveness in delivering more of our work digitally. We need to support hard hit local teams, many of whom have been severely impacted by drops in income during the lockdown period. We need to support our advocacy work as we continue to lobby both for seafarers at this time of significant difficulty and for the recognition of our work amongst seafarers as “essential”, requiring port access.

It is for these reasons that we are reaching out in these requests for vital funding support. We know we are amongst many doing so. However, we make this appeal, knowing how much seafarers and their families need us. We also do so in the shared recognition that these men and women have been performing heroic work in keeping supply lines going through these months against a very challenging background for themselves. You will find more details in this document and I offer you my profound thanks in advance for taking the time to consider and, we hope, to respond.

The Revd Canon Andrew Wright
Secretary General



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HRH The Princess Royal

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Chairman

Tom Boardley

The Mission to Seafarers has carefully reviewed the needs of seafarers all of whom have been impacted by COVID-19. Although this continues to be a fast moving and evolving situation, we have identified some key areas where support will continue to be needed for some time to come.

We aim to raise £600,000 over seven separate projects, in addition to a General Fund where funds will be allocated where it is most needed.

Our Flying Angel Campaign covers the following areas:

1. Technological Solutions

Digital Chaplaincy

Listening to seafarers; Seafarers' Happiness Index App

Mifi Units for onboard communications

2. Resilience in Ports

PPE global provision

Minibus adaptations

Seafarer-safe Centres Fund

Advocacy, representing seafarers

3. General Fund

To allocate funds where most needed



The following are summaries of each activity. Separate project papers are available for more detailed consideration and discussions. Sponsorship and publicity benefits are available for all projects listed, with examples given at the end of this document.

Technological Solutions

£224,000

We recognise that we can use Technology to improve our reach to seafarers, maximising the opportunities in response to that need. We are focusing on mental health and personal well-being, building on new advances already made during the COVID-19 crisis.



Digital Chaplaincy – “Chat to a Chaplain” £99,000 (over 2 years)

Our 25 trained and qualified chaplains from across all time zones will operate a ‘chat line’ in response real-time to seafarers’ immediate worries and concerns. Qualified in mental first aid, and pastoral counselling, they are well placed to do their work on-line, which they would otherwise do in port.

We know that this will not replace the valuable face to face work that we do, but this is one solution which enables us to reach those we would not otherwise be able to.

With shore leave declined and access to ships becoming more difficult for our Chaplains, we know that seafarers’ worries and anxieties have become heightened during this crisis. With many under extended contracts and reduced access to chaplains in ports, this service is crucial.

Funding of £35K has already been received from Seafarers’ UK and the Marine Society for the first six months of this project, with funds also being raised from our Global Champions Unite virtual event.



Chat to a Chaplain



Seafarer speaking with his child

Listening to Seafarers – Seafarers’ Happiness Index (SHI) App - £65,000

The Seafarers’ Happiness Index is published four times a year and is supported by Shipowners P&I Club and Wallem for 2020. Based on a survey of 10 key questions the SHI gives an indication of the concerns facing seafarers on a quarterly basis, offering shipmanagers an insight into wellbeing on board. Q1 2020 report focused on the responses related to COVID-19.

We see converting this important resource into an App will allow for greater reach and coverage which provides seafarers with a key voice in this anonymous survey.

The App will allow us to communicate our Digital Chaplaincy ‘Chat to a Chaplain’, key wellbeing and welfare information, The Sea - our seafarers’ newsletter, and signposting to other useful welfare information.

“About half the crew are on extended contracts. Nice group, but they admitted that with longer times on board and no breaks off the ship, crews can get grumpy.” Gary Roosma, Vancouver.

Connectivity for seafarers – Mifi units for ships - £60,000 (12 months)

We understand that there are still large numbers of seafarers without access to internet on board their ships. Most seafarers are now denied shore leave because of the effect of COVID-19. Many have been given extended contracts.

Highly dependent upon our Chaplains and frontline staff to provide them with transport to nearby Seafarers’ Centres or shopping malls, these seafarers find themselves cut off from the outside world.


MtS is still visiting ships in some parts of the world, and we believe that mobile Mifi units would open up communications for them to their families. Chaplains will be able to ‘lend’ the units to ships arriving in port and return to collect them before they sail. Those Chaplains that can access gangways are doing to with strict regards to H&S compliance. Often using buckets lowered overhead to transfer goods, this would be one mechanism for delivery and collection.

“They said 20 crew have to had their contracts extended owing to the covid 19 pandemic, none of them could go home. They claimed mentally and physically they are drained.” Revd Kim Kee Lee, Hong Kong

Resilience in our ports

£375,000

Our port-based Chaplaincy and Centre provision is at the heart of our support to seafarers. COVID-19 undermined our ability to deliver that service and we expect to face ongoing issues in the world that emerges from the crisis. To improve our ability to ensure continuity of care, we are working across our ports to improve resilience.



PPE – global provision of PPE for port teams - £84,000

To ensure our frontline teams are well protected, providing seafarers with confidence that precautionary measures have been taken. We believe this will become mandatory for many ports around the world.

We will provide grants to our Regional Directors across our regions to allocate to enough provision to ports dependent upon the levels of port activity. PPE will include masks, hand sanitiser and antiseptic spray and wipes and thermometers.

Minibus adaptations to reduce transmission - £18,000

To safely transport coronavirus-free seafarers and to keep them safe and healthy, we need to adapt our vehicles as a matter of urgency. This has already been undertaken in Manila where we have been called upon by the Government to transport seafarers to and from their homes.

The adaptations will include plastic seat coverings, the removal of carpet and where applicable seats, rigid plastic screening between driver and rear seating, signage showing where to sit/not to sit, hand sanitiser and antiseptic spray. We are allocating a budget of £600 per bus across 30 buses.



CTR Employpess PPE



Minibus Adaptations



Port Talbot

Seafarer-Safe Centres Fund - £198,000

The most urgent need is to prepare our Centres to receive seafarers in a safe and COVID-19 clear environment. This means that each of our 121 Flying Angel Centres needs to have a deep clean before opening. New rigid Perspex screens need to be fitted to protect staff serving at receptions, bar areas, shops or food serving areas. Hand sanitising units fitted at entrances and other appropriate locations, and plastic seat covering on any fabric-covered seats. Floor direction signage to designate pathways around centres.

Centres will be expected to maintain a high level of daily cleaning and regular deep cleaning dependent upon traffic.

“We were able to distribute essential commodities to 100 more families of seafaring and fishermen communities around Tuticorin as the problem of unemployment due to Corona lockdown continued to torment many families”
Revd Issac Franklin, Tuticorin.

Advocacy - £76,000

Advocacy is very much at the heart of MtS’s work. Our compact team at IHQ, along with our regional representation, respond to a myriad of seafarers’ issues including justice and welfare cases, repatriation, abandonment, late payment of wages, shortages of food and money, piracy, bullying and discrimination. The list is endless. Examples of this work appear in the full document covering this service.


Since COVID-19, these cases have become even more prevalent, with the most recent being more than 100 seafarers stranded in the UK, unable to get home to India when the borders closed. Each case needed to be reviewed and assessed before emergency payments could be made, and negotiations started with the Foreign Office.

This core Advocacy work is vitally important part of our response to the most urgent and distressing of seafarers’ needs, and requires patience, compassion and due diligence to ensure the most appropriate response.

“Chatted to Myanmar OS and Cook both of whom bought SIM cards and Top Ups and appreciated it. No free Wi-Fi onboard. Cook over contract but still smiling.”
Peter Smith, Roberts Bay.

General Fund

Funds allocated to this area, will be unrestricted enabling the Mission to use them in areas of greatest need. With an ever-evolving situation worldwide, we see this as a vital resource to help us be nimble in responding to unexpected needs.



Bank Details

HSBC UK, 1-3 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 3AQ

IBAN No: GB82HBUK40023131310496

SWIFT/BIC CODE: HBUKGB4106G

Sort code: 40-02-31

Account No: 31310496

"I had a call from a C/E who wanted some top-ups for his crew. There was no gangway and the A/B on deck didn't want the shoreside access putting on. Instead, he got some rope and a bucket and made a pully system which we used to pass sim cards and money across! That was a first for me, but it worked. We are going to need to think of new ways to support seafarers over the coming months." **Jake Pass, Humber, UK**

Recognition of donations

- Appropriate level of publicity either through press releases and/or social media
- Appropriate level of recognition on our website Flying Angel Campaign page
- Appropriate branding
- Opportunity, where practical, for photos with donor and project
- Agreed level of impact reporting, including photographs, on the area of work funded - for use in your internal and external newsletters, annual reports and social media posts
- Gold Donor invited for on-site visits to funded locations
- Gold Donor invited to special dinner, all donors to special reception
- Gold & Silver Donors invited to Campaign update meetings with the Secretary General, Director of Advocacy and Director of Development
- Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors will receive a Glass Award/certificate for display in their Boardroom.

Funding/Sponsorship Table – Figures in GBP

	Total	Gold	No.	Silver	No.	Bronze	No.
Digital Chaplaincy	99,000	30,000	1	17,000	2	9,000	4
Seafarers Happiness App	65,000	25,000	1	15,000	2	5,000	2
Mifi	60,000	20,000	1	12,500	2	5,000	3
PPE	84,000	24,000	1	14,000	2	8,000	4
Minibuses	18,000	n/a	0	6,000	2	3,000	2
Seafarer safe centres	198,000	40,000	2	26,000	3	10,000	4
Advocacy	76,000	25,000	1	15,000	2	7,000	3
Totals	600,000		7		15		22

Any donor over £60,000 will appear as a Platinum Donor on our website and will receive special recognition.

Any funds raised for the Flying Angel Campaign will be allocated to seafarers' COVID-19-related activities and to areas the Mission designates as those of greatest need.

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   The Mission to Seafarers

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