ISSUE
Community members in Nigeria were having difficulty in gaining income from the limited farming resources in the community. There was limited land and the availability of ways to generate income.

DESCRIBE AND ANALYSE
The Salvation Army spoke with the members of the community to find the best solution. By integrating with the community they were able to find a simple and effective solution of producing palm oil together. They saw the need for expansion and processing of their farm product to a stage where it could be sold for a better income.

REFLECT
After further consideration, the community made contact with the Salvation Army to share their ideas and they then worked together to implement them.

PLAN
The Chief Secretary requested that the FBF Coordinator should continue to help in facilitating the process moving forward. The facilitator’s interaction with the community was then able to identify the community’s strengths.

The Community Leader and the FBF Coordinator completed a community mapping process with the community. An abandoned warehouse was recognised as a good area to utilise.

ACT
The land surrounding the warehouse needed to be cleared and a fence would need to be put up for security. The community came together to develop this at the lowest possible cost. Local bricklayers built the security and men and women came to clear the land.

The community also did some research to find personnel and companies who were able to help with procurement and installation, which really helped to more efficiently and cost effectively introduce the new palm oil machine.

The palm oil machine helped to develop the income of the community, and the initial machine has been recognised as a source of income to fund a second machine, as well as pay someone to service them. Any further income surplus to this will be collected in the bank for other projects of a similar nature to develop the community in a revolving scheme.

QUESTIONS
Use this story to think about what local resources, partners and solutions may be appropriate in your area. Planning the process was important in this case, and produced good results. What do you need to do to better plan in your work?