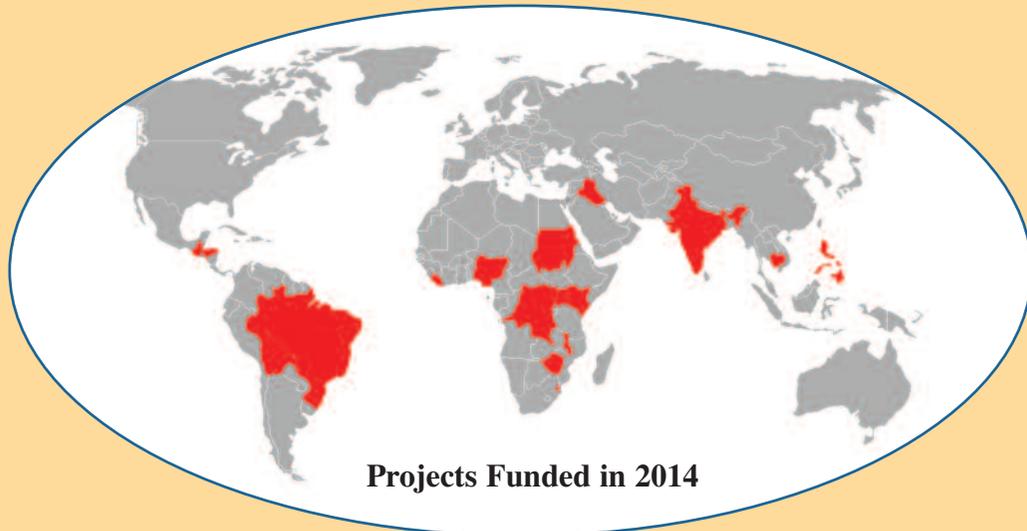


'What does the LORD require of you?
To seek justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly,
with your God.' Micah 6:8



Rural Development:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Agriculture/livelihoods | Honduras |
| 2. Healthcare Programmes | India |
| 3. Livelihoods for landless | Brazil |
| 4. Energy Efficient Stoves | Zimbabwe |
| 5. Building Resilience post Typhoon Haiyan | Philippines |

Health:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Wheelchairs/ Cerebral Palsy Training | Uganda |
| 2. School Water/Sanitation Project | Uganda |
| 3. Malawi Health Project | Malawi |
| 4. Borehole Programme | Uganda |
| 5. Womens' Training & Trauma Counselling | DR Congo |

Education:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Adult Literacy Programmes | Kenya |
| 2. Gender Equality | Bolivia |
| 3. Remote schools teachers' houses | Swaziland |
| 4. Demonstration farm & peace-building centre | Nigeria |
| 5. Livelihoods & Anti-trafficking | Cambodia |
| 6. Education Project | Guatemala |

Disaster Relief Response:

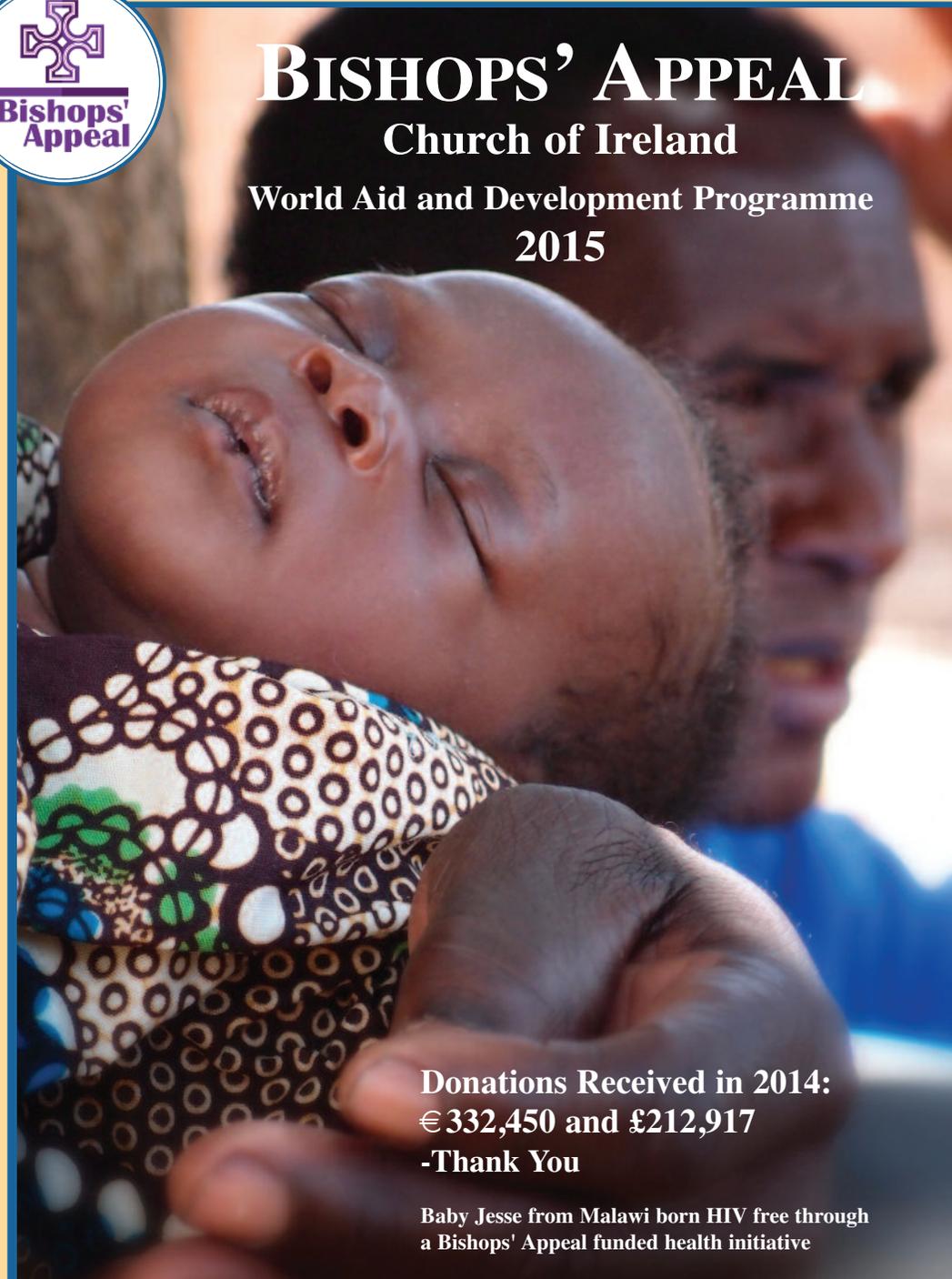
- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Relief Fund / orphanage | DR Congo |
| 2. Ebola Crisis | Liberia |
| 3. Emergency Relief & Hospital Support | Gaza |
| 4. Emergency Relief | Iraq |
| 5. Emergency Relief | South Sudan |



BISHOPS' APPEAL

Church of Ireland

World Aid and Development Programme
2015



Donations Received in 2014:
€332,450 and £212,917
-Thank You

Baby Jesse from Malawi born HIV free through a Bishops' Appeal funded health initiative

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'Speak up for the justice of all who are dispossessed' Proverbs 31:8

A Message from the Chairperson:

'Blessed are the poor...'

Last Summer, I spent a day with the Bench Marks Foundation in South Africa. Its role is 'to monitor the operation of large companies and to speak out against practices that violate community rights which are destructive to the environment'. I heard some horrific stories and visited, among other places, Ranfontein, where between two and three thousand people live, most of them as squatters in corrugated iron shacks erected on land condemned as unsafe because it is largely mine waste with radioactivity levels higher than Chernobyl! They simply have nowhere else to go and I saw bare footed children innocently playing on this dusty, toxic ground. Some have spent all their lives in this environment with obvious long-term health implications.

I hadn't expected to see such poverty and appalling living conditions in a country as wealthy as South Africa. Yet that is the reality for many in South Africa twenty years after apartheid, as it is for millions of people across the world. The figures Bishops' Appeal uses are that worldwide 100 million people are homeless, another 100 million are living in makeshift homes and a further 600 million are living in shelters and camps. The scale of poverty is so enormous we can barely comprehend its magnitude.

The work of Bishops' Appeal is to high-

light this reality for members of the Church of Ireland and to encourage you to respond, however small a drop in the ocean your response may seem. Over the past year, the generous support of parishioners has enabled us to contribute to some of the humanitarian crises, particularly those in Syria, Iraq, Gaza, Sierra Leone and Liberia as well as other 'forgotten communities' in the throes of everyday grinding poverty.

Bishops' Appeal is the Church's fund for 'poverty' and for 'world development'. In terms of development, we continue to prioritise, through our partner agencies, projects where the emphasis is not on funding the development for local communities but in enabling them to do it for themselves. Some dioceses and parishes have partnered with us in undertaking particular time-limited projects and I encourage others to consider doing likewise. We have a range of projects in different locations to offer. Looking beyond our own situation is always a worthwhile and humbling experience and a Gospel imperative. Please continue to support the work of Bishops' Appeal.

+ Patrick Tuam

Isaiah 1:17 'Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression'



From devastation...

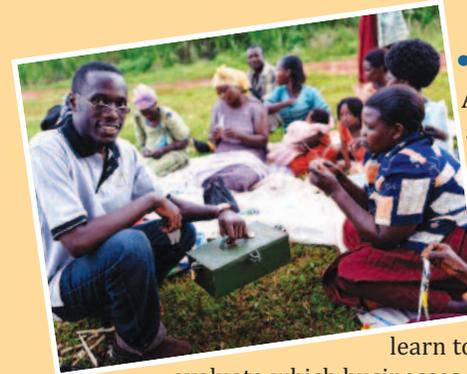
Bishops' Appeal recently funded a food security project for internally displaced people and returnees in the Central African Republic. A shocking study of returning refugees and displaced people shows that cassava (root plant) was the only source of food alongside caterpillars in July through to September. Malnutrition is extremely high. As subsistence farmers, people need basic tools such as rakes, watering cans, spades and hoes to grow food. It was found that 26% of households had no tools at all. Also, people are returning to destroyed houses and seed stores so there are no seeds to plant as they try to set up their lives and start again. Currently 1 million people in Central African Republic are in crisis due to lack of access to food and 700,000 people are at emergency level where intervention must happen soon or they will starve. This project is targeting 400 households to have food security through farming.



...to hope

After receiving Bishops' Appeal funding, partner staff in Uganda have the skills to help community members identify their assets and use what resources they have to increase their livelihoods and income. Based on experience from Ethiopia, the self-help group training programme in Uganda now provides livelihoods training. Now not only can people get involved in saving schemes and

learn to set up small businesses, they can also learn to evaluate which businesses are most likely to be profitable.



Philippines: Beyond Survival

Through Church of Ireland support, farmers in Pagompong have been able to lessen their dependence on loans from local traders who charge up to 120% for a 4 month loan to buy seeds and fertiliser to plant maize. This has meant that at harvest time they now have more income and, once they've paid back the loan to the group, they have invested it in buying goats, a horse and even solar panels to provide their homes with light. They have also expanded and built two small fishponds so they can harvest fish for the whole village to share.

Abas talked about how the cultural practice of 'bayanihan' or mutual community support, has been revived:

"People don't just focus on the survival needs of their family but on the building of a united and strong village community where everyone can share in the benefits this support has brought."

"At the heart of every human experience is the desire to survive and prosper. To live without fear, hunger or suffering. To imagine how your life could be better and then have the means to change it. Yet, every day, 1.4 billion people - nearly one fifth of the world's inhabitants - cannot fulfil their most basic needs, let alone attain their dreams or desires." U.N. Report on Poverty

The Church of Ireland is a Fairtrade Church



During the summer Education Advisor Lydia Monds arrived in the Tamil Nadu district of India to visit agriculture and health projects Bishops' Appeal has been supporting there since 2008. 'One of the most startling discoveries was the large plantations, mainly growing tea, that were hiring people on casual contracts. This meant people went every day in the hope of getting work for that day. To ensure successful crops, people were using up to 4 times the recommended amounts of pesticide on personal and plantation crops with detrimental results. The resulting skin defects, respiratory problems, cancers, foetal abnormalities were destroying communities. They could not afford to take time off to go to hospital, not just because they would lose the day's miniscule wage but for fear of not being re-hired. Subsequently, people were and are living with mounting illnesses caused by pesticides. A local organic agency called The Earth Trust is educating farmers on the benefits of using natural compost and natural pest deterrent methods that work just as well as their toxic alternatives. Alongside this they teach local women how to use herbs to

make natural remedies for simple skin complaints, stomach problems and headaches so that they can keep their communities healthy. If ever I saw a reason to support workers getting fair wages, fair employment and decent working conditions, proper education and training, it was in those Nilgiri Hills. And I cannot help but think that the move from over use of pesticides in my tea can only be good for my health and well being too. Justice benefits us all."



'It takes a Bangladeshi farmer 6 days to earn £3.50/€4.70'

(Traidcraft)

Global Poverty & the Church's Response



Dioceses all over Ireland have taken part in Irish Aid funded training workshops entitled 'Global Poverty and the Church's Response'. The course explored how we are all connected. For example, Bishops' Appeal recently funded a SAMS project in Argentina where big multi-national corporations are throwing people off their land for the mass growing of cash crops. We recently funded a CMS Ireland project supporting women in the Democratic Republic of Congo who had been violated during the ongoing brutal civil war that centres around the mining of minerals that are needed for our phones and ipads. Our lifestyles and choices are linked to those who are suffering. Our response involves reaching out and taking action, but it also involves reaching inward and making difficult, costly changes so that others do not continue to suffer on our behalf. People living in poverty describe it as shame, humiliation, depression, hopelessness and powerlessness. Not being allowed to participate in the solutions identified to 'fix' them, makes people feel more worthless, more powerless. Therefore, in all things, especially in our efforts to reach out to those who are suffering, we do so in humility, recognising our own need of God and of reconnection, and we work towards restoration with others, not solving poverty issues for others. And we listen. We listen to communities who have been stepped over by so many, yet whose opinions and perspectives and voices matter.

A great example of this deep listening is the Meath & Kildare Diocesan Link Project raising funds for protective footwear for people living with leprosy in India. Instead of shipping ready made shoes, the shoes are locally sourced and made with materials that both protect feet and can be easily replaced. The programme employs people with leprosy, breaking down social stigma as well as providing medical support. People are being educated in early detection, in cures and in self care of de-sensitized areas to prevent further infection or deformity. The shoes allow people to continue to walk and to work and to provide for their families. Other dioceses are also engaged in Link Projects. To learn more visit: www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/diocesanlinkprojects Another example is Bishops' Appeal funding of Tearfund's Impact Programme in Malawi. Local HIV positive women are trained at grass roots level to 'buddy' pregnant women in their villages to ensure they are regularly attending clinic. This amazing project has drastically reduced Parent to Child HIV transmission rates. 'The knock on effects of engaging local women with HIV and including the husbands in the initiative has seen a reduction in stigma and domestic violence and huge increases in joint testing of couples for HIV as well as in joint decision making and improved relationships. Approaches that do not involve the community as key players have not seen this scale of success.

Working Together for Transformation

• Access to safe drinking water:

Water & Sanitation remains a crucial issue for millions of people and thus remains high on the priorities of Bishops' Appeal. According to our partner agency Fields of Life, today 748 million people do not have access to safe drinking water. Of them 173 million are reliant on stagnant, surface water (many of these in rural areas). Through the money being made available for just one borehole, 1000 people will have access to safe drinking water. Bishops' Appeal has funded water pumps, boreholes and water harvesting systems over the past 12 months. This has a knock on effect, allowing more girls to attend school instead



of spending hours collecting water and reducing the violence experienced by women and girls who are vulnerable when walking long distances to get water far from the protection of the village. It also frees up women to focus on income generating schemes and home gardens.

It is followed up with training for eradicating water borne diseases in what was once a water-scarce community.

• War & Refugees: Life in Limbo

"More than 43 million people worldwide are now forcibly displaced as a result of conflict



and persecution" United Nations Report on Refugees

Bishops' Appeal has responded swiftly to the humanitarian crises in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan and Gaza. Parishes gave generously to help those who have fled violence and persecution and who are living in temporary shelters and refugee camps, uncertain of when they can ever return to rebuild their lives. In Syria alone, 4 years of fighting has seen 7.6 million internally displaced people and another 3.9 million people seeking refuge in other countries. Funds directed through Christian Aid and Tearfund have provided shelter, food, water, medical kits, hygiene kits, temporary schools and trauma counselling for those who are suffering. In Iraq, funds have also been directed through local grassroots churches responding to persecuted congregations through providing food and shelter and setting up schools in refugee camps.

• Gender Based Violence:

Domestic and gender based violence exist in every community all over the world. As a church we are called to break the silence of

abuse that happens behind the closed doors of families in our own communities as well as in other parts of the world. Sadly, conflict increases sexual abuse as it is used as a weapon of war. As people are de-humanised, so the atrocities against them multiply. The UN report on Violence against women estimates that there are 1,100 reported cases of rape in Democratic Republic of Congo every single month. This year Bishops' Appeal responded through CMS Ireland and the Mothers' Union in DRC by supporting safe houses, trauma counselling and livelihoods training for women who have experienced such abuse and who live in extreme poverty.

Other projects funded this year have included anti-trafficking projects in Cambodia where exploitation is rife (Globally between 500,000 to 2 million people are trafficked annually into situations including prostitution, forced labour, slavery or servitude, according to UN report on human trafficking); gender based violence education in Bolivia where femicide is higher than in other parts of the world and safe houses and enterprises for abused women in Brazil.

• Disease: Ebola Crisis

The Ebola virus has claimed many lives in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Sadly, a large percentage of them have been health workers. Bishops' Appeal funded the provision of protective suits for health workers to protect them from the virus as they care for those infected.

Dr. Joanne Liu, the international president of Doctors Without Borders stated that "Riots are breaking out. Isolation centres are overwhelmed. Health workers on the frontline are becoming infected and are dying in shocking numbers."

The knock on effects of Ebola are cited as potentially causing generational damage. Social structures have been dismantled as people presenting with symptoms or even working with those affected are ostracised, thrown off their land, and excommunicated from their communities. People ill with other ailments such as heart disease, pregnancy complications and malaria do not have access to hospitals. And food is becoming more and more scarce. Amidst such tragedy and devastation we pray that people know the God who restores the soul and makes all things new.

