

BISHOPS' APPEAL

Church of Ireland

World Aid and Development Programme 2016

Rural Development:

- Shrimp Farming - Christian Aid
- Climate Change Resilience - Christian Aid
- Food Security Self Help Africa
- Climate Resiliency - Christian Aid
- Agriculture & Nutrition - Self Help Africa

Health:

- Water Harvesting - Fields of Life
- HIV programme - Feed the Minds
- Wheelchairs - Motivation
- School Latrines - Fields of Life
- Maternal & Newborn Health - Christian Aid

Disaster Relief

- Disaster Relief & Peace - Christian Aid
- Emergency Appeal - Fields of Life
- Refugee Crisis - Christian Aid, Tearfund, US and Europe
- Nepal Earthquake - Christian Aid, Tearfund

- El Salvador
- Malawi
- Burkina Faso
- Philippines
- Kenya

- Uganda
- Zambia
- Uganda
- Uganda
- India

- South Sudan
- South Sudan
- Middle East and Europe
- Nepal

Education:

- Classrooms - CMS Ireland
- Neighbourhood Care Point - United Society
- Dormitory - CMS Ireland
- Church & Community Mobilisation - Tearfund
- Literacy - Fields of Life
- School Project - SAMS
- Books - Team Hope
- School Rehabilitation - CMS Ireland
- Teacher's Housing - United Society
- Self Help Groups - Tearfund
- Dormitory - CMS Ireland
- What in the World? Series - KMF Productions
- Education & Community Development
- Feed the Minds
- Literacy for refugees - Feed the Minds
- Income for Vulnerable Women - CMS Ireland
- Education Assistance - Dr Graham's Homes

- South Sudan
- Swaziland
- Kenya
- South Sudan
- Uganda
- Paraguay
- Rwanda
- Burundi
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Kenya
- World

- India
- Malawi
- DRC
- India

A refugee woman queues with her child to board the train to Croatia at Sid railway station in Serbia - Christian Aid



Donations Received in 2016:
£131,531 and €314,182 - Thank You

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.” Luke 4, vs 18 & 19

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A Message from the Chairperson:

We need no reminding that we are living in strange times. Perhaps you are feeling a sense of bewilderment. The world is in turmoil, or so it seems.

In Ireland, north and south, the number of homeless people, hospital waiting lists, austerity, economic and political instability are among our many concerns. All of this too is mirrored in the Church with the fear of decline, of division over gay marriage, of general apathy, so that we wonder what kind of church we will be in ten, twenty years' time.

Our own bewilderment and fears though, are as nothing when compared to the plight of the displaced, to those caught up in war and conflict, in gender violence, in famine and drought, and those made homeless through natural disasters. We can barely imagine what life must be like for those with no place to call home and no guarantee of any of the basics we take for granted.

It is good then to remind ourselves that much of scripture is written against such a background of turmoil. A deeper reading reveals that the biblical accounts of God calling people to service, almost always are accompanied with the same response; not delight - but dismay, not pleasure - but panic, not thanksgiving - but fear. This is no surprise because the things God called people to do were onerous to say the least; nine times out of ten guaranteeing a less than enthusiastic reception. Few if any of those called considered themselves suited for the task in hand.

Bishops' Appeal seeks, with our partners, to bring practical support and hope to those who are in greatest need. With so much suffering and poverty, our brief of 'world development and disaster relief' is overwhelming. How can the little we do make a difference? Added to that, the present financial climate means that we have not the funds we once had at our disposal.

As Chair of Bishops' Appeal, I thank you for your support and appeal again for your continuing financial contributions as we seek to do what we can to demonstrate the love of Christ in a bewildered world. Please pray for this essential, life-changing work.

+ Patrick Tuam
Chair, Bishops' Appeal Committee



Diocesan Link Projects

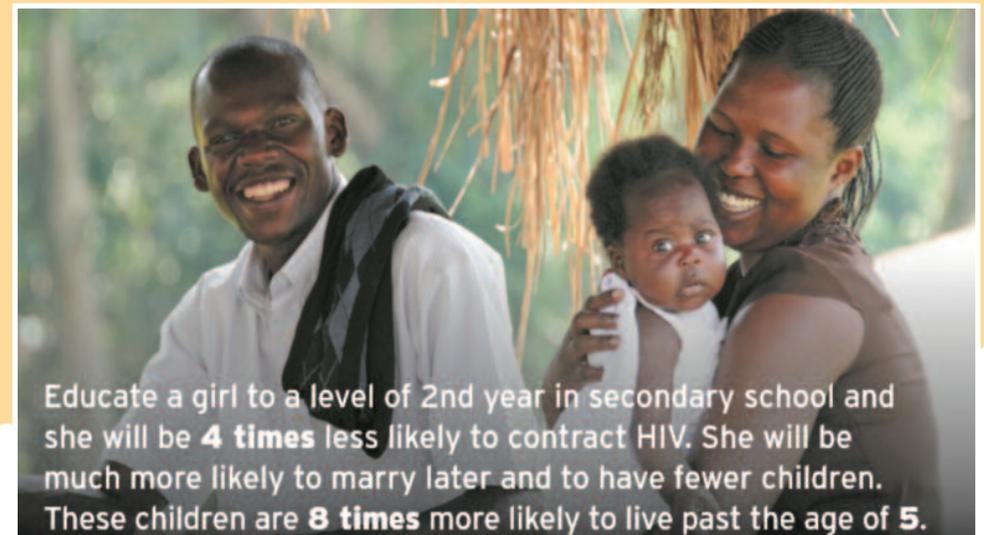
Meath & Kildare: Leprosy Mission

The diocese of Meath & Kildare is continuing its partnership with the Leprosy Mission on the "Good for the Sole project". The first stage of the programme provided custom made protective sandals for those living with leprosy. Substantial funds were raised, allowing a progression to the second stage of the project, which has focussed on providing corrective surgeries for those whose feet are too damaged for simple support. These surgeries improve a person's ability to walk, which in turn improves their employability and therefore, their ability to provide for themselves and their families. The surgery also has psychological, social and spiritual implications, allowing people to feel more confident, included and aware of the inherent value they have as one created in God's image.

Cashel, Ferns & Ossory: MU & Feed the Mind

The diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory have partnered with Mothers' Union and Feed the Minds on literacy projects for women in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Ethiopia. Literacy rates among women in Ethiopian refugee camps can be as low as 2%. In 2012, Mothers' Union started training facilitators to run literacy programmes in these camps, which are transforming lives and communities, becoming a first step in reducing gender barriers and poverty, improving living conditions for all.

Without education, women in DRC are vulnerable to livelihood insecurity, social discrimination and economic exploitation. Feed the Minds is working in Fizi in DRC to provide literacy projects that also train women to generate an income, exercise their rights, improve their health, resolve conflicts and read the Bible.



Educate a girl to a level of 2nd year in secondary school and she will be **4 times** less likely to contract HIV. She will be much more likely to marry later and to have fewer children. These children are **8 times** more likely to live past the age of **5**.

Diocesan link projects

Cork, Cloyne & Ross:

closely partnered with Christian Aid

Cork, Cloyne & Ross are supporting a Christian Aid project in the Diocese of Makamba & Matana in Burundi, which aims to assist and strengthen maize farmers in order to ensure their livelihoods are secure and to increase their level of income, empowering communities. In recent years, there have been poor harvests, leading to increased food insecurity and deepening poverty. Christian Aid's partner is working to train maize farmers to improve production methods, support the establishment of a farmers' cooperative union, establish and Maize Grain Milling plant and to provide support to families and communities.



(CMS Ireland, Kenya – women collective water with bucket and line at the Oltiasika water tanks)

Tuam, Killala & Achonry:

CMS Ireland

Tuam, Killala & Achonry has continued its links with the Diocese of Kajiado in Kenya. Having completed its MABWENI Project at the Oloosuyian School where it helped with classroom and sanitary facilities, its new MAJI (Swahili word for water) Project is at the Maasai Rural Training Centre in Oltiasika in the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro. This involves the building of a new concrete water gathering area (Phase 1) and the supplying of concrete covers for three water tanks (Phase 2) that were built by CMSI some 30 years ago. The tanks have the capacity for water for the 5,000 local residents; the nearest bore hole being 15 miles away. Sufficient funds were raised in 2016 to fund phase 1.

Derry & Raphoe:

Send A Cow

Derry & Raphoe have partnered with Send A Cow with the aim of providing 49 cows to clergy serving in the Diocese of Butere in Kenya. Derry & Raphoe have a longstanding connection with Butere: over a century ago, the son and daughter of the then Bishop, George Alexander Chadwick, established the first Anglican Church and the first boys' and girls' schools in the region. Nowadays, there is relative poverty in the region, and the 49 clergy are under considerable pressure to provide for their families' basic needs. By providing a cow for each of the clergy, the rectory families will have a daily supply of milk, as well as a means of income. Send A Cow is based in UK, but has an office in Kenya. As well as providing the cows, they provide training to ensure that the cows will be healthy and cared for.

Responding to poverty and its root causes:



When Hurricane Matthew hit the south west of Haiti, it wreaked havoc, killing hundreds of people and leaving thousands more homeless, at risk of disease and with their livelihoods destroyed. As the hurricane moved north, it hit the east coast of the USA, where its lasting effects were minimal. Why was there such a difference? Why did Haiti suffer so much more severely?

Following the 2010 earthquake, many Haitians were still trying to rebuild their lives, and many lived in makeshift shelters that stood little chance against 150 mph winds. A foundation of poor housing, fragile agriculture and limited healthcare led to a cycle of poverty, where limited resilience made it difficult to bounce back when disaster hit.

Bishops' Appeal was started as a channel through which the Church could respond to disasters – to be an outworking of God's heart for the poor that is so clear throughout the

Bible. Although its remit has broadened, disaster relief remains a key part of our work. 2016 was a difficult year for many, and our response included supporting emergency appeals in, not only Haiti, but Yemen and South Sudan, as well as the ongoing refugee crisis, which continues to be fuelled by violence in the Middle East and beyond.

When disasters occur, they dominate the news, making it easy to see the need to respond, but it is important that we remember that in times when poverty and need are less prevalent on the news, they are no less prevalent in the world.

Martin Luther King Junior said, "On the one hand we are called to play the good Samaritan on life's roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway". It will always be important to respond to disasters, but we need also be aware of how the Church should respond to the structures that keep people in poverty: conflict, gender inequality, climate change.

Bishops' Appeal worked through Christian Aid Ireland to respond to Hurricane Matthew but is also committed to supporting ongoing development in sustainable agriculture, health and education, allowing people to have more control over their lives and reduce their dependence on others. The Church has a vital part to play in reaching out in love and service to people around the world.



Bishops' Appeal's response in 2016

The Refugee Crisis

Throughout the world, the refugee crisis continues. From Syrian refugees making dangerous journeys across Europe, to Internally Displaced People in the Democratic Republic of Congo and those fleeing violence in South Sudan, Afghanistan and Iraq, mass people movement does not seem to be slowing down.



Christian Aid Malaw

Bishops' Appeal has continued to provide funds to agencies working with refugees in Europe, including Christian Aid, Tearfund and USPG. While the Europe refugee crisis gets much media attention, the crisis is not limited to Europe or even the Middle East. Fields of Life received €6,000 from Bishops' Appeal for their South Sudan emergency appeal, to provide relief for the displaced people of Eddi Archdeaconry in the Diocese of Maridi.



FOL South Sudan

In 2011, South Sudan gained independence from Sudan ending Africa's longest-running civil war and becoming Africa's newest country. Two years later, the country was plunged into crisis following a power struggle between the president and his deputy whom he had sacked. Tens of thousands were killed and more than 2.2 million forced to leave their homes when fighting broke out. An internationally-mediated peace agreement was signed in 2015, but it was short lived, with a return to conflict in 2016 and failed attempts to broker a peace deal.

In September 2016, Bishop Justin of the Diocese of Maridi appealed directly to Fields of Life to assist Eddi Archdeaconry after a traumatic incursion by government troops and rebels left many dead and injured as the population fled for their lives into the jungle.

Fields of Life, partly funded by Bishops' Appeal aim to support 361 households and a total population of 2,527, providing food items including maize/corn, salt, ground nuts and beans as well as non-food items such as blankets, mosquito nets, jerry cans, kitchen utensils, washing soap, along with vital trauma counselling.

Climate Change

Although violence is one of the leading reasons for displacement of people, it is far from the only one. The changing climate has led to floods in some parts of the world, and droughts in others, causing people to flee for safety and in search of land which will allow them to produce food.

Bishops' Appeal have funded a Christian Aid Ireland project in Malawi to support communities at most risk from flooding and drought. When it comes to climate change,

Malawi is one of the worst-affected African countries and rural communities are particularly susceptible. Christian Aid is working through local partners to develop programmes which will build up the resistance to climate change related disasters.

One such project is through Emmanuel International Malawi (EI), who are strengthening the resilience and financial security of communities by improving food security, disaster preparedness and access to markets. This project works in the areas around Lakes Malawi, Chilwa and Chiuta, which are highly sensitive to climate change, affecting fish reproduction and biodiversity. The livelihoods of the fishing communities are becoming more vulnerable and households are highly susceptible to significant climate events.

Christian Aid and EI are providing diversity training, in complementary livelihoods such as bee keeping, bamboo growing and basket weaving. They are also training the communities in sustainable agriculture and natural regeneration of the forests. In addition, Christian Aid and EI are working with the local government to develop good planning processes.

At the start of 2017, we are also aware of increasing drought conditions in the Horn of Africa, particularly Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. Following the Somalia drought of 2011, many aid agencies' efforts to combat these conditions have taken a step back, but with increasing food and water insecurity, attention may, once again, turn to this issue.