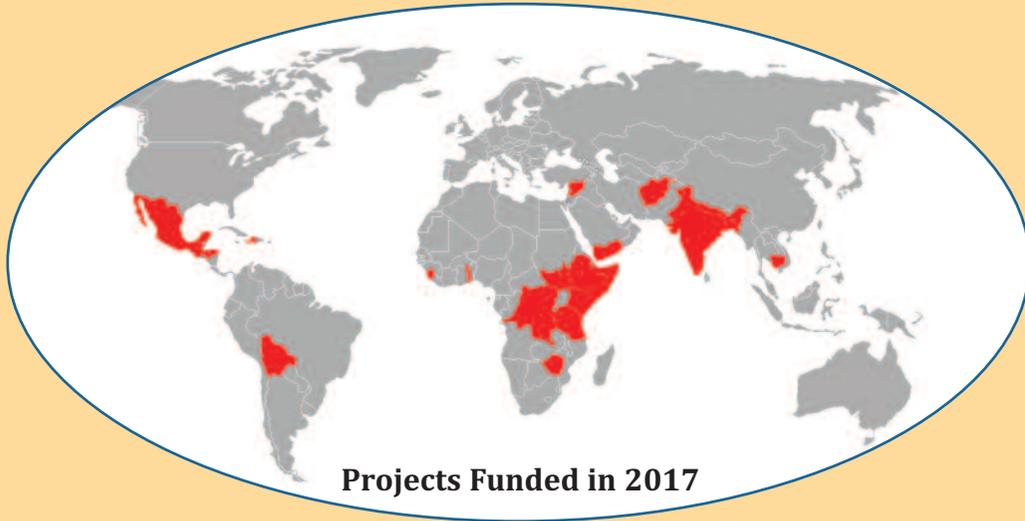


'Seek Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with your God' Micah 6:8



For a list of all projects funded in 2017 visit  
[www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/educate/good-news-stories/](http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/educate/good-news-stories/)



It would take a worker in an Indian cashew factory a day and a half to make enough money to buy a 200g bag of supermarket cashew nuts - Traidcraft Statistic



**The Church of Ireland is a Fairtrade Church**



# BISHOPS' APPEAL

## Church of Ireland

### World Aid and Development Programme 2018



"Malawi. Fanny Dauson in Katute, a community supported by a Christian Aid resilience programme, funded by Bishops' Appeal. Fanny is a member of the village savings and loans scheme. Here, she is drying maize."

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### Donations Received in 2017:

**€287,108 and £193,733 - Thank You**

These funds were distributed to health, education, rural agriculture and disaster relief responses in 116 communities across 22 countries worldwide.

Thank you for your support

## A Message from the Chairperson:

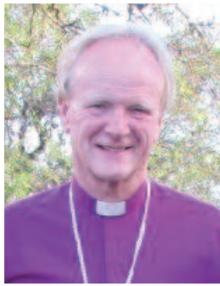
### Light and hope in the dark

As a child, I was afraid of the dark at night. I would lie for hours listening out for any creak in the floorboards, convinced that someone was coming up the stairs. It was the same with going out into the dark; always I insisted on carrying a torch. My own children too were likewise troubled and I could empathise when they asked for a night-light in the landing. The illumination it gave may have been minimal but it was enough to dispel the darkness and help banish their fears.

Darkness, of another kind, overshadows the lives of so many children and indeed adults. It is the darkness of suffering as a consequence of fear, violence, homelessness, sexual exploitation, drought and natural disaster. We have all been appalled by the pictures we have seen of children severely injured or cowering underground caught up in a war zone and utterly helpless. Many others are simply existing in shocking conditions in camps and other makeshift accommodation. Millions are displaced, homeless and hungry. Families torn apart, potential destroyed and lives lived out in misery and squalor with little hope of any improvement in the foreseeable future.

Bishops' Appeal is the Church of Ireland's response to disaster situations and for world development. It is therefore both reactive and, with our mission partners, pro-active in meeting needs. Along with co-ordinated emergency relief efforts; education, health and rural development projects are our priorities. What we offer is

perhaps a drop in the ocean but nonetheless, like my night-light, however dim, it can be enough to offer reassurance and support to those reached by our efforts in vulnerable situations.



In this leaflet you can read of how Bishops' Appeal has responded to these unfolding situations, not least through support for refugees caught up in the Refugee Crisis, by helping to build resilience in the face of drought, floods and climate change, and through women's empowerment when confronted with sexual discrimination and Gender Based Violence. None of this would be possible without the practical and prayerful support of dioceses, parishes and individuals across the Church of Ireland. Our partner agencies too, play a significant role as do our Education Organiser, Lydia Monds and the Support Staff at the Representative Church Body. To all, we are truly grateful.

**+ Patrick Tuam**  
**Chair, Bishops' Appeal Committee**

• 250 million children in developing countries are forced to work, many in sweatshops and mines. In 2017, 82% of wealth accumulation went to the richest 1%; the poorest half of the world got nothing.

• 65.3 million people are asylum seeker, refugees or internally displaced. Over half of these are children. Billionaire wealth increased by \$762 billion last year – that's enough to end extreme poverty 7 times over.

## From Cows to Tanks: The Breadth of Diocesan Engagement

Derry & Raphoe, in partnership with Send a Cow raised £60,000 for the provision of cows to the Diocese of Butere in Kenya. Training was provided in animal husbandry and facilities for milking were set up. In late 2017 Butere clergy and their spouses visited a small dairy farm in Shianda in preparation for the anticipated arrival of high-yield cows early in 2018.



Cork, Cloyne & Ross, in partnership with Christian Aid helped move maize farmers from uncertainty to food security and then to financial security. They raised over €34,000 in 2016 and 2017 for this project.

Meath & Kildare, in partnership with The Mission to End Leprosy, funded supportive sandals and corrective surgery for people living with Leprosy in India. They have raised over €66,000 in two years and have funded corrective surgeries up until 2020.

Cashel, Ferns & Ossory, in partnership with Mothers' Union and Feed the Minds funded literacy circles for women in Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia. The programmes were provided for women in conflict zones and for refugees fleeing violence and living in camps in other countries. Not only did they provide literacy but they were taught skills such as soap making and they engaged in peace building.

Tuam, Killala & Achonry, in partnership with CMS Ireland provided funding for three large water tanks in Kajiado Diocese in Kenya. This will enable local communities to store water during drought and to prevent contamination of the water.

*From the gospel we understand that God's mission is reconciliation. We, and all people, are broken before God. We are turned in on ourselves, away from God and others. We sow discord and dissension. We hurt one another and abuse the earth we have been given to care for. We are alienated, far from God and from one another. Jesus came to reconcile us with God. God meets us in our brokenness, and restores our relationship with God and with one another. God desires our reconciliation with one another, so that we no longer exploit or hurt; and our reconciliation with the earth, so that we no longer abuse or waste. We continue to be imperfect, but we are constantly called back to God's mission of reconciliation.*

Walking Together in Solidarity/Rozella White



## Refugees: Global & Local



The majority of refugees flee to neighbouring countries. 84% of refugees live in the Global South.

In the past year, Bishops' Appeal funded a CMS Ireland project that supported Child Headed Households who have fled South Sudan and are now living in five different Refugee Camps in Uganda.

Rohingya refugees fled violence in Myanmar and sought refuge in Bangladesh, at a time when the receiving country was one third under sea water and experiencing crippling poverty due to the loss of land and homes caused by the flooding. Bishops' Appeal responded to the Rohingya Refugee Crisis by releasing initial emergency funds to Medecin Sans Frontiere and subsequent funds to Christian Aid and Tearfund Ireland.

### TEFL Grant

In January 2018, funding was allocated to provide a small number of people with a grant to get a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) qualification. The purpose was to build skills and confidence in people so they could volunteer with community and church groups that befriend migrants, asylum seekers and refugees and offer English language classes.

To date nine people have obtained the grant and a further five people are on a waiting list. Additional people opted to pay for the

course themselves. Others again contacted to say they have TEFL qualifications and received help to link in with groups who are providing English classes.

The range of people who applied spanned the 4 provinces of Ireland and extended from those who have recently left college to those who have begun retirement. It has helped them join the dots in their own lives as to how they can further their skills and experiences to get more involved.

People everywhere are reaching out, supporting those who are vulnerable, helping them to engage with services and access education and most importantly, being a friend. They spoke of their desire to serve and to connect as deeply rooted in their faith and as part of a wider desire to find the Will of God and to do it.

This is where heaven meets earth. This is where the Holy Spirit ignites sparks and the Light of the World shines in the darkness. This is where the pain of loss and loneliness is healed with the balm of love and friendship. This is where the Kingdom of God flourishes in the laughter shared between people of different nationalities and languages.

This is where the Church embodies Christ and becomes his hands and his feet.

## Women's Empowerment



Globally, 1 in 3 women experience Gender Based Violence. There are often harmful cultural norms which silence women and exclude them from access to education and resources. The Church is called to model and teach about right relationships and to speak out against harmful gender stereotypes that can lead to the demeaning and abusing of women. Bishops' Appeal funds many projects that encourage the active participation of women and create opportunities for them to increase their agricultural production or earn an income. Two projects in the last year focused solely on women's education and health.

Rain Water Harvesting in Uganda with Fields of Life is an effective way to collect and store water for washing and cooking without having to walk many miles to a water source. Bishops' Appeal has funded many such projects for Fields of Life, as well as borehole projects and latrine and sanitation projects and more recently, 'I am a Girl' projects. These address gender based violence but also provide separate latrines for girls in schools, menstrual hygiene products so female students don't miss so much school and education for the wider community of the rights and dignity of women and girls.

A Women's Health Project in Nepal with CMS Ireland focused on screening women for prolapsed uterus and treating those in need of medical support. Many people living in poverty will continue working even with debilitating ailments as it is too financially and time costly to get treated. Such a programme has provided relief and dignity to many people.



*Transforming God,  
You turned the Samaritan women  
from the excluded 'other',  
into a bearer of the gospel of peace,  
putting in her mouth the song of testimony.  
Grant us that same insight and courage,  
that same witness of women  
on the margins,  
that we too may recognise our place in the  
gospel story, and live it in our lives.  
Amen*

Fact: In 2017, 8 men owned more than 3.6 billion people

# Drought, Floods and the Church's Response

## East Africa Appeal

This Appeal was launched by the Archbishops in March 2017 in response to the worst humanitarian crisis in the region since 1945. By December 2017 €44,133 and €45,977 had been raised throughout the Church of Ireland to support the Emergency Relief efforts. 20 million people across South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya urgently needed food and water to survive. This has been the worst humanitarian crisis since 1945. Famine was declared in parts of South Sudan, where 100,000 people faced starvation and nearly 5 million people urgently needed food. The crisis followed more than three years of devastating conflict, which left millions of people without a safe place to call home.

In Somalia alone, over 360,000 children under five were extremely malnourished. Donations to Bishops' Appeal funded water and sanitation, food, food vouchers and cash grants as well as tools and seeds for new crops.



## Building Resilience against an Unpredictable Climate

Separate to the East Africa Appeal, Bishops' Appeal supported Tearfund Self Help Groups in Ethiopia, which enabled groups of people build up resilience and reserves to withstand the drought. Today there are estimated to be more than 12,000 such groups, impacting the lives of more than 1 million people. Now, many of these groups will be the beneficiaries of our #Jars4Journeys initiative as the funds raised will provide conservation farming training and enable them to grow successful crops with minimal amounts of water.



One third of all food produced in the world for human consumption every year - roughly 1.3 billion tonnes - is wasted.

## Jars4Journeys

Bishops' Appeal collaborated with Eco-Congregation Ireland and the Representative Church Body for its Lenten #Jars4Journeys initiative. People were encouraged to use old jam jars or other recyclable containers and every time they took a journey by bus, train, tram, car or flight, to donate to the jar. At the end of Lent the money was divided between three conservation projects in countries where people are most affected by climate change.



These are:

- As aforementioned, conservation farming training for Self Help Groups affected by prolonged drought and unpredictable rainfall in Ethiopia through Tearfund Ireland;
- Solar Ovens for Amazonian Communities affected by flooding and drought in Bolivia with Christian Aid and
- Tree Planting and Water Harvesting for communities affected by deforestation, land grabs and dried up rivers in Kenya with the Greenbelt Movement.

The RCB and Bishops' Appeal match funded the first €/£1000 worth of donations. The purpose of this was to encourage people to live mindfully and to be aware of their impact and footprint as part of God's Creation.

Fact: A family of 3 in India consumes 6 times less energy over their lifetime than a family of 3 in the USA.