

Bishops' Appeal Harvest Newsletter



Giving thanks for the Harvest;
standing in solidarity with
those for whom the Harvest
has not come.



Harvest Reflection



For many of us, when we think of farmer's busy harvesting their crops, we automatically think of Harvest Thanksgiving and the Lord of the Harvest.

God is synonymous with abundance; with enough for everyone.

But it can be difficult then, to reconcile the world in which we live - with increasing famine and floods, displacement and loss - with a place

that God resides, let alone where God is Sovereign. I imagine there are many who could write this more eloquently than I, but where there is suffering, there God is. The Majestic Lord of the Universe sits with us in our loss, in our grief, in our dehumanisation, wholly present with us. This is true for a subsistence farmer in South Sudan - she is known by name and loved - and it is true for you.



Jesus, Saviour in storm, when the waters of the deep are broken up, when the landmarks are washed away or drowned, come to us across the water.

*NEW ZEALAND PRAYERBOOK,
COURTESY OF COFI
MINISTRY FOR HEALING*

Harvest Hope in Tanzania

There are so many Good News Stories of communities around the world growing and harvesting their crops with support from the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal. In a world that is heavy laden with crises, let these stories fill you with gratitude and hope.

Over the Summer, Bishops' Appeal funded a Feed the Minds education and agriculture project that worked to improve the quality of life for 1,776 rural women and their families in Tanzania.

The project established acacia and fig tree nurseries in 12 villages and provided training in environmental management and income generating activities to support the women. This improved quality of life for them and for their families.

600 women (50 from each village) were trained in organic farming techniques, conservation and drought-resistant crop production for increased food security. They in turn will disseminate this training to a further 600 women (1,200 in total).



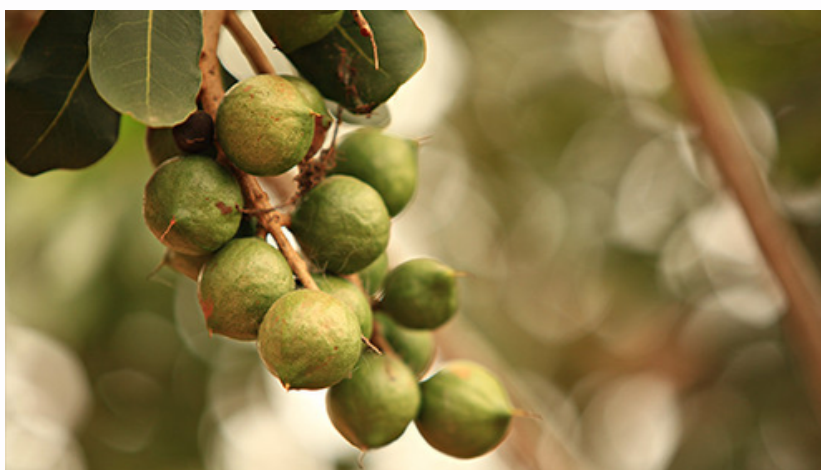
In each village, trained women will form farming groups and establish faidherbia and fig tree nurseries. Within 3 years, it is expected that crop production will increase threefold where trees have been planted.

8 women from each village (96 in total) have been trained in goat rearing. Each was provided with a goat and now supply organic manure to women growing faidherbia trees, who in return supply food for the goats.

5 women from each village (60 in total) were trained in the construction of smokeless stoves using locally available materials including bricks, clay, anthill soil, grass and cow dung. Each woman will now support another 3 women in their village to make their own smokeless stoves.

Ethiopia: Self Help Groups

Nutrition, income & conservation from the macadamia tree.



Tearfund Ireland and partners are working with the most vulnerable women and People with Disabilities to establish Self Help Groups, and to introduce organic agriculture and conservation agriculture in districts throughout Ethiopia. The project is multi-faceted and includes the introduction of the macadamia nut and Disaster Risk Reduction training.

The macadamia tree can produce up to 20 kg of nuts within three to five years of planting. With a sale value of 1.10 EUR/kg, macadamia is a high value cash crop which can provide additional income. Macadamia also supports environmental conservation.

As part of the training, the Self Help Groups learn how to become self-sustaining, and join larger networks of already established Self Help Groups in order to advocate for their rights and for the most vulnerable among them.

Tearfund are also engaging the local church, providing training in Church and Community Mobilisation so that faith communities are equipped to serve and respond where God has placed them.

This layered response has seen the growth of the Self Help Group movement throughout Ethiopia, helping the most marginalised people build resilience, even as they have been hit by multiple crises.

Bishops' Appeal has partnered with Tearfund to fund such groups over several years. We are amazed by the ability of the participants, most of whom have no capital, no access to loans and no experience to begin with, but who can take such a small investment and turn it into consistent income.



Ukraine Update

To date, the Church of Ireland has donated €218,505 and £196,647 through Bishops' Appeal to this humanitarian crisis.

Your donations continue to support key partners to bring humanitarian relief within Ukraine and in the surrounding countries.

Christian Aid Ireland utilises the funds to supply hospitals with tens of thousands of medical kits and supplies, as well as providing large shipments of essential items both within Ukraine and to areas of concentrated refugees in neighbouring countries.

Habitat for Humanity Ireland has focused on providing shelter in Poland and Romania, setting up tents with heating and electricity for short term stays as well as converting unused spaces in towns and cities into homes suitable for stays of approximately 6 months. They are also liaising with local Governments to place people in families, to secure leases and furnish longer term homes



and to support those who are journeying on to reach their destination safely.

We supported Tearfund Ireland to send 76 shipments of essential food and non-food items to warehouses within Ukraine to support internally displaced people in multiple districts throughout the country. This enabled over 300,000 people meet their basic survival needs.

As millions flee and million more are displaced internally, the need for a response is great. The Church of Ireland is grateful to all those who have donated and to our key partners who are working tirelessly to bring hope and comfort at a time of such devastation and loss.

We continue to accept donations for this Appeal.



Global Food Price Hikes = Global Hunger

The current reality in East Africa

The worst drought in forty years, along with global food prices soaring due to the war in Ukraine, have led to failed harvests, the death of livestock and water shortages. This means extreme hunger for many families.



Our Response

The response to humanitarian needs in Ukraine has been remarkable. We must now urgently act in that same spirit for East Africa.

Already Bishops' Appeal has funded Tearfund's response to severe drought in Somalia.

Looking ahead, we wish to walk alongside ChristianAid as they respond to the severe

drought in Ethiopia and Kenya, helping over 300,000 people by:

- repairing wells
- handing out water purification kits
- providing cash support
- trucking water to drought-affected communities
- providing fodder and medicine to keep valuable livestock alive

To support Christian Aid Famine Appeal for Horn of Africa, click [HERE](#)

A Prayer for East Africa

Creator God,
The earth is yours and everything in it,
All people and all nations under your care,
Lord, we lift up to you the people of East Africa,
Where rivers have dried up,
rains have failed,
and crops have withered in the field.
We cry out to you for rain, that the land
may burst into life again.
That people may eat and be satisfied.
But, Lord we confess that this disaster is no
surprise

It is of our own making.
Our greed and carelessness with your precious earth
Has caused a climate crisis
And it is the poorest who pay the cost.
Forgive us Lord.
Create in us a heart for justice
Help us to share what we have.
So, that help may come urgently to those in
desperate need.
May our governments show leadership in tackling
the climate crisis
We cry out to you for justice to fill the earth again,
Amen

Our 50th Anniversary



Reflection & Action

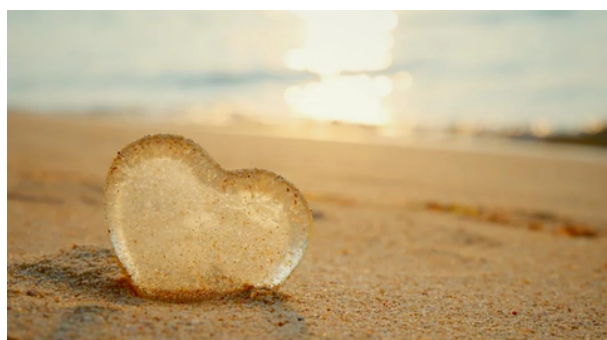
God has not given us a Spirit of Fear – when we live our lives and make decisions from a place of fear, our vision is small, our focus is inward looking and all our actions are rooted in survival rather than flourishing.

Following God's call to Act Justly and Love Mercy, we want to be unafraid to rock boats and make big changes and to live generously in order to see more people move from survival to flourishing, just as God intended.

Looking back, moving forward



In the past number of years, we have repeat funded initiatives, such as girls education in Uganda and seen the positive effects of long term partnership. Our diocesan link projects such as 'Making the Most of Maize' with Christian Aid, has seen Cork, Cloyne and Ross walk alongside communities in Burundi, where subsistence maize farmers form cooperatives, move from selling raw produce to finished goods, and organise to have more negotiating power when selling produce both in Burundi and internationally. We want more of these partnerships, where we are humbled by our partners courage, community and drive, and through our support, they obtain the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty.



Resources

Watch our inspirational 50th anniversary video [HERE](#)

Read articles about Creation Time and our famine and drought supports in Somalia; read also about our 50th anniversary and a 'Mind the Gap' theology, all found [HERE](#)

'After the war, we left our plots, our fields, our clothes, everything that we had, but with your help, our hope has been restored.'

- *Katungu Kisenge, who was displaced after the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.*

In June 2022 Bishops' Appeal funded the rehabilitation of 4 handpump boreholes and borehole maintenance kits for communities rebuilding amidst civil society breakdown and continuing violence.

This was part of a wider community project run by Christian Aid & local partners.



Thank
you



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